

INSIDE

- Second Governing Board Meetings for 2016
- Sustainable Transport and Logistics Planning and Management
- Development of Farmer's Organization
- Promoting Innovative Entrepreneurship
- S&E Workshop on "Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Rural Development"
- Enabling Regulatory Environment for Facilitating Cross-Border Trade on EWECC

Promoting Innovative Entrepreneurship



MI conducted a regional training course on "Promoting Innovative Entrepreneurship" from December 6 to 16, 2016.

Seventeen participants from Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam attended the training program.

[Read more>>](#)

■ TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/SLV ACTIVITIES

Sustainable Transport and Logistics Planning and Management



From December 19 to 23, 2016, MI conducted the regional training on "Sustainable Transport and Logistics Planning and Management".

Co-funded by Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD), the program aimed to support national development policies for transport and logistics sectors through sharing Thailand's transport sector development experiences and increasing knowledge and skills on logistics operations and services, as well as management planning for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

S&E Workshop on "Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Rural Development"

A Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop sponsored by Yunnan Province of PR China (PRC) was conducted at MI on December 7 to 8, 2016.



The workshop evaluated the whole modular training program, provided recommendations for its improvement and possible scaling up, and strengthened the network of PA-SRD practitioners in the region committed to information sharing and developing collaborative PA-SRD initiatives. [Read more>>](#)

■ TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/SLV ACTIVITIES

Development of Farmer's Organization



To enhance Lao government officials' capacity in developing and strengthening farmer's organizations to improve farmer's livelihoods and the agriculture sector in Lao PDR, MI organized a training course on "Development of Farmer's Organization" at MI from December 20 to 24, 2016. The training course was sponsored by Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). [Read more>>](#)

■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certification Processes

GAP certification training was conducted from December 5 to 8, 2016, chaired by Deputy Director of Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO), Mr. Dethsackda Manikham, with nineteen staff participants from PAFO in five provinces.

The objective was to transfer knowledge of field inspection through documents and on-site activities. Participants were divided into three groups to work with each producing group for inspection.

On the last day of the training, the resource person team summarized the findings and cooperated to revise documents and resubmit them to the team from the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The team then brought their field inspection results to the December 27, 2016 meeting to decide whether producing groups meet the GAP standardization before issuing certificates. The results of the meeting were announced on January 5, 2017.



Enabling Regulatory Environment for Facilitating Cross-Border Trade (CBT) on EWEC



MI successfully conducted the provincial consultation workshop on "Enabling Regulatory Environment for Facilitating Cross-Border Trade (CBT) on East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC)" in Thakhek, Khammouane province, Lao PDR on December 13, 2016.

The workshop is the second event in a series of consultations under the framework of the Regional and Local Economic Development Project on "Capacity Development for a More Inclusive and Equitable Growth, Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)" in the six border provinces along the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC) of the GMS, funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). [Read more>>](#)

■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

EWEC Database and E-commerce Promotion



To improve the functionality and sustainability of the EWEC database and to foster e-commerce for the competitiveness of SMEs along the EWEC, a one-day workshop on “EWEC Business Database Upgrade and Promotion of E-commerce” was held on December 14, 2016, focusing on two bordering provinces - Khammouane province, Lao PDR and Nakhon Phanom Province, Thailand. Over twenty-six participants attended the workshop. [Read more>>](#)

Introducing EWEC Database to Regional Leaders

MI conducted the regional workshop on “EWEC Database Update and E-commerce Promotion” at Mae Sot, Tak province, Thailand on December 27, 2016 to introduce the EWEC database to the business and regional institutional leaders of the two bordering provinces and seek cooperation from the regional business leaders and administration to update the database and promote e-commerce among the SMEs who are ready to scale up their operations. [Read more>>](#)



Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Standardization for Rice Mills



Final training sessions were held to provide knowledge to rice millers on GMP application. The resource team from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce came up with an inspection process, audited by a resource person from TUV (Thailand). In attendance were participants from five rice mills and staff from the Vanida rice mill.

Although the training has been completed, there is a further requirement to revise documents and submit them to TUV prior to the second stage of inspection which includes water laboratory tests, rice sampling test certification, etc.

The plan is to have the second inspection on January 13, 2017 before the official announcement of issuing certificates.

■ WHAT'S NEW

Meeting with KKU and UGA

On December 6, 2016, MI's Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, met with the Vice President of International Affairs and Faculty Deans from Khon Kaen University's (KKU) and Dr. Amrit Bart, Assistant Dean and Director from the University of Georgia (UGA), Athens, USA. The meeting was held to discuss the theme and logistic arrangements in organizing the 1st Mini-Symposium on Food Safety.



■ WHAT'S NEW

Launch of Mekong Development Report 2016

MI officially launched its very first "Mekong Development Report 2016" on December 7, 2016. MI Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, gave a presentation to over thirty participants at MI. To read the full Mekong Development Report 2016, click [here>>](#)



21st GMS Ministerial Conference



MI's Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, was invited as a panelist to the 21st GMS Ministerial Conference held on November 30, 2016, in Chiang Rai, Thailand. He spoke about MI's current strategies and contributions to the GMS agenda under the Revised Regional Investment Framework Implementation Plan (RRIF-IP) 2020.

Second Governing Board Meetings for 2016



MI held its second Governing Board Meetings on December 17 and 18, 2016 in Bangkok. Members from the six GMS countries reviewed MI's performance over the second half of 2016, and discussed plans for the year 2017. The meetings were chaired by Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee for the Steering Committee meeting and H.E. Mr. Tun Tun Naing for the Council meeting.



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