

Module 1: Regional Development and Regional Project

Session 1.1: Mekong-RoK Cooperation Framework

- Topics:**
- Development and Cooperation in the Mekong Region
 - Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiation (KASI)
 - Mekong-RoK Cooperation Fund (MKCF)
 - Seven priority sectors and indicative activities in the MKCF Plan of Action (2021-2025)
 - Regional project characteristics
- Summary:** This session introduces the context – the Mekong region and cooperation mechanisms within the region, behind which projects will be developed for development and cooperation under the call of MKCF. Seven priority sectors under the MKCF Plan of Action (POA) 2021-2025 form the larger program objectives where each project under MKCF should contribute to and align with. Against this background, participants also begin to situate themselves under the roles and functions within their respective agency/organization and country context.
- Key Words:** Cooperation mechanism, regional cooperation, seven priority sectors, Plan of Action 2021-2025, regional project
- Objectives:** To get familiar with
- an overall view of regional development and cooperation in the context of ongoing Mekong-RoK cooperation frameworks
 - the larger program (MKCF) objectives for projects to be developed to contribute to and align with
- Outcomes:** Participants will review and renew understanding of selected framework/strategies guiding and supporting regional development and cooperation in Mekong region, and remind themselves of their contribution with the roles and capacities to participate in them
- Methods:** Presentation delivered by MKCF (MI) team and RP; discussion facilitated by MKCF team and RP; personal reflection exercise
- Materials:** PPT, Photos, Flip charts (White board)
- Contents:**

– **Development and Cooperation in the Mekong Region**

The region of Mekong, comprises of five countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, has come together in the last three decades and jointly made significant achievements in an array of sectors and brought economic growth through substantial efforts in fostering regional connection and integration.

Impressive outcomes have been made, including under the program supported by the Asian Development Bank¹, with “connectivity dramatically enhanced by close to 12,000 kilometers (km) of new or upgraded roads and about 700 km of railway lines. Nearly 3,000 megawatts of electricity generated, and over 2,600 km of transmission and distribution lines now provide electricity access to about 150,000 new households”. The program also facilitates transport and trade flows, strengthen agriculture, develop urban areas, and promotes the GMS as a single tourist destination. Trade between GMS countries has grown from \$25.6 billion in 2000 to \$639.4 billion in 2020. Foreign direct investment into the GMS has averaged \$26.9 billion a year between 2010 and 2019. Close to 80 million international tourists visited the region in 2019, generating receipts of \$101 billion.² The Program has reduced travel cost and time, as well as increased the movement of goods and people across land routes in the subregion, improved agriculture productivity, and created additional jobs. Furthermore, it has advanced community building through initiatives to check the spread of communicable diseases, protect the subregion’s rich biodiversity, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The Program has improved natural resource management of 2.6 million hectares in seven transboundary landscapes.

Nevertheless, the region is now faced with grave challenges, the worse since it has been united, brought on by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The global pandemic has negative impacted and jeopardized years of progresses made such as the above. It is a time as urgently as ever for the region to establish longer term collaboration and strengthen current joint forces to confront the structural damage incurred and in the path of steady recovery in all aspects from the pandemic.

– **Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI)²**

- The Republic of Korea views ASEAN as a key partner for building peace and shared prosperity in the Indo-Pacific, and in this context announced the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI) as a regional policy tailored to ASEAN with the framework of the Indo-Pacific Strategy. Also Korea would build on the existing solid partnerships spanning trade and socio-economic cooperation towards fostering a comprehensive and strategic partnership with ASEAN.
- Other relevant information on this initiative

– **Mekong-RoK cooperation²**

- Introduction of the Plan of Action (POA) 2021-2025) for the implementation of Mekong-Han River Declaration seven priority sectors

¹ The Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program Strategic Framework 2030, Asian Development Bank, September 2021

² The Mekong Institute website, www.mekonginstitute.org

- The Plan of Action (POA) 2021-2025 under the Mekong-RoK Cooperation framework between the five Mekong countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) and the Republic of Korea (RoK) serves as the guideline for the Mekong countries and the RoK (the Partner countries) by setting specific goals and measures for the next five years (2021-2025) to build a Partnership for People, Prosperity and Peace, as proclaimed in the Mekong-Han River Declaration adopted at the first Mekong-RoK Summit, on 27 November 2019 in Busan, RoK.
- The seven priority areas under Plan of Action 2021-2025 are:
 - Culture and Tourism
 - Human Resource Development
 - Agriculture and Rural Development
 - Infrastructure
 - Information Communication Technology (ICT)
 - Environment
 - Non-traditional Security Challenges

– **Indicative Activities under seven sectors**

- Description of the seven sectors will be provided, explaining the key points and indicative activities along with examples of projects that contribute and align to the Plan of Action 2021-2025

– **Personal reflection exercise: alignment of competence, job functions and roles with regional context and sectors**

- Participants will draw on presentations given on regional development and program background to reflect on personal experience, competence and job mandates in relations to and in support to these efforts.
- The following competence model provides a loose guide to the reflection exercise:
 1. Technical – These are often referred to collectively as the ‘science’ behind project management. Can the project manager identify, select and employ the right tools and processes to ensure project management success?
 2. Leadership/Interpersonal – Often referred to collectively as the ‘art’ of project management. For example, how does the project manager communicate, inspire, and resolve conflict?
 3. Personal/Self-Management – The project manager’s ability to self-manage. For example, can the project manager effectively prioritize, manage time and organize work?
 4. Development Sector Specific – The ability to apply the technical, leadership/interpersonal and personal/self-management competencies in the context of development projects. For example, can the project manager identify, select and employ the right tools and processes that are unique and specific to the development sector?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Proactively manage scope ✓ Comprehensively identify the activities required for project success ✓ Manage the overall schedule to ensure work is on time ✓ Define and collect metrics to measure project progress ✓ Identify, track, manage and resolve project issues ✓ Proactively disseminate project information to all stakeholders ✓ Ensure that project deliverables are of acceptable quality ✓ Identify if and when changes need to occur and the impact of those changes on the project ✓ Plan and manage the budget and the expenditure of the project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership/Inter-Personal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Vision the 'big picture' of a project within an organization portfolio ✓ Champion the project (promoting buy-in) ✓ Communicate vision – setting reasonable, challenging expectations ✓ Provide timely and helpful performance feedback to team members ✓ Facilitate a productive team environment ✓ Communicate proactively (verbal and written), including active listening ✓ Motivate team members to willingly follow direction and achieve goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal/Self-Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organizational skills ✓ Attention to detail ✓ Ability to multi-task ✓ Logical thinking ✓ Analytical thinking ✓ Self-discipline ✓ Time management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development-Specific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Understand development sector values and paradigms (or mode of operation) ✓ Understand the different stakeholders involved in development projects ✓ Understand and navigate complex development environments ✓ Work effectively with an array of implementing partners ✓ Cope with the unique pressures of development environments ✓ Exhibit cultural sensitivity

- Next, ask participants to write down the individual job descriptions of their positions and the function/mission of their agency/organization.
- The exercise outputs will be set aside for later reference and subsequent exercises.

Session 1.2: Trends of regional development in Mekong region and key features of regional projects

- Topics:**
- New and emerging trends affecting local and regional environment
 - Opportunities and challenges from external environment in seven priority areas
 - Characterization and examples of projects that facilitate regional cooperation and development
- Summary:** This session introduces the new and emerging trends affecting local (national) and regional environment, especially after the global pandemic, in order to link the broader context (regional situation) to national strategies and needs. Incorporating regional sectoral priorities identified from the overarching program of MKCF and Mekong-RoK cooperation (from session 1.1), this session will zoom in to analyzing opportunities and challenges under the seven sectors from a regional perspective. This session will also present examples of projects that illustrate and underline regional cooperation and development.
- Key Words:** Emerging trends, opportunities and challenges, regional projects
- Objectives:** To be able to
- Understand new trends of development in Mekong region
 - Recognize the main characteristics of regional projects
 - Identify internal and external opportunities and challenges in seven MKCF priority sectors
- Outcomes:** Participants will get familiar with emerging trends of regional development and draw linkage to national issues and priorities in seven priority area, analyze opportunities and challenges faced in seven sectors, as well as distinguish projects that advance regional development and cooperation goal
- Methods:** Presentation delivered by RP; group discussion and exercise, class gallery of regional projects
- Materials:** PPT, Photos, Video clips, Flip charts (White board)
- Contents:**

– Trends of regional development

As described in previous session on demand for continued and strengthened regional cooperation, the emerging trends in the Mekong region are underscored by the aftermath and road to recovery from the structural implications caused by the pandemic:

- risk of pandemics

- weaker global growth and the threat to free trade
- persistent pockets of poverty and increasing in-country inequality
- severe environmental challenges and threats from climate change, disaster events, and pollution
- technological change and digitalization
- evolving demographics
- rapid urbanization.

– **Group discussion**

- In groups, participants will discuss about specific challenges they can identify under the emerging trends presented, by giving examples and descriptions drawn from their own contexts.
- The groups will also be asked to add other emerging trends in regional development in the list.

– **Mapping of regional trends, national priorities and seven sectors of MKCF**

- From the last exercise, participants will be engaged in a mapping activity to draw linkage between regional trends and national priorities (known to the extent by the participants in their respective country agency/international organization's roles).
- Furthermore, the linkage will be extended to indicative objectives under the seven sectors of MKCF.
- The MI (MKCF) team and RF will join the groups in this exercise to facilitate and provide insights on the mapping.

– **Opportunities and Challenges of external environment (region, country, sector)**

- Based on above mapping exercise, groups will be divided according to regional trends, country priorities, or sectors. Participants are free to join any group based on their own preference and knowledge.
- A SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Challenges) analysis will be conducted with participants in each group brainstorm opportunities and challenges faced in the external environment.
- Strengths and weakness can be added after the brainstorming of opportunities and challenges from last session's personal reflection activity.
- Each group will present their SWOT outputs to the class.

– **Gallery of regional project examples**

- Selected sample projects for regional development and cooperation will be posted in the venue for participants to walk and view in a gallery format.
- After the gallery walk, participants will share their observations and findings related to the various features of a regional project. RP will facilitate the process and provide synthesis of key characteristics in the end.
- Key characteristics of regional project:
 - By implementing partners/agencies/organizations (**partnership in project implementation**)
 - By project activities (**other agencies/organizations take part in activities during project implementation**)
 - By beneficiaries (**beneficiaries are from more than one country**)
 - By objectives/goals (**clear indication and achievement of goals as outlined in regional priorities and programs**)

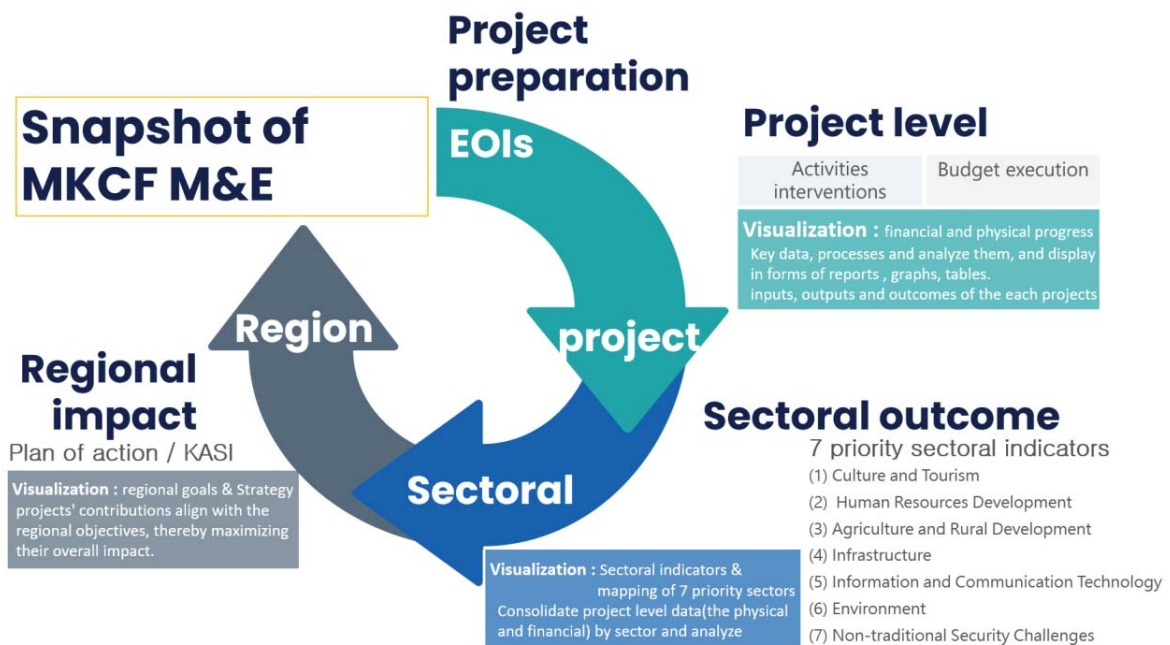
Session 1.3: MKCF M&E Concept

- Topics:** • MKCF M&E framework
- Summary:** This session gives an introduction of the M&E framework designed for MKCF. More importantly, the framework illustrates the linkage between MKCF funded projects with the larger program of MKCF through seven sectoral outcomes and impacts.
- Key Words:** M&E Framework, outcomes, impacts, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects, MKCF projects
- Objectives:** To be able to
- Understand the concept and components in the MKCF M&E framework
 - Recognize the relationship between MKCF funded projects and MKCF program
- Outcomes:** Participants will learn about the setup and substances of MKCF M&E and identify its connection with and implication for individual MKCF funded projects
- Methods:** Presentation delivered by MKCF (MI) team and RP; discussion facilitated by MKCF team and RP; personal reflection exercise
- Materials:** PPT, Flip charts (White board)
- Contents:**

– **Background and Objectives of MKCF M&E**

A well-functioned M&E is necessary to improve effective program management and accountability. Considering previously M&E of each MKCF funded projects and grants are managed in a separate way, MKCF program will put a system in place to collect proposals and initiate projects, to track real-time progress of different projects and grants in an integrated manner. The holistic system of M&E can also synchronize the currently varying standards of monitoring, data management and reporting that are used and based on different projects.

The MKCF M&E will ensure timely and reliable M&E and streamline result-based management throughout MKCF projects. Moreover, it will support program implementation with accurate, evidence-based reporting and improve program performance. In addition, it will contribute to regional learning and knowledge sharing, uphold accountability and compliance as per donor requirements.



– **Discussion**

- Participants will be asked the following questions for discussion and reflection, based on :
 - What challenges do you see or have when reporting activities implemented and outcomes reached in your project?
 - What can be improved in collecting and managing data for your project?