



MEKONG-U.S. PARTNERSHIP AT WORK

MAY - JUNE 2023



Implemented by Pact Thailand, the second Mekong Connections Learning Forum convened 20 community leaders from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam from May 31-June 1 to strengthen cross-border Mekong regional networks and share efforts to address transboundary challenges in the region. Mekong Connections issued \$25,000 to 11 Mekong-based projects. Mekong Connections projects teach young scientists how to test water quality in the Mekong River, educate rural communities on combating climate change, and empower women to serve as community leaders. Representatives from Pact Thailand led sessions on project management, budget development, and communications strategy throughout the two-day event.



KEY EVENTS:

May:

- Mekong Inspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WE Inspire) Healthcare Workshop
- Stimson Center Mekong-U.S. Partnership (MUSP) Track 1.5 Policy Dialogue: *Countering Trafficking and Cyber-Enabled Crimes*
- Mekong Connections Learning Forum
- Mekong One Health Innovation Program (MOHIP) Webinar: *Improving Health Security through Environmental Stewardship: The System Integration for Small-Scale Wastewater Treatment*
- MOHIP Grant Writing Workshop

June:

- WE Inspire *Financial Literacy Workshop*

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:



July - Stimson Track 1.5 MUSP Policy Dialogue: *Transboundary Water Governance*



July - WE Inspire *Digital Literacy and Digital Marketing Workshop*



July - MOHIP Webinar: *Household Water Insecurity - Intersections Between Humans and Livestock*



July - MOHIP Announcement of Grant Recipients for the MOHIP Research Grants



August - Mekong-Mississippi Sisters River Partnership Exchange



August - International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) On-Demand: *Countering Vector-Borne Diseases in the Mekong Sub-Region*



The WE Inspire Program, run by the Kenan Foundation Asia, aims to empower women in Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam who lack access to fundamental government services including education, health care, and social support. WE Inspire's May 5-6 healthcare workshop focused on healthcare education and the links between insurance and economic opportunities.



121 women attended the workshop across two-days and were trained on self-screening for breast cancer awareness, women's rights and gender-based violence, and health insurance registration for migrants and stateless women. WE Inspire also hosted an information session for the WE Inspire Incubation Program inviting women entrepreneurs to engage in monthly training sessions on running a successful business in addition to opportunities for mentorship.



On May 8-9, the sixth Stimson Center MUSP Track 1.5 Policy Dialogue took place in Bangkok. This dialogue focused on countering trafficking and cyber-enabled crimes. These Dialogues explore solutions to key policy and sustainability challenges facing the Lower Mekong sub-region. In a mixture of plenary sessions and panel discussions, this hybrid event gathered approximately 60 in-person government and non-government participants to discuss regional needs and challenges related to countering cyber-enabled crimes and trafficking in persons, wildlife, narcotics, and other illicit goods. U.S. Government attendees noted the need for a unified response on these topics.

For additional information please visit: <https://mekonguspartnership.org/>