

IN THIS ISSUE

Officials from Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, P.R. China Visit MI

Meeting Held with ADBI to Initiate Future Collaboration

Executive Director Explores Collaborative Opportunities with AFOCO Executive Director

MI Facilitates Signing of MOUs Among Five Heritage Cities from GMS and RoK

PROSAFE Kicks Off its World Food Safety Day Celebration with a Training Program on Preservation and Packaging for Safer Food



TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/STRUCTURED LEARNING VISIT ACTIVITIES

MI Champions Sustainable and Smart Tourism in Heritage Cities through International Exchange Program in RoK



- Supported by the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF), MI completely conducted an international exchange program under the theme “Heritage Connections: promoting Sustainable and Smart Tourism in the Heritage Cities of Mekong and RoK” from June 26 to 30, 2023 in Seoul.
- The event brought together 60 representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand, Seoul and Jeonju to strengthen sustainable and smart tourism in the heritage cities of the Mekong region and the Republic of Korea (ROK). [Read more.](#)

Executive Director Explores Collaborative Opportunities with AFOCO Executive Director



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, had a meeting with Dr. Chongho Park, Executive Director of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) and his senior management team to scout out possible collaboration between MI and AFoCO on the sustainable forest management in the GMS on June 29, 2023. [Read more.](#)

Courtesy Call on Thai Ambassador to RoK



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, paid a courtesy call on H.E. Witchu Vejjajiva, Ambassador of Thailand to the RoK, and his delegation to present MI’s initiatives and gather guidance on concreting the ties between Thailand and Mekong countries with RoK on June 29, 2023. [Read more.](#)



MI Steers the Wheel toward a Low-carbon Transport Sector through Innovative Financing in the Lancang-Mekong Region



- With support from the People’s Republic of China, MI, in collaboration with the Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD), organized an online two-day consultation workshop on “Innovative Financing for the Decarbonization of the Transport Sector” from June 27 to 28, 2023.
- To share best practices and explore experiences in a low-carbon transport sector in the Lancang-Mekong countries, the workshop gathered 35 experts from the transport and financial sectors in the Lancang-Mekong countries. [Read more.](#)

MI Facilitates Signing of MOUs Among Five Heritage Cities from GMS and RoK



- Through MI, key stakeholders of six heritage cities in the GMS and the RoK successfully formalized their future collaboration and partnership on the sustainable and smart tourism development in each city on June 27, 2023. [Read more.](#)

MI and Prince of Songkla University Sign MOU



- MI and the Prince of Songkla University formalized their partnership to cooperate in facilitating educational and research initiatives for the potential capacity building of human resources in the GMS at the MI Headquarters on June 23, 2023. [Read more.](#)

MI Discusses Transboundary Haze and Potential Collaboration with Thailand’s Pollution Control Department



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, paid a courtesy visit on Mr. Pinsak Suraswadi, Director General, Pollution Control Department (PCD), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand, at the PCD Office on June 19, 2023. The two officials discussed possible areas for collaboration and joint activities. [Read more.](#)

Officials from Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, P. R. China Visit MI



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, and the MI staff members, welcomed Mr. Liang Jianjun, the Deputy Director General, and his senior officials from the Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, P. R. China to the MI Headquarters in Khon Kaen, Thailand on June 16, 2023.
- The two parties discussed MI’s operations and its capacity-building programs, as well as the progress of the MI-implemented projects under the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund. [Read more.](#)



MI Successfully Initiates the "Transformation of Agricultural Supply Chains through the Introduction of Innovative Technologies as part of the Sustainable and Smart Agricultural Supply Chain Development in Mekong Countries" Project



- Sponsored by the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF), MI held an "End of Project Evaluation and Dissemination Workshop on Sustainable and Smart Agricultural Supply Chain Development in Mekong Countries" on June 13, 2023.
- To share achievements and best practices after completing activities, 41 participants from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam joined the workshop online. [Read more.](#)

Food Safety Experts Convene to Catalyze Collective Approach towards Increased Food Standards Compliance in Cambodia



- In celebration of the World Food Safety Day 2023, MI, in collaboration with the Center of Excellence on Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Nutrition (CE SAIN), rolled out a "Food Safety Forum: Driving the Growth of the Cambodian Agri-food Sector through Increased Food Standards Compliance"
- With support from the New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP), the forum was hosted on June 7, 2023 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. [Read more.](#)

MI and FDD Host a Food Safety Workshop to Celebrate the World Food Safety Day in Lao PDR



- Supported by the New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP), MI, in collaboration with the Food and Drug Department (FDD) under the Ministry of Health, organized a food safety workshop on "Lao Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) Standard: Implementation and Updates" to celebrate World Food Safety Day on June 7, 2023 in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR). [Read more.](#)

PROSAFE World Food Safety Day Forum in Myanmar Explores Strategies for Improving Food Standards Compliance and Market Access for Agri-food Sector



- In celebration of the World Food Safety Day 2023, MI, in collaboration with the Myanmar Innovative Life Sciences (MILS), conducted a food safety event on "Leveraging on Food Standards to Improve Market Access."
- With support from the New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP), the event was held on June 7, 2023 in Yangon, Myanmar. [Read more.](#)

MI and IUH Stress the Significance of Food Safety Standard in Packing and Labeling at a PROSAFE Forum in Viet Nam



- In celebration of the World Food Safety Day 2023, MI, in collaboration with the Institute of Biotechnology and Food Technology of the Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City (IUH), kicked off a PROSAFE Forum on "Ensuring Trust and Safety: Regulatory Framework and Food Safety Standards in Packaging and Labeling."
- With support from the New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP), the forum was hosted on June 9, 2023 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. [Read more.](#)

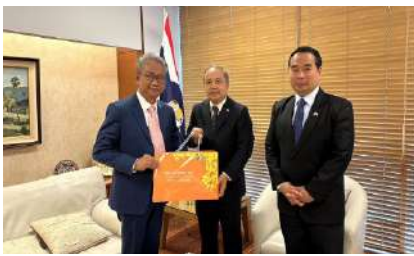


PROSAFE Kicks Off its World Food Safety Day Celebration with a Training Program on Preservation and Packaging for Safer Food



- To enhance food safety and quality across the region, MI, with the support from the New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP), hosted a 10-day regional training program on "Preservation and Packaging for Safer Food", which ran from June 5 to 16, 2023.
- About 29 representatives from the agri-food and academic sectors in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam attended the training course at the MI Residential Training Center, Khon Kaen, Thailand. [Read more.](#)

MI Calls on Thai Ambassador and Minister Counsellor to Japan



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, paid a courtesy visit on H. E. Singtong Lapisatepun, Ambassador of Thailand to Japan, and Mr. Romdej Phisalaphong, Minister Counsellor on June 6, 2023, at the Royal Thai Embassy, Tokyo, Japan.
- The two officials discussed possible potential collaboration with Japan under the Mekong Japan Cooperation. [Read more.](#)

Meeting Held with ADBI to Initiate Future Collaboration



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, met with Dr. Pitchaya Sirivunnabood, Deputy Head/ Senior Economist, Capacity Building and Training Department, Mr. Riznalid Akbar, Senior Economist, Mr. David Hendrickson, Communications Specialist and Ms. Lilian Tan Li Jun, Capacity Building and Training Department, E-Learning Consultant, at the Asian Development Bank Institute, on June 6, 2023 in Tokyo, Japan.
- The two parties discussed possible cooperation between MI and ADBI on a capacity building program for human resource in Asia and Pacific. [Read more.](#)

MI Shares Views on the New ASEAN-Japan Vision and Presents Initial Findings of the AOTS-Funded Survey on Mekong Regional Cooperation Frameworks at ASEAN-Japan Business Week 2023



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, together with Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, MI's Director of the Trade and Investment Facilitation (TIF) Department, were among the speakers of a discussion on the new ASEAN-Japan vision at the ASEAN-Japan Business Week 2023 on June 5, 2023, in Japan. Both MI officials highlighted on the acceleration of a green and resilient economy. [Read more.](#)

MI-GIZ-Thailand's Department of Agriculture Discuss Sustainability and Institutionalization Plan for ASEAN-CRN



- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of MI, met with Ms. Pouchamarn Wongsanga, Regional Component Lead of the Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains in ASEAN, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, and Mr. Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs, the Director-General, of Department of Agriculture (DOA) of Thailand at the DOA Office in Bangkok on June 1, 2023. [Read more.](#)



Ms. Thongvone Sosamphan
Program Officer
Trade and Investment Facilitation Program Department

 UPCOMING ACTIVITIES IN 2023

3-5
JULY

The 5th Lancang-Mekong Business Forum 2023

10-14
JULY

Regional Training on Scaling up Digital Connectivity
in Mekong-Lancang Countries

17-21
JULY

Training on Regional Projects Identification

17
JULY

MI Steering Committee Meeting 1/2023

27
JULY

Mekong Forum 2023 under the theme
“Driving Transformative Change in the GMS”

28
JULY

MI Council Meeting 1/2023



MEKONG INSTITUTE
123 Mittraphap Road
Muang District
Khon Kaen 40002
Thailand

T: + 66 (0) 43 202 411
F: + 66 (0) 43 203 656
information@mekonginstitute.org