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STRUCTURED LEARNING VISIT

October 27th- November 1st,
2024 | Cambodia

MKCF Regional Project on
"Capacity Building on Regional
Project Design,
Implementation, Monitoring &
Evaluation of MKCF Projects"



Mekong- Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund

“Capacity Building on Regional Project Design, Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation of MKCF Projects”
(PRIME Project)

Structured Learning Visits (SLV) on Regional Program Development and Management: Insights from International Organizations

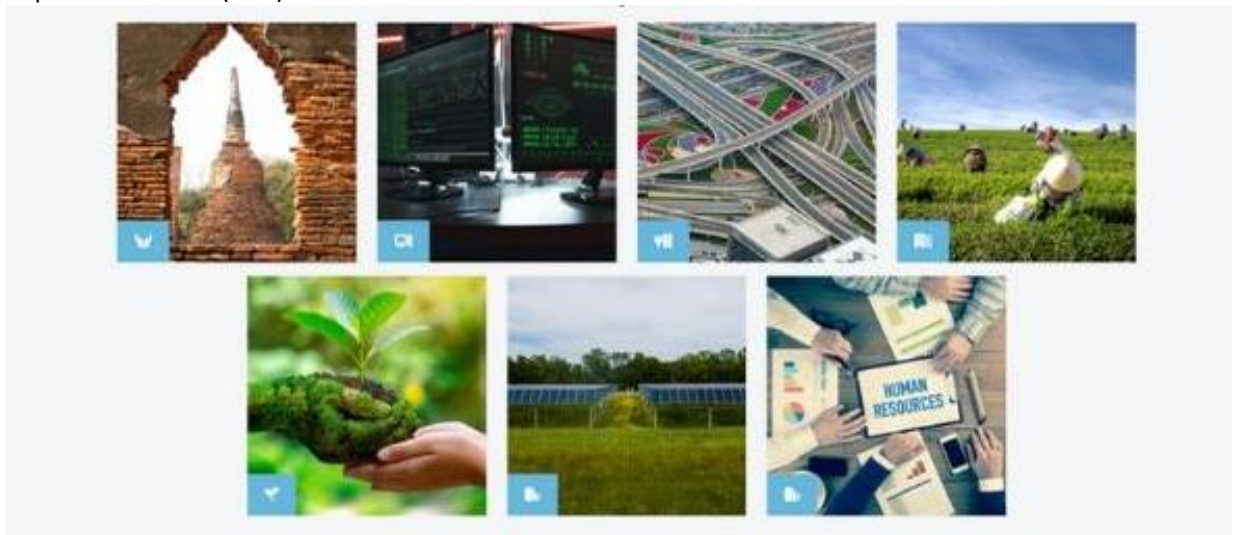
Cambodia, October 27th- November 1st, 2024

CONCEPT NOTE

I. Background and Introduction

Sub regional cooperation among the Mekong countries has achieved noteworthy successes in fostering regional cooperation in a region that was facing a period of prolonged regional conflict. The concept of sub-regional cooperation, mainly driven by economic interests, has been developed and integrated to be part of the regional integration in the Mekong countries. Sub-regional cooperation and integration mechanisms play a significant and complimentary role in regional integration and community building. Recognizing the importance of sub regional cooperation in the Mekong region, the Republic of Korea (ROK) launched the Mekong-ROK partnership in 2011 and established the Mekong–Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF) in 2013 to support cooperation in seven priority areas outlined in the Han River Declaration of 2011.

The Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund is dedicated to laying a robust foundation for fostering strategic cooperation through a meticulously structured and forward-looking framework. In pursuit of this objective, the Mekong Institute is presently executing a project titled "*Capacity Building on Regional Project Design, Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation of MKCF Projects*" spanning from 2023 to 2025. This initiative aims to bolster institutional capacities across the entire project life cycle, incorporating systematic Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) processes, all in the pursuit of enhanced regional cooperation and integration among the Mekong countries and the Republic of Korea (RoK).



To this end, the Mekong Institute has undertaken and continues to conduct a diverse array of capacity development programs tailored for key stakeholders engaged in regional cooperation. It has become evident that these stakeholders express a genuine need and desire for practical experience in project implementation within the context of regional cooperation frameworks while

broadening their insights for new project initiatives to tackle concerned issues in their respective countries. With this backdrop, the Mekong Institute is currently orchestrating a Structured Learning Visit, designed to delve into the operational mechanics of successful regional projects, as an integral part of its ongoing efforts.

II. Objectives and expected outcomes:

Objectives: The SLV is designed to:

1. **Provide participants with knowledge of regional projects** in the seven priority sectors and to offer participants opportunities to **expand their overview of current cross-cutting regional-level project interventions.**
2. **Enhance understanding** of regional issues to design and implement cooperation projects in promoting development cooperation, in the Mekong region and RoK at such **fostering participants' knowledge and understanding** of relevant outstanding regional issues, **initiating new ideas** for future project formulation, management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation towards successful project implementation.
3. **Observe and gain experience** on successful projects by major international/regional agencies, **document impacts and lessons learned** on projects supported under various cooperation programs for future project formulation.
4. **Establish a collaborative network for sector-wise partnerships** among line ministry officials to contribute to regional integration, cooperation and development.

Expected outcomes:

1. **Strengthen comprehensive understanding of cross-cutting regional projects** through direct engagement with project management teams and beneficiaries. This includes exploring project management mechanisms, planning, implementation, impact, challenges, and best practices.
2. **Create concrete takeaways/ action plans to apply newfound knowledge and insights** to current project implementation, **initiating new project ideas and design**, ensuring the SLV experience directly translates into improved practices.
3. **Cultivate a shared commitment to regional cooperation through an improved understanding of regional issues**, project management mechanisms and implementation, thus contributing to integration, cooperation and development among Mekong countries and the RoK.
4. **Replicate the learning** in the country situation and well equipped to design regional projects.

At the end of the activity, it is expected that participants will acquire knowledge regarding regional project mechanism, collaborative implementation and management, regional issues and challenges, specifically focusing on understanding strategies that can enhance cooperation by addressing gaps, needs, and emerging opportunities. Additionally, participants will also be tasked with initiating country strategies to facilitate regional cooperation and development, optimizing the utilization of current lessons learnt and impacts from ongoing initiatives. Lastly, the activity aims to offer networking capacities among relevant organizations in the GMS region and international agencies involving in concerned sectors of MKCF program.

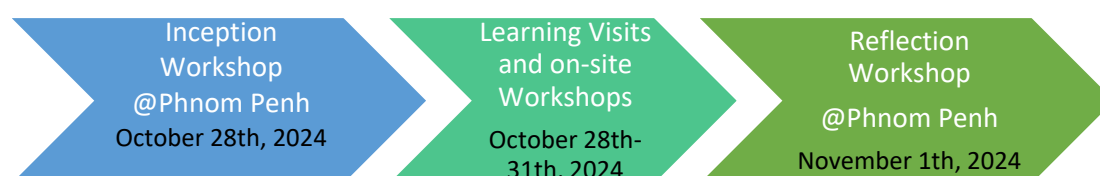
III. Participants:

The project target group will include around 30 line ministry officials from 7 sectors under MKCF mechanism including: Cambodia (5), Lao PDR (5), Myanmar (5), Thailand (5), Vietnam (5), and the Republic of Korea (5).

Participant representatives from Potential Ministries:

1. Ministry of Culture and Tourism
2. Ministry of Home Affairs
3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
5. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
6. Ministry of Information and Communications
7. Ministry of Transports

IV. SLV activities & Agenda



A. Inception workshop (based on a preliminary online session-Day 2-Morning)

Key Objectives:

- To have clear understanding on the objectives, content, and desired outcomes of the SLV and get prepared for the best learning outcomes.
- To develop a study plan to gather information from specific visit sites, formulation of new ideas, recommendations for cross-cutting project interventions and implementation.
- To offer guidelines for preparing structured learning visits, group discussions, and individual field assignments

Agenda:

Time	Activity	Method	Person-in-charge
08:30- 09:00	Inauguration and introduction of the participants; Introduction to the SLV	Speeches and Presentation	MI
09:00- 09:30	Introduction to regional cross-cutting projects in the GMS, management mechanism and impacts	Presentation and discussion	MI
09:30- 09:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
09:45- 10:30	Discussion on current issues on 7 sectors in the GMS.	Group work & presentations	MI and Participants
10:30- 11:00	Preparation of the SLV and individual field assignments.	Individual assignments and Presentation	MI and Participants
11:00- 12:00	Develop individual study plan to obtain information from specific visit sites		
12:00- 13:30	Lunch time		

B. Learning visits and on-site workshops (Day 2 Afternoon- Day 5 Morning)

From Day 2-Afternoon to Day 5-Morning, all participants will be facilitated by MI to attend the Structured Learning Visits to international agencies and field sites in Phnom Penh and whereabouts, Cambodia.

Key Objectives:

- To gain first-hand experience and knowledge about cross-cutting regional projects with key features and components, implementation mechanism, and lessons-learnt.
- To understand the process of regional project planning, implementation, and impact measurement, along with the challenges faced and best practices followed.

- To initiate ideas for future project opportunities and interventions for regional issues

SLV Sites and Travel Plan:

Day 2-Afternoon:

Australian Development Program/Australian Embassy, Phnom Penh

Mekong-Australia Partnership (MAP) Program



The 1st visit of the trip will involve meeting at the Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh to study about Mekong- Australia Partnership (MAP) Program. Participants will have opportunity to understand and obtain knowledge about shared regional transboundary challenges and emerging needs. MAP is integral to building relationships, as well as sharing knowledge and skills for sustainable development and economic resilience. MAP works alongside Australia's other programs in Southeast Asia, including Partnerships for Infrastructure, and with other development partners including multilateral and civil society organizations.

MAP works together with partners to support regional architecture, including ASEAN and subregional bodies such as ACMECS (Ayeyarwady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy), the Mekong River Commission and Friends of the Mekong.

Learning Points:

- Regional and transboundary challenges in water security, climate change for sustainable and economic resilience through strengthening subregional leadership, institution and partnerships.
- Multi-year and inter-organization cooperation experience and lessons learnt

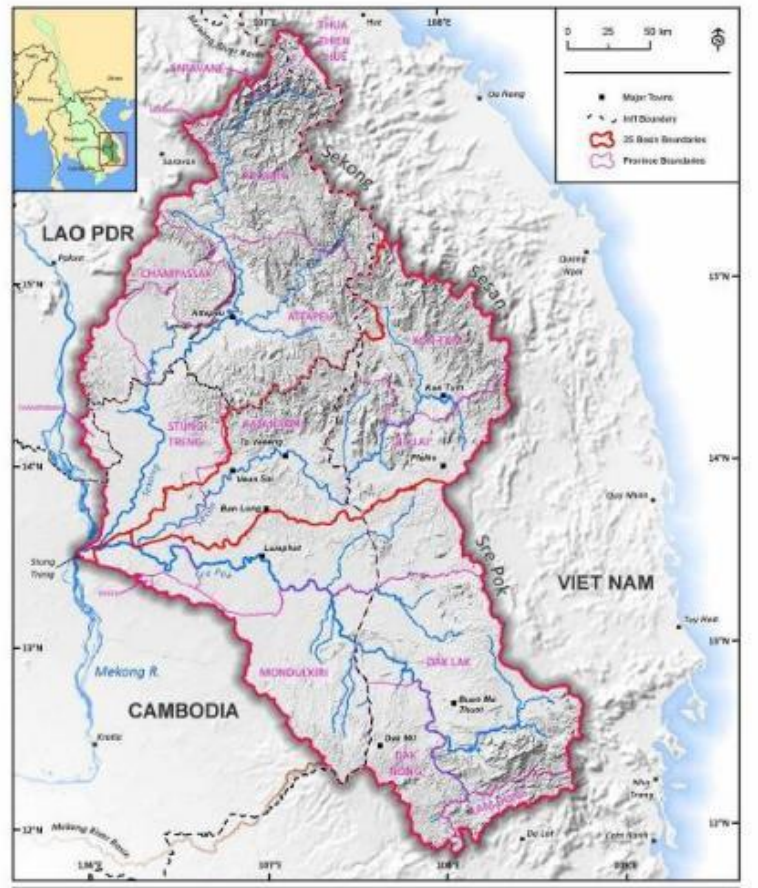
Expected outcomes:

- Improved understanding in one of the Mekong regional cooperation frameworks, their regional cooperation mechanism and have clearer perception on regional projects and their features to tackle emerging issues to support economic development.

Day 3- Morning:

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Cambodia

On the third day, a visit and meeting with UNDP will be conducted with an understanding about the regional project “*Enhancing Integrated Water Management and Climate Resilience in Vulnerable Urban Areas of the Mekong River Basin (9/2021- 9/2025)*”



This is a joint initiative between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea and the (UNDP) and is being implemented in both Cambodia and Lao PDR. The project aims to strengthen the resilience of the people and communities in these climate and disaster vulnerable regions of Cambodia and Lao PDR.

Learning points:

- Institutional and technical capacity at the subnational level for integrated climate and flood risk management, enhance availability of resources for investment in water-related risk reduction.
- Coordination across the borders of Cambodia and Lao PDR.

Expected outcomes:

- Climate and disaster risk management with community engagement
- Adaptation and disaster risk reduction actions to build preparedness and reduce long-term water-related climate risks

- Knowledge exchange and working group across the border provinces with the aim of strengthening cross-border communication on climate risks, transboundary early warning systems, risk reduction measures.

Day 3- Afternoon:

ADB Resident Mission in Cambodia:

The visit to ADB Resident Mission will happen on the 3rd day of the trip. The participants will interact with ADB Resident Mission Team and gain an understanding of one of their ongoing projects in Agriculture and Rural Development titled “*Promoting Climate-Resilient Rural Development and Food Security in Southeast Asia*”. This is the technical assistance to ensure preparedness under the agriculture, food, nature, and rural development sector focusing on climate adaptation financing and food security.

Learning points:

- Policy advisory, institutional reforms for agricultural development in response to climate change
- Agriculture and Climate change

Expected outcomes:

- Working mechanism for policy advisory, collaborative support and responses to climate change with mobilization strategy from regional and international resources.

Day 4: The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Phnom Penh:

The one-day visit to GIZ Office will be organized including a field trip by flight to project site in Siem Reap to explore and experience about a regional project which is being piloted in three cities: *Siem Reap (Cambodia), Vang Vieng (Lao PDR) and Dalat (Vietnam)*.

GIZ programs in Cambodia focuses on priorities to promote environment management, climate-resilient agricultural systems that increase income and local value creation, support sustainable infrastructure and rural development.

In learning and visiting field site under the Project “*ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement (AMUSE)*” (7/2022-6/2025), participants will obtain knowledge on improving environmental quality in small and medium-sized cities in the ASEAN region by optimizing waste disposal and recycling.

Learning points:

- Growing waste volumes due to population growth, changing consumption patterns, and increasing tourism numbers.
- Municipal administrations with technical and management competencies to manage the steadily increasing waste volumes due to population growth, and growing tourism, the involvement of private sector actors in waste management and resource-efficient solution approaches.

Expected outcomes:

- Opportunities and platforms for the exchange of experiences and knowledge transfer as well as develop capacity development measures
- Developing a new regional digital knowledge platform providing sustainable knowledge, training, dialogue formats, and standards for optimizing municipal waste management and recycling for public and private stakeholders at national and local levels in ASEAN countries

Day 5: Field trip to GIZ project site; Reflection Workshop



Half-day Field trip in Siem Riep under the project “*ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement (AMUSE)*”

The **Reflection Workshop** will be organized after the field trip. The individual assignments will be gathered and compiled as country reports. Each country group will be expected to present their country learning report, which will encompass the knowledge and information acquired during the visits. The aim of these presentations is to discuss the application of learned insights and proposals for ongoing and future projects, as well as to facilitate sharing and discussion among participants for enhanced collaborative learning and working groups. At the end of the sharing session, feedback will be collected from all participants by e-forms to assess the overall activity.

Day 6: Departure of participants to their home countries.

5. SLV Tentative Agenda:

Date	Activities	Remarks
Day 1 October 27 th , 2024	Arrival Travel from home cities to Phnom Penh by air or van	Stay overnight in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Day 2 October 28 th , 2024	Inception Workshop Introductory workshop in Phnom Penh, Cambodia 08:00-08:40 Breakfast at Marriot Hotel 08:40-09:00 Meet at Hotel lobby 09:00-09:30 Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inauguration and introduction of the participants • Introduction of the Workshop cum Structured Learning Visit 09:30-10:30 Guidelines and Group Discussion for preparing the Structured Learning Visits including individual field assignment 10:30-11:00 Coffee break 11:00-12:00 Formulate individual study plan to obtain information from specific visit sites	Stay overnight in Phnom Penh, Cambodia



12:00- 13:30 Lunch break

13:30- 13:45: Travel to **Australian Embassy/ADB Resident Mission** in Phnom Penh

13:45- 16:30: Meeting with Australian Development to learn about the Mekong-Australia Program

16:30- 17:00: Back to Hotel; Dinner & Free time

Day 3

October 29th, 2024

Visit to UNDP Office

Stay overnight in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

07:30-08:30 Breakfast at Marriot Hotel

08:30-09:00 Travel from Hotel to **UNDP Office**

09:00- 11:30 Meeting with UNDP/ILO team to understand about their regional programs on climate and disaster risk management with community engagement; Knowledge exchange across the border provinces with the aim of strengthening cross-border communication on relevant issues.

11:30- 12:00 Travel back to Hotel

12:00-13:30 Lunch time

13:30- 14:00 Travel to **ADB office in Phnom Penh**

14:00- 16:30 Meeting and discussion with ADB on working mechanism for policy advisory, collaborative support and responses to climate change with mobilization strategy from regional and international resources.

16:30- 17:00 Travel back to Hotel/Dinner& Free time

Day 4

October 30th, 2024

Visits to GIZ Office in Phnom Penh

Stay overnight in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

07:30-08:30 Breakfast at hotel

08:30- 09:00 Travel to **GIZ Office**

09:00-11:30 Meeting with GIZ team and study about their project on improving environmental quality in small and medium-sized cities in the ASEAN region by optimizing waste disposal and recycling.

11:30- 13:00 Lunch time & Hotel Check-out

13:00- 18:00 **Flight to Siem Reap**

Day 5

October 31st, 2024

Field trip to GIZ project in Siem Reap

Stay overnight in Siem Reap, Cambodia

07:00-08:00 Breakfast at hotel

08:00 Meet at Hotel lobby

08:15-12:00 **Field trip to project site in Siem Reap**

12:00-13:30 *Lunch*

13:30-17:30 **Learning & Reflection Workshop**

17:30 Dinner / free time

Day 6

November 1st, 2024

Flights back to home countries



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