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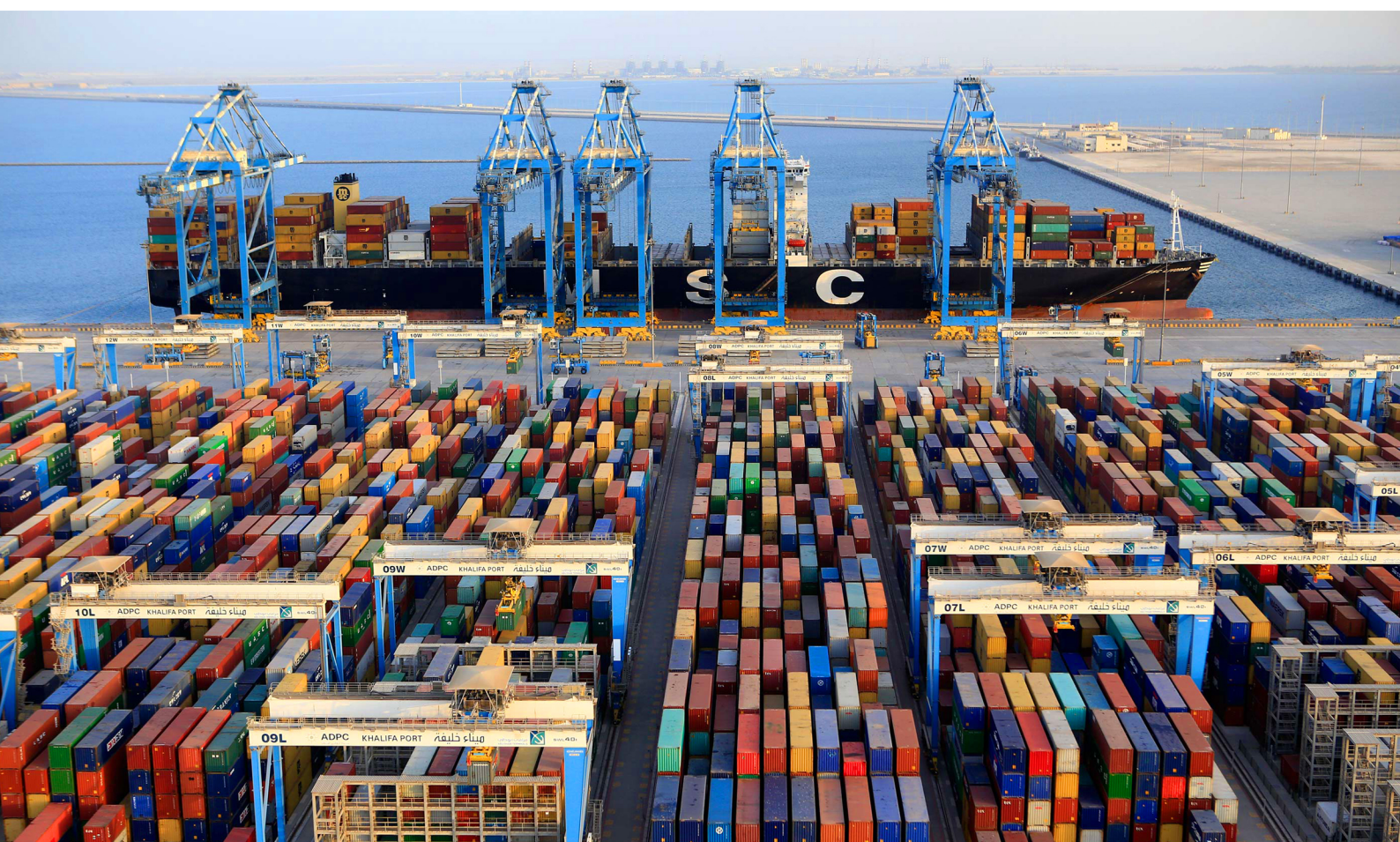


Ministry of Commerce of the
Royal Government of Thailand

Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop on Management of Special Economic Zones in Lancang-Mekong Countries

February 12-13, 2019
Mekong Institute, Khon Kaen, Thailand

COMPLETION REPORT



Synthesis and Evaluation (S&E) Workshop

Management of Special Economic Zones in Lancang – Mekong Countries

February 12 - 13, 2019

Mekong Institute (MI)
Khon Kaen, Thailand

Acknowledgements

Mekong Institute (MI) would like to express its appreciation to the participants of the Synthesis & Evaluation Workshop, representing public and private sectors, including ministries and departments of commerce, finance, planning and investment and, foreign affairs, special economic zone (SEZ) policy development and monitoring agencies, and SEZ developers, from Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, for their active participation in the workshop and contribution to the success of the Workshop.

The Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop could not be accomplished without a generous support from the Lancang – Mekong Cooperation Special Fund.

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
February 2019**

Executive Summary

Mekong Institute (MI), with the support from the Lancang – Mekong Cooperation Special Fund, organized a two-day Synthesis and Evaluation (S&E) Workshop on ‘Management of Special Economic Zones in Lancang – Mekong Countries’ on February 12 - 13, 2019 at MI’s residential training center in Khon Kaen, Thailand. The S&E Workshop aimed to review learning from a modular training program on the subject “Management of Special Economic Zones in Lancang-Mekong Countries” held on September 24-28, 2018 in Khon Kaen, results of implementation of action plans for three months following the one-week training including best practices and outcomes, and obtain feedback on the modular training cycle.

13 participants from Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam attended the S&E workshop, representing public and private sectors including ministries and departments of commerce, finance, planning and investment, foreign affairs, special economic zone (SEZ) policy development and monitoring agencies, and SEZ developers. The workshop participants presented and discussed issues such as importance of cross border economic cooperation zones, management of SEZs and cross border economic zones (CBEZs) focusing on global value chains and new disruptive technology, and policy framework for improving SEZs.

The S&E participants informed that over 300 stakeholders benefitted from AP implementation in Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam from September 2018 to February 2019. The participants acquired new knowledge and skills through national workshops, seminars and knowledge sharing carried out by the training participants during this period.

In addition, the following points were discussed in the S&E workshop:

- i. Sources of key information on SEZs in the Lancang-Mekong countries for developing an online SEZ portal such as legislations, maps, trade and investment data, incentives provision for investors, investment cost, infrastructure, labor resource, public services, one-stop services and other services.
- ii. Assessment of the modular training cycle against the REESI principle (Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and Institutional Development) including the impact of the training program.

Results of participants’ evaluation of the S&E workshop suggested that the modular training program met expectations and contributed to enhancement of knowledge of participants and beneficiaries on management of SEZs in the Lancang – Mekong Countries. Participants also suggested some areas for further improvement by MI, including better identification of target groups for national workshops, time and budget for group AP implementations, and inclusion of study visits to successful SEZs and CBEZs in the modular training program.

Abbreviations / Acronyms

AP	Action Plan
CBEZ	Cross Border Economic Zone
CLMVT	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand
CO	Certificate of Origin
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub-region
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic
LM	Lancang – Mekong
LMC	Lancang – Mekong Cooperation
LMCSF	Lancang – Mekong Cooperation Special Fund
MI	Mekong Institute
MMS	Marubenti, Mitsubishi and Sumitomo
MTSH	Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings
OSSC	One Stop Service Centre
REESI	Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and Institutional Development
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
S&E	Synthesis and Evaluation
TIF	Trade and Investment Facilitation Department

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Synthesis and Evaluation (S&E) Workshop

Management of Special Economic Zones in Lancang – Mekong Countries

1. Workshop Summary / Overview

1.1. Background

Mekong Institute (MI) in coordination with the Ministry of Commerce, Royal Government of Thailand and with the support of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund, conducted a Modular Training Program on “Management of Special Economic Zones in Lancang-Mekong Countries” on September 24 - 28, 2018 at its residential training center, Khon Kaen, Thailand, which was followed by action plan implementation for three months in the individual countries.

The training aimed to

- i. Improve knowledge base of participants by sharing status on progress on cross border economic zones (CBEZs)
- ii. Build capacities of the special economic zone (SEZ) officials and private sector on various issues related to management of SEZs
- iii. Share best practices on SEZs / CBEZs and provide examples from Lancang-Mekong (LM) countries, and
- iv. Promote learning and exchange among stakeholders.

The curriculum of the training program included five interrelated modules: 1) Addressing domestic development challenges 2) Leveraging global and cross-border “drivers of change” 3) What makes an SEZ “special” 4) From SEZ to CBEZ and 5) SEZ (and CBEZ) development framework.

As part of the training program, the participants developed country action plans (AP) for transferring knowledge and experiences acquired through the training program to relevant beneficiaries and stakeholders in the LM countries namely China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. As part of the AP implementation, national workshops / trainings were required to be conducted in individual countries of the LM region.

To discuss learning of the AP implementation and obtain feedback on the modular training cycle, a two-day Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop (S&E) was organized on February 12-13, 2019 at Mekong Institute, Khon Kaen, Thailand. The S&E workshop aimed at (i) providing a platform for the participants to present results of their AP implementation; (ii) sharing best practices from their AP implementation experience; and (iii) reflecting on their feedback on the training for making improvement in training contents.

1.2. Objectives

The specific objectives of the S&E Workshop were to:

- a) Recollect the knowledge gained from the modular training program on Management of Special Economic Zones in Lancang-Mekong Countries;
- b) Share experiences of implementing APs and obtain feedback from co- participants;
- c) Provide an opportunity to learn, share best practices and utilize the learning results;
- d) Evaluate the training approach and provide recommendations for future improvement in terms of contents, structure, and schedule.

1.3. Expected Outputs

Expected outputs of the workshop included enriched insights of the participants on the impact of the training program and AP implementation. This was also a chance for MI to receive recommendations from the participants for improvement, modification and/or further development of MI's training programs.

2. Workshop Method

The S&E workshop had three parts. The first part included the presentations by the participants on their APs implementation. The participants presented the results of their AP implementation with photos, power point presentations and discussions in line with the topics and methods applied. The workshop also served as a platform for participants to exchange their experiences and lessons learned from their APs implementation.

In the second part, the participants discussed the issues on key related information on SEZs in the Lancang-Mekong countries for developing an online SEZ portal such as legislations, maps, trade and investment data, incentives provision for investors, investment cost, infrastructure, labor resource, public services, one-stop services and other services, and each country group presented the results of their discussions.

The third part consisted of group work by country on the evaluation of modular training program by using the principles of Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Sustainability, and Institutional Development and Other Impacts (REESI) to assess its impact. Each group also presented the results of their group work.

3. Participant Information

13 participants from Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, representing the public and private sectors, including ministries and departments of commerce, finance, planning and investment and, foreign affairs, SEZ policy development and monitoring agencies, and SEZ developers, attended the S&E workshop.

There were four (4) participants from Lao PDR, four (4) from Myanmar, and two (2) from Vietnam and three (3) from Thailand. Among them, six (6) were female. In terms of sector, eight (8) participants or 62% were from the public sector and five (5) participants or 38% were from the private sector.

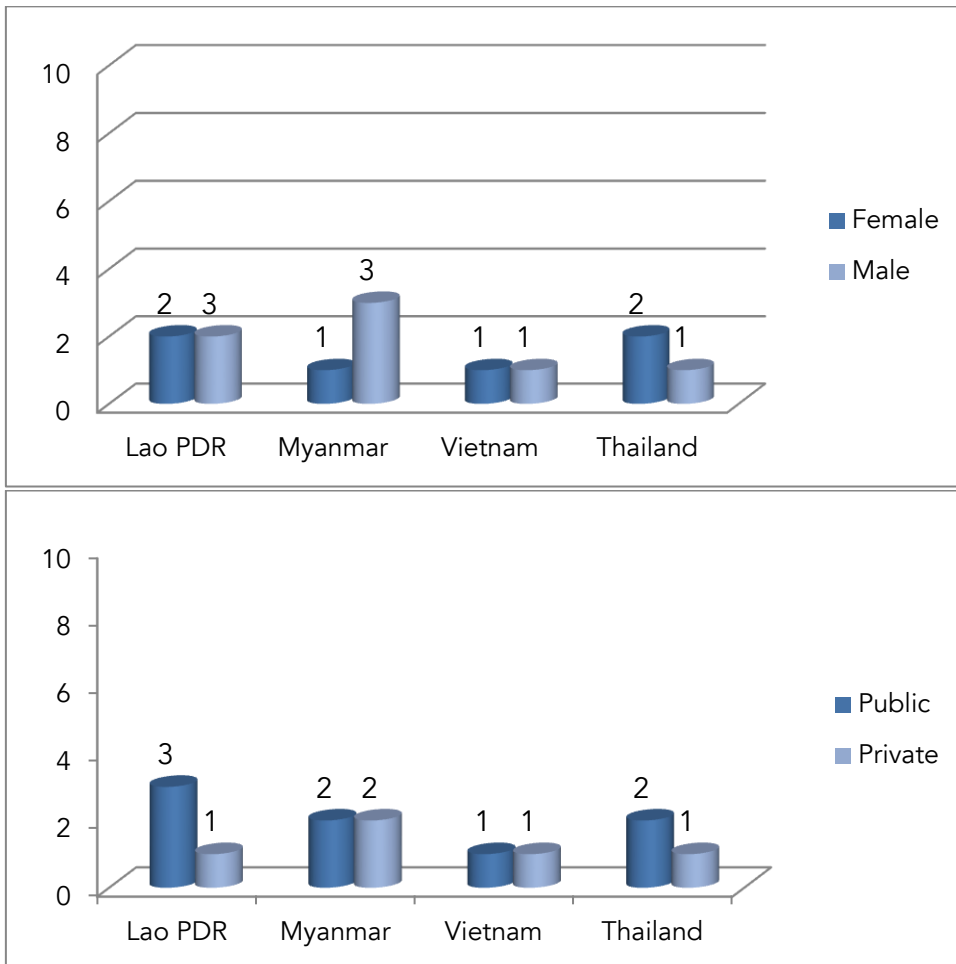


Figure 1. Participants Ratio

4. 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. 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.

5. Workshop Contents

5.1. Welcome Remarks

Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Executive Director, MI



Dr. Watcharas Leelawath welcomed all the participants in MI for the S&E Workshop. Dr. Leelawath underlined the importance of SEZs in Lancang-Mekong regions for economic development, attracting foreign direct investment, generating benefit to local stakeholders and investors and, achieving inclusive and equitable growth.

Dr. Leelawath said collaboration and cooperation mechanisms between SEZs in the Lancang-Mekong region should be promoted for further labor skills improvement and economic development in the region.

Dr. Leelawath said collaboration and cooperation mechanisms between SEZs in the

5.2. Overview of the S&E Workshop



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) **Learn to Do:** Regional Modular Training on Management of Special Economic Zones in Lancang-Mekong Countries (September 24 - 28, 2018); (ii) **Do to**

Learn: APs implementation (September 2018 - February 2019); and (iii) **Share to Learn:** S&E Workshop (February 12 - 13, 2019). Mr. Sattanun also explained the objectives, expected outputs, structure and contents of the training program and the S&E Workshop.

5.3. 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.

5.3.1. Myanmar, Yangon

Introduction



On November 29-30 2018, Myanmar's Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation, Thilawa Special Economic Zone and Ocean Crown Co., Ltd jointly organized a two-day national workshop on "Management Practices of Special Economic Zone" at Trade Training Institute, Yangon, Myanmar. The workshop was held as a part of the AP of the Regional Modular Training on Management of Special

Economic Zone in Lancang – Mekong Countries (September 24 - 28, 2018).

Objectives

The national workshop aimed to

- Improve/update knowledge base of participants by sharing status on progress on CBEZ globally and in the Lancang – Mekong countries including Myanmar;
- To share best practices on SEZs/CBEZs and provide examples from the Lancang – Mekong Countries on development of SEZs/CBEZs;
- To form a knowledge base to complement the existing knowledge on SEZs/CBEZs in Myanmar.

Participants

37 participants from concerned government agencies and private companies attended the national workshop, including representatives from chambers of commerce and industries, SEZ management committees, and freight forwarders.



The national workshop was comprised of the following sessions:

- Session 1: "What makes an SEZ special?", delivered by Dr. Shwe Hein, Secretary of Thilawa SEZ Management Committee;

- Session 2: "From SEZ to CBEZ", delivered by Ms. Zin Mar Htun, Director, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation;
- Session 3: "CBEZ Development Framework", delivered by Dr. Khaing PhyoAung, Director, Ocean Crown Co. Ltd;
- Session 4: "Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Cross Border Economic Zones (CBEZs)", delivered by Dr. Htein Lynn, Director, Ministry of Commerce.

Key Outcomes

- Participants rated that the workshop content and topics have met their expectations and related to their work;
- Participants reported that their knowledge and skills on SEZs and CBEZs have significantly increased.
- An article on the workshop event was released in a local newspaper.



အထူးစီးပွားရေးဇုန်များနှင့် ပတ်သက်သည့် စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဆိုင်ရာ အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲ (Workshop on Management Practices of Special Economic Zone) ကျင်းပ

စီးပွားရေးနှင့် ကူးသန်းရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနနှင့် Mekong Institute တို့ပူးပေါင်းကျင်းပသည့် အထူးစီးပွားရေးဇုန်များနှင့် ပတ်သက်သည့် စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဆိုင်ရာ အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲကို နိုဝင်ဘာ ၂၉ ရက်မှ ၃၀ ရက်အထိ နှစ်ရက်တိုင်တိုင် စီးပွားရေးနှင့် ကူးသန်းရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပို့ကုန်သွင်းကုန်ရုံး (ရန်ကုန်) တွင် ကျင်းပခဲ့ကြောင်း သိရပါသည်။

အဆိုပါအလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲသို့ စီးပွားရေးနှင့် ကူးသန်းရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာကုန်သွယ်မှုမြှင့်တင်ရေးအဖွဲ့၏ ဒုတိယညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ် ဦးဦးဟန်မှ အဖွင့်အမှာစကားပြောကြားခဲ့ပြီး တာဝန်ရှိသူများနှင့် ဖိတ်ကြားထားသော ဧည့်သည်တော်များ စုစုပေါင်း ၅၅ ဦး တက်ရောက်ခဲ့ကြပါသည်။

အဆိုပါဆွေးနွေးပွဲသည် စက်တင်ဘာ ၂၄ ရက်မှ ၂၈ ရက်အထိ ထိုင်းနိုင်ငံ၊ Khon Kaen မြို့တွင် ကျင်းပခဲ့သော လန်ချန်း-မဲခေါင် နိုင်ငံများတွင်ကျင့်သုံးနေပြီး အထူးစီးပွားရေးဇုန်များနဲ့ပတ်သက်တဲ့ စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဆိုင်ရာ အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲ၏ Action Plan အရ ပြုလုပ်သော ဆင့်ပွားဆွေးနွေးပွဲဖြစ်ကာ နိုင်ငံခြားကျော် စီးပွားရေးဇုန်များ၏ တိုးတက်မှုအခြေအနေကို သိရှိနားလည်စေရန်၊ ပါဝင်ဆောင်ရွက်မည့် ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်များ၏ စွမ်းဆောင်ရည်မြှင့်တင်နိုင်စေရန်၊ အထူးစီးပွားရေးဇုန်များ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးဆောင်ရွက်ရာတွင် အထောက်အကူဖြစ်စေရန် ရည်ရွယ်ကျင်းပခြင်းဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတင်းရရှိပါသည်။

ခင်လေးယု

Conclusions

- The Myanmar team has been utilizing the lessons learnt from MI's modular training by implementing these in their own work place with action plans by developing systems and internal knowledge sharing.
- The national workshop participants were satisfied with the expertise of resource persons and training methodologies employed during the workshop.

- The outcome of the workshop was successful as per the evaluation made prior to the workshop in comparison with the evaluation made at the end of the session.

Recommendations and Way Forward

- Need more training and information exchange for SEZ stakeholders in Myanmar;
- MI should continue to support for training and help logistics businesses to move forward in the Lancang-Mekong Countries;
- Need more practical examples and experiences on how to apply the knowledge and to develop SEZs in Myanmar;
- Continue to provide new update on SEZs/CBEZ in the Lancang-Mekong countries;
- Suggested MI to invite more participants from relevant ministries and companies;
- Need more budget to organize this kind of training and invite more companies to attend such a training.

5.3.2. Thailand – Mukdahan Province

Introduction



On January 25 2019, Mukdahan Provincial Office, Office of Labor Skill Development, and Mukdahan Federation of Thai Industry jointly organized a seminar on ‘Preparing and Training for Super Worker for Economic Growth on SEZ in the GMS’ in Mukdahan, Thailand. The workshop was held as a part of the AP of the Regional Modular Training on

Management of Special Economic Zone in LM Countries.

Objectives

The seminar aimed to

- To build cooperation between the public and the private sector in developing the labor force for the economy expansion in the GMS region;
- To raise management quality of labor-related personnel;
- To solve the problem of shortage of qualified workers in the region;
- To establish labor-related personnel guidelines for the implementation of quality management and improvement;
- To build a good relationship in labor development between Mukdahan city and other cities in the CLMVT countries.

Participants

230 participants attended the Seminar. They represented public and private sectors.

Structure and Content

- Presentation on topic “the growth of economy and investment of economy between the country in Mekong region and demand for labor”
- Panel discussion on the topics:
 - Economic growth and investment in the GMS and labour needs.
 - Mechanism of labour skills development for digital technology and AI
 - Upgrading labour skills to international perspective on logistics, production to support SEZs and global economic growth.

Outcomes

- The event was published in 12 local news and media channels as following:
 - <http://report.ai5.co.th/2019/01/25/บักจู้-ลุมภคอาหาร-เดี/>
 - <https://www.ryt9.com/si/prg/2945346>
 - <http://www.newswit.com/fin/>
 - <http://www.thailand4.com/fin/2019-01-25/15c05bff8a98296b648d5572f8731767/>
 - <http://www.localstylenews.com/archives/2685>
 - <https://www.talknewsonline.com/97271/>
 - <https://www.ryt9.com/s/prg/2945413>
 - <https://gnews.apps.go.th/news?news=34623>
 - <http://www.newsreportnakhonpathominside.com/archives/76581>
 - <http://www.newswit.com/fin/2019-01-25/15c05bff8a98296b648d5572f8731767/>
 - https://www.khaosod.co.th/uncategorized/news_2133477
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wTW2TVwcF0>

Lessons Learnt

- The seminar contributed to solving labor shortage for entrepreneurs and SEZs, and helped to promote cooperation between SEZs in Mukdahan and Savannakhet province on economic connectivity;
- The seminar transferred new knowledge on technology and innovation to the workers.

Suggestion

- MI should consider on providing more budget for group AP implementation;

5.3.3. Lao PDR

Introduction



On February 6, 2019, Ministry of Finance, Khammoune Department of Foreign Affairs, Settha SEZ, and Sovan Park SEZ jointly organized a national workshop titled 'Lesson Learnt from Modular Training on Management of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Lancang-Mekong Countries'.

Objectives

- To deliver some important lessons learnt from Modular Training on "Management of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Lancang-Mekong Countries";
- To disseminate and instruct on real implementation, future directions of SEZ in Lao PDR;
- To discuss, exchange and brainstorm on current and future situations of SEZ implementation in Lao PDR.

Participants

39 participants (22 female and 17 male) attended the event. They represented the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Prime Minister Office, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of National Resource and Environment, Saysettha SEZ, Longthanh SEZ, Dongphosy SEZ, and Nonthong SEZ.



Structure and Contents

- Introduction to important lessons learnt from Training on Management of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in LM countries;
- Introduction to survey findings and possibility of CBEZ establishment in LM countries;
- Introduction to current implementation and future directions of SEZ and CBEZ establishment in Lao PDR;
- Comments, exchange and sharing

Lessons Learnt

- SEZs will be successful if there is contribution from all stakeholders;
- CBEZs will be implemented/ become successful if there are agreements on policies, legislations and equal benefits between two countries and local stakeholders;
- Participants have learnt and understood more by lessons learnt from real practice on Management of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Lancang-Mekong Countries.

Challenges

- Limited budget;
- Lack of necessary updated information: real SEZ or CBEZ practice of successful countries;
- Knowledge and experiences on SEZ and CBEZ of the Laos team are not strong enough.

Recommendations

- Should organize workshops on lessons learnt from Modular Training on Management of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in LM Countries in the places in which SEZs are located;
- Requested MI to conduct study tour(s) on CBEZ practice in successful countries in order to learn and gain experience;
- Requested MI to assign specialists providing training about SEZ policies of LM Countries in detail to public sector participants from central and local levels.

5.3.4. Vietnam

Group Action Plan Implementation

- Topic: "Chance for joining the global value chain of Vietnamese SEZs".
- Current situation: not implemented.
- Main reason: Could not arrange the budget of around 10,000 USD from the Government.
- Other reason: Depends on the decision of the Ministry of Industry and Trade in which the Team leader is working for.

Individual Action Plan in Saigon Hi-tech Park

- Focus on joining "Global Value Chains", which is understood as "Global Supply Chains" in Vietnam.
- Current situation: Supporting domestic enterprises to join global supply chains of multinational enterprises (ex: Intel, Samsung).
- Target: Supporting Vietnamese SEZs to adjust and meet the common trend of Lancang-Mekong's SEZs for joining global value chains.
- Suggestion: Linking Saigon Hi-tech Park with similar SEZs in Lancang-Mekong to establish a community of science & technology.

Recommendations

- The modular training course should arrange study experiences and visit diversified successful SEZs for participants.
- MI should think about being a hub for linking similar SEZs in LM.

- MI should think about publishing stories of some successful SEZs of each country in LM.

5.4. Information Requirements for SEZs online in Lancang – Mekong Countries

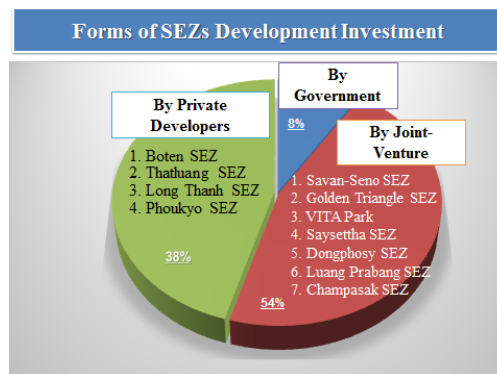
5.4.1. Group Work by Country

In this session, participants were requested to discuss and provide sources for key related information on SEZs in the Lancang-Mekong countries for developing an online SEZ portal, such as relevant legislation, maps, trade and investment data, incentives provision for investors, investment cost, infrastructure, labor resource, public services, one-stop services and other services.

5.4.2. Group Presentation by Country

<Lao PDR>

SEZ in Lao PDR



Savan Park SEZ

Savan-Seno SEZ

	Breakdowns	Activities
Location	Savannakhet Province	1. Industry Sector— producing and electronic parts assembling, processing; wooden product; 2. logistics, transportation, warehouse... 3. Service Sector— Banking, Financial institute, Conference Hall, Real-estate
Establishment	2002	
Area	1,010 hectares	
Concession Period	75 years	
Developer	State + private	
Characteristics of Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central part of Laos; - Near economic east-west road - Link to Danang, Vietnam; - though Laos and North-East to Thailand and Myanmar. 	

Road in Savan-Seno SEZ



CURRENT WATER TREATMENT PLANT



Investors in Savan Park SEZ



<Myanmar>

SEZ History in Myanmar

Myanmar has three Special Economic Zones, namely Dawei SEZ, Thilawa SEZ and Kyaukphyu SEZ. Myanmar enforced Dawei Special Economic Zone Law in January 2011 and Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law in 2014, which provided a legal framework for SEZs in Myanmar. Thilawa, Dawei and Kyaukphyu SEZs were approved by the Union Hluttaw (Parliament) under President U Thein Sein government. Management committees were established for Dawei and Thilawa SEZs in September 2013 and for Kyaukphyu SEZ in

January 2014, and new Management Committee members were elected again in October 2016 after the newly democratic government led by a noble laureate resumed power.

SEZ Legislation

- Land Use Policy
<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/mya152783.pdf>
- Labor Related Law and Regulations
<https://www.mol.gov.mm/en/laws-and-regulations/>
- Investment law
<https://dica.gov.mm/en/topic/laws-rules-notifications>
- Customs Law
<http://www.myanmarcustoms.gov.mm/pdf/tarifflaw.pdf>
- Notifications and Instructions
https://www.dica.gov.mm/en/all-notifications?fbclid=IwAR0uVD7ASUp4X7xFVdFk6jhn0601ukjzla_tVQfjy6LJX9uPSDs_ySJQhRg

The Thilawa Special Economic Zone



- The Thilawa Special Economic Zone - located on the outskirts of Yangon - is the first SEZ to be built in Myanmar, and became fully (commercially) operational since September 2015. Inside Thilawa SEZ, (where) both (the) hard and soft infrastructure - from roads and utilities to supporting services such as maintenance - are developed up to international standards. It is located at around 20 km South-East of Yangon, which is the biggest commercial city of Myanmar.
- Thilawa SEZ was established in April 2011 by the first civilian government which was led by the former President U Thein Sein after many decades of socialist government and military rules. After a year of negotiation with Japanese counterparts, the former president U Thein Sein and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was able to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for a joint venture for the development of Thilawa Special Economic Zone on April 21, 2012. Thilawa Special

Economic Zone was intended to be developed into a Public Private Partnership between the two governments and consortiums from Myanmar and Japan.

- In order to promote development of Thilawa SEZ, Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Limited was formed whereas 10% shares were allotted each to Thilawa SEZ Management Committee on behalf of the Myanmar government and the Japanese government (the Japan International Cooperation Agency); 39% to Japanese consortium of Marubeni, Mitsubishi and Sumitomo, (MMS) and 41% to Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) respectively.
- Thilawa SEZ map
<http://www.myanmarthilawa.gov.mm/geographic-advantage>
- Thilawa SEZ Information
<http://thilawasez.gov.mm>
<http://www.myanmarthilawa.gov.mm>
- Trade and Investment
https://www.commerce.gov.mm/en/dobt/border-trade-data?fbclid=IwAR0I3LuxTGITAgkkvjH-G16okin3fLJG-_Muj77uen9mlewbHyZzUOhvnr
- Resettlement Plan
<http://www.myanmarthilawa.gov.mm/resettlement-plan>

Dawei SEZ Map

- Dawei SEZ map
<http://www.myanmarthilawa.gov.mm/geographic-advantage>
- Dawei SEZ will be developed into an initial phase (up to 27 sq. km) and then a full phase (196.5 sq. km)
- Dawei city is the capital city of Taninthayi Region. Taninthayi Region lies in the southern part of Myanmar and borders Mon State in the north, Thailand is in the east and south and Andaman Sea is in the west. Taninthayi Region has an area of 26777 square kilometres and a population of 1.40 million
<http://www.thaiembassy.org/yangon/contents/files/business-20180228-125915-557089.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2hkrGNZQ4AlimJt3soHzB2XUUihVFYU4e00awtTOawoZ7awxB2O8a5bo>

<Thailand – Mukdahan Province >

- General Info: map, location, areas, and resources can be found at www.mukdahan.go.th
- Mukdahan Province has a total population of 346,016 (Civil Registration, 2014)
- Size of labour force 203,307
- Economic information

Particulars	2011	Ratio (%)	2012	Ratio (%)	2013	Ratio (%)
Agricultural sector	5,914	30.53	6,437	32.13	8,026	35.26
Industrial sector	3,223	16.64	2,822	14.08	2,794	12.27
Service sector	10,234	53	10,777	53.79	11,945	52.47
Gross Provincial Product (GPP)	19,370		20,035		22,764	
GPP per capita (Baht)	54,452		56,623		64,648	

*Source: Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board

- **Transport and logistics**
 - By car: State Highway 2, Mukdahan Province is 642 kilometres from Bangkok.
 - By train: The Bangkok-Ubon Ratchathani railway is 665 kilometres long; then a further journey to Mukdahan by road of approximately 167 kilometres.
- **Potential and opportunities**
 - The Mukdahan border checkpoint is a permanent checkpoint, which connects with Khwaeng Suwanakhet in the Lao PDR. Trade between Thailand and Laos through this checkpoint is second in terms of trade value.
 - Mukdahan is located on the East-West Economic Corridor, which connects with Lao PDR, Vietnam and China.
 - Mukdahan is an important channel for the transport of goods, for example, beverages, fruit and electronic parts to Vietnam and Southern China.
 - It is possible to do business transactions by co-production with Sawan-Seno (Lao PDR) SEZ, which has investments from different countries.
 - The air transportation system in this province is through the use of the airports in nearby provinces in Nakhon Phanom and Ubon Ratchathani.
- **Infrastructure Development Projects**

Four projects for the construction of state highways as follows:

 - The Mukdahan-That Phanom Route Project
 - The State Highway 12 Project (from Na khrai Village, Kuchi Narai District to AKhamcha-i)
 - The State Highway 238 Project (the route to avoid Mukdahan Province)
 - The State Highway 2034 Project (from Mukdahan to Don Tan Chanuman).
- **Customs and border checkpoints**
 - The plan to develop basic structure and customs checkpoints, 2014 – 2022 in Mukdahan Province
- **Industrial estate**
 - The project for the construction of an industrial estate covering an area of 1,085.64 Rai in Kham-a-huan Sub-district, Mueang District, Mukdahan Province.
- **Public utilities (electricity, piped- water and irrigation)**

- The construction and improvement of the raw water system and the water production and distribution system.
- **Targeted business groups**
 - Agricultural and fishery industry including related businesses
 - Electrical appliances and electronics industry
 - Logistics business
 - Industrial estates or zone
 - Activities that promote and support tourism
 - Freeze-dried plants and silos
 - Products made from agricultural by-products and agricultural waste material
 - Animal food products
 - Construction materials and compressed concrete
 - Iron structures for construction work and industry
 - Printing materials
 - Skin cosmetics
 - Plastic products for consumer goods
 - Production of items from fibre and paper
 - The development of factory buildings and/or goods warehouses.
- **Trade and Investment: volumes, focus industries, type of investors**
 - Trade on the Thai-Lao Border**
 - The Mukdahan border checkpoint, adjacent to Khwaeng Suwanakhet, Kison Phromwihan Province; opening-closing time 6.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.
 - The 2nd Thai-Lao PDR Friendship Bridge Checkpoint, Song Puey Village, Bang Sai Yai Sub-district, Mueang Mukdahan District, adjacent to Kison Phromwihan Province, Khwaeng Sawanakhet, opening time time 6.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m

<Viet Nam>

General Information

- Length of land border: 4,600 km.
- The 25 border provinces of Vietnam are adjacent to China, Laos and Cambodia.
- The border gates system: more than 200 types of border gates.
- Agreements on cooperation in border trade development between Vietnam and neighboring countries.
- Road transport agreement
- Amount of import and export goods (Border Trade):
 - Vietnam – China: 38.000 million USD/year
 - Vietnam – Laos: 1.300 million USD/year
 - Vietnam – Cambodia: 1.450 million USD/year

Type of economic zones in Viet Nam

- Industrial zone
- Manufacturing zone
- Supporting industrial zone
- Industrial ecology zone
- Industrial urban service zone
- Coastal economic zone
- Border gate economic zone

Objectives of economic zones

- Promote industrialization
- Formation of production links
- Environmental protection, efficient use of natural resources and sustainable development.
- Allocate population and synchronous infrastructure.

Development policy of economic zones

- Investment incentives
- Deduction of construction and operating expenses
- Supported investment capital from the state budget to build infrastructure
- Considered to support development investment from other funds
- Encourage cooperation, attract investment partners to develop

Regulations in economic zones

- Economic zones (1):
 - Immigration, residence and travel (1): Granted visa, temporary and permanent residence: foreigner, Vietnamese people reside abroad who working in economic zone and their family members.
 - Border gate economic zone (1): Citizens of the opposite border district of the neighbor countries can enter the economic zone with the cross border license. Citizens of neighbor countries and/or third country: exempted from entry visa with stay in no more than 15 days.
- Economic zones (2):
 - Immigration, residence and travel (2)
 - Border gate economic zones (2): Transport vehicles from the neighbor and third countries are allowed in and out with business contract according to the road transport agreement. The drivers are allowed in and out with passport or the People Identification. The goods and vehicle owners of Vietnam are allowed to carry goods and vehicles into neighbor countries for delivery using their passports. Citizens living in border communes of Vietnam are allowed in and out with a passport.
- Economic zones (3):
 - Finance and Credit: Transaction, payment and transfer permitted in Vietnamese currency or the currency of the border country or free currency. Financial institutions are allowed to establish and operate in the zones. Tourists enjoy preferential tariffs when purchasing goods in non-tariff areas in an economic zone.
- Industrial and Manufacturing zones (1)

- Temporary residence regulations: Those who work or/and have work relations are allowed in and out only. Foreigners (directors, managers, experts) are allowed to temporarily reside when
 - Serving production activities
 - Not accompanied by relative and family members
 - Comply with immigration and temporary residence regulations
 - Has accommodation separate from production area.
- Other regulations: Trading activities between manufacturing zones and other areas in Vietnam (excluding non-tariff areas) are import – export relations. Those who are working in industrial zones do not declare customs when carrying foreign exchange into economic zones from inside of Vietnam.

Sources and forms of data

- Online: each city/province has their own website on SEZs. For example:
 - Vietnam Industrial Zone Portal: <http://industrialzone.vn>
 - Saigon Hi-tech Park in Ho Chi Minh City: <http://www.eng.shtp.hochiminhcity.gov.vn>
 - Danang Hi-tech Park in Danang City: <http://dhtp.vn/web/tieng-anh/home>
 - Organisations/agencies: Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Provincial People's Committee

Danang Hi-tech Park



- General info: established by the Prime Minister as per the Decision 1979/QĐ-TTg dated 28th October 2010. Currently, Danang Hi-tech Park Management Board is assigned the mission of public administration for the Danang Information Technology Park and Supporting Industry Area
- Location: Danang city, Vietnam
- On the Danang – Quang Ngai expressway which connects all parts of the key economic zones in Central Vietnam: Chan May Economic Zone (Thua Thien Hue Province), Chu Lai – Ky Ha Economic Zone (Quang Nam Province), Dung Quat Economic Zone (Quang Ngai Province).
 - 5km from Lieu Chieu Port.

- 17km from Danang International Airport.
- 22km from the city center
- 25km from Tien Sa seaport.
- Total planning area: 1,128.40 hectares.
- Investment:
(Source: <http://dhtp.vn/web/tieng-anh/investment>)
- Infrastructure:
(Source: <http://dhtp.vn/web/tieng-anh/infrastructure>)
- Legal documents:
(Source: <http://dhtp.vn/web/tieng-anh/legal-documents>)
- REGISTRATION FOR INVESTMENT
 - Form BM I-1: Application for execution project:
 - Form BM I-2a: Investment proposal
(Source: <http://dhtp.vn/web/tieng-anh/legal-procedures>)
- Current Investors:



(source: <http://dhtp.vn/web/tieng-anh/investors>)

- Master plan of Danang Hi-tech Park
 - Online: <http://dhtp.vn/web/tieng-anh/master-plan>
 - By contacting the local authority, i.e. board management of SEZs
- Master Plan of Danang High-tech Park



5.5. Modular Training Evaluation

5.5.1. Group Work by Country

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

5.5.2. Group Presentation by Country

In this session, participants presented the results of the group work as summarized below.

<Lao PDR>

Relevance

(To the team)

- Exchange, share experience and real practice of work on SEZ;
- Learn and upgrade knowledge of SEZ management;
- Provide/ widen opportunity for local and central stakeholders who are not directly in charge of SEZ;

(To the targeted participants)

- Provide some useful information, SEZ management knowledge and identify benefits of stakeholders;
- Participants are aware of some experiences and lesson learnt from SEZ practice of Lancang-Mekong Countries;
- Share and exchange idea how to improve SEZ management of Laos;
- Apply to upgrade capacity building for a specific purpose/ field such as CO, One Stop Service, etc.

Efficiency

- Benefit to central and local authorities and private sectors such as increasing knowledge, importance of SEZ and CBEZ, and how to improve to national standards;
- SEZ acts as key factors in contributing to the national socio-economic development.

Effectiveness

- Upgrade knowledge and experience on SEZ and CBEZ of the team;
- More training to local and central stakeholders;
- Lecture modules should include some more details or information on real practice on SEZ and CBEZ;



- Site visit for SEZ and CBEZ practice in successful countries in order to learn and gain experience.

Sustainability

- Training should be organized at least two times a year for SEZ stakeholders in both public and private sectors;
- Discuss and consult on technical and finance assistance;
- Related organization is recommended to update and share data and information.

Institutional Development and Other Impact

- External and internal coordination mechanism will be improved among stakeholders;
- More contribution and development to local stakeholders.

<Myanmar>

Relevance

- With respect to the National Workshop
 - Met targeted groups;
 - 86% public sector and 14% private sector;
 - First time training on knowledge shared of SEZ in Myanmar to stakeholders
 - 54% of participants met their expectations from the training because of the content of the Modules;
 - i): Module 1: What makes an SEZ “special?”;
 - ii): Rationale for Shifting from SEZ to CBEZ;
 - iii): CBEZ Development Framework and Cross Border Economic Zones ;
 - Iv): SEZ/CBEZ program to match Complementary SEZ;
 - Majority of participants were from the public sector in which departments will take their turn to provide training to One Stop Service Centers (OSSC);
 - Some ministries are involved in inspections, monitoring and evaluation programs.

Efficiency

- National Workshop was efficient because majority of participants were from the public sector
- Invited 50 participants -reached 74% of targeted trainees;
- Targeted institutions -100% met;
- Participants will share the knowledge gained from training to their respective concerned ministries and private companies;



- The workshop took place over two full days to cover all practical modules from the MI training.

Effectiveness

- 41% of participants have reported knowledge and skills increase from the training;
- 65% of participants reported the relevance of knowledge and skills gained from the training to their work;
- The participants were highly satisfied with the expertise of resource persons and training methodologies employed during the Workshop;
- Most of the participants are utilizing the lessons learnt from MI training in their own work place with action plans by developing systems and internal knowledge sharing;
- The outcome of the workshop was very successful in viewing to the evaluation made prior to the workshop in comparison with the evaluation made at the end of the session;
- Should have had more examples and country experiences from GMS for more understanding;
- Quality was satisfactory;
- Participants were happy to learn basic knowledge of SEZ and shifting from SEZ to CBEZ which is new to them;
- Framework of CBEZ;
- Institutional & legal framework of SEZ.

Sustainability

- National workshop was successful;
- Need more budget to organize this training and can invite many companies to attend;
- Need MI to be involved in more training and exchange update information of LM countries;
- Financial and technical assistance for sustainability of activities is needed from MI because the participants requested continuation of workshop at least twice a year;
- Workshop participants need regular update on SEZs/CBEZ in the LM countries;
- Need more training and exchange of information among stakeholders of SEZ in Myanmar;
- MI should continue to support for training and help logistic businesses move forward in the LM countries.

Institutional Development & Other Impact

- National Workshop was a brainstorming session;
- On the ground in actual implementation of policy is affected by problems related to implementation ;
- Ideas and outcomes of the activity will be published in journals, newspapers and websites;

- There should be visit and learning from successful SEZs and CBEZs in Lancang-Mekong Countries;
- Countries could experiment with border trading hubs as a pilot project before actual implementation of CBEZ;
- Statistic benefits:
 - (1) employment generation
 - (2) export growth
 - (3) government revenue
 - (4) foreign exchange earnings
- Dynamic benefits
 - (1) skill upgrading
 - (2) technology transfer
- Consistent with objectives such as those incorporated in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP)
 - Pillar II -PROSPERITY & PARTNERSHIP
 - Goal III -JOB CREATION & PRIVATE SECTOR-LED GROWTH
 - Strategy 3.2: Support job creation in industry and services, especially through developing small-and medium sized enterprises
 - Strategy 3.3: Provide a secure, conducive investment enabling environment which eases the cost of doing business, boosts investor confidence and increases efficiencies
 - Strategy 3.4: Further reform the trade sector and strengthen regional and international cooperation and linkages



<Vietnam>

Relevance

- Provided knowledge of SEZs, CBEZs
- Provided information on East West and North South Economic Corridors in the GMS
- Laid the foundation for strategy development of SEZs in Vietnam in general and Hi-tech parks in particular
- Provided an overview of SEZs in GMS countries.

Efficiency

- Built the relationship among GMS countries and participants
- Knowledge sharing and experience exchange among participants
- Lessons learnt from diverse models of SEZs in the region.

Effectiveness

- In-depth insights and comprehensive knowledge

- Comparison between global value chains and global supply chains in Vietnam to make suggestions to the authority
- From now on, we should think about the future of SEZs in the light of 4.0 industrial development.

Sustainability

- Each of the GMS countries should build its own development strategy for SEZs based on its strengths and potentials
- Such strategy should be on the basis of mutual cooperation without competition among countries towards the sustainable development for all.



Institutional Development & Other Impact

- The key successful factors of some kind of SEZs in Europe and America.
- Which sectors or industries should be encouraged to invest in SEZs in GMS countries?
- Which is the most successful model of one-stop service that could be applied in SEZs in general?

<Thailand>

Relevance

- All participants who received knowledge about SEZs from MI were from relevant sectors.
- Knowledge was provided to the people of Mukdahan and Savannakhet in the area of SEZs.

Efficiency

- This activity addressed constraints/opportunities related to performance of firms in specific industries or value chains by strengthening key cross-border linkages, e.g. customs procedures, and logistics services;

5.5. Closing Remarks

Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Executive Director, Mekong Institute

In his closing remarks, Dr. Leelawath expressed satisfaction at the selection of participants for the modular training, remarking that we had a good group of participants. While promoting SEZs in LM countries, the right kind of investments should be targeted, SEZs should not become pollution havens. Dr. Leelawath asked for cooperation of the participants for building a webportal on SEZs by MI. He hoped the participants have built up a good network among them and with MI. CBEZs can help to build value chains. Dr. Leelawath remarked perhaps MI would launch a study to investigate why do investors split production, at which stages production can be split, how do value chains cater to needs of investors etc. He concluded by thanking the participants, the donor and the MI team for organizing a productive S&E workshop and for the successful conclusion of the modular training program.

6. Modular Training Evaluation

The end-of-cycle evaluation was conducted to assess the management and implementation of the modular training program during the period of September 2018 – February 2019, which followed modular training approach with three interrelated stages below:



- **Learn to Do:** Regional Modular Training on Management of Special Economic Zone in Lancang – Mekong Countries (September 24 - 28, 2018);
- **Do to Learn:** APs implementation (September 2018 - February 2019);
- **Share to Learn:** S&E Workshop (February 12 - 13, 2019).

The evaluation allowed all participants to freely comment, without the scrutiny of instructors / facilitators and program staff. Different components were rated on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 - Not Satisfied; 2 – Less Satisfied; 3 – Somewhat Satisfied; 4 - Satisfied; 5 – Very Satisfied).

6.1. Workshop Objective

Overall average rating was 4.10. Participants reported that ‘to share experience of implementing the APs and obtain feedback from co-participants’ to be especially relevant with average rating of 4.46.

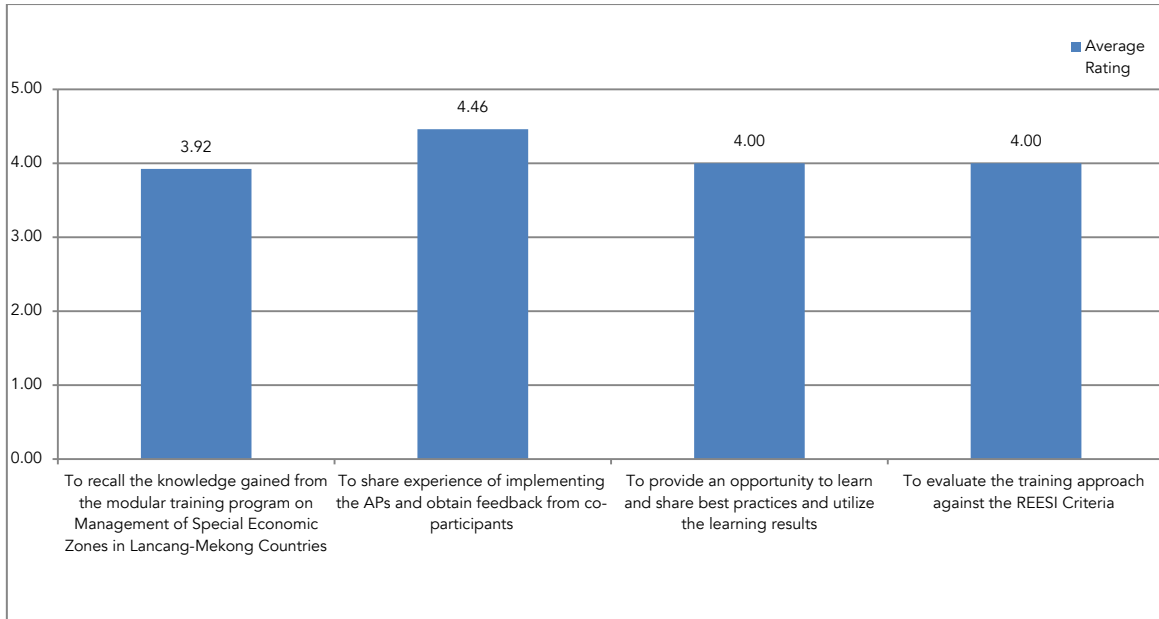


Figure 2. Learning Program Objectives

6.2. Relevance of Knowledge and Skills

Overall average rating was 3.73. Participants reported that knowledge and skills gained from the training program was relevant to their work / business.

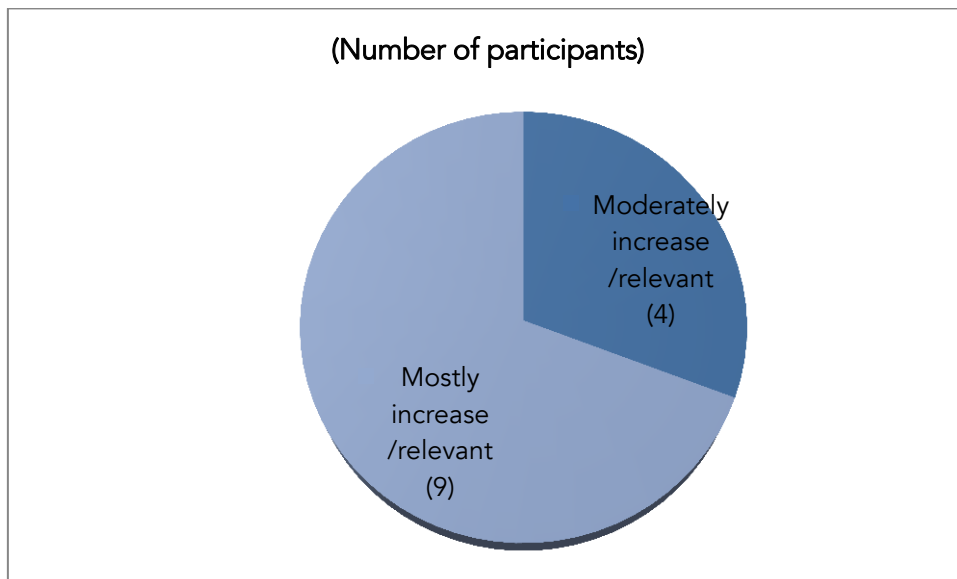


Figure 3. Relevance of Knowledge and Skills

6.3. Application of Knowledge and Skills

Overall average rating was 3.73. Participants reported that they applied knowledge and skills gained from the training program to their workplace / business.

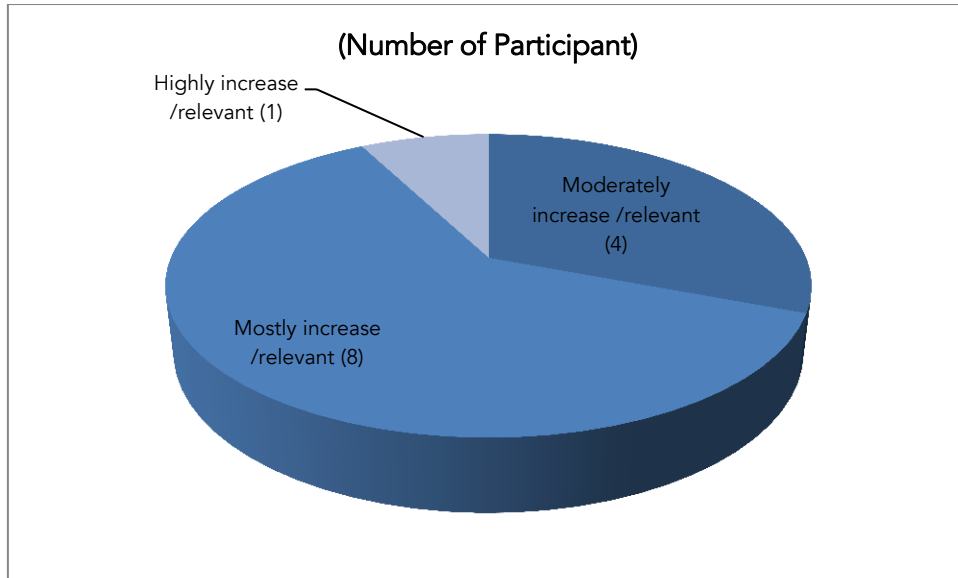


Figure 4. Application of Knowledge and Skills

6.4. Program Structure

Overall average rating was 4.08. Participants reported that they were especially satisfied with the MI's facilitation during the Workshop with the average rating of 4.23.

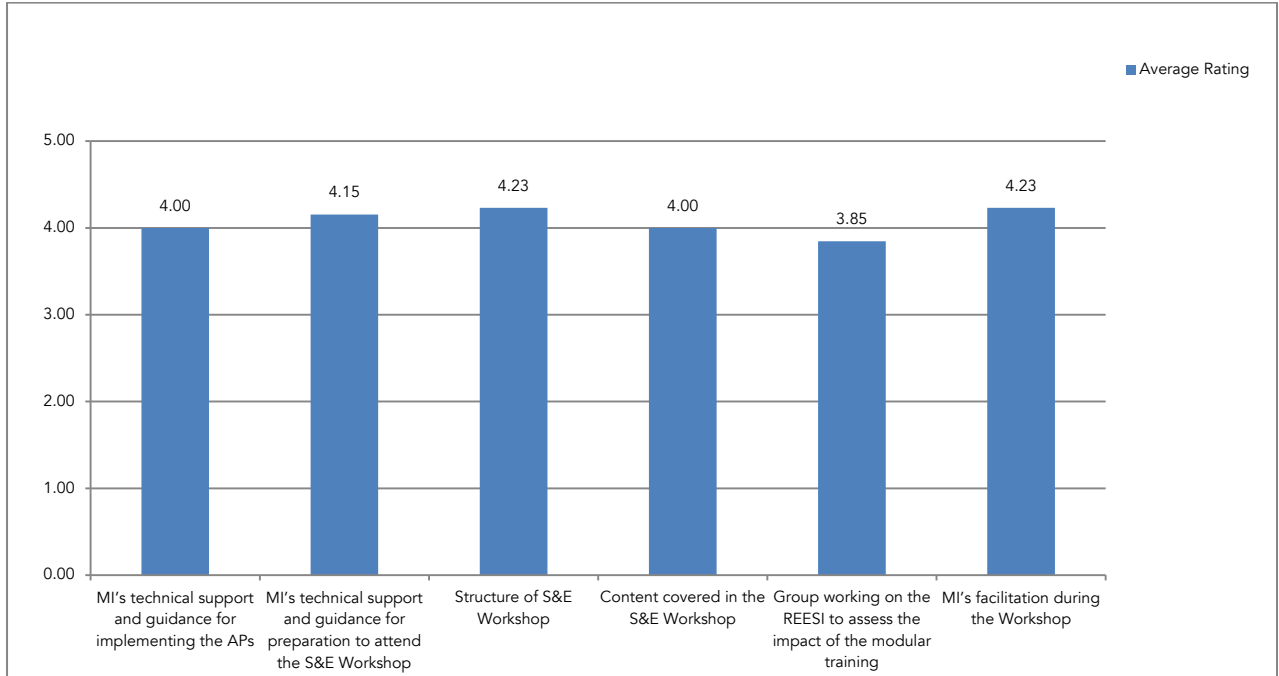


Figure 5. Program Structure

6.5. Overall Assessment

Participants reported that they were satisfied with the S&E Workshop with the average rating of 4.08.

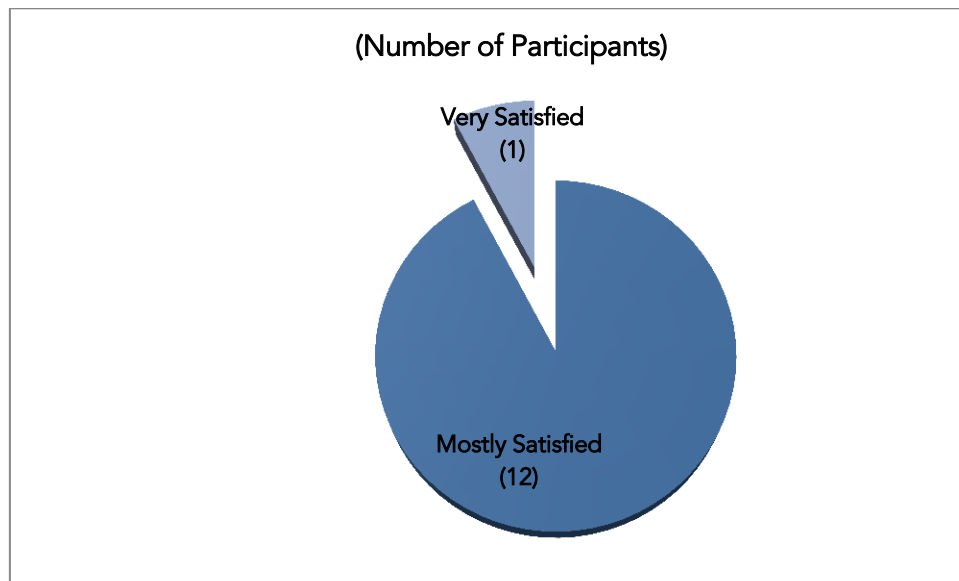


Figure 6. Overall Assessment

7. Suggestions / Recommendations

The participants also provided some suggestions or comments to this training program for future improvement as below:

- The modular training program is suitable for entrepreneurs who are interested in import and export.
- The program taught the participants on how to collectively benefit from Free Trade Agreements. However, more technical support from the MI is needed on this subject.

8. Workshop Facilities

Mekong Institute, Khon Kaen, Thailand



The MI Residential Training Center is located at Khon Kaen University. The Center is equipped with the following facilities:

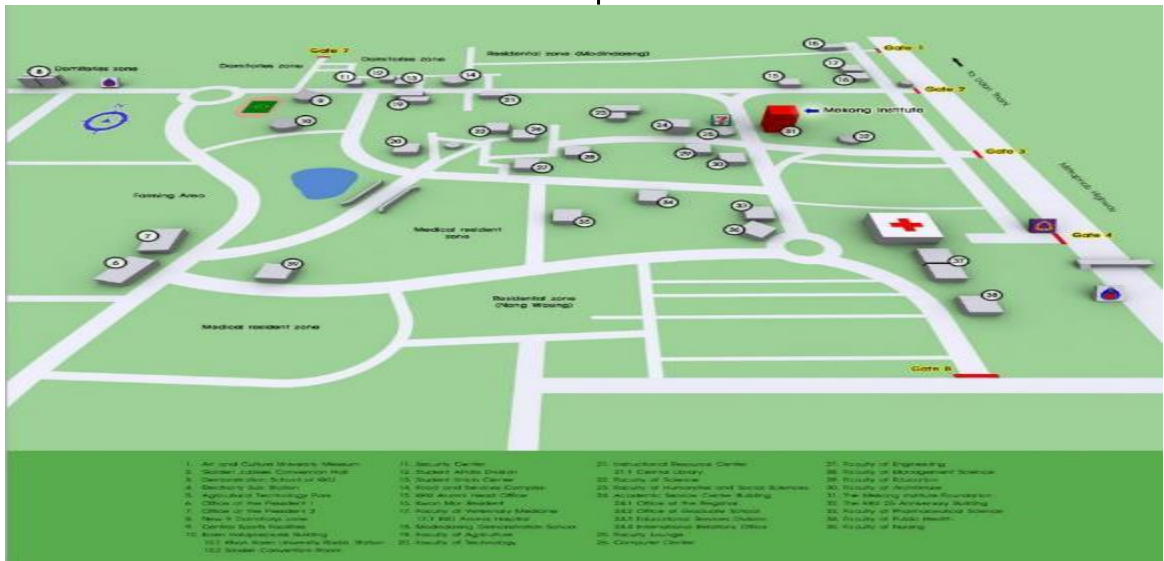
- Three Conference rooms fully equipped with 24-hour wireless internet service, audio-visual equipment and training materials;
 - Mekong River Conference Room (maximum capacity: approximately 120 people);
 - James Bolger Conference Room (maximum capacity: approximately 80 people);
 - Savannakhet Room (maximum capacity: approximately 40 people);
 - GMS Resource Center and Common Rooms

The Mekong River Conference Room hosted the S&E Workshop.

Mekong River Conference Room, MI's Annex Building



Map



Cafeteria



9. Photo





10. Modular Training Evaluation

10.1. Program Objectives

Please indicate whether the objectives of the workshop were	Not met	Slightly met	Neutrally met	Mostly met	Fully met	Average rating
	1	2	3	4	5	
To recall the knowledge gained from the modular training program on Management of Special Economic Zones in Lancang-Mekong			3	8	2	3.92

Countries						
To share experience of implementing the action plans and obtain feedback from co-participants;			1	5	7	4.46
To provide an opportunity to learn and share best practices and utilize the learning results;			2	9	2	4.00
To evaluate the training approach against the REESI criteria of Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and Institutional Development and& their Impacts.			1	11	1	4.00

10.2.2. Have you been able to apply the knowledge and skills gained from the training?

- Yes, please continue to next questions (*13 responses, 100%*)
 No

10.2.3. How have you applied the gained knowledge and skills? (Multiple Choice)

- Developing a similar event at local context (*7 responses*)
 Using in daily work (*2 responses*)
 making better decisions (*2 responses*)
 sharing with others (*9 responses*)
 other (please specify *1 response*.....)

Please provide short qualitative description of the above selected option.

- I have shared with my customers (investors) and they have interested in my knowledge and skills obtained from the training.*
- As working in the coordination role in the ministry, I can disseminate knowledge and information to others from departments under ministry and related ministries, and to superiors as well. I might be the catalyst for developing SEZ policy in Myanmar.*

10.2.4. Knowledge and skills gained from the training

Please indicate the relevance of knowledge and skills gained and its application.	Not increased / relevant 1	Somewhat increased / relevant 2	Moderately increased / relevant 3	Mostly increased / relevant 4	Highly increased / relevant 5	Average rating
• Relevance of knowledge			4	9		3.69

and skills from the training to your workplace / business						
• Application of knowledge and skills gained from the training to your workplace / business			4	8	1	3.77

10.2.5. Have you organized any event (trainings, workshops, structured learning visits, conference, meetings, etc.) with the knowledge and skill gained from the MI's event?

- [] Yes, please write down the activity name here.....(11 responses, 84.62%).....
 [] No, (2 responses, 15.38%)

10.2.6. Please provide the number of the participants of your event as follows.

First Activity on -----				First Activity on -----				First Activity on -----			
Public*		Private**		Public		Private		Public		Private	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
99	100	29	15								

10.2.7. Are there any policy changes caused by the activity? Is it a provincial, national, cross-border or regional one? What is it?

Please provide information

- *Coordination mechanism is important;*
- *Acknowledgement understanding on SEZ among stakeholders are important /upgraded;*
- *Yes, changed. We have reported to the Minister from our experience and knowledge gained;*
- *Not yet but I have reported to policy maker who is a member of Myanmar Investment and think about what need to be integrated in the investment climate in Myanmar.*

10.2.8. Are there any agreements reached through the event? How many? What are they?

- *Agree to move forward SEZ effectively by joining contribution among stakeholders;*

- The event explored the information as feedback to conduct more workshop in SEZ location such as Dawei and Kyaukphu;
- There are many agreements reached through the event. Ministry of construction, forwarding, logistics, customs, clearance, SEZ associations.

10.2.9. Program Structure of the S&E Workshop

How would you describe the following issue	Not Satisfied 1	Somewhat Satisfied 2	Neutrally Satisfied 3	Satisfied 4	Very Satisfied 5	Average rating
• MI's technical support and guidance for implementing the action plans			3	7	3	4.00
• MI's technical support and guidance for your preparation to attend at the S&E workshop			1	9	3	4.15
• Structure of S&E workshop			1	8	4	4.23
• Content covered in the S&E workshop			2	9	2	4.00
• Group working on the REESI to assess the impact of the modular training			4	7	2	3.85
• MI's facilitation during the workshop			2	6	5	4.23
Please provide comments and/or suggestions, if any						

10.2.10. Overall Assessment

How do you rate about	Not Satisfied 1	Less Satisfied 2	Somewhat Satisfied 3	Satisfied 4	Very Satisfied 5	Average Rating
Overall satisfaction with the S&E Workshop				13	6	4.32

Please provide comments and/or suggestions, if any

- *Everything alright;*
- *Site visits to SEZ, CBEZ are needed;*
- *MI should continue to provide SEZ related articles, training and workshop in respective country or at MI. Mekong conference should consider topic on SEZ in Lancang-Mekong countries.*

11. Concept Note

11.1. Background

Mekong Institute (MI), with support from the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund, successfully conducted one-week Modular Training Program on “Management of Special Economic Zones in Lancang-Mekong Countries” from September 24 - 28, 2018 at its residential training center, Khon Kaen, Thailand. The training aimed to i) improve knowledge base of participants by sharing status on progress on cross border economic zones (CBEZs), ii) build capacities of the special economic zone (SEZ) officials and private sector on various issues related to management of SEZs, iii) share best practices on SEZs / CBEZs and provide examples from Lancang-Mekong countries, and iv) promote learning and exchange among stakeholders. The training program contents included four interrelated modules: 1) Addressing domestic development challenges 2) Leveraging global and cross-border “drivers of change” 3) What makes an SEZ “special” 4) From SEZ to CBEZ and 5) SEZ (and CBEZ) development framework.

As part of the training program, the participants developed the country-wise Action Plans (AP) for transferring their gained knowledge and experiences to related beneficiaries and stakeholders in Lancang-Mekong countries namely China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. The action plans were conducted through national workshops / trainings in their respective countries. It covered dissemination activities for lessons learned on the importance of cross border economic cooperation zones, management of SEZ and CBEZs focusing on global value chain of SEZs, BEZs and CBEZs and new disruptive technology to stakeholders and policy framework for improving SEZs.

To review the learning and the action plan implementation results, and obtain feedback on the modular training cycle, a two-day Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop (S&E) has been scheduled on February 12-13, 2019 at Mekong Institute, Khon Kaen, Thailand. The S&E workshop aims at (i) providing a platform for the participants to present results of their action plan implementation; (ii) sharing best practices and outcomes from their implementation experience; and (iii) reflecting their feedback as contribution to improving the training contents.

11.2. Objectives

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

- a) Recall the knowledge gained from the modular training program on Management of Special Economic Zones 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) Evaluate the training approach and provide recommendations for future improvement in terms of contents, structure, and schedule.

11.3. Program Activity

The S&E workshop is structured to provide an opportunity for the participants to present their experience of implementing the action plans. The action plan presentation will be in the form of market information, photos, videos, posters display and power point presentations, etc. in line with the topics and methods applied by the action plans. The workshop will also serve as a platform to exchange experience and lessons learned among the participants from their action plan implementation.

11.4. Target Participants

The program is for the participants of the one-week training program held in September 2018 in Khon Kaen from the six Lancang-Mekong countries representing central and provincial ministries and departments of commerce, planning, finance and, agencies responsible for SEZs policies and implementation of SEZs policies and companies involved in SEZs by offering services such as one stop services and acting as SEZ developers.

11.5. Outputs

The workshop is expected to enrich insights of the participants on the impact of the capacity development program from training to the completed action plan implementation. This is also a chance for MI to receive specific recommendations from the participants for further development of MI's training programs.

11.6. Contacts

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11.7. Program

Tuesday, February 12, 2019	
Venue : Mekong River Conference Room, 2 nd Floor, Mekong Institute, Khon Kaen, Thailand	
07:00 - 08:45	Breakfast
08.45-09.00	Participant Registration <i>Ms. Sasiporn Phuphaploy, TIF Program Admin Assistant, MI</i>
09.00-09.20	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Executive Director, Mekong Institute (MI)</i>
	Group Photo
09.20-09.30	Overview of S&E Workshop <i>Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, Trade and Investment Facilitation Department (TIF), MI</i>
09.30-10.15	Presentation and discussion on the country action plan implementation (20 mins per country) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation #1 – AP Myanmar on Management Practices of Special Economic Zone in Myanmar ▪ Presentation #2 – AP Thailand on Preparing and Training to Superworker for Economic Growth on SEZ in GMS <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist and Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
10.15 – 10.35	Coffee break
10.35-12.00	Presentation and discussion on the country action plan implementation (20 mins per country) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation #3 – AP Lao PDR on Lesson Learnt from Modular Training on Management of Special Economic Zone in Lancang - Mekong Region ▪ Presentation #4 – AP Vietnam on Knowledge Sharing on Management of Special Economic Zone in Lancang - Mekong Region <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist and Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
12:00-13:10	Lunch
13.10-15.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group Work by Country on information requirements for SEZs online in Lancang-Mekong countries <p><i>Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist and Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
15.00-15.15	Coffee break
15.15-16.30	Group presentation by country <i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist and Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i>
17.:00 onwards	Dinner – self payment
Wednesday, February 13, 2019	

Venue: Mekong River Conference Room, 2 nd Floor, Mekong Institute, Khon Kaen, Thailand	
06:00 -08:45	Breakfast
08.45-10.00	<p>Group Work by Country on Evaluation of the training by using the principles of REESI to assess the impact of the training.</p> <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>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist and Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p>
10.00-10.15	Coffee break
10.15-11.50	<p>Group presentation by country on REESI by participants</p> <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Sanchita Chatterjee, Program Specialist and Mr. Sa-nga Sattanun, Program Manager, TIF, MI</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation - Closing remarks by <i>Dr. Watchras Leelawath</i>, Executive Director of Mekong Institute
11.50-13:00	Lunch
13.00 onwards	Departure to Respective Country


11.8. Participants' Directory






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11.9. MI Organizing Team

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The Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS)

The Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) comprises 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

The 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 programmes across three cutting themes of agricultural development and commercialization, trade and investment facilitation, and innovation and technological connectivity.



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