



# Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program (MTT)

## PROFILES OF FELLOWS

(2023-2026)



**MTT Fellows from Batch 5 at MTT Collaborative Space**  
(Photo: Phuthita Dokput)

## MTT Fellowships

The Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program (MTT) (2023-2026) aims to invest in diverse entry- or mid-level professionals of all genders working in inclusive co-production of knowledge, policy communications, and engagement. The program views this as essential to enhance future generations to drive evidence-based, more inclusive, and sustainable policies and practices in the Mekong Region.

The program supports capacity building for professionals through fellowships, trainings, and networking opportunities.

Under the MTT Fellowships, a reputable organization in the Mekong Region is the host organization for each fellow. The host organization guides the mentor who will engage directly with the fellow and provide supporting links to the broader program activities and opportunities.

In addition, the program has provided support for early-career media professionals in the Mekong Region through the "media-research collaboration fellowships." Running from January to June 2025, the media fellows were supported to publish impactful stories on key environmental issues linked to MTT research, while supporting researchers on media capacity-building activities, including writing blogs, making short films, and using data for science storytelling.

This booklet provides the profiles of the under MTT fellows from 5 batches, including the media-research collaboration fellowships.

## Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program (MTT)

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The Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program aims to work with national and regional knowledge-based policy influence organizations to enhance their effectiveness and inclusiveness in policy engagement. This will be combined with communications based on high-quality research, practical advice generated by the program, cross-learning among relevant organizations in the subregion, and drawing upon relevant Australian and other expertise and experiences in water security, energy security, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The program partnership comprises 25 organisations, including eight consortium members, that not only help to ensure technical competency across the water, energy, and climate domain, but also draw upon critical insights and connections. The program is supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Government of Australia.

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## BATCH 1 (2023)



**Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Vietnam

**Email:** thuyhpvn19@gmail.com

Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy obtained her MA degree in sustainable development at Chiang Mai University. She is a Researcher at the Vietnam Women Academy and a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. Thuy works closely with her mentor, Dr. Bach Tan Sinh, and host organization, Viet Insight, to support the program's Component 1: Development of home-grown regional network/alliance of KBPIOs. Her main tasks are to support research work carried out by Component 1; engage with partners and other fellows; and participate in meetings and other activities of the program. Her research interests include human security, water security, and gender equality issues.

**Host:** VietInsight

**Mentor:** Bach Tan Sinh



**Medina Adulyarat**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Thailand

**Email:** medina.adulyarat@sei.org,  
Medina.adulyarat@gmail.com

Medina Adulyarat obtained her MSc degree in population and social gerontology from Miami and Mahidol University. She is a PhD student in Population Geography at the University of Vienna, Austria, and a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. Medina works closely with her mentor, Ms. Karen Delfau, and host organization, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI Asia), to support the program's cross-cutting work on gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI). Her main tasks are to review literature on policies related to GEDSI; assist the development of the program's GEDSI strategy; and co-design and implement capacity development and support to other program teams to integrate GEDSI. Her research interests include climate change, population aging, and management.

**Host:** SEI Asia

**Mentor:** Karen Delfau



**Sovannarong Tim**

**Gender:** Man

**Nationality:** Cambodia

**Email:** sovannarongtim@gmail.com

Sovannarong is a development practitioner with over five years of diverse experience in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), gender equality and social inclusion, and youth development.

Sovannarong previously worked with WaterAid Cambodia, supporting WASH systems strengthening and promoting gender transformative change in the Cambodian WASH sector. Prior to that, he was an advisory member of the United Nations Youth Advisory Panel (UNYAP), which consulted the UN on Cambodian youth development issues. Sovannarong is also a [Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative \(YSEALI\) Academic Fellowship alumna](#) and a [2020 YSEALI Seeds for the Future grantee](#). His current research interests include GEDSI (gender equality, disability and social inclusion), climate change, misogyny and sexism, and behavior change communication.

At the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tank (MTT) Program, Sovannarong works with the MTT team on a core cross-cutting component, GEDSI, in the area of Water-Energy-Climate nexus.

**Host:** SEI Asia

**Mentor:** Sizwile Khoza



**Chea Sameang**

**Gender:** Man  
**Nationality:** Cambodia  
**Email:** chea.sameang@sei.org

CHEA Sameang joins the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Thanks Network Program (MTT) Fellow cohort (1) to work under Component 3 on inclusive policy engagement. Prior to joining SEI Asia, He works as a project officer with the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR) to support the Fundamental Freedoms Monitoring Project (FFMP) to promote human rights awareness in Cambodia.. He has been an alumnus of Southeast Asia Research Academic, and an alumnus of Young Research Fellow (2022) at the Future Forum Asia. Through his research work, he has produced a number of op-eds, blogs, and policy briefs in Politikoffee, Voice of Democracy (VOD), Cambodianess, Kiripost, Southeast Asia Globe, New York Southeast Asia Network, Future Forum, Transparency International Cambodia, Mekong Eyes, and SUMERNET. He published the book chapter on Big Book of Small Ideas Volume 1: Building a Liveable Cambodia. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in international relations from the Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia (PUC), Phnom Penh. His research interests include contemporary Cambodian politics, human rights, climate change, and water security in Mekong.

**Host:** SEI Asia

**Mentor:** Sushmita Mandal



**Chananan Dechadilok**

**Gender:** Woman  
**Nationality:** Thailand  
**Email:** chananan@go.buu.ac.th

Chananan Dechadilok is pursuing her PhD in management at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa. She previously worked at Burapha University. She is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. Chananan works closely with her mentor, Mr. Rajesh Daniel, and host organization, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI Asia), to support the program’s communication work. Her main tasks are to review the literature on media communication and environmental sustainability; conduct a short working paper; and support the activities of the SUMERNET Young Professionals (SYP). Her research interests include green consumption, green marketing, and environmental media.

**Host:** SEI Asia

**Mentor:** Rajesh Daniel



**Lamngeune Souliyavong**

**Gender:** Woman  
**Nationality:** Laos  
**Email:** lamngeune.slyv@gmail.com

Lamngeune Souliyavong obtained her MA degree in Southeast Asia studies at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. She is a lecturer at the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, National University of Laos, and a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. Lamngeune works closely with her mentor, Dr. Phoummixay Siharath, and host organization, Faculty of Engineering, National University of Laos, to support the program’s Component 4: Professional development of agents of change. Her main tasks are to undertake literature review and data collection; support the design and implementation of training; and support program activities. Her research interests include water, energy, climate change, moral ecology or environmental ethic, and gender.

**Host:** NUOL

**Mentor:** Phoummixay Siharath



**Vo Quoc Thanh**

**Gender:** Man  
**Nationality:** Vietnam  
**Email:** thanh.vo@sei.org

Vo Quoc Thanh obtained his PhD at Delft University of Technology and IHE Delft. He is a lecturer at Can Tho University and a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. Thanh works closely with his mentor, Dr. Thanapon Piman, and host organization, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI Asia), to support the program’s Component 2: Enhancing climate resilience of water and energy systems through policy research and collaboration among PIOs. His main tasks are to conduct literature reviews and summarize existing knowledge; identify knowledge gaps in the links between water, energy, and climate in the Mekong subregion; and prepare knowledge products, such as a report and/or journal article. His research interests include hydrodynamics, water science, and water management in the Mekong Delta.

**Host:** SEI Asia

**Mentor:** Thanapon Piman

## BATCH 2 (2024)



**Thi Quynh Nga Nguyen**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Vietnam

**Email:** [nguyenquynhnga95@gmail.com](mailto:nguyenquynhnga95@gmail.com)

Thi Quynh Nga Nguyen obtained her Master of Water Resources Management from the University of South Australia. She is a Researcher in Institute of Hydrology and Meteorology Science and Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Vietnam and a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. She works closely with her mentor Ms. Quynh Anh and the host organization, Institute of Policy and Management (IPAM), Vietnam. Her main tasks are to implement fieldwork; write papers, proposed research and reports; and participate and support IPAM events and activities. Her research interests include water management; climate change; and water security.

**Host:** IPAM

**Mentor:** Quynh Anh Nguyen



**Davy Sao**

**Gender:** Man

**Nationality:** Cambodia

**Email:** [davykhouch@gmail.com](mailto:davykhouch@gmail.com)

Davy Sao obtained his PhD in Agricultural and Environmental Engineering from the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (TUAT). He is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks (MTT) Program, working under the supervision of Dr. Netra Eng, Executive Director of the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) in Cambodia. His main tasks are to contribute to developing research proposals on Cambodia's water-food-climate nexus, support writing papers, policy briefs, and blogs based on ongoing research projects, and provide presentations in relevant workshops, conferences, or policy dialogues. His research interests include water resources assessments, hydrological modeling, and climate change impacts on water and agriculture. Prior to the MTT program, Davy gained diverse work experience, including serving as a team leader in a training program in China, participating in an international exchange on climate change in the United States, and interning at the FAO in water management in Egypt. Currently, Davy holds the position of Executive Director at the Center for Sustainable Water (CSW), where he leads the organization's efforts to enhance water resources management and increase access to clean water and sanitation services for underserved communities.

**Host:** CDRI

**Mentor:** Netra Eng



**Nguyen Thi Hoang Nguyen**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Vietnam

**Email:** [nguyen.csnm@gmail.com](mailto:nguyen.csnm@gmail.com)

Nguyen Nguyen obtained her Bachelor's degree in English Linguistics and Literature from the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City. She is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. She works closely with her mentor, Prof. Buapun Promphakping, and host organization, Center for Civil Society and Nonprofit Management at Khon Kaen University, Thailand. Her main tasks are to develop communication strategies for the center's project, produce communication materials and develop communication platforms for outreach and policy engagement. Her research interests include water governance, energy transition, and internal and external factors that affect media coverage of climate and environmental-related issues.

**Host:** Center for Civil Society and Nonprofit Management

**Mentor:** Buapun Promphakping



**Phan Thanh Thanh**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Vietnam

**Email:** phanthanhcmu@gmail.com

Phan Thanh Thanh obtained her PhD Degree in Human Rights and Peace Studies from Mahidol University. She is a Fellow under the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. She works closely with her mentor Dr. Narith Por and the host organization, My Village (MVi) in Cambodia. Her main tasks are to conduct research, analyze data, and write reports/articles for the project titled "Assessing the Communities' Resilience to Climate Change: Water-Energy-Climate Nexus: A Case Study in Mekong Sub-Region's Marginalized Communities in Stung Treng Province". Her research interests include human rights, the environment, and sustainable development.

**Host:** My Village

**Mentor:** Lonn Pichdara



**Sok Pheak**

**Gender:** Man

**Nationality:** Cambodia

**Email:** sopheakstar14@gmail.com

Mr. SOK Pheak obtained his Master's degree in natural resource management from the Royal University of Agriculture. He is a lecturer at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Heng Samrin Thbongkhmum and a fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. He works closely with his mentor, Mr. SIM Sokcheng, Director of Center for Policy Research in Agriculture and Rural Development (CPARD), Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), Cambodia. His main tasks are to engage in ongoing research projects on water, energy, agriculture, and climate change in Cambodia and support the ongoing activities, including capacity building, writing working papers, and attending outreach activities held by CDRI and partners. His research interest is the impacts of climate change on wetland resources.

**Host:** CDRI

**Mentor:** Sim Sokcheng



**Kobrat Chotruangprasert**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Thailand

**Email:** kobrat.c@gmail.com

Kobrat obtained her M.Sc. in Rural Development Economics from University of Hohenheim, Germany. She is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. She works closely with her mentor, Dr. Farhad Zulfiqar, and host organization, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. Her main tasks are to provide technical support to the existing research related to agriculture and forestry certification. Her research interests include how smallholders and SMEs in Greater Mekong can benefit from Green/Social/Sustainability Financing Instruments. Kobrat has more than 10 years experiences working with/for voluntary sustainability schemes from Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR), Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS), and now with Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI).

**Host:** AIT

**Mentor:** Farhad Zulfiqar



**My Le**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Vietnam

**Email:** hello.mymekong@gmail.com

My Le obtained her BA in Journalism from University of Social Sciences & Humanities, Vietnam National University - HCMC. She is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. She works closely with her mentor, Rajesh Daniel, and host organization, SEI Asia, Thailand. Her main tasks are to support Mekong regional media with special focus on the MTT and the SUMERNET programs, and in particular, working with youth in the SUMERNET Young Professionals (SYP). Her research interests include Science Communication, Sustainability and Historical Ecology. As an environmental journalist, My Le is committed to producing explanatory, solution-driven journalism that empowers individuals to make informed decisions. She is also currently enrolled in a BSc program in Forest Resources Management through distance learning.

**Host:** SEI Asia

**Mentor:** Rajesh Daniel



**Panitda Saiyarod**

**Gender:** Woman  
**Nationality:** Thailand  
**Email:** panitda.s@cmu.ac.th

Panitda Saiyarod obtained her PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Cologne. She is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. She works closely with her mentor, Dr. Phoummixay Siharath, and her host organization, the Department of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, at the National University of Laos (NUOL) in Lao PDR. Her main tasks include supporting and assisting with field data analysis, focusing on GEDSI considerations, with a special emphasis on marginalized and vulnerable groups. Additionally, she supports and assists with policy briefs for key stakeholders, identifying innovative solutions. Her research interests include the anthropology of infrastructure, China studies, and moral ecology.

**Host:** National University of Laos

**Mentor:** Phoummixay Siharath



**Nguyen Quang Tan**

**Gender:** Man  
**Nationality:** Vietnam  
**Email:** quangtankn43@gmail.com

Nguyen Quang Tan is a distinguished scholar, holding a PhD in Environmental Economics and Sociology from Okayama University, Japan. His background specifically focuses on the field of climate change adaptation, forest governance, and community development. He is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. In this role, he collaborates closely with mentor Dr. Warathida Chaiyapa and the host institution, the School of Public Policy at Chiang Mai University, Thailand. His contributions span a spectrum of responsibilities, including developing the launch of innovative Master's programs, hosting monthly seminars within the laboratory, providing mentorship to Master's students in thesis development, and actively participating in cutting-edge research endeavors.

**Host:** Chiang Mai University

**Mentor:** Warathida Chaiyapa

## BATCH 3 (2024)



**Daravuth Kong**

**Gender:** Man  
**Nationality:** Cambodia  
**Email:** kongdaravuth99@gmail.com

Daravuth Kong obtained his Master's degree in Leadership and Organizational Development from Malmö University, Sweden. He is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. He works closely with Dr. Khajornkiat Srinuansom from the Faculty of Fisheries Technology and Aquatic Resources and his host organization, Maejo University, Thailand on a project focused on 'enhancing fisheries resilience through local community participation in Lao PDR.' His main tasks include ensuring program policy and regulation compliance for the host institute, contributing to project planning and implementation, and managing project progress reports and research and communication products. His research interests encompass organizational leadership, inclusive education, TVET policies and programs, and sustainable development.

**Host:** Maejo University

**Mentor:** Khajornkiat Srinaansom



**Tran Duc Think**

**Gender:** Man  
**Nationality:** Vietnam  
**Email:** tranducthinhtv@gmail.com

Tran Duc Think obtained his Master's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Dongguk University, Korea. He is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. He works closely with his mentor, Dr. Ho Thi Phuong, and host organization, the Nghe An Center for Forestry Development and Consultation in Vinh City, Vietnam. His main tasks are to research the impact of small hydropower plants on ethnic minority communities' agricultural livelihoods and develop action plans for equitable water resource sharing. His research interests include integrated water resource management, climate change impact assessment and adaptation strategies, and ensuring water security.

**Host:** Nghe An Centre for Forestry Development and Consultation

**Mentor:** Ho Thi Phuong



**Thanyaporn Wongtitirote**

**Gender:** Woman  
**Nationality:** Thailand  
**Email:** sustainablepear@gmail.com

Thanyaporn Wongtitirote (Pear) has an academic background in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability (M.Sc.) from the Blekinge Institute of Technology in Sweden and a Bachelor's degree in Communication Arts from Chulalongkorn University. As a Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program Fellow, she will work closely with her mentor, Dr. Jeeranuch Sakkhamduang, and her host organization, the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI).

Pear's missions include researching urban heat resilience and integrating science, policy, and sustainable design through participatory methods and nature-based solutions. She is also keen on fostering collaborations and innovations between Thailand and Nordic countries to advance green solutions, particularly in sustainable forestry and bio-based cities.

**Host:** TEI

**Mentor:** Jeeranuch Sakkhamduang



**Souvanna Phengsisomboun**

**Gender:** Woman  
**Nationality:** Laos  
**Email:** Souvanna2011@gmail.com

Souvanna Phengsisomboun obtained her Master degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Management at Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand. She is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. She works closely her mentor Dr. Thanapon Piman, Senior research fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Bangkok, Thailand. Her main tasks are responding under the Flagship Study Project "Opportunities and solutions in managing water storage to reduce transboundary water-related disaster risks and to address multiple water demands (OSWS). Her research interests include water policy, wetland/peatland management and sustainability, plastic waste management.

**Host:** SEI Asia

**Mentor:** Thanapon Piman



**Sothearith Chea**

**Gender:** Woman  
**Nationality:** Cambodia  
**Email:** cheasothearith3@gmail.com

Sothearith obtained her engineering degree in Water and Environmental Engineering from the Institute of Technology of Cambodia. She is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. She works closely with her mentor, Dr. Saret Bun, at the host organization, the Institute of Technology of Cambodia. Her main tasks involve assisting in the project "Addressing Water Scarcity through Groundwater Use: Development of a Solar-Powered Groundwater Treatment System for Remote Area of Cambodia." Her research interests include Water Quality Assessment, Water Treatment, and Climate Change.

**Host:** Institute of Technology of Cambodia

**Mentor:** Saret Bun



**Nguyen Thi Thu Thao**

**Gender:** Woman  
**Nationality:** Vietnam  
**Email:** thithuthao0610@gmail.com

Nguyen Thi Thu Thao obtained her Bachelor degree in International Business from Ho Chi Minh City Open University. She is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. She works closely with her mentor, Shabbir Gheewala, and host organization, The Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand. Her main tasks are to study tools of LCA, cost-benefit analysis, ecosystem service assessment, summary of cases and study method in Vietnam guided by JGSEE. Her research interests include Freshwater & Marine aquaculture practice, site visit in Vietnam & Thailand to collect LCA inventory.

**Host:** JGSEE

**Mentor:** Shabbir H. Gheewala



**Vuong Kha Tu**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Vietnam

**Email:** ktu.vuong@gmail.com



**Thu Thi Vo**

**Gender:** Prefer not to say

**Nationality:** Vietnam

**Email:** vothu.mt87@gmail.com



**Orlavanh Sonesouphap**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Laos

**Email:** orlavanh@fe-nuol.edu.la



**Ms. Hatsachaly Sengthong**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Vietnam

**Email:** hatsachalys@gmail.com

Vuong Kha Tu obtained a Biotechnology (Advanced Program) degree from Can Tho University in 2023. She is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program, Batch 3. She works closely with her mentor, Dr. Nguyen Thanh Phuong, at the College of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Can Tho University, Can Tho City, Vietnam. Her main tasks include conducting literature and policy reviews, participating in data collection such as large-scale surveys and in-depth interviews, and supporting multi-stakeholder engagements and policy-informing outputs. Her research interests encompass natural-based solutions for agriculture to mitigate and adapt to climate change, sustainable natural resource management, and energy transitions toward a sustainable Mekong Delta.

**Host:** Can Tho University

**Mentor:** Nguyen Thanh Phuong

Thu obtained her Master's degree in Environmental Science from the University of Tsukuba in 2014. She is currently a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. Collaborating closely with her mentor, Dr. Le Thi Van Hue, and the Vietnam National University - Central Institute for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (VNU-CRES), her main tasks will be co-producing research with small-scale fish farmers in the Red River Delta, Vietnam. This research aims to enhance the understanding of past and present nature-based and climate-adaptive practices through critical social science lenses, including political ecology and feminist policy ecology. This work will contribute towards providing marginalized farmers in the Red River Delta with climate adaptation options that are nature-based and people-centered. Thu's research interests include nature-based solution, ecosystem services and climate change adaptation. Her motivation is to support vulnerable and marginalized communities, aiming to strengthen their resilience in the face of disaster risks and climate change in Vietnam.

**Host:** Vietnam National University

**Mentor:** Hue Le

Orlavanh Sonesouphap obtained her Master degree in Microbiology and Microbial Technology from Chulalongkorn University. She is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. She works closely with her mentor, Oulavanh Sinsamphanh, and host organization, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Lao PDR. Her main tasks are to assist with research and policy engagement related to water management, green agriculture and climate resilience for the flagship study projects "Opportunities and Solution in Managing Water Storage to Reduce Transboundary Water-Related Disaster Risks and to Address Multiple Water Demands" and "Strengthening climate resilience of agriculture livelihoods in Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR through participatory Ecosystem-based Adaptation". Her research interests include climate resilience and adaptation, water and wastewater management, green agriculture and energy.

**Host:** National University of Laos

**Mentor:** Oulavanh Sinsamphanh

Her Master degree of Food Technology from Ha Noi University of Science and Technology. She is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. She works closely with her mentor, Dr. Ninpaseuth Xayaphonesy, Director General, Department of Development Lao Women's Union, and host organization Department of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, National University of Laos. Her main tasks are to strong focus on Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion, including the Flagship Study Project.

**Host:** National University of Laos

**Mentor:** Dr. Ninpaseuth Xayaphonesy



**Phanmany Savathdy**

**Gender:** Man

**Nationality:** Laos

**Email:** tothidekider@gmail.com

Phanmany Savathdy obtained his Master's in Global Engineering for Development, Environment, and Society from Tokyo Institute of Technology. He is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. He works closely with his mentor, Oulavanh Sinsamphanh, and the host organization, the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Lao PDR. His main tasks are to assist with research and policy engagement related to climate resilience and water management for the Flagship Study Project "Opportunities and Solutions in Managing Water Storage to Reduce Transboundary Water-Related Disaster Risks and to Address Multiple Water Demands". His research interests include climate change impact assessment and water resources management.

**Host:** National University of Laos

**Mentor:** Oulavanh Sinsamphanh



**Nguyen The Thong**

**Gender:** Man

**Nationality:** Vietnam

**Email:** thongnguyenthe15@gmail.com

Thong Nguyen obtained his Master's degree in Water, Waste, and Environmental Engineering from the University of Greenwich, UK. He is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. He collaborates closely with his mentor, Dr. Bach Tan Sinh, and his host organization, VietInsight, Vietnam. His primary responsibilities include assisting in the review of existing research relevant to the project's theme, contributing to the preparation of the proposal, and identifying potential funding institutions, agencies, and programs, including SUMERNET and the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Program. His research interests encompass waste management, circular economy, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**Host:** VietInsight

**Mentor:** Bach Tan Sinh



**Giang Dang Thu**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Vietnam

**Email:** giangdangthu@yahoo.com

Dang Thu Giang obtained her Master in International and Development Economics. She is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. She collaborates closely with her mentor, Dr. Bach Tan Sinh, and host organization, VietInsight, Vietnam. Her primary responsibilities include preparing mid-term and annual evaluation reports of Vietnam Ministry of Science and Technology in implementing sustainable development goals to 2030, and research on science technology and innovation (STI) policies for sustainable development. Her research interests include transformation in STI policies in the context of green transitions, stakeholders in STI policymaking for green transitions, and policies for encouraging high and clean technology transfer.

**Host:** VietInsight

**Mentor:** Bach Tan Sinh



**Nguyen Van Bao**

**Gender:** Man

**Nationality:** Vietnam

**Email:** baonguyen@kdis.ac.kr

Bao Nguyen earned a Ph.D. in Public Policy in 2024 and a Master's in Development Policy in 2021 from the Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management. He is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program. Bao works closely with his mentor, Professor Kanokwan Manorom, at the Mekong Sub-region Social Research Center (MSSRC) at Ubon Ratchathani University in Thailand.

His research focuses on understanding the various social challenges faced by communities in the Mekong Delta, including environmental changes, economic development, and social inequality. These issues are interconnected and have significant implications for the well-being and future of local populations. By examining these challenges, Bao aims to contribute valuable insights that can inform policies and practices for sustainable development.

**Host:** Ubon Ratcharhani University

**Mentor:** Kanokwan Manorom

## BATCH 4 (2025)



**Jeta Jiranuntarat**

**Gender:** Man

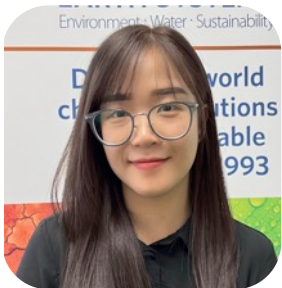
**Nationality:** Thailand

**Email:** jeta.for.humanity@gmail.com

Jeta (Non) obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Chulalongkorn University. He works closely with his mentor, Nhan Vo, and the SEI Asia, Thailand host organization. His main tasks are to collect and evaluate the program's "Most Significant Change" (MSC) stories and to support the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) processes of the program. His research interests include sustainable urban development, climate policy, and meaningful youth participation in environmental decision-making.

**Host:** SEI Asia

**Mentor:** Nhan Vo



**Thippachan Leuanevilay**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Laos

**Email:** thippachan888@gmail.com

Thippachan obtained her Master's in Environment from Macquarie University and Bachelor's in Environmental Sciences from the National University of Laos. She works closely with her mentor, Nhan Vo, and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI Asia) in Bangkok, Thailand. Her main tasks are to provide technical expertise and support on implementing activities related to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), coordinate and support policy engagement and operational aspects of assigned programmes, especially the MTT program. Her research interests include social impact assessment, climate anxiety, adaptation strategies, and the social dynamics that influence pro-environmental behaviours.

**Host:** SEI Asia

**Mentor:** Nhan Vo

## BATCH 5 (2025)



**Xayalak Vilaida**

**Gender:** Man

**Nationality:** Lao PDR

**Email:** x.vilaida@nuol.edu.la

Xayalak Vilaida is an energy researcher at the National University of Laos with a Master's degree in Energy and Technology. As an MTT Fellow, Xayalak is hosted at the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Asia under the mentorship of Dr. Thanapon Piman and Dr. Ridhi Saluja. His work involves analyzing and synthesizing research from Lao PDR case studies for the program's Flagship Study on water storage management. His core research interests lie at the intersection of the Water-Energy-Climate (WEC) nexus, equitable benefit-sharing, and the practical implementation of inclusive (GEDSI) policies in the Mekong region.

**Host:** SEI Asia

**Mentor:** Thanapon Piman



**Kong Leangkim**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Cambodia

**Email:** kongleangkim@gmail.com

Kong Leangkim holds an MEng/MPhil in Sustainable Environmental Engineering from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and a bachelor's degree in water and environmental engineering from the Institute of Technology of Cambodia. She is a Fellow in the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program hosted by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Bangkok, under the mentorship of Manna Rahman. As a Management, Reporting, Evaluation, and Learning (MREL) intern, she supports the Inclusive Climate Finance for Vulnerable Communities in the Asia-Pacific (ICCAP) project with the MREL online system. Her research interests focus on water quality, environmental impact assessment, climate and environmental governance, and policy-relevant research supporting sustainable development in the Mekong region.

**Host:** SEI Asia

**Mentor:** Manna Rahman



**Nittayapond Nipatsant**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Thailand

**Email:** nittayapond.ni@gmail.com

Nittayapond Nipatsant is a development practitioner with a master's degree in Geosocial-Based Sustainable Development from Maejo University, Thailand. She is a fellow of the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network. She works closely with her mentor, Sushmita Mandal, and the host organization, the Stockholm Environment Institute, Asia (SEI). Through the fellowship, Nittayapond supports Component 3 on Policy Engagement, bridging the gap between scientific evidence and policy-making processes. Her research interests include policy engagement, community-based natural resource management, and local food systems, with a strong focus on inclusive and sustainable development.

**Host:** SEI Asia

**Mentor:** Sushmita Mandal



**Suchanad Boonyachai**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Thailand

**Email:** suchanad.boon@gmail.com

Suchanad Boonyachai is an architect hosted by the Stockholm Environment Institute Asia (SEI Asia) in Bangkok, Thailand, working under the supervision of Dr. Thanapon Piman. She holds a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture, with academic training in GIS, remote sensing, and environmental planning. At SEI Asia, her work focuses on supporting research and partnership development related to nexus-based regional cooperation, spatial mapping, and the integration of evidence-based and spatial thinking into regional initiatives. Her research interests include nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based adaptation, transboundary river basin governance, and the application of spatial analysis to support regional cooperation and development programmes.

**Host:** SEI Asia

**Mentor:** Thanapon Piman



**Anousith Vannaphon**

**Gender:** Man

**Nationality:** Lao PDR

**Email:** sith.anousith87@gmail.com

Anousith Vannaphon is an esteemed academic and environmental researcher currently serving within the Planning and International Cooperation Division at Souphanouvong University in Luang Prabang, Laos. He holds a Master of Science and has dedicated much of his career to sustainable development and environmental preservation in the Mekong region. Anousith's research portfolio is diverse, with a particular focus on water quality and waste management. His notable works include studies on:

**Wastewater Treatment:** Investigating the use of bio-residues and various charcoals (such as Teak and Pterocarpus) for adsorption in wastewater modeling.

**Groundwater Analysis:** Monitoring variations in urban water quality to ensure environmental safety and sustainability.

**Renewable Energy:** Analyzing the effectiveness of different charcoals as sustainable fuel sources for domestic use.

**Host:** SEI Asia

**Mentor:** Siwawut Chaiya

## MEDIA FELLOW (2025)



**Eung Sea**

**Gender:** Man

**Nationality:** Cambodia

**Email:** eungsea.boy2020@gmail.com

Eung Sea obtained a bachelor's in Media Arts and Studies from the University of Cambodia. He is a freelance journalist based in Cambodia, focusing on human rights, the environment, and social issues. He primarily contributes to CamboJA News, one of the country's few remaining independent media outlets. He has also reported for Mekong Eye, Dialogue Earth, and The World. With a strong commitment to social justice, He loves to report on the challenges communities face in Cambodia, particularly regarding land rights and environmental degradation. In his work, he highlights how governmental policies and corporate interests can adversely affect the livelihoods of local populations. He was selected for MTT Media-Research Collaboration on two research projects: Addressing Water Scarcity through Groundwater Use: Development of Solar-Powered Groundwater Treatment System for Remote Area of Cambodia and Assessing the Communities' Resilience to Climate Change: A Case Study-Climate Nexus: A Case Study in Mekong Sub-Conference Marginalized Commune Province, Cambodia. By collaborating with researchers, he believes that his reports will drive a positive change, and he can effectively communicate complex climate issues, ultimately promoting informed dialogue and policy action to address the pressing environmental challenges faced by Mekong communities.



**Pham Nguyen Tuan An**

**Gender:** Man

**Nationality:** Vietnam

**Email:** tuanbcttk20@gmail.com

Pham Nguyen Tuan An is a reporter at Znews (Vietnam), specializing in solutions journalism. He focuses on gender, climate, and social equity, telling human-centered stories that highlight how marginalized communities confront challenges and create change.



Kieu Mai has been a dedicated journalist, specializing in sustainable development since 2018. She is particularly drawn to exploring innovative storytelling approaches, including multimedia reporting, data visualization, and solution journalism, to engage audiences and promote a more profound comprehension of intricate issues.

**Quach Thi Kieu Mai**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Vietnam

**Email:** kieumailtt@gmail.com



Nguyen Thi Anh Thu is a creative practitioner based in Hue, Vietnam. She focuses on storytelling and visual communication, exploring women's everyday lives, especially in communities shaped by climate change, migration, and the quiet loss of traditional ways of living.

**Nguyen Thi Anh Thu**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Vietnam

**Email:** anthu04603@gmail.com



Theerayut Weerakham is an independent documentary filmmaker deeply committed to exploring stories about people, society, and environmental issues. His work reflects a strong sense of social responsibility and a passion for amplifying marginalized voices. Based in Nakhon Phanom Province, he also founded an independent film screening project that brings thought-provoking cinema to local audiences to foster dialogue and awareness around pressing social and environmental issues.

**Theerayut Weerakham**

**Gender:** Man

**Nationality:** Thailand

**Email:** namkongstudio@gmail.com



### **Keoxomphou Sakdavong**

**Gender:** Woman

**Nationality:** Laos

**Email:** Keoxomphou1@gmail.com

Keoxomphou (Keo) is a journalist and Deputy Head of the Feature Desk at the Vientiane Times, an English-language newspaper in Laos. Keo began her career in 2000 as a volunteer reporter, planning to try it for a short time, but two decades later, she's still here, loving every moment. Keo covers topics ranging from economics and business to environment, development, health, travel, and lifestyle. What she loves most about journalism is the adventure: "One day, I'm in a remote village hut; the next, I'm in a luxury hotel. It's a journey that keeps me exploring and learning every day."



### **Patithin Phetmeuangphan**

**Gender:** Man

**Nationality:** Laos

**Email:** patithinz@gmail.com

Patithin Phetmeuangphan has been a freelance journalist for newspapers, magazines, radio, and various organisations for 13 years. He writes articles on education, development, travelling, and the environment. His work involves extensive research and travelling, which requires a lot of interaction with people and photography. His exceptional talents lie in social media and media production, including video editing, education, and development.



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# Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program (MTT)

## PROFILES OF FELLOWS

### (2023-2026)

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**The MTT Fellowship Awarding Ceremony and Networking Dinner**  
(Photo: SEI Asia)

Contact: [sumernet.mtt@sei.org](mailto:sumernet.mtt@sei.org)

