

Funded by Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund

COMPLETION REPORT

Synthesis and Evaluation (S&E) Workshop on

Enhancement of
Business
Connections and
Information Sharing
among SEZs in LM
Countries

July 14 - 17, 2020



Organized by
Mekong Institute (MI)



In Cooperation with
Ministry of Commerce (MOC),
Royal Government of Thailand

Synthesis and Evaluation (S&E) Workshop



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Mekong Institute (MI)
Khon Kaen, Thailand

Acknowledgements

Mekong Institute (MI) would like to express its appreciation to the participants of the Synthesis & Evaluation (S&E) Workshop, representing the public and private sectors, including ministries and departments of commerce, trade promotion, investment and company administration, organization development, SEZ management and development, academic institute and business owner, from P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand, for their active participation in the workshop and contribution to the success of the Workshop.

The Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop could not have been accomplished without generous support from the Lancang – Mekong Cooperation Special Fund (LMCSF).

Lastly, our appreciation goes to the team of MI Trade and Investment Facilitation (TIF) Department, for their valuable inputs, support, facilitation and contribution to the S&E Workshop and all MI staff members for their support and assistance.

Trade and Investment Facilitation (TIF) Department
Mekong Institute
August 2020

Executive Summary

Mekong Institute (MI), with the support from the Lancang – Mekong Cooperation Special Fund (LMCSF), organized a four-day Synthesis and Evaluation (S&E) Workshop on ‘Enhancement of Business Connections and Information Sharing among SEZs in LM Countries’ on July 14-17, 2020 through online platform at MI’s residential training center in Khon Kaen, Thailand. The S&E Workshop aimed to review the learning from the training program and the action plan implementation results including best practices, outcomes, and obtain feedback on the modular training cycle on “Enhancement of Business Connections and Information Sharing among SEZs in LM Countries” held on August 26-30, 2019 in Khon Kaen, Thailand.

12 participants from P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand attended the S&E workshop, representing the public and private sectors, including ministries and departments of commerce, trade promotion, investment and company administration, organization development, SEZ management and development, academic institute and business owner. The workshop participants presented and discussed issues such as investment in the SEZs in the LM countries (LMC), importance of SEZ information collection to the online system and enhancement business connection in the LMC.

The S&E participants informed that they disseminated acquired knowledge and skills from the training through national workshops, seminars and knowledge sharing carried out by the training participants. Furthermore, key categories of the SEZ information collection form can be applied in the SEZ for collecting useful information of the companies operated in the zone.

The S&E workshop structured into two parts. Part I: Guidance on country-wise preparation for the S&E workshop using online methods. Phase II: Online Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop covered on i. Reflections on country-wise Action Plan Implementation and ii. Assessment the cycle of the training program against the REESI principles (Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Sustainability and Institutional Development and Impact).

At the end of the workshop, the participants filled the final evaluation online. Overall, the participants satisfied with the workshop online with the average rating of 3.71 from a scale of 1 to 5 where ‘5’ is the highest and ‘1’ is the lowest. The workshop objectives were ‘mostly met’ that provided an opportunity to share and learnt from the action plan implementation results. The action plan also enhanced acquired knowledge and skills from the training program through disseminating it in conducting the national workshop. Participants also suggested some areas for further improvement by MI, including provide more time for discussion during the training program, determine phase for SEZ information collection according to the project period, provide insight SEZ management from well-known SEZ management and produce data analysis document of the SEZ online for further dissemination.

Abbreviations / Acronyms

AP	Action Plan
CBEZ	Cross Border Economic Zone
CLMVT	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic
LM	Lancang – Mekong
LMC	Lancang – Mekong Countries
LMCSF	Lancang – Mekong Cooperation Special Fund
MI	Mekong Institute
OSSC	One Stop Service Centre
REESI	Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and Institutional Development and Impact
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
S&E	Synthesis and Evaluation
TIF	Trade and Investment Facilitation Department

Contents

Acknowledgements	ii
Executive Summary	iii
Abbreviations / Acronyms	iv
1. Background	1
2. Objectives	2
3. Workshop Method	2
4. Online Facilities	4
5. Participant Information	4
6. Workshop Outputs	5
7. Workshop Contents	5
7.1. Welcome and Opening Remarks	5
7.2. Overview of the S&E Workshop	6
7.3. Presentation of AP Implementation Results	6
7.4. Modular Training Cycle Evaluation	8
8. Overall Workshop Evaluation	12
i) Workshop Objective	12
ii) Knowledge and Skills	13
iii) Methods Applied in the Workshop	14
iv) Length and Time Allocation for the Presentation	15
v) Facilities for Online Workshop	15
vi) Overall Assessment	16
9. Suggestions and Recommendation	16
10. Appendices	17
10.1 Concept Note	17
10.2. Schedule	21
10.3 Participants' Directory	26

Synthesis and Evaluation (S&E) Workshop on Enhancement of Business Connections and Information Sharing among SEZs in LM Countries

1. Background

Mekong Institute (MI), with the support of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund (LMCSF), successfully conducted one-week modular training program on “Enhancement of Business Connections and Information Sharing among Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Lancang - Mekong Countries” from August 26-30, 2019 at its residential training center, Khon Kaen, Thailand. The training aimed to introduce the Economic Zones (EZs) On-line System as well as to discuss and update on sources, types of information and contents of the SEZs On-line System. The training also provided an open forum for the participants on development and operationalization of the EZs On-line System through breakout sessions, group discussions and participants’ presentations. The contents of the training program covered four interrelated sessions:

- 1) Definition, Type of SEZs/Economic Zones and Information systems for investors in SEZs in LM region;
- 2) The purpose and content of the SEZs Online System;
- 3) Coordination, cooperation and information sharing mechanisms in SEZs in LM countries;
- 4) One stop service centers (OSSCs) in SEZs in LM Countries.

The training program was organized to meet with the goals and expected outcomes of the project “Joint Development of Cross-Border Special Economic Zones”. The aims of the project are to

- to promote SEZs in the Lancang Mekong Countries and coordination among them,
- to boost trade and investment both from within and outside the Mekong sub-region,
- to improve supply chain, upgrade production base, facilitate and enhance trade, as well as reduce poverty, and better the livelihood of the people.

The expected outcomes of the project are

1. Clear and coherent vision and strategy of SEZs development in MLC region;
2. Collaborative development of SEZs leading to equal distribution of strong comparative advantages;
3. Potential spillovers to the domestic economy and progress of inclusive growth.

As part of the training program, the participants developed Action Plans (Aps) on information and data collection related to Economic Zones (EZs) in their countries for EZs Online System, and transferring knowledge and experiences acquired through the training program to concerned beneficiaries and stakeholders in the Lancang-Mekong countries namely China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam through collecting information related to the EZs and conducting workshop/training in their respective countries.

To review the learning and the action plan implementation results, and obtain feedback on the modular training cycle, a Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop (S&E) online conducted using Zoom Application on July 14 – 17, 2020. The duration of an online group meeting took three hours per day. The S&E workshop aimed to provide a platform for the participants to (i) present

results of their action plan (AP) implementation; (ii) share experiences, outcomes, lessons learned and recommendations on the modular training cycle; and (iii) reflect on feedback received from all participants, which may contribute to improving the training content.

2. Objectives

The specific objectives of the Synthesis & Evaluation Workshop were to:

- a) Recall the knowledge gained from the modular training program on Enhancement of Business Connections and Information Sharing among SEZs in Lancang - Mekong Countries;
- b) Share experiences of implementing the action plans and obtain feedback from co-participants;
- c) Provide an opportunity to learn and share best practices and utilize the learning results;
- d) Assessment of the modular training cycle by using REESI (Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Sustainability and Institutional Development and Impact) principles and provide recommendations for future improvement of the training program.

3. Workshop Method

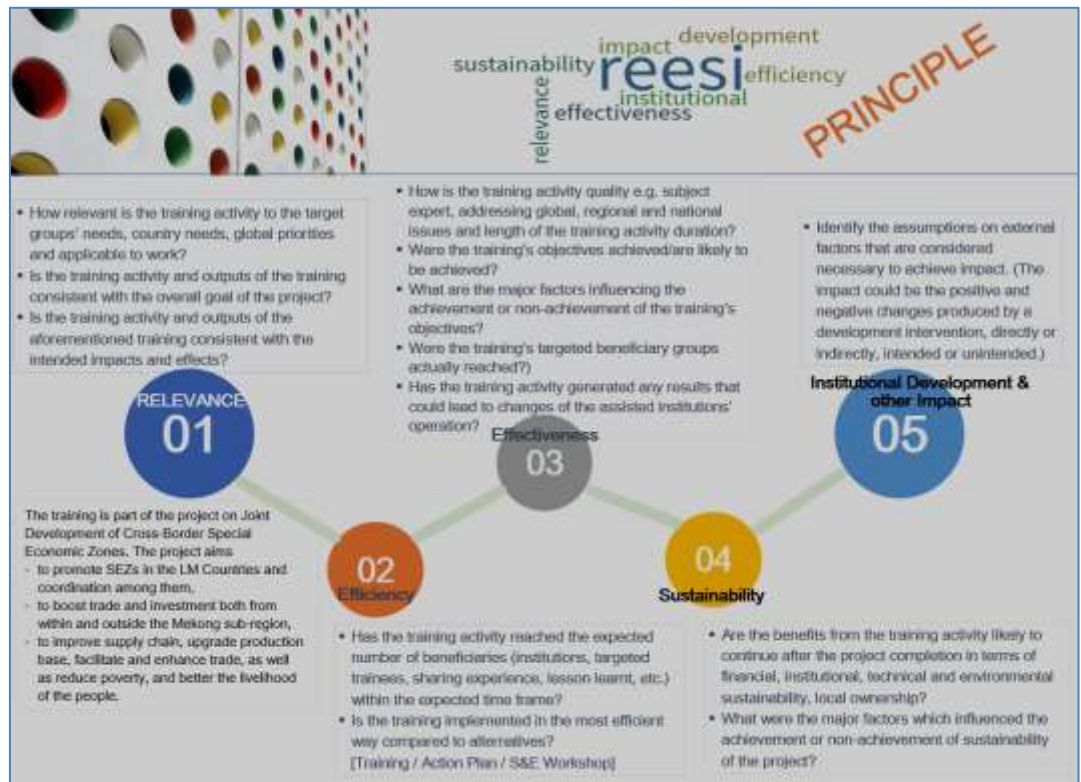
The S&E workshop structured into two phases.

Phase I: Guidance on country-wise preparation for the S&E workshop using online methods.

Prior to the Synthesis and Evaluation workshop, an online meeting with the country groups held in the following manner;

- A separate online meeting with each group of country participants held at least five to seven days prior to the S&E workshop. The duration of online meeting was 45 minutes per country;
- The S&E workshop online conducted on July 14 – 17, 2020. The duration of an online group meeting were three hours per day;
- Individual participant filled in information in two forms.
 - i. Action Plan Implementation Form
 - The event of action plan implementation included the following
 - conducting workshop(s) on Business Connections and Information Sharing among SEZs in LM countries,
 - collecting and/or uploading information related to economic zones on the web portal (www.lmezs.com),
 - sharing and dissemination of knowledge, skills and/or learning points acquired during the training to related persons / departments,
 - writing and/or posting articles/news, conducting research, etc.
 - Each country group consolidated, summarized individual information with photos of the activities and prepared a presentation using Power Point, Video and/or any other suitable online tools. The length of the video should not be more than 3 mins per country;
 - ii. Training Cycle Assessment Form

- Individual participant assessed the cycle of the training against the REESI principles (Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Sustainability and Institutional Development and Impact) of the training as per the provided template. The workshop materials were available at Mekong Institute E-learning System (Username/password is [sezbc2019](#)).
- The REESI referred to



- Each country group consolidated, summarized individual information and prepared a presentation using Power Point, video recording and/or other suitable online tools;
- The participants submitted filled-in forms by individual participants and power point and other forms of presentations prepared by country groups to MI at least two days prior to the online S&E workshop to enable the team to upload the documents and presentations on the MI e-learning portal;
- Online workshop evaluation is sent to the participants following the online workshop.

Phase II: Online Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop

- Reflections on Action Plan Implementation
 - Country team leader presented results of Action Plan Implementation.
 - Each country allotted 30 mins for the presentation including questions and answers.
- Assessment of the modular training cycle by using REESI principles
 - Country team leader presented a summary of the evaluation of the training by using the principles of REESI.
- Each country allotted 30 mins for the presentation including questions and answers.

4. Online Facilities



Mekong Institute (MI) is a GMS intergovernmental organization (IGO) working closely with the governments of six countries to promote regional development and cooperation through programs and projects in three thematic areas of agricultural development and commercialization, trade and investment facilitation, and innovation and technology connectivity.



The MI Residential Training Center is located at Khon Kaen University, one of the oldest and largest universities in Northeastern Thailand. It is situated in Khon Kaen city, the capital of Khon Kaen province, Thailand.

5. Participant Information

Twelve participants from China, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand, representing the public and private sectors, including ministries and departments of commerce, trade promotion, investment and company administration, organization development, SEZ development, academic institute and business owner attended the virtual S&E workshop.

There were two (2) participants each from China and Lao PDR, six (6) from Myanmar, and two (2) from Thailand. Among them, two (2) were female. In



terms of sector, nine (9) participants or 75% were from the public sector and three (3) participants or 25% were from the private sector.

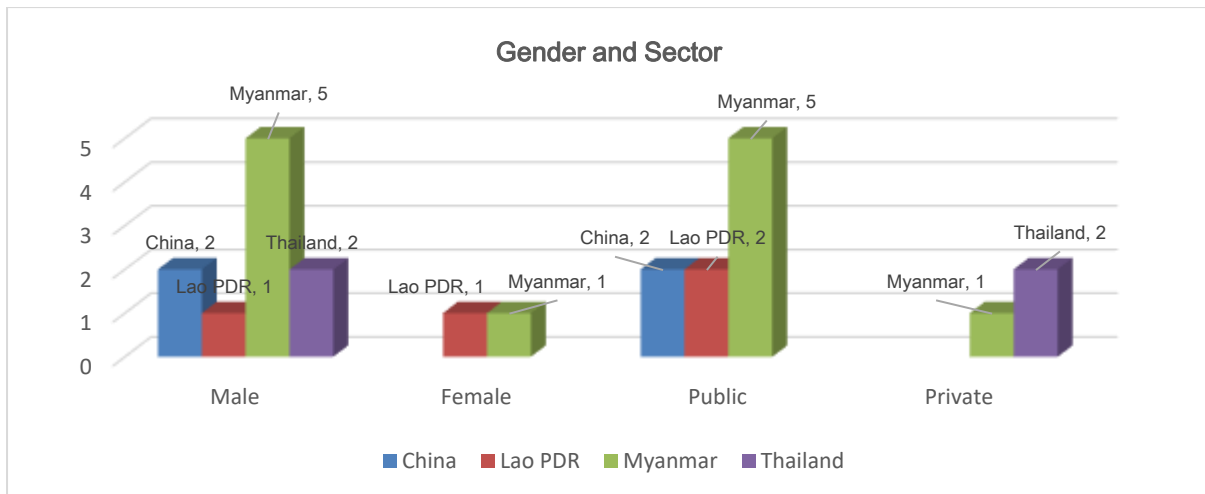


Figure 1. Participants Ratio

6. Workshop Outputs

During the S&E Workshop, participants reflected and shared the outcomes, experiences, best practices, lessons learned and the suggestions, and learned from co-participants on their APs implementation. Participants discussed and provided key related information on SEZs in the Lancang-Mekong countries for developing an online SEZ portal. The participants also conducted an evaluation of the modular training program by using the principles of REESI to assess the impact of the training program and to provide recommendations for future improvement in terms of contents, structure and schedule. By doing these, participants enhanced their insights on the impact of the training program.

7. Workshop Contents

7.1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director of Trade and Investment Facilitation Department, MI welcomed all the participants to the S&E Workshop online. He underlined that this workshop is part of MI's continuing work to boost trade and investment within and outside the Lancang-Mekong region. Inputs of best practices, lessons learned, and country-specific recommendations in



strengthening SEZs will contribute to the competitive economic growth of Cambodia, P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Furthermore, these efforts of sharing SEZ information, company profiles, regulations, and products will help widen Lancang-Mekong countries' networks with international investors. These will lead to the improvement of value chain linkages and modernization of production bases, thereby creating better livelihood for people.

7.2. Overview of the S&E Workshop

Workshop Facilitator : Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, Trade and Investment Facilitation (TIF) Department, MI

Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun explained the modular training approach MI adopted for the training program. This includes (i) knowledge exchange: Modular Training on Enhancement of Business Connections and Information Sharing among SEZs in Lancang-Mekong Countries, August 26-30, 2019; (ii) Action Plan Implementation; and (iii) Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop in 2020. Mr. Sattanun also explained the objectives, expected outputs, structure and contents of the training program and the S&E Workshop.



7.3. Presentation of AP Implementation Results

The participants presented the results of their APs implementation with photos, power point presentations and discussions in line with the topics and methods applied.

P.R. China

- Chinese participants highlighted 15 SEZs in Yunnan Province, opening potentials for investments between P.R. China and other Lancang-Mekong countries in equipment manufacturing, agricultural food processing, bio medicine, food and beverage, coal, tourism, among others.
- They also recommended ways forward in optimizing and transforming SEZs through competitive employment schemes and conducive economic incentives and policies.

Development zone (section)	Name	Cooperation direction	Development zone (section)	Name	Cooperation direction
1	Kunming Economic and Technological Development Zone	Equipment manufacturing, biomedicine, food and beverage	8	Kunming Comprehensive Bonded Zone	Bonded processing, bonded logistics, bonded services
			9	Honghe Comprehensive Free Trade Zone	Electronic information, equipment manufacturing, new energy, new materials
2	Songming Yanglin Economic and Technological Development Zone	Food and beverage, equipment manufacturing, fine chemicals	10	Lancang Border Economic Cooperation Zone	Business logistics, import and export processing, agricultural products processing
			11	Hekou Border Economic Cooperation Zone	Border trade, border tourism, port logistics
3	Guijing Economic and Technological Development Zone	Coal, Chemical industry	12	Mohan-Modin Economic Cooperation Zone, Laos, China	Logistics, trade fairs, agricultural products processing
4	Mengzi Economic and Technological Development Zone	Metallurgy, steel, chemical industry	13	Wanding Border Economic Cooperation Zone	Warehousing logistics, processing and manufacturing, business
			14	Juli Border Economic Cooperation Zone	Border trade, agricultural and sideline products processing, border tourism
5	Dali Economic and Technological Development Zone	Mechanical equipment, food and beverage	15	Kunming Dianchi National Tourism Resort	Sightseeing, sports training, vacation travel
6	Kunming High-tech Industrial Development Zone	Biomedicine, new materials, equipment manufacturing			
7	Yud High-tech Industrial Development Zone	Equipment Manufacturing			

Lao PDR

- A total of 56 EZs in Lao PDR. It comprises of 12 special economic zones, 6 industrial zones and 36 zones related to trade, service, travel development.
- To get Industrial zones information, it needs to contact department of Investment Promotion, Ministry of Planning and Investment.
- Task and responsibility among the team member on collecting information should be cleared. Due to the participants come from different organization. They need to get approval from supervisor prior the action plan implementation.
- The duration of implementing the action plan should be short. Then MI should invite them back for sharing the results and lesson learnt with other participants from the LMC.
- The form for collecting information was good information as they can apply it to their SEZ in term of detail and/or key categories for collecting information of the business established in the SEZ.



Myanmar

- The participants implemented the action plan on collecting information to the SEZs online system and firms survey.
- Prior the data collection, a workshop conducted on November 26-27, 2019 at Ministry of Commerce, Yangon. It covered issues on better management and good practice of SEZ as “special” and enhancement of business connections. The workshop was supported by Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee.
- A total of 85 companies in Thilawa SEZ was collected.
- Collecting information is contributed to creation of an up-to-date Directory for National and Regional Directory incorporation with Mekong Institute (MI), The information provided will help us improve the management and better practices for SEZ potential benefits for investors by listing in our directories.
- The participants reported that MI’s online activity as having provided sufficient time for group exchanges and presentations. Moreover, the participants credited MI for deepening coordination and network with other Lancang-Mekong SEZ experts.
- Currently, Myanmar team are collecting data to establish a regional and national directory of Myanmar’s company profiles, SEZ regulations, trading policies, and business services.
- The participants shared information on investment opportunities in Myanmar as below
 - Low Labour wages
 - Young Workforce (37% between 25-60)
 - Ample arable land (12 million hectares rich land)
 - Strategic location with 37% of world population (China – India)
 - Logistic hubs
 - Long coastal and border areas (Bangladesh/China/India /Laos and Thai)
 - Natural Resources, mining (Off shore natural Gas & undiscovered Oil)

- Water Resources (95% of Water Resources available for hydro-power energy supply)
 - Arbitration Law
 - Agriculture, Lives Stock Breeding, Forestry Products (Teak and Hardwood)
 - Logistic (OBOR/BRI), economic Corridors (East-west), Asian Road (Asia Highway)
 - Emerging Market in South East Asia
- The participants explained that due to time constraint, the they will continue collect the information if no objection from work colleagues.

Thailand

- The participants with a supported team members of 50 persons implemented the action plan on collecting related information of EZs in Thailand.
- Major information was collected through telephone and internet searching.
- Over 798 company profiles and 42 EZ profiles were recorded into the MI-designed Lancang-Mekong



- Economic Zone web portal for immediate access of governments, investors, export traders, other business stakeholders across the region.
- The participants reported that challenges of work were the data collected during the outbreak of Covid -19, searching information requires lot of effort and working online without a meeting and face-to-face discussion.
- Lesson learn from data collection were acquired knowledge for development of Special Economic Zone, industrial estate and trade and Investment that the government supports the interested private sector's investment in economic areas. It's also a fundamental guideline for upgrading border facilitation for trade and logistics development.
- Recommendations: There should have a meeting between data collector and MI to discusses in detail on data input to the online system.

7.4. Modular Training Cycle Evaluation

In this session, participants assessed the modular training cycle against the REESI principle (Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and Institutional Development and impact) of the training program. The participants also provided recommendations for future improvement in terms of contents, structure and schedule.

China	
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The training related to the target group that attended the activity. ▪ The training activity was applicable to their work. ▪ It's an opportunity to learn from other participants from the LMC.

Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It would be good if MI can invite the targeted participants from central of China to share experiences as the SEZ management in the province followed the central region. ▪ Duration of information collection should be prepared in phrases.
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Duration of the training was fine. ▪ The training objectives were likely to achieve. ▪ Information from SEZ online system should be prepared in the form of promotion materials with information analysis and shared it in the LMC.
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project can be continued if MI can have a kind of local ownership. ▪ Some major factors may influent for non-achievement due to financial issue.
Institutional Development & other Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Considered some external factor on local ownership. It may help to continue on updating information to the EZ online system.

Lao PDR

Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The training is relevance to EZs in the LMC. ▪ The participants were hardly to coordinate and implement the action plan due to their current work. ▪ They applied knowledge and skills to their workplace. ▪ The online system was a way of promotion SEZ and boost trade. However, the framework was needed to discuss among the group members on “who do what” during the action plan implementation.
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project is not only zone to zone in the country. It’s a good chance to coordinate with other SEZs in LMC. ▪ Having a chance to learn about LMC EZs. ▪ If we look at the business way. It’s kind of competition information of the online system. Some of information on cost and how to manage the SEZ should be added. ▪ The training provided us a chance to discuss on procedure and how many days for documentation and investment registration procedure. ▪ The language is factor to communicate and get information and do further contact. However, we did not see it as a problem. ▪ The online system is a good platform for the investors to find information prior making the final decision on investment. ▪ Duration of the training was fine. But it consisted of too many topics. It suggested to break the activity into phrases eg. the participants go back to their respective country for implementing the action plan and come back to share the results and continued on some topic on investment, monitoring and evaluation, etc.

Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The training was well done, well prepared and good for the participants. ▪ Connection, sharing information particular SEZ management and SEZ in LMC were useful in the training. ▪ The pool of information on the created web portal is useful. We can access and get information of other LMC directly. It's quite convenient – no need to search it from different website that sometime we also did not know how to find it. ▪ The quality of training was good. The experts shared lot of information and gave us to time for discussion. ▪ The duration is quite short for discussion on the provided topics. ▪ The collected information and input to the website is good. But some information is needed to get approval from the EZ before sharing. ▪ Topic on SEZ management was very interesting.
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ownership strategy should be considered to make it sustainable. ▪ To ensure that the data/information collection is continued. It's necessary to find the right person and/or focal person of each zone for information collection. ▪ AP is not only collecting information. They can apply it in their organization on key point for collecting information from the companies located/established in the EZ.
Institutional Development & other Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If we have more channels on accessing the information from various devices. The online system may popular. Financial support may necessary to consider. ▪ Formation of the border meeting for sharing information.

Myanmar

Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It has given us a chance to learn the opportunities and challenges of how other Mekong countries are doing. ▪ It provided us the concept of how cross-border trade between Myanmar and neighboring countries. ▪ It allowed us to coordinate with others on how to enhance trade and investment. ▪ The training improved knowledge and skill of participants and shared many kinds of Information among participants from LM countries. ▪ The training gave us a chance to interact with other participants from Mekong regions and provided us a network. ▪ Brainstorming session in how to improve better management and practices of the SEZs give us insights. ▪ Creating linkages with local industrial zones and SEZs will improve supply chains. ▪ The training assisted us on how to improve trade facilitation. ▪ All SEZs in the Lancang Mekong Countries of big data collection. ▪ Business review depend on SEZs data at www.lmezs.com. ▪ Vision and strategy for information sharing is consistent. ▪ Benefits of information sharing can be huge. ▪ Online system is important for network building.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spillover effect will take time.
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience sharing time was insufficient. ▪ Lessons learnt from each country should be presented. ▪ It has reached ranges of attendants from various institutes. ▪ Reached to targeted trainees with sharing experience and lesson learnt. ▪ E-learning system of MI is so good and paper reduce. ▪ To target trainees, Company Director is work in SEZs. SEZs authority person and SEZs Committee member is more suitable for trainees. ▪ Good class participation. ▪ Relevance information. ▪ Action plan time to be extended due to Covid 19. ▪ Knowledge exchange. ▪ Knowledge Exchange is good. Action Plan is also good as like homework.
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subjects are too broad. ▪ Quality presentation by experts. ▪ Issues should focus more on Lancang-Mekong countries. ▪ Mekong countries of SEZs trip is need for training. ▪ The objectives of better management and good practices for OSSC are likely to be achieved. ▪ Collection of SEZ data are carried out gradually. ▪ Providing of SEZ data are already in implementation. ▪ Objective on recall the knowledge gained from the training is achieved ▪ Objectives on sharing experience, providing opportunities and assessing the modular training cycle are likely to be achieved. ▪ Lack of funding for data collection would be non-achievement. ▪ Individual assignment would be success factor. ▪ Participation of others rather than participants would be nonachievement. ▪ Identified architecture and content of an SEZs On-line System. ▪ Discussed coordination, cooperation and information sharing mechanism within LM Countries. ▪ Gave many suggestions on procedure to request for information from different countries. ▪ Data collection of SEZs is long plan. ▪ Only 50% targeted beneficiary groups reached. ▪ Inviting by individual name rather than inviting institute because they choose any person who are not in a position to do action plan. ▪ SEZ Online system would provide information to prospects. ▪ Comprehensive SEZ data on portal would benefits all.

Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good for FDI attraction. ▪ Information readily available online. ▪ Good for foreign firms to choose the best investment place. ▪ Learning from each country's experience. ▪ Institutional benefit and technical benefit (for the long term). ▪ Same participants should continue to pursue the sustainability of project rather than changing participants all the time. ▪ Influences by non-participants should be controlled. ▪ Monitoring and evaluation of the data collection and preciseness are important. ▪ Updating information regularly.
Institutional Development & other Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Industrial zones should emulate the SEZ, PPP system. ▪ Local Suppliers should be given opportunities to link with SEZs or EZs rather than relying on mother companies abroad. ▪ Updating trade and investment information on national level not only SEZs in portal system. ▪ Changes of national law and policies can affect the legal framework of SEZs & EZs

Thailand

- Overall the participants represented various organizations. The training activity reached to the target group. MI should include more number of the participants to attend the training.
- The training was moderately achieved and met the training objectives.
- The EZs online system for LMC countries as the output of the training was a potential tool for stakeholders and investor.
- It's a good chance to meet with the participants and experts from LMC in the training and shared experience and lesson learnt for further development.
- The experts provided insights information to the participants.
- Due to time and situation, it's difficult to meet with company and economic zone authority for data collection.
- The government should assist in promoting the web portal.
- Each company should update their information on the web portal. In case of changing contact person and address and/or having anew products.
- The focal person in each EZ should work closely with the other EZs in LMC for exchanging information.
- To have the web portal sustainable and getting more impact, MI should have a partner for marketing.

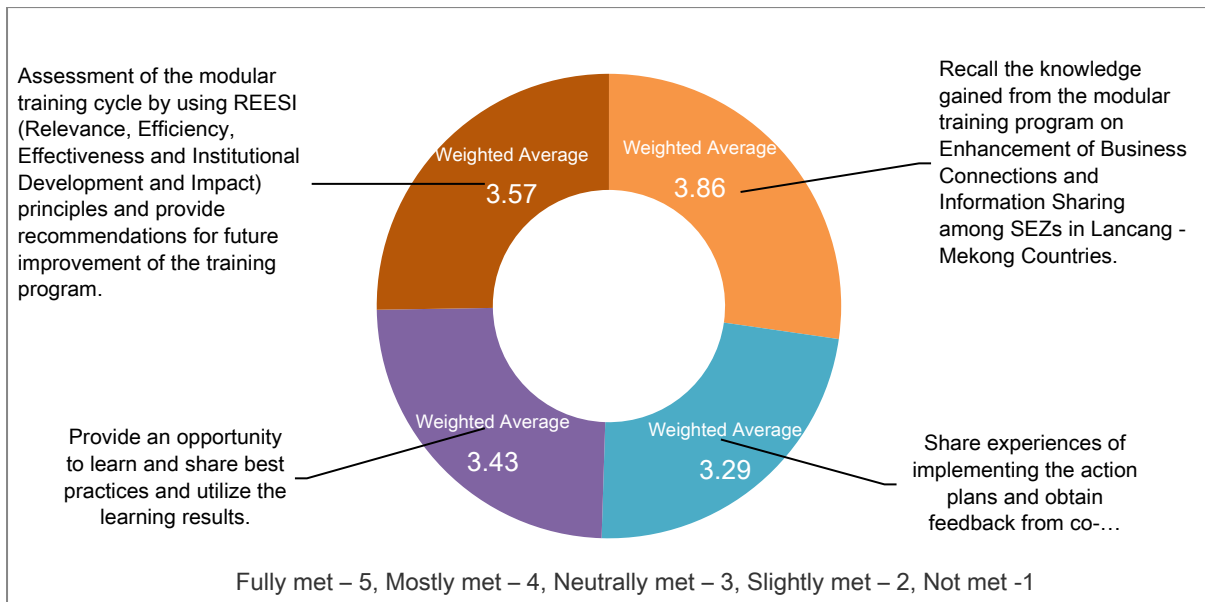
8. Overall Workshop Evaluation

The evaluation was conducted online to assess the management and implementation of the cycle modular training program. Different components were rated on a scale of 1 to 5 where "5" is the highest and "1" is the lowest.

i) Workshop Objective

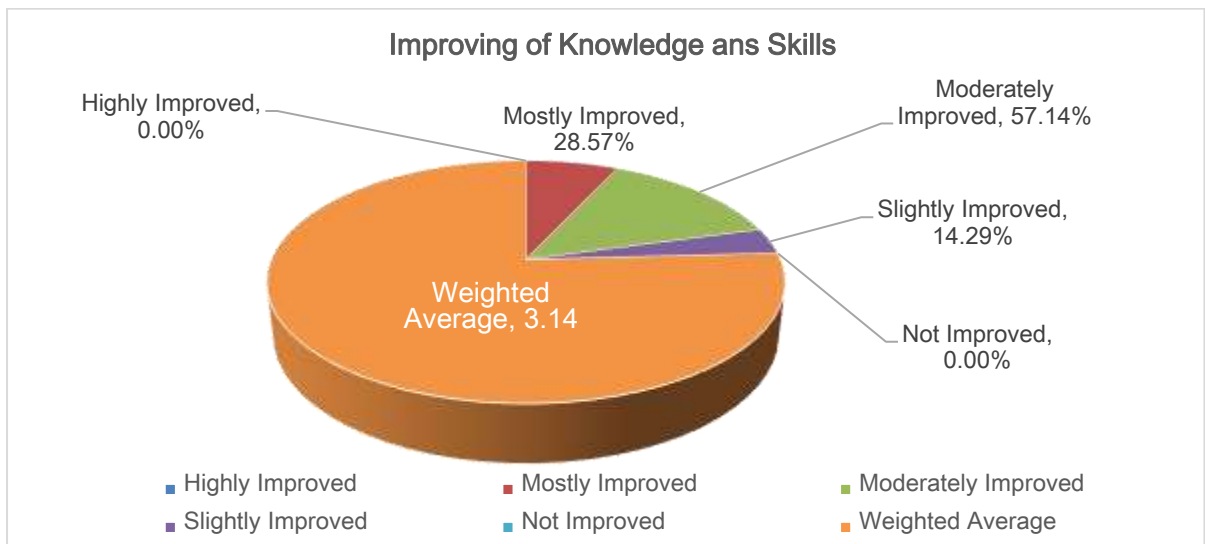
Participants reported that among four elements of the program objective, the recall knowledge gained from the training rated with weighted average at 3.86 – "mostly met". While the

assessment of the training rated at 3.57, providing an opportunity to learn was at 3.43 and sharing experiences of the action plan implementation was 3.29 respectively.

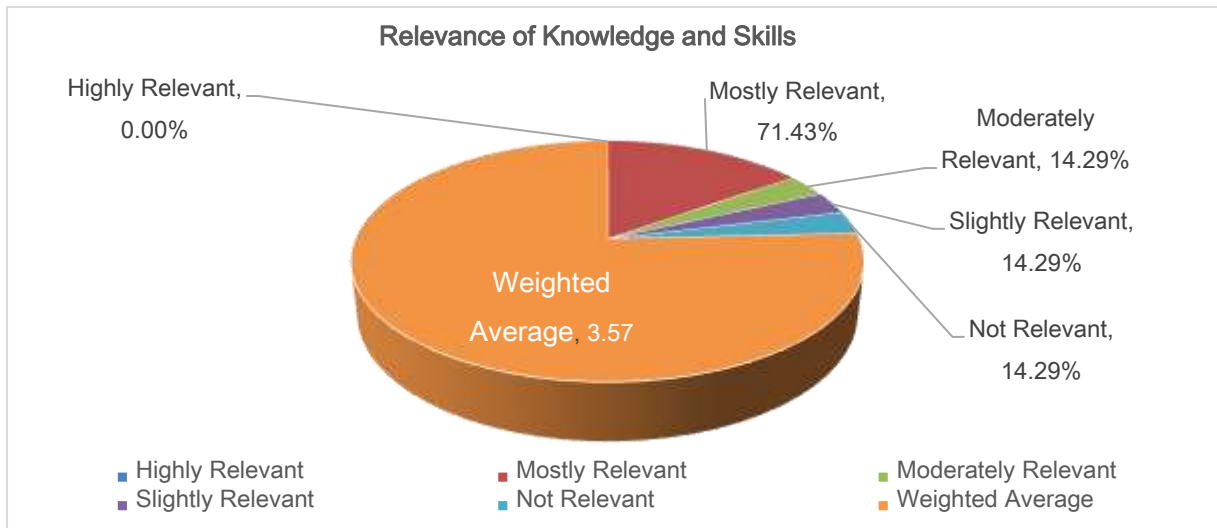


ii) Knowledge and Skills

Overall weighted average was 3.14. Participants reported that they mostly improved knowledge and skills acquired from the training that it aligned with the results of the program objectives as mentioned earlier.

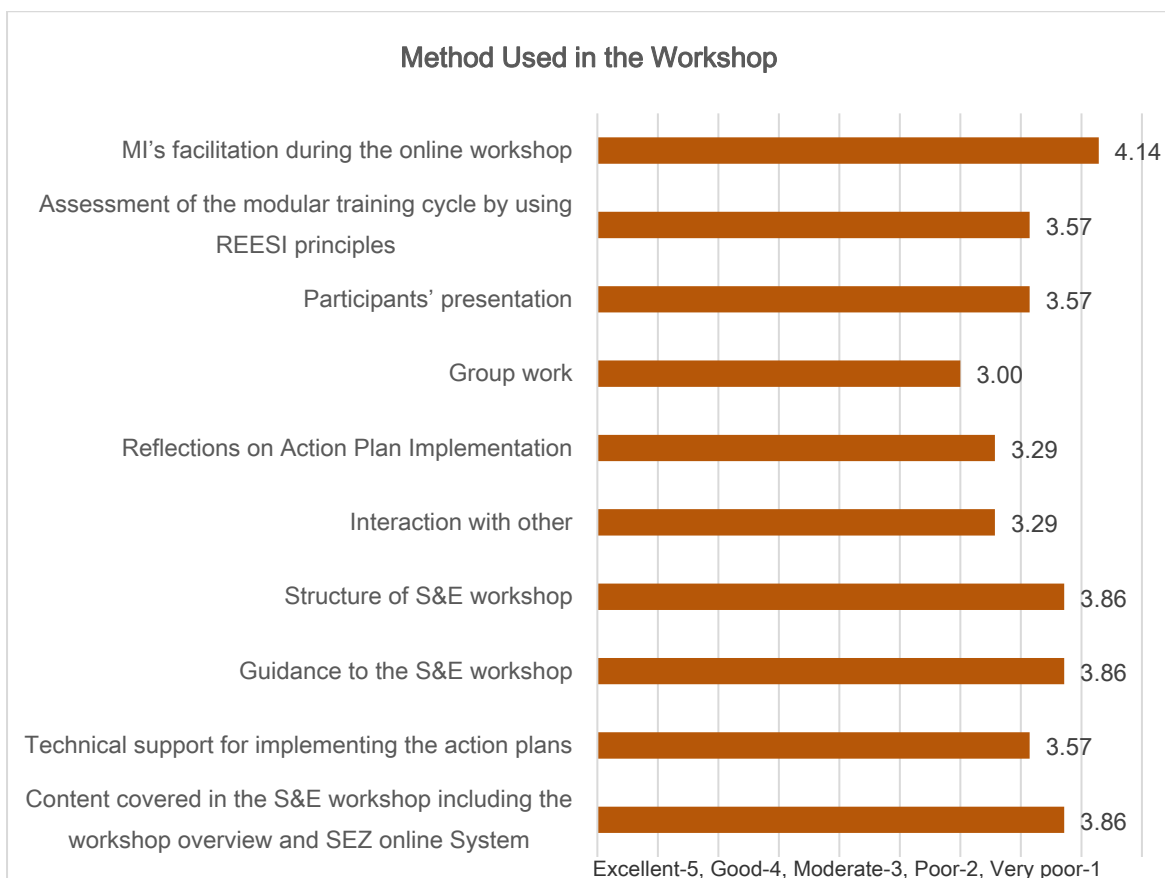


In term of the relevance of the knowledge and skills to workplace, the participant reported that it's mostly relevant with weighted average at 3.57.



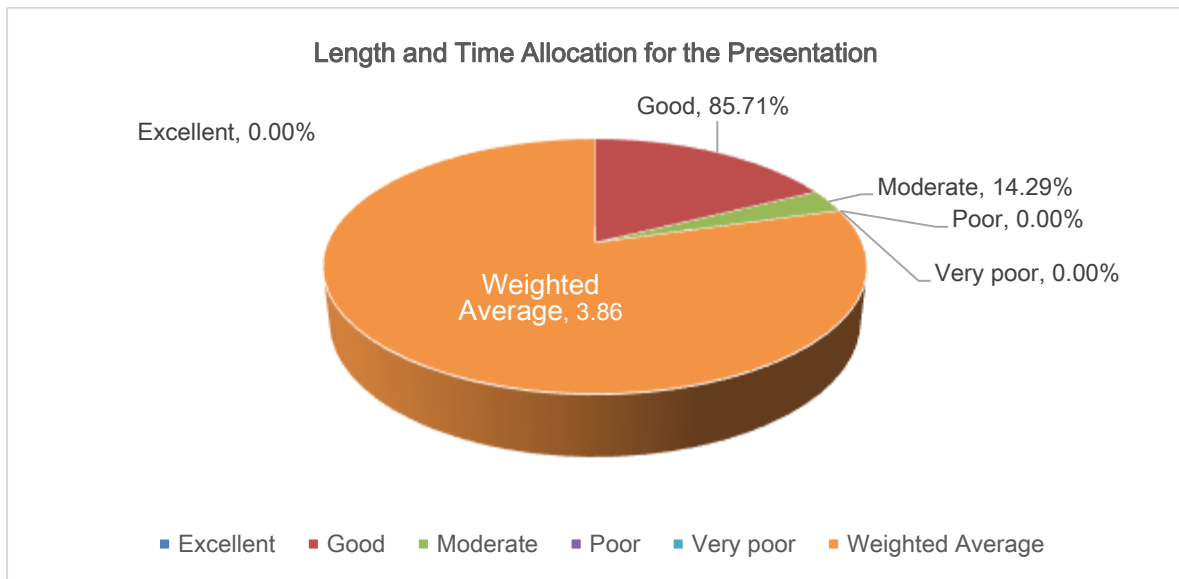
iii) Methods Applied in the Workshop

The participants reported that the methods applied in the workshop were good. The most rating score was on facilitation during the workshop with weighted average at 4.14. The structure of the workshop, guidance and contents in the workshop rated at 3.86. While assessment of the training, participants' presentation and technical support of the training team rated at 3.57. Some participant indicated that group work is the most useful method because the ideas and ways get from group discussion.



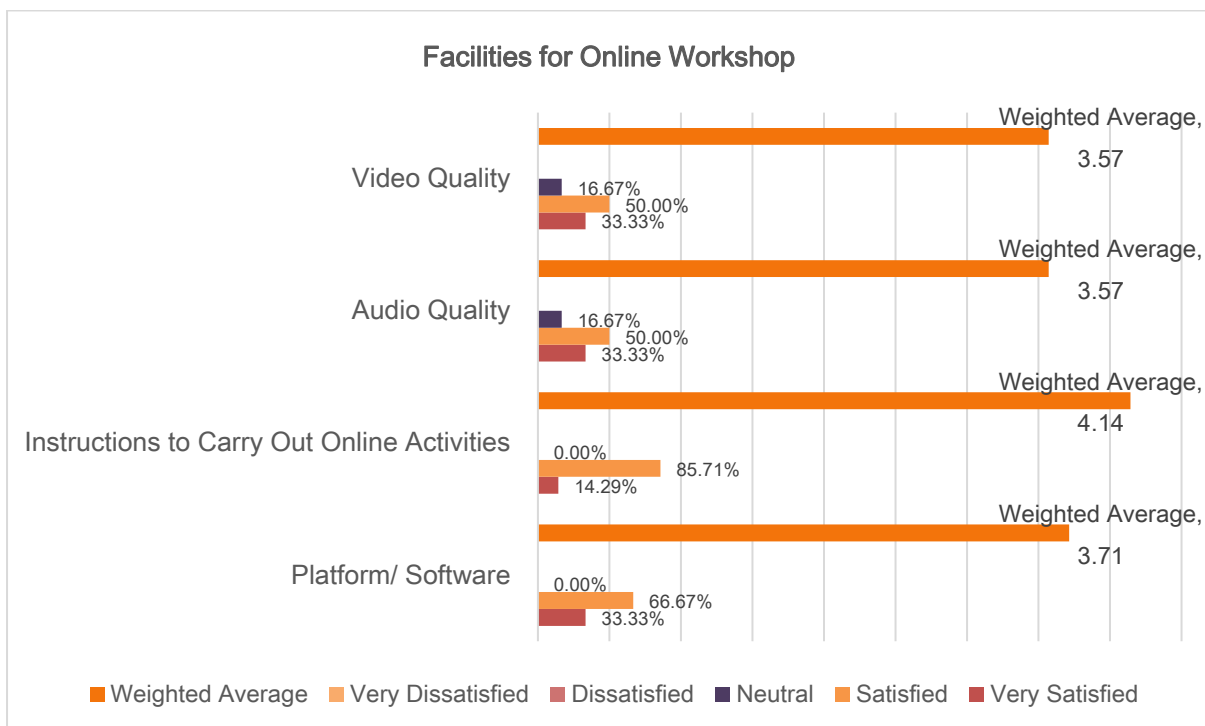
iv) Length and Time Allocation for the Presentation

The participants rated the length and time allocation for each country group presentation at 3.86 – Good. Some participant suggested that learning time is long and so tight.



v) Facilities for Online Workshop

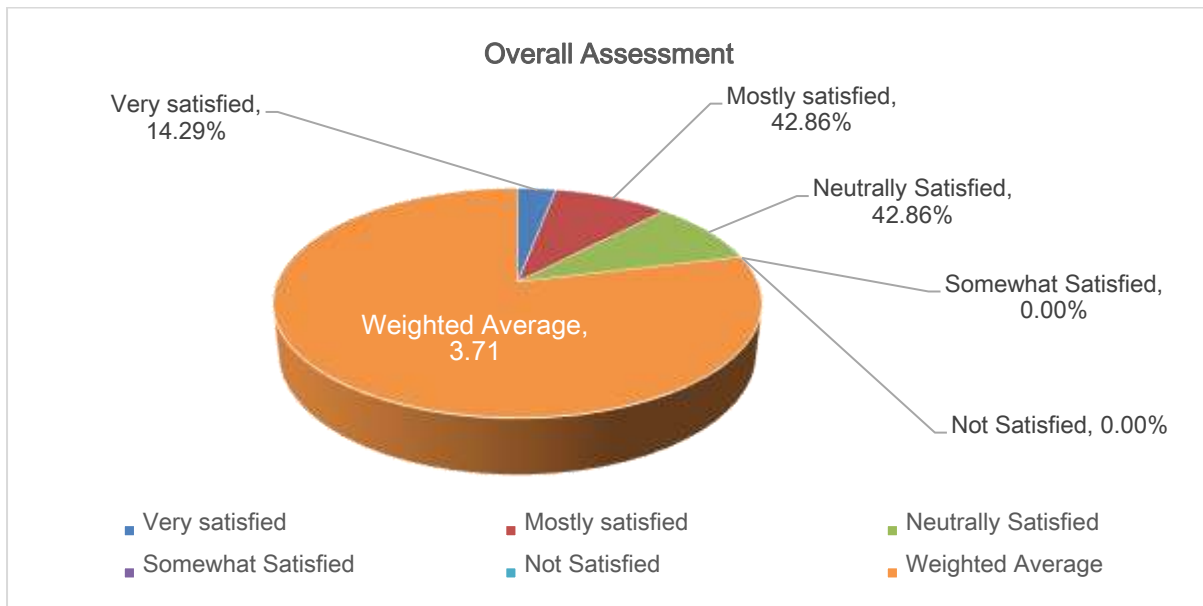
In term of the facilities for the workshop online, the participants reported that they satisfied with instruction to carry out online activities at weighted average 4.14. Such instruction covered on mute when not talking, use meeting chat for questions / concerns, find a quite location, wait until invited to take the floor, use headset for good sound, use a desktop or laptop computer and completed assignments and quizzes on time.



vi) Overall Assessment

At the end of final evaluation, the participants reported that they were satisfied with the S&E Workshop with the average rating of 3.71. The participants provided comments and suggestions as summarized below

- Some Myanmar sez data is entry at www.lmezs.com.
- MI should support to Myanmar SEZs by financial, technology, market and SEZ Mekong countries field trips.
- Surveymonkey method is also good that is support for good advice.



9. Suggestions and Recommendation

Through discussion with the participants, some suggestions and recommendations for future improvement summarized as below:

- SEZ Information collection is a challenge. It should be divided it into phases according to the project period.
- Providing more time for group discussion.
- At the end phase of the project, some strategy on ownership of the online system should be identified.
- Providing insight SEZ management from well-known SEZ management would be a great experiences for the participants.
- Producing data analysis document of the SEZ online should be considered.

10. Appendices

10.1 Concept Note

I. Background

Mekong Institute (MI), with the support of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund, successfully conducted one-week modular training program on “Enhancement of Business Connections and Information Sharing among SEZs in Lancang - Mekong Countries” from August 26-30, 2019 at its residential training center, Khon Kaen, Thailand. The training aimed to introduce the Economic Zones (EZs) On-line System as well as to discuss and update on sources, types of information and content of the SEZs On-line System. The training also provided an open forum for the participants on development and operationalization of the EZs On-line System through breakout sessions, group discussions and participants’ presentations. The content of the training program covered four interrelated sessions: 1) Definition, Type of SEZs/Economic Zones and Information systems for investors in SEZs in LM region 2) The purpose and content of the SEZs Online System 3) Coordination, cooperation and information sharing mechanisms in SEZs in LM countries 4) One stop service centers (OSSCs) in SEZs in LM Countries.

The training program was organized to meet with the goals and expected outcomes of the project “Joint Development of Cross-Border Special Economic Zones”. The aims of the project are to

- to promote SEZs in the Lancang Mekong Countries and coordination among them,
- to boost trade and investment both from within and outside the Mekong sub-region,
- to improve supply chain, upgrade production base, facilitate and enhance trade, as well as reduce poverty, and better the livelihood of the people.

The expected outcomes of the project are

4. Clear and coherent vision and strategy of SEZs development in MLC region;
5. Collaborative development of SEZs leading to equal distribution of strong comparative advantages;
6. Potential spillovers to the domestic economy and progress of inclusive growth.

As part of the training program, the participants developed Action Plans on Economic Zones (EZs) that included information and data collection in their countries for EZs On-line System, and transferring knowledge and experiences acquired through the training program to concerned beneficiaries and stakeholders in the Lancang-Mekong countries namely China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam through conducting sessions and, workshop/training in their respective countries.

To review the learning and the action plan implementation results, and obtain feedback on the modular training cycle, a Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop (S&E) online will be conducted using Zoom Application on July 14 – 17, 2020. The S&E workshop aims to provide a platform for the participants to (i) present results of their action plan (AP) implementation; (ii) share experiences, outcomes, lessons learned and recommendations on the modular training cycle;

and (iii) reflect on feedback received from all participants, which may contribute to improving the training content.

II. Objectives

The specific objectives of the Synthesis & Evaluation Workshop are to:

- a) Recall the knowledge gained from the modular training program on Enhancement of Business Connections and Information Sharing among SEZs in Lancang - Mekong Countries;
- b) Share experiences of implementing the action plans and obtain feedback from co-participants;
- c) Provide an opportunity to learn and share best practices and utilize the learning results;
- d) Assessment of the modular training cycle by using REESI (Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Institutional Development and Impact) principles and provide recommendations for future improvement of the training program.

III. Program Methodology

The S&E workshop is structured into two phases.

Phase I: Guidance on country-wise preparation for the S&E workshop using online methods

Prior to the Synthesis and Evaluation workshop, an online meeting with the country groups will be held in the following manner;

- A separate online meeting with each group of country participants will be held at least five to seven days prior to the S&E workshop. The duration of online meeting will be 45 minutes per country;
- All participants are required to join the S&E workshop online on July 14 - 17, 2020. The duration of an online group meeting will be three hours per day;
- Individual participant is required to fill in information in two forms.

iii. Action Plan Implementation Form

- The event of action plan implementation includes the following
 - conducting workshop(s) on Business Connections and Information Sharing among SEZs in LM countries,
 - collecting and/or uploading information related to economic zones on the web portal (www.lmezs.com),
 - sharing and dissemination of knowledge, skills and/or learning points acquired during the training to related persons / departments,
 - writing and/or posting articles/news, conducting research, etc.
- Each country group is required to consolidate and summarize individual information with photos of the activities and prepare a presentation using Power Point, Video and/or any other suitable online tools. The length of the video should not be more than 3 mins per country;

iv. Training Cycle Assessment Form

- Individual participant is required to assess the cycle of the training against the REESI principles (Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Sustainability and Institutional Development) and impact of the training as per the provided template. The workshop materials are available at Mekong Institute E-learning System. Username/password is sezbc2019)
- The REESI refers to
 - Relevance refers to “how relevant is the activity to the target groups’ needs”
 - Efficiency refers to “has the activity reached the expected number of beneficiaries (institutions, targeted trainees etc.) within the expected time frame?”
 - Effectiveness refers to “how is the activity quality? How do the stakeholders perceive them? Were the targeted beneficiary groups actually reached?) Has the activity generated any results that could lead to changes of the assisted institutions’ operation?”
 - Sustainability refers to “to what extend are the benefits from the activity likely to continue after the project completion in terms of financial, institutional, technical and environmental sustainability and local ownership?”
 - Institutional Development & other Impact refers to “Identification of the assumptions on external factors that are considered necessary to achieve impact”
- Each country group is required to consolidate, summarize individual information and prepare a presentation using Power Point, video recording and/or other suitable online tools;
- The participants are requested to submit filled-in forms by individual participants and power point and other forms of presentations prepared by country groups to MI at least two days prior to the online S&E workshop to enable the team to upload the documents and presentations on the MI e-learning portal;
- Online workshop evaluation will be sent to the participants following the online workshop.

Phase II: Online Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop

- Reflections on Action Plan Implementation
 - Country team leader presents results of Action Plan Implementation.
 - Each country will be allotted 30 mins for the presentation including questions and answers.
- Assessment of the modular training cycle by using REESI principles
 - Country team leader presents a summary of the evaluation of the training by using the principles of REESI.
 - Each country will be allotted 30 mins for the presentation including questions and answers.

IV. Target Participants and Online Package

4.1 Target Participants

- The participants of the S&E Workshop will be drawn from the participants' list of Modular Training on Enhancement of Business Connections and Information Sharing among SEZs in Lancang - Mekong Countries, held on August 26-30, 2019.
- 24 participants attended the above-mentioned one week training program at MI representing ministries/departments of commerce, industry and customs, Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), border economic cooperation zone and research institutes / universities, special economic zone (SEZ), Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Organization Development Association (MODA) and Logistics Enterprises

4.2 Online Package

MI will provide the cost of internet package for the online workshop as a lumpsum amount of 50 US dollars per participant. The payment will be transferred to the individual /or group team leader account after the completion of the workshop.

V. Output

It is expected at the end of the online workshop, MI will receive specific recommendations from the participants for further development of MI's training programs including on approach, content, mode of delivery, and tools and methods used.

VI. Contacts

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10.2. Schedule

Part I : Guidance on Country-wise Preparation for the Online S&E workshop

Friday, July 3, 2020

Duration: 45 minutes per country

Online Platform: ZOOM Application

- Reporting and feedback by individual participants by using the Action Plan Implementation and REESI (Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and Impact) forms;
- Preparation of powerpoint, video and other forms of presentations by country groups on both AP implementation and training assessment. The length of the video should not be more than 3 mins per country.
- Submit filled-in forms by individual participants and power point and other forms of presentations prepared by country groups to MI at least two days prior to the online S&E workshop to enable the team to upload the documents and presentations on the MI e-learning portal.

Thailand Time

08.45 - 09.30 am	China Team (3) via ZOOM Application	Note: In case of the country team members are not available on the proposed date and time, please suggest an alternative date.
09.30 - 10.15 am.	Cambodia Team (3) via ZOOM Application	
10.15 - 11.00 am.	Lao PDR (8) team via ZOOM Application	
11.00 - 11.45 am	Myanmar team (6) via ZOOM Application	
13.30 - 14.15 pm.	Thailand team (2) via ZOOM Application	
14.30 – 15.15 pm.	Vietnam team (2) via ZOOM Application	

Part II : Reflections on the Country Action Plan Implementation

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

Time: Three Hours (3.00 Hours)

Online Platform: ZOOM Application

Thailand Time

08.45 - 08.50 am.	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director, Trade and Investment Facilitation Department, Mekong Institute (MI)</i>
08.50 - 09.00 am.	Overview of S&E Workshop <i>Mr. Sa-nga Sattunun, Program Manager, Trade and Investment Facilitation Department (TIF), MI</i>
09.00 – 09.30 am.	<p>Presentation and discussion on the country action plan implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country wise team leader present results of Action Plan Implementation. - Each country will be allotted 30 mins for the presentation including questions and answers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation #1 – AP China ▪ Assignment : The rest of other country participants is required to prepare and ask question(s). <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist Mr. Sa-nga Sattunun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>

09.30 – 10.00 am.	<p>Presentation and discussion on the country action plan implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation #2 – AP Cambodia ▪ Assignment : The rest of other country participants is required to prepare and ask question(s). <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
10.00 – 10.30 am.	<p>Presentation and discussion on the country action plan implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation #3 – AP Lao PDR ▪ Assignment : The rest of other country participants is required to prepare and ask question(s). <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
10.30 – 11.00 am.	<p>Presentation and discussion on the country action plan implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation #4 – AP Myanmar ▪ Assignment : The rest of other country participants is required to prepare and ask question(s). <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
11.00 - 11.45 am.	<p>Wrap up session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist</i> - <i>Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i>

Wednesday, July 15, 2020
Time: Three Hours (3.00 Hours)
Online Platform: ZOOM Application

Thailand Time

08.45 – 09.00 am.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to the Session
09.00 – 09.30 am.	<p>Presentation and discussion on the country action plan implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country wise team leader present results of Action Plan Implementation. - Each country will be allotted 30 mins for the presentation including questions and answers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation #5 – AP Thailand ▪ Assignment : The rest of other country participants is required to prepare and ask question(s). <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
09.30 – 10.00 am.	<p>Presentation and discussion on the country action plan implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation #6 – AP Vietnam ▪ Assignment : The rest of other country participants is required to prepare and ask question(s). <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>

10.00 – 10.30 am.	Wrap up session - <i>Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist</i> - <i>Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i>
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Part III : Assessment of the modular training cycle by using REESI principles

10.30 -10.45 am.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation: Guidance on assessment of the modular training cycle by using REESI principles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Relevance refers to “how relevant is the activity to the target groups’ needs” ○ Efficiency refers to ‘has the activity reached the expected number of beneficiaries (institutions, targeted trainees etc.) within the expected time frame?” ○ Effectiveness refers to “how is the activity quality? How do the stakeholders perceive them? Were the targeted beneficiary groups actually reached?) Has the activity generated any results that could lead to changes of the assisted institutions’ operation?” ○ Sustainability refers to “to what extend are the benefits from the activity likely to continue after the project completion in terms of financial, institutional, technical and environmental sustainability and local ownership?” ○ Institutional Development & other Impact refers to “Identification of the assumptions on external factors that are considered necessary to achieve impact” <p>- <i>Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist</i> - <i>Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
10.45 – 11.40 am.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group Work by Country on Evaluation of the training by using the principles of REESI to assess the impact of the training. <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist</i> <i>Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
11.40 – 11.45 am.	Wrap up session - <i>Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist</i> - <i>Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i>

Thursday, July 16, 2020
 Time: Three Hours (3.00 Hours)
 Online Platform: ZOOM Application

Thailand Time

08.45 – 09.00 am.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to the Session
09.00 – 09.30 am.	Presentation and discussion on Assessment of the modular training cycle by using REESI principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country team leader presents a summary of the evaluation of the training by using the principles of REESI. - Each country will be allotted 30 mins for the presentation including questions and answers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation #1 – AP Vietnam ▪ Assignment : The rest of other country participants is required to prepare and ask question(s). <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist</i> <i>Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>

09.30 – 10.00 am.	<p>Presentation and discussion on Assessment of the modular training cycle by using REESI principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation #2 – AP Thailand ▪ Assignment : The rest of other country participants is required to prepare and ask question(s). <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
10.00 – 10.30 am.	<p>Presentation and discussion on Assessment of the modular training cycle by using REESI principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation #3 – AP Myanmar ▪ Assignment : The rest of other country participants is required to prepare and ask question(s). <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
10.30 – 11.00 am.	<p>Presentation and discussion on Assessment of the modular training cycle by using REESI principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation #4 – AP Lao PDR ▪ Assignment : The rest of other country participants is required to prepare and ask question(s). <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
11.00 – 11.45 am.	<p>Wrap up session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist</i> - <i>Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i>
<p>Friday, July 17, 2020 Time: Three Hours (3.00 Hours) Online Platform: ZOOM Application</p> <p>Thailand Time</p>	
08.45 – 09.00 am.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to the Session
09.00 – 09.30 am.	<p>Presentation and discussion on Assessment of the modular training cycle by using REESI principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation #5 – AP Cambodia ▪ Assignment : The rest of other country participants is required to prepare and ask question(s). <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
09.30 – 10.00 am.	<p>Presentation and discussion on Assessment of the modular training cycle by using REESI principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation #6 – AP China ▪ Assignment : The rest of other country participants is required to prepare and ask question(s). <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
10.00 – 10.15 am.	<p>Wrap up session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist</i> - <i>Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i>

10.15 – 10.45 am.	Presentation on Information sharing and Updating the EZ Online System Database - <i>Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist</i> - <i>Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i>
10.45 - 11.15 am	Online Workshop Evaluation
11.15 – 11.45 am.	Way Forward and Closing Remark <i>Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director, Trade and Investment Facilitation Department, Mekong Institute (MI)</i>

Remark



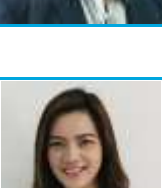
- Each participant is required to submit both the filled-in forms and participate in all the sessions of the online workshop.
- An allowance on internet package will be provided to the participants that complete all the activities of the entire workshop.

10.3 Participants' Directory

Photo	Name & Position	Organization & Address	Contacts
P.R. China			
	Mr. Rui Zhang Deputy Director, Office of Economy	Hekou Border Economic Cooperation Zone Hekou, Yunnan, P.R. China.	Tel: +86 15987 3768 01 E-mail: 66681513@qq.com
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Myanmar			
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	Mr. Ye Min Thu Assistant Director, Company Division	Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) No. 1, Thitsar Road, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar.	Tel: +95 1 658 132 Mob: +95 979 727 5200 E-mail: yeminnthu08@gmail.com

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	<p>Dr. Shwe Hein</p> <p>Secretary, Management Committee</p>	<p>Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ)</p> <p>No. 100 Admin Complex, Dagon-Thilawa Rd, Kyauk Tan, Yangon, 13001, Myanmar.</p>	<p>Tel: +95 1230 8091</p> <p>Mob: +95 9502 0362</p> <p>E-mail: secretary@thilawasez.gov.mm</p> <p>heinshwe@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Dr. Aung Ye Zaw</p> <p>Senior Researcher, Industrial Research Division</p>	<p>Myanmar Organization Development Association (MODA)</p> <p>No. 80, 43rd Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.</p>	<p>Tel: +95 95 0023 83</p> <p>Mobile: +95 9500 2383</p> <p>Email: draungyezaw@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Mr. Than Wing Aung</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer (CEO)</p>	<p>Pale Nadi Group of Companies</p> <p>No. 170-176, MGW Centre, room-303-305, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, 11181, Myanmar.</p>	<p>Tel: +95 1 2565 0106</p> <p>Mob: +95 9517 3919</p> <p>Email: thanwinaung@pearlnadi.com</p>
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	<p>Mr. Satakhun Detphan</p> <p>Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering</p>	<p>Rajamangala University of Technology Isan</p> <p>744 Suranari Road, Mueang Nakhon Ratchasima, 30000, Thailand.</p>	<p>Tel: +66 4423 3000 (Ext: 3211)</p> <p>Mob: +66 64 515 9419</p> <p>E-mail: rc_statics@hotmail.com</p>

MI Organizing Team

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	Mr. Sokim	
	Ms. Sasiporn Phuphaploy Program Assistant, Trade and Investment Facilitation (TIF) Department	Tel: +66 (0) 43 202 411-2 (Ext: 2109) Fax: +66 (0) 4320 3656 Mobile: +66 (0) 93 778 5666 E-mail: sasiporn@mekonginstitute.org

The Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS)

The Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) comprises of five Southeast Asian countries and two provinces of China sharing the Mekong River, namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Yunnan Province, Guangxi Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China.

About Mekong Institute

Mekong Institute (MI) is a **GMS** Inter - Governmental Organization (IGO) working closely with the Governments of six countries to promote regional development, cooperation and integration by offering standard and on-demand capability development programs across three cutting themes of agricultural development and commercialization, trade and investment facilitation, and innovation and technological connectivity.



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