

## Call for Fellowships

Under

### SUMERNET PLUS Programme:

SUMERNET Partnership for a Long-term Climate Resilient Mekong  
through Just and Sustainable Transitions

This call offers 4 full-time fellowship positions for a duration of 12 months hosted at the SUMERNET Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand.

The fellowships are intended for young and early-career Mekong Region citizens with researcher and/or practitioner backgrounds from the countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

### Call Summary:

Call Opens: **6 February 2026**

Application Deadline: **15 March 2026** at 23:59 Bangkok/Indochina Time

IMPORTANT: Applications will ONLY be accepted through the online submission platform:

[SUBMISSION LINK](#)

### A. BACKGROUND:

Over the past three decades, the Mekong Region has evolved from one of the least developed regions into a dynamic hub of diversified industries and economic growth. This transformation, driven by economic development based on its rich ecosystems, including rivers, wetlands, forests and farmlands, lifted millions out of poverty and improved livelihoods. While the region's economic growth has relied on harnessing its natural resources for goods and services, this has also resulted in environmental degradation and social inequities. There is a need to balance resource-based development with long-term environmental resilience. Some of the continuing challenges faced by the region are: conserving ecosystem health and biodiversity, addressing interconnected demands of water, energy and food, strengthening transboundary cooperation, and adapting to the ecological impacts of extreme weather variability caused by the changing climate.

Since its inception in 2005, the Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET), with long-term support from the Swedish Government through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and its constituents of citizens from the Mekong Region, have contributed to bringing these challenges into the regional discourse on sustainable development and through evidence-based research seeking out solutions that would support the policy formulation arena. Over the last 20 years, SUMERNET has continued to build its network and strengthen regional ownership. It has connected stakeholders and promoted South-South cooperation. Through high-quality research, SUMERNET has shifted researchers' mindsets toward seeking concrete change and bridging the gap between research, policy, and evidence-based action.

The new phase of SUMERNET, called “SUMERNET PLUS” Programme carries the **overall mission of improving the policies and practices in the Mekong Region that support a just, inclusive and sustainable transition towards enhanced climate resilience in relevant key sectors across different levels (at sub-national, national, and regional levels) through inclusive and solution-oriented knowledge co-production, capacity development, proposal of innovations and policy engagement, while taking into account gender equality, disability and social inclusion and human rights based approach in the Mekong Region.**

This transition will be achieved through **three interlinked objectives that focus on:**

1. Enhancing capacities and inclusive collaboration of **knowledge producers, policy influencers, and young professionals** to deliver credible research, solution-oriented knowledge co-production, policy engagement, and communications that respond to the differentiated needs of local communities, women and other marginalised groups, and local leaders in addressing climate resilience challenges;
2. Improving policy development and implementation **by policymakers and practitioners** that are inclusive, gender-responsive, and grounded in human rights-based approach to deliver equitable climate resilience solutions in the Mekong Region; and
3. Adopting just, equitable and sustainable practices by **the private sector and other stakeholders**, based on inclusive evidence from solution-oriented knowledge co-production, will contribute to climate resilience in the Mekong Region.

SUMERNET PLUS will support a range of grants, dialogue and events, and research and policy outputs to deliver on the programme goals. More information about the programme can be found here ([link to access](#)).

## **B. OBJECTIVES:**

- To strengthen knowledge, capacity and skill of young Mekong citizens and graduate students with interests in research, policy engagement, capacity building, network development, communications and monitoring and evaluation.
- To help deliver credible, gender inclusive, human rights-based, conflict-sensitive, and poverty-reducing research, practice and communications related to addressing environmental sustainability in the Mekong Region.
- To strengthen partnership and networking opportunities between their institutions of origin and the SUMERNET Steering Committee, SUMERNET Secretariat and other SUMERNET member institutes. Young professionals or graduate students from member institutes of SUMERNET are encouraged to apply and will be given higher priority for this grant.
- To enhance a sense of ownership towards SUMERNET as a regional research network for the early career researchers, development practitioners, communication or media people, or graduate students.

### **C. FELLOW CRITERIA:**

This call seeks to attract 4 high-quality entry-level- or mid-level professionals. Individuals from diverse gender backgrounds, indigenous groups, and persons with disabilities are especially encouraged to apply.

The candidates are welcomed to express their interests and preferences to contribute to the following programme components:

- Component 1: Engendering solutions
- Component 2: Strengthening capacities of agents of change
- Component 3: Engaging policy and communications for influence
- Component 4&5: Leveraging network, long-term partnerships and robust programme management and MEL processes

### **D. FELLOW QUALIFICATIONS:**

#### Required

- Candidate is a citizen of one of the Mekong Region countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam) and is not older than 35 years at the start of the fellowship.
- Holds at least a bachelor's degree and/or is in the process of obtaining Master's or PhD degree in the subjects relevant to the SUMERNET PLUS programme of work.
- At least 2 years of work experience in a field related to the SUMERNET PLUS programme of work.
- Available to commit to a 12-month full-time period of stay in Thailand based with the SUMERNET Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Proficiency in English language along with their native language in the Mekong Region.

#### Preferable

1. Candidates who submit proof of previous work showing that they have relevant qualifications and skills or are recommended by individual who is a member of SUMERNET or institution who is affiliated to SUMERNET as current or previous partners will be given priority in the selection process.

2. Candidates with relevant work experience, education, and skills relevant to Component 1-5 will be given priority in the selection process.

However, any citizen of the five Mekong countries who feels they have the appropriate background and capacity is welcome to apply and will be given due consideration.

### **E. TASKS:**

#### General Tasks

1. Attend meetings and relevant events organized by the program.
2. Engage with partners and other fellows in the program.

3. Report on the progress of the fellowship.
4. Actively engage with SUMERNET Young Professionals (SYP), a sub-network under the Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET), working to inform and engage young professionals who are passionate about a just and sustainable Mekong future.
5. Engage in outreach activities of the program.
6. Engage in activities depending on available time and common interest of the fellow, mentor, and host institution.

#### Specific Tasks

The specific tasks of the fellowship will be agreed upon between the fellow, their respective mentor, and the host institution. It will include, but not be limited to, research, communications, and policy engagement.

#### **F. DURATION:**

The duration of this fellowship is 12 months full-time. Changes to the fellowship duration will be based on evaluating the fellow's work and with the agreement of all parties concerned: fellow, mentor, and host institution.

#### **G. FELLOW POSITION:**

This call offers 4 fellowship positions hosted at SEI Asia in Bangkok, Thailand. The host institution will provide a mentor, who will guide and engage directly with the fellow and provide supporting links to the wider Program activities and opportunities. Applicants can choose the component or theme that aligns best with their interests from the options listed below.

##### **1. Component 1: Engendering solutions ([TOR: Download Link](#))**

This component will focus on identifying, designing and supporting innovative solutions that address critical issues identified by boundary partners to implement just and sustainable transitions to achieve climate resilience within the Mekong Region. Several types of grants will be provided to the network members and stakeholders through the competitive calls with rigorous reviewing and granting processes.

##### **2. Component 2: Strengthening research-to-policy capacities ([TOR: Download Link](#))**

This component will focus on building capacities and facilitating knowledge exchange among boundary partners and other stakeholders. This will be done through need-based training workshops, developing modules and/or best practices compendiums, and providing knowledge exchange and fellowship opportunities for critical agents of change. Capacity development will strengthen not only the technical skills for high-quality research but also soft skills such as policy engagement and project and financial management, ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective implementation of research and other program activities for positive policy impact.

### **3. Component 3: Engaging policy and communications for influence ([TOR: Download Link](#))**

The focus here will be on providing opportunities for engaging with regional policy dialogues and processes while utilising strategic and creative communication approaches to inform and influence these processes. This component will ensure that findings from Comp 1 are considered to improve evidence-based policymaking. It will facilitate and engage with high-level policy dialogues, primarily focusing on MRC, LMC, and ASEAN.

### **4. Component 4 & 5: Leveraging network and long-term partnerships & Robust programme management and MEL processes ([TOR: Download Link](#))**

This component will strengthen regional ownership and collaborative networks to address climate resilience challenges in the Mekong region. It engages and empowers network members through Communities of Practice (COPs) to contribute to sharing knowledge and practices that will contribute to Mekong's climate resilience. The component supports the alliance of KBPIOs and enhances the networking capacities of SUMERNET Young Professionals (SYPs). It also establishes a Knowledge Management System (KMS) to improve knowledge sharing within the network and ensure accessibility for the SUMERNET body of knowledge for relevant stakeholders. It will also manage and support the delivery of activities and outputs while delivering reliable monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) to ensure the achievement of programme outcomes.

#### **H. MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:**

- One recent CV/resumé. Within the CV/resumé, it is recommended to include a one paragraph bio/summary.
- One cover letter highlighting the candidates' motivation to apply to this fellowship related to each of preferred components

#### **I. IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Application submission deadline: 15 March 2026
- Interview of applicants: 20-25 March 2026
- Announcement of results: 26 March 2026

Note: Dates may be subject to change.

Subject to restrictions related to the application process for visa and work permit and other considerations, fellows will start their activities with the host organization as soon as possible, ideally by April 2026.

The fellow may initially undertake activities online or remotely if necessary. The fellowship starting date will be determined considering the conditions listed above and will last for a period of 6 months from the starting date. The fellowship must be completed by March 2027.

All documents should be submitted online at the following link:

<https://sei.submittable.com/submit/350169/sumernet-plus-fellowship-programme-call-for-applications> **by 15 March 2026.**

For any inquiries related to this call, please contact SUMERNET Programme Manager, Mr. Vo Tran Trung Nhan ([nhan.vo@sei.org](mailto:nhan.vo@sei.org)).