



# MEKONG ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE WEEK 2025

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

## MTT – SUMERNET Regional Policy Forum 2025: Advancing Water–Energy–Climate Nexus Solutions for a Resilient Mekong

19 November 2025, 09:00 – 20:00 (Bangkok/Indochina Time, GMT+7) |  
Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn | Bangkok, Thailand

### PRESS RELEASE

17 Nov. 2025

### Regional Forum to Advance Water-Energy-Climate Solutions for a Resilient Mekong Subregion

**[Bangkok, Thailand]** – More than 100 policymakers, researchers, development partners, and local community representatives will convene in Bangkok on 19 November 2025 for Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Asia’s Mekong Environmental Resilience Week (MERW) 2025.

Activities will include a Regional Policy Forum on **Advancing Water-Energy-Climate Nexus Solutions for a Resilient Mekong** for participants of the **Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks (MTT) Network Program**, funded by **Australian Government** through the **Mekong-Australia Partnership (MAP)**, and the **Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET)**, supported by the **Embassy of Sweden**. **Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute (CUSRI)** is also supporting the event.

MTT and SUMERNET have supported research organisations across the Mekong subregion to develop clear and evidence-based policy solutions to water, energy, and development challenges.

"The Mekong Region stands at the forefront of interconnected water, energy, and climate challenges. Increasing energy demand, uncertain quantity and quality water flows, and intensifying climate impacts are putting pressures on the Mekong’s ecosystems and local livelihoods," said **Dr Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa**, the Director of the MTT Program and SUMERNET and Deputy Director of Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Asia. "This forum is critical for ensuring that science-based evidence can be used to strengthen inclusive policy decisions that can address the many critical environmental issues in the region."

The event builds on **MTT’s regional think tanks alliance and SUMERNET’s research-to-policy achievements** to showcase solutions, share lessons, and explore collaborative pathways that integrate water, energy, and climate into policies and practices for an inclusive and resilient Mekong subregion. The discussions will emphasise how gender equality, disability equity, and



social inclusion (GEDSI) aspect ensures resilience benefits are shared equitably among women, youth, people with disability and other marginalised groups.

“Australia is proud to work closely with partners in the Mekong subregion to address shared challenges in water, energy, and climate,” remarked **Dr Angela Macdonald PSM**, Australian Ambassador to Thailand.

“Through the Mekong-Australia Partnership, we provide grants for flagship study and rapid response research to regional and locally led organisations to undertake studies on critical interconnected issues in the Mekong subregion. We also support promising early-career professionals who are driving evidence-based, more inclusive, and sustainable policies and practices.” **Ambassador Macdonald** added.

**Ms AnnaMaria Oltorp**, Head of the Development Cooperation Section, Regional Asia and the Pacific Embassy of Sweden, Thailand said “For two decades, Sweden, through SUMERNET, has been a proud partner in supporting research and evidence-based policymaking in the Mekong Region. As we celebrate this 20-year milestone, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting inclusive research that places gender equality and social inclusion at the heart of water, energy, and climate solutions. This forum is a vital step towards ensuring that the region's resilience is built by collaborative science and inclusive decision-making.”

**Associate Professor Dr Unruan Leknoi**, Director of CUSRI, Chulalongkorn University said “Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute is honored to host this critical dialogue. As a premier research institution in Thailand and the Mekong Region, CUSRI recognizes our responsibility to bridge the gap between knowledge and action. This forum highlights our commitment to serving society especially the most vulnerable and marginalized people to build resilience and to create sustainable and equitable pathways for the Mekong Region.”

The forum will serve as a platform to advance integrated solutions to water–energy–climate challenges in the Mekong subregion. Its objectives are threefold: **showcase impact** by highlighting successful nexus initiatives and policy-relevant findings from MTT grantees, SUMERNET partners, and other regional actors; **foster exchange** through inclusive, cross-sectoral dialogue that identifies enabling conditions, barriers, and opportunities for implementing resilient nexus solutions; and **shape the future** by co-developing a shared set of research and policy priorities that will guide collaborative action over the next five years, in alignment with SUMERNET PLUS and other regional efforts.

The forum will conclude with a networking reception to celebrate the **20th Anniversary of the SUMERNET network**, honouring its long-standing partnerships and contribution to sustainable development in the Mekong subregion.



## Event Details:

**What:** MTT-SUMERNET Regional Policy Forum 2025

**Theme:** Advancing Water-Energy-Climate Nexus Solutions for a Resilient Mekong

**When:** Wednesday, 19 November 2025, 09:00–20:00 (Bangkok/Indochina Time, GMT+7)

**Where:** Hybrid format - Onsite at Surasak 1, 11<sup>th</sup> floor, Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn, Bangkok, and Online via Zoom.

**Registration:** <https://whova.com/portal/registration/00iwFTpSAfTFOROnTqJw/>

**Agenda:** Please download from the event page [here](#).

## For media inquiries, please contact:

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