



MEDIA ADVISORY

Youth Engagement in the Lancang-Mekong Region

Second Regional Consultation Workshop for the projects: “Building Water Sector Youth Leadership Network in the Lancang-Mekong Region” and “Promoting Climate-Smart Water Technologies and Innovations for Sustainable Water Resources and Rice Production under Climate Change in the Lancang-Mekong Region.”

Dates: 13-15 November 2024

Location: The Cavalli Casa Resort, Ayutthaya, Thailand

Youth engagement in the management and governance of water resources is essential for the sustainable development of the Lancang-Mekong Region. This will be the focus of the **2nd Regional Consultation Workshop for the projects on *Building Water Sector Youth Leadership Network in the Lancang-Mekong Region* and *Promoting Climate-Smart Water Technologies and Innovations for Sustainable Water Resources and Rice Production under Climate Change in the Lancang-Mekong Region*** in Ayutthaya, Thailand, from 13-15 November 2024.

The event will bring together youth leaders, project implementers, academic institutes, practitioners and key stakeholders from across the six Mekong-Lancang countries to discuss the project’s achievements, draft a five-year action plan for youth leadership in the water sector and climate change adaptation, and further enhance capacities in communications, climate-smart technology, multi-stakeholder engagement, and leadership.

As reaffirmed in the Vientiane Declaration of the Third MLC Leaders' Meeting in 2018, the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) emphasizes the inclusion of youth in water-related initiatives. This workshop seeks to advance this vision by strengthening youth capacity, fostering partnerships, and finalizing key deliverables, including the youth leadership network's design, action plan and joint statement.

This workshop is part of a long-term initiative to build a regional youth leadership network focused on inclusive governance and management of water resources in the Mekong-Lancang region.

“This workshop is a valuable opportunity to highlight the growing role of youth in governing and managing water resources in the Mekong-Lancang region. Given that water security and building climate resilience are urgent global challenges, the involvement of young leaders is essential to creating sustainable, lasting solutions.

For the first time, youth leaders and young water professionals from our six Mekong-Lancang countries—united as one big family—will have a dedicated five-year action plan. This plan will empower youth to shape our shared homes and future across the region for the long term, ensuring no one is left behind,” said Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, SEI Asia Deputy Director and lead of the project “Building Water Sector Youth Leadership Network in the Lancang-Mekong Region.”

“Rice farming is facing a dual problem of delivering sufficient and nutritious food to meet the projected demands of population growth and markets while overcoming issues such as climate change and water scarcity. Adopting climate-smart water technologies and innovations is part of solutions and adaptation measures to reduce the risks from climate change. We are looking to increase the efficiency of water use in rice cropping systems. This regional workshop provides an opportunity for the Mekong-Lancang countries to share the lessons learned and policy recommendations to develop pathways for promoting climate-smart water technologies and innovations at the small-scale farm level,” said Dr. Thanapon Piman, SEI Asia Senior Research Fellow and lead of the project “Climate-smart Water Technologies for Rice Production in the Lancang-Mekong Region.”

The event will showcase youth-led innovations while sharing lessons learned to promote climate-smart technologies and innovations in climate-smart agriculture and water management, cross-border collaborations, and the development of a future-focused leadership network that empowers the next generation to take on pressing environmental challenges.

Additionally, on 14 November 2024, senior officials from Thailand and China’s water sector will be in attendance, offering key insights into Thailand’s and China’s role in regional water management, cross-border cooperation, and youth engagement in environmental leadership.

DATE AND PLACE:

13-15 November 2024, the Cavalli Casa Resort, Ayutthaya, Thailand

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Present project achievements, findings, and recommendations for enhancing youth engagement in the Lancang-Mekong Region.
- Discuss and finalize the design and five-year action plan (2025-2029) for the LMC water sector youth leadership network.
- Finalize a joint statement from the youth leadership network for consideration by the Joint Working Group (JWG) on MLC water resources cooperation.
- Strengthen the knowledge and leadership capacity of youth leaders from the MLC countries in areas such as communication, climate-smart technology, and multi-stakeholder engagement.
- Develop a pathway to promoting climate-smart water technologies and innovations at the farm level (small-scale) in the Lancang-Mekong countries.
- Enhance networks among practitioners (farmers), experts from government agencies and academic institutes, and private enterprises.

WHO:

The event will be attended by approximately 75-80 participants, including:

- Youth leaders from the six Mekong-Lancang countries
- Representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Bangkok
- Key agencies promoting youth engagement in the region
- Implementing agencies of the WSYLN project, including Thailand's Office of the National Water Resources (ONWR), The Sustainable Environment Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University (SERI), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Asia Centre, and the Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Center (LMC Water Center)
- Relevant youth networks, including SUMERNET Young Professionals.
- Practitioners, experts from government agencies and academic institutes, and private enterprises.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES:

- Keynote sessions and group discussions
- Networking and collaborative activities among youth leaders
- Closing ceremony and joint statement presentation
- Group photo sessions with senior officials and youth leaders

Media advisory page: <https://www.sei.org/about-sei/press-room/youth-engagement-lancang-mekong-region>

About the Projects:

Building Water Sector Youth Leadership Network in the Lancang-Mekong Region Project: This is an initiative funded by the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund (LMCSF) to foster youth leadership and enhance water resource governance in the Mekong-Lancang region. The project involves a multi-year effort to create a regional youth leadership network that empowers the next generation of practitioners, researchers, and community leaders to contribute to sustainable water management and cooperation in the region.

<https://www.sei.org/projects/water-sector-youth-leadership-network-lancang-mekong/>

Climate-smart Water Technologies for Rice Production in the Lancang-Mekong Region Project:

The Mekong-Lancang Region is facing more frequent droughts and water scarcity due to the adverse impacts of climate change, and affecting farming areas, in particular rice production and local livelihoods. There is an urgent need to adopt climate-smart technologies and innovations to manage water resources more efficiently and sustain rice cultivation and farming livelihoods.

<https://www.sei.org/projects/climate-smart-water-technologies-for-rice-production-lancang-mekong-region/>

For additional information, media inquiries, or to schedule interviews, please contact:

Rajesh Daniel

Head of Communications, SEI Asia

rajesh.daniel@sei.org

For Thai-language media:

Variya Plungwatana

Communications Assistant, SEI Asia

variya.plungwatana@sei.org