



MEKONG ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE WEEK 2025

“Learning from the Past, Shaping Inclusive Futures for Mekong Resilience”

SUMERENT 20th ANNIVERSARY

18-20 November 2025

Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand

(Version: 24 October 2025)

1. Introduction

Building on Success and Shaping the Future

Following the success of the Mekong Environmental Resilience Weeks (MERW) in 2023 and 2024, the **Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks (MTT) Network Program** funded by Mekong-Australia Partnership of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia, in cooperation with the **Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET)** funded by the Embassy of Sweden, and **Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute (CUSRI)**, will once again convene diverse actors from across the Mekong region. MERW serves as a platform to strengthen collaboration and advance equitable solutions for the inclusive and resilient Mekong Region.

A Milestone Year

MERW 2025 holds special significance as the MTT Program approaches the conclusion of its implementation cycle. This week will provide a significant opportunity to reflect on and showcase three years of achievements and learning, particularly in:

1. Building a regional alliance of think tanks.
2. Co-producing knowledge among knowledge-based policy influence organizations (KBPIOs).
3. Enhancing the capacity and networking of early career professionals.
4. Mainstreaming gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI).
5. Influencing policies on the water–energy–climate change nexus at regional, national, and sub-national levels.

Collectively, these efforts have contributed to more inclusive and robust policy processes and actions in the Mekong region, benefiting especially marginalized and vulnerable communities.

Beyond a Platform – Building a Legacy

MERW 2025 is not only a venue for knowledge exchange and lesson-sharing but also a space to highlight the **legacy and future pathways of the MTT Program**. The event will continue to explore water–energy–climate interlinkages while addressing interconnected regional challenges. By fostering transboundary learning and partnerships, it aims to strengthen collective responses for long-term climate resilience.

Celebrating 20 Years of SUMERNET

This year’s event will also celebrate the **20th Anniversary of SUMERNET**. Over two decades, SUMERNET has grown into a regionally owned network of more than 900 members, strengthening



evidence-based policy processes for sustainable development in the Mekong Region. MERW 2025 will highlight SUMERNET's stories of change and launch its new phase: **SUMERNET PLUS - "Partnership for a Long-Term Climate-Resilient Mekong through Just and Sustainable Transitions."**

Participation and Partnerships

MERW 2025 will bring together more than 100 participants, including representatives from the 49 MTT-supported grants, SUMERNET research partners, KBPIOs, government agencies, academia, civil society, media, socially marginalized communities, as well as international experts and partners.

Together, participants will celebrate progress, reflect on lessons learned, and chart new directions for continued collaboration toward a more inclusive and resilient Mekong region.

Objectives of MERW 2025

1. **Strengthen and Sustain Regional Partnerships:** Provide a platform for MTT Alliance members, SUMERNET partners, knowledge-based policy influence organizations (KBPIOs), and young professionals to exchange experiences, explore strategies for sustaining collaborations, and chart pathways for long-term partnership impacts beyond the MTT program cycle.
2. **Showcase Achievements and Validate Lessons:** Highlight and reflect on the key results and impacts of MTT-supported grants and other relevant activities, particularly in knowledge co-production, policy engagement, and inclusive research-to-policy processes. Validate collective lessons and models to guide future scaling and adaptation.
3. **Advance Inclusive and Equitable Policy Influence:** Promote practical approaches for mainstreaming gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI), and demonstrate how MTT contributions have shaped more inclusive, evidence-based policies in the water-energy-climate nexus at regional, national, and sub-national levels.
4. **Celebrate and Launch Future Pathways:** Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of SUMERNET by highlighting two decades of stories of change, while launching its new phase, "Partnership for a Long-Term Climate-Resilient Mekong through Just and Sustainable Transitions (SUMERNET PLUS)". This objective emphasizes the continuity of knowledge networks and active engagement with policymakers, practitioners, think tanks, young professionals, and the private sector to support a just, inclusive, and sustainable transition toward enhanced climate resilience in the Mekong region.

2. Participants

The Mekong Environmental Resilience Week (MERW) is expected to host more than 100 participants including representatives from the Embassy of Australia, Embassy of Sweden, Chulalongkorn University, MTT Steering Committee (PSC), Secretariat, thematic advisors, granted (Flagship Study and Rapid Response) project's members, fellows, other MTT alliance members, SUMERNET Steering Committee (SSC), SUMERNET Young Professional Network, partners from SUMERNET, local, regional and international development partners, governments, Civil society organisations (including GEDSI organizations), media and other stakeholders.

3. Key events and meetings



The MERW 2025 consists of several key events and meetings during 18-20 November 2025:

Tentative Time/date	Activities	Invited participants	Venue Location
Tuesday 18 November 2025			
9:00-12:00	MTT Program Steering Committee Meeting (internal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTT Program Steering Committee • Program Secretariat 	Meeting room on 33rd floor
12.00-13.00	Joint lunch among MTT PSC, SSC and Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTT Program Steering Committee • SUMERNET Steering Committee • Secretariat 	The Glass House on 5th floor
13.30-17.00	MTT Alliance Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embassy of Australia • Embassy of Sweden • Chulalongkorn University • MTT Steering Committee • MTT Secretariat • Thematic advisors • Granted (Flagship Study and Rapid Response) project's members • Fellows • Other MTT alliance members • SUMERNET Steering Committee • SUMERNET Young Professional Network • Partners from SUMERNET • Other invited stakeholders 	Surasak 1, 11th floor
17.00-18.00	Market Place & Networking		
18.00-20.30	SUMERNET Young Professional -MTT Fellowship Awarding Ceremony & Partnership Networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embassy of Australia • Embassy of Sweden • Chulalongkorn University • MTT Steering Committee • MTT Secretariat • Thematic advisors • Granted (Flagship Study and Rapid Response) project's members • Fellows • Other MTT alliance members • SUMERNET Steering Committee • SUMERNET Young Professionals • Partners from SUMERNET • Other invited stakeholders 	Surasak 2&3, 11th floor
Wednesday 19 November 2025			



Tentative Time/date	Activities	Invited participants	Venue Location
09:00-12:30	MTT-SUMERNET Policy Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embassy of Australia Embassy of Sweden Chulalongkorn University MTT Steering Committee MTT Secretariat Thematic advisors Granted (Flagship Study and Rapid Response) project's members Fellows Other MTT alliance members SUMERNET Steering Committee SUMERNET Young Professional Network Partners from SUMERNET Chulalongkorn University Local, regional and international development partners Government authorities Media Other invited stakeholders 	Surasak 1, 11th floor
12.30-13.30	Group Lunch		
13.30-15.00	MTT-SUMERNET Policy Forum (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swedish Embassy Australian Embassy Chulalongkorn University, MTT Steering Committee MTT Secretariat Thematic advisors Granted (Flagship Study and Rapid Response) project's members Fellows Other MTT alliance members SUMERNET Steering Committee SUMERNET Young Professional Network Partners from SUMERNET Chulalongkorn University Local, regional and international development partners Government authorities Media Other invited stakeholders 	The Glass House on 5th floor
15.00-16.00	Coffee break & Market Place		



Tentative Time/date	Activities	Invited participants	Venue Location
16.00-17.30	Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET)'s 20 th Anniversary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embassy of Sweden/Sida in Thailand Embassy of Australia Chulalongkorn University SUMERNET Steering Committee SUMERNET Young Professional Network Partners from SUMERNET Chulalongkorn University Embassy of Australia in Thailand MTT Steering Committee MTT Secretariat Thematic advisors Granted (Flagship Study and Rapid Response) project's members Fellows Other MTT alliance members Local, regional and international development partners Government authorities Media Other invited stakeholders 	Surasak 2&3, 11th floor
17.30-20.30	Reception and Networking	Refreshment and snack will be served	
Thursday 20 November 2025			
09:00-12:00	MTT Collaborative Space: Knowledge exchange/sharing workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embassy of Australia Thematic advisors Granted (Flagship Study and Rapid Response) project's members Fellows Secretariat 	Surasak 1, 11th FL
12.00-13.00	Lunch		The Glass House on 5th floor
13:00-16:00	Inclusive research-policy collaborative space (title TBC).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embassy of Australia Thematic advisors Granted (Flagship Study and Rapid Response) project's members Fellows SYP coordinators 	Surasak 1, 11th FL

4. Format



The MERW 2025 will actively engage with the participants throughout the week. More specific formats for each key event will be provided separately. * **Side event:** Market place/Exhibition 18-19 November 2025.