



Mekong Connection



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Mekong Institute Governance Meetings, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar



The Mekong Institute (MI) Council and Steering Committee held its second governance meetings for 2009 on 14 December 2009 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar hosted by the Government of the Union of Myanmar.

The Meetings received reports on MI operations and performance for 2009 as well as deliberated and gave its approval for the MI 2010 Plan of Action and Budget, MI Transformation Plan into an inter governmental organization (IGO) and the MI Strategic Planning Framework for 2011-2015.

According to Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee, Steering Committee Chairman, MI is moving in the right direction with well managed programs. He positively noted that MI now has a more diversified funding base especially with financial contributions received from GMS member governments. Displaying a healthy financial performance in 2009, MI will start 2010 in its new status as an IGO on good financial standing.

The MI Council and Steering Committee members lauded MI's achievements and affirmed the continuing support of the GMS governments to MI. They encouraged the staff to be more attuned to HRD needs in the region and strengthen efforts to promote regional cooperation.

In this light, the Meeting approved the MI Strategic Planning Framework and the national consultation processes towards developing MI's Strategic Plan for 2011-2015.

Dr. Tej Bunnag, Honorary Advisor to MI Council, was very pleased to note in his closing speech that, having witnessed the growth of MI in 13 years, the Institute has now reached a new stage of development with the signing of the Royal Decree underpinning the transformation of MI into an inter-governmental organization.

He expressed confidence that MI will rise to the challenges in an exciting and dynamic GMS environment with the strong support and



Accepting the gracious invitation of current MI Chair, Mr. Gu Zhiaoxi, Vice Governor of Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, the MI Council agreed to hold its next meeting in Kunming, Yunnan, PR China in July 2010.



MI Learning Programs



Enhancing Entrepreneurship in SME Development and Export Consortia, 20 Jul – 14 Aug 2009



Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for the Mekong, 20-31 July 2009



Effective Project Management for Sustainable Development in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, 17 Aug – 4 Sep 2009



Midterm Training on Regional Research Development and Methodology, 21 Sep – 2 Oct 2009



Managing Public Sector Reform, 19 Oct -13 Nov 2009



Agriculture Sector Value Chain Analysis and Promotion, 16 - 25 Nov 2009

MI Learning Programs



Labour Migration Management in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, 1-18 Dec 2009

Mekong Institute and InWent Germany join hands to promote capacity building in the Mekong



Mekong Institute organized 9 Structured Learning Visits (SLVs) under the auspices of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany as represented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development through InWent Capacity Building International.

Designed for InWent-targeted groups from Laos and Cambodia, the SLVs aimed to build human capacity by providing exposure to target participants and learn from the experiences of neighboring Thailand, especially on best practices that are useful and applicable in their localities. About 200 professionals, regional managers, project leaders, as well as decision-makers from district, provincial and national levels benefited from this activity.

Eight SLVs are as follows:

- Production Chains of Garlic, Maize and Peanuts in Northeast Thailand
- Area-based Development, Community Agribusiness, OTOP and SME Development
- Agriculture Value Chains and SME Development
- Agriculture Value Chains, SME and Community Enterprise Development
- Agriculture Value Chain and Community Based Ecotourism
- Agriculture Value Chain (Coffee, Cassava, Silk and Rubber) in Lao PDR and Thailand
- Microfinance learning Experience in Northeast of Thailand (Khon Kaen, Udonthani)
- Agri Value Chains (Rubber and Maize), Community Business, Farmer Group, OTOP and SME Development

MI Activities



Dr. Anthony Zola, GMS Resources Development Specialist and Senior Researcher of the Mekong Environment and Resources Institute, delivered a keynote speech on “Ethnic Minority Inclusion in Upland Economic Development: Some Critical Factors of Success” in the opening. Thirty-two papers on a wide range of focus were presented in the subsequent plenary and parallel sessions.

Impacts of Economic Integration on Upland Farming and Ethnic Minorities in the GMS

MI successfully organized a symposium on “The Impacts of Economic Integration on Upland Farming and Ethnic Minorities in the GMS” from 27-28 November 2009 with the University of Tokyo’s Kaken Project on Vietnam in GMS. Sponsored by the Japan Foundation and New Zealand’s International Aid and Development Agency (NZAID), over 40 scholars from the GMS, Japan, Germany, Singapore and Norway presented and discussed papers on the impacts of integration and policy gaps concerning upland cultivation and



A field trip to the Inn Bang community project in Sakon Nakhon was organized on 29 November for participants to appreciate the farmers’ network in Thailand highland.

Workshop on Promoting Market Integration and Regional Competitiveness in ASEAN

Dr. Suchat Katima, Director of Mekong Institute presented his paper at the workshop on Promoting Market Integration and Regional Competitiveness in ASEAN. He presented his paper on the GMS Experience in Economic Cooperation and Integration to over 60 delegates from the ten ASEAN countries. The workshop was co-organized by the World Bank Institute and ASEAN Secretariat on 23 - 24 November 2009 in Bali, Indonesia.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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