



Recent Program

Postharvest Practices: Experiences and Best Practices in Israel and Thailand March 28 - Apr 8, 2011

Mekong Institute organized a two-week training course on “Postharvest Practices: Experiences and Best Practices in Israel and Thailand” at the Mekong Institute Residential Training Center in Khon Kaen, Thailand. The program was jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and of Israel.

The main objective of the program was to increase awareness of the participants on several ways to reduce losses in the production and marketing of agricultural products. Two structured learning visits were organized in order to enhance understanding of the participants on the program’s contents through visits and interaction with enterprises at the SWIFT Company in Nakhon Pathom province, and the Talaad Thai Wholesale Market in Pathum Thani Province. A total of 25 government officials and NGOs involved in postharvest projects from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Yunnan Province of China participated in this training program.





Facilitation as Core Competency : April 4 – 8, 2011

Mekong Institute conducted this course as a "Skills Studio" workshop emphasizing interaction and experimentation. The workshop aimed to enhance the skills of professional facilitators in leading service delivery firms, to create an enabling environment for participatory decision-making and engagement in strategic processes involving multi-stakeholders. It was delivered in 7 interrelated modules utilizing a variety of inter-active and experiential learning methodology and tools.



Structured Learning Visit for Sri Lankan Government Officials on “Good Governance Initiatives in Thailand : April 25 – May 6, 2011

Mekong Institute was commissioned to organize a two-week structured learning visit on “Good Governance Initiatives in Thailand” under the sponsorship of the Northwestern Provincial Council of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The aim was to acquaint participants with modern public administration concepts and administrative structures, to enhance participants’ skills through sharing experiences and lessons learnt from selected public enterprises, and to exchange knowledge including experience of good governance and the current status of good governance initiatives in both countries of Sri Lanka and Thailand. Issues and approaches leading to the implementation and sustainability of good governance were covered.

A total of 8 Sri Lankan government officials from the Northwestern Province participated. On-going good governance initiatives in Thailand were shared and how these could be translated into policies and practices were recommended.





Project Monitoring and Evaluation (in Lao PDR): April 20 – 22, 2011

Mekong Institute was commissioned by the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning of Lao PDR to deliver an intensive training program on Project Monitoring and Evaluation (PME).

The training program was made for monitoring and evaluating ODA projects in Lao PDR. The training program was co-designed by the Mekong Institute and Dr. Savengkith Phommahack, Deputy Team Leader of ADB TA 7193 LAO: Capacity Strengthening for Enhancing Aid Effectiveness, Department of International Cooperation (DIC), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) of Lao PDR. The training aimed to develop participants' capacity to design, plan, and implement effective monitoring and evaluation missions or assignments especially on projects which received funding from international donors.



A total of 17 Government Officials who are directly involved in Aid Management participated in the training: 10 from 6 divisions of DIC, 2 from Infrastructure Sub-Working Group (SWG) and 5 from Macro SWG.

Official Guests/Visits

MI Management made official visit to ASEAN Secretariat : March 9 – 10, 2011



MI management team led by Dr. Suchat Katima made an official visit to ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia. The objective of this visit was to explore collaboration framework between MI and relevant departments of ASEAN Secretariat. The management team had a meeting with three involved divisions, i.e. initiatives for ASEAN Integration and Narrowing Development Gap (IAI), Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)



and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN Integration Fund (ERIA). MI is presently working with IAI in developing Narrowing Development Gap (NDG) Framework and action plan to develop human and institutional capacity of the new ASEAN member countries. The NDG Framework will be submitted to the ASEAN Economic Ministers in October 2011.

Officials of Quang Tri Province in Vietnam visits MI : June 1, 2011

A delegation led by Mr. Hoang Dang Mai, Director of Department of Foreign Affairs, Quang Tri Province, Vietnam made an official visit to Mekong Institute to discuss the possibilities of cooperation in terms of training and education between MI and Quang Tri Province.

The delegation expressed special interest in the areas of agricultural economics, industrial technology in agriculture, and tourism development. The delegation and MI have agreed in principle to have future collaboration in the mentioned areas. Hence, a memorandum of agreement will be drafted in this regards.

The delegation also expressed deep appreciation to MI for inviting 10 Quang Tri students to join the Youth Camp on Integrated Swine and Poultry Production for young agriculturists in the GMS. The Youth Camp is co-sponsored by Betagro, one of the leading agro-industrial companies in Thailand, and New Zealand Aid Programme.





Upcoming Events

MI works with FAO to undertake action research on “Cross Border Value Chains: Cabbage from Lao PDR to Thailand”: July 18 – 29, 2011

The Mekong Institute signed an agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to implement an action research on “*Cross Border Value Chains: Cabbage from Lao PDR to Thailand*”. The research aims to describe and understand the whole value chain of cabbage from Lao PDR to Thailand by mapping the stakeholders involved and tracing the flow of the products from production points to various distribution centers. The research activities entail a 2-day workshop on July 18-19 at the Mekong Institute walking the chain from cabbage farms in Boloven Plateau in Lao PDR to Thailand processing firms and end-users. In walking the chain, lessons learned and good practices in Lao cabbage production and marketing will be documented and problems will be identified. Thus, recommendations towards improvements in postharvest practices and cross-border supply chains of cabbage from Lao PDR can be made.

Expert Meeting: July 11, 2011

The Expert Meeting on Labor Migration Management (LMM) in the GMS is going to be held at Mekong Institute, Khon Kaen Thailand. This expert meeting will bring around 12-15 professionals on labor migration issues from academic, NGO and government agencies to deliberate on MI proposed three-year Labor Migration Management and Care Program, explore partnership potentials among labor migration management professionals, and formulate joint plan of actions.

Mekong Forum : July 12-13, 2011

Mekong Institute will launch the Mekong Forum with the theme “From GMS to AEC 2015: Prospects for Human Resource Development and Capacity Building in Regional Cooperation and Integration” at Pullman Raja Orchid Khon Kaen Hotel, Khon Kaen, Thailand. As the GMS prepares its new Strategic Framework for 2012-2022, the Forum will be a timely occasion to address the issues of synergies and complementarities of various regional human resource development initiatives.

The Forum will focus on HRD issues around “creating a single market and production base,” particularly in relation to facilitating the free flow of goods and services, capital and investment, human resources/labor. These topics will be taken up in plenary and parallel sessions. An “inter-active gallery” setting will be provided for participating organizations to know each other’s programs and exchange experiences.



Programs during the 3rd Quarter of 2011 (July - September)

Course/Workshop Title	Date	Duration
▶ Rural Development and Project Management		
1. Structured Learning Visit in Thailand on Regional Planning for Lao Government Officials	Jul 5 - 9	1 Week
2. Youth Camp on Action Research on Integrated Swine and Poultry Production in Thailand	Jul 11 - Aug 5	4 Weeks
3. Action Research on Cross-border Value Chains - Phase I Cabbage from Lao PDR to Thailand	Jul 18 - 29	2 Weeks
4. Strategic and Participatory Planning and Management	Aug 15 - 26	2 Weeks
▶ Trade and Investment Facilitation		
1. Development of Clusters and Networks for SME Export Consortia	Jul 4 - 23	3 Weeks
2. Training on Trade and Investment Promotion Activities	Aug 1 - 5	1 Week
3. Localized Trainings on Business Research in Vientiane	Aug 1 - 5	1 Week
4. Localized Trainings on Business Research in Kunming	Aug 8 - 12	1 Week
5. Transborder Agricultural Business workshop and SLV (Khon Kaen to Nan Ying)	Sep 7 - 16	2 Weeks
▶ Human Migration		
1. Expert meeting on Labor Migration	Jul 11	1 Day