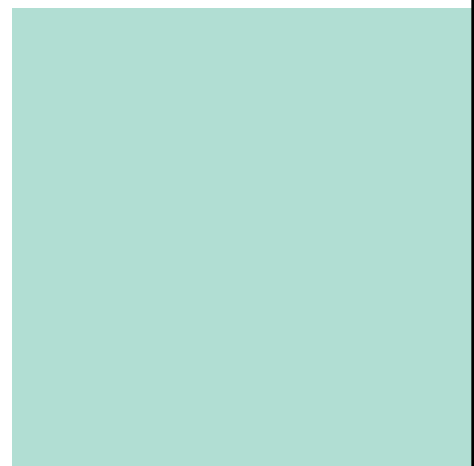
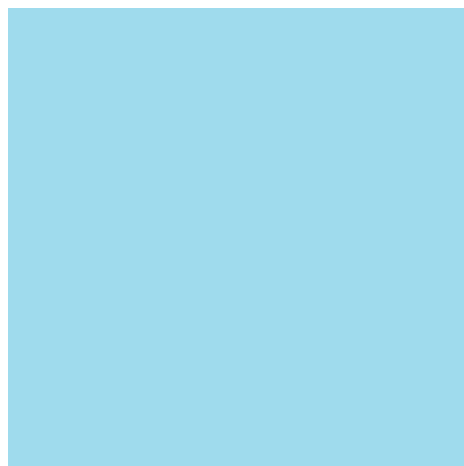
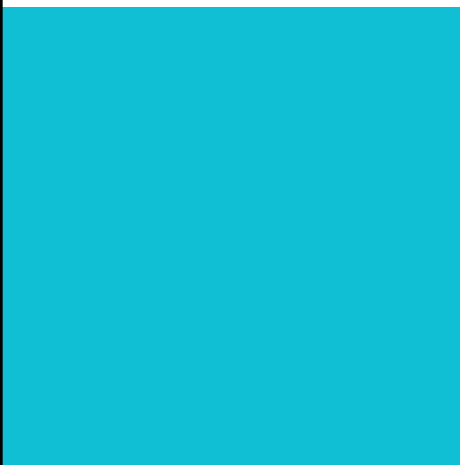





MEKONG INSTITUTE



Annual Report 2008



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Message from the Council Chairman

Global competitiveness in the region is strengthened through the ever-increasing collaboration among the GMS countries. Subregional cooperation has proven to be an effective mechanism for economic and social development. As a result, the region has continued to benefit from healthy economic development in 2008.

A competent and well-informed human resource base equipped with a deepening understanding of economic and social development issues is necessary to effectively deal with the challenges the region faces. At the 3rd GMS Summit held in Vientiane in March 2008, the leaders of the six GMS countries signed a joint declaration which stipulates their support for the mission and mandate of the Mekong Institute as a means of forwarding the plan of action for GMS development for 2008-2012

In 2009, investing in the development of human resources will be vital to the success and development of the GMS region. Consequently, the Mekong Institute's core learning and customized learning courses, research on current GMS issues, workshops and policy dialogues will prevail in playing a strategic role in the progress and development of the GMS countries.

Much has been accomplished in the advancement of economic cooperation and integration to the mutual benefit of the GMS member countries. MI continues to transform the experience of improved connectivity into enhanced competitiveness through continually promoting regional development and cooperation in 2009 by developing the region's most valuable resource: its people.

Mr. Hoang Viet Khang
MI Council Chairman



Message from the Steering Committee Chairman

The GMS experienced robust development in 2008. The growth of local industries and enhanced regional cooperation are set to continue throughout 2009 despite the current global economic downturn in the surge of foreign investments.

The Mekong Institute holds a unique position to strengthen regional cooperation and development through its regional network of professionals, civil society organizations, government agencies and the private sector. The expert delivery of its relevant core learning programs, the successful introduction of new initiatives together with the Institute's extensive consultations with stakeholders has helped MI sharpen its focus on the four key priority themes for its GMS learning and research programs.

The year 2008 has been a year of consolidation and growth for MI. The Institute has confirmed a number of additional strategic alliances through memoranda of agreement with the

Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, the GMS Business Forum and the Mekong Migration Network. Sixteen regional and international learning programs, four sub-regional research projects and seven workshops and policy dialogues were successfully carried out by MI in 2008 benefiting over 600 government officials and leaders of private enterprise involved in GMS Development and Cooperation. The Institute also published eight working papers for its MI Working Paper Series 2008.

In 2009, MI will be conducting twelve learning programs, five research activities, eight workshops and one symposium under the four thematic areas of Effective Regional Cooperation, Rural Development and Project Management, Leadership and Good Governance and Trade and Investment Facilitation as it continues to play a key role in the human resources development of the Greater Mekong Subregion.

Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee
MI Steering Committee Chairman



ABOUT MI The Mekong Institute (MI) is an inter-governmental organization with a residential learning facility located on the campus of Khon Kaen University in Northeastern Thailand. It serves the countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), namely, Cambodia, Lao P.D.R., Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Yunnan Province and Guang Xi Autonomous Region of China. MI's learning programs and services principally cater to the capacity building needs of current and future GMS

leaders and policy makers on issues around public sector reform and good governance, transnational project management and sustainable development, trade facilitation, and regional cooperation.

MI holds the distinction of being the only GMS-based development learning institute, founded by the six GMS Governments, offering standard and on-demand human resource development programs with focus on regional cooperation and transnational development issues.

HISTORY The New Zealand Government created MI as a development assistance project for the GMS countries in 1996, with the intention that it would evolve into a regionally-governed, autonomous institution.

NZAID, the Thai Government, Khon Kaen University and other national and international partner agencies funded MI from its inception until 2003. During this period, MI advisory committees, GMS Government representatives, NZAID and other stakeholders collaborated to develop the MI Charter.

This document legitimized MI as an Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO), to be governed by the six GMS countries, when it was signed in 2003. The Charter transformed MI into an autonomous, international organization.

Guided by the Charter, MI is implementing its Strategic Plan 2005-2010, to transform the institute from a

development assistance project into an independent, sustainable training organization.

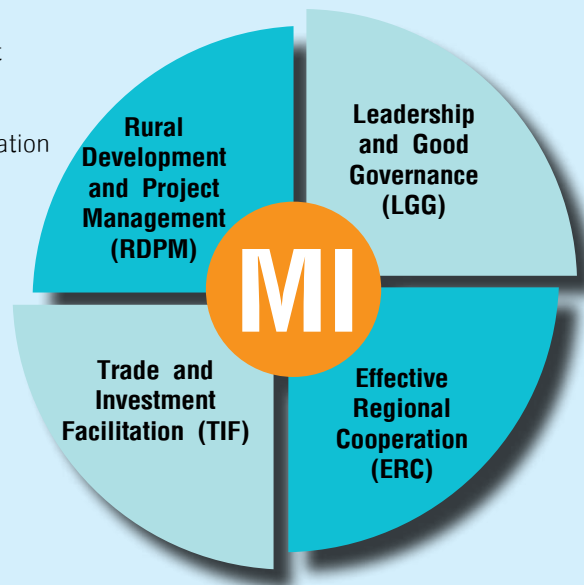
MI was established to be governed by the GMS countries, for the GMS countries. Its strength lies in its access to local officials and organizations, network of more than 2,700 alumni and national coordinating agencies, and its regionally-focused HRD programs.

Over the years, MI has made significant improvement to its programs, established a GMS-focused research network, and initiated regional policy forum dialogues and private sector initiatives in collaboration with GMS Business Forum.

On July 17, 2007, the Thai Government approved the MI Headquarters Agreement to recognize the Institute as an IGO under local law. This status places MI in an advantageous position to facilitate regional development, cooperation and integration through HRD programs, GMS-focused research and policy dialogues.

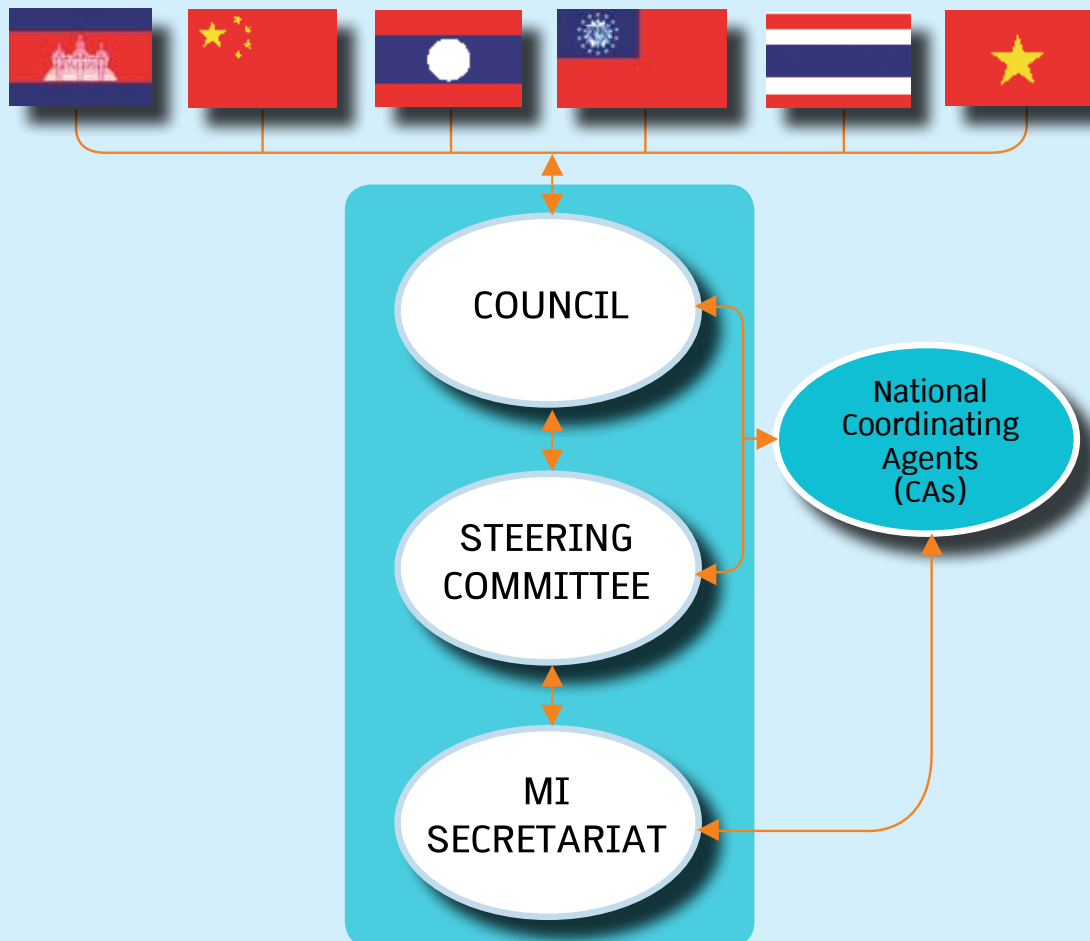
MI Operation Framework Four Thematic Areas

1. **Rural Development and Project Management (RDPM)**
 - A. Transboundary and Regional Project Management
 - I. Project Feasibility and Design
 - II. Project Planning and Development
 - III. Results-based Project Monitoring and Evaluation
 - B. Rural Development
 - C. Income Generation and Poverty Reduction
 - D. Sustainable Rural Livelihood
2. **Leadership and Good Governance (LGG)**
 - A. Public Sector Reform
 - B. Leadership in Competitive Enterprises
 - C. Enhancing Effective Implementation of Aid
3. **Trade and Investment Facilitation (TIF)**
 - A. Enhancing Entrepreneurship
 - B. SME Cluster Development and Export Consortia
 - C. Trade and Investment Facilitation
 - D. Trade Negotiation
4. **Effective Regional Cooperation (ERC)**
 - A. Tourism: A Regional Approach to Development
 - B. Labour Migration Management
 - C. Conflict Management for Effective Regional Cooperation
 - D. Education Planning
 - E. Strategic Human Resource Development for Effective Regional Cooperation



Governance Structure of the Mekong Institute

MI operates under the MI Charter which came into force when it was signed by the six governments of the GMS in 2003. It states that the institute operates as an autonomous institution under the governance of the Council and Steering Committee.



COUNCIL The Council is the supreme decision-making body of the institute and its functions are to approve the strategic plan and budget and consider the recommendations submitted by the Steering Committee. This year, 2008, the Chairmanship of the MI Council is with Vietnam.

STEERING COMMITTEE The Steering Committee's primary function is to provide guidance on policy, strategy and funding, appraise the performance of the institute and its management staff, and submit recommendations to the Council. The Steering Committee reports its activities and deliberations to the Council for acknowledgement and consideration.

List of MI Council Members



Representative from Lao PDR

Mr. Somchith Inthamith

Director-General
International Cooperation Department,
Ministry of Planning and Investment
Vientiane, Lao PDR

Business Representative

Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee

Chairman of the Board of Directors
Export-Import Bank of Thailand
Bangkok, Thailand

Chairman

Mr. Hoang Viet Khang

Deputy Director-General
Foreign Economic Relations Department
Ministry of Planning and Investment
Hanoi, Vietnam

Representative from Myanmar

Daw Myo Nwe

Director General
Foreign Economic Relations Department
Ministry of National Planning and
Economic Development
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Academic Representative

Khon Kaen University

Professor Dr. Sumon Sakolchai

President
Khon Kaen University
Khon Kaen, Thailand

Honorary Advisor

Dr. Tej Bunnag

Assistant Secretary-General
for Administration
The Thai Red Cross Society
Bangkok, Thailand

Representative from Thailand

Mrs. Chitriya Pinthong

Director-General
Thailand International Development
Cooperation Agency
Bangkok, Thailand

Academic Representative

Hue University

Professor Dr. Nguyen Van Toan

President
Hue University
Hue City, Vietnam

Representative from Cambodia

H.E. Mr. Ngo Hongly

Secretary-General
Council for Administrative Reform
The Office of the Council of Ministers
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Representative from ADB

Dr. Arjun Thapan

Director General
Southeast Asia Department (SERD)
Asian Development Bank
Manila, Philippines

Mekong Institute

Dr. Suchat Katima

Director
Mekong Institute
Khon Kaen, Thailand

Representative from PR China (Yunnan Province)

Mr. Liu Ping

Vice Governor
Yunnan Province, PR China

Representative from NZAID

Dr. Peter Adams

Executive Director
New Zealand's International Aid &
Development Agency (NZAID)
Wellington, New Zealand

List of Steering Committee Members



Chairman

Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee

Chairman of the Board of Directors
Export-Import Bank of Thailand
Bangkok, Thailand

Representative from Myanmar

Daw Myat Myat So

Deputy Director-General
Foreign Economic Relations Department
Ministry of National Planning and
Economic Development
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Representative from Cambodia

Mr. Chhuon Chham

Deputy Secretary-General
Council for Administrative Reform
The Office of the Council of Ministers
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Representative from Thailand

Ms. Suchada Thaibunthao

Director, Thai Cooperation Branch I
Thailand International Development
Cooperation Agency
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Bangkok, Thailand

Representative from PR China

Mr. Diao Mingsheng

Permanent Representative of China to
UNESCAP
of PR China Embassy
Bangkok, Thailand

Representative from Vietnam

Ms. Nguyen Thi Thanh Phuong

Director
Foreign Economic Relations Department
Ministry of Planning and Investment
Hanoi, Vietnam

Representative from Lao PDR

Mr. Latsamy Keomany

Director-General
Department of Economic Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Vientiane Lao PDR

Mekong Institute

Dr. Suchat Katima

Director
Mekong Institute
Khon Kaen, Thailand

MI Coordinating Agents



Cambodia

Mr. Chhuon Chham
Deputy Secretary General
The Council for Administrative Reform
41 Russian Federation Boulevard,
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Telephone: (855-23) 723 903
Facsimile: (855-23) 723 712
E-mail: chhuonchham@yahoo.com



PR China

Mr. Wang Zehua
Director General
Yunnan Academy of Science and Technology Development
Yunnan Research & Coordination Office for Lancang-
Mekong Subregional Cooperation
19th Fl., Provincial Science & Technology Bldg.,
542 Beijing Road, KunMing City 650051
Yunnan Province, China PRC
Telephone: 86 871 3174375, 86 871 3152485
Facsimile: 86 871 316 9006
E-mail: luna_202@163.com



Lao PDR

Mr. Latsamy Keomany
Director General
Department of Economic Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
23 Sing Ha Road, Vientiane, Lao PDR
Telephone: (856-21) 415 107
Facsimile: (856-21) 415 932
E-mail: lkeomany@yahoo.com.au



Myanmar

Daw Myat Myat So
Deputy Director General
Foreign Economic Relations Department
Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development
Building No. (1), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone: (95-67) 407 343
Facsimile: (95-67) 407 027, 407 434
E-mail: ferd.mmr@mptmail.net.mm



Thailand

Mrs. Chitriya Pinthong
Director General
Thailand International Development
Cooperation Agency
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
962 Krung Kasem Road, Bangkok 10110, Thailand
Telephone: (66-2) 280 0980
Facsimile: (66-2) 280 1248

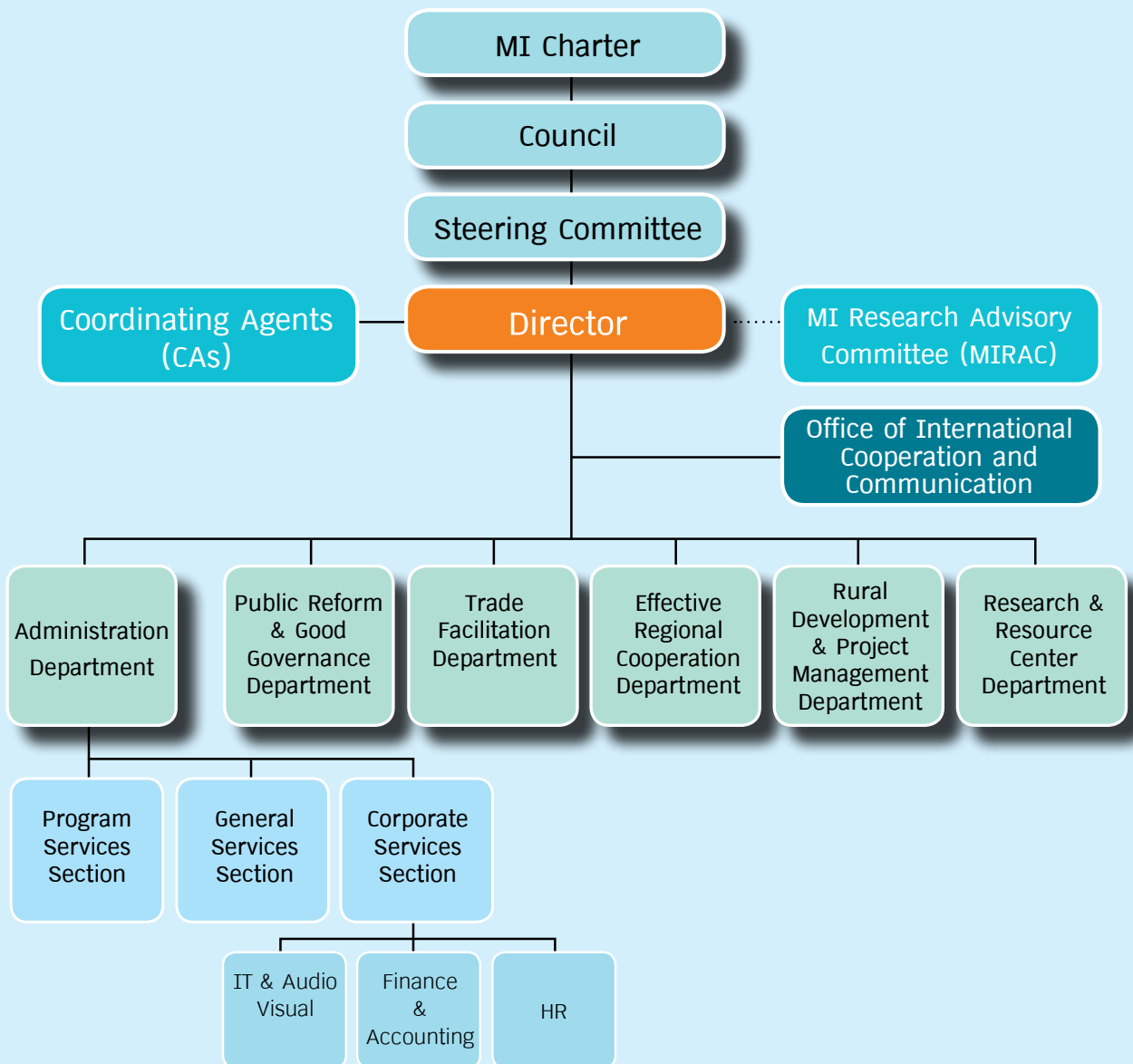


Vietnam

Mr. Hoang Viet Khang
Deputy Director General
Foreign Economic Relations Department
Ministry of Planning and Investment
2 Hoang, Van Thu Street, Hanoi, Viet Nam
Telephone: (84-4) 804 3029
Facsimile: (84-4) 823 0161
E-mail: phuongnh@mpi.gov.vn

MI Secretariat

The MI Secretariat is led by the Director. Its main duties are to organize the specific activities for educational purposes through working with other reputable GMS and international institutions and to provide information to the GMS member countries on all areas of HRD for GMS Development and Cooperation.



List of MI Staff as of 31 December 2008

Name	Surname	Functional Title	Nationality
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR			
Dr. Suchat	Katima	Director	Thai
Ms. Supaphan	Chaiyaporn	Administration Support Officer	Thai
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION			
Dr. Michael	Jones	ICC Coordinator	American
Mr. Phitsanu	Thepthong	Communication Officer	Thai
Ms. Pornwilai	Pumira	Executive Assistant & Marketing Officer	Thai
Ms. Urinthorn	Pheungsaengkeo	YGMS Professional	Thai
PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT			
Ms. Jutamas	Thongcharoen	Associate Program Manager	Thai
PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM AND GOOD GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT			
Mr. Khampasueth	Sensayong	Program Facilitator	Laos
TRADE FACILITATION DEPARTMENT			
Mr. Sa-nga	Sattanan	Associate Program Manager	Thai
Ms. Nisarawan	Piboonpornpong	Associate Program Manager	Thai
Ms. Liuyi	Huang	Program Facilitator	Chinese
Ms. Van	Nguyen Thi Hoang	Program Facilitator	Vietnamese
EFFECTIVE REGIONAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT			
Ms. Sanda	Thant	Program Manager	Myanmar
Ms. Chi	Trin Thi Khanh	Program Administrator	Vietnamese
Ms. Chuleewan	Praneetham	Program Facilitator	Thai
Mr. Pham Tranh	Trung	YGMS Professional	Vietnamese
RESEARCH AND LEARNING RESOURCE DEPARTMENT			
Ms. Maria Theresa	Medialdia	Research Manager	Filipino
Mr. Samart	Pola	Research and Information Officer	Thai
Ms. Thwe	Hla Myo	Program Facilitator	Myanmar
Mr. Marat	Yu	Program Specialist	Chinese
Ms. Yuko	Shirai	Research Officer	Japanese
Ms. Jian	Wang	YGMS Professional	Chinese
PROGRAM SERVICES SECTION			
Ms. Siriluck	Champasri	Senior Program Administrator	Thai
Ms. Pranee	Luangchaisri	Administration Officer	Thai
Ms. Pattama	Samor-on	Front Desk Officer	Thai
SUPPORT SERVICES SECTION			
Mrs. Siriluk	Phuengphan	Senior Administration Officer	Thai
Mrs. Amornrat	Sattanan	Admin Officer (Inventory and Stock)	Thai
Mr. Prakongsapt	Siriwattanametanon	Procurement and Contract Officer	Thai
Mr. Direk	Aranmit	Transportation and Facility Officer	Thai
Mrs. Kongsin	Heebkaew	Senior House Keeper	Thai
Mr. Wittawat	Sanyamoon	Driver	Thai
Mr. Veerasak	Rode	Driver	Thai
Mr. Boonyarit	Hachanon	Gardener	Thai
CORPORATE SERVICES SECTION			
Ms. Sukhon	Aduldech	Finance Manager	Thai
Ms. Viyada	Chantao	Senior Accounting Officer	Thai
Ms. Pimpitcha	Promsuwan	Senior Finance Officer	Thai
Ms. Arunrung	Konpoodproh	Accounting Officer	Thai
Mr. Akasit	Thipsanprom	Web Administrator	Thai
Mr. Nopparat	Rattanaratum	IT Officer	Thai
Mr. Yarzar	Nyunt	YGMS Professional	Myanmar

Highlights of the year 2008



▲ MI Signs Agreement with MMN on a Joint Program on Labour Migration Management in the GMS

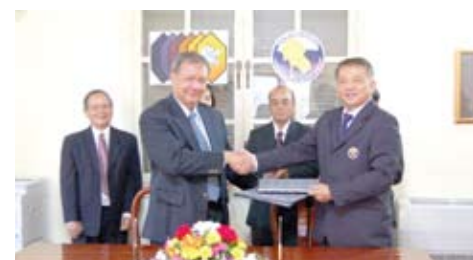
On November 28, 2008, Mekong Institute and Mekong Migration Network signed a Memorandum of Agreement. Under the agreement, MI and MMN will capitalize their respective experiences in the Asian region to promote awareness on the capacity building activities for effective labor migration management in the GMS countries. MI and MMN will jointly develop and carry out a capacity building project on labor migration management in the GMS region. This includes training curriculum design and development, training packages development and delivery, experts meeting, and regional policy dialogue planning and implementation.

■ Six GMS Governments support the Mission and Mandate of MI

At the Third GMS Summit, held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on March 30 – 31, the six GMS Countries pledged their support for MI to realize our “Mission and Mandate” in building human resource capacity of the six nations for regional cooperation and integration. MI is given a clear mandate to focus its services on studying impacts of economic integration and implications of transboundary issues; be the driving force in addressing human resource issues in health, education and labor migration.

■ Yunnan Provincial Government Funding MI for 2008

The Yunnan Provincial Government of the Peoples’ Republic of China continued its support of regional training programs at MI in 2008. These programs included the Strategic Human Resource Development for Effective Regional Cooperation learning program, and a program (including structured visits) on Trade and Investment Opportunities along the GMS North-South Economic Corridors.



▲ Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Mekong Institute and the GMS Business Forum

On 8 August 2008, MI and the GMS Business Forum (GMS-BF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding “Joint Program on Trade and Investment Facilitation in the Greater Mekong Sub-region Economic Corridors”.

MI and GMS-BF will design the program to build capacity in regional development, cooperation and integration. The program will incorporate policy dialogue activity, strengthening business relationships, building a GMS-wide network, and research.

The MOU was signed at the GMS-BF headquarters in Vientiane, Lao PDR, by MI Director, Dr. Suchat Katima and GMS-BF Secretary-General, Mr. Oudet Souvannavong.

◀ MI Technical Workshop on Environment

A technical workshop on “Environmental Performance Assessment (EPA) and Sustainable Development Planning (SDP) in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)”

was held at the Mekong Institute on 26 May. Forty-five delegates from the six GMS countries (including Guanxi Province of China) took part in the five-day workshop. Its objective was to build capacity of government officials in conducting Environment Performance Assessment (EPA) in their respective countries. The seminar was organized by Institute for Global Environment Studies (IGES) and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through the GMS Environment Operations Center (EOC), Bangkok.

Highlights of the year 2008

MI Welcomes ADB Visitors ►

The Director-General of the Southeast Asian Department of the Asian Development Bank, Mr. Arjun Thapan, visited MI on July 3 to assess the Institute and its human resource capacity and to discuss a closer working relationship between the two organizations. During the visit, the ADB staff was also briefed on MI's activities, development partners and thematic program areas



▲ MI Signs MOU with EDII to Promote South-to-South Cooperation

On a visit sponsored by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation to Ahmedabad, India in February 2008, the MI director signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Dr. Dinesh Awashi, Director of EDII, to cooperate in all areas related to Entrepreneurship Development, SME Promotion and Trade Facilitation in the GMS. The MOU places emphasis on using this MI-EDII partnership as the linkage for South and South Cooperation (between India and GMS countries) on human resource development.

■ Thai Government Approved Financial Support to MI (2008 – 2010)

On April 29, the Thai Cabinet approved its financial support to MI in total of 30 million Baht to support MI Operation in the next three years. In its statement, the Cabinet recognizes that MI is “the education and academic hub and plays the most important role in human resource development and regional cooperation in the GMS”. The new funding will allow MI to expand its learning programs, to conduct in-depth research in emerging GMS issues and expand its human resource capacity.

■ Four MI Staff Get Scholarships from SIDA to Assist in Improving the MI HRD Programming Cycle

Four members of the MI faculty participated in the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Program sponsored by SIDA. They attended a Training-of-Trainers course in Sweden for 3 weeks from October 17 to November 7. The objective of the training course was to exchange knowledge and experiences in ESD in a river basin context. The program increased the understanding of the three dimensions (environmental/ water, social-cultural and economical) of sustainable development and the education responses required.



▲ MI Staff Visited Northern Thailand

MI Director and staff from MI's programs, research and corporate services departments visited a number of institutions in Chiang Rai Province on September to discuss future cooperation.

The first visit was the International College of Mekong Region Chiang Rai Rajabhat University on September 16. Dean Dr. Maka Kittasankka hosted the meeting with MI, in which both organizations presented their programs and discussed the possibility of a joint research project.

The Chiang Rai Provincial Chapter of the Federation of Thai Industries was the second site visited by the delegation. Chairman Charernchai Yamkaekai greeted MI staff to discuss potential cooperative options for economic development.

The delegation was also welcomed at Mae Fah Luang University on the morning of September 17 by Vice President Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ted Tesprateep. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sitanon Jesdapipat, Acting Director of the Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Management, led the discussion.

That afternoon, a meeting was held with the Chiang Rai Chamber of Commerce. MI presented information about its forthcoming trade workshop to Chairman Pattana Sittisombat and a number of members as an example of how the two organizations could work together.

2008 Performance



Introduction

The past year saw the beginning of many new partnerships between MI and important organizations in region. MI director Dr. Suchat Katima signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Dr. Dinesh Awashi, Director of EDII to cooperate in all areas of related to Entrepreneurship Development, SME Promotion and Trade Facilitation in the GMS. Another Memorandum of Agreement was signed between MI and the GMS Business Forum. Under this agreement MI and the GMS Business Forum will create a training program for trade and investment facilitation along the Greater Mekong Sub-region Economic Corridors. In late November representatives from the Mekong Migration Network came to MI to sign a Memorandum of Agreement, where MI and MMN agree to undertake a joint program in labor migration management in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

In 2008 MI worked with several implementing partners to deliver 16 regional and international training courses, 12 workshops and 2 policy dialogues. Major partners included a) UNESCO Bangkok on Education Policy Reform, b) UNIAP on Combating Human Trafficking, c) MMN on Transborder Labor Migration Management, d) GMS Business Forum on Trade and Investment facilitation, and e) EDII on Entrepreneurship Development.

MI carried out a tracer study of its alumni and conducted a Training Need Analysis for GMS development and cooperation from October 2007 to March 2008 with the purpose to assess the impact of our training programs and identify human resource development needs of key government agencies and state enterprises involved in socio-economic cooperation in the GMS. The study revealed the following findings:



- a. Course Effectiveness: 96% of the respondents rated MI's learning course as effective and very effective in improving their knowledge and skills, and 74% believed that MI's learning courses fostered professional network development among participants.. 53% of the respondents said that they were still in contact with their batch mates from other GMS countries. 93% of the respondents rated the applicability of the knowledge and skills acquire as highly applicable. The consistent pattern of responses received from across the countries further confirmed the relevance of MI's learning program from a regional perspective.
- b. Training Needs: The priority training needs of government officials involved in sub-regional development and cooperation are based on the functional elements of their organizations. Common training areas identified during the study were
 - Trade and Investment Facilitation including capacity building of provincial chambers of commerce, business associations and government agencies involved in the promotion of trade and investment along the economic corridors.
 - Project Management especially for staff officers and planners who are involved in planning and monitoring development projects and transboundary activities.
 - Aid Management for government officers involved in the mobilization of official aid assistance.
 - Social and environmental impacts of development of infrastructure and economic integration in the GMS. MI was requested by several parties to continue to monitor the impact of the economic development on rural livelihood, on ethnic minorities, and on transboundary environmental and social issues.

Program Activities 2008 Report

No.	Program Names	Types	Period	Development Partners	Number of Participants												
					Gender		Sector			Country						Total	
					M	F	Public	Private/ Civil society	Cam bodia	PR china	Laos	Myan mar	Thai	Vietnam	others		
1	Round Table Meeting on the Outcomes of the GMS focused research of 2007	Workshop	14-15 Jan	NZAID	21	14	23	12	5	5	5	4	4	6	5	5	105
2	Tourism : A Regional Approach to Development	Training	14 Jan-1 Feb	NZAID	14	6	20		4	2	4	4	4	2	4		60
3	MIRAC Meeting	Meeting	16 Jan	NZAID	9	1	7	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	30
4	Combating Human Trafficking in the GMS	Training	25 Feb-4 Mar	UNITAP	14	15	25	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5		87
5	Tourism : Open Education Resources	Training	17-21 Mar	NZAID & UNESCO	13	11	24		3	4	4	4	4	5	4		72
6	Regional Research Development and Methodology	Training	17 Mar-4 Apr	NZAID	12	15	11	16	3	4	4	5	5	7	4		81
7	Trade Facilitation Policy Gap Analysis on Cross Border Transport Agreement (CBTA) in the GMS	Policy Dialogue	7-8 Apr	NZAID	29	12	23	18	7	7	6	5	5	6	6	4	123
8	Expert Meeting on GMS Trade Facilitation	Meeting	9 Apr	NZAID	10	3	4	9	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	39
9	Poverty Reduction and Income Generation for Development	Training	21 Apr-9 May	TICA	15	5	20		1	1	1			2		16	60
10	Managing Public Sector Reform	Training	5May-6Jun	NZAID	14	6	18	2	4	2	4	4	4	2	4		60
11	Expert meeting on Labor Migration Management in the GMS	Meeting Foundation	13-14 May	Rockefeller	8	10	13	5	3	4	2	2	2	6	1		54
12	Regional Seminar on Training-of-Trainers on Cultural Tourism Sites Management and Guiding	Workshop	26-27 May	UNESCAP	11	2	13		4		3			4	2		39
13	Environmental Performance Assessment and Sustainable Development Planning	Workshop	26-30 May 2008	IGES & UNEP & ADB					5	5	5	7	7	12	5	6	45
14	Decentralised Education Planning in the Context of Public Sector Management Reform	Training	26 May-6 Jun	NZAID & UNESCO	12	9	21		5	3	4	4	1	4	4		63
15	Rural Development	Training	9-27 Jun	TICA	16	7	23					2	2	2		19	69
16	Leadership in Competitive Enterprises	Training	7-25 Jul	TICA	13	9	18	4	2		1	2	2	2	1	14	66

No.	Program Names	Types	Period	Development Partners	Number of Participants																	
					Gender		Sector		Country							Total						
					M	F	Public	Private/ Civil society	Cam bodia	PR China	Laos	Myan mar	Thai	Vietnam	others							
17	Structured Learning Visit to Laos, Vietnam and PR China. With particular focus on North-South Economic Corridor (Route No.5)	Workshop	12-19 Jul	ROC	28	14	34	8									42					126
18	Project Management	Training	14-25 Jul	ADB PPP	8	9	17	2	2	3	3	3	3	4								51
19	Enhancing Entrepreneurship in SME Development and Export Consortia	Training	4-22 August 2008	TICA	10	12	17	5	2	2	2	2	1	1	17							66
20	Regional Research Implementation and Methodology - Mid Term Review	Workshop	19-23 Aug	NZAID, RF, SDC	9	23	12	20	2	4	4	6	6	9	7							96
21	Training of Trainers to Enhance Facilitation Skills	Training	1-5 Sep	NZAID, InWent	16	10	24	2	8	7	4	7	4	7								78
22	Public Participation and Reconciliation	Workshop	24-28 Sep	TICA/SEARCH	12	5	17	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3							51
23	TOT Labour Migration Management	Workshop	11-13 Oct	Rockefeller Foundation & NZAID	8	8	8	8			1	6	1	1								24
24	Trade and Investment Opportunities Along the GMS North-South Economic Corridors	Workshop	12-23 Oct	YPG	14	7	10	11	4	4	5	4	4	4	4							63
25	Strategic Human Resource Development for Effective Regional Co-operation	Training	27 Oct-14 Nov	YPG & NZAID	8	12	16	4	4	4	4	4	4	4								60
26	Labour Migration Management	Training	10-28 Nov	NZAID	10	14	24	4	4	4	4	4	4	4								72
27	Strategic Planning and Management Training	Training	10-14 Nov	MRC	3	5	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2								24
28	Integrated River Basin Planning	Training	17-28 Nov	MRC	3	5	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2								24
29	Enhancing Entrepreneurship in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)	Workshop	24-29 Nov	SDC	19	9	1	27	3	5	5	5	5	5	5							84
	TOTAL				351	258	451	158	77	69	90	84	153	91	88							1872

29 Program Activities (16 Training Programs, 12 Workshops and Meetings, & 1 Policy Dialogue)

Learning Programs MI Core Learning Programs

Course Titles and Sponsor(s)	Objectives	Participants	Dates
Tourism: Approach to Regional Development [NZAID]	To provide participants with a combination of theoretical as well as practical perspectives in tourism development and to promote regional approach to tourism	20 government officials from national tourism offices, related ministries and tourism institutions in the GMS countries	14 Jan – 1 Feb
Managing Public Sector Reform [NZAID]	To enhance knowledge and skills of participants in change management, public service delivery and reform and to present best practices and lessons learned about public reform in Thailand	20 officials of government agencies and state enterprises who are involved in public reform in the GMS countries	15 May – 6 Jun
Decentralized Education Planning [NZAID & UNESCO]	To acquaint participants with regional education sector development and on-going reforms, and application of the Analysis and Projection Model (ANPRO)	21 officials from the GMS government agencies involve in education policy and planning. These included heads of department and technicians from Ministries of Education, middle-level officials and technicians concerned with the education sector in the Ministries of Finance and Ministries of Planning	12 May – 6 Jun
Strategic Human Resource Development for Effective Regional Cooperation and Integration [NZAID & Yunnan Provincial Government]	To promote a strategic network among HRD professionals in the GMS, and to enhance the professional skills of HRD practitioners in planning, developing, executing, monitoring and evaluating HRD programs	20 government officials, researchers and planners from the six GMS countries dealing with international cooperation and human resource development in the GMS	27 Oct – 14 Nov

Learning Programs

MI Customized Learning Programs

MI Customized Learning Programs 1

Course Titles and Sponsor(s)	Objectives	Participants	Dates
Combating Human Trafficking [UNIAP]	To promote a network and close cooperation among different government agencies and institutional organizations in combating human trafficking in the GMS and to enhance their knowledge and skills to influence and enhance policy and practice in countering human trafficking in the GMS	29 participants comprising government officials, personnel from UNIAP regional offices and NGO staff from the six GMS countries	25 Feb – 4 Mar
Income Generation and Poverty Reduction for Development [TICA]	To enhance participants' skills in analyzing poverty, understanding various poverty reduction strategies, and monitoring and evaluating poverty reduction interventions and to share lessons learned and best practices on income generation and poverty reduction projects and strategies in Thailand	20 senior government officials from 17 developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America	21 Apr – 9 May
Sustainable Rural Development [TICA]	To improve the participants' knowledge of development strategies and interventions to address sustainable pro-poor focused rural development and to present best practices and to share lessons learned on different rural development projects in Thailand	23 middle and senior-level officials from developing countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America	9 – 27 June
Leadership in Competitive Enterprises [TICA]	To enhance the understanding of managers on leadership and managerial skills requirements that enable them to interact effectively within the competitive global market	22 middle and senior officials from government agencies and state enterprises from sixteen countries in South and Southeast Asia, the Pacific Ocean and Africa	7 – 25 July
Project Management [ADB-PPP]	To enhance young officials of government agencies involved in GMS development and cooperation in Project Management Cycle including project initiation, planning, implementation and completion	17 junior to middle government officials from six GMS countries participated in the program	14 – 25 July

Learning Programs

MI Customized Learning Programs

MI Customized Learning Programs 2

Course Titles and Sponsor(s)	Objectives	Participants	Dates
Enhancing Entrepreneurship in SME Development and Export Consortia [TICA]	To develop participants' appreciation of the significance and complexity of sustainable enterprise development in a national and regional context and to promote business cooperation and business to business network among entrepreneurs and business associations	22 participants from 14 countries, comprising 17 government officials and five private sector representatives who are involved in the promotion of SME and Export Consortia in their respective countries	4 – 22 Aug
TOT on Enhancing Facilitation Skills [Mekong Metrology & InWEnt]	To enhance the facilitation capacity of modern managers	26 senior and middle level government officials from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, and Myanmar	1 – 5 Sept
Strategic Planning and Management Training [MRC]	To improve knowledge of the strategic planning process and acquire demonstrated skills in formulating organizational strategic plans, and translate the strategic plans into operational plans	8 Junior Riparian Professionals from Lower Mekong countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam)	11 – 15 Nov
Integrated River Basin Planning [MRC]	To enhance the integrated river basin planning skills in the context of the Mekong international river basin	8 Junior Riparian Professionals from Lower Mekong countries and five Young GMS Professionals of MI	18 – 30 Nov

Workshops and Policy Dialogues

▼ Expert Meeting on Labour Migration Management in the GMS

MI and MMN co-organised the Expert Meeting on Labour Migration Management in the GMS from May 13 to 15, 2008.

With the financial support of the Rockefeller Foundation, 20 experts from the fields of migration and middle to senior level officials from relevant ministries from the six GMS countries attended the meeting. The meeting included an overview of the training course draft modules and their topics; discussions on the proposed methodology; discussions on roles, responsibilities and the action plan; as well as the development of the draft Cooperation Framework for 2009 – 2010.

The Expert Meeting also established social relationships and created mutual understanding on the issues of transborder migration between regional and international migration experts and experienced officials from the six GMS countries.



▲ Regional Policy Dialogue on Trade Facilitation Policy Gap Analysis on CBTA

Forty-one delegates from across the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) gathered in Khon Kaen for a regional policy dialogue on problems and issues related to the initial implementation of the GMS Cross-Border Transport Agreement (CBTA) on 7 – 8 April 2008. This policy dialogue was preceded by an extensive research process including policy research and policy gap analysis on country specific laws versus the CBTA and a series of national consultative meetings. The objectives of this policy dialogue were to present MI policy research findings and recommendations to government officials and representatives of state enterprises and trade and investment association on policy gaps and problems encountered during the initial implementation of CBTA in seven border crossings.



▲ Tourism: Open Educational Resources

With a financial contribution from NZAID, a capacity building workshop on Tourism in the Greater Mekong Sub-region Using Open Educational Resources was co-organised with UNESCO Bangkok from 17 – 21 March 2008. The workshop aimed at sharing the use of open educational resources (OER) developed by the participating GMS universities, with other institutions, in order to promote tourism and regional cooperation through widening networks of GMS tourism professionals and institutions. A total of 24 tourism educators from the GMS participated in the five-day workshop.



Workshops and Policy Dialogues



◀ Expert Meeting on GMS Trade Facilitation

The Trade Facilitation Policy Dialogue was followed by a one day expert group meeting on trade facilitation to develop the training curriculum for trade facilitation in the GMS. Thirteen people attended.



▲ Public Participation and Reconciliation

With a financial contribution from TICA and the South East Asia Regional Cooperation in Human Development (SEARCH), a regional workshop on “Public Participation and Reconciliation” was co-organised with King Prajadhipok’s Institute (KPI) and the Institute for Dispute Resolution, Khon Kaen University, on 24-28 September 2008. The workshop aimed at developing collective actions by exchanging knowledge and ideas about peace in solving problems, public participation, public hearing, and the process of mediation. The 17 participating delegates consisted of Members of the House of Representatives, senators, and policy makers of each GMS country.



◀ Enhancing Entrepreneurship in the GMS

A regional workshop on “Enhancing Entrepreneurship in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)” was conducted at MI from 24 to 29 November, 2008. Participants were 28 government official, representatives from SME sectors, private enterprise owners and members of National Chambers of Commerce from the six countries. This regional workshop is part of the series of training programs on SME Development in the GMS sponsored by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).



▲ Trade and Investment Opportunities along the NSEC Corridor

MI worked with the Yunnan Provincial Department of Commerce to organise this workshop. 21 participants from the six countries which share the North-South Corridors attended this workshop from 12 to 23 October 2008. The workshop aimed to equip the participants with basic concepts of trade and investment potential areas, the policies and institutional framework of GMS economic cooperation, and investment opportunities in Lao PDR, Thailand, and Yunnan Province of the PRC.

GMS Focused Research



▼ Round Table Meeting

On 13-14 January 2008, MI organized a Roundtable Meeting to present the outcomes of the GMS focused research of 2007. The objectives of the meeting were to give opportunity to the young GMS researchers to present research findings in a forum, to validate research findings with GMS stakeholders, to get feedback to revise the research reports to make them publishable, and to discuss and explore the opportunity to contribute research outputs to other MI programs (learning programs, policy dialogues). Altogether 41 delegates, resource persons and Mekong Institute Research Institute Advisory Committee (MIRAC) members participated in the meeting, where five invited papers and eight MIRAC research papers were presented.



▲ Research Workshop (Midterm Review)

From 19-23 August 2008 more than 30 researchers came to MI for a midterm review of their GMS-focused research projects. The one-week follow up training was organised for the same researchers who were granted research grants for the GMS focused research for the duration of May-December 2008. The researchers developed the full questionnaire for the survey and developed a template for their data entry during the midterm training.

▼ Regional Research Development and Methodology

Twenty-eight representatives from the six GMS countries and MI staff participated in the learning course on “Regional Research Development and Methodology” from 17 March to 4 April 2008. The course was sponsored by NZAID. The purpose of this course was to improve the researchers’ skills in key areas, such as conceptualisation of regional research, development of survey questionnaire leading to field data collection, data cleaning and coding, data analysis and interpretation, and research report writing.



Booklet

Challenges and Opportunities of the Implementation of Cross-Border Transport Agreement in the Greater Mekong Sub-region prepared by Bhoj Raj Khannal

The booklet is prepared based on the outcomes of the MI Regional Policy Dialogue on Trade Facilitation Policy Gap Analysis on Cross-Border Transport Agreement (CBTA) in the GMS on 7-8 April, 2008 in Khon Kaen, Thailand. The booklet gives an overview of the status and growth of Asian trade and lists the objectives and key features of the CBTA. It looks into the CBTA institutional framework and then provides a detailed analysis of the progress and challenges of the full implementation of the CBTA. The booklet concludes with highlighting challenges and recommendations at the Sub-regional level as well as sector wide.

GMS focused Research



▲ The 3rd Meeting of the Mekong Institute Research Advisory Committee (MIRAC)

On 15 January 2008, Mekong Institute organised the third meeting of the MI Research Advisory Committee (MIRAC). The MIRAC meeting reviewed the progress of the Research and Learning Resource Department, including the publication of the MI Journal and MI Research Working Paper Series in 2007. The meeting also identified the research topics for the GMS research programs in 2008 for the four thematic areas of the Mekong Institute. These research topics are:

- An Assessment of SME's Development in the Eight Border Crossing Points of the GMS
- Public Health Service Delivery in the GMS countries
- Impacts of Infrastructure and Land Policies on Upland Minorities in the GMS
- Socio-Economic Impacts of Contract Farming in the GMS.

During the meeting, the MI 2008-2010 business plan was also presented.



Research Paper 2008 Series

- No. 1. *An Assessment of the Kunming Sunshine Homeland and Project in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care* by Mei Li & Enyun Liu.
- No. 2. *Migration and Health Impacts Among Low-Skilled Laborers in the Greater Mekong Subregion* by Keoamphone Souvannaphoum.
- No. 3. *Social and Environmental Impacts of Border Trade in Sino-Vietnamese Border Areas on Border Communities: A Case Study on Laocai Border Gate* by Pham Hong Yen, Nguyen Phuong Hoa & Lai Lam Anh.
- No. 4. *Potentiality of Community-Based Tourism in the Northern Economic Corridor of the Greater Mekong Subregion: A Case Study of Chiang Khong District in Thailand and Luang Namtha District in Lao PDR* by Bussaba Sitikarn, Watcharee Sriakam & Siriwattana Jaima.
- No. 5. *The Constraints and Potential Development of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: A Case Study of Cambodia* by Chhim Rayha & Soth Vanntoch.
- No. 6. *Clustering and Supply Chain Strategy for Myanmar's Small and Medium Manufacturing Industries Development: A Focus on the Electronic and Electrical Industry* by Aye Aye Kyuu & Tun Aung.
- No. 7. *Socio-Economic and Environmental Impacts from Rubber Tree Plantation in Hat Nhao and Houay Dam Villages, Luang Namtha Province, Lao PDR* by Kaisorn Thanthathep, Phousavanh Douangphila, Somephone Khamphanh, Sounita Phichit & Boupavanh Keomixay.
- No. 8. *An Analysis of Vietnam's Capacity in Attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)* by Nguyen Thi Mai Anh.



*Journal
Review of Development and Cooperation,
Khon Kaen TH: Mekong Institute, Vol. 2 (1),
December 2008.*

Special Programs | Young GMS Professional Program



Deborah Ling on her 2008 YGMS learning experience:

“Mekong Institute Young GMS Professional Program made me more confident and broadened my knowledge and understanding of development issues in the GMS region.”

The Young GMS Professionals Program (YGMSPP) aims to provide graduate young professionals from the GMS with skills and knowledge relevant to regional development. The



program is designed to contribute directly to MI’s strategic goals, and respond to the HRD needs identified in MI’s Strategic Plan.

The first two months of the program focuses on basic facilitation skills and regional cooperation concepts and knowledge. After the first phase, each participant works in the MI program of their choice, as Associate Facilitators. When they have successfully completed the program, they are appointed as Program Facilitators at MI.

▼ Structured Learning Visit to Lao PDR, Viet Nam and the Peoples’ Republic of China, with a Particular Focus on the North-South Economic Corridor (Route No.5) (12 – 19 July 2008)



MI, in cooperation with the Regional Operation Centre (ROC) of Khon Kaen University and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, organised a structured learning visit for 42 senior level government officials and representatives of the Provincial Chambers of Commerce from border provinces of Thailand, to Lao PDR, Viet Nam and China, via the North South Economic

Corridor. The objectives were to increase their understanding of regional development and cooperation, to provide the opportunity for direct interaction between the Thai delegates and their counterparts in Lao PDR, Viet Nam and PR China, and to discuss with the Thai investors ways to improve the trans-border trade and investment facilitation process.

Official Visitors | In 2008, MI had several opportunities to host the official visits of several development partners. These included:

- The chairman of the International Cooperation Committee, Engineering Advancement Association of Japan (ENAA), Mr. Tomohiko Shirasaki, and six members of the association on Wednesday, January 30.
- NZAID Consultant for Mekong Metrology Project and Managing Director of Barker Metrology Consultants Ltd., Mr. John Barker, on February 21 and 22.
- ADB representative facilitated the visit of 18 members of the GMS Youth Forum 2008 of Asian Development Bank (ADB), on March 28
- 6 economics PhD students from Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar from Faculty of Economics at Chiang Mai University, led by Professor Peter H. Calkins, Director of the International Program, on April 3.
- UNDP Regional Center for Asia Pacific in Bangkok representative, Mr. Noel Matthews, on April 25.
- The Director of Peace and Governance, King King Prachadhipok's Institute (KPI), Dr. Vanchai Vatanasapt, Dr. Jingjai Hanchanlash and Professor Dr. Changya Apipalakul, Director of Institute of Dispute Resolution at Khon Kaen University on April 25.
- The Secretary – General of GMS Business Forum, Mr. Oudet Souvannavong, on May 1.
- The Director of Defence Strategic Studies Centre, Ministry of Defence, Maj Gen Vuttichai Sirisumpan and his colleagues on June 3.
- The Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Khon Kaen University, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suneerat Aiumlamai on June 17.
- The Director-General of the Southeast Asian Department at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Mr. Arjun Thapan, on July 3.
- The President of Group T-Leuven University, Belgium, Dr. Johan De Graeve, and his colleagues on July 1.
- The Deputy Director of Tokyo-based International Development Research Institute of the Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID), Japan and his colleague on July 16.
- The Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to UNESCAP, Japan Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, Mr. Kensuke Kobayashi and Ms. Kimiko Kurachi, Adviser for Economic Affairs, on August 27.
- The group of 25 foresters from 6 GMS countries from the training course on “Reforestation and Extension Technique for Foresters” being conducted by Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with Royal Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, on November 7.
- Mr. Brent Rapson, Development Program Manager – GMS, New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID), on November 25 and 26.



◀ Delegates from Vietnam's Central Region Office (CRO) of Ministry of Cultural, Sport and Tourism Affairs visited Mekong Institute on October 7.

The delegates included the Deputy Director of CRO, Mr. Duong Dang Cao, two consuls, Mr. Nguyen Viet Loan and Mr. Nguyen Trong Lien, two officials of CRO, Mr. Ho Viet and Mr. Tran Thi Thanh Huong, and a Specialist of Quang Tri Department of International Cooperation, Mr. Nguyen Van Hanh.

The main objective of the visit was to meet and discuss potential cooperation between Vietnam's CRO and MI on tourism promotion, particularly on the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC). The visitors were briefed on MI activities related to tourism, especially on research projects pertaining to tourism and cross-border trade agreements in the economic corridors, and the learning programs on tourism being offered regularly by MI.



▲ The Canadian Ambassador to Thailand visited MI on June 20.

The Canadian Ambassador to Thailand H.E. Mr. David Sproule visited the Mekong Institute on June 20. During his visit, the Canadian Ambassador expressed his interest in a cooperation framework for the GMS, particularly in large-scale projects such as hydro-electricity.

Official Functions

During 2008 MI organised two Coordinating Agent meetings, one in March and one in December. The CA Meetings brought together the GMS Coordinating Agencies at MI's residential training center in Khon Kaen to discuss the implementation arrangements of MI's HRD Programs and to improve coordination and cooperation between the Institute and the CAs.

The annual MI Council Meeting was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 12 December 2008. The Council's main functions are to approve the Institute's Strategic Plan, Annual Operational Plan, Annual Budget, Audited Annual Accounts and half year financial statements, and establish the Council's Sub-Committees. The Council appoints the Auditors, additional Council members and MI's Director. It also considers recommendations submitted by the Steering Committee and by the Council's Sub-Committees.



◀ Annual MI Council Meeting on 12 December 2008 in Vientiane, Lao PDR

The 2008 MI Council Meeting, co-hosted by Lao Government was held at Donchan Palace Hotel in Vientiane in December. Chaired by Mr. Hoang Viet Khang, MI Council Chairperson

for 2007 – 2009, the Council deliberated on several key issues including: 2009 MI Operation Plan and Budget, MI financial models, GMS emerging issues and MI strategic direction.

The Council Meeting also gave a direction to MI Secretariat to establish working relationship with academic and research institutions

in Guang Xi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China.

Participated in this meeting were six Council Members representing GMS Countries, two Council Members representing Academic and Research organizations and three Council Members representing MI development partners. Dr. Tej Bunnag, the Honorary Advisor to the Council also joined the meeting.



▲ March 2008 CA Meeting

The Mekong Institute organised a working session with the GMS National Coordinating Agencies (CAs) on March 4 – 5 2008 at MI's residential training center in Khon Kaen.

The session's objective was to improve coordination and cooperation among the Institute and the CAs for the delivery of MI's Human Resource Development (HRD) programs and to discuss the implementation arrangements and marketing strategy for MI activities.

During the working session, MI and the CAs clarified their roles, responsibilities and expectations. The CAs National Work Plans were also discussed.



◀ December 2008 CA Meeting

The Mekong Institute organised a second meeting with the GMS National Coordinating Agencies (CAs) on December 11, 2008 at Donchan Palace Hotel in Vientiane, Lao PDR

The two objectives of the meeting were to recognize the important role of the CAs in each country to the success of MI operations, and to identify the challenges ahead in 2009.

At the meeting it was agreed that MI needed to improve communication between MI and the CAs; i.e. create clear CA role descriptions; send relevant documents on time to CA focal points; and assign MI staff to work closely with CAs.

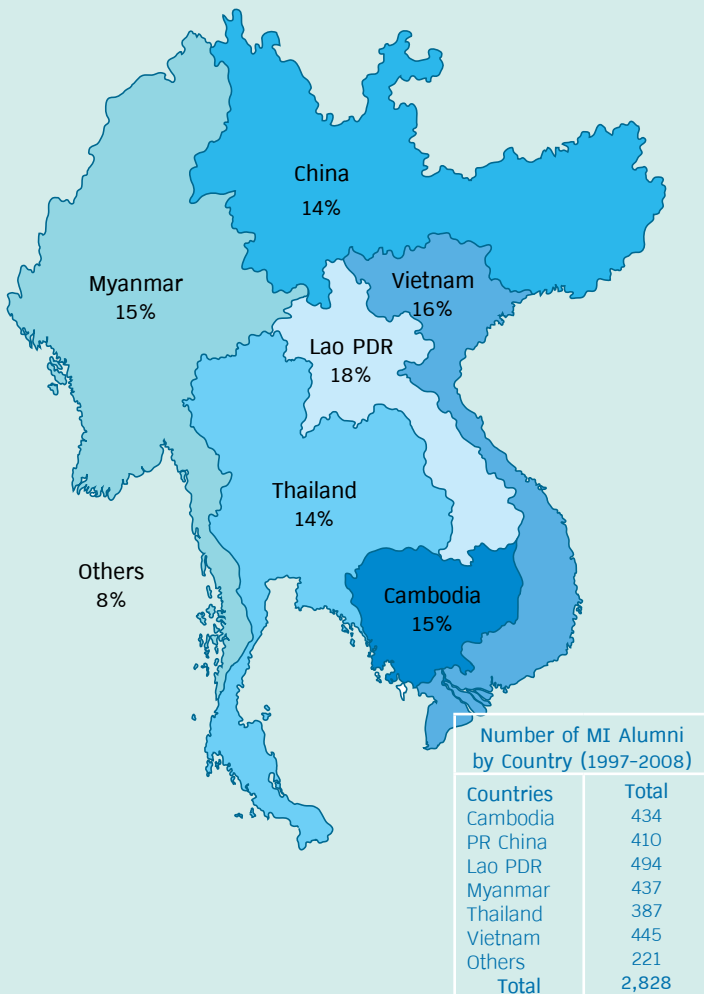
During the meeting the operational plans, targets and indicators for 2009 were also presented, and the funding of MI activities was discussed.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the way forward for MI and how the CAs can better promote MI's program in their respective countries.

MI Alumni

The Mekong Institute (MI) has over 2,800 alumni, mostly from the six GMS countries. Established in 1997, MI alumni network serves as the focal point for its alumni members to be connected to their MI alumni peers and the institute.

Not only do we support alumni relations, MI shares with our alumni up-to-date news on our program activities, and useful information on development issues and training needs in the GMS, creating a relationship that is mutually beneficial.



In 2008, MI carried out a tracer study of the Alumni and Training Needs Analysis for development in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. The study helped the institute assess the impact of its training programs, conducted in recent years, and identify HRD needs in the GMS countries. It involved a survey of 2004-2007 MI alumni, alumni gatherings and meetings with various stakeholders across the GMS. The report of this study can be found at. Department of Research at MI is dedicated to assist our alumni in sharing their experiences and expertise and we value their contributions toward the success of this study.

The Mekong Institute Alumni Directory System was developed, in 2008, as a service to help link our alumni members to one another and to cater for the rapidly expanding Mekong Institute Alumni Network. The directory is available on the Mekong Institute website (www.mekonginstitute.org).

The Mekong Institute Alumni Network is governed under the Research and Development Department (R&D) of the Mekong Institute. Our R&D alumni team is always striving to benefit MI alumni with services that foster alumni interest and support in the affairs of the Mekong Institute. The team is currently developing an MI alumni on-line registration system, and regularly updates the MI Alumni Directory System.



Mr. Yan Jiong, Course: (B9) Economies in Transition for Middle Level Managers

There is an old Chinese saying: "If you want to get a better view, you must take another step up. MI helps me to take that step. MI makes me more confident about myself. Although the road ahead is tough, I will always remember the word from MI "wake up" (from John) and "dig deeper" (from Steven), and so many smiling faces, which give me not only happiness, but also strength".

Financial Report 2008

Income and Expenditure in 2008

ITEMS	THB	USD
Contributions		
Development partners	49,819,112.58	1,419,752.42
Riparian governments (Thai Government)	10,000,000.00	284,981.48
Sub Total	59,819,112.58	1,704,733.90
Revenue		
Interests	1,003,496.96	28,597.80
Miscellaneous	644,781.46	18,375.08
Sub Total	1,648,278.42	46,972.88
Total Income	61,467,391.00	1,751,706.78
Expenditure		
<i>Program Expenditure</i>		
Learning program cost	15,059,930.55	429,180.12
Project expenditure	15,437,468.04	439,939.24
Program personnel services	4,772,581.00	136,009.72
Staff travel	67,696.91	1,929.24
Miscellaneous expenses	199,646.25	5,689.55
Sub Total	35,537,322.75	1,012,747.87
<i>Administrative Expenditure</i>		
Staff salary and fees	9,299,173.64	265,009.22
Common staff costs	1,444,072.97	41,153.40
Travel	414,680.04	11,817.61
Contractual services	705,901.94	20,116.90
General operating expenses	1,850,669.34	52,740.65
Supplies	362,197.93	10,321.97
Depreciation	2,127,164.32	60,620.24
Official functions	1,579,424.62	45,010.68
	17,783,284.80	506,790.68
Total expenditure	53,320,607.55	1,519,538.55
Movement in Fund Balances	8,146,783.45	232,168.24
Fund Balances as at 1 January	42,983,189.85	1,224,941.29
Fund Balances as at 31 December	51,129,973.30	1,457,109.53

Exchanged Rate as : Dec. 31, 2008

MI Development Partners 2008

Funding Signed in 2008	Amount	
	THB	USD
Development Partners		
New Zealand's International Aid & Development Agency (NZAID)	26,592,924.11	757,849.08
Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA)	7,034,909.00	200,481.88
Royal Thai Government	10,000,000.00	284,981.48
The Rockefeller Foundation	4,320,258.23	123,119.36
The UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP)	759,687.00	21,649.67
Regional Operation Center (ROC)	1,550,000.00	44,172.13
Yunnan Provincial Government of PR China (YPG)	2,558,750.00	72,919.64
Swiss Agency and Development Cooperation (SDC)	2,657,341.80	75,729.32
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	1,112,171.66	31,694.83
Barker Consultant Co.,Ltd.	915,741.68	26,096.94
Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH (InWEnt)	532,947.06	15,188.00
The Mekong River Commission	762,177.45	21,720.65
Institute for Dispute Resolution Khon Kaen University (IDR)	559,530.50	15,945.58
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	344,450.00	9,816.19
Others	118,224.09	3,369.17
Total	59,819,112.58	1,704,733.90
<i>Exchanged Rate as : Dec. 31, 2008</i>		

Annual Operational Plan 2009

This operational plan has been developed to support the implementation of the MI Business Plan 2008–2010. The operational plan consists of a mix of training activities, which have been offered previously, and some new initiatives to be implemented in 2009. It is focused on four Key Result Areas: Customers, Finance, Operations, and Learning & Growth.

Customers

Under Key Result Area 1 and its strategies, MI programs have been grouped under four thematic areas: Effective Regional Cooperation; Rural Development and Project Management; Public Sector Reform and Good Governance; and Trade and Investment Facilitation. The Research Department provides instructional and research support to all MI programs. Eighteen programs are planned to be offered in 2009. Key projects planned under each program are summarized as follows:

A. Effective Regional Cooperation

Under this thematic area, four courses will be offered in 2009. These are:

1. Training of Trainers on Decentralized Education Planning. This learning program will be designed to train trainers on education policy and planning reforms, with a focus on decentralization. It will inform participants about regional education sector development and on-going reforms in education. The program will be supported by the Policy Reform Unit, UNESCO Bangkok, and by NZAID. Participants will include Heads of Department and technicians from Ministries of Education, and middle-level officials and technicians concerned with the education sector in the Ministries of Finance and Planning.

2. Public Participation and Reconciliation. This workshop aims to develop and nurture collective action by serving as a forum to exchange knowledge and ideas about peace in solving problems, and also aiming to promote the ideas of public participation, public hearing, and the process of mediation. Delegates who will be invited to participate include Members of the House of Representatives, senators, and policy makers of each GMS country as well as Indonesia and Malaysia.

3. Labor Migration Management. This learning program aims to provide participants with an overview of different migration patterns globally and in the GMS in particular, and with current responses globally and regionally to these issues. The program will be co-organized in collaboration with the Mekong Migration Network (MMN), and assistance from NZAID.

4. Strategic Human Resource Development for Effective Regional Cooperation and Integration. The objectives of the course are to strengthen the capabilities of HRD personnel of national GMS related agencies in planning, implementing and evaluating HRD programs, and to strengthen national HRD focal points and initiate national HRD networks to foster cooperation among GMS countries based on the principles of mutual and sustainable benefits.

B. Rural Development and Project Management

Four courses will be offered under this thematic area. These are:

5. Income Generation and Poverty Reduction. This annual international training course sponsored by TICA will bring senior and middle level government officials from different developing countries to Thailand for training, structured learning visits and

sharing of development experiences. It aims to assist participants in analyzing poverty, to help them understand various poverty reduction strategies, and to monitor and evaluate poverty reduction interventions in diverse socio-economic and environmental contexts.

6. Project Management Learning Program for Junior Officials. This regional training program aims to give junior officials working in government offices in the six GMS countries an understanding of project management principles and practice, and the implications of transboundary issues in project design, planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation. The program will be supported by ADB-PPP.

7. Sustainable Rural Development. This four-week international training course aims to improve the participants' knowledge of development strategies and interventions available to address sustainable pro-poor focused rural development, to increase their skills to analyze challenges and opportunities for development, and to increase their skills to facilitate local participation in the development of rural development communities. The course is sponsored by TICA and targets senior and middle level government officials of developing countries.

8. Effective Project Management for Sustainable Development in the GMS. This course aims to enhance participants' skills in all aspects of project management and to provide insights into the project planning and development process of development projects which have transboundary or transnational implications. The target audience is government officials dealing with international projects in their daily work.

C. Leadership and Good Governance

There will be three courses offered in 2009 related to the theme of public sector reform and good governance. These are:

9. Business Leadership in Competitive Enterprises. The objective of this learning program sponsored by the Mekong Metrology Project is to improve

participants' knowledge of leadership skill requirements for competitive enterprises and relevant issues in managing enterprises, to increase participants' skills through experiences and lessons learnt from selected enterprises, to enhance participants' skills in proposal writing, project appraisal, and presentation of projects, and to promote communication and trust among professionals across the GMS. The course targets senior government officials and managers involved in the Mekong Metrology Project.

10. Leadership in Competitive Enterprises. MI expects to organize a four-week international course for participants from countries in South Asia and South East Asia, African States, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands Forum. This program is one of the four international training courses commissioned by TICA for MI to organize in 2009. The program will aim at enhancing the understanding by managers of leadership and managerial skill requirements that enable them to interact effectively within the competitive global market. Field visits to Thai enterprises will be included in this program.

11. Managing Public Sector Reform. This four-week learning course aims to enhance the ability of middle level government officials in initiating and sustaining changes and reforms in their respective organizations. MI will be working closely with the respective MI Coordinating Agents in developing case studies from the GMS countries to be used during the course. Structured field visits to different reformed government agencies in Thailand will be included in this program.

D. Trade and Investment Facilitation

Three courses related to trade and investment facilitation are planned for 2009. These are:

12. Regional Power Connection and Trade in the GMS (organized in Kunming, Yunnan Province, PRC). MI and Yunnan Power Grid Corporation will facilitate a regional workshop on Regional Power Interconnection and Trade in the GMS for technical managers of State Enterprises and Independent Power Companies in the GMS. This is three week course including one week on structural learning visits in three countries (PR China, Lao PDR and Thailand).

13. Enhancing Entrepreneurship in SME Development and Export Consortia. MI has been commissioned by TICA to design and deliver a four-week international training course to senior and middle level government officials of developing countries who are involved in the promotion of SME and Export Consortia at the national and sub-regional levels. Participants will come from South Asia and South East Asia, African states, countries of the Caribbean and countries of the Pacific Islands Forum. The objectives of this training are to enhance the entrepreneurship skills of participants and to expose them to best practice in Thailand.

14. Executive Seminars on Enhancing the Capacity of Private Sector Institutions Involved in Cross-border Agricultural Trade and Investment Facilitation on East West and North South Economic Corridors of the Greater Mekong Subregion.

MI in collaboration with GMS-BF proposes to organize an executive seminar cum exposure visit for senior provincial government officials and senior members of provincial chambers of commerce along the EWEK. Emphasis will be made on trade and investment opportunities in the agriculture sector.

E. Research and Learning Resource Department

Six research activities are planned to occur in 2009. They are:

15. NASA Climate Change Conference. This program is a customized course on the theme of climate change. The intention is to explore the global implications of climate change and its effects on land and people. Over 100 experts, scientists, researchers and academia from the United States, Japan and Southeast Asia will participate in this workshop. Although the specific objectives of the course and its organization will be managed by the course sponsor National Air and Space Agency (NASA), MI will be responsible for facilitating the conference and the structured visit of sciences along the EWEK.

16. Research Round Table Meeting. This roundtable meeting aims to present preliminary findings and

methodologies of the GMS-focused research programs funded by MI. Researchers will present their findings to MIRAC. Participants will review the research, and provide feedback to the research teams in order to improve the research skills of research team members and to improve the research papers. Four sub-regional research projects will be presented at this meeting.

17. Regional Research Development and Methodology. Twenty-four young research fellows from the six GMS countries will be selected to participate in a three-week research training workshop. A major part of the training program would be to design and formulate regional research proposals based on transnational issues and problem statements identified by program managers of the four core thematic areas. At the end of this workshop, research proposals on the identified topics will be completed with a clear and agreed methodology, a work plan and budget.

18. Mid-term Review of GMS Research. MI will hold a mid-term review of the GMS research projects for the same researchers who were granted research grants for the GMS focused research for 2009. The researchers will develop their instruments for surveys and will develop a template for their data entry during this midterm training.

19. Research Report Publication. Four sub-regional research projects conducted in 2008 will be published as Research Working Paper Series and be included in the MI Regional Development and Cooperation Journal. MI's research team hopes to use these research findings and recommendations as case studies for MI Learning Program in 2009.

20. Research Grants. New research grants will be made available for selected sub-regional research proposals. MIRAC members will continue to provide guidance and technical support to the selected young GMS researchers. MI staff from concerned department will be assigned to work as team members of the research projects.

Finance

1. Fund Raising. Even though MI was successful in diversifying its funding sources from three sources in 1996 to 16 sources in 2008, the major percentage of MI funds are still coming from two sources, NZAID and TICA. It is imperative for MI's financial sustainability that it seeks long-term commitments from both GMS governments and other development partners. In 2009, MI plans to submit proposals to a range of different funding sources, and will work to secure additional support from existing partners. Potential partners are shown in the following table.

Types	Topic/Issues	Potential Development Partners
Sub-regional Research	Sub-regional research on Impacts or Effectiveness of GMS Economic Cooperation (CBTA, Economic Integration, Infrastructure Development, Tourism, etc)	ADB-PPP and SDC
Learning Program	1. Strategic HRD for Effective Regional Cooperation 2. Trade and Investment Promotion on NSEC 3. Effective Project Management for Sustainable Development in the GMS	Yunnan Provincial Government
Consultant & Learning Program	1. Integrated Capacity Building Program Formulation 2. Integrated River Basin Planning and Management Learning Course	MRC
Workshop	Transnational Agricultural Business Cooperation and Integration	SDC
Workshop	Tourism Promotion along EWEC	Vietnam's Central Region Office (CRO) of Ministry of Cultural, Sports and Tourism Affairs
Symposium	Impacts of Economic Integration on Upland Cultivation and Ethnic Minorities	Japan Foundation and TICA
Learning Program	Entrepreneurship Development in the GMS	Indian Technical Cooperation and TICA (South-South Cooperation)

2. The Finance Section will develop a financial variance report of expenditure against budget on a regular basis. Statement of Financial Position (balance sheet) as well as a Statement of Financial Performance (income and expenditure account) will be included in the Annual Report.

Operations

1. Regular planning activities that will be undertaken including the Development Partners Consultative Meeting and the MI Council and Steering Committee Meetings to be held in July 2009, and the MI Council and Steering Committee Meeting to be held in December 2009.

2. MI will conduct an internal audit and inventory, and complete the process of formally transferring MI assets and liabilities from the MI Foundation to Khon Kaen University, then to MI. A revision of Human Resource and Administration rules and regulations to meet intergovernmental standards will be undertaken. The MI Programming Manual will be published.

3. A business development team will be set up to undertake new business ventures, such as developing new learning programs and promoting private sector participation in MI programs on a fee-pay or partial scholarships.

Learning and Growth

1. Job descriptions at MI will be developed or updated for all approved positions. Staff will be assigned to their corresponding posts based on the revised organizational structure. An organization-wide HRD Program will be initiated to improve MI internal capacity. The next batch of YGMS Professionals will be recruited. If necessary, short-term consultants and subject experts will be hired to assist in developing new learning programs.

2. In March 2009, four MI Program staff who had participated in a three-week training course on Sustainable Education in Water Resource Management in 2008, will continue to develop their change projects to be presented at a regional conference in Kunming, PR China.

3. An MI Working Session will be held in late September and early October 2009 to review progress against the Business Plan and 2010 Activities Plan. Following this activity, a three-day training session, the MI Annual Retreat will be held.

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Mekong Institute

DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION

123 Khon Kaen University, Mittraphap Road,
Muang District, Khon Kaen 40002, Thailand
Tel. (+66) 43 202411-2, (+66) 43 203656-7
Fax: (+66) 43 343131
E-mail: information@mekonginstitute.org
Website: <http://www.mekonginstitute.org>

