



MEKONG-U.S. PARTNERSHIP AT WORK

January - March 2024



KEY EVENTS

January:

- MOHIP Webinar #11: *Innovations and Low-Cost Technologies for One Health Monitoring and Surveillance*
- *WE Inspire* Country Program Kick-Off Meeting in Viet Nam
- *WE Inspire* Business Incubator Program in Thailand
- Mekong-Mississippi Sister Rivers Exchange in Thailand and Viet Nam
- JUMPP Study Tour on *Enhancement of Control Center Best Practices, Technical Standards, and Operational Procedures for Variable Renewable Energy*
- JUMPP System Operator Training in Hanoi, Viet Nam
- *Where's the Water: Mekong Dry Season 2024*

February:

- *Mekong Water Data Hour*
- MOHIP Virtual Short Course on *"Health Security, One Health, and Zoonoses"*

March:

- MUSP Policy Dialogue In Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam
- Mekong-U.S. Partnership Track 1.5 Policy Dialogue on Food Security Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) *U.S.-ASEAN Workshop on Border Transportation Planning to Improve Cross-Border Mobility and Trade*
- DOT U.S. Study Tour on Innovative Financing for Transportation Infrastructure Vientiane, Lao PDR

MEKONG-MISSISSIPPI SISTER RIVERS PARTNERSHIP EXCHANGE 2024



The Sister Rivers Partnership convened in Thailand and Viet Nam January 22-26, marking the Mississippi River Commission's first ever visit to Viet Nam's Mekong Delta. The visit also marks the 14th year of the Sister Rivers Partnership, which is funded by the U.S. State Department and implemented by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Hosted by the Mekong River Commission Secretariat, the four MRC Member Countries and U.S. representatives from the Mississippi River Commission, USACE, USAID, and DOS discussed changing river flows, climate impacts, salinity intrusion, infrastructure operations, fisheries management, and sediment management. Witnessing firsthand the Mekong's challenges in water management, the U.S. and Mekong delegations strengthened collaboration by sharing best practices and ideas for tackling similar water resource issues across both rivers.

MEKONG-U.S. PARTNERSHIP POLICY DIALOGUE

The Mekong-U.S. Partnership (MUSP) held a successful policy dialogue in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam March 20-21. Officials from the five Mekong countries and the United States engaged on priorities and programs within the four areas of MUSP cooperation — economic connectivity, natural resource management, non-traditional security, and human resource capacity. Participants noted appreciation for special sessions on "Promoting a Business-enabling Environment," with presentations by the Foreign Commercial Service, United States Trade and Development Agency, and Development Finance Corporation representatives, and "Online Scam Center Operations" presented by the State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) facilitated a U.S.-ASEAN workshop on *Border Transportation Planning to Improve Cross-Border Mobility and Trade in the 21st Century* in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The workshop, which convened 35 delegates from nine ASEAN member states, is part of DOT's East-West Connectivity project to support regional trade facilitation and the improvement of corridors in the Mekong sub-region. Workshop participants learned from Federal Highway Administration, state, and local subject matter experts on the United States' northern and southern borders, with a focus on replicating best practices in the Mekong sub-region. The March 6-8 workshop included a site visit to Lao PDR's Thanaleng Dry Port and the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

April

30 | MOHIP Webinar #13: *The Importance of the One Health Approach for Understanding Infectious Diseases: An Example of a Neglected Tropical Disease*

27-May 9 | U.S. Study Tour on Rail Research, Development, and Technology Washington, D.C.; Front Royal, Virginia; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Austin, Texas

May

13-15 | MOHIP Regional Symposium Vientiane, Lao PDR

June

5 | MOHIP Webinar #14: *Land Use, Climate Change and Human Health: A One Health Approach*

Check out our State Magazine article on Mekong Connections: <https://statemag.state.gov/2024/04/0424itn01/>