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**Announcement of the 3rd open call for the Mekong – ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) projects**

**Introduction**

Following the launch of the Mekong – Republic of Korea (ROK) partnership in 2011, the Mekong – ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) was established in 2013 to encourage and support cooperation in six priority sectors outlined in the Han River Declaration of 2011.

The Fund provides grant for projects that are of regional in nature (Benefits more than one country in the Mekong region - Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Thailand). Such project is aligned on the priorities of the country to address national issues that facilitate regional integration process. It can be implemented in a single country. However, benefits should be shared among the countries in the Mekong region and the ROK.

**Criteria**

(1) The MKCF’s Six Priority Sectors

The Fund provides grants to support catalytic and innovative activities in the six priority sectors: (1) Infrastructure, (2) Information Communication Technology (ICT), (3) Green Growth, (4) Water Resource Development, (5) Agriculture and Rural Development, and (6) Human Resource Development.

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| Sector | Examples of the projects |
| (1) Infrastructure | * Capacity building on regional project management related to infrastructure (road, power communication etc.)
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| (2) Information Communication Technology (ICT) | * Use of ICT for regional disaster risk management / climate change adaptation (e.g. early warning system)
* Estimation of crop production with ICT
* Regional agriculture market information system
* Database development
* E-commerce
* Developing alliances with the Mekong countries on ICT infrastructure / regional connectivity
* Regional research & training on ICT
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| (3) Green Growth | * Projects related to Environmental and resource productivity, The natural asset base, Environmental dimension of quality of life, Economic opportunities and policy responses etc.
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| (4) Water Resource Development | * Regional water resources management
* Infrastructure development related research (e.g. the regional effects of hydropower development)
* Water governance
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| (5) Agriculture and Rural Development | * Developing a regional agricultural value chain
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| (6) Human Resource Development | * Promoting regional trade and investment
* Promoting regional cooperation in education and skill development
* Facilitating safe labor migration within the GMS
* Strengthening regional institutional linkage and mechanisms for regional cooperation
* Building **Cooperative Alliance for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) / Career and Technical Education (CTE)**
* **Capacity building for SMEs and entrepreneurs to create job opportunity and facilitate successful trade and investment in the GMS**
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(3) Eligible Requirements of Proponent:

* + - * Government agencies/Autonomous Organization from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand (CLMVT) and organizations from the ROK can submit requests for funding.
			* Non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and training institutes from CLMVT and the ROK can submit requests for funding.
* Experience in implementing development projects for at least 5 years.
* Assistance to individuals will not be provided.
* UN Agencies and other International Non-Governmental Organizations/International Development banks are not eligible as direct recipient of the fund. However, such organizations may associate with Mekong countries based organizations to provide technical support/guidance to conduct collaborative work with Mekong based organization as the lead proponent.

(4) Budget / Duration:

* The contribution of the Fund per project proposal is minimum of 200,000 USD and maximum of 500,000 USD per year.
* The fund encourages projects promoting 3-way (triangular) or 4-way (quadripartite) collaboration with other donors, including the Mekong River Commission (MRC), Japan, United States (US) etc. Extra budgetary funds should be leveraged, when needed, to facilitate such projects.
* The fund provides grants for joint activities with a regional or international entity, formalized through a cooperation agreement and is considered as regional.
* Activities which are not eligible for funding include construction of buildings and payment of rent or utilities.
* The time frame of a project should be more than 6 months and less than 3 years.

**Proposal Submission**

* The proponent is required to submit a Project Concept Paper when applying for the MKCF.
* The Project Concept Paper should contain all the required components.
* The Project Concept Paper as per the prescribed format may be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the respective Mekong countries by April 26, 2019.