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TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/STRUCTURED LEARNING VISIT ACTIVITIES

MI Executive Director and Delegates Visit Yunnan Province, P.R. China from March 22-25, 2023



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, MI Executive Director, and delegates, attended the '2023 LMC Spring Reception' hosted by the China Southern Power Grid Co., Ltd. on March 22, 2023.
- MI Executive Director paid a visit to Ms. Yang Mu, Director General of the Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Yunnan Province (FAOYN), Mr. Chen Rongjie, Deputy Director General of FAOYN also joined the meeting on March 23, 2023.
- On March 24, 2023, MI Executive Director and MI delegates met with Ms. Hu Xinmei, Director of International Affairs of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DARD). They discussed potential collaboration in the future. In the meantime, MI Executive Director and MI senior staff also met with MI Coordinating Agency for P.R. China, the Yunnan Research & Coordination Office for Lancang-Mekong Subregional Cooperation, Yunnan Academy of Science and Technology Development. [Read more.](#)



Courtesy Call on Director General of Foreign Affairs Office of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, and senior management team paid a courtesy call on Mr. Wei Ran, Director General (DG) of the Foreign Affairs office of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (FAOGX), and Ms. Wei Yu, the Deputy Director General in Guangxi Province, P.R. China on March 20, 2023.
- Both officials explored possible cooperation MI and the Guangxi government and MI's next business forums as part of "Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Business Forum" project funded by the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Fund. [Read more.](#)

MI Participates in the Opening Ceremony of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Week in Yunnan 2023



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of Mekong Institute (MI), and senior staff attended the "Launching Ceremony of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Week in Yunnan 2023 and Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Serial Events" in Yunnan, P.R. China.
- Hosted by the Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Yunnan Province (FAOYN), the event was held on March 23, 2023. [Read more.](#)

MI and ASEAN Secretariat Discuss Partnership



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, paid a courtesy visit on Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, the Secretary General of ASEAN, at the ASEAN Secretariat on March 15, 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- The two officials discussed potential partnership for cooperation and joint activities. [Read more.](#)

MI Reconnects with Initiative for ASEAN Integration & Narrowing Development GAP Division, ASEAN Secretariat



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, paid a visit to Ms. Sumitra Jayaseelan, the Assistant Director of the ASEAN Secretariat's Initiative for ASEAN Integration & Narrowing Development Gap (IAI & NDG) Division, and her delegation to explore possible collaboration on the implementation plan of the Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) Development Framework on March 15, 2023. [Read more.](#)

Exchanges and Opportunities with ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund (ACCF) Discussed



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, had a meeting with Mr. Huang Cheng, the Director of the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund (ACCF), and his management team to scout out possible collaboration between MI and ACCF on a capacity building program for human resources in ASEAN on March 15, 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. [Read more.](#)



Potential MI-ERIA Cooperation Discussed



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, met with Ms. Lydia Ruddy, Director of Communications, Salvador "Badz" M. Buban, Policy Fellow, Policy Design Department, and Jeremy Gross, Director of Capacity Building, at the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) on March 15, 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- The two parties discussed potential partnership in implementing the Greater Makong Subregion (GMS) Knowledge Network and development strategy between MI and ERIA. [Read more.](#)

Dialogue with ASEAN Foundation



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, paid an official visit to Dr. Piti Srisangnam, Executive Director, ASEAN Foundation and Mr. Mahmudi Yusbi, Head of Programme, on March 15, 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. [Read more.](#)

MI Executive Director Delivers Keynote Address at the First ASEAN Youth Economic Forum 2023



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, was one of the keynote speakers of the ASEAN Youth Economic Forum 2023 on March 17, 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Hosted by the ASEAN Foundation and the ASEAN Youth Organization, the forum was held under the theme "Promoting A Resilient and Sustainable Economy in ASEAN and Japan through a Circular Economy." [Read more.](#)

MI Holds a Roadshow on Sustainable and Smart Tourism Development in Hue, Viet Nam



- MI, with support from the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF), held a roadshow under the "Sustainable and Smart Tourism Development in the Mekong Region" project in Hue, Viet Nam on March 7, 2023.
- The event brought together relevant stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to reinforce the knowledge and understanding of sustainable and smart tourism concepts in Hue. [Read more.](#)

Local Businesses Take Steps in Creating sustainable and Digitally Smart Heritage tourism in Bagan, Myanmar



- MI, in collaboration with Myanmar Voyages, conducted a hybrid workshop on "Bagan Roadshow on Sustainable and Smart Tourism Development" on March 13, 2023.
- To highlight business opportunities and further key knowledge on sustainable and smart tourism practices, the workshop gathered over 50 local business in Bagan, Myanmar. [Read more.](#)



Ambassador of Australia to Thailand Visits MI



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, welcomed Dr. Angela Jane Macdonald, Ambassador of Australia to Thailand, and her delegation to the MI Headquarters in Khon Kaen, Thailand on March 1, 2023. [Read more.](#)

MI Organizes an Online Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop Fostering Sustainable and Smart Agricultural Supply Chain Development in CLMTV



- Supported by the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF), MI hosted an online Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop on “Sustainable and Smart Agricultural Supply Chain Development in the Mekong Countries” from March 2 - 3, 2023.
- About 60 CLMTV officials joined the workshop to share their best practice and experience in implementing their action plan. [Read more.](#)

PROSAFE Trains more Food Service Providers in Good Hygiene Practices



- Supported by the New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP), MI organized a PROSAFE Regional Training on “Good Hygiene Practices for Food Service Providers” for 25 government officials and food business operators from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam.
- To strengthen the basic principles of food safety, hygiene, and sanitation to food handlers, the five-day training was held from March 6 to 10, 2023 at the MI Training Center. [Read more.](#)

MKCF’s RiceEco Project Launched to Combat Rice Straw Burning and Cut GHG Emissions



- Supported by the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF), MI joined the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of Viet Nam and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to officially launch the “Rice Straw-Based Circular Economy for Improved Biodiversity and Sustainability Project” (RiceEco), in Hanoi, Viet Nam on March 9, 2023. [Read more.](#)

MI Partners with Thailand’s Creative Economy Agency to Organize the ISAN Creative Festival 2023



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, attended a press conference to launch the Isan Creative Festival 2023 on March 9, 2023.
- Under the theme “Regional (enlight) station”, the event will run from April 1 to 9, 2023. [Read more.](#)



CLMV Cottage and Small Food Businesses Attend PROSAFE GMP Course



- Supported by the New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP), MI organized a PROSAFE Regional Training on “Food Safety Management Tools for Cottage and Small Food Businesses” for 28 government officials and food business operators from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam.
- To advance the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) in the region, the five-day training was held from March 13 to 17, 2023 at the MI Training Center. [Read more.](#)

MI Participants Roll Out a New Video to Promote Sustainable Tourism and Boost Economic Recovery



- As part of “Promoting Resilient and Sustainable Tourism for Post-COVID 19 Recovery in the Lancang-Mekong Countries” project funded by Yunnan Provincial Government of P.R. China, representatives from governmental and private sectors, who joined the webinar and training course, produced a short video to promote sustainable tourism and boost economic recovery in the Lancang-Mekong region. [Read more.](#)

New Innovative Forest First Management Project Launched



- As the fund manager and coordinator of the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF), MI and representatives from the Republic of Korea’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs virtually joined launching the event of the MCKF-funded ‘the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Adaptation to Climate Change and Forest Fire Management in Mekong Region’ project on March 20, 2023. [Read more.](#)

MI and the Rice Department of Thailand Conclude the Rice Pest and Natural Disaster AI System Project



- MI and the Rice Department (RD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in Thailand, with the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund, co-organized the End-of-Project Workshop for the project ‘Development of Rice Pest and Natural Disaster Monitoring, Forecasting and Warning Center for Sustainable Rice Production under Climate Change in the Mekong-Lancang Subregion’ from March 21 to 23, 2023 in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR.
- The workshop highlighted the achievements and outcomes attained by the project in its three years of implementation with partners from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. [Read more.](#)

MKCF Launches a Project on Capacity Building for Sustainable and Climate Change Resilient Water Resource Management in the Mekong River Basin



- As the fund manager and coordinator of the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF), MI joined the Ministry of Water and Resource Meteorology (MOWRM) of Cambodia in launching the MCKF-funded ‘Capacity Building for Sustainable and Climate Change Resilient Water Resource Management in the Mekong River Basin’ project on March 28, 2023 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. [Read more.](#)



MI and CIKD Cohost the Webinar on Global Development Initiative



- MI, in collaboration with the Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD), conducted a half-day webinar on March 28, 2023.
- With support from the People's Government of the People's Republic of China, the webinar targeted to exchange knowledge and ideas for a better understanding of the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and explore the strategies, interventions, and approaches towards synergizing the GDI and Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Action Plans. [Read more.](#)

MI Representative Underscores the Importance of Capacity Building to Increase Green Technology Adoption in the Freight and Logistics Industry at a Green Freight Policy Dialogue



- Mr. Robby Rosandi, Project Coordinator, MI's Trade and Investment Facilitation Department, joined a hybrid forum as one of the speakers of the Policy Dialogue on 'Green Freight in the Greater Mekong Subregion', which was hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The event ran from March 29 to 31, 2023 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. [Read more.](#)

Regional Rice Project on Standards Harmonization a Good Beginning to Pursuing Future Regional Cooperation in the Rice Sector



- MI and the Rice Department (RD) of Thailand, with the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund, co-organized the End-of-Project Workshop for the project 'Development and Implementation of Common Rice Product Standards in Lancang-Mekong (LM) Countries' from March 28 to 30, 2023.
- To evaluate the performance and sustainability of project activities and draw lessons as the bases for future projects related to the improvement of international and regional rice trade in the region, the workshop was participated by representatives and experts from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam in Bangkok, Thailand. [Read more.](#)

PROSAFE Training of Trainers Centers its Agenda on Strengthening the Food Safety Networks in CLMV



- MI, with support from the New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP), kicked off a PROSAFE Training of Trainers for Safer Food for food safety trainers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam at the MI Training Center.
- To foster the capacity of food safety standards in planning and designing effective food safety in the region, the five-day training course was held from March 27 to 31, 2023. [Read more.](#)



Visit by Lao Officials to MI



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of Mekong Institute (MI), and MI senior staff welcomed Mr. Xaysomphet Norasingh, Director General of Lao PDR’s Department of Trade Promotion, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Department of Economic, Mr. Souliya Chanvixay of the Economic Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director Division, and Mr. Phuthasone Phomvixay, Head of SMEs Center, the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry to the MI Headquarters in Khon Kaen, Thailand on March 28, 2023.
- Both officials explored potential collaboration and MI took this opportunity to share with Lao PDR delegations about its past experience in organizing trade events and enhancing products to P.R. China, Japan, and Europe for their understanding of trade event preparation. [Read more.](#)

MI Holds Preparatory Meetings with Implementing Agencies of the ACMECS-ROK Regional Branding Project to Work Towards Facilitating Cross-Border Trade Through Synchronized Rules and Regulations



- MI, with support from the Republic of Korea (ROK), conducted an online series of preparatory meetings as part of the “ACMECS-ROK Regional Branding Project on Facilitating Cross-Border Trade through Synchronization of Rules and Regulations in the ACMECS” to discuss overall strategy with the project implementing agencies from March 20-29, 2023. [Read more.](#)



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES IN 2023

3

APRIL

Hybrid Regional Expert Talk on Promoting Resilient Creative Economy through Cross-sectoral and Regional Collaboration

5

APRIL

MI Songkran and Sports Day

7

APRIL

Project Inception Workshop on Capacity Building on Regional Project Design, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of MKCF projects

24-28

APRIL

Regional Learning Program on Targeted Poverty Alleviation and Strengthening Food Security in the Lancang-Mekong Countries



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