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Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS): Enhancing Synergies and Subregional Cooperation for Climate Resilient and Net Zero Development

Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director, Mekong
Institute

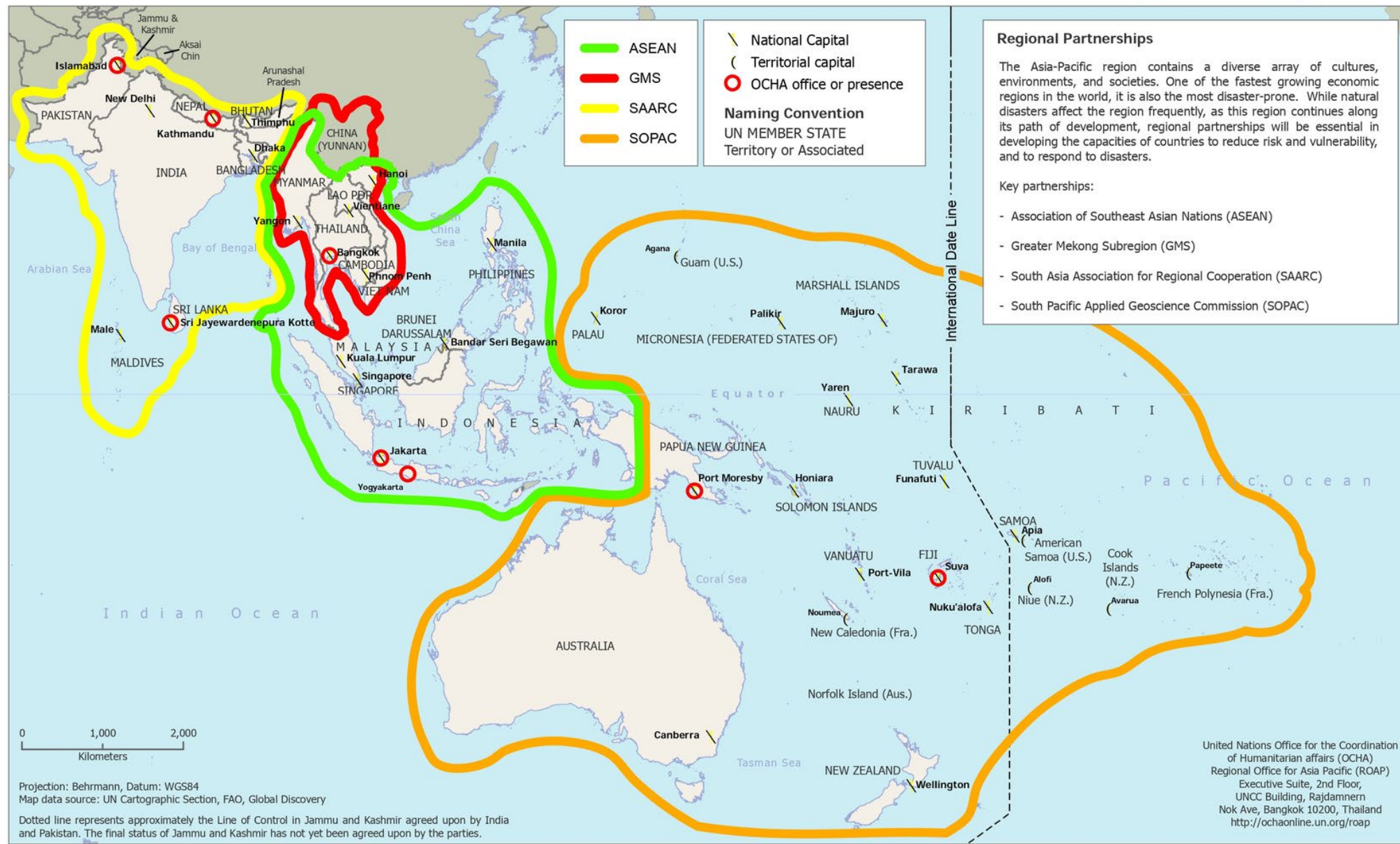
Greater Mekong Subregion



OCHA Regional Office for Asia Pacific

Regional Partnerships: ASEAN, GMS, SAARC and SOPAC

Issued: 8 September 2006



The names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Map Ref: OCHA_ROAP_Partnerships_Overview_v1_060908



GMS Overview

Region Overview

- Countries: Cambodia, China (Yunnan, Guangxi), Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam
- Area: 2.6 million km²
- Population : 340+ million
- Rich in natural resources (minerals, forests, water)

Economic Development

- 3.57% GDP Growth (Average, 2021-2023)
- Key Sectors: Agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, trade
- Growth: Significant economic progress

Social Development

- Focus: Healthcare, education, social services
- Goals: Poverty reduction, addressing inequalities

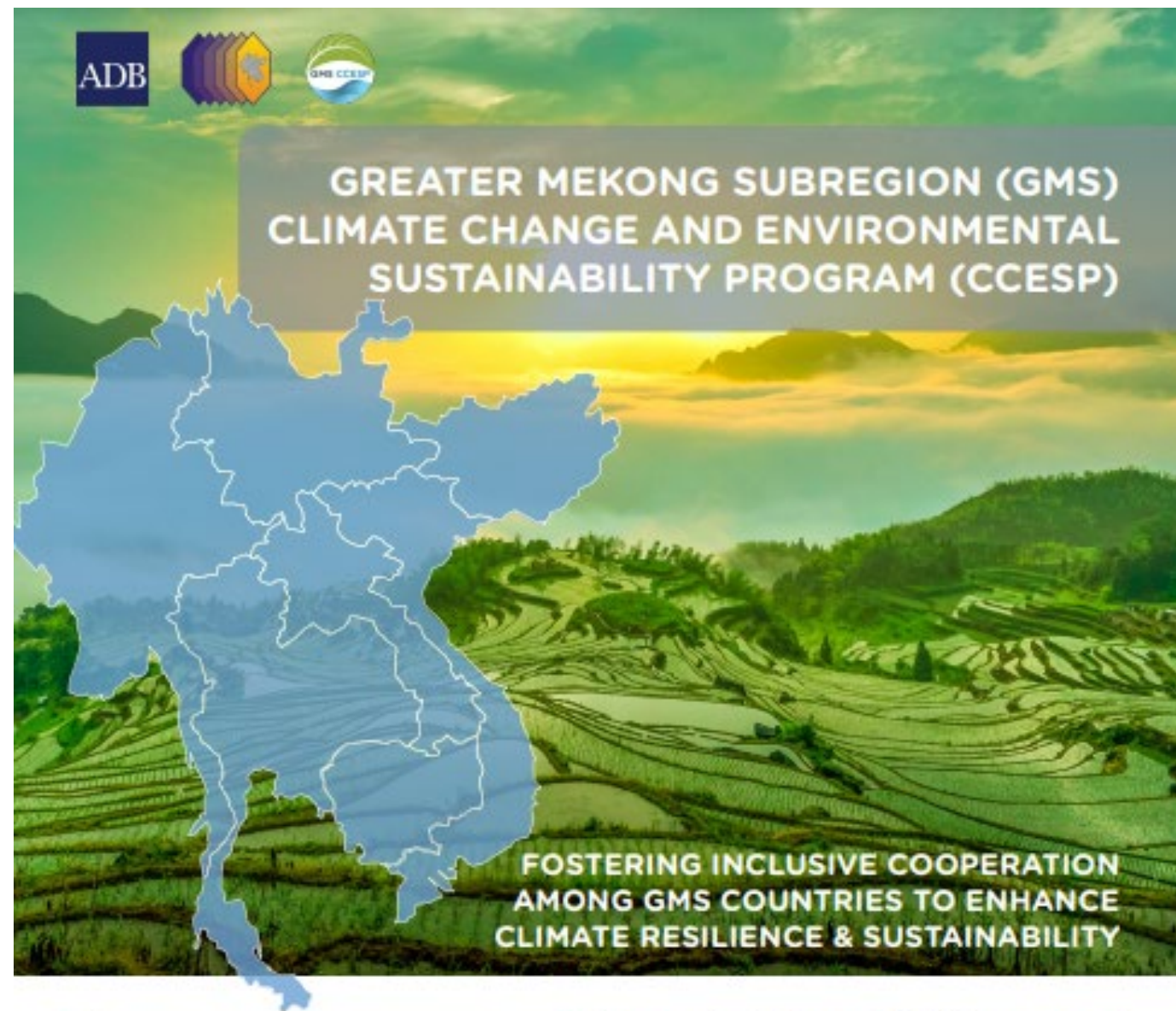


Issues and Challenges towards Climate Resilience and Net Zero Development

- Vulnerability to Climate Change
- Sectoral Impacts
- Economic Losses
 - Technological and Infrastructure Barriers
 - Technological Innovation
 - Infrastructure Vulnerability
- Socio-economic Impacts
 - Economic Disparities
 - Job Displacement
- Financial and Investment Challenges
 - Insufficient Investment
 - Funding Mechanisms
- Policy and Regulatory Issues
 - Policy Coherence
 - Regulatory Frameworks
- Coordination and Cooperation



GMS Policies on Climate Resilient and Net Zero Development



- Regional Climate Strategy
- Commitment to Net Zero
- Renewable Energy Initiatives
- Agrifood Systems Transformation
- Water Resource Management
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Regional Cooperation Platforms
- Policy Support and Capacity Building

About Mekong Institute (MI)



Founded in 1996
and represented by Cambodia, China (Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.



An intergovernmental organization in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)



Our core competence is human resource development, capacity building and project implementation, supporting regional cooperation and integration.



Currently employs about 50 staff, made up of over 11 nationalities.



Khon Kaen, Thailand

Our Timelines

1996

Development Assistant Project



Founded by New Zealand Government, Royal Thai Government, and KKU

2003

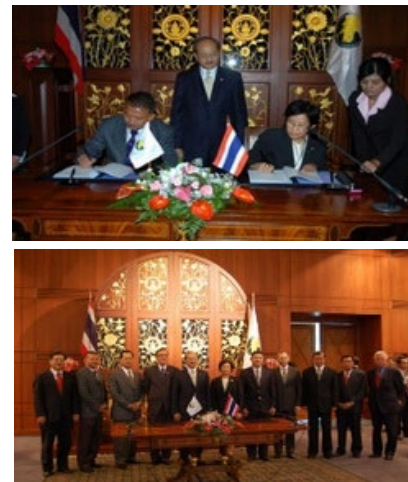
Multilateral Organization

Independent International Organization



2009

Intergovernmental Organization (IGO)



2013

Fund Coordinator
Mekong Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF)



Support 5 Mekong countries (CLMTV) in 6 priority areas

2021
ASEAN Prize

25 Years of Strengthening Development Synergies



ASEAN Prize 2021 Recipient

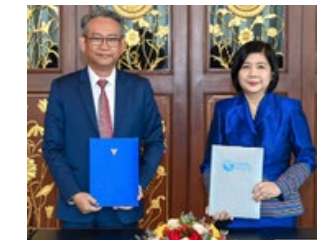
2022

New Regional Mandates

GMS Knowledge Network



ACMECS Interim Secretariat (as back-office support)



2023

ASEAN-CRN Interim Secretariat



2024

Aziz-UI Haq Rural Development Medal in 2024



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Our activities and services



Organize trainings, workshops, seminars, conferences, and structured learning visits

Implement projects



Facilitate policy dialogues

Provide advisory services



Act as network coordinator/secretariat



Conduct research and studies

Key Approaches towards Climate Resilience Building



Leveraging regional
cooperation integration
mechanisms



Promoting best
practices and
successful models



Enhancing capacity
and confidence in
setting and achieving
NDCs



Connecting and
strengthening
networks

GMS cooperation mechanisms

- GMS Economic Cooperation Program (GMS Program)
- GMS Core Environment Program (CEP)
- ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC)
- ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC)
- Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI)
- Mekong-Lancang Environmental Cooperation
- Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC)
- Mekong River Commission (MRC)
- Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya - Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS)
- Other Mekong Plus Cooperation (Australia, India, Japan, RoK, US)



MI's Contributions to Climate Resilient and Net Zero Development

Promotion of Crop Insurance in ASEAN through the Public and Private Partnership



Sustainable and Smart Agricultural Supply Chain Development in Mekong Countries



Regional Workshop on Leveraging Inclusive Climate Finance to Scale Up Climate-Smart Agriculture



MI's Contributions to Climate Resilient and Net Zeo Development



Sustainable and Smart Tourism Development in the Mekong Region

Regional training on “Promoting Greater Energy Connectivity for Equitable Development in the Lancang-Mekong (LM) Region”



Sustainable Tourism for Post-Pandemic Recovery



MI's Contributions to Climate Resilient and Net Zero Development

Report launch and discussion on “Energy Connectivity Accelerates Low-Carbon Energy Development and Economic Growth in the Lancang-Mekong Region”



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A promotional poster for a webinar titled "POWERING ENERGY TRANSITIONS IN THE GMS". The poster features a dark blue background with a glowing globe and gears. It lists the following details:

- Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Bangkok, giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, MEKONG INSTITUTE, mekonginstitute.org
- March 23, 2021 | 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (UTC+7 Thailand)
- KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee
- SPEAKERS: Dr. Alexander Raubold (Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. Suriyan Vichitkarn (Mekong Institute), Mr. Simon Rolland (GIZ Thailand), Dr. Nitus Voraphonpiput (Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand)
- A QR code labeled "SCAN TO REGISTER"

Webinar on “Powering Energy Transitions in the GMS”

Hybrid workshop on Regional Clean Energy Development, Application and Optimization in the Lancang-Mekong Region



MI's Contributions to Climate Resilient and Net Zeo Development



POLICY BRIEF

SUSTAINABLE AND SMART TECHNOLOGIES FOR IMPROVED AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION SUPPLY CHAINS IN MEKONG COUNTRIES



BACKGROUND

This policy brief is the result of the Sustainable and Smart Agricultural Supply Chain Development in Mekong Countries project, financed by the Mekong – ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF). The project was implemented from December 2021 to May 2023, with a focus on improving agricultural digitalization in the Mekong countries, where the agriculture sector and agricultural supply chain play a dominant role in economic development towards sustainability.

The brief highlights several enabling factors in response to existing problems in agricultural digitalization and provides implications for strengthening the smallholder Agri-Tech investing ecosystem in support of the sustainable development of the agriculture, energy, logistics, and transport sectors. Specifically, it concentrates on accelerating the digital transformation process in the agriculture sector in the Mekong region.



IN ASEAN DIGITAL INITIATIVES RELATED TO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR:

Digital Master Plan (2025)

Strategy on the Fourth Industrial Revolution for ASEAN (2021)

Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its Implementation Plan (2021)

Guidelines on Promoting the Utilization of Digital Technologies (2021)

01 / 02



Sustainable Development in the Lower Mekong Basin:

Building Forward Better toward COVID-19 Recovery with Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus Approach through South-South and Triangular Cooperation



The Baseline Study of Green Freight and Logistics Development in Mekong countries



Mekong Institute
Khon Kaen, Thailand



OUTLOOK FOR DEEPENING LANCANG-MEKONG REGIONAL POWER CONNECTIVITY AND COOPERATION OF KEY AREAS

November 2023

Mekong Institute
Lancang-Mekong Energy & Power Cooperation Research Center



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MI's Contributions to Climate Resilient and Net Zero Development



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PROJECT SNAPSHOT

TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION MECHANISM ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE & HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

FUNDED BY MEKONG-LANCANG COOPERATION SPECIAL FUND

DESCRIPTION
Climate change has brought about extreme droughts and floods across the Lancang-Mekong River basin, resulting into a chain of related impacts including water scarcity and decline in agricultural produce. Hydropower structures offer immense potential in helping manage water flow and building the resilience of communities.

The invaluable role of the Lancang-Mekong River in the countries of the sub-region highlights the need for greater cooperation and enhanced communication among the countries on issues such as management of fluctuations, navigation, and response to climate change impacts.

The project is designed to improve joint-evidence based information collection, analysis, and sharing, and support decision-making required to improve communication on issues concerning water flow and natural and anthropogenic water level fluctuations in the Mekong countries in light of climate change; as well as forge greater collaboration and information exchange among concerned agencies in Cambodia, P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

DURATION
1 Year (2018-2019)

TYPE

- TECHNICAL EXCHANGES
- PLATFORM BUILDING
- INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

OBJECTIVES
The project aims to:

- Initiate a concrete mechanism for cooperation through a data/information-sharing platform on water level/flow fluctuations and reservoir management
- Increase community awareness of climate change impacts and mitigation and adaptation measures
- Broaden people's understanding of the significance of hydropower development projects and their operations



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PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Development of Rice Pest and Natural Disaster Monitoring, Forecasting, and Warning Center for Sustainable Rice Production under Climate Change in the Mekong-Lancang Subregion

FUNDED BY THE MEKONG-LANCANG COOPERATION SPECIAL FUND

DESCRIPTION
The Mekong-Lancang region is Asia's veritable rice bowl, collectively growing 44 percent of the world's rice (World Bank, 2015). However, the rice industries in Cambodia, P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam have become increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. This is largely due to the countries' limited access to climate information and varying responses to pest outbreaks and natural disasters.

This project aims to create resilient rice production industries by establishing a regional Rice Pest and Natural Disaster Monitoring, Forecasting, and Warning Center. Implemented by Mekong Institute—with support from Thailand's Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives—the three-year project will enhance the scientific climate knowledge of Lancang-Mekong member countries, as well as develop coordination channels and communication platforms for more informed and effective rice production planning and management.

DURATION
December 2019 – December 2022

- CAPACITY BUILDING
- TECHNICAL EXCHANGES
- RESEARCH
- PLATFORM BUILDING

MEKONG INSTITUTE

Guidelines for Adopting LOW-EMISSION RICE FARMING TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES
in South and Southeast Asia

MI's Contributions to Climate Resilient and Net Zeo Development

MKCF Management



Soil, Water and Nutrient Management in Drought Zones of Lao PDR



Capacity Building on Circular Economy, Resource and Energy Efficiency for Productivity and Sustainability of Cassava Chain to High-Value Products



Rice Straw-Based Circular Economy for Improved Biodiversity and Sustainability



Capacity Enhancement on Wind Energy Usage for Sustainable Rural Development in Myanmar and Vietnam



Guidelines and certification for green buildings in Cambodia



MI's Contributions to Climate Resilient and Net Zeo Development

The ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN)

The ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN) is a platform for regional exchange of information, experiences and expertise on climate-smart land use. The network facilitates the translation of science into policies and finds resources to support needs of the sector within the region.

Working Areas

- Regional policies and engagement
- Implementation of regional agreements at national level
- Research and innovation
- Knowledge management and capacity building
- Mobilising resources



Approach

The network links scientific institutions and development agencies to policy-makers, and provides a platform for dialogue between relevant stakeholders at national, regional and international level. Through the network, the ASEAN Member States:

- Engage in dialogue among each other to develop joint ASEAN positions on climate change and land use in regional and international forums.
- Promote climate-smart land use practices in agriculture and forestry that are aligned with national priorities and policies.
- Receive technical support and capacity building for land-use and climate change.

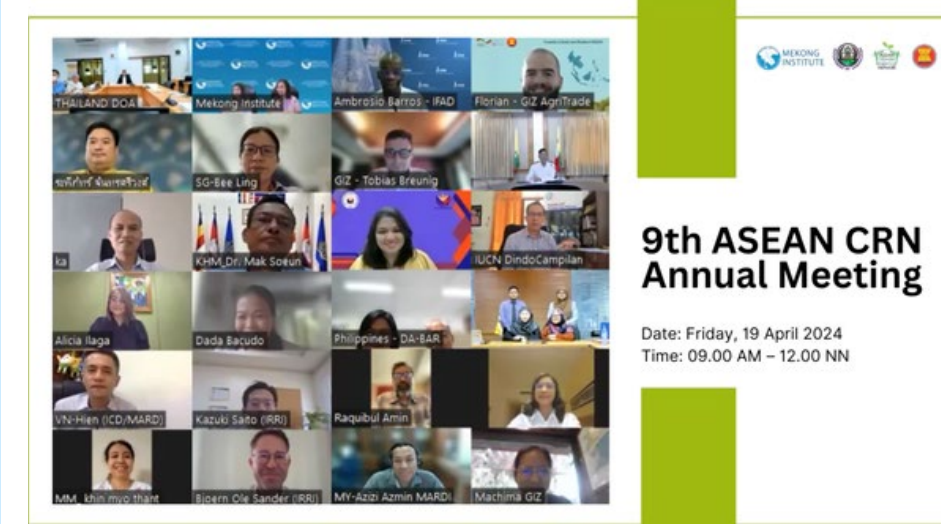
Partners

The network engages relevant ASEAN bodies, research institutions and CSA experts who share experiences, pilot test their data and document their findings in collaboration with members of the ASEAN-CRN.



Since 2023, the Mekong Institute has been acting as the interim secretariat for ASEAN CRN.

As the interim secretariat, responsibilities encompass providing administrative assistance, organizing activities, and enhancing communication among ASEAN member states engaged in the ASEAN Climate Resilient Network.



9th ASEAN CRN Annual Meeting

Date: Friday, 19 April 2024
Time: 09.00 AM – 12.00 NN





Potential Areas for Collaboration between MI and CI



- South-South/ Intersubregional Exchanges
 - Experiences in subregional strategy
 - Best climate resilient or low carbon development practices
 - Scalable business models
 - Engaging private sector and networks
- Joint Proposals
- Hosting Scholar Visits



Thank you.



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Mekong Institute

123 Mittraphap Rd., Muang District, Khon Kaen 40002, THAILAND

T : +66 (0) 4320 2411

F : +66 (0) 4320 3656

E : information@mekonginstitute.org