



MEKONG
INSTITUTE



FUNDED BY LANCANG-MEKONG COOPERATION SPECIAL FUND

STUDY DISSEMINATION AND POLICY CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON
**Customs Modernization and Management
and Promotion of Special Economic Zones
in the Lancang-Mekong Subregion**

COMPLETION REPORT

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We, Mekong Institute (MI), would like to express our appreciation to the 26 delegates from Cambodia, P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, for participating and providing valuable inputs, suggestions and recommendations to the Dissemination and Policy Consultation Workshop on the two Studies on “(i) Customs Modernization and (ii) Management and Promotion of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the Lancang-Mekong Sub-Region” held on December 20, 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand.

The dissemination and policy consultation workshop could not be accomplished without the generous support from the Lancang–Mekong Cooperation Special Fund (LMCSF). We would also like to extend our thankfulness to the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand for the valuable guidance and co-hosting the workshop in collaboration with Mekong Institute (MI).

Lastly, we wish to thank the Project Team of the Trade and Investment Facilitation (TIF) Department and all the Mekong Institute (MI) staff members involved for their support and assistance in preparation and completion of the workshop.

Trade and Investment Facilitation (TIF) Department

Mekong Institute

January 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Funded by the Lancang–Mekong Cooperation Special Fund (LMCSF), the Mekong Institute (MI) is implementing the Project on “Upgrading Border Facilitation for Trade and Logistics Development” for the period 2018 – 2021 in collaboration with Ministry of Commerce, Thailand, and its stakeholders in the six Lancang–Mekong (LM) countries, namely, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, at both national and sub-national levels. The Project aims to (i) promote trade along border trade zones and border special economic zones which link the LM countries; (ii) increase trade capacity and reduce the costs incurred to traders, and (iii) enhance connectivity and improve competitiveness across international borders through improvements in infrastructure to facilitate cross-border trade and investment.

Under the project framework, MI has conducted the two studies on (i) Customs Modernization and (ii) Management and Promotion of special economic zones (SEZs) in the Lancang–Mekong countries since April and September 2019, respectively, in consultation with the project stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. The two studies arrived at the preliminary findings that are in need of further consultation and validation of the representatives of the LM countries in order to form a source of reference in support of technical and policy development in the LM countries.

Against this backdrop, MI continued the consultation process at the Dissemination and Policy Consultation Workshop with the project stakeholders from both public and private sectors in the six LM countries for deeper discussions and validation of the preliminary findings as well as identification of feasible solutions to each of technical and policy issues.

The objectives and methodology of the dissemination and policy consultation workshop

The purposes of the workshop were to (i) jointly review the findings of the study on customs modernizations and the study on management and promotion of SEZs in the LM countries; (ii) stimulate experience exchange in SEZ management and promotion; (iii) obtain suggestions to policy solutions and actions from the representatives of the LM countries; and (iv) contribute to policy development for Customs Modernization and SEZ Management and Promotion in the LM countries.

The workshop created an interactive platform inviting all representatives’ participation in addressing and suggesting technical and policy solutions to the issues addressed by the findings of the two studies in an active manner.

The workshop was co-chaired by **Ms. Auramon Supthaweethum**, Director-General, Department of Trade Negotiations (DTN), Ministry of Commerce (MOC) of Thailand, and **Dr. Watcharas Leelawath**, Executive Director of Mekong Institute (MI).

A total of 26 participants from concerned government agencies and the private sector in the 06 LM countries attended the event. They represented Customs Departments, Ministries of Commerce, Planning and Investment, the provincial Department of Commerce, Customs Offices at border checkpoints and special economic zones (SEZs).

The preliminary findings and recommendations of the two studies are summarized as below:

Customs modernization.

- Investment in custom infrastructure and facilities such as computer server and software to connect border customs officers to the customs central online system. The estimated investment for computer server units and related equipment was USD30,000–USD40,000 per border checkpoint.
- Installation of the CCTV system to improve transparency at the border customs houses. Investment funding may vary depending on the area coverage. It was about USD 10,000 – 20,000 per site.
- Establishment of the LM Customs Information Exchange Center to enhance the collaboration between and among the intergovernmental agencies in the LM countries. The investment cost was estimated at USD 1–2 million plus annual operating cost of USD 400,000–500,000 depending on the scale and scope of work.

The country representatives' suggestions to the study:

- Updating the statistical data, including the rankings of “customs related doing business for the countries” and intra-regional trade, especially in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam.
- Addressing the progress and results of customs modernization and performance in the LM countries, especially the case of Myanmar where customs modernization has made rigorous development in such areas as customs law and regulations, customs automation with the operations of MACCS (Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System), including e-Payment as part of modernized customs clearance. As a result, clearance time and trade costs have been remarkably reduced. The study needed to clearly address customs administration procedures in the special economic zone (SEZ) and border checkpoints to reflect the procedural differences. Likewise, Cambodia has made a good progress in customs modernization nationwide in terms of customs administration procedures and trade facilitation.
- Reflecting the involvement, coordination, and cooperation between and among the public and private organizations, i.e. customs and border agencies, port operators, logistics services providers, businesses, and so on.
- Integrating all updates and recommendations into in the final version of the study report.

SEZ Management and Promotion

- SEZ development (planning, establishment, promotion and management) is governed by the national institutional and regulatory framework in each of the LM countries. Cambodia and Thailand have drafted their laws on SEZs, but they have yet to come into effect till this point in time. In this connection, Myanmar is the only country governing its SEZs by the national law.
- All countries have adopted international practices and universal concept of special economic zones (SEZs)/economic zones (EZs) to design their own concepts. As a matter of fact, SEZ definition varies in degree among the LM countries in terms of SEZ scope and typology, and investment incentives applied.
- Industries invested in SEZs have not been fully aligned with the national industrial development policies and strategies.

- Except for the case of Myanmar, the effectiveness of OSSCs in facilitating investment and trade in SEZs is not clear.
- Limited linkages to local economies, especially manufacturing industries in SEZs, except for local labor supplies (local SMEs' joining the GVC/production network is still limited)
- Effective system(s)/mechanism(s) to measure and evaluate the performance and economic outcomes of SEZs from planning to implementation has not been seen.
- Lack of comprehensive/integrated SEZ information system in support of business plans and development of developers and investors.
- Slow infrastructure construction progress in SEZs caused by limited access to land and land price escalation may slow down SEZ development.

The countries' comments and suggestions:

- The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) agreed on the study findings and clarified the diversification of industries. As such, all industries in the SEZs in Cambodia should be covered.
- The Vietnam Customs Department in Lang Son, Vietnam, suggested that the information on investment incentives, i.e. fiscal and non-fiscal incentives in the LM SEZs, be shared with Vietnam and the other countries.
- The participant from the Ministry of Planning and Investment of Lao PDR suggested the information on SEZ in Lao PDR be adjusted with 12 SEZs, including Luang Prabang SEZ, and clarified that the total land area for SEZ construction of 29,400 ha under SEZO report covered subzones in the SEZs.

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATIGA	ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement
BOI	Board of Investment
CBTA	Cross-Border Transport Facilitation Agreement
CDC	Council for the Development of Cambodia
CLMVT	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand
CM	Customs Modernization
CO	Certificate of Origin
DBI	Doing Business Indicators
DFT	Department of Foreign Trade
DTNs	Department of Trade Negotiations
EEC	Eastern Economic Corridor
E-SPS	Electronic Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary
FDA	Foreign Direct Investment
FTZ	Free Trade Zone
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub-regions
GVC	Global Value Chain
ICT	Information Communication Technology
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LM Countries	Lancang - Mekong Countries: Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam
LMC	Lancang-Mekong Cooperation
LMCSF	Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund
MACCS	Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System
MI	Mekong Institute
MOC	Ministry of Commerce
NIDA	National Institute of Development Administration
NSW	National Single Window
OSSCs	One-Stop Service Centers
SEZs	Special Economic Zones
SLV	Structure-Learning Visit
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
TAD	Temporary Admission Document
TIF	Trade and Investment Facilitation Department
UN	United Nations
USD	United States Dollars

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I. INTRODUCTION

In March 2016, the People's Republic of China (China), Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam officially launched the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) mechanism at the first LMC leaders' meeting. The mechanism aims to promote the economic and social development of the sub-regional countries, enhancing the wellbeing of their people and narrowing the development gaps among the regional countries. To this end, the countries have agreed on the LMC cooperation framework covering three key pillars comprising of five development areas through synergizing China's Belt and Road Initiative, ASEAN Community Building, promoting the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and advancing South-South cooperation.

The key pillars include (i) Politics and Security; (ii) Economic and Sustainable Development; and Social, Cultural and People-to-People Exchange.

Development areas: (i) Connectivity; (ii) Production Capacity; (iii) Cross-border Economic Cooperation; (iv) Water Resources; and (v) Agriculture and Poverty Reduction.

Funded by the Lancang–Mekong Cooperation Special Fund (LMCSF), the Mekong Institute (MI) is implementing the Project on “Upgrading Border Facilitation for Trade and Logistics Development” for the period 2018 – 2021 in collaboration with Ministry of Commerce, Thailand, and its stakeholders in the six Lancang–Mekong (LM) countries, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, at both national and sub-national levels. The Project aims to (i) promote trade along border trade zones and border special economic zones which link the LM countries; (ii) increase trade capacity and reduce the costs incurred to traders, and (iii) enhance connectivity and improve competitiveness across international borders through improvements in infrastructure to facilitate cross-border trade and investment.

Under the project framework, MI has conducted the two studies on (i) Customs Modernization and (ii) Management and Promotion of special economic zones (SEZs) in the Lancang–Mekong countries since April and September 2019, respectively, in consultation with the project stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. As for Customs Modernization, the study covered: (i) Laws and Regulations on Customs in connectivity with international standards and practices; (ii) Customs automation with application ICT technologies in operate customs procedures; (iii) investment in physical infrastructure (facilities and equipment); (iv) customs cooperation and integration, and (v) human resource development. As for Management and Promotion of SEZs, the study focused on (i) SEZ planning; (ii) SEZ operations; and (iii) economic performance in consideration of the roles of the central governments, the local authorities, and SEZ developers, and the SEZ investors in managing and promoting SEZs.

The two studies arrived at the preliminary findings that are in need of further consultation and validation of the representatives of the LM countries in order to form a source of reference in support of technical and policy development in the LM countries.

Against this backdrop, MI continued the consultation process at the Study Dissemination and Policy Consultation Workshop with the project stakeholders from both public and private sectors in the six

LM countries for deeper discussions and validation of the preliminary findings as well identification of feasible solutions to each of technical and policy issues.

II. OBJECTIVES

The Study Dissemination and Policy Consultation workshop aimed:

- To jointly review the findings of 1) the study on customs modernizations and 2) the study on management and promotion of SEZs in LM countries;
- To stimulate experience exchange in SEZ management and promotion;
- To obtain suggestions to policy solutions and actions from the representatives of the LM countries; and,
- To contribute to policy development for Customs Modernization and SEZ Management and Promotion in the LM countries.

To achieve the captioned objectives, the workshop created an interactive platform inviting all representatives' participation in addressing and suggesting technical and policy solutions to the issues addressed by the findings of the two studies in an active manner.

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Study Dissemination and Policy Consultation Workshop expects to achieve the following outputs:

- Identified practical measures and solutions to each of the issues as suggested by the preliminary findings.
- A consensus on technical and policy solutions and actions for Customs Modernization and SEZ Management and Promotion in the LM countries.

IV. WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

4.1. PARTICIPANTS

A total of 26 participants from the concerned government agencies and SEZs in the LM countries attended the workshop as shown in Table 1.

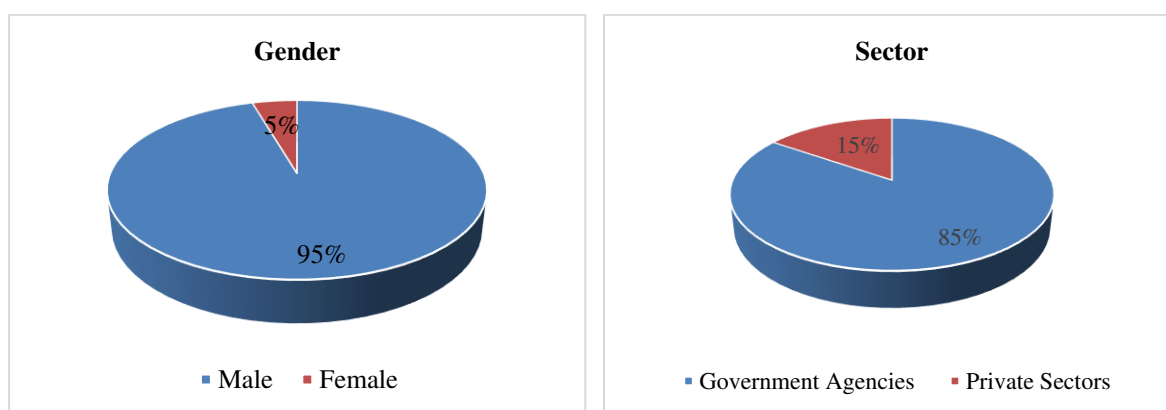
Table 1. Participation by Country and Organization

COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION
Cambodia	- Ministry of Commerce (MOC) - Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) - General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE)
China	- Department of Commerce of Yunnan Province
Lao PDR	- Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)

COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lao Customs Department - Savan–Seno Special Economic Zone (SASEZ)
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thilawa SEZ Management Committee - Dawei Special Economic Zone - Myanmar Customs Department
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Commerce (MOC) - Customs Department - Authorities of One-Stop Service Chiang Rai Strategy for Province Development Group - Aranyaprathet Customs House - Chiang Khong Customs House
Viet Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vietnam Customs General Department - Lang Son Customs Department - Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)

The detailed list of the delegates and organizations is provided in Appendix 6.2. The compositions of the workshop participants by gender and sector are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Participant by Gender and Sector



4.2. RESOURCE PERSONS

The study on Customs Modernization was reported by Dr. Santi Chairsisawatsuk, Consultant, Assistant Professor, National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA).

The study on SEZ Management and Promotion was presented by Mr. Quan Anh Nguyen Program Specialist, Trade and Investment Facilitation Department, Mekong Institute (MI).

V. WORKSHOP CONTENTS

5.1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

MS. AURAMON SUPTHAWEETHUM, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (DTN), MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (MOC) OF THAILAND

Ms. Auramon Supthaweethum provided a welcome speech and emphasized the importance of the delegates' inputs to this dissemination and policy consultation workshop that needed the validation and refinement for the studies on Customs Modernization, and Management and Promotion of SEZ in the LM countries, respectively.



To this end, the Director-General summarized the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Framework with which the Sanya Declaration of the First Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Leaders' Meeting when the LMC mechanism was launched, targeting the LMC's development areas, namely connectivity, production capacity, cross-border economic cooperation, water resources, and agriculture and poverty reduction. Under this framework, the four LMC projects was sponsored by the LMCSF. The dissemination and policy consultation workshop was part of the project on "Upgrading Border Facilitation for Trade and Logistics Development in the LM countries that aimed to promote trade along the LM countries and enhanced border special economic zones.

In addition, Ms. Auramon Supthaweethum mentioned the structure-learning visit (SLV) to China and Lao PDR in December 2019, one of the project activities under project framework. The main aim of the SLV was to get a better understanding of the development model of the trade zone, investment condition, international trade, and customs facilitation as well as regulatory environment, which was considered as a very critical learning experience for project stakeholders from LMC countries.

Through this dissemination workshop, Ms. Auramon Supthaweethum encouraged the participants to provide validation of the findings and recommendations to the studies. She hoped that the participants would use this opportunity for exchanging views, giving feedbacks, coming up with ways to strengthen economic and trade collaboration, promoting trade and investment potentials in the LM region.

Finally, Ms. Auramon Supthaweethum extended thanks to the Government of China for financing the LMC projects, and to Mekong Institute for assisting the MOC in implementing the LMC projects, and all the project stakeholders for participating in the workshop. Finally, she wished the workshop successful deliberations and fruitful outcomes.

DR. WATCHARAS LEELAWATH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MEKONG INSTITUTE (MI)

Dr. Watcharas Leelawath began his remarks by greeting the Director-General of DTN and all delegates and extending his gratefulness to the Government of China for funding this project, and to the MOC of Thailand for co-hosting the workshop.

Dr. Watcharas provided a brief introduction of the four projects funded by Lancang–Mekong Cooperation Special Fund (LMCSF), implemented by the Mekong Institute (MI) in collaboration with the MOC of Thailand. He briefed the workshop on the Project on “Upgrading border facilitation for trade and logistics development”.



In this connection, Dr. Watcharas highlighted existing key challenges facing regional trade including high logistics cost and lengthy customs procedures despite the favorable trade tariffs under regional free trade agreements. For this reason, he emphasized the importance of improving the border facilitation for trade and logistics development to make the trade in the region flow more freely, more quickly and less costly.

With a short implementation period, Dr. Watcharas stated that the tangible project outcomes and impacts might not be in place yet. He hoped that the project would create significant results with the collective efforts of project stakeholders in the next two years.

Finally, Dr. Watcharas presented the workshop overview focusing on the objectives, expected outcomes, the proposition of the participants and program agenda.

5.2. PRESENTATIONS OF STUDY FINDINGS

SESSION 1: STUDY ON CUSTOMS MODERNIZATION IN LM COUNTRIES

DR. SANTI CHAISRIAWATSUK, MI CONSULTANT AND ASST. PROFESSOR OF NIDA, THAILAND



Dr. Santi Chaisrisawatsuk presented the study on customs modernization in the LM countries. He introduced the overview and significance of the customs modernization and rationale of the study. Methodologically, the study reviewed and analyzed the customs modernization status and developments gaps existing in the LM region. Based on the results of the consultation with customs through interview meetings at the national and subnational levels in the six countries, the study demonstrated the need of investment in both physical and soft infrastructure for customs modernization and trade facilitation.

The study findings concentrated on assessment of (i) the current status of the customs administration including customs declaration, duty payment, and clearance procedures and process, and (ii) technical and financial aspects of customs modernization. As a result, the study recommended the following:

- Investment in custom infrastructure and facilities such as computer server and software to connect border customs officers to the customs central online system. The estimated investment for computer server units and related equipment was USD30,000–USD40,000 per border checkpoint.
- Installation of the CCTV system to improve transparency at the border customs houses. Investment funding may vary depending on the area coverage. It was about USD 10,000 – 20,000 per site.
- Establishment of the LM Customs Information Exchange Center to enhance the collaboration between and among the intergovernmental agencies in the LM countries. The investment cost was estimated at USD 1–2 million plus annual operating cost of USD 400,000–500,000 depending on the scale and scope of work.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LM COUNTRIES

In review of the study findings, the country representatives suggested that the study:

- Update the statistical data, including the rankings of “customs related doing business for the countries” and intra-regional trade, especially in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam.
- Address the progress and results of customs modernization and performance in the LM countries, e.g. the case of Myanmar where customs modernization has made rigorous development in such areas as customs law and regulations, customs automation with the operations of MACCS (Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System), including e-Payment as part of modernized customs clearance. As a result, clearance time and trade costs have been remarkably reduced. The study needed to clearly address customs administration procedures in the special economic zone (SEZ) and border checkpoints to reflect the procedural differences. Likewise, Cambodia has made a good progress in customs modernization nationwide in terms of customs administration procedures and trade facilitation.
- Demonstrate the participation, coordination, and cooperation between and among the public and private organizations, i.e. customs and border agencies, port operators, logistics services provider, businesses, and so on.
- Integrate all recommendations in the final version of the study report.

SESSION 2: STUDY ON SEZ MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION

MR. QUAN ANH NGUYEN, PROGRAM SPECIALIST, TRADE AND INVESTMENT FACILITATION DEPARTMENT (TIF), MEKONG INSTITUTE (MI)

Mr. Quan Anh Nguyen presented the findings of the study on the Management and Promotion of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the Lancang–Mekong (LM) countries. He provided the workshop with (i) objectives and scope of the study with a focus on border special economic zones in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam, Thilawa SEZ in Myanmar, and (iii) the SLV to Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ); (ii) SEZ development process with global practices and lessons learnt, and (iii) SEZ Management and Promotion. The study was conducted by Mekong Institute from September–December 2019.

Preliminary findings for policy consultation were summarized as below:

- SEZ development (planning, establishment, promotion and management) is governed by the national institutional and regulatory framework in each of the LM countries. Cambodia and Thailand have drafted their laws on SEZs, but they have yet to come into effect till this point in time. In this connection, Myanmar is the only country governing its SEZs by the national law.
- All countries have adopted international practices and universal concept of special economic zones (SEZs)/economic zones (EZs) to design their own concepts. As a matter of fact, SEZ definition varies in degree among the LM countries in terms of SEZ scope and typology, and investment incentives applied.
- Industries currently invested in SEZs have not been fully aligned with the national industrial development policies and strategies.

- Except for the case of Myanmar, the effectiveness of OSSCs in facilitating investment and trade in SEZs is not clear.
- Limited linkages to local economies, especially manufacturing industries in SEZs, except for local labor supplies (local SMEs' joining the GVC/production network is still limited)
- Effective system(s)/mechanism(s) to measure and evaluate the performance and economic outcomes of SEZs from planning to implementation has not been seen.
- Lack of comprehensive/integrated SEZ information system in support of business plans and development of developers and investors.
- Slow infrastructure construction progress in SEZs caused by limited access to land and land price escalation may slow down SEZ development.

The study findings recommended the following:

- Establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanism/system at the central level in a close connection with SEZs
- Enhancement of the OSSC functions through capacity development for organizations and individuals in charge/involved in public services provided by OSSCs
- Engagement of the participation of the private sector in SEZ management and promotion to increase efficiency and effectiveness in SEZ development
- Further improvement in policies on Investment Privileges and incentives for SEZs that make SEZ really "special" in order to attract high quality investment projects in SEZs
- Further streamlining SEZ promotion scheme at both national and sub-national levels
- Capacity development for SEZ developers/SEZ Management Boards in such areas as investment promotion, SEZ management including safety and environmental protection in SEZs.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LM COUNTRIES

- The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) agreed on the study findings, and clarified the diversification of industries. As such, all industries in the SEZs in Cambodia should be covered.
- The Vietnam Customs in Lang Son, Vietnam, suggested that the information on investment incentives, i.e. fiscal and non-fiscal incentives in the LM SEZs, be shared with Vietnam and the other countries.
- The participant from the Ministry of Planning and Investment of Lao PDR suggested the information on SEZ in Lao PDR be adjusted with 12 SEZs, including Luang Prabang SEZ, and clarified that the total land area for SEZ construction of 29,400 ha under SEZO report covered subzones in the SEZs.
- The Director-General of DFT of MOC shared with the workshop that apart from the 10 targeted areas for SEZ development, Thailand also has invested in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) development plan. The EEC aimed to contribute to the development of the eastern provinces of Thailand, namely Chonburi, Rayong, and Chachoengsao into a leading ASEAN economic zone.

5.3. WORKSHOP CLOSING AND WAY FORWARD

In the closing remarks, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath summarized the key discussion points, feedback and suggestions provided to the workshop. He re-emphasized the significance of the studies and requested for integrating the delegates' recommendations into the study reports. Again, Dr. Watcharas extended his thanks to all contributions to workshop, to the support of the Government of China and the MOC of Thailand, and to the project team in MI and the consultant for accomplishing the study and organizing a productive and successful workshop.

VI. APPENDIXES

6.1. PROGRAM AGENDA

Friday, December 20, 2019

Venue: Ministry of Commerce, Bangkok, Thailand

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome and Opening Remarks Mrs. Auramon Supthaweethum, Director-General, Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce (MOC) Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Executive Director, Mekong Institute (MI)
09:15 – 10:00	Presentation Study on Customs Modernization Dr. Santi Chaisrisawatsuk, MI Consultant and Asst. Professor, NIDA, Thailand
10:00 – 10:45	Q&A and Country Reflections
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:30	Presentation Study on SEZ Management and Promotion Mr. Quan Anh Nguyen, Program Specialist Trade and Investment Facilitation Department, Mekong Institute
11:30 – 12:00	Q&A and Country Reflections
12:00 – 12:30	Summary Dr. Santi Chaisrisawatsuk, MI Consultant and Asst. Professor, NIDA, Thailand Mr. Quan Anh Nguyen, Program Specialist Trade and Investment Facilitation Department, Mekong Institute
12:30 – 12:45	Closing Remarks Mrs. Auramon Supthaweethum, Director-General, Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce (MOC) Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Executive Director, Mekong Institute (MI)
12:45 –	Lunch and Departure

6.2. PARTICIPANTS



Dissemination and Policy Consultation Workshop on Research Studies “(i) Customs Modernization and (ii) Management and Promotion of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the Lancang-Mekong Sub-Region”


December 20, 2019



Bangkok, Thailand

Registration

Participants

No	Country / Signature	Name / Position / Organization	Contact
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6.3. PHOTOS







**MEKONG
INSTITUTE**

Mekong Institute Overview

Capacity Development for Regional Cooperation and Integration

Vision

Capable and committed human resources working together for a more integrated, prosperous and harmonious GMS.

Mission

To contribute through human resource development and capacity building to the acceleration of sustainable economic and social development and poverty alleviation in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and promote regional cooperation and integration.

Mekong Institute (MI) is an intergovernmental organization (IGO) founded by the six members countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), namely Cambodia, P.R. China (Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. We provide, implement and facilitate integrated human resource development (HRD), capacity building programs and development projects related to regional cooperation and integration.

Managed by GMS national and international staff and supported by international academics, subject-matter experts and consultants, we work with and through various local government authorities, development partners and local organizations to deliver, implement standardized and customized learning programs, workshops, seminars, policy consultation, and research and development projects.



Our three main thematic areas:



Agricultural Development and Commercialization

Supporting farmers to move from subsistence to modernized, commercial farming by introducing Food Safety Standards, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and effective post-harvest systems

Promoting value added in agricultural production and processing

Contributing to agriculture policy development and restructuring

Conducting research and field studies on subjects such as the benefits of smallholder farmer integration into cross border contract farming and regional value chains

Trade and Investment Facilitation

Strengthening local chambers of commerce and business associations along the GMS Economic Corridors

Integrating GMS SME into regional and global value chains

Promoting certification of logistical professionals as part of logistic sector development in support of trade

Promoting foreign direct investment and other business links in the GMS

Innovation and Technological Connectivity

Innovations to address challenges in specific sectors such as GMS power and energy sector

Initiatives that promote access to modern sustainable energy, transportation including road corridors, and financial and communication services

Mechanisms to draw together private-public partnerships to address technological connectivity in innovative ways

Capacity development for innovation and technology promotion policy

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