



**MEKONG  
INSTITUTE**

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the People's Government of  
Yunnan Province, China

## CONCEPT NOTE

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# Land-Based Connectivity Development in the Lancang-Mekong Region

Regional Workshop Cum Structured Learning Visit  
along the Economic Corridors in Thailand, Lao PDR and Cambodia

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September 18-27, 2024



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## Land-Based Connectivity Development in the Lancang-Mekong Region Regional Workshop Cum Structural Learning Visit along the Economic Corridors in Thailand, Lao PDR and Cambodia

September 18-27, 2024

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# INTRODUCTION

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Since 1998, the Greater Mekong Subregion has been using economic corridors to promote economic growth and development that goes beyond the impact of a road or highway project. In recent years, the establishment of Economic Corridors has resulted in an enhanced level of connectivity within the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and beyond to Lancang-Mekong region.

According to Asian Development Bank (ADB), an economic corridor is much more complex than a mere road connecting two cities. It involves not only the development of infrastructure but also the crafting of laws and regulations that make it easier to do business, access markets, and conduct other activities that support trade and development in a comprehensive manner. This includes factories, tourism, trade, environmental protection activities and other aspects of the economy and social development of an area. Economic corridors are an integrated system of roads, rails, and ports that connect GMS countries. They link centers of production, including manufacturing hubs, industrial clusters, and economic zones, as well as centers of demand, such as capitals and major cities. They act as gateways to the subregion for regional and international trade.

Economic corridors bring a wide range of benefits, far beyond what any single project can deliver. There are three main economic corridors in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS): the (i) North-South Economic Corridor (NSEC); (ii) East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC); and Southern Economic Corridor (SEC). Plans are underway to expand these corridors, and strengthen links between GMS nations' capital cities.

The NSEC R3a and R3b are particularly significant as they serve as crucial pathways linking China to ASEAN countries. The infrastructure of these NSECs comprises all-weather roads that span from Kunming to Bangkok through Myanmar (R3b) and via Lao PDR and the region of Thailand (R3a). Additionally, the land connectivity systems are being further improved through initiatives like the construction of the fourth international bridge across the Mekong River, connecting Houayxay and Chiang Khong on R3a. Moreover, road improvement projects funded by Thailand and China contribute to enhancing the connectivity between GMS countries and the rest of ASEAN members through the ASEAN highways.

The EWEC links important commercial areas of Mawlamyine-Myawaddy in Myanmar; Mae Sot-Phitsanulok-Khon Kaen-Kalasin-Mukdahan in Thailand; Savannakhet-Dansavanh in Lao PDR; and Lao Bao-Hue-Dong Ha-Da Nang in Vietnam. From the Da Nang pier, products can be transferred via cargo ships to arrive at Hanoi, Vietnam and Southern China. In the eastern side, from Khon Kaen, the EWEC will be interconnected with NSEC and further reach to inner part of P.R. China through the new and potential Thailand-Lao-China railway. The railway will establish a connection between China and Singapore, fostering new linkages between the Lancang-Mekong (LM) countries and global markets.

The SEC is a vital passageway linking Cambodia with six provinces in Thailand including Bangkok, four regions in Vietnam including Ho Chi Minh City, and six provinces in Lao PDR. It also reaches to Dawei in Myanmar. It covers the development of the following subcorridors:

- The Central Subcorridor: Bangkok-Phnom Penh-Ho Chi Minh City-Vung Tau;
- The Northern Subcorridor: Bangkok-Siem Reap-Stung Treng-Rattanakiri-O Yadov-Pleiku-Quy Nhon;

- The Southern Coastal Subcorridor: Bangkok-Trat-Koh Kong-Kampot-Ha Tien-Ca Mau City-Nam Can; and
- The Intercorridor Link: Sihanoukville-Phnom Penh-Kratie-Stung Treng-Dong Kralor (Tra Pang Kriel)-Pakse-Savannakhet, which links the three SEC subcorridors with the East-West Economic Corridor.

However, there are numerous obstacles that must be overcome. These include the fluctuating costs of transportation due to variations in transport and logistics capabilities, as well as the challenges posed by transloading freight between different rail track gauges. Additionally, there is a need for well-developed infrastructure and logistical services that connect train stations with other modes of transportation, production centers, and consumption hubs in LM countries. To fully capitalize on the advantages of land-based connectivity projects and foster trade and investment in the region, the importance of a comprehensive multi-modal transport system cannot be overstated. Achieving this requires strong coordination among stakeholders in GMS countries, including rail, road, port, and logistics service providers. By aligning plans and programs, these entities can ensure a smooth flow of goods and services, reducing both cost and time involved in the process.

Consequently, the project aims to establish a platform for stakeholders to exchange information with the goal of harmonizing operational procedures and border crossing formalities through an effective coordination mechanism. The project will provide an opportunity for on-site assessments and interactions with key stakeholders in Thailand, Laos, and China, along the EWEC and SEC to offer practical recommendations for harmonizing operational procedures, border crossing formalities, and facilities to enhance intra-regional trade. Ultimately, this will leverage the land connectivity infrastructure to accommodate and amplify the impact of economic activities in the GMS economic corridors.



Source: Economic Corridors in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), ADB

<https://greatermekong.org/g/economic-corridors-greater-mekong-subregion>

# OBJECTIVE & ANTICIPATED RESULTS

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## Objectives

The primary goal is to present a chance for the Lancang-Mekong (LM) countries to take advantage of improved land connectivity and transform it into economic corridors in the GMS. The project has the following main objectives:

- a) Identify and explore new cooperation needs and opportunities related to land-based connectivity in the GMS, with a particular emphasis on linkages of NSEC, EWEC and SEC.
- b) Assist participants in generating ideas for cooperation that can effectively leverage the emerging opportunities provided by land-based connectivity in the GMS.
- c) Acquire information regarding cross-border formalities and procedures, aiming to simplify and expedite border inspection processes (customs, sanitary, and phyto-sanitary) and improve cross-border facilities.
- d) Develop recommendations for harmonizing operational procedures and border crossing formalities through an efficient coordination mechanism.

## Anticipated Results

- a) Increased understanding of emerging collaboration requirements and prospects related to land-based connectivity in the Lancang-Mekong Region.
- b) Formation of cooperative efforts to reap benefits from emerging opportunities in land-based connectivity within the GMS.
- c) Enhanced comprehension of cross-border regulations and processes to streamline and expedite border inspections (including customs, sanitary, and phyto-sanitary measures) and facilities.
- d) Implementation of a cooperative mechanism to harmonize operational procedures and border crossing formalities through an efficient coordination system.

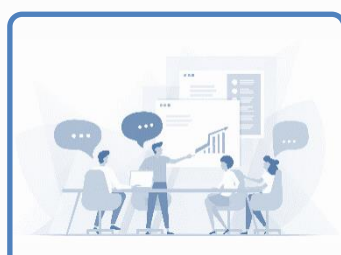
At the end of the project, it is expected that participants will acquire knowledge regarding the development of land-based connectivity in the GMS region, specifically focusing on understanding strategies that can foster cooperation by addressing gaps, needs, and emerging opportunities. Additionally, the project aims to identify key inputs necessary to harmonize operational procedures and border crossing formalities through an effective coordination mechanism. Participants will also be tasked with devising country strategies to facilitate trade and investment, optimizing the utilization of land-based connectivity infrastructure developments. Lastly, the project aims to enhance networking capacities among relevant organizations in the GMS region involved in trade, transport, logistics, infrastructure, customs, and businesses.

# PARTICIPANTS

The project target group will include mid-level officials from trade, industry, transport and logistics, economic zone development related organizations from P.R. China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, and Thailand.

This will comprise of 24 participants comprising of 12 officials from P.R. China and remaining 12 participants from Cambodia (3), Laos (3), Myanmar (1), Thailand (3) and Vietnam (2).

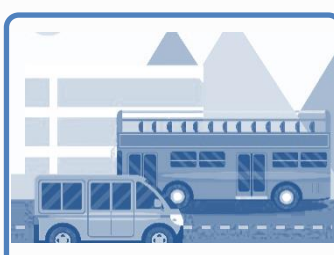
## PROJECT ACTIVITIES & AGENDA



### Introductory Workshop

**September 18-19, 2024**

Khon Kaen, Thailand



### Structured Learning Visits

**September 20-26, 2024**

**Thailand:** Khon Kaen-Mukdahan  
**Lao PDR:** Savannakhet-Pakse-Si Phan Don  
**Cambodia:** Stung Treng-Siem Reap



### Synthesis & Evaluation Workshop

**September 27, 2024**

Siem Reap, Cambodia

The ten-day event will be comprised of

- a one-day workshop – Introductory Workshop on Day 2,
- a 7-day of Structured Learning Visit along the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC) and the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) on Day 3-9, and
- a one-day workshop – Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop on Day 10 to share learnings obtained from the trip.

### 1. Introductory workshop (Day 2)

The Mekong Institute will host a one-day introductory workshop in Khon Kaen, Thailand on Day 2. The workshop will invite 24 participants who represent key stakeholders of trade, industry, transport and logistics, border special economic zone development, and related organizations.

**Workshop objectives:**

- 1) Provide an overview of economic corridors, economic zone development and land connectivity projects in the Lancang-Mekong Region.
- 2) Discuss the importance of a multimodal transport network in the GMS for promoting trade and investment.
- 3) Address current challenges related to operational procedures and border crossing formalities for intra-regional trade in the GMS.
- 4) Develop a study plan to gather information from specific visit sites, leading to recommendations for harmonizing operational procedures, border crossing formalities, updating cross-border facilities, and proposing effective coordination mechanisms among relevant agencies.
- 5) Offer guidelines for preparing structured learning visits, group discussions, and individual field assignments.

**Agenda: Day 1-2, Khon Kaen, Thailand**

Day 1: Participants arrive at Mekong Institute, Khon Kaen

Day 2: Introductory Workshop in Khon Kaen, Thailand

| Day & Hours | Topics                                                                                                                                    | Method                                 | By whom                 |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 09.00-09:30 | Inauguration and introduction of the participants and Introduction of the Workshop cum Structured Learning Visit                          | Speeches and Presentation              | MI                      |
| 09:30-10:30 | Introduction to economic corridors and land connectivity projects in the GMS and significance of multi modal transport network in the GMS | Presentation and discussion            | Expert                  |
| 10:30-11:00 | Coffee Break                                                                                                                              |                                        |                         |
| 11:00-12:00 | Discussion on current issues on operational procedures, border crossing formalities for intra-regional trade in the GMS.                  | Group work & presentation              | Expert and Participants |
| 12:00-13:30 | Lunch                                                                                                                                     |                                        |                         |
| 13:30-15:00 | Guidelines and Group Discussion for preparing the Structured Learning Visits including individual field assignment.                       | Presentation & Group discussion        | Expert and Participants |
| 15:00-15:30 | Coffee Break                                                                                                                              |                                        |                         |
| 15:30-17:00 | Formulate individual study plan to obtain information from specific visit sites                                                           | Individual assignment and Presentation | Expert and Participants |

**2. Structured Learning Visit (SLV) (Day 3-Day 10)**

From Day 3 to Day 10, all participants will be facilitated by MI to attend the Structured Learning Visit along the EWEC and SEC.

**Objectives:**

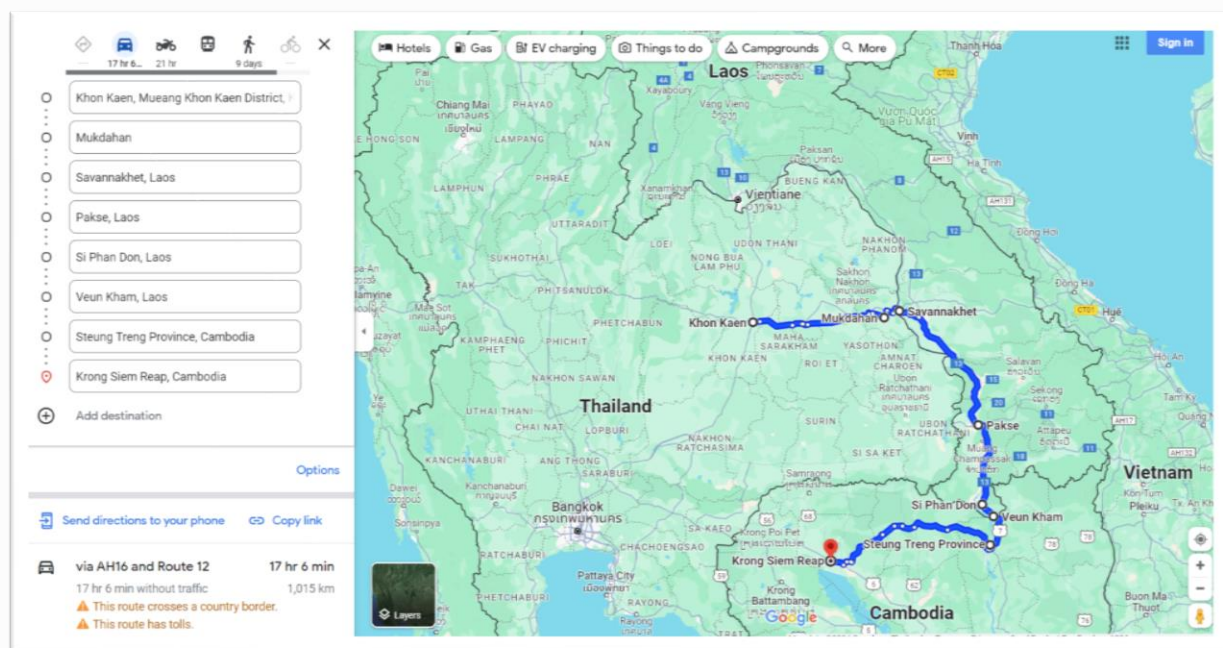
- Acquire firsthand experience and knowledge regarding land-based connectivity projects and services by interacting with local economy development authority and economic zone development management teams of the site visits.



- Collect information about operational procedures and services to facilitate trade and investment promotion along the economic corridor. Gather information about ongoing projects, plans, and programs concerning cross-border operational procedures.
- Obtain details about cross-border economic zone development, including infrastructure, facilities, customs, modernization plans, and other relevant information.
- Collect information regarding best practices.

#### Travel route:

- EWEC: Khon Kaen to Mukdahan, Thailand, and Savannakhet, Lao PDR
- SEC: Pakse, Si Phan Don and Veun Kham, Lao PDR; Stung Treng and Siem Reap, Cambodia



Travel route, created by MI via Google Map

#### Day 3: Khon Kaen-Mukdahan, Thailand

The third day of the trip will involve meeting with Mukdahan authority and stakeholders to understand the special economic zone development, cross border economic cooperation mechanism, cross border infrastructure, transport and logistics services between Thailand and Lao PDR.

This visit aims to gain insights into Thailand's strategy of connecting the Belt and Road Initiative, NSEC through Khon Kaen-Vientiane, and Eastern Economic Corridor of Thailand development scheme.

A noteworthy aspect of this connection is that due to its location on the border with Lao PDR, Mukdahan has a high potential for investors, both in tourism and in border trade. Mukdahan is located in the middle of the East–West Economic Corridor (EWEC), connected to Savannakhet, Lao PDR by the 2nd Thai-Laos Friendship Bridge. From the Da Nang pier, products can be transferred via cargo ships to arrive at Hanoi, Vietnam and Southern China. With a population of about 10 million people, Nan Ning, P.R. China is one of the region's major cities, and could potentially be the key distributor of products from Thailand (Mukdahan Administration Office, 2016).

The Broad of Investment (BOI) envisions the MSEZ as a “Center of wholesale and retail stores, and logistics,” and has set for the MSEZ 10 BOI-targeted industries. Among that, Mukdahan’s economy relies heavily on agricultural-related sectors and the distribution of products/services. The MSEZ development is currently focusing on both industrial and transportation sectors; whereas tourism and infrastructure sectors are growing slowly.

#### **Day 4: Savan – Seno Special Economic Zone, Savannakhet, Lao PDR**

On the fourth day, the itinerary includes a visit to Savan – Seno Special Economic Zone, Savannakhet, Lao PDR. The project sites are close to Road No.9 as a part of East-West Economic Corridor and the Second Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge.

Savan-Seno Special Economic Zone (SSEZ) is the first SEZ in Laos established in 2003. Also, it is the first comprehensive dry-port in the country. The zone comprises with 5 sites. Sites A, B+B1, C and D covered 842 hectares and Dansavanh Border Trade Zone covered 3.897 hectares. Facilities within the zone including infrastructure, custom check points, water and electricity are ready to serve domestic and foreign investors from around the world. Potential investment activities of the zone are trading, manufacturing, logistic and service.

SSEZ located in Savannakhet Province. The zone located in the central point of the GMS East-West Economic Corridor. It is the “Short Cut” route linking from the South China Sea at Da Nang, Vietnam through central of Laos and north and northeastern of Thailand to Andaman Sea at Mawlamyine of Myanmar. The strategic location provides great opportunity for investors to capture regional value chain and access to large market in the region.

#### **Day 5: Pakse, Lao PDR**

- Visit coffee plantation and trade promotion project office
- Visit the Lao Nippon bridge
- Visit Vangtao-Phonthong Economic Zone (1 of 4 zones of Champasak SEZ, near Vangtao Lao-Thai border)
- Visit heritage sites in Pakse

On Day 5, the delegation will head to Pakse, the capital and most populous tourism city of the southern Laotian province of Champasak, and located at the confluence of the Xe Don and Mekong Rivers while bordering with the Ubon Ratchathani of Thailand.

The economic output of the province consists primarily of agricultural products—especially production of coffee, tea, and rattan while over half GDP were contributed by service sector. It is one of the most important coffee producing areas of Laos along with Salavan and Sekong provinces, combined representing 94% of the total area and 93% of the total production in 2019. In 2021, Champasak Province produced over 60% of total Lao coffee bean production.

Pakse is the main trade and travel link with Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Following the building of the Lao Nippon bridge across the Mekong at Pakse in 2002, trade with Thailand has multiplied several folds. The bridge lies at the junction of roads to the Bolaven Plateau in the east, Thailand in the west, and Si Phan Don to the south. Consequently, the market place at the Talat Sao Heung, near the bridge, has become one of the largest in Laos. Improved infrastructure has also led to an increase in tourism since the 1990s. The weaving centres of Ban Saphai and Don Kho are 18 km (11 mi) from Pakse. The Jhai Coffee Farmers Cooperative, headquartered at the provincial capital, operates on the

Bolaven Plateau. The Bolaven Plateau is also notable for its rubber, tobacco, peaches, pineapple, and rice production.

Champasak SEZ was established in 2015. The zone covered 11,152 hectares. Champasak province is the economic centre of the southern region, fueled by expansion of the agricultural and service sectors. It consists of four sites, including:

- 1) Vangtao-Phonthong Economic Development Zone (developed by Lao private company)
- 2) Mahanathi Sithandone SEZ (developed by Chinese private company)
- 3) Pakse-Japan SME SEZ (developed by Japanese private company)
- 4) Champasak Lao-Service Industrial Park (developed by Lao private company)

The purpose of this visit is to gain insights on the current development and status of the special zone development in Champasak. Additionally, we aim to explore potential opportunities for strengthening cooperation between Thailand and Lao PDR in various areas such as infrastructure, transportation, logistics, trade, and tourism.

#### **Day 6-7, Si Phan Don and Veun Kham, Champasak, Lao PDR**

- Travel from Pakse to Si Phan Don, Lao PDR (3 hrs)
- Visits the Mahanathi Sithandone Special Economic Zone (SEZ) (1 of 4 Zones of Champasak SEZ in southern part of Champasak)
- Travel from Si Phan Don, to Stung Treng, Cambodia by crossing the border check point -Veun Kham, Lao PDR

The Si Phan Don (also called Four Thousand Islands) is a riverine archipelago in the Mekong River, Champasak Province in southern Laos. It is a new urban development in Khong district, Champasak province, Laos. This nearest city is Pakse, 140km away. Si Phan Don is dotted with numerous islands, half of which are submerged when the Mekong River is in flood. The principal islands of Si Phan Don are Don Khong (the largest), Don Som (the second largest), Don Det and Don Khon. Si Phan Don borders Cambodia and historical and cultural ties link the people on both side of the border. While the local economies are predominantly based on agriculture, the Si Phan Don archipelago has seen an increasing number of visitors. Tourism is concentrated on Don Khong, Don Det, Don Khon and small numbers on Don Som.

The purpose of the visiting to Si Phan Don and down to is to:

- 1) observe infrastructure and development status of multimodal transport by air (121 km to Pakse Airport), road, railway (the remains of the first railway in Laos, the Don Det–Don Khon narrow gauge railway, built by the French to bypass the Khone Phapheng Falls and enable vessels, freight, and passengers to travel along the Mekong River) and Mekong River.
- 2) visit and learn the latest development status, the Lao-China cooperation model of the Four Thousand Islands New Area – The Sithandone SEZ in Southern Laos, invested by a Chinese company. The special economic zone will cover an area of more than 9,846 hectares and it will have its own airport.

The Sithandone SEZ, China-Laos cooperation project planned to build ecological culture-eco-tourism park (e.g., flower park, movie and television base etc.), free trade center and cooperation pilot zone, smart technology (education), cross border financial center and a low-carbon residential town and economic industrial chain for housing, commerce, tourism, health. In order to maintain and make good use of the resources of Four Thousand Islands, the government has allocated another 282,000 hectares of land for agricultural development in the New Area, in order to generate an industrial chain

of characteristic agricultural economy that focuses on the development of rice industry and coffee industry and integrates planting, industry, sightseeing tour and trade in one.

#### Day 8-9: Stung Treng to Siem Reap, Cambodia

- Travel from Stung Treng to Siem Reap, Cambodia (5 hrs)
- Visits local authority of Siem Reap to understand the infrastructure, trade and investment and tourism industry in Siem Reap
- Visit the heritage of Siem Reap to understand the root of Khmer culture

On Day 8, the delegation will leave from Stung Treng to Siem Reap Cambodia by road. In Siem Reap, the main agenda will be meeting with local authority to understand the infrastructure, transport, trade and investment and tourism industry in Siem Reap and visiting the heritage of Siem Reap to understand the root of Khmer culture.

#### Day 10: Siem Reap, Cambodia.

- Attend the synthesis workshop
- Travel back to home countries

The final day of the trip will include the organization of the half-day Synthesis and Evaluation of the SLVs. The individual assignments will be gathered and compiled as country reports. Each country group will be expected to present their country synthesis report, which will encompass the knowledge and information acquired during the visits. The aim of these presentations is to emphasize the main findings and offer recommendations to enhance operational procedures, streamline border crossing formalities, improve cross border facilities, and propose effective coordination mechanisms. To assess the project activities, including the Introductory workshop and SLV, feedback will be collected through both pre and post evaluation feedback tools.

In the afternoon of Day 10, all delegates will travel back to their home countries.

### 3. Tentative Agenda

| Date                                            | Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Remarks                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Day 1<br><b>September 18, 2024</b><br>Wednesday | <b>Arrival</b><br>Travel from home cities to Khon Kaen, Thailand by air or van                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Stay overnight at <b>Mekong Institute</b> Residential Building, Khon Kaen, Thailand                                                                                  |
| Day 2<br><b>September 19, 2024</b><br>Thursday  | <b>Introductory Workshop in Khon Kaen, Thailand</b><br><u>Venue:</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor, Mekong River Conference Room, Mekong Institute Annex Building<br><br>07:30-08:30 Breakfast at MI canteen, 1st floor<br><br><b>09:00-10:00 Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Welcome Remarks</b>, by Mr. Suriayan Vichitlekarn,</li> <li>• <b>Opening Remarks</b>, by Ms. Liu Hongmei, Consul General of the China in Khon Kaen</li> <li>• <b>Keynote Speech:</b> Introduction to economic corridors and land connectivity projects in the</li> </ul> | Stay overnight at <b>Mekong Institute</b> Residential Building<br><b>Address:</b><br>123 Mittrapap Road, Khon Kaen, 40002 Thailand<br><b>Tel:</b> +66 (0) 43 202 411 |

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Lancang-Mekong region and significance of multi modal transport network, by Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director of Trade and Investment Promotion Department, MI

- **Getting to know each other**
- **Group photo**

**10:00-10:20 Introduction of the SLV**, by Ms. Wen Hao, Senior Program Coordinator, TIF, MI

**10:20-10:40 Coffee break**

**10:40-12:00 Connectivity Country Report**, by Cambodia, China and Lao Group respectively

**12:00-13:30 Lunch**

**13:30-15:00 Connectivity Country Report**, by Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam group

**15:00-15:20 Coffee break**

**15:20-16:20 Group Work:** Read the SLV booklet, design the questions for each visiting sites, and design the outline of the PowerPoint Report to be presented on last day

**17:30 - Free time in Khon Kaen**

*(MI will arrange van to Ton Tann Market or Central Plaza Shopping Mall, dinner cost will be self-paid)*

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Day 3  
**September 20, 2024**  
Friday

**Structured Learning Visit in Mukdahan, Thailand**

**07:00-08:00** Breakfast at MI canteen, 1st floor, MI Annex

**08:10** Meet at MI lobby

08:15-12:00 Travel from MI to Mukdahan (3.5 hours)

**12:00-13:15 Lunch and head to Mukdahan Province office**

**13:30-15:00 Meeting with Mukdahan related government officials** to understand the special economic zone development status and land-based connectivity infrastructure and border trade, and

**15:00-16:30 visit** the cross-border connectivity infrastructure, logistics and multi-modal transport facilities and services

**16:30-18:00 Cross border from Mukdahan, Thailand to Savannakhet, Lao PDR and check in hotel**

**18:00- Free time in Savannakhet, Lao PDR**

Stay overnight in  
**Savannakhet, Lao PDR**

|                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Day 4<br/><b>September 21, 2024</b><br/>Saturday</p> | <p><b>Structured Learning Visit in Savannakhet, Lao PDR</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Stay overnight in <b>Pakse, Lao PDR</b></p>        |
|                                                         | <p><b>07:00-08:30</b> Breakfast at hotel in Savannakhet, Lao PDR<br/> <b>08:30-08:45</b> Meet at hotel lobby at 08:30 am and head to Savan-Seno Special Economic Zone</p> <p><b>09:00-12:00 Meeting and visit the Savan-Seno Special Economic Zone</b><br/> <b>12:00-13:00 Lunch</b><br/> <b>13:30-18:00</b> Travel from Savannakhet to Pakse, Lao PDR (4.5 hours)</p> <p><b>18:00 - Free time in Pakse, Lao PDR</b></p> |                                                       |
| <p>Day 5<br/><b>September 22, 2024</b><br/>Sunday</p>   | <p><b>Structured Learning Visit in Pakse, Lao PDR</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>Stay overnight in <b>Pakse, Lao PDR</b></p>        |
|                                                         | <p><b>07:00-08:00</b> Breakfast at hotel in Pakse, Lao PDR<br/> <b>08:30</b> Meet at Hotel lobby<br/> <b>09:00-12:00 Visit coffee plantation and trade promotion project office</b></p> <p><b>12:00-13:00 Lunch</b><br/> <b>13:00-13:30 Visit the Lao Nippon bridge</b> and head to the SEZ<br/> <b>13:30-17:00 Visit Vangtao-Phonthong Economic Zone</b></p> <p><b>17:30- Free time in Pakse, Lao PDR</b></p>           |                                                       |
| <p>Day 6<br/><b>September 23, 2024</b><br/>Monday</p>   | <p><b>Structured Learning Visit in Si Phan Don, Lao PDR</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Stay overnight in <b>Si Phan Don, Lao PDR</b></p>  |
|                                                         | <p><b>07:30-08:20</b> Breakfast at hotel in Pakse<br/> <b>08:20:</b> Meet at hotel lobby<br/> <b>08:30-11:30</b> travel from Pakse to <b>Si Phan Don, Lao PDR</b> (3 hours)</p> <p><b>11:30-13:00 Lunch and check in at Hotel in Si Phan Don</b><br/> <b>13:30-17:00 Visit Mahanathi Sithandone Special Economic Zone</b></p> <p><b>17:00 Free time in Si Phan Don, Lao PDR</b></p>                                      |                                                       |
| <p>Day 7<br/><b>September 24, 2024</b><br/>Tuesday</p>  | <p><b>Structured Learning Visits in Si Phan Don, Lao PDR and Stung Treng, Cambodia</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Stay overnight in <b>Stung Treng, Cambodia</b></p> |
|                                                         | <p><b>07:15-08:00</b> Breakfast at hotel in Si Phan Don,<br/> <b>08:15:</b> Meet at hotel lobby</p> <p><b>08:30-12:00 Visit Four Thousand Islands</b></p> <p><b>12:00-13:00 Lunch</b><br/> <b>13:00-14:30 Travel from Si Phan Don to Veun Kham, checkpoint of Lao PDR</b> (30 mins) to observe the cross-border connectivity infrastructure, multi-model</p>                                                             |                                                       |

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transport and logistics services to facilitate trade and peoples' movement

**14:30-18:00 Cross border from Veun Kham to Nong Nok Khiene Border Crossing in Cambodia** to observe Cambodia side' cross border facilities and services; and travel from the checkpoint **to Stung Treng, Cambodia** (1.5 hours)

*18:00- Check in at hotel and free time in Stung Treng, Cambodia*

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Day 8  
**September 25, 2024**  
Wednesday

**Structured Learning Visits in Siem Reap, Cambodia**

**06:30-07:20** Breakfast at hotel and meet at hotel lobby at 07:20 am

Stay overnight in  
**Siem Reap, Cambodia**

**07:30-13:00 Travel from Stung Treng to Siem Reap, Cambodia** (5.5-6 hours)

*13:00-14:00 Lunch*

**14:30-17:00 Visits Siem Reap government to understand the infrastructure, trade and investment and tourism industry in Siem Reap**

*17:30- Free time in Siem Reap, Cambodia*

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Day 9  
**September 26, 2024**  
Thursday

**Structured Learning Visits in Siem Reap, Cambodia**

**07:00-08:00** Breakfast at hotel and

Stay overnight in  
**Siem Reap, Cambodia**

**08:15** Meet at hotel lobby

**08:30-12:00 Visit Angkor Wat**

*12:00-13:30 Lunch in Siem Reap Downtown*

**13:30-17:30 Visit Angkor Wat**

*18:00 Fare well dinner in Seim Reap, Cambodia*

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Day 10  
**September 27, 2024**  
Friday

**Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop in Siem Reap, Cambodia**

**07:30-08:30** Breakfast at hotel

**08:30-11:30 Synthesis Workshop**

*11:30-13:00 Lunch at hotel*

**Departure**

**13:00-17:00**

**Group A: Visit Angkor National Museum and back to home countries**

**Group B: Fly back to home countries**

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Time zone: Thailand time

## CONTACT US

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### Capacity Development for Regional Cooperation and Integration.

Mekong Institute (MI) deepens 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 (GMS).

Founded and represented by Cambodia, P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, MI's strategies are aligned with the core tenets of the GMS Cooperation Program Strategic Framework 2030, ASEAN Economic Community, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





MI supports these frameworks through the implementation of projects across the areas of Economic Development, and Commercialization, Trade, and Investment Facilitation, and Sustainable Energy and Environment, while addressing issues of social inclusion and vulnerability, digital economy and innovation, and labor mobility to cement holistic and sustainable development impacts.

Overall, MI's ability to build, generate, curate, and transfer knowledge, as it leverages its regional network, deliver effective project implementation, sound policy coherence, and dynamic development programming through capacity building, investments, evidence-based studies, and knowledge exchange platforms, these services bridge cross-sectoral and multi-country synergies and engagement, as well as help instill efficient resource mobilization to aid governments and regional cooperation mechanisms in responding to current and future priority needs of people in the SMS.