



**MEKONG
INSTITUTE**

**Regional Capacity Building Program
on
Energy Cooperation in the GMS**

Program Information

1. Project Background

Access to energy is crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The absence of lifeline energy infrastructure and access is a dimension of economic deprivation that exacerbates social vulnerabilities and inequalities. Energy Security has always been a concern for all the countries in the world, as with modernization, the use of energy has been increasing rapidly and people's life and national economy becoming dependant on the usage of energy. So, to maintain a secured future, different initiatives are being taken in the energy sector all over the world.

The Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), comprised of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and Yunnan Province and Guangxi Autonomous Region of China, is an area with immense economic potential and rich natural resources. As many as 70 million people are living within the Mekong River Basin area and 325 million throughout the sub-region, the GMS countries are enjoyed a buoyant economic growth over the last decades averaging 6.5 % GDP growth. Alongside with the rapid urbanization and industrialization in the region, demands for affordable, accessible and available energy supply is also expected to intensify. Drawing lessons from the other countries and regions around the world that are facing disrupted energy vulnerabilities, it becomes a pressing issue for GMS countries to meet the needs of energy consumption in sustainable manner.

Regional cooperation presents a key opportunity for individual GMS countries to tackle obstacles to sustainable comprehensive economic progress, particularly in the energy sector. Examples of successful collaboration in chasing reliable energy policies can be observed in different regions of the world, predominantly in sharing electricity generation using cross-border transmission interconnections. A study of the Greater Mekong Sub-region suggests that regional cooperation in energy could reduce energy costs by nearly 20%, for a saving of \$200 billion during 2005–2025 [1].The pathway to energy security in GMS lies in improving utilization and equal distribution of energy resources including renewable energy resources; the upgrading and increased investment in energy infrastructure, improving energy access and delivery to populations; and the creation of sub regional energy markets and shared technical and quality standard.

Observing the successful regional cooperation in other parts of the world, monitoring the benefits of this kind of cooperation, it is high time that the stakeholders of the GMS proceed towards a more secured future in the energy sector by pursuing strong regional cooperation. It is necessary to take up number of key actions that countries in GMS can take immediately that will foster greater cooperation and realize immediate benefits in energy security.

This creates greater impetus for Mekong Institute (MI) to step up in energy issue in the region to facilitate increase cooperation in the development of innovative, cost-effective, secure energy and technologies. MI aims to address the inhibiting barriers through seminars, dialogues, trainings and workshops which allow exchanging experiences and innovative approaches among the practitioners and policy makers working on sustainable energy development. As some of the GMS countries have made considerable progress in exploiting energy cooperation, it is required for the region to have more effective platforms for sharing the lesson learned and good practices in the use of green energy. Particularly, MI is working on building common perspective and share vision among the GMS countries on prospects, challenges and synergies in balancing energy security, environmental sustainability and economic competitiveness.

2. Project Objectives

The objectives of the training are

- To improve understanding of energy cooperation key concepts, mechanism, as well as internationally accepted good practices in energy cooperation ;
- To enhance understanding of issues and challenges related to developing power trade market and required infrastructure development in GMS ;
- To produce recommendations and identify further possible areas to strengthen energy cooperation in GMS ; and
- To establish a network of practitioners and professionals working on energy issues across the region.

3. Project Outcomes

The intended program outcomes are as follows:

- Network of government agencies and companies to share experiences and good practices in regional energy cooperation
- Knowledge Enhancement of the participants on energy cooperation for effective implementation of regional energy cooperation programs

4. Project Contents

In this course, participants will explore five interrelated modules:

Module 1	Energy Scenarios, Outlooks, Opportunities and Challenges in GMS Energy Cooperation
Module 2	Regional Cooperation in Renewable Energy Development and Technical Transfer
Module 3	Regional Power Connectivity and Power Market Development
Module 4	Structured Learning Visits
Module 5	Enhancing Energy Policy and Planning Management, Coordination and Networking in the GMS

Tentative Daily Schedule of Activities: Week 1

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
Morning Session 1	Opening program	S3: Regional Energy Market: Opportunities and Challenges for Energy Cooperation in GMS (Cont.)	<p>Module 2: Cooperation in Renewable Energy Development</p> <p>S.6 Prospect for Cooperation renewable energy development</p>	<p>S9: Renewable Energy cooperation priority and supporting schemes in GMS countries (cont.)</p> <p>S10: technical transfer?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S13: Opportunities and Challenges in Power Connectivity
Session 2	Program overview Pre-Assessment	S3: Regional Energy Market: Opportunities and Challenges for Energy Cooperation in GMS (Cont.)	S7: Potential on RE cooperation in GMS	Module 2 Wrap Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S14: Policy and Institutional Framework for Regional Power Trade in GMS
<i>Lunch break</i>					

Afternoon Session 3	<p>Module 1: Energy Scenario and Development Situation in GMS</p> <p>S1: Current situation and outlook of energy supply and demand in GMS (on-grid and off grid)</p>	<p>S4: PPP</p> <p>S5: Country Presentation</p>	S8: Different RE technologies options in GMS	<p>Module 3: Regional Power Connection and Power Market Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S11 : Current Power Connectivity Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S15 : Good Practices and Successful Stories in regional power market
Session 4	S2: Energy Policy and Regulatory Framework in GMS	Wrap up module 1	S9: Renewable Energy cooperation priority and supporting schemes in GMS countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S12: Required Infrastructure, Trends, and Technology projections in Power Connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filed Visit Orientation Two-hour sightseeing Trip
Evening	BOD meeting Welcome Dinner	BOD meeting	BOD meeting	BOD meeting	BOD meeting

**** Holiday on Saturday**

**** Travel to the Study Sites on Sunday**

Tentative Daily Schedule of Activities: Week 2

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
Morning Session 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study Visit 	Study Visit	Preparation field trips' report	S 17. Possible area of cooperation on energy across the GMS countries	Action Plan Presentation
<i>Tea break</i>					
Session 2	Study Visit	Study Visit	Preparation field trips' report	S 17. Possible area of cooperation on energy across the GMS countries (Dialogue Exercise)	Action Plan Presentation
<i>Lunch Break</i>					
Afternoon Session 3	Study Visit	Come back to MI	<p>Module 5: Enhancing Energy Policy and Planning Management, Coordination and Networking in the GMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S15 Energy Information Sharing System 	Module-5 Wrap Up	Program Evaluation
Session 4	Field Trip	Come back to MI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S16 Developing 	Action plan preparation	Certification and Closing ceremony

			Feasible Policies and Practices for Energy Cooperation		
Evening	BOD meeting	BOD meeting	BOD meeting	BOD meeting	Farewell Dinner