

## Transborder Migration Policy Implementation and Monitoring: Its Effectiveness and Current Policy Gaps in the Greater Mekong Sub-region

By International  
Cooperation and  
Communication  
Staff

*"It is difficult to  
prohibit migrants  
from crossing  
borders."*



MI Director Dr. Suchat Katima



Lao Consul General Sisavath Donlavandy

*"We cannot forbid  
them from crossing  
borders."*

Dr. Suchat Katima, Mekong Institute Director, believes that Transborder Migration has significantly contributed to GMS Development, Cooperation and Integration.

"Transborder migration cannot be avoided in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and the GMS governments recognize this as well," he noted in an interview with the "Manager" a Thai national newspaper following the policy dialogue on migration.

The policy dialogue on "Transborder Migration Policy Implementation and Monitoring: Its Effectiveness and Current Policy Gaps in the Greater Mekong Sub-region" was organized by the MI with the support of Rockefeller Foundation on November 15-17, 2007 in Khon Kaen, Thailand. The meeting was attended by 50 delegates

composed of policy makers from the GMS governments, representatives of NGOs and INGOs, academic and research institutions in the region.

Dr. Katima, who also delivered the welcome speech during the opening ceremony of the policy meeting, said that certain GMS governments have agreed in principle to open border checkpoints for inbound and outbound movements of goods and people.

"They can go in and out of these countries without obstructions although conditions for cross border travel vary in each country," he stated. For example, Thai and Lao people can go through Savannakhet on the Lao side and Mukdahan in Thailand, or the Vietnamese can get into Laos through the Laobao border.

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## MI GEARED FOR NEW CHALLENGES IN 2008

### EDITOR TALKS

As the Year of the Pig closes, we celebrate the successes of Mekong Institute in 2007, just as we anticipate the challenges of 2008.

Mekong Institute has been playing an active role in human resource development in the Greater Mekong Sub-region since 1996. It has produced more than 100 learning courses, graduating over 2,700 alumni mostly from the GMS countries. These alumni, comprised mostly of senior and mid-level government officials from the six GMS countries : Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, have participated in MI learning programs and leadership training focusing on management

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## MI Business Plan 2008 - 2010

The MI Council, in its meeting last 19 July 2007, directed the MI Secretariat to update and refine the MI 2005-2010 Strategic Plan, develop the 2008-2010 MI Business Plan based on the Strategic Plan, and submit the 2008 Annual Operational Plan and Budget.

In compliance, a Technical Working Group was created to work with the MI management team to review and propose revisions to the Strategic Plan, as well as further work on the Business Plan that had been drafted by the MI Secretariat. The Technical Working Group consisted of representatives from each of the six GMS countries.

The 2005 - 2010 Strategic Plan sets the long-term direction of MI and is primarily geared to ensure the sustainability

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## MI Board Meeting in Kunming, China

The Mekong Institute governing boards held their last meeting for this year in Kunming, City, P.R. China in December 2007.

The Yunnan Provincial Government has graciously accepted the invitation to host the MI Steering Committee and Council Meetings in Kunming on 13 - 14 December 2007. These two governing bodies of MI are composed of representatives from the six GMS governments (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam), academic institutions, development partners, and private sector.

The main focus of these meetings were the review and approval of the updated 2005-2010 MI Strategic Plan, as translated into the 2008-2010 MI Business Plan. The acceptance of the 2008-2010 MI Business Plan by the MI leadership holds significance in the light of the official transition of MI into an international organization endowed with the sponsorship and ownership of all six GMS governments. The 3-year MI Business Plan, which spells out the Institute's operational strategy for program implementation and organizational development, is a vital instrument that will drive MI to become a center of

excellence in GMS-oriented human resource development services for regional growth and cooperation.

At this meeting, the meeting agendas of the said meetings focused on reviewing and making recommendations on policy and strategic documents such as the Institute's Strategic Plan, Operational Plan, organizational structure, and annual budget.

At the same time, the Steering Committee also monitored the Institute's performance in implementing MI activities and the effectiveness of governance and management policies and practices.

This meeting is particularly important for the MI in terms of refining and updating the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan and developing the 2008 - 2010 Business Plan. These Plans are regarded as the strategic direction for the organization in the coming three - year period which is crucial to the MI's existence. It will be an instrument for the MI to succeed in becoming the center of excellence in delivering high quality and relevant human resources development programs.

At the meeting, representatives of the GMS countries have expressed their commitment in support of the sustainability of the MI in the long term.



### *MI Business Plan 2008 - 2010 (Continued from page 1)*

of the Institute through effective marketing of top quality human resource development services. Its strategic objectives revolve around four key result areas, namely, superior quality client-focused human resource development services, financial sustainability through a diversified funding base, effective and efficient internal management systems, a working team of highly qualified and strongly motivated professionals with advanced core competencies in learning events management and facilitation.

While the Strategic Plan situates the guideposts for MI's direction in the next three years, the Business Plan serves as a road map to guide the operationalization of the Strategic Plan. The Business Plan provides the detailed annual measurement targets and performance indicators in each of the key result areas, the implementing activities within the framework of the Strategic Plan, the organizational structure and operational systems, budgets and resource mobilization models.

In both the Strategic and Business Plans, the MI learning

programs will be synergized and packaged into one program with four themes, namely, public sector reform and good governance, rural development and project management, trade facilitation and effective regional cooperation. Strategic partnerships will be forged with complementary organizations and GMS member countries will be encouraged to become more active contributors for the sustenance of MI. Internal structural changes will be instituted to enhance the Institute's adaptability and alignment to MI's strategic direction. Attention will be given to the recruitment and retention of qualified professional staff from the GMS.

A participatory process was employed in developing these plans, involving the various stakeholders whose inputs were solicited during the Stakeholder Consultative Meeting in July 2007, by the governments of the GMS through the Technical Working Group, and the MI Management and staff.

On 14 December 2007, the Strategic and Business Plans were approved by the MI Council at its meeting in Kunming City, Yunnan Province of China.

"However, border crossing also brings such problems as the human and drug trafficking", he added.

He noted that increasing transborder migration are due to higher demand for migrant labor abroad, as well as the lack of livelihood and employment opportunities in the sending home countries. However, unscrupulous persons take advantage of the situation and victimize the migrants, who become prey to human trafficking and illicit trade of drugs.

Dr. Katima added that, "without effective border control mechanisms and pro-active preventive measures for illegal migration, the problems of human trafficking and illicit drug smuggling is exacerbated."

"Today's meeting does not intend to prevent the transborder crossing. We are here to discuss with representatives of GMS government decision makers on policies that will hopefully effect and improve transborder migration management. Thailand and Lao PDR have an existing bi-lateral agreement on migrants. There are some problems concerning migrants from Myanmar and Cambodia that should be considered at the policy level", Dr. Katima explained.

According to Dr. Katima, Thailand is hosting about 1.2 million immigrants, of which about 71 percent are from Myanmar, 14 percent are Cambodian, and the rest Lao immigrants.

Meanwhile, Consul General Mr. Sisavath Donlavandy of the General Consulate of Lao PDR in Khon Kaen, Thailand also said in a separate interview that, "we can not forbid them (migrants) from crossing borders".

He said after his opening remarks during the MI policy dialogue on migration, that the GMS governments are concerned about the escalation of transnational crimes such as drug smuggling and human trafficking as transborder crossing becomes easier.

"A number of Thais and Laotians go through the borders, sometimes illegally. Some enter the country because their relatives who have previously migrated pick them up from the border," Consul General Donlavandy indicated.

*MI GEARED FOR NEW ....(Continued from page 1)*

and policy development on a wide range of issues primarily in the GMS, including regional cooperation, tourism, rural development and private sector competitiveness.

MI's Business Plan 2007-2010 is designed to develop and promote the Institute's core products catering to clients' and stakeholders' needs, launch pro-active marketing strategies and forming strategic alliances with regional partners to attain financial sustainability, forge MI as a multi-national learning organization, and institutionalize "facilitation" as MI's core competency.

Year 2007 saw MI putting in place the key fundamentals for sailing through the next three years to fulfill its strategic direction. New learning courses were initiated and innovative methodologies employed under a synergized program. Staff capacities were enhanced and internal management systems were upgraded. The Young GMS Professionals Program was pioneered to cultivate a resource pool of facilitation experts for MI programs and its partners. A recent exposure visit to the MRC headquarters in Laos was one among the various MI staff capacity development activities to enhance competencies

According to the Consul General, Thai and Lao immigration offices have recorded about 90,000 persons who have legal permits to cross the Lao-Thai borders. However, they represent a little less than half of the people who cross the borders, with the volume of cross border movement estimated to be up to 180,000-200,000 migrants.

Consul General Donlavandy mentioned several measures to counter migration-related problems. These measures include bilateral or multi lateral cooperation, community education or awareness raising, institution of national-level migration management systems.

He informed that the Labor Ministries of both Thai and Laotian governments have permitted private recruitment agencies in their respective countries to run labor and employment business services. Moreover, in Laos, two ministries, one of which is the National Police, are responsible for migration management at the national level.

The Consul General also noted that the possibility of developing and implementing a GMS-wide migration management standard should be explored. There are existing bi - and multi - lateral agreements, and practical mechanisms that are currently operating in the region. Experiences from these country-to-country agreements and systems provide rich material for designing a region-wide migration management system.

"Representatives from Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam should sit and dialogue so that they can recommend good policy responses to migration problems to their respective governments," he remarked.

In response, Dr. Suchat informed that a high-level GMS Summit will be held in March 2008 in Vientiane, wherein the outcomes of the MI policy dialogue series, including transborder migration issues, will be presented to senior level policy makers from the six GMS government countries. There is a likelihood that the GMS Summit will be held every four years to serve as a platform for the leaders of GMS governments to listen and respond to policy proposals from various stakeholders, as well as to engage with counterparts from the GMS governments on the issues at hand.

and to stimulate creative thinking in promoting integrative human resource development techniques for regional cooperation.

As pointed out by H.E. Dr. Tej Bunnag, Advisor to His Majesty's Principal Private Secretary and Honorary Advisor to the MI Council, strong partnerships founded on a common understanding of critical issues are vital in addressing the development challenges in the GMS. The MI Stakeholder Consultative Meeting, held on 17-18 July 2007 and attended by about 50 partners and guests, was a milestone in MI's efforts through 10 years of promoting understanding, mutual trust and benefits to all its partners. The meeting provided the platform by which MI stakeholders gave input to MI's strategic direction and once again demonstrated the common desire to improve connectivity, enhance competitiveness and create a greater sense of community among the governments and peoples in the GMS through the work of MI.

Most of all, we take pride in the official recognition of MI as an inter-governmental organization by the Royal Government of Thailand. On 8 August 2007, MI signed the agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

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## Announcement: New MI staff and interns



Mr. Anders

Mr. Anders Mattias Julin, a Swedish national, will join the MI International Cooperation and Communication (ICC) team effective 2 January 2008.

Anders has extensive experience in media publication, having worked as magazine editor in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia after graduating with Honors in Media Studies from Edith Cowan University in Perth, Australia.

In December 2007 he obtained a degree in Master of Science in Gender and Development Studies from Asian Institute of Technology.



Ms. Aornpanin

University student Miss Aornpanin Wongwichian, 22, joins MI as an intern for four months.

Ms. Wongwichian is studying in the Liberal Arts Program at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mahasarakham University.

She is now the senior (4<sup>th</sup> year) student studying in the field of Liberal Arts, majoring in Thai language, she is expected to obtain some practical experience from working with MI staff as staff trainee from November 1, 2007 - February 29, 2008.

Ms. Wongwichian will spend time with the MI Administration and Academic Departments, where she expects to expand her knowledge and gain practical experience in library management, research and the conduct of learning courses.



Mrs. Siriluk

MI welcomes Mrs. Siriluk Phuengphian, better known as Tik as the Institutes Senior Administration Officer responsible for general administration. Tick comes to MI with a wealth of experience, having previously worked in various administrative positions with Plan International, an INGO focusing on children, and as a librarian with the Christian Foundation for the Blind in Thailand. She also taught English and Human Resource Management.

Mrs. Siriluk graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree majoring in Library Science in 1987, and obtained a Masters Degree in Public Administration (MPA) from the National Institute of Development Administration.



Mr. Ariyadeth

Mr. Ariyadeth Sanasisane is our new management trainee joining the MI IT Unit as Database and Shared Network Developer.

Mr. Ariyadeth provides support to the MI IT officers in developing and maintaining the MI Alumni Database, computerized filing system and office automation. He is from Vientiane, Laos and possesses a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Information Technology from Webster University, Cha Am, Thailand.



Ms. Pattama

Ms. Pattama Samorn works with the Program Services Unit as a Program Support Officer responsible for reception, guest relations and program support.



Ms. Supaphan

Ms. Supaphan Chaiporn assumed the position of Administration Support Officer and works closely with Ms Pornwilai Pumira, MI Executive Assistant, to provide much needed administrative support to the Office of the Director. She is responsible for the maintenance of the MI central filing system, human resource information system, MI staff career planning and professional development.

MI GEARED FOR NEW ....(Continued from page 3)

culminating a long process and hard work to transform MI from a development assistance program into a financially self-sustaining GMS-governed institution excelling in capacity development for regional cooperation. As an intergovernmental organization, the Institute's inherent competitive advantage will be taken to new heights.

In 2008, MI will continue to seek excellence as a human resource development facilitator in the GMS through its research-based learning programs, policy dialogues and consultative meetings on trans-border issues, regional cooperation and integration, aid effectiveness, SME and livelihood systems development.

The New Year holds much promise for MI and we are confident that it will be able to meet its deliverables with expected quality and distinction. We express great appreciation for the able direction and guidance of the MI Council and Steering Committee, as well as the encouragement and support of MI partners from the GMS governments, funding agencies, the academe, non-governmental development organizations and other MI stakeholders.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2008  
*The MI Mekong Connection Editor*

# MI HRD Program

## January - March 2008

Type	Activities	Duration	Source of Funding	No. of Pax	Brief Description & Target Group
<b>I</b>					
<b>Learning Program</b>					
Learning Program	Tourism : A Regional Approach to Development	14 Jan - 1 Feb 2008	NZAID	20	One of MI Professional Development Series to be conducted in collaboration with Tourism Authorities in the GMS. The course is envisaged to achieve a sustainable, regional tourism development through fostering better understanding, promoting the capacity of GMS public and private sector personnel on regional tourism
Learning Program	Regional Research Development and Methodology	17 March - 4 April 2008	NZAID	18	Provision of hands-on training on developing regional research proposals on identified topics of MI on four thematic areas
Custom Course	Power Interconnection and Trade in the GMS	3-21 Mar 2008	YNPG	20	Regional power trade facilitation and system harmonization program initiated by Yunnan Power Grid Corporate. MI will provide training in collaboration with AIT.
Learning Program	Tourism Open Education Resources	17-21 Mar 2008	NZAID	24	One week workshop for the university network established together with UNESCO. UNESCO will provide resource persons.
<b>II.</b>					
<b>Workshop/Policy Dialogues/Meetings</b>					
Workshop	Regional workshop on Trade Facilitation Gaps Analysis	7 - 9 April 2008	NZAID/The Rockefeller Foundation	30	This workshop is to present the findings of six study teams on national trade facilitation gap analysis in the GMS countries.
<b>III.</b>					
<b>Program Development</b>					
Program Development	Young GMS Professionals Program	August 2007- Mar 2008	NZAID	10	To recruit and train 12 young professionals from the six GMS countries for six months after which they may be absorbed by MI as Program Facilitators.
Program Development	Tracer Study of MI Alumni and TNA	Sept 2007- Mar 2008	NZAID	N/A	To assess the effectiveness and applicability of MI courses offered in the last 3 years and conduct analytical assessment of current and anticipated capacity building needs in the GMS
Program Development	Enhancing the Effectiveness of Aid in the GMS Curriculum Development	Jan- Mar 2008	NZAID	N/A	To develop this new course as highly recommended from the Stakeholder Consultative Meeting
<b>IV.</b>					
<b>Research and Learning Resource Center</b>					
Research	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> MIRAC Meeting and Round Table Discussion	13- 15 Jan 2008	NZAID	40	To present the primary results of GMS-focused researches funded by MI and make improvements on the researches based on the recommendations from the meeting.
Research	Research papers editing and publications	Aug 2007- Mar 2008	NZAID	8 papers	Publication of the MIRAC 2007 research reports and edit of 2007-2008 research reports.
<b>V.</b>					
<b>Organizational Development and Process Improvement</b>					
Organization Development	Developing Internal Rules and Regulations (HRM and Administration) appropriate for intergovernmental organization	Oct 2007- Mar 2008	NZAID	N/A	MI rules and regulations will have to change to those applicable for intergovernmental organizations. Thirty days of regional consultant services are needed.
Organization Development	Improving MI Financial Management and Control System	Oct 2007 - Mar 2008	NZAID	N/A	On-going improvement of MI Financial Control and Grant Management system is needed. One finance consultant to be commissioned for a total of 30 days (spreading over a six-month period)



## Visitors from the Thai Justice Ministry's Office of the Attorney General

Eighty public prosecutors and senior officials from the Ministry of Justice of Thailand visited MI on 20 November 2007. The visit was part of a tour organized by the Office of the Attorney General for the Justice Ministry personnel to be acquainted



with relevant key institutions in Northeastern Thailand and Lao PDR.

MI Management Team briefed the delegation, led by Director-General Rewat Chanprasert and included participants to the training course for provincial public prosecutors, on MI human development programs as well as updates on regional development and cooperation initiatives.

## Visitors from King Prajadhipok's Institute

Ninety-eight Thai government officials as students from King Prajadhipok's Institute, Bangkok called on the Mekong Institute (MI) in Khon Kaen University on October 27, 2007.

Pictured above is MI Director Dr. Suchat Katima giving a



background on MI and its activities. The students, led by Prof. Wanchai Wattanasap, former MI Director and former President of Khon Kaen University, are studying for a certificate in Dispute Resolution. The field trip to Khon Kaen province, was part of the course and aimed for the students to learn more about social and environmental issues in Northeastern Thailand.

## MI Technical Working Group

Mekong Institute (MI) hosted the 3-day Technical Working Group Meeting on "Updating and Refining the 2005 -2010 MI Strategic Plan" from October 24-26 at the MI's Conference Room. MI Director Dr Suchat Katima,



(seated center), delivering his welcome remarks and introducing the meeting objectives to the 13 participants representing Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam as well as MI staff and consultant.

## Press Relations and Advanced News Writing Seminar

Khon Kaen University Vice President Vinai Chaiharn organized a two-day seminar for 60 public relations officers under the KKU PR Network from October 15 -16 at Srithong



Riverside Resort and Sports Club, Khon Kaen province. A representative from Mekong Institute also participated in the seminar which aimed at creating more advanced news writing skills and building-up good relationships with local and national mass media, including Bangkok Post and The Nation.

## Outgoing Vietnamese Consul-General visits MI

Outgoing Vietnamese Consul-General, Nguyen Van Pham, (4<sup>th</sup> from right) visited Mekong Institute Director, Dr. Suchat Katima, (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), on October 3. Mr. Nguyen Van Pham held the post as Vietnamese Consul-General in



Khon Kaen for four years and had been working closely with MI in promoting regional cooperation and integration



## Combating Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region

Mekong Institute (MI) Program Manager Ms. Sanda Thant introducing MI services and facilities to participants at the opening ceremony of the Regional Training Programme to



Combat Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. The training was jointly organized by the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP) and MI on November 5-13, 2007 at the MI Conference Room.

## Unleashing Entrepreneurship for Development & Trade

Mekong Institute (MI) management and staff with participants from private enterprises and institutes in the GMS countries during the



awareness workshop on Unleashing Entrepreneurship for Development & Trade held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on October 29 - November 1, 2007. The workshop was jointly organized by GISD-SDC (Switzerland), LIEDC (Lao PDR), EDII (India) and MI.

## Innovative Approaches to Flood Risk Reduction in the Mekong Basin

Professor Krasae Chanawongse (seated center), Chairman of the Board of Trustee, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), is seen delivering his keynote address at the opening ceremony of the Regional Workshop on "Innovative Approaches to Flood Risk Reduction in the Mekong Basin".



The workshop, held on October 17-19, was jointly organized by the Mekong River Commission Secretariat

and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) under Component 4 of the Flood Management and Mitigation Program, with support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ).

Other personalities who addressed the participants during the opening ceremony at Charoen Thani Princess Hotel were Mr. Te Navuth, Director of Technical Support Division, MRCS; Dr. Cornelius Van Tuyl, MRC-GTZ Cooperation Program Coordinator; Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, ADPC and Mr. Nicolaas Bakker of MRCS/ FMMP.

## Human Resource Development Strategy for Effective Regional Cooperation

Mr. Chen Dehai, (seated center), Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Thailand, graciously presided over the opening ceremony of the Learning Course on "Human Resource Development Strategy for Effective Regional Cooperation" on November 19, 2007 at the MI Conference Room. The Yunnan Provincial Government of China and



designing human resources development programs of line agencies involved in regional cooperation.

MI jointly organized the learning course on 18 November - 1 December 2007.

MI Director Dr. Suchat Katima (seated 3<sup>rd</sup> from right) delivered the welcoming remarks to the 28 participants from the GMS countries. The participants are composed of mid - level government officials responsible for

## Enhancing Entrepreneurship in the Greater Mekong Sub - region

Twenty-nine participants and guests attended the Opening Ceremony of the Regional Workshop on "Enhancing Entrepreneurship in the Greater Mekong Sub-region" on December 3 at the MI conference room.



Dr. Suchat Katima, MI Director, gave the opening remarks and opened the workshop, which was sponsored by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in partnership with the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII). The workshop, organized by Mekong Institute in Khon Kaen Province, ran on 3-10 December 2007.

# Follow up Policy Dialogue on Transborder Migration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)

## Dialogue Officially Closed but Forums Continue

Mekong Institute (MI) successfully closed the follow-up policy dialogue on Transborder Migration Policy Implementation and Monitoring: Its Effectiveness and Current Policy Gaps in the Greater Mekong Sub-region on November 17, 2007. The two-and-a-half-day follow up policy dialogue was organized at MI to discuss migration policies in the GMS countries as well as analyze their policy gaps upon migrants' lives and welfare.

Consul General Mr. Sisavath Donlavandy of the Consulate - General of the Lao PDR in Khon Kaen, Thailand gave the opening remarks to the GMS delegates of the policy dialogue on November 15, 2007 at the MI. Dr. Suchat Katima, MI Director, delivered the welcoming remarks to the delegates, executive policy and decision makers from the GMS governments, NGO and INGO representatives, academic and research institutions' representatives at the opening ceremony of the policy dialogue. The policy dialogue was organized with support of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Mr. Alan Feinstein, Acting Director, Rockefeller Foundation Southeast Asia Regional Office sent remarks to the delegates for the policy dialogue as he was unable to attend the meeting personally. He has pointed out the importance of the policy dialogue saying; *"there is no need to underline the importance of the issue of migration and the challenges that it poses. The background and concept papers set this out, and the excellent resource persons, outside experts and speakers will do a better job than I could of explaining how urgent is the need for understanding and acting on the complex issue of migration."*

*"the idea behind a second follow-up meeting has been both to deepen the discussion, as well as to move forthrightly towards real policy outcomes and concrete recommended measures. I sincerely hope that that will be the result of the meeting, and, though it will not be easy to arrive at consensus on concrete policy changes, a resultant policy brief that can be brought to a higher-level meeting of GMS governments with this group's recommendations could be a powerful lever for change for the better".*

Attended the dialogue were about 50 delegates from high-ranking government officials, International Organizations, Academic Institutions, Advocacy Groups and Non-Government Organizations from the GMS countries.

The dialogue covered a wide range of migration issues during its many lively group discussions. Many of the region's current problems related to migration are exacerbated due to a lack of relevant policies at national and regional levels. The frequent policy changes continue to create challenges for migrants and organizations working with migration issues. Bilateral and multilateral agreements between countries can lead to better enforcement and monitoring. The objectives of the dialogue were discussed, but a continued discussion is necessary to reach regional agreement on the best tactics to achieve the objectives of the dialogue. MI will continue to play a leading role in facilitating support to migration projects, particularly by providing training, supporting action research and policy forums at both national and regional levels.



Delegates posing for a photo in front of MI Building during the Opening Ceremony of the Policy Dialogue



Delegates from the GMS Countries discussing migration issues in the GMS during a panel presentation

