



MEKONG THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND THINK TANKS NETWORK



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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 marginalized 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 organisation 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 intends to:

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

Key activities

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

IMAGE (ABOVE) by Torjrtx from Getty Images

Contact address

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FLAGSHIP STUDIES

(Amount of Grant: max. AUD 250,000.00 – Timeframe: 1.5 year)

Title	Coverage	Lead Organization	End date
Opportunities and Solutions in Managing Water Storage to Reduce Transboundary Water-related Disaster Risks and to Address Multiple Water Demands	Lao PDR and Thailand	Stockholm Environment Institute, Asia Centre	31 July 2025
ReTrEAT-Cities: Resettlement, Transformation, and Eco-adaptation Typology for Cities (and Communities) amidst Rising Seas in the Lower Mekong	Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam	Asian Institute of Technology	31 July 2025
Sustaining the Shared Groundwater Resources of the Transboundary Cambodia-Vietnam Mekong River Delta Aquifer under Climate Change Impacts through Strategic Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Tools and Suitable Nature-based Solutions	Cambodia and Vietnam	Asian Institute of Technology	31 August 2025
Urban Heat Resilience: Bridging Science, Policy and Sustainable Design	Thailand and Vietnam	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center	31 March 2025

RAPID RESPONSE PROJECTS

(Amount of Grant: max. AUD 50,000.00 – Timeframe: 1 year)

Title	Coverage	Lead Organization	End date
GS4Infra: Gender-sensitizing for Design and Operation of Water-Energy-Climate Change Infrastructures in Soc Trang Province, Mekong Delta, Vietnam	Vietnam	University of Economics	30 April 2025
Addressing Water Scarcity through Groundwater Use: Development of Solar-powered Groundwater Treatment System for Remote Area of Cambodia	Cambodia	Institute of Technology of Cambodia	30 June 2025
Assessing the Communities' Resilience to Climate Change: Water-Energy-Climate Nexus: A Case Study in Mekong Subregion's Marginalized Communities in Stung Treng Province, Cambodia	Cambodia	My Village	28 February 2025
Strengthening Climate Resilience of Agricultural Livelihoods in Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR through Participatory Ecosystem-based Adaptation	Lao PDR	Asian Institute of Technology	30 June 2025
Building Resilience and Adaptive Capacity of Women's Union to Address Water-Energy-Climate Challenges in the Vietnamese Mekong Delta	Vietnam	Mekong Delta Development Research Institute, Can Tho University	31 August 2025 (Tentative end date)
Promote Equitable Sharing of Water Resources for Ethnic Minority Communities Living Downstream of Small Hydropower Projects through Collaboration among the Community, Businesses, and the State in Vietnam	Vietnam	Nghe An Forestry Development Consultancy Center (NACEFDECO)	30 April 2025
Enhancing Fisheries Resilience and Managing Fisheries Resources Sustainably under Climate Change Impacts through Local Community Participation in Lao PDR	Lao PDR and Thailand	Maejo University	31 August 2025 (Tentative end date)