

MEKONG CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Mekong Institute
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20 Years of Cooperation for Development

Growing Opportunities in the Greater Mekong Sub-region



In ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), SMEs find themselves in increasing international competition, sharing a single market of countries that produce similar products and services. In this context of competing internationally in sectors like agriculture and tourism, it is crucial to foster the competitiveness of SMEs, especially in developing local production. In order to exploit the potential of the AEC and minimize the risks that come with it, SMEs must be fully prepared and integrated and must approach new business opportunities.

To promote the preparedness of SMEs in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) for these challenges, Mekong Institute, in collaboration with the Office of Commercial Affairs Khon Kaen, organized a two-day International Seminar on “Promoting Opportunities for Trade, Investment, and Tourism in the GMS” on March 3-4, 2016. Held at

Centara Hotel & Convention Centre, Khon Kaen, the seminar focused on opportunities for the “One Tambol One Product (OTOP) – Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)” in the agriculture and tourism sectors in Thailand, and businesses from the GMS countries.

The One Tambol, One Product (OTOP), a success story in rural development practice in Thailand, is a local cultural initiative. Since its establishment by the government of Thailand in 2001, OTOP fostered employment opportunities and income generation by employing local resources and indigenous wisdom, and supported the conservation of cultural heritages. OTOP’s efforts develop human resources, holding back the rural-urban migration and easing the increasingly deteriorated urban population pressure, and secure balanced social and economic development.

In order to better prepare OTOP-SMEs for market access and integration into AEC by improving productivity and competitiveness through business cooperation, MI’s International Seminar gave more than 180 participants the chance to gain information about the current trade and investment trends and to prepare themselves for growing opportunities in the GMS. The seminar provided an enabling environment for cooperation among the stakeholders in the public and private sectors and received strong support to promote OTOP in the GMS.

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Thailand’s Drought and the Havoc it Brought



photo by Mr. Sakchai Ruankam

It was only a few weeks ago when the weather in Thailand changed drastically from refreshingly cool to oven-hot; when coats and jackets were put back in the closet to be replaced by thinner, more comfortable cotton wear; when electricity bills suddenly soared, even doubled, as one had no choice but to turn up their air conditioners into its maximum coolness because the heat is just too much.

It’s dry season in Thailand all over again. But this time, it’s not your ordinary ‘dry’.

Drought: The Hot Issue

Thailand is experiencing its worst drought in decades. This is according to a news report from Bangkok Post. “In total, more than half of Thailand is gripped by water shortages from the drought, with 43 provinces across the country being hit by water scarcity.” These provinces include Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, Phitsanulok, Kanchanaburi, and Songkhla, among others.

Additionally, 60 districts in 15 provinces had been declared drought disaster zones while water levels in all major rivers were still mostly low. In fact, water supplies in the four main dams of the Chao Phraya River basin continue to fall, forcing authorities to dramatically lower mains pressure to popular tourist areas over Songkran, a popular Thai festival.

According to another report from Bangkok Post, dam director Worawit Raweenipapong said the water level of the reservoir had dropped to below critical point. “It has just 16 million cubic metres of usable water, or 1% of capacity, which will feed taps only until April 4.” This puts many important sectors in the country at risk.

Agri-Trouble

The drought is taking its toll on the country’s rice farmers. Apparently, Thailand’s prime minister told farmers to cultivate less rice to help the country handle its intensifying water crisis in this year’s “worst drought in two decades,” reported GMA News Online. “Thailand is one of the world’s top rice exporters, but four consecutive years of below-average rainfall has drained water reserves and left irrigation channels in the heart of the country dry.” Because of this, many rice farmers are currently unable to gather enough water to plant second crops, shaving their incomes and plunging many into debt.

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Editorial



MI has recently conducted the international seminar on *Promoting Opportunities for Trade, Investment, and Tourism in the GMS*. This was done in collaboration with the Commercial Affairs Office to foster opportunities for the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the agriculture and tourism sectors in Thailand and businesses from the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) countries to learn more about market access and integration into ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). Although our goals have not yet been fully achieved in terms of trade and tourism, the GMS is on the right track so far. We should continue to improve by letting five Cs guide us: *creativity, coordination, cooperation, capacity building, and connectivity*.

With the AEC kicking in, cooperation among the GMS countries has been a necessity. It is becoming more apparent that both public and private sectors need to work together as well. For instance, to help stimulate trade in the GMS, all the countries must collaborate to lower the cost of transportation. This will certainly help grasp more opportunities brought by connectivity in the AEC.

As for SMEs in the region, access to finance is their most common problem. There is a need to collaborate with commercial banks while the SMEs need to have more capacity building programs to develop their skills, such as making business plans to apply for loans. Gradually eliminating non-tariff measures is also a target in the region. We have already made sound policies and agreements but they are only on paper; the problem is implementation. We need to work together to make these ideas reality.

To become more prosperous, we also need to attract the right kind of investors by making the GMS attractive. For big countries, their markets are big as well, so it is not so difficult for them to attract foreign investment. On the other hand, individual countries are small. Each Of our markets is also small. But with all the countries combined, the GMS becomes a very big market. We should be marketed as a pack to attract oversea and intra investment. This will lead to more jobs and other opportunities that will bring prosperity in the region.

And lastly, let us not forget about tourism. Tourism is one of the main drivers of the economic growth in Thailand, if not the region. Intra tourism is one of the biggest sources of income in the GMS. We can make our economies grow faster by making tourism better with creativity and better connectivity. Let us continue to exchange ideas and learn from each other, and in the end, put these into actions.

Enhancing Cross-Border Trade Facilitation toward AEC 2015

“The free flow of trade in services is one of the important elements in realizing the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), where there will be substantially no restrictions on ASEAN suppliers providing services and establishing companies across national borders within the region, subject to domestic regulations.” (ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint, November 2007)

In line with the ASEAN Vision of 2020 that aims to transform ASEAN into a stable, prosperous, and highly competitive region with equitable economic development, and reduced poverty and socio-economic disparities, the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) was declared for establishment to transform ASEAN into a region with free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled labor and a freer flow of capital in 2003 (ASEAN Secretariat 2010).



The AEC Blueprint 2015 has served as a comprehensive plan to chart the regional progress towards the formal establishment of the AEC by the end of 2015 building ASEAN on four interrelated and mutually-reinforcing pillars: (i) a single market and production-based, (ii) a highly competitive economic region, (c) a region of equitable economic development, and (d) a region fully integrated into the global economy.

Under the frameworks of AEC Blueprints, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, three transport facilitation agreements have been formed to facilitate the seamless movement of goods in the region through simplification and harmonization of international transport procedures and information flows associated with them in order to reduce the time and cost of logistics involved in moving cargo and passengers between and among the ASEAN members.

In realization of the progress of the AEC 2015 and beyond, Mekong Institute (MI) organized the Regional Training on “Enhancing Cross-Border Trade Facilitation toward AEC 2015”, March 14 - 25, 2016, with the support from Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA). The training program aimed to foster capacity development and to develop better understanding of challenges and issues on cross-border trade and management. It also was able to build connections with key stakeholders, facilitate information sharing, and collaborative action to improve cross-border coordination across the region.



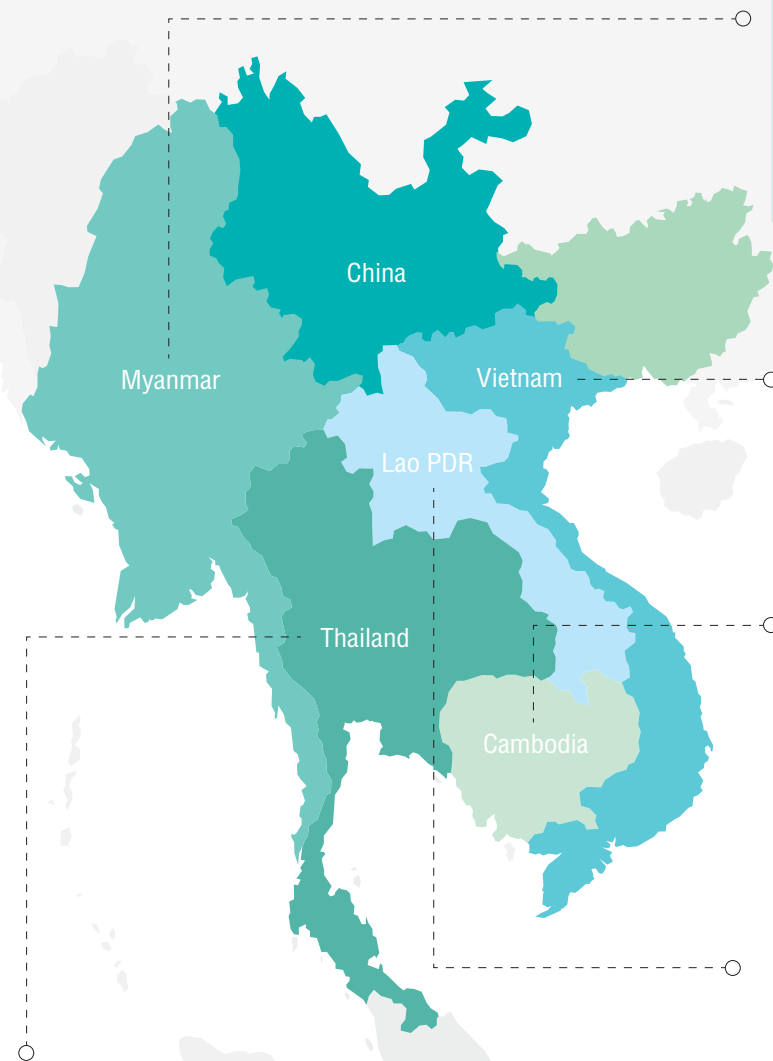
Twenty-three (23) participants from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam (CLMTV) attended the training. They are officials of the Government Ministries: Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Finance, Department of Customs and Excise, Office of Permanent Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment, Provincial Offices; and staff and members of Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Academic Institutions, and businesses in the Logistics sector.

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REGIONAL WORKS (January - March)

Cross-Country Activity :

- Certified Logistics Master Program Monitoring Visits for Action Plan Implementation in CLMVT



Myanmar

Workshops

- Improving the Postharvest Handling of Fresh Grapes
- Rules and Regulations of Agri-commodity
- Post-Conflict Approaches Towards Local Economic Development in Kayin State

SLV

- New Maize Growing Farmers

Vietnam

Trainings

- Business Membership Organization for Coffee Sector in Vietnam

Workshops

- Stakeholders Perception on the Adoption of VietGAP

Cambodia

- ToT on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME) Development

Lao PDR

Trainings

- Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Application
- Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) at Village Level

Workshops

- 2nd MRLG Regional Stakeholder Consultation Workshop
- Certified Rice Seed Promotion Planning in 2016
- Evaluation Result of Demonstration Plots and Rice Cultivation Contest
- Research Result Dissemination of Rice Policies and Cross Border Trade Facilitation

SLV

- GAP Application and Rice Mill Cooperative Management

Thailand

Trainings

- Project Management
- Certified Logistics Master Program
- Enhancing Cross-Border Trade Facilitation toward AEC 2015

Workshops

- Project on Enhancing Competiveness of SME in South Economic Corridor International Seminar
- Promoting Opportunities on Trade, Investment and Tourism in the GMS
- Energy Cooperation in the GMS

Growing Opportunities in the Greater Mekong Sub-region

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After being welcomed by Mr. Sitthiporn Bangkeaw, Director of the Office of Commercial Affairs Khon Kaen, Mr. Siwarot Mongmaiporn Deputy Governor of Khon Kaen Province, and Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, MI Executive Director, the speakers elaborated on the significance of promoting opportunities for trade, investment and tourism to OTOP-SMEs in Thailand and the GMS with the formation of AEC. They urged the participants to join hands to strengthen cooperation and business network.

Focusing on the thematic areas : (i) Enhancing Competiveness for GMS Businesses in the context of AEC, (ii) Attractive Destination for Overseas Investors, and (iii) Promoting Tourism as a Main Driver for GMS Growth, the seminar provided an active platform for the speakers to present information, share experiences and best practices in specific

sectors, and discuss with the participants representing OTOP-SMEs, government officials, and business owners of leading companies in the GMS countries. The discussion focused on important issues to enhanced market linkages, physical connectivity, public and private partnership (PPP) in investment and trade development, and development of tourism industries in the GMS.

As Dr. Watcharas emphasized at the closing remark, in order to ensure inclusive growth and common market in the sub-region, SMEs, government sectors and related agencies have to apply the 5 Cs principle including Connectivity, Capacity building, Cooperation, Creativity, and Coordination. That way it will be possible for SMEs to find themselves in an international market that truly provides a win-win situation.

Thailand's Drought and the Havoc it Brought

(Continued from page 1)

The same problem in drought rings true for the livestock sector, as production costs are expected to rise. According to a news article entitled Livestock sector's fears grow over drought's costs, concerns about the impact of an escalating drought on livestock products are growing, with state authorities vowing to closely monitor price movements and supply daily for the next three months. Authorities were worried about higher production costs caused by a water shortage in the farm sector. The price of animal feed could also increase because of drought conditions. Water normally accounts for 30% of swine farming costs, and with drought conditions at critical point, many farmers were prompted to sell their young breeding stock. Unfortunately, less livestock means less income, and less income denotes a lower quality of life.

Travel Hassle

Surprisingly, even the tourism sector is a hot target by the extremely dry weather. According to a news report by Chinnawat Singha, drought has forced the closure of accommodations at well-known Phu Hin Rong Kla National Park straddling Phitsanulok, Loei and Phetchabun provinces from April 1, said park chief Suwan Phanunampha. Mr. Suwan said drought has become more serious, causing water sources across the park to dry up.

This has severe implications in the provinces' tourism, and consequently, their economy. "The water shortage, coupled with the start of low season, prompted park officials to ask the National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department to allow them to halt bookings for living quarters inside the park, fearing there won't be enough water for visitors," Singha added.

Even hotels, from the 400-baht-a-night to the most luxurious ones, are on drought alert. Hoteliers in major tourist destinations are preparing measures to deal with the serious drought this summer, with members of the Thai Hotels Association (THA) running water-saving campaigns after being warned that this year's drought will be difficult to deal with.

"We have asked for cooperation from our member hotels to help save water. The drought is expected to be a big problem the whole nation will face together," said THA president Surapong Techaruvichit, as reported by Bangkok Post.

Dry Land, Dry Economy

All these quandaries lead to a major decline in the country's overall economy. According to Reuters, the drought is expected to cut economic growth by 0.6 to 0.8 of a percentage point this year, with predictions of an even more severe impact if the dry weather continues after mid-year, the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce says. This adds to the problems of Southeast Asia's second-largest economy, which is still struggling to expand.

"The drought is expected to last until June, when the rainy season usually begins, costing the country about 119 billion baht. However, the damage could reach 154 billion baht if it continues until October", Thanavath Phonvichai, an economics professor, told a news conference, according to Reuters.

The predicament, unluckily, does not end with economy.

Feeling the Burn

Now that almost all vital sectors in Thailand's socio-economic landscape are visibly affected, there is no denying the extreme effects drought can bring, and the larger problem of climate change that caused it.

But what's even more frightening is the phenomenon's effect on human lives, and the looming threat it poses to the future generation. The unbearable heat is not only the usual fickle weather people are so used to; it is a sign that something in the universe is seriously, irreparably damaged. Today's drought is only a warning of what lies ahead.

At this very moment, as people max their air conditioners, drink cool beverages and put on their sunscreens, may they consider not only protecting themselves from the scorching heat, but saving planet earth, as a whole, from burning down. Here is to taking action now, and ensuring that communities across the nation will never run dry.

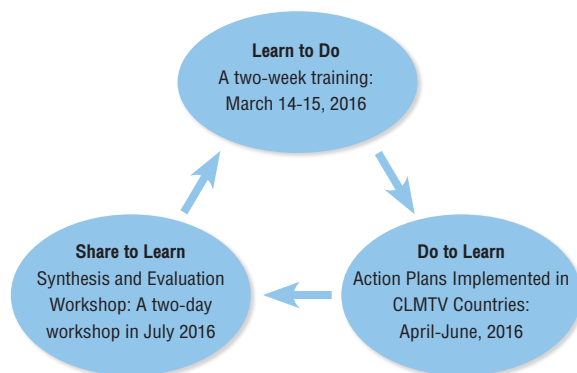
(This story is taken from the Lower Mekong Food Security Database at <http://foodsecurity.mekonginstitute.org>)

Enhancing Cross-Border Trade Facilitation toward AEC 2015

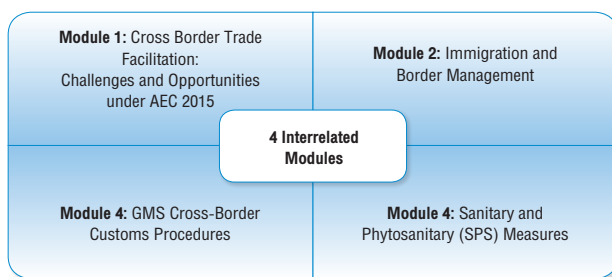
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The program consisted of four key modules, and adopted three inter-related progressive phases of modular training approaches as follows:



With “Learn to Do”, the participants explored four interrelated modules:



Module 1: Cross-Border Trade Facilitation provided the participants with an overview of the importance of coordinated cross-border management in the context of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) system. It gave the participants an in-depth understanding of the need and importance of trade events promotion across borders. This allowed the participants to examine and share the status of ASW implementation in each of their countries.

Module 2: Immigration and Border Management provided the participants with a practical understanding of the functioning of immigration control and the challenges they faced and the importance of travel and identity documents in the control process. It contributed to a better management of visa application caseloads, more streamlined processes, the elimination of time-consuming administrative functions, improvements and service standards and efforts to combat fraud. This module further enhanced the knowledge and competencies towards efficient, professional and ethical border management.

Module 3: GMS Cross-Border Customs Procedures introduced participants to the GMS and ASEAN Customs Cooperation Framework and explored ways to simplify and harmonize cross-border customs regulations and procedures.

Module 4: Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures helped participants to get familiar with the SPS measures in the light of WTO and ASEAN agreements, as well as with the practical elements to improve national SPS measures compliant with these agreements.

Program evaluation. Selective methods of evaluation were employed throughout the course to assess the understanding levels of the participants and evaluate the effectiveness of the training. Designated components of pre and post self-assessment of knowledge and skills of the training topics and associated contents in order to provide a benchmark of participants’ knowledge and skills were provided. It rated on a scale of 1 to 5, where “5” is the highest and “1” is the lowest. The total average rating for pre-assessment of participants’ knowledge and skills of the training contents was “2.09”. This reflects that the participants had heard about the topics but did not have enough knowledge and experience. As the result of the post-evaluation, the total average rating was “3.59”, which fell in between 3 “the participants have some knowledge on this topic, but could not do it now without further study” and 4 “the participants have a good working knowledge, & can do routine aspects now”, demonstrating a significant progress in gaining knowledge by the participants, and effectiveness of the training program.

Overall, most the participants gained greater awareness of the importance of cross-border trade in the region. It is expected that the participants will effectively apply the acquired knowledge and skills into works and transfer them to indirect beneficiaries as contribution to facilitating cross-border trade and investment in the GMS. One of the participants from Myanmar said:



Ms. Hla Hla Yee

Secretary General, Myanmar International Freight Forwarder Association, Myanmar

“Training met my expectations because I learned more in detail about the ASEAN agreement, and furthermore, experts explain us in details on the Cross-Border Transport Agreement (CBTA). As you may know, Myanmar was left behind and we don’t have much information. The training I attended in MI has provided a lot of useful knowledge.”

I am really happy to be here again. I get more friends in the region and I learned many things from participants of each country. It is very good that we can meet people to exchange information.”

Cross-border trade facilitation is an important component under the GMS Economic Cooperation Program assisting the long-term development objectives in transforming the transport corridors and connectivity into full economic corridors. In this development context, MI will continue its endeavors to develop high quality capacity development programs on cross-border trade facilitation and other development topics aiming greater contributions to human resources development to the GMS.

Highlights

MI Executive Director Visits New Zealand Ambassador



MI Executive Director paid a courtesy call to the newly appointed New Zealand Ambassador to Thailand, H.E. Ben King on January 20, 2016. In a brief meeting, they discussed MI's development projects supported by the New Zealand Government and the results of the previous MI Governing Board meetings.

Visit of British Ambassador to Thailand



Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, MI Executive Director welcomed H.E. Mark Kent, the British Ambassador to Thailand on January 22, 2015. Following a brief presentation on the background and history of MI, highlighting the thematic areas of its work, Dr. Watcharas introduced the current and future activities of MI. Ambassador Mark Kent expressed that he appreciated the warm reception and mentioned that the MI HRD programs and the British Government's capacity building programs are in an area of mutual interest, most especially in supporting CLMV countries in ASEAN integration.

MI Executive Director Visits Israel



MI Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath paid a courtesy visit to Israel on February 21-23, 2016. He was invited by the Ambassador Gil Haskel, Head of Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV), Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During his trip, the Executive Director visited various government agencies, training centers, business companies, and capacity building institutes that focus on MI's three thematic areas. He was also invited to a welcome dinner hosted by Ambassador Angsana Sihapitak, the Thai Ambassador to Israel.

Merit-Making Ceremony



The merit-making ceremony to bless the MI Annex Building was conducted on February 3, 2016. Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee, MI Steering Committee Chairman took part of the event.

Visit of Asian Institute of Technology



Delegates from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), led by Dr. Weerakorn Ongsakul, the GMSARN Secretary General, visited MI on March 9. Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, MI Executive Director, welcomed them and led a discussion on potential collaboration in the areas of capacity building program and research. Both parties have agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the near future to implement the collaborative activities agreed upon.

MI Executive Director Interviewed on NBT Channel



March 15, 2016 : MI Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, was interviewed by the NBT channel on the seminar on "Energy Cooperation in the GMS" to be conducted at MI on March 17, 2016

Enhancing Competitiveness of the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises along the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) in the ASEAN Mekong Sub-region



Mekong Institute (MI) organized an Inception Workshop to formally launch the Project on "Enhancing Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises along the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) of the ASEAN Mekong Subregion" on March 18, 2016. The workshop aimed to introduce the project goals, objectives and activities together with an indicative work plan for the period 2016 – 2017 to the members of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and stakeholders and seek their contribution and support to its implementation progress towards the sustainable achievement.

MI Staff Achievement



In recognition to the exemplary services for promoting entrepreneurship and skill development in Cambodia, Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director of Trade and Investment Facilitation of Mekong Institute has been conferred the position of Honorary Advisor (in the rank of Under Secretary) to the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training of the Royal Government of Cambodia through a Royal decree by the Prime Minister of Cambodia and His Majesty, the king of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

ASEAN-New Zealand Regulatory Workshop and the ASEAN-OECD Good Regulatory Practice Network (GRPN) Meeting

Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director of Trade and Investment Facilitation, attended the ASEAN-New Zealand Regulatory Workshop and the ASEAN-OECD Good Regulatory Practice Network (GRPN) Meeting on March 15-16, 2016 at Vientiane, Lao PDR. The workshop was organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand and Organisation for Economic Development & Cooperation (OECD).

Mr. Dutta presented a paper on CLMV perspective and highlighted the challenges and opportunities for SMEs and micro-enterprises in this area and how CLMV governments can support them. The paper generated keen interest among the participants and provided constructive comments and suggestions for the CLMV governments on improving SME regulations.

MI Executive Director's Visits in Jakarta, Indonesia

MI Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, accompanied by Ms. Pornwilai Pumira, External Relations Manager of MI, traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia last March 30 - 31, 2016.

They made an official visit to the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC). The objective was to explore possible collaborations with the different departments of the ASEAN Secretariat relevant to MI in enhancing the capacity of the Mekong member countries.



With Dr. Suchat Katima, CTA/Project Manager, ARISE Programme and former MI Director



With (R) Mr. Tran Dong Phuong, Director of Sectoral Development Directorate, ASEAN Economic Community Department, and (L) Ms. Zhenyi Ng, Senior Officer, Initiative for ASEAN Integrating & Narrowing the Development Gap



With the JAIF Management Team (JMT), (L) Ms. Setsuko Miyakawa, Director, and (R) Ms. Miyuki Ishikawa, Programme Coordinator



With (L) Mr. Paul Mandi, Team Leader of ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE), and (R) Mr. Rajinder Raj Sud, Standards and Conformance Expert

The MI Executive Director also went to the Permanent Mission of Lao PDR to ASEAN, to discuss the emerging issues related to AEC. He also talked about the areas where MI can work with ASEC to promote equitable economic development in ASEAN. MI delegates were then invited to a reception dinner at the residence of the Permanent Mission of Thailand to ASEAN. The reception was hosted by Ambassador Busadee Santipitaks.



With H.E. Ambassador Latsamy Keomany



with (L-R) Dr. AKP Mochtan, Deputy Secretary-General, Community and Corporate Affairs, ASEAN Secretariat; Ambassador Busadee Santipitaks, Thailand Permanent Representative to ASEAN; and H.E. Stephanie Lee, New Zealand Ambassador to ASEAN

The MI team then proceeded to the EU-Indonesia Trade Cooperation Facility Office and met with Ms. Iva Hristova, Deputy Team Leader of a project funded by the EU and implemented by GOPA Consultants.



With Ms. Iva Hristova

Stakeholder's Quotes



Mr. Hang Suvidda
 Bureau Chief and Assistant to Secretary General of Population and Development, Cambodia
 "Enhancing Cross-Border Trade towards AEC 2015"

The training course was very useful for Cambodian participants since I can learn the theories and the practical experiences from different resource persons. The things I learned for the course guided me to do the planning for Cambodia development in the future. For example, there is more demand in Thailand for young skilled labor which I think many countries also need. Cambodia may take advantage of this opportunity because we have a lot of young labor too but we lack skilled labor. Since we know the challenges, I think we can improve and solve the problem and make the challenges to be the opportunity. Moreover, the learning environment was good for participants and we have a chance to know about Thailand since we traveled to many provinces and learned for about the cultures too.



Mr. Khemmachat Somjaivongsa
 Vice Chairman, Tourism Promotion and Trade and Investment, The Khon Kaen Chamber of Commerce
 International Seminar on "Promoting Opportunities for Trade, Investment, and Tourism in the GMS"

This meeting was organized by Mekong Institute and the Office of Commercial Affairs in Khon Kaen. I learned a lot about the current situation of the ASEAN Economic Community. I was very glad that Khon Kaen, a MICE City has taken the initiative to have this kind of meeting. It will benefit all of us in the future.



Ms. Praew Twatchainunt
 Director, T.H.D. Auto Parts Co.,Ltd, Thailand
 "Certified Logistics Master Batch #2"

I would say that the course went beyond my expectation. Both contents from the course and from the participants gave me more knowledge on the core of the logistics and portray the actual pictures of what's exactly going on in the lower GMS region. I had learned that what I've heard before might not be the same nowadays.

What I think is most useful for my job and myself is to learn about the green logistics because it is a hot issue right now. When I was taught about this lesson, it alerted me to inform my company that we need to pay attention to this issue as well if we want to keep our company up to date. Since the examples were given in the class, this makes it easier for me to understand and to implement it at my work place.

I would like to thank Mekong Institute and its sponsors who made this course happen. I do believe that all of my classmates would feel the same way too.

ANNIVERSARY



20 Years of Cooperation for Development

On August 28, 2016
 Mekong Institute will
 celebrate its
 20th anniversary.

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