MEKONG INSTITUTE

MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

2023

Mekong Institute

Khon Kaen, Thailand

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADC	Agricultural Development and Commercialization
ACMECS	Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
APPRACA	Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association
CD	Capacity Development
CKM	Communications and Knowledge Management
CLMV	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam
CLMVT	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, and Thailand
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
EOP	End of Project
FAOYN	Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Yunnan Province
FAOGX	Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GMCA	Greater Mekong Community Affairs
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion
GS	General Services
HACPP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HR	Human Resources
HRD	Human Resource Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
IT	Information Technology
LFM	Logical Framework Matrix
LM	Lancang-Mekong
LMC	Lancang-Mekong Cooperation
LMCSF	Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MI	Mekong Institute
MI-CDM	MI Capacity Development Model
MKCF	Mekong – Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund
MOAC	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (Thailand)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

NZAP	New Zealand Aid Programme
OED	Office of the Executive Director
PROSAFE	Promoting Safe Food for Everyone
P. R. China	People's Republic of China
PRM	Partnership and Resource Mobilization
RBM	Results-Based Management
RF	Results Framework
ROK	Republic of Korea
SEE	Sustainable Energy and Environment
SP	Strategic Plan
SMT	Senior Management Team
TA	Technical Assistance
TICA	Thailand International Cooperation Agency
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Executive Summary

This report describes the progress of the 2023 annual work plan and the performance of MI from January to June 2023. Progress of key activities is the major highlight of the report, whereas some key results achieved during the reporting period are also captured. The progress of activities is presented according to the Regional Development and Cross-Cutting themes of MI Strategic Plan 2021-2025. Several program departments have addressed more than one thematic area and contributed to the overall results of MI towards GMS development. The institutional strengthening part has been described separately, contributed by the operation units (OED, Finance, HR, General Services, Procurement, MEL, CKM, and PRM). The activities under MI's Flagship Program and MI's contribution to broader GMS Cooperation Frameworks were also briefly described in the report.

During the first half of the year, 20 projects were implemented by the MI program departments. Among the implemented projects, eleven were long-term projects, five were short-term projects, and four were one-off activities. ADC implemented five projects, TIF implemented eight, SEE implemented six, and all three program departments implemented one project jointly.

MI started the implementation of the activities from the beginning of 2023; most of the carry-forward projects from 2022 were implemented in Q1 of 2023. Due to the improved COVID-19 situation, ADC department continued to organize onsite events since the second half of 2022, while TIF and SEE departments continued implementing both online and hybrid events. Under the programs, 93 activities were planned to be conducted in 2023. To better support implementation of the program activities as well as institutional strengthening, over 300 activities were planned to be implemented by the MI operation units in 2023. Based on the real-time update of the newly developed MEL system, overall, 42% of the planned activities were implemented by programs and operations as of June 30, 2023.

During Jan-Jun 2023, 33 Capacity Development (CD) events were organized by MI, where 939 direct participants attended from the GMS countries and outside. Sixteen curriculum/training manuals were developed by MI to assist the CD events. Among the direct participants who attended MI's events, 49.6% were male, and 50.4% were female. Disaggregating the participants according to their sectors, 60.4% were from the public sector, and 39.6% were from the private sector.

MI's total revenue was US$1,370,036, achieving 37.56% of the targeted budget for 2023 and MI's total expense amounted to US$1,233,037 as of May 31, 2023. MI recorded net earnings of US$136,999 as of May 31, 2023, and MI earned US$169,467, excluding the non-cash expenses.

1. Introduction

Mekong Institute (MI) is an intergovernmental organization (IGO) founded by the six member countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), namely Cambodia, P. R. China (Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. MI was established under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and the Thai Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (presently known as Thailand International Cooperation Agency — TICA) in August 1996. MI provides, implements, and facilitates integrated human resource development (HRD), capacity-building programs, and development projects related to regional cooperation and integration. MI works 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.

This half-yearly performance report covers the key highlights on MI's achievements from January to June 2023 covering two main focuses of the Results Framework (see Annex 1) of MI Strategic Plan 2021-2025: MI's Contribution to GMS Development and Institutional Strengthening of MI in delivering the results, as well as MI' Contribution to Broader GMS Cooperation Frameworks.

2. Key Progress of MI Activities during Jan-Jun 2023

During the first half of the year, 20 projects were implemented by the MI program departments (ADC, TIF and SEE). Among the implemented projects, 11 were long-term projects, five were short-term projects, and the remaining four were one-off activities. ADC implemented five projects, TIF implemented eight, SEE implemented six, and all three program departments implemented one project jointly.

Under the programs, 93 activities were planned to be conducted in 2023. The activities include Training (16), Workshop (20), Research/Assessment (13), Seminar/Forum (10), Dialogue/Consultation (10), Knowledge Dissemination (6), Data Collection (7), Meeting (1), Structured Learning Visit (2), Follow-up (1), Curriculum Development (3), Policy Dialogue (2), Solutions/Initiatives (2). To better support the implementation of the program activities as well institutional strengthening, over 300 activities were planned by the MI operation units to be implemented in 2023.

MI's new web-based MEL system regularly tracks the progress of activities and provides monthly updates to MI teams. Based on the real-time update of the system, overall, 42% of the planned activities were implemented by programs and operation units as of June 30, 2023.

Progress of MI Activities as per Annual Work Plan 2023

Progress of Activities

% Progress

42 %

**Progress of MI-wide Activities
(Programs and Operations)**

% Progress of Activities in Program

Completion — Incompletion

Program	Incompletion	Completion
ADC	44	56
TIF	60	40
SEE	46	54
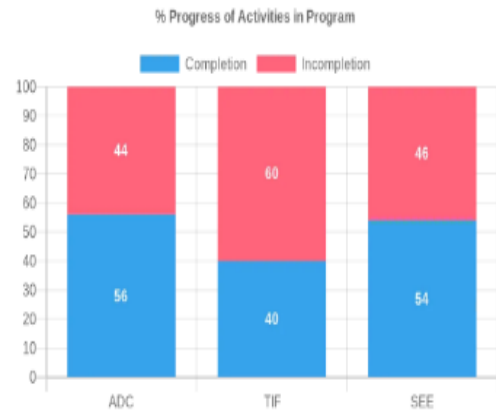
Progress of Program Activities

% Progress of Activities in Operation Units

Completion — Incompletion

Unit	Incompletion	Completion
CKM	64	36
FI	69	31
GS	77	23
HR	41	59
IT	70	30
MEL	58	42
OED	70	30
PROC	31	69
PRM	65	35

Progress of Operation Units' Activities

3. MI's Contribution to the GMS Development

This section briefly describes the capacity development events conducted and key results achieved in the last six months under the Regional Development and Cross-Cutting Themes by MI's program departments. During Jan-Jun 2023, 33 Capacity Development (CD) events organized by MI, where 939 direct participants attended from the GMS countries and outside. To assist in the CD events, 16 curriculum/training manuals were developed by MI.

Direct Participants by Country

By Sex
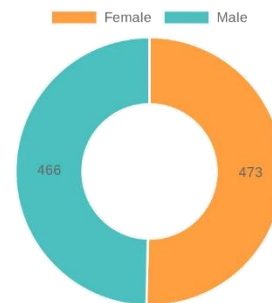
By Sector

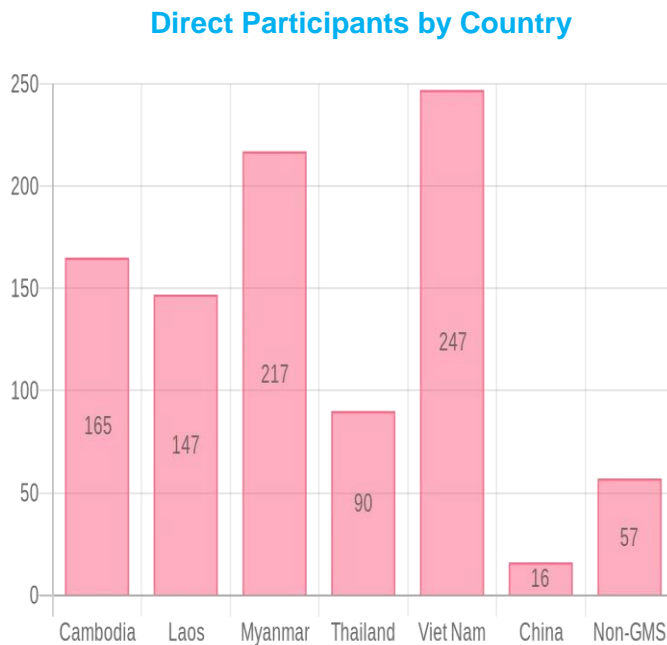Among the direct participants who attended MI's events, 49.6% were male, and 50.4% were female. Disaggregating the participants according to their sectors, 60.4% were from the public sector, and 39.6% were from the private sector.

During the after-event evaluation survey among the participants, 100 % of the participants were satisfied with the quality, and 98.8% of the participants were satisfied with the relevance of the CD events. Besides, 99.0% of participants reported their increased knowledge and skills, and 99.5% of the participants were confident to apply knowledge after the CD events.

Percentage of Participants Satisfied
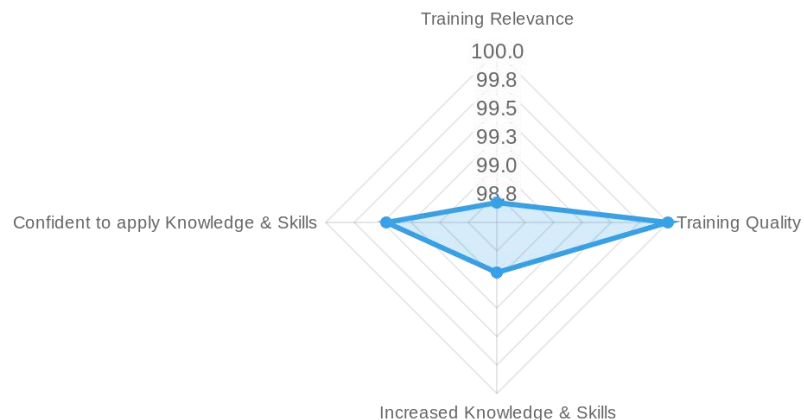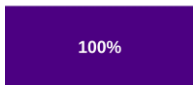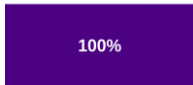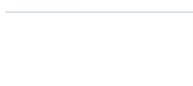
A. Regional Development Themes

Based on the percentage of completion of activities under each of the projects, the following table presents the average percentage reflecting the progress of projects under the regional development theme. Please see Annex 3 for the detailed list of activities and their implementation status as of June 2023.

3.1.1. Agricultural Development and Commercialization

Table 1: Progress of Projects as per Annual Work Plan 2023

Sl. No.	Project Name	Development Partner/Donor	Implementing Program Department	Status of Progress
1	Promoting Safe Food for Everyone in CLMV (PROSAFE)	NZAP	ADC	48%
2	Development and Implementation of Common Rice Production Standard in Mekong—Lancang Subregion	LMCSF	ADC	100%
3	Development of Rice Pest and Natural Disasters Monitoring, Forecasting and Warning Center for Sustainable Rice Production under Climate Change in Mekong-Lancang Subregion	LMCSF	ADC	100%
4	Sustainable and Smart Agricultural Supply Chain Development in Mekong Countries	MKCF	ADC, TIF, and SEE	100%
5	Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture Technologies and Innovation In Lower Mekong Countries	DFAT	ADC, SEE	
6	Impacts of COVID-19 on Food System in the LMC	P. R. China	ADC	
7	Knowledge Management in Agricultural Development	APRACA	ADC	25%

Key Progress during Jan-Jun 2023

I. Promoting Safe Food for Everyone

To effectively tackle regional and local food safety challenges and promote the implementation of food safety standards that meet both regional and international market requirements, MI organized eight food safety training programs under the Promoting Safe Food for Everyone (PROSAFE) project. The trainings were attended by 228 food safety stakeholders from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam (CLMV).

In support of the 2023 Viet Nam National Action Month for Food Safety, MI collaborated with the University of Da Nang to host a transformative workshop entitled "Promoting Food Safety Awareness in High School Education in Viet Nam". This workshop was specifically designed to equip teachers with the essential knowledge and skills required to incorporate food safety principles and practices seamlessly into the curriculum. The event was attended by 42 highly qualified high school teachers from Da Nang City and Quang Nam Province.

In celebration of World Food Safety Day, MI and partner organizations held a series of events under the PROSAFE Project, focused on the theme "Food Standards save lives" in CLMV. A total of six food safety forums/workshops were organized, five conducted on-site in CLMV, and one was held as a webinar in Myanmar. The events were attended by nearly 700 representatives from both public and private sectors. Besides, MI supported a group of participants from Cambodia by organizing a training program on vital food safety standards and management tools for MSMEs in the region. Additionally, the organization extended its support to Souphanouvong University in commemorating World Food Safety Day by holding an educational forum named "Ensuring Food Safety: Key Standards and Practices for a Healthy Society." This event occurred in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR.

II. Development and Implementation of Common Rice Production Standard in Mekong-Lancang Sub-region

The Rice Department of Thailand and MI jointly conducted the end-of-project (EOP) evaluation workshop in Bangkok to identify the project's outcomes and the factors that influenced the accomplishment of project targets. A total of 29 CLMV representatives from project partners attended this workshop. The workshop yielded valuable lessons learned for other related projects in the future.

III. Development of Rice Pest and Natural Disasters Monitoring, Forecasting and Warning Center for Sustainable Rice Production under Climate Change in Mekong-Lancang Sub-region

MI organized an end-of-project workshop in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, to showcase the achievements and outcomes attained by the project in its three years of implementation; 28 participants from CLMV attended the event. The workshop also included a presentation on the impacts of climate change in the agriculture sector to increase the partners' knowledge.

IV. Sustainable and Smart Agricultural Supply Chain Development in Mekong Countries

MI's three program departments jointly implemented the MKCF project and contributed to the agricultural supply chain development initiatives.

One assessment study was conducted on Smart Technology for Agriculture Production Supply Chain in Mekong Countries to assess the opportunities and challenges producers encounter in adopting smart technologies, especially for smallholder farmers in CLMVT. As a continuation of the training on "Smart Renewable Energy Technologies for Agricultural Supply Chains in the Mekong Region," three online supplemental knowledge workshops were organized on Solar Water Pump for Smallholder Farmers, Small and Micro-scale Applications of Biomass, and Drones and their Application in the Agricultural Sector; 68 participants attended the workshops. A Training Synthesis and Evaluation workshop was organized in attendance of 50 participants to understand the outcomes of the trainings conducted under the project and to know the status of the action plan implementation by the project participants. An independent end-of-project assessment study was conducted by an external consultant at the end of the project. Moreover, an end-of-project evaluation and dissemination workshop was conducted to share the success, challenges, and lessons learned of one and half year project implementation; 42 attended the workshop.

Under the project, seven business plans and five case studies were developed by the project participants on smart agricultural technologies. Besides, a policy brief was developed on advancing agricultural digitalization in the Mekong countries.

V. Knowledge Management in Agriculture Development

MI and Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) have a long-term partnership to implement a 3-year project to support knowledge management for agricultural development. In 2023, a training program on greening the value chain will be organized to disseminate not only the crucial impacts of climate change on agriculture and food systems but also the existing green finance, which may support adaptation initiatives in the region. In the first half of the year, MI and APRACA closely worked in the development of a training curriculum for the training program.

Key Results Achieved
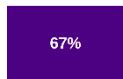
- Nine informative and instructive press releases, articles, or news stories related to food safety were published/broadcasted by mass media and contributed to enhancing public awareness of the topic.
- 29 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMES) effectively upgraded their business practices, processes, and facilities by establishing a traceability system, enhancing their hygiene practices, improving their facilities, refining their packaging methods, and implementing necessary measures to comply with GMP and HACCP requirements.
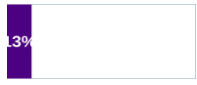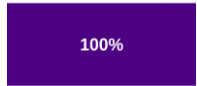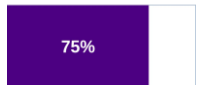
These advancements have enabled these small and medium-sized (SME) enterprises to operate at a higher standard, resulting in improved productivity and growth.

- Seven academic institutions developed/improved their curricula and lectures:

  Cambodia: i) Royal University of Agriculture revised its Postharvest Technology topic and ii) Mean Chey University included smart technologies into subjects under the Faculty of Science and Technology and Faculty of Agriculture and Food Processing,

  Lao PDR: iii) National University of Laos integrated HACCP and Managing Food Safety topics into Food Processing and Preservation subjects.

  Viet Nam: iv) The Viet Nam National University of Agriculture added the "Heavy Metal Contamination in Food Crops and Associated Health Risk Assessment" topic to their lab course "Global Environmental Risk Analysis", v) Can Tho University of Technology updated its Physical Chemistry lectures, vi) Ho Chi Minh City University of Food Industry updated Postharvest subject, and vii) Nha Trang University integrated National Strategy for Food Security topic in the Product Development subject.

- Two alumni from the 2022 training course on "Sustainable and Smart Farming Technologies" established smart technology demonstration farms, including a greenhouse with dripping irrigation technology in an organic melon farm in Viet Nam, and an automatic irrigation system in a mushroom farm in Cambodia.

- One alumnus integrated climate-smart farming technology into Cambodia's National Climate Change Priority Action Plan in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery.

3.1.2. Trade and Investment Facilitation

Table 2: Progress of Projects as per Annual Work Plan 2023

Sl. No.	Project Name	Development Partner/Donor	Implementing Program Department	Status of Progress
1	ACMECS-ROK Regional Branding Project - Facilitating Cross Border Trade through Synchronization on of Rules and Regulations in the ACMECS	ROK Gov.	TIF	13%
2	Sustainable and Smart Tourism Development in the Mekong Region	MKCF	TIF	67%
3	Accelerating the Development of Regional Logistics Channels and Transportation Infrastructure for the Lancang-Mekong Regional in the Content of the China-Lao PDR-Thailand Railway	FAOYN	TIF	

Sl. No.	Project Name	Development Partner/Donor	Implementing Program Department	Status of Progress
4	Lancang-Mekong Business Forum	LMCSF	TIF	13%
5	Chile – Thailand International Workshop on Trade Negotiation for ASEAN Members	AGCID	TIF	100%
6	Paperless Trade Study (Consultant Service)	UNESCAP	TIF	75%

Key Progress during Jan-Jun 2023

I. Sustainable and Smart Tourism Development in the Mekong Region

A mobile application called "Mekong Heritage" was developed. The app featured over 500 Point of Interest (business information) of five Mekong heritage cities/provinces, namely, Siem Reap - Cambodia, Luangprabang - Lao PDR, Bagan - Myanmar, Ayutthaya – Thailand, and Hue - Viet Nam. The Mekong Heritage app was launched at the Plaza Hotel in Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK) during the exchange program.

Three roadshow events were held in Luangprabang-Laos, Hue-Viet Nam, and Bagan-Myanmar. These events provided a platform for local businesses to showcase their products and services, while also allowing the project team to gain valuable insights into their needs and opportunities. A total of 180 stakeholders from the public and private sectors, including tourism and commerce departments, attended these roadshows.

A three-day international exchange program was organized in Seoul, which facilitated knowledge exchange, strengthened relationships among the heritage cities, and laid the foundation for future collaborations. Both private and public key stakeholders from the five heritage cities of Mekong region, Seoul city, and Jeonju city in Korea joined the program. Around 60 participants attended the program.

Multiple MOUs were signed between the heritage cities of the Mekong region and Seoul city, as well as Jeonju city, that seek to establish a robust mechanism for future collaboration and cooperation in the realm of sustainable and smart tourism development in each city by promoting the exchange of expertise and best practices, foster cross-cultural understanding for people-to-people connectivity, and celebrate the unique cultural aspects of each city. In addition, an MOU was signed between TVET Institutes in the Mekong region and Jeonju University, which aims to improve the labor market and quality of tourism products, contributing to sustainable development and the growth of the local economy in the Mekong countries.

II. Facilitating Cross Border Trade through Synchronization of Rules and Regulations in the ACMECS

Under the ACMECS-ROK regional branding project, MI organized a preparatory meeting with ACMECS Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) in CLMVT to understand the projects' progress and achievements. Besides, a project inception meeting on "Facilitating Cross Border Trade through Synchronization of Rules and Regulations in the ACMECS" was organized in Bangkok where 27 PIAs, members, and development partners attended; the meeting shared and updated information about the project to the participants tasked to deliver specific activities to support in the implementation of the regional project.

III. Trade Negotiation

An online workshop was organized involving 37 participants from eight ASEAN Member States (AMS) and India. The workshop focused on exploring techniques, strategies, and approaches to trade negotiation. To provide a hands-on learning experience, the participants engaged in a negotiation simulation exercise. This exercise aimed to simulate real-world trade negotiations, allowing participants to apply the knowledge and skills they had learned in a practical setting. By actively participating in the negotiation process, the participants gained valuable insights into trade negotiation dynamics and enhanced their abilities to navigate complex negotiations effectively.

IV. Cross Border Paperless Trade Initiatives

A desk study was conducted to provide significant potential inputs for promoting paperless trade practices in the participating countries and contributes to developing the Cross Border Paperless Trade Agreement (CBPTA), which aims to establish regional norms and support countries in promoting best practices. The study results will be incorporated to update the UNESCAP paperless trade database, identifying gaps that could be addressed through pilot projects, and creating a comprehensive catalog of new and updated paperless trade operations.

Key Results Achieved

- The "Sustainable and Smart Tourism Development in the Mekong Region" project created an opportunity to strengthen the cooperation and linkage between the ROK and the countries in the Mekong subregion via twinning activities between historical and cultural cities. The newly designed Mekong Heritage mobile app under the project has created a platform that will gather a database of travelers, which local authorities and heritage site management could use to improve, develop, or diversify their products and services.

- The series of roadshow events under the "Sustainable and Smart Tourism Development" project provided the local businesses in each location a platform to network and revive their business connection post-pandemic as well as to showcase
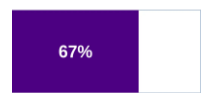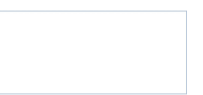
their products and services. In the meantime, this also allowed the project team to gain valuable insights of the businesses' needs and opportunities.

- After joining the training program on "Promoting Resilient and Sustainable Tourism for Post-COVID-19 Recovery in the Lancang-Mekong Countries" in September 2022, participants produced country-wise video clips that promote sustainable tourism in the target areas. MI also supported consolidating all video clips to promote them as regional sustainable tourism promotion materials. The video was uploaded on YouTube in February 2023 and received over 130 viewership to date. Furthermore, one participant also applied the knowledge acquired from the training to implement the EU SWITCH-Asia SUSTOUR project, which is expected to benefit 300 people in Vientiane, Luang Prabang, and Vangvieng in Lao PDR.

3.1.3. Sustainable Energy and Environment

Table 3: Progress of Projects as per Annual Work Plan 2023

Sl. No.	Project Name	Development Partner/Donor	Implementing Program Department	Status of Progress
1	The Triangular Cooperation Project on Sustainable Development in the Lower Mekong Basin based on the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus (Phase3)	ROK-UNOSSC	SEE	67%
2	ASEAN-CRN Secretariat Facilitator to support for ASEAN-CRN and ANGA	GIZ	SEE	70%
3	Forum on Accelerating Innovation through Energy Technology Cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion	P. R. China	SEE	33%
4	Scaling-Up Digital Connectivity for Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises in the Lancang-Mekong Countries for Post-Pandemic Resilience	P. R. China	SEE	
5	Upstream Single-use Plastic Reduction Solutions for Khon Kaen's Street Food Complexes	NREF	ADC	25%

Key Progress during Jan-Jun 2023

I. Triangular Cooperation Project on Sustainable Development in the Lower Mekong Basin based on the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus

The project intends to strengthen access to water, food, and energy for vulnerable communities in the Lower Mekong Basin (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam) by strengthening development approaches and management in these sectors. MI participated in the national consultation meetings and field visits during WEF pilot selection and model design, helping strengthen local communities and other stakeholders' engagements.

II. Consultancy Service on ASEAN-CRN Secretariat Facilitator to Support for ASEAN-CRN and ANGA (2022-2023)

MI organized three events under this consultancy work: i) ASEAN Negotiating Group for Agriculture's (ANGA) virtual workshop for the Joint Submission to the Sharm el-Sheikh Koronivia Joint Work Implementation Programme in developing TOR of "Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security" to be submitted to UNFCCC to enhance the understanding of the members in climate information services, ago-insurance in accessing loss and damage funds, and carbon neutrality strategies in agriculture; ii) ASEAN-CRN Knowledge Exchange Event and Partners Meeting; and iii) the 8th virtual Annual Meeting of ASEAN-CRN to support the demands and needs of ASEAN agriculture and land use sectors and to contribute towards the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework. Besides, MI managed the ASEAN-CRN's website (https://asean-crn.org/) and social media platforms to support the Network's data, communication, and knowledge management.

III. Upstream Single-use Plastic Reduction Solutions for Khon Kaen's Street Food Complexes

Supported by the Norwegian Retailers' Environment Fund (NREF), MI has partnered with the Environmental Coalition on Standards AiSBL (ECOS) to implement a project to address a prevalent issue of single-use plastics (SUP) in Khon Kaen province and combat the regular practice of food packaging and serving using SUP by adopting the city as a case model.

The project inception meeting was held in March and the subsequent signing of the contract with partner ECOS was undertaken. A series of planning meetings followed to discuss project implementation details and delineation of responsibilities between the partners. An initial meeting with the Modindeang market inside the Khon Kaen University (KKU) campus, one of the project's pilot sites, was held to introduce the project to its management and seek their cooperation. In June, a SUP expert from ECOS conducted a preliminary assessment of the SUP situation in Khon Kaen through meetings with local government officials and market administrators of the two pilot markets, Modindaeng and Ton Tann. During the visit to the

markets, interviews were conducted with market vendors and clients using guiding questions, and direct observation was likewise used as one of the data collection approaches. These activities laid the groundwork for the project, fostering collaboration, gathering information, and setting the stage for further progress in addressing the SUP issue in the province.

Key Results Achieved

- Two alumni from Bhutan attending the Affordable and Clean Energy Development training conducted in May 2022 reported that they had applied the knowledge acquired in existing projects, initiated a new project, and developed a policy recommendation.
- With the support from GIZ AgriTrade and MI, the ANGA collected the views and produced "the Draft Joint Statement on Koronivia for submission to UNFCCC." MI facilitated matching support from development partners with needs from AMS in incorporating climate actions in agriculture, which would contribute to achieving low-emission agriculture in ASEAN. These are expected to enhance strategic and context-specific cooperation between the AMS and key development partners such as FAO, GIZ, SEI, etc.

B. Cross-cutting Themes

3.1.4. Digital Economy and Innovation
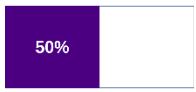
I. AI-based Monitoring, Forecasting and Warning System for Natural Disasters and Rice Pest Outbreak

The ADC department completed the development of the AI system for monitoring, forecasting, and warning of rice pests and natural disasters. Now, the countries can enter more data online to keep the system learning for more accuracy of the forecasting results. Moreover, an AI-Based System manual was developed for the country partners to use as guidance to utilize the system.

3.1.5. Social Inclusion and Vulnerability

Table 4: Progress of Projects as per Annual Work Plan 2023

Sl. No.	Project Name	Development Partner/Donor	Implementing Program Department	Status of Progress
1	Targeted Poverty Alleviation and Strengthening Food Security in the Lancang-Mekong Countries for Post-pandemic Recovery	P. R. China	SEE	31%

Sl. No.	Project Name	Development Partner/Donor	Implementing Program Department	Status of Progress
2	Comprehensive Human Resource Development for the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation	FAOYN	SEE	50%

II. Targeted Poverty Alleviation for Better Life in the Lancang-Mekong Region

A training program on "Targeted Poverty Alleviation and Strengthening Food Security in the Lancang-Mekong Countries for Post-pandemic Recovery", conducted by the SEE department, focused on strategies for vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, poor women households, etc. The program also underscored short-term and long-term interventions to support food security by linking with income generation opportunities in rural areas.

III. Comprehensive Human Resource Development for the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation

Human Resource Development (HRD) is a critical component of increasingly interconnected world and is a fundamental element of a country's economic future. To be ready to support economic growth in the Lancang-Mekong (LM) region, skilled and knowledgeable human resources are essential. During June 2 – 7, 2023, MI implemented a "Comprehensive Human Resource Development for the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation" project to develop the human resource capacity of public institutions and will equip government officials with advanced HRD skills, regional perspectives, and professional and personal networks. Accordingly, twenty-five representatives from the government in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Yunnan Province of P. R. China will participate in this program. The main objectives of the program are to enhance participants with cross-cultural communication skills across LM region, improve innovative strategies and practices on HRD, and identify measures to foster continued HRD in the LM region.

3.1.6. Labor Mobility

IV. Targeted Poverty Alleviation for Better Life in the Lancang-Mekong Region

The urban-rural labor mobility due to poverty and its implications on agriculture activities and food production was intensively discussed in the training program on "Targeted Poverty Alleviation and Strengthening Food Security in the Lancang-Mekong Countries for Post-pandemic Recovery". The training shared supports and services that could be undertaken by the government for fostering diversified agricultural job opportunities in research, agri-entrepreneurship, etc., to attract youth's engagement in rural economic activities.

C. MI's Flagship Programs

3.2.1 Towards Post COVID-19 Resilient Economies

The Hybrid Regional Expert Talk on Promoting Resilient Creative Economy

In conjunction with the Isan Creative Festival 2023, MI organized the "Hybrid Regional Expert Talk on Promoting Resilient Creative Economy through Cross-sectoral and Regional Collaboration" on April 3, 2023. The event encouraged all participants to initiate programs that foster exchange across the Mekong countries, adding value to their current work and exploring more co-creation of opportunities. The four key topics covered during the event were Creative District to Creative City, Cultural Diplomacy and People-to-People Links, Gastronomy Network and Food Tourism, and Creative Industry 4.0 and Regional Platform. This half-day expert talk brought together 55 participants from creative industries, governments, international development organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

3.2.2. GMS Knowledge Network

The ToR for the Stocktaking Activity of the GMS Knowledge Network (GMSKN) was launched, calling for a qualified consultant who will be tasked to identify priority themes, sectors, and emerging issues for knowledge generation and dissemination in the GMS, propose specific topics and initiatives where the GMSKN can bring added value, and develop a draft 2-year work plan for the GMSKN with indicative activities. Up until now, the search for a consultant is still underway.

Meanwhile, a draft MoU between ADB and MI is being reviewed. This MoU shall define the overall knowledge cooperation, with GMS KN as an integral part of the cooperation, while keeping the door open for various knowledge-related activities.
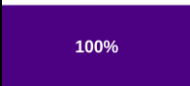
3.2.3. GMS City Nodes Network

MI initiated the GMS City Nodes Network activities that will be implemented in various identified locations in the GMS country, namely Nanning and Kunming in P. R. China, Poipet and Bavet in Cambodia, Vientiane and Savannakhet in Lao PDR, Mandalay and Myawaddy in Myanmar, and Bangkok and Khon Kaen in Thailand, and Hanoi and Danang in Viet Nam.

However, no progress was seen regarding the possible activities under the program during the reporting period.

4. MI's Contribution to Broader GMS Cooperation Frameworks

Table 5: Progress of Projects as per Annual Work Plan 2023

Sl. No.	Project Name	Development Partner/Donor	Implementing Program Department	Status of Progress
1	MKCF Fund Management	MKCF	TIF	75%
2	Capacity Building on Regional Project Design, Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation of MKCF projects	MKCF	TIF	13%
3	Survey of the Mekong Regional Cooperation Frameworks and their strategies and responses to the emerging regional and global issues	AOTS	TIF	100%
4	Global Development Initiative Leverages Sustainable Development in the Lancang-Mekong Region	P. R. China	SEE	50%

4.1. Mekong-Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF) Management

The Mekong-Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF) is one of the cooperation mechanisms among the five Mekong countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam) and the ROK. MKCF was established in 2013 to encourage and support cooperation among five Mekong countries through an annual contribution from the ROK. The MKCF provides grants to support catalytic and innovative activities in the seven priority sectors: (a) Culture and Tourism, (b) Human Resources Development, (c) Agriculture and Rural Development, (d) Infrastructure, (e) Information and Communication Technology, (f) Environment, and (g) Non-Traditional Security Challenges.

MI is assigned as the Fund Coordinator with the major responsibilities for coordination and implementation of the fund, including providing assistance in project management, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, and quality assurance of activities undertaken by the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs). During the period of January-June 2023, MI conducted the following activities:

- Disbursed funds to the project implementing agencies (PIAs) amounting to US$ 3,888,423 for 14 ongoing projects in CLMVT and ROK, which includes 3 projects being implemented by MI.

- Provided technical and financial advisory services to the PIAs to ensure project implementation compliance with the MKCF Manual.
- Coordinated with the PIAs and prepared the materials for the project launching.
- Processed the project agreements and administrative costs.
- Prepared and announced the 7th MKCF call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs).
- Reviewed and updated the MKCF Management Manual for the 7th Call.
- Evaluated 160 EOIs of prospective fund recipients from CLMVT, ROK, and International Organizations having operating Offices in Mekong countries and ROK.

4.2. Survey of the Mekong Regional Cooperation Frameworks and their Strategies and Responses to the Emerging Regional and Global Issues

A desk study generated a comprehensive overview of donor frameworks in the Mekong sub-region. The study thoroughly assessed these frameworks' responsiveness to global and regional events, prioritizing the most pressing issues in the report. By analyzing long-standing and recent donor activities, the study identified overlooked areas of need through a detailed gap analysis. The study also evaluated the frameworks' effectiveness in project implementation, results assessment, and the level of engagement required from government counterparts regarding meetings and participation in working groups. This study will guide the AOTS and, subsequently, the Government of Japan in rolling out their development interventions in the Mekong region over the next 3-5 years.

4.3. Capacity Building on Regional Project Identification, Design, Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation of MKCF Projects

A half-day online inception workshop was conducted where 89 representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation, etc. of the five Mekong countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK, and other current/past/potential MKCF project implementation agencies attended. With a presentation of the overview of the project and its work plan, the workshop increased participants' predictability and expectations for the project so that they could cooperate actively and, in a timely manner, initiate activities when required. The workshop laid a foundation to establish a cross-country communication channel with stakeholders' contributions for future coordination and to maintain close cooperation and consultation with the participating development agencies and concerned stakeholders.

4.4. Global Development Initiative Leverages Sustainable Development in the Lancang-Mekong Region

As the global cause of development stands at a crossroads, P. R. China called for the Global Development Initiative (GDI). The Initiative aims to address the challenges developing countries face in realizing sustainable development goals (SDGs). With the support from the

People's Government of the P. R. China, MI, in collaboration with the Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD), is thus undertaking a series of activities under the one-year project on "Global Development Initiative Leverages Sustainable Development in the Lancang-Mekong Region". The project aims to prioritize the capacity needs of LM Countries that could be supported once the new global Initiative rolls out.

A webinar on "Global Development Initiative Leverages Sustainable Development in the Lancang-Mekong Region" was conducted where over 50 participants, including development experts, distinguished delegates from the LM countries, opinion leaders, and government officials, participated in the webinar. Additionally, nearly 300 people viewed the event via live streaming on Facebook. The webinar facilitated the exchange of knowledge and ideas to enhance understanding of the GDI and explore strategies, interventions, and approaches to synergize the GDI and Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Action Plans.

4.5. Support in establishing ACMECS Interim Secretariat (AIS)

Following the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), MI agreed to support the Mekong Cooperation Unit (MCU), MFA, with its expertise, experience, and network, in the establishment of the AIS, including in performing core functions of the AIS mandated by ACMECS Senior Officials. MI will support the establishment and execution of the AIS with the technical assistance being the back office of the MCU. With the guidance of MCU, MI revised and re-submitted the work plan and budget for its support to MCU during 2023- 2025, which is currently under review and will be part of the MoU to be signed between MFA and MI.

On June 14, 2023, an informal ACMECS Senior Officials' Meeting was held, hosted by Thailand in Bangkok, and was attended by ACMECS SOM Leaders from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The Meeting welcomed the establishment of the ACMECS Interim Secretariat in Thailand with the technical support of MI as its back office. The Meeting also agreed to the Thai proposal to organize activities on the 20th anniversary of the founding of ACMECS in 2023 such as setting up an official ACMECS website and organizing an ACMECS logo competition and academic seminar. MI is expected to support the activities regarding the anniversary.

5. Institutional Strengthening

5.1.1. Greater Mekong Community Affairs

A. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

MI revised the MEL Policy, Strategy, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). They are the foundation of the Result-Based Management (RBM) that enhance the operationalize the mechanism of RBM approach. The remarkable changes are using stepwise approach to

formulate the operationalization of the MEL system on SOP, where it addressed designated roles and responsibilities step-by-step on the MEL system.

Accordingly, the concept of MI's MEL system was also revisited in the revised SOP which emphasizes the role of evidence for the implemented activities and results. Previously, MI primarily focused on activity and process, but the new MEL mechanism has put emphasis on tracking the results. Following the revised SOPs, MI developed web-based MEL system for data collection, management, and reporting. The new system will track MI activities with means verifications along with primary information. The main objectives of the new MEL system are to:

- Alternate solution for non-systematical information, harmonizing different practices from different programs (Google sheet Activity Workplan, Update Activity Budget).
- Automatically calculate indicators/results based on verification/information updated.
- Monitor results on a regular basis.
- Review the activity progress/results and report enabling robust mechanisms for adaptive management.

A Capacity Building Workshop on MEL Strategy, Policy, and SOPs for MI Staff was hosted by MEL unit on February 28, 2023. It was the opportunity for the program departments and operation units to discuss how to enable the stepwise approach and operationalize MEL system. Hereinafter, MEL unit ran several meetings with operation unit to gather discussion and information to address the issues of data collection and calculation of the indicators of the Logical Framework. The draft indicator guidelines developed for the teams were reviewed and feedback was received during the workshop.

The newly developed MEL system was rolled out in March 2023, that has been helping to synthesize information regularly and provide real-time data. Based on the features of the MEL system, MI staff can manage their projects and activities regularly, and automated reports are generated and shared with the programs based on the data provided in the system in monthly basis. At management level, program directors can oversee the activities in a timely manner through the updating system of the project implementation status and other detailed analysis. Some snapshots of the system-generated automatic reports are following:
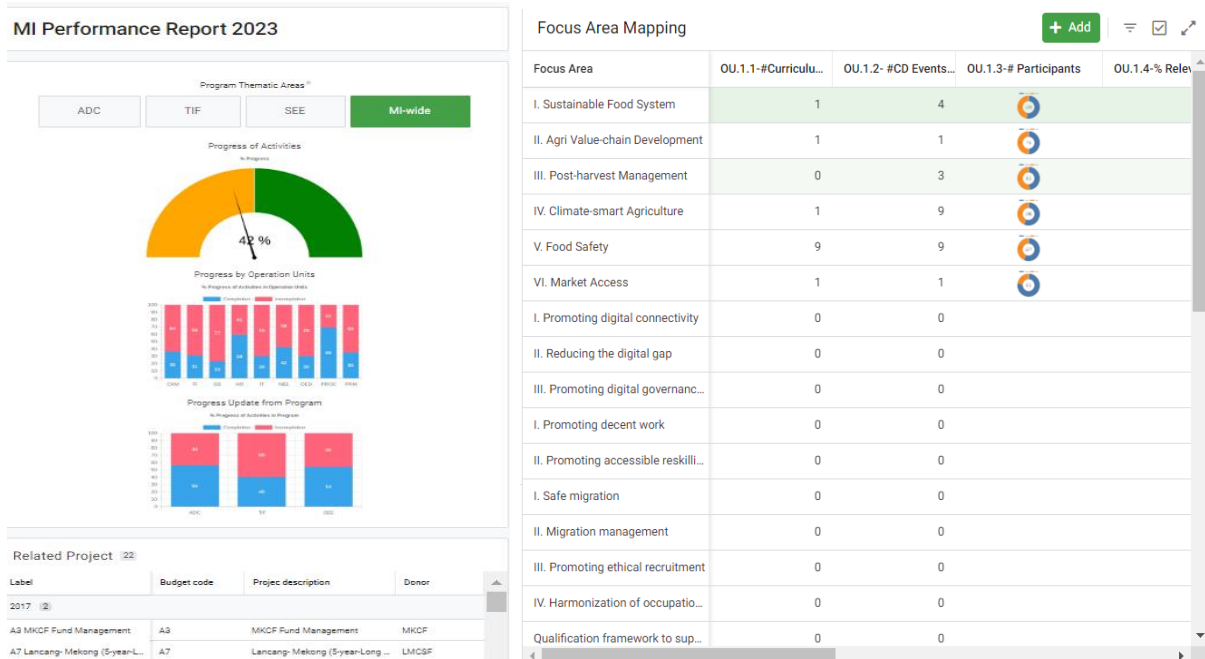
On February 9, 2023, with the facilitation of MEL unit, an MOU was signed between Khon Kaen University International College (KKUIC) and MI to formalize the collaboration in education and research. Accordingly, the MoU opened various research collaboration opportunities like internship and cooperative education of KKUIC students in MI, exchange of academic materials, cooperation through symposia, seminar, forums, and workshop, etc.

B. Communications and Knowledge Management

During the reporting period, MI drafted a communication strategy to outline the essence of all communications and knowledge management-related activities and plan. MI's website and social media channels were updated regularly (Facebook 130 posts, Twitter 114 posts, LinkedIn 77 posts, and YouTube 9 videos). MI optimized and ensured the upgraded website is equipped with the latest technologies for effective data collection, data management and knowledge sharing. MI also produced corporate and project collaterals, e.g., fact sheets (4), VDOs (13), publication layout (9), event banners (13), and cover design (8). Monthly e-briefings were produced and shared with MI staff and stakeholders to update them on the monthly MI activities.

For the capacity building of MI staff, a knowledge-sharing session was organized on Microsoft Office Excel Formula and AI tools, which was facilitated by the CKM unit.

It is worth nothing that MI increased its website visitors (18,469) and social media followers (Facebook 846, Twitter 23, LinkedIn 330) by referral traffic, search engine optimization, hashtags, and targeted content.

C. Partnership and Resource Mobilization

C1. Partnership Across GMS Cooperation Frameworks

During the reporting period, MI's programs and activities were organized to enhance and support the GMS related cooperation frameworks.

ASEAN: In March, MI Executive Director paid a visit to Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary General of the ASEAN Secretariat, and had a meeting with IAI & NDG Division. The significant achievement was the acknowledgement of MI as a technical and knowledge partner of the ASEAN Secretariat for the ASEAN community building and the IAI work plan. MI's public advocacy on ASEAN Prize Recipient is on-going.

ACMECS: The MOU between MI and Thai MFA on 'Interim ACMECS Secretariat' has been finalized and expected to be formalized after the new Thai cabinet has been settled. In term of ACMECS-ROK Project, MI supported the development and ongoing implementation of the ACMECS-ROK Branding Project on Cross Border Trade through the Synchronization of Rules and Regulations.

LMC: MI Executive Director participated and delivered a speech at the 'Launching Ceremony of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Week 2023', the event was hosted by FAOYN in Kunming City on March 23. Recently, MI co-hosted with the FAOGX organized the 5th Lancang-Mekong Business Forum funded by LMCSF in Nanning City, on July 5-7.

Mekong-RoK Cooperation: The revision of MKCF guidelines and preparation for announcement of the 7th call of MKCF project proposals has been finalized in April.

Mekong Australia Partnership: MI and the DFAT, Australian Embassy in Thailand agreed to collaborate on water-energy-climate nexus. The funding to support the implementation of project on Climate Smart Agriculture Technologies has been transferred to MI.

GMS Program: MI has Initiated a stock-taking study under the GMS Knowledge Network on knowledge gaps and priorities in the GMS.

Mekong-Japan Cooperation: MI has formalized two collaboration projects on a review of Mekong cooperation frameworks, and a review of ESG adoption. The Desk study report on Mekong cooperation frameworks submitted.

C2. Enhancing Existing Partnership

PR China: MI received indication of two project topics (energy connectivity, and climate & sustainable agriculture) and funding (US$180,000)

Yunnan Province, PRC: MI Executive Director paid a visit to FAOYN in March, updating on-going projects of MI, confirming to co-host the Mekong Forum 2023 and Governing Board

meeting in Kunming in July, and explored other areas of cooperation under GMS/LMC and south-south cooperation.

Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, PRC: MI Executive Director paid a visit to FAOGX in March, the objective of this trip is to re-engage Guangxi Province in MI activities. The FAOGX agreed to co-host the 5th Lancang Mekong Business Forum in Nanning. During the trip, MI also explored cooperation with Guangxi Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Industries, Department of Agriculture, and China ASEAN Business Center. Re-connected with Guangxi Academy of Social Sciences (GASS).

TICA: MI Executive Director explored the south-south cooperation.

NZAP: The PROSAFE project has been extended until the end of 2023, and NZAID has agreed on the use of leftover fund and work plan until 2023. NZAID developed TOR for an independent evaluation

MI also maintained the relationship with other existing Development partners and Implementing partners, such as The Embassy of Australia to Thailand, The Switzerland Embassy to Thailand, The Germany Embassy to Thailand, The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Lao PDR's Department of Trade Promotion (DTP), Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and Thai Bev. Logistic Plc.

C3. Promoting new Partnership

During the reporting period, MI promoted the new partnership with potential Development Partners and Implementing Partners.

MI formulated MOU with several partners, such as Khon Kaen University International College (KKUIC), APRACA and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), Prince of Songkla University (PSU)

C4. MI Visibility in International Fora

During the reporting period, MI's representatives participated in several international conferences/Forums/events in the GMS, ASEAN, and Asia.

5.1.2. Finance and Operations

A. Financial Management:

To improve MI's internal financial mechanism, MI developed a system to report expenses incurred by each department/unit against the approved budget, aiming to control expenses within the approved budget. Cash flow forecasting, monitoring, and control mechanisms were applied by MI improving visibility and planning for liquidity needs and minimizing cash flow gaps. MI conducted regular internal audits, identifying areas of improvement, addressing gaps,

and strengthening compliance with international accounting standards that minimized the risk of financial irregularities.

MI supported MKCF's PIAs to implement projects. MI launched 10 Projects across the Mekong countries and disbursed the sum of 2.7 million to the PIAs. During the launch meeting, MI introduced the project modalities, requirements, and alignment of the existing ongoing project on the procurement, compliance and the MKCF manual norms along with the introduction of AppSheet to capture the project's financial details. MI focused on bringing quality and smooth implementation of the project with transparency and accountability by providing handholding support to all ongoing, newly launched project, or project which has been closed during this phase. To support the MKCF's PIAs, MI representatives visited several organizations and provided orientations. Besides, MI conducted PIAs' assessments on the grant financial management such as PIAs' finance policy and system, procurement, capability to manage the funding, internal financial control, financial reporting, and others. MI also reviewed and provided feedback on PIAs financial reports.

B. General Services Management:

MI renovated and painted its buildings that improved its appearance. MI will keep its focus on maintaining the buildings in good condition for ensuring a better working environment for its staff. MI continued to clean and disinfect its premises to be secured from COVID-19 viruses. Besides, MI managed its assets following the asset database. MI conducted items' routine maintenance for its two premises and belongings in 2023. MI's in-house technician provided several repair and maintenance support as per the request of MI staff and reduced the maintenance cost. Moreover, MI installed a new kitchen and set new MI standard catering since a new kitchen provides an opportunity to ensure compliance with food safety regulations and best practices.

During the reporting period, MI provided 320 rounds of transportation, including eight rounds of VIP support, 180 rounds for MI duties, and 132 rounds for the course participants and MI staff. MI well maintained the condition of the vehicles for safe driving and made them ready to use at any time.

C. Human Resources Management:

Following MI Policy, MI always emphasize the recruitment of diversified staff based on the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment, and opportunity in all aspects of employment, irrespective of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, age or national origin. During Jan-Jun 2023, the following staff were recruited by MI:

Name	Position	Date of Joining	Country
Regular Staff			
Ms. Anna Leigh V. Anillo	Communications Coordinator	May 15, 2023	Philippines

Ms. Kittikar Kittipitayakorn	Human Resource Officer	May 1, 2023	Thailand
Temporary staff			
Ms. Jennisa Chayboonkrong	Administration Assistant	March 1, 2023	Thailand
Ms. Wilasinee Boonkwang	Human Resource Assistant	March 1, 2023	Thailand
Ms. Lee Hyeyoung	Project Manager	February 20, 2023	Republic of Korea
Ms. Joclarisse Espiritu Albia	Consultant	May 15, 2023	Philippines
Mr. Yatikorn Sitthichanda	Procurement Assistant	May 22, 2023	Thailand
Mr. Eastword De Guzman Manlises	Consultant	May 29, 2023	Philippines

As of Jun 2023, MI employs 51 staff of 13 nationalities; among them 39% were male and 61% were female. Currently, the staff represents all six GMS countries.

Number of MI Staff according to their Nationalities
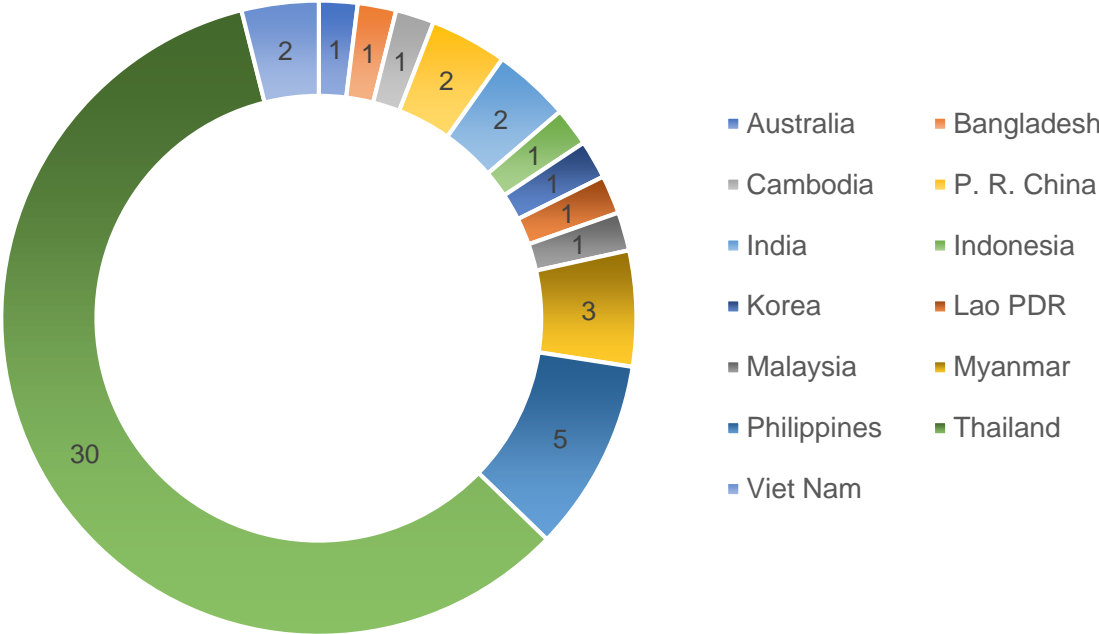
MI revised and announced the guidelines of Career Progression Framework (CPF) for encouraging and promoting staff to senior positions. Following the CPF, six staff were promoted due to their higher-level performance in the previous years. Also, MI always provided the monthly salary and benefits on time to all staff. Besides, considering the improved financial situation of MI after COVID-19 recovery, a one-month additional salary was provided to all levels of staff in MI 2023, which boosted the work spirit of the staff.

MI supported its staff to join the following training/workshop:

- Program Manager of SEE Department attended a Mekong-Australia Partnership Short Term Awards (MAPSTA) Course on Responding to the Climate Change Challenge, sponsored by The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia and organized by The University of Queensland, Australia on February 6-17, 2023.
- Program Manager of TIF Department attended a 2-day workshop on ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR) and ASEAN Solutions for Investment, Services and Trade (ASSIST), organized by EU ARISE Plus at Movenpick and Sofitel Bangkok Sukhumvit Hotel, Bangkok on February 16-17, 2023.
- Project Manager and Project Coordinator of MKCF Project, TIF Department attended an online course on "Management of Development Projects" organized by the University of Berlin from May 8-18, 2023.

D. Procurement Services Management:

During the first half of the year, MI successfully managed its 206 purchase requests and six purchase orders for office supplies and other necessary items for its departments/units. ensuring the quality of goods and services in timely and effective manner. Under Special Service Agreement (SSA), MI hired 36 consultants and resource persons to support its program activities.

MI successfully negotiated with its vendors and reduced its procurement cost for copying machines and internet services significantly. Moreover, MI revised and updated procurement guideline for hiring the resource persons and consultants which was approved by the Senior Management Team (SMT).

The database on consultants and resource persons were updated in the AppSheet platform where the consultant and resource persons can access and update their profile with the confidence of the security of their personal information. This database helped MI staff to find their required consultants or resource persons for their training courses, activities, and studies because the database is categorized into areas of expertise.

6. MI's Financial Performance

Consolidated Statement of Financial Status (**January 1 – May 31, 2023**)

MI's current total assets amounted to US$11,259,609. The cash and cash equivalent amounted to US$9,896,257, while other current assets were US$ 296,907, with the net value of fixed assets being US$1,066,445. On the other hand, MI's total liabilities was of US$9,194,875, including unearned revenue from GMS countries' contributions of US$291,419. The total equity was US$ 2,064,735, which was increased by 6.2% compared to December 31, 2022.

Table 6: Summary Statement of Financial Status (as of May 31, 2023)

Asset	Amount (in USD)	Percentage
Cash and Cash Equivalent	9,896,257	87.9%
Other Current Assets	296,907	2.6%
Fixed Assets	1,066,445	9.5%
Total of Assets	**11,259,609**	**100.0%**
Liability and Equity	**Amount (in USD)**	**Percentage**
Current Liability	67,808	0.6%
Unearned Revenue (GMS Country Contributions)	291,417	2.6%
Grant Advance Received	8,835,648	78.5%
Total Liability	**9,194,875**	**81.7%**
Equity	2,064,735	18.3%
Total of Liability and Equity	**11,259,609**	**100.0%**

MI's total revenue was US$1,370,036, achieving 37.56% of the target budget for 2023 as of May 31, 2023. This included total revenue from long-term projects (US$ 969,292), short-term projects (US$169,678), customized activities (US$5,380), GMS countries' contributions (US$ 219,354), and other revenues (US$6,332).

Mi's total expense was amounted to US$1,233,037, covering expenses from project and program delivery (US$ 823,061), operation expenses (US$377,508), and non-cash operation expenses (US$32,469). MI recorded net earnings of US$136,999 as of May 31, 2023, and MI earned US$169,467 excluding the non-cash expenses.

Table 7: Summary Statement of Revenue and Expenses (as of May 31, 2023)

Revenue	Amount	Percentage
Long-Term Projects	969,292	70.7%
Short-Term Projects	169,678	12.4%
Customized Activities	5,380	0.4%
Total Project Revenue	**1,144,349**	**83.5%**
GMS Countries' Contributions	219,354	16.0%
Other Revenues	6,332	0.5%
Total Revenue	**1,370,036**	**100.0%**

Expenses	Amount	Percentage
Project/Program Delivery	564,913	45.8%
Program Administration	251,610	20.4%
Business Development	6,538	0.5%

Total Project Expenses	**823,061**	**66.8%**
Total Operation Expenses	**377,508**	**30.6%**
Total Expenses before non-cash operation	**1,200,568**	**97.4%**
Earnings (Deficit) before non-cash expenses	**169,467**	**13.7%**
Non-cash expenses	32,469	**2.6%**
Total Expenses	**1,233,037**	**100.0%**
Earnings (Deficit) after non-cash expenses	**136,999**	**10.0%***

The Percentage of earnings is compared with total income

MI forecasted that its total revenue will be US$1,761,702, achieving 48% of the target budget 2023 as of June 30, 2023. This includes total revenue from long-term projects (US$ 1,242,845), short-term projects (US$219,436), customized activities (US$29,632), GMS countries' contributions (US$ 262,658), and other revenues (US$7,132).

The forecast of total MI expenses amounted to US$1,605,701, covering expenses from project and program delivery (US$ 1,100,415) and operation expenses (US$465,817). Non-cash operation expenses (US$39,469). MI recorded a net earnings of US$156,001 as of June 30, 2023, and MI earned US$195,470 excluded non-cash expenses.

Table 8: Summary of Forecast of Revenue and Expenses (as of June 30, 2023)

Revenue	Total Forecast	Actual	Forecast
Project revenue	**Jan-Jun**	**Jan-May**	**Jun**
Long term project	1,242,845	969,292	273,553
Short term project	219,436	169,678	49,757
One off activity	29,631	5,380	24,252
Subtotal project revenue	**1,491,911**	**1,144,349**	**347,562**
GMS Contribution	262,658	219,354	43,304
Other revenue	7,132	6,332	800
Total revenue	**1,761,702**	**1,370,036**	**391,666**
EXPENSES	Total Forecast	Actual	Forecast
Project and program expense	**Jan-Jun**	**Jan-May**	**Jun**
Project delivery cost	771,113	564,913	206,201
Program administration cost	316,500	251,610	64,890
Business development	12,802	6,538	6,264
Subtotal project and program exp.	**1,100,415**	**823,061**	**277,354**
Operating Expenses	465,817	377,508	88,309
Net earnings (deficit)	**195,470**	**169,467**	**26,002**
Non-Cash expense	39,469	32,469	7,000

Net earnings (deficit)	**156,001**	**136,999**	**19,002**

The following graph shows the MI revenues from 15 projects implemented during Jan-May 2023:

% share of MI Revenues by Countries (as of May 2023)
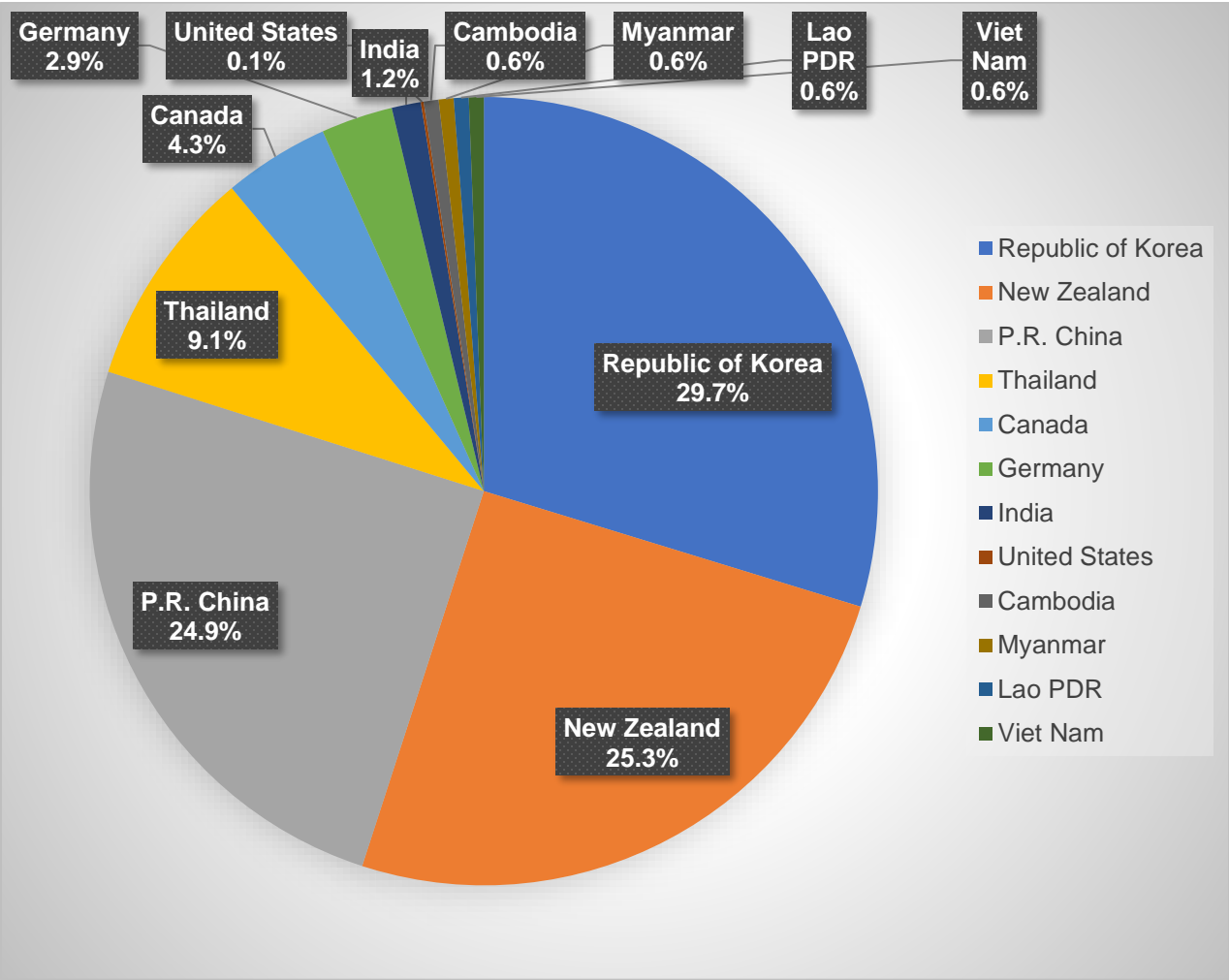
As of June 2023, MI received its members countries' contributions amounted to US$352,482 from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Table 9: GMS Countries' Annual Contributions in 2023 (as of June 30, 2023)

GMS Country	Contribution	Receiving Month
Cambodia	20,000	April 2023
P. R. China	150,000	
Lao PDR	20,000	April 2023
Myanmar	20,000	

GMS Country	Contribution	Receiving Month
Thailand	292,482	May 2023
Viet Nam	20,000	June 2023
Total	**522,482**	

7. Challenge Faced by MI from January-June 2023

- MI continued facing difficulties in recruiting the right number of participants for its capacity development events.
- MI has not been able to sufficiently expand the "environment" dimension within its program implementation.
- The reach of MI's activities is largely limited to MI's own channels while partners' communication channels as well as the media are not maximized to full potential.
- Diversity remains a topic to be discussed and addressed in human resources. This is an important point for moving the needle at the Institute.
- Due to the better salary packages in international and regional organizations, it was difficult for MI to hire to fulfill the vacant positions with more professional and experienced staff.
- Hiring a supplier to set up a canteen in MI building to serve food, refreshment, and other services for our participants and guests remains a challenge for MI.

8. Recommendations

- Institutional strengthening should have more strategic and forward-looking strategy; seeking a short staff exchange program would be desirable.
- The focus areas under environment should be analyzed during the mid-term review of MI strategic plan 2021-2025.
- MI needs to focus on expanding its visibility through broadening wider public awareness about MI's work.
- MI needs to step up its data collection, data sharing, and knowledge management by investing in platform which promotes internal communication, collaboration and data sharing apart from the shared folder. Cloud sharing platforms which enhance work efficiency should be looked into.
- It is important for MI to promote its branding to attract talent to the organization, as more staff want to work for organizations that value diversity and offer everyone a sense of belonging.

9. Annex

9.1. Annex 1: MI Results Framework 2021-2025

VISION — Capable and committed human resources working together for a more integrated, prosperous, and harmonious Greater Mekong Subregion

MISSION — Contribute to regional cooperation and integration through capacity development, dialogue, and advocacy for the acceleration of sustainable socioeconomic development and poverty alleviation in the Greater Mekong Subregion

Contribution to GMS Development

Strategic Goals
- Strengthened Human and Institutional Capacities and Leadership
- Enhanced Enabling Environment
- Fostered Regional Connectivity

Outcomes
- Increased Agricultural Development and Commercialization
- Increased Trade and Investment Facilitation
- Sustainable Energy and Environment
- Social Inclusion and Vulnerability
- Labor Mobility
- Digital Economy and Innovation

Facilitation of Changes through MI Stakeholders

Activities & Outputs — Capacity Development Interventions by MI
Need Assessment, Study/Research, Training/Workshop, Networking, Advocacy, and Technical/Financial Assistance

Institutional Strengthening

- MI Transitioned to a more Sustainable and Dynamic Organization
- Strengthened Strategic Leadership and Management
- Leadership
- Organizational Structure and Culture
- Business Model
- Greater Mekong Community Affairs
- Finance and Operations

Strengthening of MI-wide Institutional Capacities for effective implementation of MI Strategic Plan 2021-2025

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9.2. Annex 2: MI Capacity Development Model (CDM)
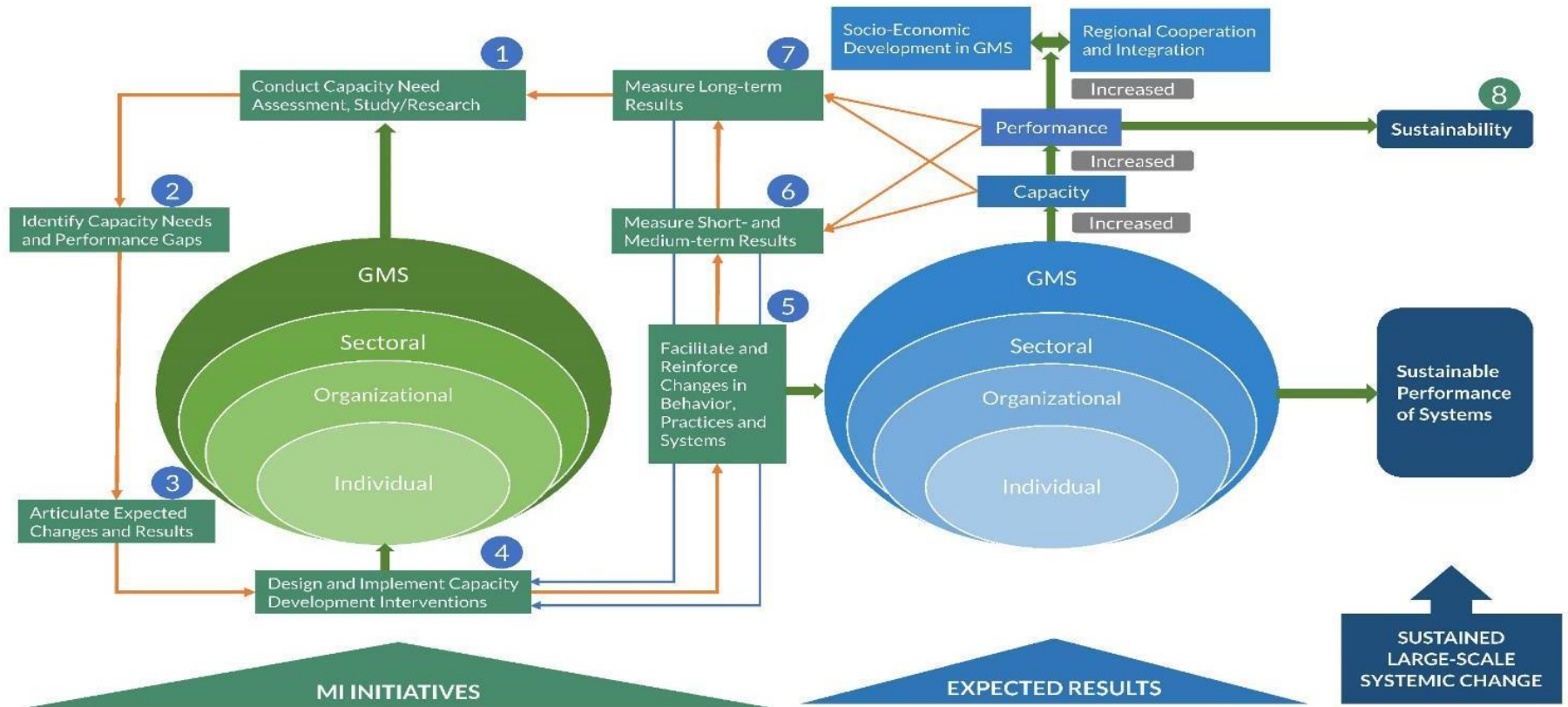
9.3. Annex 3: Status of Implementation of Activities by Program Departments

Program Department	Project Title	Activity Name	Implementation Status	Type of Activity
ADC	Promoting Safe Food for Everyone in CLMV (PROSAFE)	Cambodia - Safer Street Food Practices	25 % Completed	Workshop
		Cambodia In-country Activity 1	25 % Completed	Seminar/Forum
		Cambodia In-country Activity 2	25 % Completed	Workshop
		Cambodia In-country Activity 3	25 % Completed	Workshop
		Development of Training Manual on Social and Behavior Change Communication for Safer Food	25 % Completed	Curriculum Development
		Development of Training Manual on Food Safety Market Surveillance in the Food Chain	25 % Completed	Curriculum Development
		Lao PDR In-country Activity 1	25 % Completed	Seminar/Forum
		Lao PDR In-country Activity 2	25 % Completed	Workshop
		Lao PDR In-country Activity 3	25 % Completed	Workshop
		Lao PDR In-country PROSAFE Forum Laos and Training Workshop on FSEM	25 % Completed	Training
		Myanmar In-country Activity 1	25 % Completed	Webinar
		Myanmar In-country Activity 2:	25 % Completed	Seminar/Forum
		PROSAFE End of Project Workshop (regional)	25 % Completed	Workshop
		Regional TOT for Safer Food (Mar 27-31)	100% Completed	Training
		Regional Training Program on Food Safety Management for Cottage and Small Food Businesses (March 13-17))	100% Completed	Training
		Regional Training Program on Food Safety Market Surveillance in the Food Chain (Feb 6-10)	100% Completed	Training
		Regional Training Program on GHP for Food Service Providers (March 6-10)	100% Completed	Training
		Regional Training Program on Managing Food Safety Along the Supply Chain (Jan 9-13, 2023)	100% Completed	Training
		Regional Training Program on Preservation and Packaging for Safer Food (June 5-16)	100% Completed	Training
		Regional Training Program on Social and Behavior Change for Safer Food	100% Completed	Training
		Regional Training Program on Traceability in Food Value Chain (Feb 13-17, 2023)	100% Completed	Training

Program Department	Project Title	Activity Name	Implementation Status	Type of Activity
		Research on Climate change impacts and food safety challenges in agriculture	25 % Completed	Research/Assessment
		Research on Food safety-food loss nexus in the horticultural supply chain	25 % Completed	Research/Assessment
		Video Production	25 % Completed	Knowledge Dissemination
		Viet Nam In-country Activity 1: Promoting Food Safety Awareness in High School Education in Viet Nam (May 18, 2023	100% Completed	Workshop
		Viet Nam In-country Activity 2	25 % Completed	Seminar/Forum
		Viet Nam In-country Activity 3	25 % Completed	Workshop
	Development and Implementation of Common Rice Production Standard in Mekong--Lancang Subregion	End-of-Project Evaluation Workshop	100% Completed	Workshop
		Report on Rice Product Standard Alignment - Cambodia	50% Completed	Research/Assessment
		Report on Rice Product Standard Alignment - Lao PDR	50% Completed	Research/Assessment
		Report on Rice Product Standard Alignment - Myanmar	50% Completed	Research/Assessment
		Report on Rice Product Standard Alignment - Thailand	50% Completed	Research/Assessment
		Report on Rice Product Standard Alignment - Viet Nam	50% Completed	Research/Assessment
	Development of Rice Pest and Natural Disasters Monitoring, Forecasting and Warning Center for Sustainable Rice Production under Climate Change in Mekong-Lancang Subregion	AI System Development (phase 2 and 3)	100% Completed	Solutions/Initiatives
		Data collection for Rice Pest AI System - Cambodia	100% Completed	Data Collection
		Data collection for Rice Pest AI System - Lao PRD	100% Completed	Data Collection
		Data collection for Rice Pest AI System - Myanmar	100% Completed	Data Collection
		Data collection for Rice Pest AI System - Thailand	100% Completed	Data Collection
		Data collection for Rice Pest AI System - Viet Nam	100% Completed	Data Collection
		End-of-Project Workshop (March 21-23)	100% Completed	Workshop
		Planning Workshop (Nov 29-Dec2)	25 % Completed	Workshop
	Sustainable and Smart	A1. Assessment Study (final pay for consultant)	100% Completed	Research/Assessment
		Assessment of situation on smart technology for agriculture supply chain in Mekong countries	100% Completed	Research/Assessment

Program Department	Project Title	Activity Name	Implementation Status	Type of Activity
	Agricultural Supply Chain Development in Mekong Countries	D.3. End term evaluation ($35,364.70 shared with 3 depart.)	100% Completed	Workshop
	Upstream Single-use Plastic Reduction Solutions for Khon Kaen's Street Food Complexes	Data collection	25 % Completed	Data Collection
SEE	Sustainable and Smart Agricultural Supply Chain Development in Mekong Countries	B.3. Pilot implementing activity in Mekong countries with technical and financial assistance;	100% Completed	Follow-up
		B.4. Workshop on supplement knowledge topic/issue required during implementing the pilot activity.	100% Completed	Workshop
		B1: Country situation study on smart renewable energy technology for agriculture supply chain in Mekong countries	100% Completed	Research/Assessment
		D.2. Hybrid Forum to reflect and synthesis the project activities including consultation for policy recommendation under activities A.3, A.4, B.3 and C.4; ($16,060 shared with 3 depart.)	100% Completed	Dialogue/Consultation event
	The Triangular Cooperation Project on Sustainable Development in the Lower Mekong Basin based on the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus (Phase3)	2.1 Participate in four national consultation meetings and field visits during WEF pilot selection and model design, helping strengthen local communities and other stakeholders' engagements.	100% Completed	Dialogue/Consultation event
		2022-2023 Work Review and Planning Workshop	100% Completed	Dialogue/Consultation event
		3.3 Develop one training curriculum for implementing successful technology based WEF pilots and convene at least one Training of Trainers (ToTs) workshop with at least two participants from each LMB country.	100% Completed	Curriculum Development
		First Thailand National Stakeholder Consultative Forum	100% Completed	Dialogue/Consultation event
	Targeted Poverty Alleviation and Strengthening Food Security in the Lancang-	Component 1- Assessment on Targeted Poverty Alleviation and Strengthening Food Security in the Lancang-Mekong Countries for Post-pandemic Recovery (2022-2023)	25 % Completed	Research/Assessment

Program Department	Project Title	Activity Name	Implementation Status	Type of Activity
	Mekong Countries for Post-pandemic Recovery	Component3 -Training and Action Plan on Targeted Poverty Alleviation and Strengthening Food Security in the Lancang-Mekong Countries for Post-pandemic Recovery (2022-2023)	100% Completed	Training
	Global Development Initiative Leverages Sustainable Development in the Lancang-Mekong Region	Component 2.1: Consultation Workshop on Financing Sustainable Development	100% Completed	Dialogue/Consultation event
		Webinar on Advancing Sustainable Development in the Lancang-Mekong Region through Global Development Initiative	100% Completed	Seminar/Forum
	ASEAN-CRN Secretariat Facilitator to support for ASEAN-CRN and ANGA	8th ASEAN-CRN Annual Meeting back-to-back with 17th ATWGARD Meeting	100% Completed	Knowledge Dissemination
		ASEAN-CRN Training or Workshop #2/2022 + #1-2/2023	100% Completed	Workshop
		Study and Strategic Inputs for ASEAN-CRN	50% Completed	Research/Assessment
		§ ANGA's Virtual Workshop- for the Joint Submission to the Sharm el-Sheikh Koronivia Joint Work Implementation Programme	100% Completed	Training
	Forum on Accelerating Innovation through Energy Technology Cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion	Hybrid Regional Expert Talk on Promoting Resilient Creative Economy through Cross-sectoral and Regional Collaboration	100% Completed	Workshop
TIF	ACMECS-ROK Regional Branding Project - Facilitating Cross Border Trade through Synchronization on of Rules and Regulations in the ACMECS	RoK-ACMECS Cooperation Project: Improving Supply Chain Connectivity in supply of Medicine and Medical Supplies in ACMECS Countries	25 % Completed	Policy Dialogue
	Sustainable and Smart Agricultural Supply Chain Development in Mekong Countries	End term evaluation including consultation for policy recommendation.	100% Completed	Dialogue/Consultation event
		Forum to reflect and synthesis the project activities (online)	100% Completed	Seminar/Forum
	Capacity Building on Regional Project	A1. Inception Workshop of the Project (Online)	100% Completed	Workshop

Program Department	Project Title	Activity Name	Implementation Status	Type of Activity
	Design, Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation of MKCF			
	Sustainable and Smart Tourism Development in the Mekong Region	Data collection for App content in CLMVT	100% Completed	Data Collection
		Exchange Program in CLMVT and ROK (Note: May 22-26, TBC)	75% Completed	Structured Learning Visit
		Mobile Application and Content Development	75% Completed	Solutions/Initiatives
		Project Roadshow in 5 UNESCO Heritage Sites	100% Completed	Knowledge Dissemination
	Lancang-Mekong Business Forum	5th Lancang- Mekong Business Forum	25 % Completed	Seminar/Forum
	Survey of the Mekong Regional Cooperation Frameworks and their strategies and responses to the emerging regional and global issues	Survey of the Mekong Regional Cooperation Frameworks and their strategies and responses to the emerging regional and global issues.	100% Completed	Research/Assessment
	Chile -Thailand International Workshop on Trade Negotiation for ASEAN	TICA-Chile: Online Workshop on Trade Negotiation, May 23 – June 7, 2023	100% Completed	Workshop
	Paperless Trade Study (Consultant Service)	Paperless Trade Study	75% Completed	Research/Assessment