



In this July issue, we are taking a break from featuring MI alumni to share the experience of **Tanadech Sriwanchai**, a Khon Kaen University student who interned at MI from May 17 to July 2, 2021.

A WORTHWHILE INTERNSHIP

When I started my internship at Mekong Institute (MI), I did not know much about the organization's work or even understood what they really did to "deliver capacity development for regional cooperation and integration." However, as I started taking photos of trainings, webinars, and other activities, I began to learn that the daily operations of the office were designed to help people become leaders by letting them know more about the best practices of others and how these can be applied in their own countries.

This understanding was made much clearer during my weekly task of compiling news of the Greater Mekong Subregion. In reading about Cambodia, P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, I was not only able to practice my English, I gained insight that we all shared the same concerns—COVID-19, climate change, clean air, and jobs!

These topics made me realize that MI was helping people find solutions to these challenges by making everyone work together.

Furthermore, I was responsible for managing the MI alumni database, which has over 8,500 people not only in the GMS but all over the world registered to have completed trainings from 1997 to 2021. That must have been a lot of trainings!



In completing my tasks, there were times when I felt pressure to deliver good work to my supervisors, which was challenging at first. But looking back, I am grateful that they required that I take my work seriously, just as they did of themselves. This was a valuable experience for me because it made me realize that one needs to work hard, learn from others, and be part of sharing constructive solutions.

Overall, my internship at MI helped me learn the basics of design, photography, and database management. More importantly, it gave me a taste of what it is like to work in the real world.

I strongly encourage those who are interested to be part of the MI family because you will certainly get more than what you expected—valuable skills and learning experiences.■

Since the early 2000s, MI accepted over 50 interns in its headquarters in Khon Kaen, Thailand. To apply, email hr@mekonginstitute.org

