



Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network



SEI fact sheet
February 2023

Vision

The Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program will address the challenges related to water and energy in the context of climate change impacting the most vulnerable and marginalised in society in Mekong countries. This will be achieved through evidence-based research and analysis, engagement with regional, national, and local policy influencing organisations and effective dialogue with decision makers.

Context

The Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network program aims to work with knowledge-based policy influence organisations in the Mekong Region. The 3-year program will develop clear and actionable evidence-based solutions to water, energy, and development challenges in the Mekong Region to bring about positive changes in policy and practice.

Goals and objectives

Long-term goal

The long-term goal of the program is to: Contribute to improved and more equitable water and energy security, adaptation and mitigation to climate change in the Mekong Subregion for the benefit of all, especially the marginalised, vulnerable and at-risk communities.

End of program objective

Water, energy, and climate research and policy interfaces are robust and more inclusive, resulting in more effective and equitable policies, which are cross-sectoral, informed by evidence, and are responding to the needs of vulnerable groups.

Objectives

By developing a regional network or alliance of research and policy organisations, the program aims to:

- ▶ Strengthen the **role and effectiveness of national and regional research and policy organisations in engaging with national and regional policy processes** on water and energy security and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- ▶ Strengthen the **role and capabilities of national and regional research and policy organisations in inclusive knowledge co-production processes** by engaging with stakeholders across sectors, locations, and countries on water, climate, and energy issues and their interlinkages.
- ▶ Enhance the **capacity for networking of national and regional research and policy organisations and build the capacity of young professionals in delivering research and communicating and engaging with policy processes.**

Key activities

-  Scoping study of research and policy organisations
-  Design and establishment of the regional alliance or network of research and policy organisations
-  Mekong think tanks flagship studies
-  Rapid response funds
-  Fellowship grants
-  Training and capacity building activities
-  Development of young professional network
-  Annual regional forum

Program consortium

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.


Consortium members:

1. Stockholm Environment Institute - Asia Centre (SEI Asia), Thailand (Lead)
2. Unit for Social and Environmental Research (USER), Chiang Mai University, Thailand (Co-lead)
3. Centre for Change Governance, University of Canberra, Australia (Co-lead)
4. Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), Cambodia
5. Faculty of Engineering, National University of Laos (NUOL), Lao PDR
6. Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), Thailand
7. Institute of Policy and Management (IPAM), Vietnam
8. International Water Centre Alumni Network (IWCAN), Australia

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