



CONCEPT NOTE ON COMMEMORATION OF MI 30TH ANNIVERSARY

PROPOSED TITLES

- *“People, Partnership, and Progress: Celebrating 30 Years in Service to the GMS”*
- *“Celebrating 30 Years of Fostering GMS Cooperation, Integration, and Development”*
- *“30 Years of Shared Prosperity and Partnership: Building Resilient and Inclusive GMS”*

BACKGROUND

Founded through the visionary collaboration of the Governments of Thailand and New Zealand, alongside Khon Kaen University, the Mekong Institute (MI) emerged as a catalyst for progress for the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). Established in 1996, MI was created to empower government officials to transition their economies toward open market systems, igniting growth and innovation that would enhance the well-being of communities across the region.

As the GMS blossomed into a vital growth center in Asia, regional governments recognized that cooperation was not just beneficial but essential for harmonious development and shared prosperity. Designated as an intergovernmental organization by GMS governments, MI has been instrumental in fostering synergies through targeted skills development, impactful research initiatives, and solution-oriented dialogues. This collaborative approach has catalyzed significant policy reforms, strengthened institutions, facilitated infrastructure investments, and enhanced human resource development.

Over the years, MI's reputation as a responsive project delivery vehicle has flourished throughout the region. Serving as the fund manager for initiatives such as the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund and implementing projects under various regional frameworks—including Lancang-Mekong Cooperation and Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund—MI has successfully unified diverse projects under a cohesive regional focus. This strategic alignment allows us to streamline resources and equip our partners with innovative interventions that produce holistic solutions.

As MI continues to evolve, we have sharpened our program strategies, expanded our portfolio of services, and cultivated an extensive network of partners. The success of our initiatives is significantly bolstered by the unwavering support of diverse stakeholders—governments,

development partners, and the private sector. Their trust in MI's capabilities has enabled us to implement projects effectively, ensure sound policy coherence, and foster dynamic development programming through capacity-building activities, evidence-based studies, and knowledge exchange platforms.

In 2026, MI will proudly commemorate its 30th Anniversary, reflecting on three decades of dedicated service to the people of the GMS. This milestone celebration will honor MI's evolution as a key player in advancing regional development cooperation and integration while spotlighting contributions from our longstanding partners and expansive alumni network. Together, we will celebrate our shared values and achievements as we look toward a future filled with promise and potential.

PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

To honor MI's rich history and expanding partnerships within and beyond the GMS, we will launch a diverse array of activities throughout 2026. These initiatives are designed to engage a wider audience and showcase our impact across various sectors through interactive platforms. To ensure smooth execution, the year 2025 will be dedicated to preparations, setting the stage for an exciting lineup of events at the start of 2026.

- 1. 30th Anniversary Logo Competition:** We invite nationals from GMS countries to unleash their creativity by designing a commemorative logo for MI's 30th anniversary.
- 2. 30 Questions on GMS (Fun) Facts:** Engage with social media posts featuring 30 fun and thought-provoking questions related to the GMS to spark interest and interaction.
- 3. 30 Messages from Partners:** Highlight messages from our partners across social media platforms in the 30 days leading up to our grand celebration.
- 4. 30 Messages from Alumni:** Showcase messages from former alumni on social media platforms to highlight MI's impactful programs throughout the year.
- 5. 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner:** Join us for a hybrid gala dinner celebrating our milestones while honoring pioneers, partners, and outstanding alumni who have shaped MI's journey. The evening will feature cultural performances and culinary delights from across GMS countries during the Mekong Forum 2026.
- 6. Speeches by GMS Key Figures:** Invite influential leaders who have shaped the GMS to share insights into our historical journey and visions for the future.
- 7. Media Interviews:** Throughout 2026, MI management will engage with national and international media to discuss past achievements and outline MI's strategic mission contributing to GMS development.

8. **GMS Stakeholders' Vision 2045:** Gather perspectives from GMS nationals on their vision for the region over the next 20 years to ensure their voices guide our future direction.
9. **Virtual Guest Book:** Invite alumni, ex-staff, and development partners to sign a virtual guest book on MI's 30th anniversary through an app or web tools where they can share messages about themselves, their thoughts on MI at 30, and suggestions for future work.

COMMEMORATIVE MATERIALS

- **MI Video:** A compelling visual narrative that captures the essence of MI's journey, showcasing its history, evolution, achievements, and impact. This video will feature powerful testimonials from government officials, partners, and alumni, bringing their voices to the forefront as they share their experiences and insights.
- **MI Exhibition:** An engaging exhibition that narrates the inspiring journey of MI, showcasing its evolution from humble beginnings to its current impact across the GMS. This exhibition will highlight key milestones, significant achievements, and the stories of individuals who have shaped MI's legacy. Visitors will experience a rich tapestry of history, innovation, and collaboration, illustrating how MI has empowered communities and fostered regional cooperation since its inception. Additionally, the exhibits could be organized in a virtual gallery format on our website or through social media platforms to reach a broader audience.

Through this commemorative initiative, MI aims not only to celebrate its past but also to inspire future collaborations that will continue to foster sustainable development across the Greater Mekong Subregion.
