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8TH CALL FOR THE SUBMISSION OF

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

MEKONG - ROK COOPERATION FUND (MKCF)

CULTURE AND TOURISM

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

INFRASTRUCTURE

ENVIRONMENT

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MEKONG – ROK COOPERATION FUND (MKCF)

8TH CALL FOR MKCF REGIONAL PROJECT PROPOSALS

Introduction

Following the launch of the Mekong – Republic of Korea (ROK) partnership in 2011, the Mekong – ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) was established in 2013 to support the implementation of cooperation activities initiated by the Mekong countries and the ROK under the Mekong – ROK cooperation framework.

The MKCF encourages cooperation in seven priority sectors outlined in the "Mekong – Han River Declaration for Establishing Partnership for People, Prosperity and Peace" adopted by Mekong-ROK Leaders during the 1st Mekong – ROK Summit in 2019.

The Fund provides grants for regional projects (benefits more than one country in the Mekong region - Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Thailand). Such a project is aligned with the country's priorities to address national issues that facilitate the regional integration process. It can be implemented in a single country. However, benefits should be shared among the countries in the Mekong region and the ROK.

Criteria

The Fund provides grants to support catalytic and innovative activities in the seven priority sectors: (1) Culture and Tourism, (2) Human Resources Development, (3) Agriculture and Rural Development, (4) Infrastructure, (5) Information and Communication Technology (ICT), (6) Environment, and (7) Non-traditional Security Challenges.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS FOR EACH PRIORITY SECTORS:

Sector	Examples of the projects
(1) Culture and Tourism	Preservation and restoration of cultural heritage sites / Expansion of youth education in culture, arts, sports, and creative economy / Cultural tourism development, including creative industries on arts, music including cultural exchanges and cultural entrepreneurship /Promotion of cultural and creative industries / Empowering cultural professionals and enhancing networks, knowledge, and exchange among creative agents among Mekong and ROK / Smart tourism - use of digital tools and services to advance sustainable and smart tourism / Sustainable investment promotion in Mekong tourism sector, etc.
(2) Human Resources Development	Promotion of education and skill development in digital age / Cooperative alliance among the Mekong countries for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) / Career and Technical Education (CTE) / Capacity building for MSMEs and entrepreneurs to enhance job opportunities and successful trade and investment environment in the Mekong countries / Greening TVET, new skills, upskilling/reskilling on emerging industry needs, etc.
(3) Agriculture and Rural Development	Development of regional agricultural value chain / Strengthening regional agriculture supply chains / Mekong Agricultural productivity improvement / Rural finance and market development / Digital rural transformation for agricultural development in the Mekong region / Promotion of food security and food safety, etc.
(4) Infrastructure	Capacity building in regional project management related to infrastructure (road, power communication etc.) / Critical infrastructure development in rural areas for agriculture development, etc.
(5) Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	Application of ICT for regional disaster risk management / climate change adaptation (e.g. early warning system) / Estimation of crop production with ICT / Development of regional agriculture market information system / MSME Digitization and Fintech / E-commerce & paperless trade and customs facilitation / Development of alliance with the Mekong countries on ICT infrastructure / regional connectivity / ICT application and broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas, application of ICT in disaster management, application of ICT in production sectors (industry, agriculture) and transport and logistics / ICT application in public governance / Promote digital transformation and encourage use of internet of things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big data, Block chain technology and digital content, etc.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS FOR EACH PRIORITY SECTORS:

Sector	Examples of the projects
(6) Environment	Water resources management, rain water harvesting, etc. / Promote the use of electric vehicle (EV) / Sustainable management of natural resources / Climate change mitigation and adaptation measures / Sustainable transport and logistics Promotion of ESG in production sectors / Green infrastructure for climate resilience in the Mekong / Use and application of traditional knowledge in natural resources management, water and forest conservation and management, etc.
(7) Non-traditional Security Challenges	Facilitation of safe labor migration within the Mekong region / Disaster management for natural hazards / Clearance of explosive remnants of war, illegal drug trafficking, human trafficking / Prevention of in security areas to address transnational crime, terrorism and violent extremism / Cyber security to build an open and secure cyber space / Safe Mekong, Combating Illicit Trafficking, surveillance techniques and transboundary coordination, etc.

Eligible Requirements of Proponents

- Government agencies/Autonomous Organizations from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand (CLMVT), and organizations from the ROK.
- Non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and training institutes from CLMVT and the ROK.
- International Organizations, including UN Agencies, and other International Non-Governmental Organizations having operating offices in the Mekong countries and ROK.
- Experience in implementing development projects for at least 5 years.
- Assistance to individuals will not be provided.

Budget / Duration

- The contribution of the Fund per project proposal is a minimum of 300,000 USD and a maximum of 1,000,000 USD.
- The fund encourages projects promoting 3-way (triangular) or 4-way (quadripartite) collaboration with other donors, including but not limited to the Mekong River Commission (MRC), Japan, United States (US), Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Canada, etc. When needed, extra budgetary funds should be leveraged to facilitate such projects.
- The fund provides grants for joint activities with a regional or international entity, formalized through a cooperation agreement and considered regional.
- Activities that are not eligible for funding include construction of buildings and payment of rent or utilities.
- The time frame of the project should be 2-3 years.

EOI SUBMISSON

Expression of Interest (EOI) Submission

- The proponent is required to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) when applying for the MKCF.
- The EOI should contain all the required components.
- The EOI, as per the prescribed format, should be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the respective country by May 10, 2024
- International Organizations, including UN Agencies and other International Non-Governmental Organizations having operating offices in the Mekong countries and ROK, should submit the EOI to ROK MOFA by May 10, 2024.
- Only shortlisted EOIs will be contacted for the next phase of the application process.

MKCF MOFA FOCAL POINTS

Country	Focal point in the MOFA	Email
Cambodia	Ms. Angkearbos Hong	hongangkearbos@gmail.com
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Thailand	Ms.Lalitpat Kerdkrung	lalitpat.k@mfa.go.th
ROK	Mr. Park Seoyoung	rokmekong2014@mofa.go.kr

To know more about the MKCF, please download the MKCF Management Manual at: **https://mekongrok.org/call_for_proposals/Guidelines_doc.pdf**

You may also scan the QR code below:

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