



# Mekong - ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF)

## Guidelines for submitting a Project Concept Paper

### 1. General Information

- Following the launch of the Mekong - 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<sup>1</sup>. 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.
- In other words, the regional project should address the needs of several Member States in the Mekong region. Such projects can consider national development objectives but are developed per regional development objectives as well.

### 2. 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.

#### (2) Examples of the projects for each priority sectors

Sector	Examples of the projects
(1) Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Capacity building on regional project management related to infrastructure (road, power communication etc.)</li> </ul>
(2) Information Communication Technology (ICT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use of ICT for regional disaster risk management / climate change adaptation (e.g. early warning system)</li> <li>▪ Estimation of crop production with ICT</li> <li>▪ Regional agriculture market information system</li> <li>▪ Database development</li> <li>▪ E-commerce</li> <li>▪ Developing alliances with the Mekong countries on ICT infrastructure / regional connectivity</li> <li>▪ Regional research &amp; training on ICT</li> </ul>
(3) Green Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Projects related to Environmental and resource productivity, The natural asset base, Environmental dimension of quality of life, Economic opportunities and policy responses etc.</li> </ul>
(4) Water Resource Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regional water resources management</li> <li>▪ Infrastructure development related research (e.g. the regional effects of hydropower development)</li> <li>▪ Water governance</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Benefits more than one country in the Mekong region (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Thailand)

(5) Agriculture and Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Developing a regional agricultural value chain</li> </ul>
(6) Human Resource Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promoting regional trade and investment</li> <li>▪ Promoting regional cooperation in education and skill development</li> <li>▪ Facilitating safe labor migration within the GMS</li> <li>▪ Strengthening regional institutional linkage and mechanisms for regional cooperation</li> <li>▪ Building Cooperative Alliance for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) / Career and Technical Education (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Capacity building for SMEs and entrepreneurs to create job opportunity and facilitate successful trade and investment in the GMS</li> </ul>

### (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**.

### 3. 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**.

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ROK	Ms. Mi Jung IM	<a href="mailto:rokmekong2014@mofa.go.kr">rokmekong2014@mofa.go.kr</a>

#### 4. Approval Process

- The Governments of the 5 Mekong Countries collect and screen the Project Concept Paper according to criteria (objectives of the MKCF, Mekong-ROK Action Plan) on selection of projects before forwarding them to MI.
- MI receives the Project Concept Papers from the respective countries. MI reviews the Project Concept Papers according to the guideline to shortlist and submits them to the MOFA-ROK.
- The Approval Body at the MOFA-ROK selects the projects that will be developed into a full project proposal.
- MI notifies the selected Project Concept Papers to the 6 SOM leaders (5 Mekong Countries and ROK) for their information and support.
- Proponents of the selected Project Concept Papers will be contacted by MI to submit full project proposals to MI. In the case revisions are requested on the submitted full project proposal, MI will inform the proponent to revise and submit within specific date.
- The 6 SOM leaders endorse the full project proposals that will be funded by the MKCF in the form of a SOM letter. Upon receiving endorsement on the selected full project proposals from the 6 SOM leaders, the MOFA-ROK sends fund approval order to MI.
- MI transfers the first installment (50%) to the authorized Project Implementing Agency (PIA) and forwards the information to the respective Government. The PIAs of the MKCF funded projects send a mid-term progress report on the status of the project to both the Governments' agencies in charge and MI. MI review the progress prior to determining subsequent second installment (40%) of the funds. The final installment of 10% will be released on satisfactory completion of all activities of the project with clear exit strategy.
- MI circulates the final report to the 6 SOM leaders and audits the final report and if necessary, requests correction and revision to the relevant PIAs. Following the review of the financial report, any remaining funds shall be returned to MI. The Mekong Institute also makes a final report of the MKCF funded projects to the 6 Governments either by writing or at the annual Mekong-ROK SOM.

## 5. Contact

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