The Mekong-U.S. Partnership has had an active start to 2023. Over 200 international stakeholders attended the **Mekong Research Symposium** on March 13-16 in Chiang Rai, Thailand. Several Mekong-U.S. Partnership (MUSP) programs showcased their recent work including the Stimson Center who discussed the tangible policy recommendations that are developed through their **MUSP Track 1.5 Policy Dialogue Series**.

In early April, the MUSP met for the **MUSP Senior Officials Meeting** which focused on “Navigating the Path Towards Economy Recovery, Food Security, Transnational Crime, and Human Resource Development”. This meeting, co-chaired by the U.S. and Lao PDR, was an opportunity for MUSP partners to discuss the 2024-2026 MUSP Plan of Action and plan what the future of the MUSP will look like.

The **Japan-U.S.-Mekong Power Partnership** (JUMPP) supports the Mekong sub-region's pursuit of energy security while encouraging greater regional power trade, clean energy integration, decarbonization, and resilience. JUMPP Technical Assistance Activities started in 2019 and will continue through 2025.

In February 2023, EAP/MLA visited Patihoub’s operating facility in Luang Prabang, Laos. Patihoub received an award through EAP/MLA’s **U.S. ASEAN Smart Cities Business Innovation Fund**, which sought proposals offering net-zero/low carbon solutions to urban challenges. Patihoub shreds, cleans, presses, and molds recycled plastic into new products including construction materials and resources for schools and empowers local waste workers through an integrated approach.

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The upcoming **Mekong Connections Learning Forum** will be the second opportunity for civil society awardees through Pact’s Mekong Connections Program to strengthen and expand partner networks and share lessons learned through their work. Pact will deliver capacity-building sessions to participants on project management-related topics. Organizations in attendance will come from all five Mekong countries and are working on issues ranging from strengthening the capacity of female community leaders to strengthening community voices on water governance.

For additional information please visit: [https://mekonguspartnership.org/](https://mekonguspartnership.org/).