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Commercial Banks' Lessons on the Promotion of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises



Mekong Institute (MI) successfully conducted a one-week training titled "Commercial Banks' Lessons on the Promotion of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)" from October 31 to November 4, 2016, with support from the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD). [Read more>>>](#)

■ TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/SLV ACTIVITIES

Food Safety Management Tools in Food Manufacturing



Following the successful completion of the Regional Consultation Workshop on "Promoting Food Safety in CLMV" held last October 11 to 12, 2015, MI, through

the continued support of the New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP), kicked off its first-ever regional training program under the Mekong Institute Food Safety Project (MI-FSP).

The training course, which focused on "Food Safety Management Tools in Food Manufacturing", was held at MI from November 7 to 11, 2016. [Read more>>>](#)

Business Research and Database Development in the Southern Economic Corridor

MI successfully conducted a one-week regional training on "Business Research and Database Development in the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC)" from



November 14 to 18, 2016 in Khon Kaen, Thailand.

The training was part of the ongoing project, "Enhancing Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) of ASEAN Mekong Sub-region (AMS) " supported by Japan - ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). [Read more>>>](#)

■ TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/SLV ACTIVITIES

Bio-pharm and Health Industrial Innovation and Technology Transfer in the GMS



In collaboration with Yunnan Academy of Science and Technology Development (YASTD), MI organized a training workshop on ‘Bio-pharm and Health Industrial Innovation and Technology Transfer in the GMS’ from November 15 to 16, 2016. The workshop aimed to offer opportunities for government officials, business managers and technicians from biopharmaceutical departments and agencies in GMS countries to exchange experience and technology transfer. [Read more>>>](#)

Promoting Cross-Border Trade through Value Chain Development

The two-week regional training course titled “Promoting Cross-Border Trade through Value Chain Development”, supported by the government of the People’s Republic of China, officially opened on November 21, 2016 at MI with the participation of twenty-four government officials from six GMS countries: Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. [Read more>>>](#)



Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, Women and Children in the GMS



A five-day intensive training program was organized at MI in collaboration with Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) from November 28 to December 2, 2016.

The program, titled “Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, Women and Children in the GMS” was designed to enhance the knowledge and skill sets of Lao civil servants in protecting and promoting the rights of migrant workers in both sending and receiving countries. The ten participants in attendance were all from Lao PDR representing the Lao Women’s Union and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. [Read more>>>](#)

■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Official Approval of the Revolving Fund

The KOICA-sponsored Happiness Program (HP) delivered a notification of official approval of the “Fertilizer Revolving Fund” project at a meeting held on November 10, 2016 in Dong Ha city, Vietnam.

By creating better access to finance for 124 farmers, the revolving fund aims to help farmer groups generate income through high quality, cost-effective coffee production in Huong Hoa district.

The total revolving fund budget is around \$65,000 USD, out of which \$50,000 USD is funded by HP, with the remainder co-funded by MI and additional contributions from the Khe Sanh Coffee Association (KCA). The revolving fund will be implemented by the KCA over three years in Huong Hoa district of Quang Tri, Vietnam.



■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Kick-off meeting on the Investment Promotion Portal

The RLED-EWEC Project of MI and the Office of Quang Tri People's Committee (PPC) gathered on November 15, 2016 to deploy the initiative on "Setting up Investment Promotion Portal of Quang Tri province" after the Cooperation Agreement was signed by the two parties.



The initiative aims to contribute to Quang Tri's socio-economic development in the context of strong international integration by enhancing investment promotion and developing the capabilities of the PPC Office and relevant departments.

In particular, the project will help develop a unified investment promotion database for Quang Tri during 2016 - 2025, with a vision to 2030. The database will serve as an investment promotion portal in multiple languages. Through the websites of Vietnam's embassies, it will link Vietnam Representative Offices to foreign countries and territories that Quang Tri has prioritized as targets for investment promotion.

Linking Feed Factory with Traders and Brokers

A linkage activity was conducted to connect maize traders and brokers from Mawlamyine and Myawaddy with the Sunjin Feed Factory in the Bago Region of Myanmar from November 16 to 17, 2016.

The purchase supervisor of the feed factory, which is interested in expanding its raw material sources, explained the requirement standards and purchasing practices and planned to visit Myawaddy to check the volume and quality of the crop in December.

■ OTHER ACTIVITIES

MOU Signing



An MOU was signed between MI and the Faculty of Economics and Business Management, National University of Laos on November 2, 2016 in

Vientiane, Lao PDR. [Read more>>>](#)

Speech at National University of Laos

MI Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath delivered a speech on "Strengthening Human Resources in GMS" on November 2, 2016 at the Faculty of Economics and Business Management International Conference, National University of Laos.



Guest Visit from Thammasat University

On November 2, 2016, MI, led by Ms. Pornwilai Pumira, External Relations Manager, welcomed a group of thirty-two officials from various universities in Thailand led by Ajan Somsunee Duangkae, Head of Dean Office, Research and Consultancy Institute, Thammasat University (TU). The officials were attendees of the training program on "Increasing Potential in Managerial Leading," organized by the Institute for Continuing Education & Social Sciences, TU. They discussed major issues concerning the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), including the role of MI in the development of the GMS and ASEAN.



■ OTHER ACTIVITIES

ASEAN Korea Economic Partnership Forum

Invited by the Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN, Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director of TIF Department attended the ASEAN Korea Economic Partnership Forum at the Ho Chi Minh City on November 3, 2016, and presented on the topic 'Exploring ASEAN Economic Community: Meeting opportunities and Challenges.

The forum brought together over 200 delegates comprising of senior officials, corporate leaders and think tanks from Korea and Vietnam to discuss on the opportunities and challenges for economic collaboration between Korea and Vietnam.



Visit with the New Governor of Khon Kaen



MI Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath paid a courtesy call to the newly appointed Governor of Khon Kaen, Mr. Pongsak Preechavith on

November 7, 2016.

Guest Visit from New Zealand Embassy

Ms. Shannon Austin, Deputy Head of Mission, New Zealand Embassy; Dr. Anthony Smith, Assessments Manager for Asia, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; and Ms. Nicola Braid, Analyst, National Assessments Bureau, visited MI on November 18, 2016. They were welcomed by Ms. Maria Theresa Medialdia, Director of ADC who also presented an overview of the GMS Economic Cooperation Program and MI's history, in addition to future and ongoing programs.



Guest Visit from Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia

Ms. Maria Theresa Medialdia, Director of ADC, welcomed Mr. Agustaviano Sofjan, Counselor, Economic Affairs and UNESCAP from the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia on November 18, 2016. Following a brief overview of GMS Economic Cooperation Program and the thematic background history of MI, Ms. Medialdia introduced the current and future activities of MI.



Meeting with IDRC

On November 26, 2016, MI's Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, led a meeting at MI with Mr. Edgard R. Rodriguez of the International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada, where the two sides updated each other on their regional collaboration progress and discussed the proposed project on promoting women entrepreneurship for export business in the GMS.



■ UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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| Training on Promoting Innovative Entrepreneurship | December 6– 16 |
| Regional Training Course on Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Rural Development Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop | December 7– 8 |
| Mekong Development Report 2016 Launch | December 7 |
| Training Program on Development of Farmer’s Organization | December 20– 24 |

■ ANNOUNCEMENT

MI’s New Logo

Mekong Institute’s logo has been changed. The new logo has been designed to convey a sense of change and modernization in the GMS and to reflect the new direction of MI.

We hope you enjoy our fresh new look and continue to support MI as we move forward!



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