



MEKONG
INSTITUTE

ASEAN
PRIZE 

COUNCIL MEETING 1/2023

Friday 28, 2023 | 09:00AM–12:00PM

Yunnan Foreign Affairs Office, Kunming
City, Yunnan Province, P. R. China

ITEM 1



Welcome Remarks by Council Chairman

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



Council Chairman

H. E. Wang Hao

Vice Governor of Yunnan Province
MI Council Chairperson



Council member for Cambodia

H. E. Mr. Chea Chantum

Secretary-General
General Secretariat for Population and Development, Ministry of Planning



Council member for Lao PDR (representative)

Mr. Khamphinh Philakone

Deputy Director General
Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Council member for Myanmar (representative)

Mrs. Moh Moh Naing

Director
Foreign Economic Relations Department
Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations



Steering Committee member for Thailand (representative)

Mrs. Arunee Hiam

Deputy Director General
Thailand International Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Business Representative

Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee
Business Representative and MI Steering Committee Chairman

Honorary Advisor

Dr. Jean Pierre A. Verbiest



Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn

Executive Director
Mekong Institute
(Non-voting member)

ITEM 2



Adoption of the Agenda



ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

09:00 AM - 09:05 AM	ITEM 1: Welcome Remarks By H. E. Mr. Wang Hao, Chairman of MI Council
09:05 AM - 09:10 AM	ITEM 2: Adoption of the Agenda
09:10 AM - 09:15 AM	ITEM 3: Business Arrangements
09:15 AM - 09:20 AM	ITEM 4: Minutes Adoption of the Council Meeting No. 2/2022 and Action Progress of Recommendations from Governing Board Meeting 2/2022
09:20 AM - 10:00 AM	ITEM 5: Highlights and Recommendations from the Steering Committee on Matters for Acknowledgement (By Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee, Chairman of MI Steering Committee) 5.1 Activity Report of 1H, 2023 5.2 Results of the Mekong Forum 2023 5.3 Update on the Implementation Plan of Mid-term Review of MI Strategic Plan 2021-2025
10:00 AM - 10:20 AM	<i>Group Photo and Refreshment/ Break</i>
10:20 AM - 11:20 AM	ITEM 6: Highlights and Recommendations from the Steering Committee on Matters for Consideration (By Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee, Chairman of MI Steering Committee) 6.1 Endorsement of the Revised Activity Plan of 2H, 2023 6.2 Endorsement of the Budget Revision 2023 6.3 Endorsement of the Audited Financial Report 2022 6.4 Endorsement of the Results of Executive Director Performance Evaluation 2022, and End of Term Performance Evaluation and Term of Office
11:20 AM - 11:50 AM	ITEM 7: Recommendations and Commitments of Council Members and Key Development Partners
11:50 AM - 11:55 AM	ITEM 8: Appointments 8.1 Appointment of Steering Committee Members (Term: August 5, 2023 – August 4, 2025)
11:55 AM - 12:00 PM	ITEM 9: Date and Venue of Governing Board Meeting No. 2/2023
12:00 PM	ITEM 10: Other Matters
12:00 PM - 12:20 PM	Hand-over ceremony of MI Council Chairmanship

ITEM 3



Business Arrangements

Business Arrangement

1. Council Members are invited to join the group photo session after the **Agenda Item 5** (before Coffee Break)
2. There will be a 20-minute break after the **Agenda Item 5** (from 10:00 – 10:20 AM)
3. The Meeting will conclude at 12:00 PM.
4. The Hand-over Ceremony of MI Council Chairmanship will start at 12:00 PM, after the conclusion of the Council Meeting.
5. Lunch will be at the Daguang Business International Hotel (5 minutes by walk)
6. Draft minutes of Council meeting 1/2023 will be circulated to Council Members by August 31, 2023

ITEM 4



Minutes Adoption of the Council Meeting No. 2/2022

The draft Minutes of the Council Meeting 2/2022 will be presented in PDF file.

ITEM 4



Action Progress of Recommendations from Governing Board Meeting 2/2022

Action Progress of Governing Board Recommendations from Governing Board Meeting 2/2022

Subject	GB	Recommendations	Status
1. MI Collaborating Centers in GMS Countries	Council and Steering Committee Members	To clarify functions and mandates of collaborating centers	Work in progress. SC requested MI Secretariat to provide more information for consideration.
		To ensure cost efficiency and performance effectiveness of establishing the collaborating centers	
2. Equitable Participation of GMS Member Countries	Council and Steering Committee Members	To present a proposal on financing equitable participation of all GMS member countries in MI project activities.	Work in progress. SC requested MI Secretariat to provide more information for consideration.
3. Concept Note of The Mid-Term Review (MTR) of MI Strategic Plan 2021-2025	Council and Steering Committee Members	To further work out the detailed methodology for the Mid-term Review	The concept note has been refined and finalized. Updates are included in Agenda 5.3. The MTR is set to start in Aug-Oct 2023.

Action Progress of Governing Board Recommendations from Governing Board Meeting 2/2022

Subject	GB	Recommendation	Status
4. More opportunities for GMS government officers to work with MI	Council and Steering Committee Members	To open up opportunities for GMS government officers to work with MI	Preference in staff recruitment, secondment
5. To improve MI's database system as part of MI's Institutional Capacity Building Workplan	Council and Steering Committee Members	To upgrade MI's database system to be in par with other organizations	Incorporating in MI's e-office system, web-based MEL system and MI website (activity calendar)
6. Extension of Executive Director's term	Council and Steering Committee Members	To evaluate ED's performance and consider extending the term of the Executive Director from 3 years to 4 years	Sub-committee's review and recommendations Further discussion in Agenda 6.6

ITEM 5



Highlights and Recommendations from Steering Committee on **Matters for Acknowledgement**

HIGHLIGHTS

1

Programs



- **Early start of activities** and finishing most of carry forward activities
- Focusing on **increased number of onsite capacity-building activities**, while continuing online and hybrid events
- Aligning **development synergies** (within MI programs and with partners)
- Infusing **environmentally-sustainable principles and cross-cutting themes** in core development areas
- Advancing **technological innovations**, expanding knowledge-based studies, and developing implementation systems
- Broadening **awareness of GMS priorities** and progress, as well as expanded public-private partnerships

HIGHLIGHTS

2

Developed and rolled out a web-based monitoring mechanism towards establishing organization-wide Results-Based Management (RBM) system in operationalizing MI Strategic Plan 2021-2025.



HIGHLIGHTS

3

Reinforcing responsive administration and financial soundness



4

Key Challenges

- **Lack of diversified participants** in MI events
- **Less competitive staff salary and benefits** compared to other regional organizations - to attract more competent staff
- **Persistent vacancies** in some senior/mid-level positions
- **Limited technical staff** to respond to and address evolving needs of GMS countries
- **Insufficient focus on the “environment”** dimension in program implementation

HIGHLIGHTS



ITEM 5

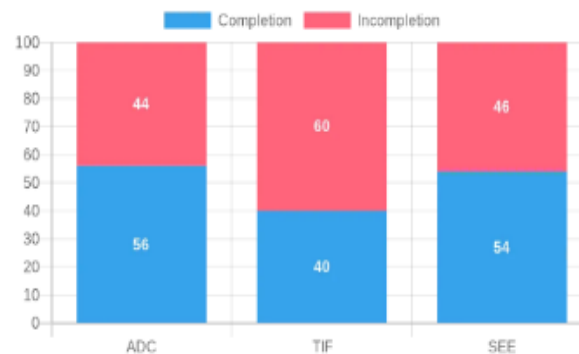
- 5.1 Activity Report of 1H, 2023
- 5.2 Results of the Mekong Forum 2023
- 5.3 Update on the Implementation Plan of Midterm Review of MI Strategic Plan 2021-2025

A. CORE DEVELOPMENT AREAS

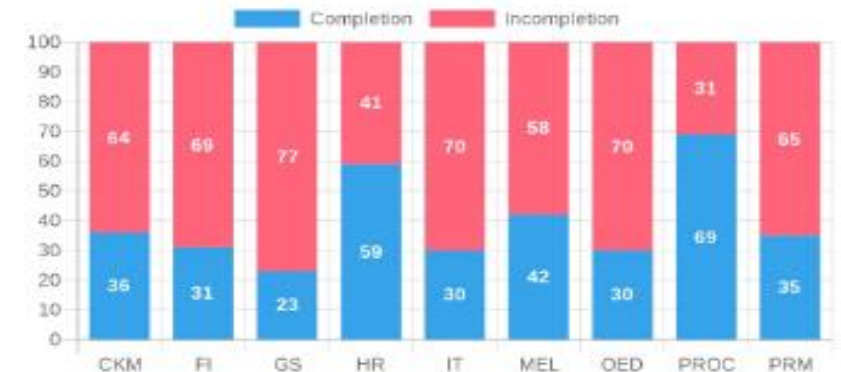
- **MI's new web-based MEL system** tracks activity progress as per the annual work plan.
- **42%** of the planned activities (in line with the Results Framework of MI Strategic Plan) were implemented by programs and operations as of 30 June 2023.



Progress of MI-wide Activities
(Programs and Operations)

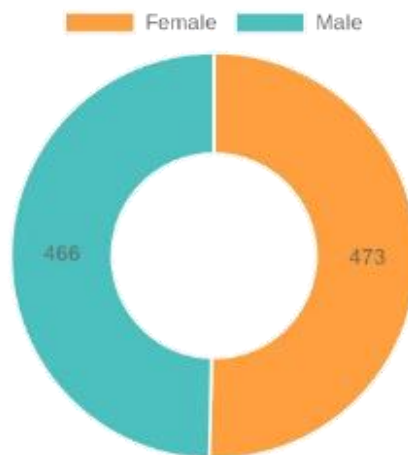


% Progress of Activities in Program

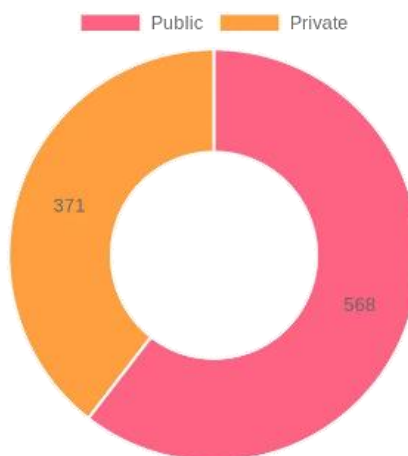


% Progress of Activities in Operation Units

By Sex



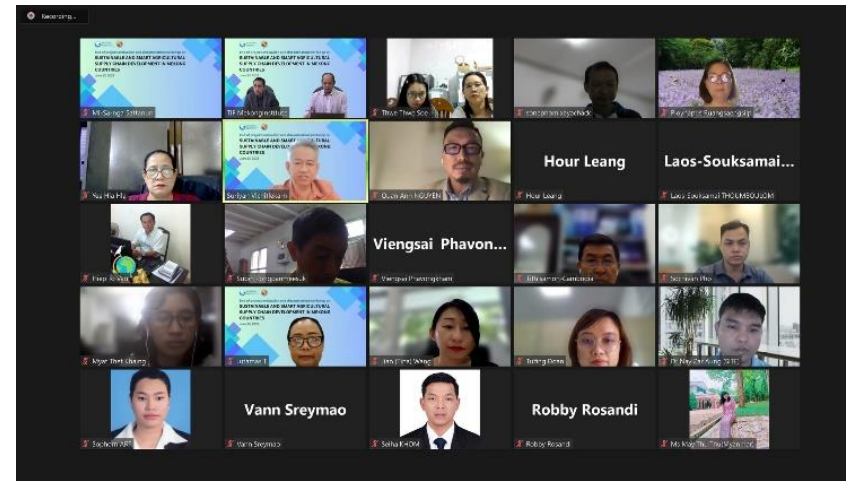
By Sector



- **20** projects implemented
(**11** - long-term projects, **05** - short-term projects,
and **04** - one-off activities)
- **33** Capacity Development (CD) events
- **939** direct participants
- Sex disaggregation of direct participants (in %):
Male : Female = 49.6 : 50.4
- Sector disaggregation of direct participants (in %):
Public : Private = 60.4 : 39.6



- In celebration of **World Food Safety Day 2023**, MI and partner organizations have held a series of events focused on the theme "Food standards save lives" in CLMV.



- End-of-project evaluation workshops** were organized for the following projects:
 - Development and Implementation of Common **Rice Production Standard** in Mekong-Lancang Sub-region (LMCSF)
 - Development of **Rice Pest and Natural Disasters Monitoring, Forecasting and Warning Center** for Sustainable Rice Production under Climate Change in Mekong-Lancang Sub-region (LMCSF)
 - Sustainable and Smart Agricultural Supply Chain Development** in Mekong Countries (MKCF)



- **Mekong Heritage Sites Cooperation:** A mobile application called "Mekong Heritage" was developed and launched in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Besides, multiple MOUs were signed among the five heritage cities of the Mekong region, Seoul city and Jeonju city for future collaboration and cooperation in sustainable and smart tourism development.

Chile -Thailand International Workshop on Trade Negotiation for ASEAN Members
May 8 to 19, 2023 (Online Platform)

Course Outline

- An online **workshop on trade negotiation** was organized for participants from eight ASEAN Member States and India, focusing on exploring techniques, strategies, and approaches to trade negotiation.



- A **desk study** was conducted to provide significant potential inputs for promoting paperless trade practices in the participating countries and contributing to developing the **Cross Border Paperless Trade Agreement (CBPTA)**.



- With the support of GIZ AgriTrade and MI, **the ASEAN Negotiating Group for Agriculture (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, contributing to achieving low-emission agriculture in ASEAN.



- 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.

B. FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

PRIORITY GMS-BASED NEEDS IDENTIFIED FOR PARTNERS



Towards Post COVID-19 Resilient Economies

- 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.



GMS Knowledge Network

- The 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

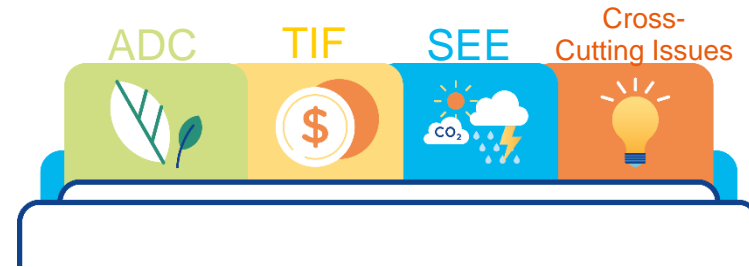


GMS City Nodes Network

- No funding received yet to implement the planned activities.

C. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

i. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)



- Revised the **MEL Policy, Strategy, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**
- Organized **a workshop on MEL Strategy, Policy, and SOPs** for MI staff in February 2023
- Developed and rolled out **a web-based MEL data collection, management, and reporting** system in March 2023 with the aims to:

C. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

ii. Communications and Knowledge Management (CKM)



- **Refined the communication strategy**
- **Upgraded the MI website** for effective data collection, data management, and knowledge sharing
- Produced **corporate and project collaterals**, e.g., fact sheets (4), VDOs (13), publication layout (9), event banners (13), and cover design (8).
- Produced monthly **e-briefings**
- Organized an internal knowledge-sharing on **Microsoft Office Excel Formula and AI tools**
- Regularly updated **MI's website and social media channels** (Facebook 130 posts, Twitter 114 posts, LinkedIn 77 posts, and YouTube 9 videos)
- Increased MI's 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. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

iii. Partnership and Resource Mobilization

C1. Partnership Across GMS Cooperation Frameworks

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



ASEAN



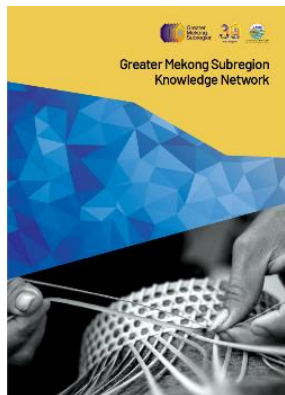
To formalize an MOU on ACMECS



LMC



Mekong-RoK Cooperation



GMS Program:
A stocktaking study under GMS Knowledge Network



Mekong Australia Partnership:
MI and DFAT's collaboration on water-energy-climate nexus



Mekong-Japan Cooperation:
Two collaboration projects on a review of Mekong cooperation frameworks, and a review of ESG adoption

C. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

iii. Partnership and Resource Mobilization

C2. Enhancing Existing Partnership



P.R. China: MI received indication of two project on energy connectivity, and climate & sustainable agriculture and funding of US\$180,000.



TICA: MI explored the south-south cooperation with TICA.



Yunnan Province: MI paid a visit to FAOYN in March to update on-going projects of MI. FAOYN also confirmed to co-host the Mekong Forum 2023 and GB meeting in Kunming in July. The two sides explored other areas of cooperation under GMS/LMC and south-south cooperation.



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



Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region: MI visited FAOGX in March to re-engage Guangxi Province in MI activities. During the trip, MI also explored cooperation with Guangxi Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Industries, Department of Agriculture, and China ASEAN Business Center and re-connected with Guangxi Academy of Social Sciences (GASS).

MI also maintained relationship with other existing development partners and implementing partners, such as the **Embassy of Australia to Thailand, Switzerland Embassy to Thailand, 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.**

C. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

iii. Partnership and Resource Mobilization

C3. Promoting New Partnership

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



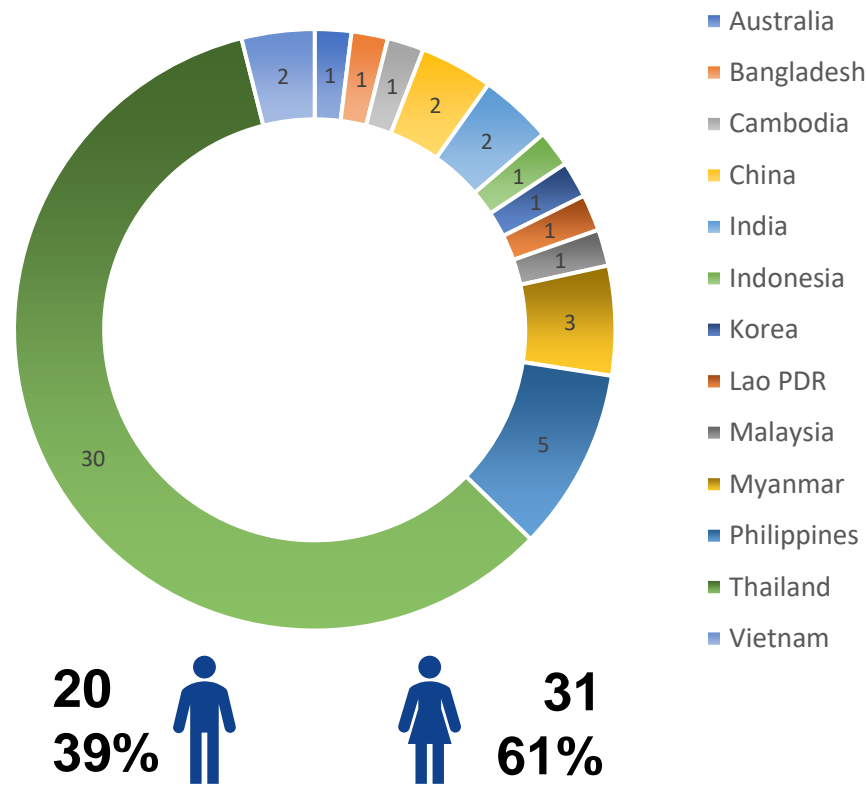
C4. MI Visibility in International Fora

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

C. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

iv. Human Resources Management

MI Staff by Nationalities (51)



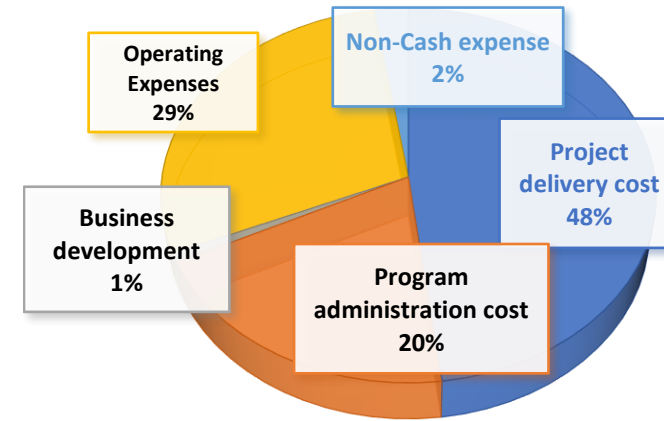
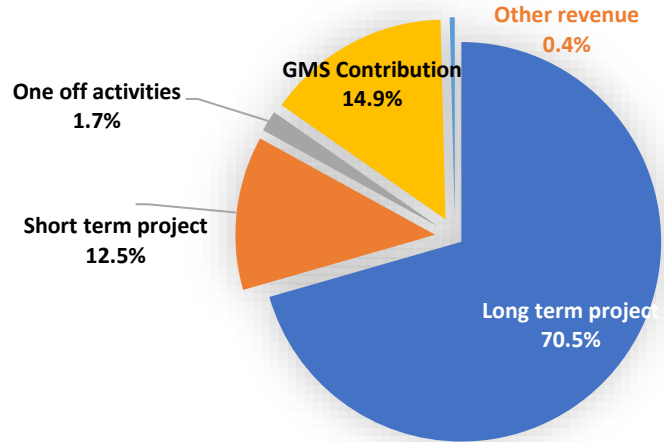
New Staff Joined (8)

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

C. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

v. Financial Management

Statement of Revenue and Expenses for Jan 1-Jun 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 activities	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 earning (deficit)	195,470	169,467	26,002
Non-Cash expense	39,469	32,469	7,000
Net earning (deficit)	156,001	136,999	19,002

USD 352,482



GMS Country Contributions (as of June 30, 2023)



US\$ 20,000
April



US\$ 20,000
Not yet



US\$ 150,000
Not yet



US\$ 292,482
May

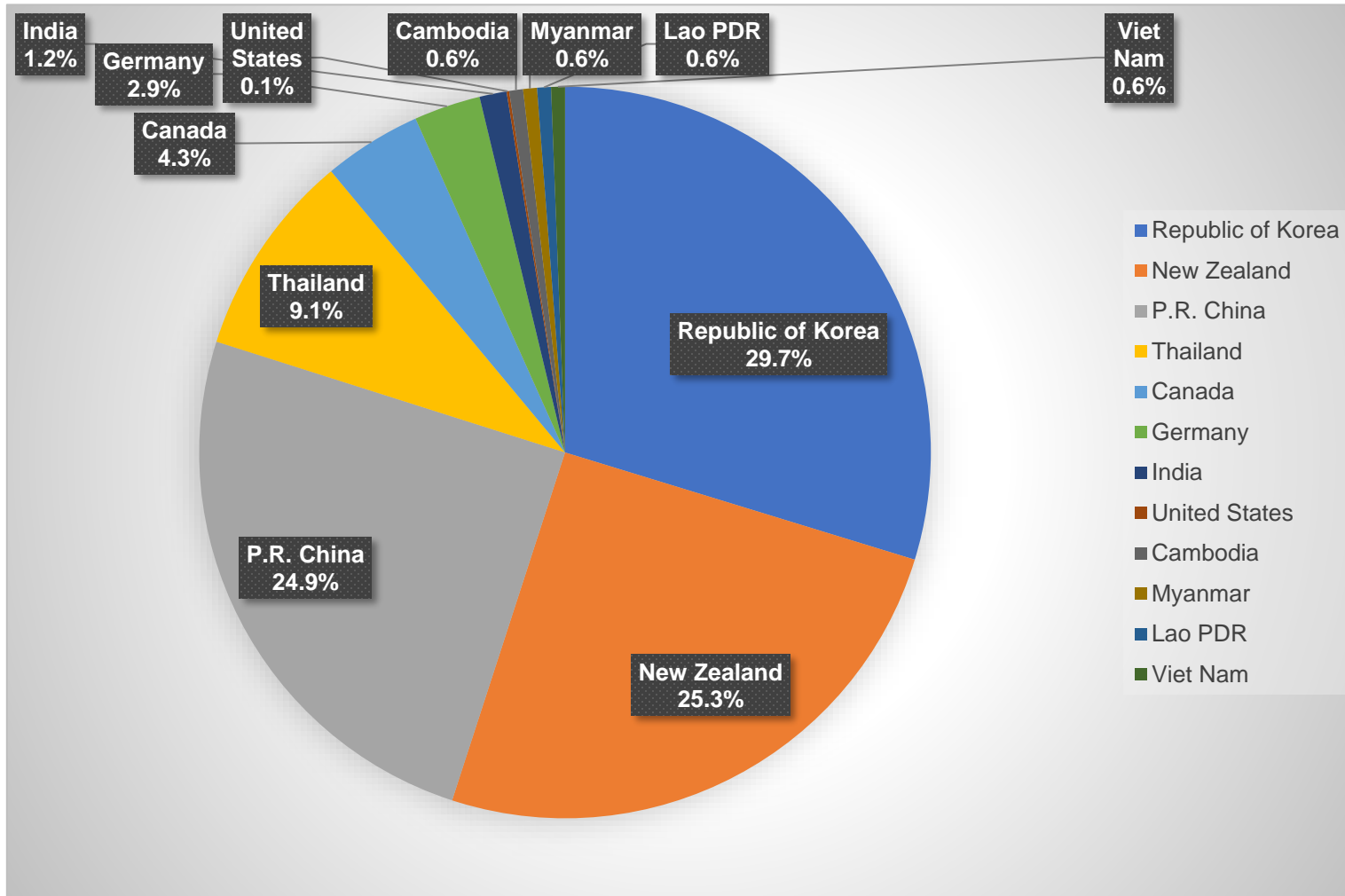


US\$ 20,000
April

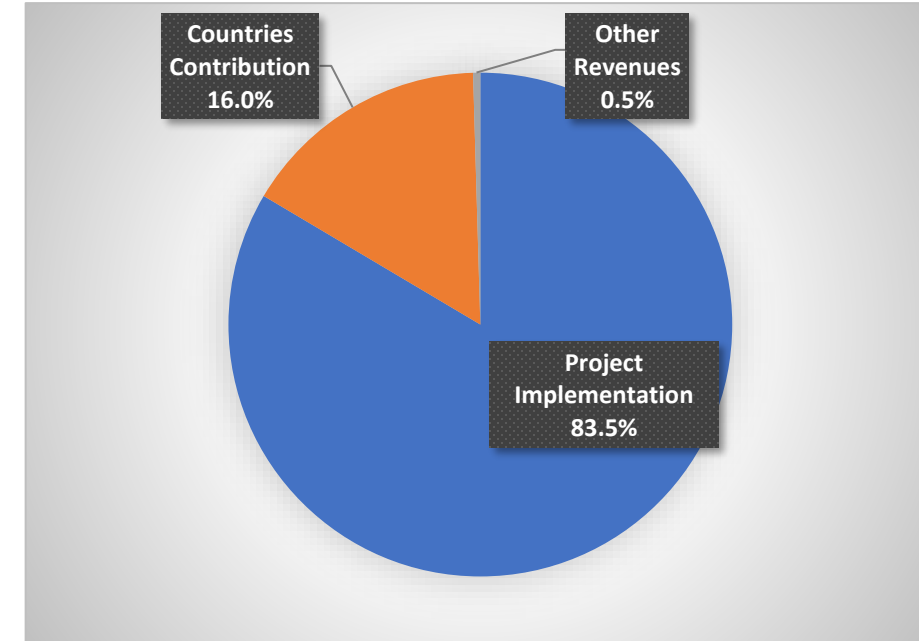


US\$ 20,000
June

% share of MI Revenues by Countries (as of May 2023)



Sources of Revenues (as of May 2023)



- Project implementation revenues: 83.5%**
- Traditional funding source: 45.1% (54%)
 - Non-traditional funding source: 38.4% (46%)

Traditional funding sources: PRC, NZAP, TICA

ITEM 5.2

Results of the **Mekong Forum 2023**





湄公论坛 2023

MEKONG FORUM 2023

推动大湄公河区域变化



About the MEKONG FORUM 2023

- Theme:** Driving Transformative Change in the GMS
- Venue:** Kai Wah Plaza Hotel, Kunming City, Yunnan Province, P. R. China
- Program:** Plenary session, three thematic breakout sessions, and a study tour to Kunming Railway Vocation and Technical College and Kunming International Flora Auction Trading Center
- Format:** Onsite with morning plenary session livestreamed via MI FB page
- Participants:** **304 participants**
- Language:** English with simultaneous interpretation into Chinese
- Organized by:** The event is supported by the People's Government of P. R. China and co-hosted by the People's Government of Yunnan Province and MI.



THEMATIC BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout Session A:
Agricultural Productivity
and Market Access

**Transforming the
Agriculture Sector
toward Increased
Productivity,
Sustainability, and
Resilience**

Breakout Session B:
Trade and Logistics

**Unlocking
Opportunities:
Reshaping Logistics
and Investment
through Emerging
Trends and Green
Practices**

Breakout Session C:
Clean Energy and
Climate Resilience

**Transformative
Pathways
towards Low Carbon
Development in the
Energy Sector**



Top actionable points from Breakout Sessions

A. Agricultural Productivity and Market Access

- **Improve access to agricultural education and training** for farmers, with a focus on modern farming techniques, sustainable practices, and entrepreneurship skills.
- **Utilize learning networks** as innovation hubs that convene stakeholders from across sectors to co-create solutions to shared agricultural challenges.
- **Foster innovative partnerships** between government agencies, private sector businesses, international organizations, and technology providers.
- **Advocate for pro-agriculture policies** that favor sustainable farming practices, reduce trade barriers, subsidize agricultural innovation, and provide farmers with incentives and access to affordable credit.
- **Encourage venture capitalists and government-backed funds** to invest in youth-led, local agri-tech startups.

Top actionable points from Breakout Sessions

B. Trade and Logistics

- **Foster SEZ and investment nodes** on the main railways lines as a way of attracting investment in transit countries to maximize the benefit of new transport linkages
- **Build programmatic synergies** with Mekong regional cooperation mechanisms especially in transport and logistics connectivity and industry and trade development.
- Foster **people to people connectivity** with a headline tourist connection that becomes a brand ("trans Lancang Mekong" similar to "trans Siberia") that can also benefit communities around heritage and cultural destinations en route.

Top actionable points from Breakout Sessions

C. Clean Energy and Climate Resilience

- **Provide operational support to GMS/LM energy cooperation.** Conduct research on gaps and promote public-private partnership on energy transition, energy efficiency improvement, and GHG emission reduction.
- **Promote Capacity Building and Technology Transfer.** Enhance technical expertise and skills related to energy transition. Facilitate technology transfer and cooperation in research and development of renewable energy technologies within the region.
- **Promote Financial Access.** Explore mechanisms for providing financial and technical support to countries or regions within the cooperation framework. This can include facilitating access to climate finance, establishing regional funding mechanisms, and leveraging international partnerships and initiatives.
- **Engage Stakeholders and Enhance Public Participation.** Foster active engagement of stakeholders and encourage public participation in the decision-making process. This could lead to greater support and effective implementation of energy efficiency and clean energy initiatives.

ITEM 5.3



Update on the Implementation Plan of **Mid-term Review of MI Strategic Plan 2021-2025**

Update on the Implementation Plan of Mid-term Review (MTR) of MI Strategic Plan 2021-2025

- To be conducted during **August-October 2023**, guided by MI SMT and led by MEL Unit
- **A regional consultant** was hired to oversee the whole MTR process and **provide technical guidance, facilitation, and report writing support to MI.**
- **An in-house reflection and learning workshop among MI staff** will be organized on 3 August 2023 identify gaps and challenges and propose future course correction actions.
- **Key Data Collection Methods** include **Literature Review, Online Survey, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) with key MI stakeholders**

Stakeholders to be consulted during the Mid-term Review process

- MI Council Members
- MI Steering Committee Members
- MI Coordinating Agency Members
- Donors/ Development Partners (INGO, Governments, Business)
- Collaborating/Implementing Partners (Public and Private Sectors and Institutions)
- Project participants/alumni
- MI Secretariat (Project Leads, Senior Staff)

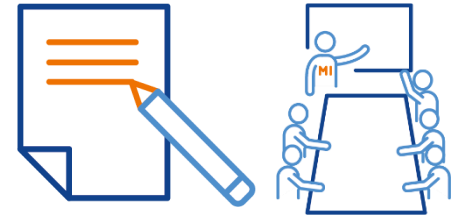


Support Needed from the Steering Committee and CA Members



- **Identifying Key Informants** from the ministries/departments for the MTR interviews
- **Requesting concerned government staff** to attend the online survey
- **Attending the interviews and providing feedback and guidance** on reviewing the MI Strategic Plan 2021-2025
- **Providing feedback on the findings and recommendations** of the MTR report

After the MTR process...



- The **findings** will be shared with **MI Steering Committee members in a special meeting** to collect their feedback (in November 2023).
- The **results and recommendations for adjustment of the 2nd half of the MI Strategic Plan** will be submitted to the **GB 2/2023** for consideration and approval (in December 2023).
- A **Development Partners' Meeting** will be organized to share the MTR results and seek extended support in implementing the Strategic Plan by MI in the remaining two years (in December 2023).

Group Photo



Refreshment/ Break



ITEM 6



Highlights and Recommendations from the Steering Committee on **Matters for Consideration**



ITEM 6

- 6.1 Revised Activity Plan of 2H, 2023
- 6.2 Budget Revision 2023
- 6.3 Audited Financial Report 2022
- 6.4 The Results of Executive Director Performance Evaluation 2022, and End of Term Performance Evaluation and Term of Office

ITEM 6.1



Revised Activity Plan of 2H, 2023

6.1. REVISED ACTIVITY PLAN OF 2H, 2023

6.1.1. Core Development Areas



Department	Approved Work Plan in December 2022				Revised Work Plan in July 2023			
	# of Projects	Long-Term	Short-Term	One-off	# of Projects	Long-Term	Short-Term	One-off
ADC	5	3	2	0	8	4	4	0
SEE	6	1	4	1	10	1	5	4
TIF	6	6	0	0	10	6	2	2
Finance & Operations	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total Projects	17	10	6	1	29	11	11	7

6.1.1. Core Development Areas

Key Additions in Agricultural Development and Commercialization



- A one-year project titled “**Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture Technologies and Innovation in Lower Mekong Countries**” aims to enhance further the efforts of MI in promoting the adoption of climate-smart agriculture initiatives in Lower Mekong Countries, specifically in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam.
- An assessment of the “**Post-pandemic Response for Food Systems in the Lancang-Mekong Region**” aims to provide a framework that will be useful in enhancing the post-pandemic resilience and sustainability of the food systems in LM countries.
- **A training program on greening the value chain** will disseminate the crucial impacts of climate change on agriculture and food systems and the existing green finance, which will support adaptation initiatives in the region. which may support adaptation initiatives in the region.



- "**Accelerating the Development of Regional Logistics Channels and Transportation Infrastructure for the Lancang-Mekong Regional in the Context of the China-Lao PDR-Thailand Railway**" aims to tackle the challenges associated with logistics channels and transportation infrastructure to enhance connectivity along the China-Lao and Thailand Railway.
- The "**Survey of the Mekong Regional Cooperation Frameworks and their strategies and responses to the emerging regional and global issues**" seeks to assess the role of these frameworks in tackling global challenges, identify potential gaps in their approach, and use the findings to propose sustainable and scalable co-creation projects aligned with the Mekong-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision.
- The **Chile -Thailand International Workshop on Trade Negotiation for ASEAN Members** aims to provide sound knowledge and skills for trade negotiations for ASEAN country members in the world trade context.
- **A desk study on "Paperless Trade"** will provide significant potential inputs for promoting paperless trade practices in the participating countries and contribute to developing the Cross Border Paperless Trade Agreement (CBPTA).



- The project “**Promoting Greater Energy Connectivity for Equitable Development and Growth in the Lancang-Mekong Region**” intends to identify implementation paths and approaches for deepening the regional power connectivity and cooperation of key areas to accelerate sustainable development in the LM Region.
- The project “**Upstream single-use plastics reduction solutions for Khon Kaen's street food complexes**” aims to address the prevalent issue of single-use plastics in Khon Kaen's street food complexes. The project endeavors to combat the regular practice of food packaging and serving using single-use plastics by adopting the city as a case model.



- The project “**Comprehensive Human Resource Development for the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation**” aims to support economic growth in the LM Region with skilled and knowledgeable human resource supplementation.
- Under the theme “**Driving Transformative Change in the** GMS”, the Mekong Forum aims to shine a spotlight on the GMS, showcasing its transformative potential in driving sustainable economic growth and reclaiming its position as a growth center while advancing the shared vision of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Development Initiative (GDI).
- A report on “**Business Development Plan for the Regional Public Health Laboratory (RPHL) Network**” will highlight essential factors for establishing a well-functioning secretariat and presents various governance models and business plans to enhance the Regional Public Health Laboratory (RPHL) Network, which was initiated by the Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand.



Mekong-Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF) Management

- The project "**Capacity Building on Regional Project Identification, Design, Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation of MKCF project**" is rolled out aiming to enhance the capacities of the development agencies and government officials in the Mekong countries and improve understanding of the regional integration process through designing and delivering collaborative development projects for mutual benefit by boosting the quality of project identification, design, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Support in Establishing the ACMECS Interim Secretariat (AIS)

- **The draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to be signed between Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and MI is now under the review of MoFA's legal team. It is likely that the MOU will be signed once the new cabinet of Thailand is set up.



Recruitment Plan – 9 staff (incl. new and replaced positions)

- 1 SEE Director
- 1 SEE Program Coordinator
- 1 ADC Program Coordinator
- 1 IT Manager (an upgraded position)
- 1 HR Officer (to join MI on July 17, 2023)
- 1 ED Secretary (to join MI on July 21, 2023)
- 2 Project Operations Support Assistants (replacement)
- 1 Accountant (temporary)

ITEM 6.2



Budget Revision 2023

6.2. Budget Revision 2023

No	Description	Annual Budget 2023	Revised Budget 2023	Dif.	% of Dif.
	Program Revenue				
1	Long term project	1,954,446	1,980,622	26,176	1%
2	Short term project	401,951	407,203	5,252	1%
3	One off activity	39,313	39,313	-	0%
4	Opportunity fund	700,827	960,501	259,674	37%
	Total program revenue	3,096,537	3,387,638	291,101	12%
5	Country contribution	530,000	522,482	(7,518)	-1%
6	Other revenue	21,000	11,932	(9,068)	-43%
	Total GMS Contribution	551,000	534,415	(16,585)	-3%
	Grand total, including the fund opportunity	3,647,537	3,922,053	274,516	8%
	Expenses				
1	Project delivery cost	1,440,322	1,844,785	404,462	28%
2	Program administration expenses	647,758	752,716	104,958	16%
2	Business development	64,940	50,388	(14,552)	-22%
4	Operation expenses	1,051,985	1,078,633	26,648	3%
	Total expenses for program and operations	3,205,005	3,726,521	521,516	16%
5	Projected expenditures from opportunity funds	311,216	-	(311,216)	-100%
	Earning (Deficit) before non-cash expense	131,316	195,531	64,216	49%
6	Non-sash expense	84,000	108,698	24,698	29%
	Grand total expenses	3,600,221	3,835,219	234,998	7%
	Earning (Deficit) after non-cash expense	47,316	86,833	39,518	84%

Projected Opportunity Funds in 2023	Amount
Planned	\$ 700,827
Actual received	\$ 960,501
Achievement %	137%

Submitted Opportunity Funds	Amount
Actual received	960,501
Achievement %	37%

- The revised annual revenue would be increased compared to the original annual budget because MI's opportunity funding has exceeded the plan.
- MI's financial performance in 2023 is expected to be positive, considering SMT would monitor and take required action from time to time.

ITEM 6.3



Audited Financial Report 2022

6.3 Audited Financial Report 2022

Forecast of Annual Financial Performance 2022 **VS.** Result of the Annual Audit Report 2022

Description	Total Forecast	Audited	Variance
Revenue	3,103,235	3,283,856	180,621
Expense	2,905,347	3,017,831	112,484
Earning/(Deficit)	197,888	266,025	68,137
Non-Cash expense	132,213	123,107	(9,106)
Earning/(Deficit) - Non-cash	65,675	142,918	77,243

- There was **no material audit finding** of MI Financial Statement 2022.
- **The total revenue increased more than the forecast revenue** because a few approved projects were not included in the forecast.

			Difference	
	2022	2021	Amount	%
REVENUE				
Project Revenue	2,754,030	1,420,923	1,333,107	94%
Countries contribution	503,898	544,627	-40,729	-7%
Others revenue	25,928	80,403	-54,475	-68%
TOTAL	3,283,856	2,045,953	1,237,903	61%
EXPENSES				
Program expenses	1,541,981	571,944	970,037	170%
Program administration	581,912	498,381	83,531	17%
Business and organization development	46,122	19,164	26,958	141%
Operation expenses	847,816	726,006	121,810	17%
Total expenses	3,017,831	1,815,495	1,202,336	66%
Earning (Deficit) before non-cash operation	266,025	230,458	35,567	15%
Non-cash operation	123,107	132,911	-9,804	-7%
Earning (Deficit)	142,918	97,547	45,371	47%

- MI's financial performance for 2022 is healthy and sound. **MI closed 2022 with a total revenue of USD 3,283,856 and a total expense of USD 3,140,938.** Therefore, MI **gained a total amount of USD 142,918.**

ITEM 6.4



The Results of Executive Director Performance Evaluation 2022, and End of Term Performance Evaluation and Term of Office

6.6 Endorsement of the Results of Executive Director Performance Evaluation 2022, and End of Term Performance Evaluation and Term of Office

Appointed by the Council at its 2/2022 meeting, the Sub-committee met on 20 June 2023 to review ED's performance of his first term (September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2023). The Sub-committee highly evaluated ED's performance and agreed to submit the following conclusion and recommendations to the Council for approval:

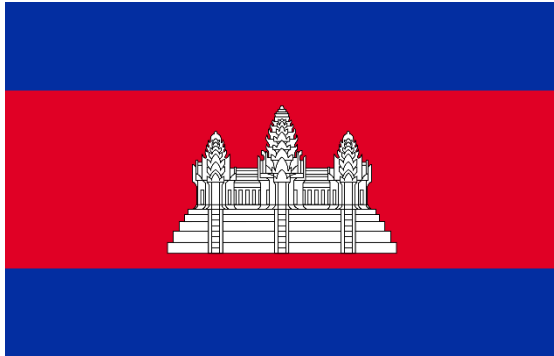
- Propose to **renew ED's contract for the second term**, starting from September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2026,
- His **salary and benefits will be increased** one step from the current salary step.
- Upon approval by the Council, **MI Secretariat will prepare the Offer Letter and the Employment Contract** for his second term for the in-coming Council Chairman for signature.

ITEM 7



- **Recommendations and Commitments of Council Members and Key Development Partners**

ITEM 7



Recommendations and Commitments of Council Member

ITEM 7



Recommendations and Commitments of Council Member

ITEM 7



Recommendations and
Commitments of
Council Member

ITEM 7



Recommendations and
Commitments of
Council Member

ITEM 7



Business Representative
Dr. Narongchai Akarasanee

ITEM 7



Honorary Advisor
Dr. Jean-Pierre A. Verbiest

ITEM 7



Recommendations and Commitments of Council Member

ITEM 7



Recommendations and Commitments of Council Member

ITEM 8



Appointments

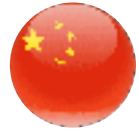


ITEM 8

- 8.1 Appointment of Steering Committee Members
(Term: August 5, 2023 – August 4, 2025)

Appointment of Steering Committee Members (Term: August 5, 2023 – August 4, 2025)

Country Representatives



P.R. China

Mr. Ke Yousheng

Permanent Representative of China to UNESCAP
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Thailand



Lao PDR.

Mr. Khamphinh Philakone

Deputy Director General
Department of Economic Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Cambodia

Mr. Hang Suvidya

Deputy Secretary General
General Secretariat for Population and Development
Ministry of Planning



Thailand

Mrs. Arunee Hiam

Deputy Director General
Thailand International Cooperation Agency
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Myanmar

Dr. Aung Moe Chai

Deputy Director General
Foreign Economic Relations Department
Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations



Vietnam

Mr. Nguyen Viet Ha

Official
Foreign Economic Relations Department
Ministry of Planning and Investment

ITEM 8



Date and Venue of **Governing Board Meeting No. 2/2023**

ITEM 9



Other Matters

Housekeeping Announcement

Friday, July 28, 2023

- 13:30:** Transport back to Kai Wah Plaza Hotel
- 14:10:** Arrive at Kai Wah Plaza Hotel, Proceed to Check-out from the Kai Wah Plaza Hotel
- You have the option to leave your luggage at the Kai Wah Plaza Hotel, and bring only the essential items needed for overnight in Dali City.
 - In Dali, both July 28 and July 29 are expected to be rainy, with the highest daytime temperature reaching approximately 24 degrees Celsius. At night, the temperature drops to a minimum of 18 degrees Celsius.
- 15:00:** Transport from Kai Wah Plaza Hotel for the train station
Meeting Point is at hotel lobby, 2nd floor
- 16:00:** Transport from Kunming to Dali City by High-Speed train D8714
- 18:05:** Arrive at Dali City
- 18:30:** Welcome Dinner hosted by Government of Dali Prefecture
- 21:30:** Proceed Checking in to Atour Hotel Dali ancient City hotel
- Hotel: Atour Hotel Dali ancient City hotel
No. 2, Yuju Road, Lv Yu Unit, Dali 671003 China

Saturday, July 29, 2023

- 07:30 – 09:00:** Breakfast, and proceed check-out from the Atour Hotel Dali ancient City hotel
- AM:** Excursion Tour
- Visit the Cangshan Mountain
 - Visit the Chongshen Temple
- PM:** Excursion Tour
- Xizhou Ancient Town
- 19:53:** Transport back from Dali to Kunming by High-Speed train D8740
- 22:00:** Arrive at Kunming City, Proceed Checking in to Kai Wah Plaza Hotel

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Departure of Governing Board Member to their origin countries



MEKONG
INSTITUTE

ASEAN
PRIZE 

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