

# Mekong Environmental Resilience Week

13 September 2023



## Introductory Remarks

Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa

Regional Water, Energy, and Climate Alliance Meetings

Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn Bangkok, Thailand



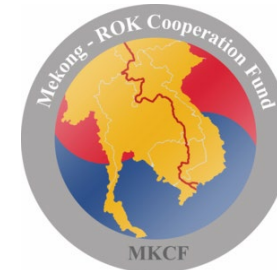
# Mekong Region is changing



# Expanding regional cooperation



**GREATER MEKONG  
SUBREGION  
CORE ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAM**



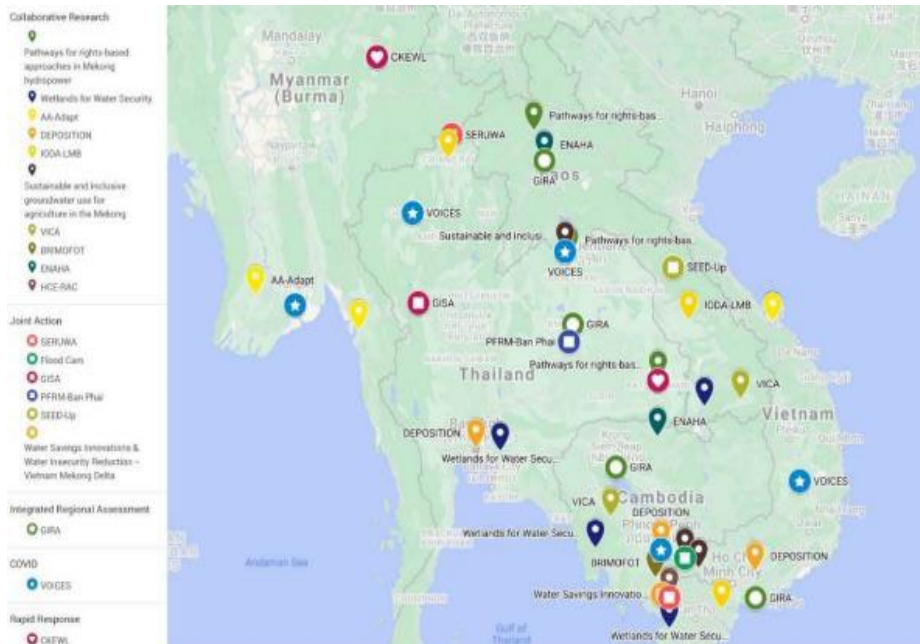
**Mekong-Australia Partnership (MAP)**



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**



# Sustainable Mekong Research network (SUMERNET, 2005- Present)



- A **regional research network** established in **2005** for sustainable development with funding support of Swedish Government.
- **SUMERNET 4 All (2018-2024)** focuses on **reducing water insecurities for all**, in particular, the poor, marginalized and socially vulnerable groups of women and men in the Region.
- **Members:** 630 network members from 200+ organizations.
- **SUMERNET Young Professional Network:** 90+ youth and young professionals in the region.
- **206 grantees** implement **42 granted projects and activities** related to drought, flood and transboundary water issues based on **bottom-up approach** in research/project design .



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



UNIVERSITY OF  
CANBERRA

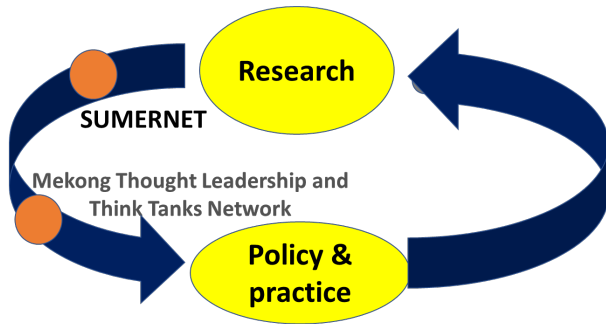


TEI  
THAILAND  
ENVIRONMENT  
INSTITUTE



IWCAN  
INTERNATIONAL WATERCLIMATE ALLIANCE NETWORK

## Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program (2022-2025)



- **Initiated by a consortium of 25 organizations led by SEI, with funding support of DFAT’s Mekong-Australia Partnership (MAP) Water, Energy and Climate (MAP-WEC)**
- **Building on the strength of SUMERNET with more focus on strengthening policy engagement & co-production of knowledge for policy and practice**
- **Further build a regional alliance of institutions for effective policy engagement on water, energy and climate change**



# Overview: Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program

## Areas of Development Impacts



## Boundary Partners: KBPIOs



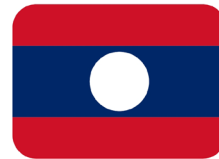
## Funding source



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## Geographical Coverage



## Long Term Goal

Contribute to **improved and more equitable water and energy security, adaptation and mitigation to climate change** in the Mekong Region for the benefit of all, especially the marginalized, vulnerable and at-risk communities.

## End of Program Outcome

**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.

# Program Activities

## Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program

### Component 1:

Development of home-grown regional network/alliance of knowledge-based policy influence organisations (KBPIOs)

Opportunity for knowledge-based policy influence organizations (KBPIOs) in the Mekong to join a **network/alliance**

### Component 2:

Enhancing climate resilience of water and energy systems through policy research and collaboration among PIOs

- **Scoping study** of KBPIOs
- **4 regional flagship studies**
- **7 national rapid response projects**

### Component 3:

Inclusive engagement with policy, practice and the public beyond dialogues for effective changes

- Informal and formal engagement with regional and bilateral **policy and planning processes** in water, energy and climate change sectors
- **Mekong policy forum**

### Component 4:

Professional development of agents of change

- **32 fellowships** for entry-/mid-career professionals in the Mekong
- **Training for capacity** development on research, policy engagement and communications

*KBPIO: Knowledge Based Policy Influence Organisation*

# Granting opportunities

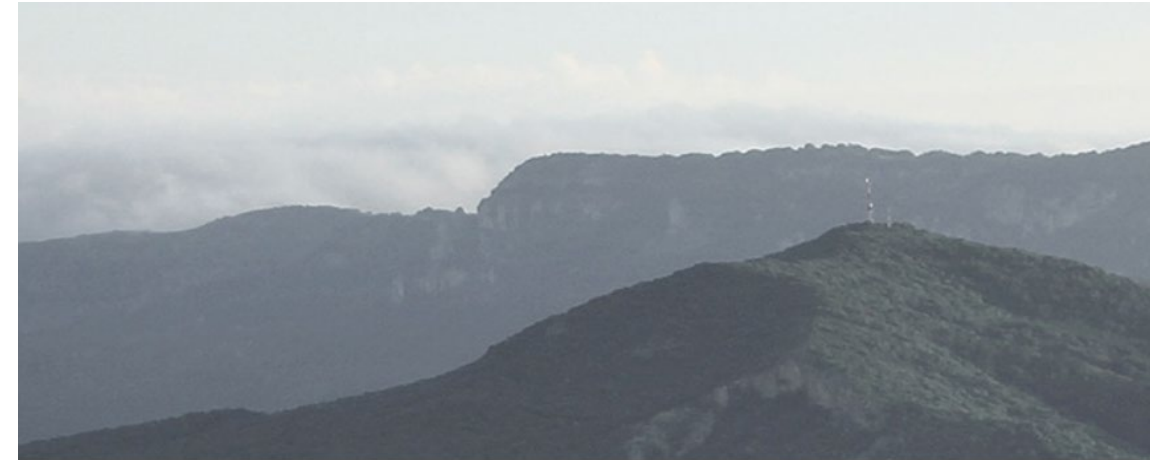


## Now open: fellowship opportunities under Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Program

Mekong Think Tanks (MTT) Program is opening a call for fellowships to be hosted in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Share this     

Sep 5, 2023



## Grants open for research linking to policy action under Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program

Mekong Think Tanks (MTT) Program is opening calls for research-to-policy proposals that seek practical solutions to urgent or emerging challenges in the water-energy-climate nexus.

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Aug 10, 2023

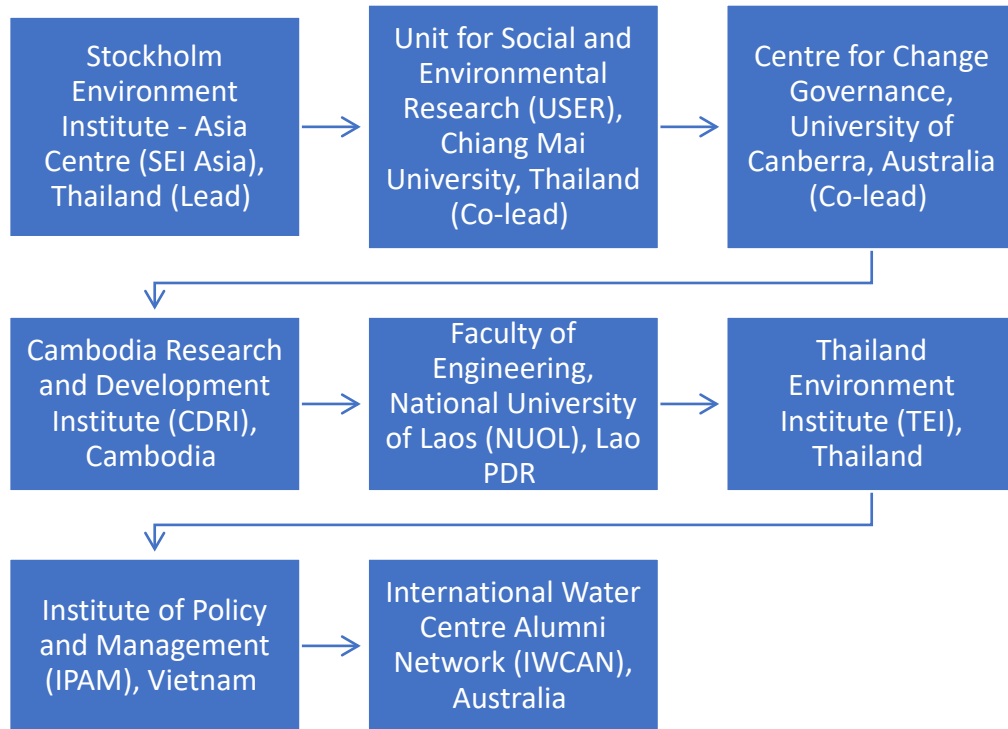


Application deadline: 30 September 2023, 23:59 (Bangkok/Indochina time)

Application deadline: 17 September 2023, 23:59 (Bangkok/Indochina time) – we will extend this to 30 September 2023.



# 25 Program consortium members and counterparts



- University of New South Wales (Canberra) (UNSW), Australia
- Inland Fisheries Research and Development Institute (IFReDI), Cambodia
- Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC), Cambodia
- Department of Environmental Science, Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), Cambodia
- National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Lao PDR
- Northern Agriculture and Forestry College (NAFC), Lao PDR
- National Economic Research Institute (NERI), Lao PDR
- GMS Research Center for Environment and Sustainability, Mahasarakham University, Thailand
- School of Public Policy, Chiang Mai University (CMU), Thailand
- Mae Fah Luang University (MFU), Thailand
- Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand
- Chulalongkorn University (CU)
- Viet Nam National Mekong Committee (VNMC), Vietnam
- Western Highlands Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute (WASI), Vietnam
- Viet Insight, Vietnam
- WWF Regional, Asia Pacific
- Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS)



# Regional Water, Energy, and Climate Alliance Meeting



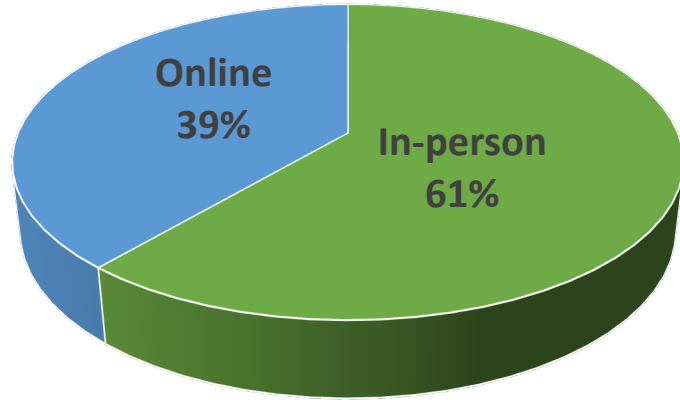
## Objectives:

1. **To discuss the recent findings and recommendations from several studies and reviews carried out under the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network Program.**
2. **To enhance the understanding on the current work, successes and challenges of knowledge-based policy influence organizations (KBPIOs) and existing networks in the Mekong Region, gaps in knowledge and policy in the areas of water, energy and climate issues.**
3. **To seek the interest of the meeting participants for future cooperation with the regional alliance that is going to support and facilitate evidence-based research and analysis, engagement with regional and national KBPIOs, effective dialogue with decision makers and professional development for agents of changes in the Mekong Region.**

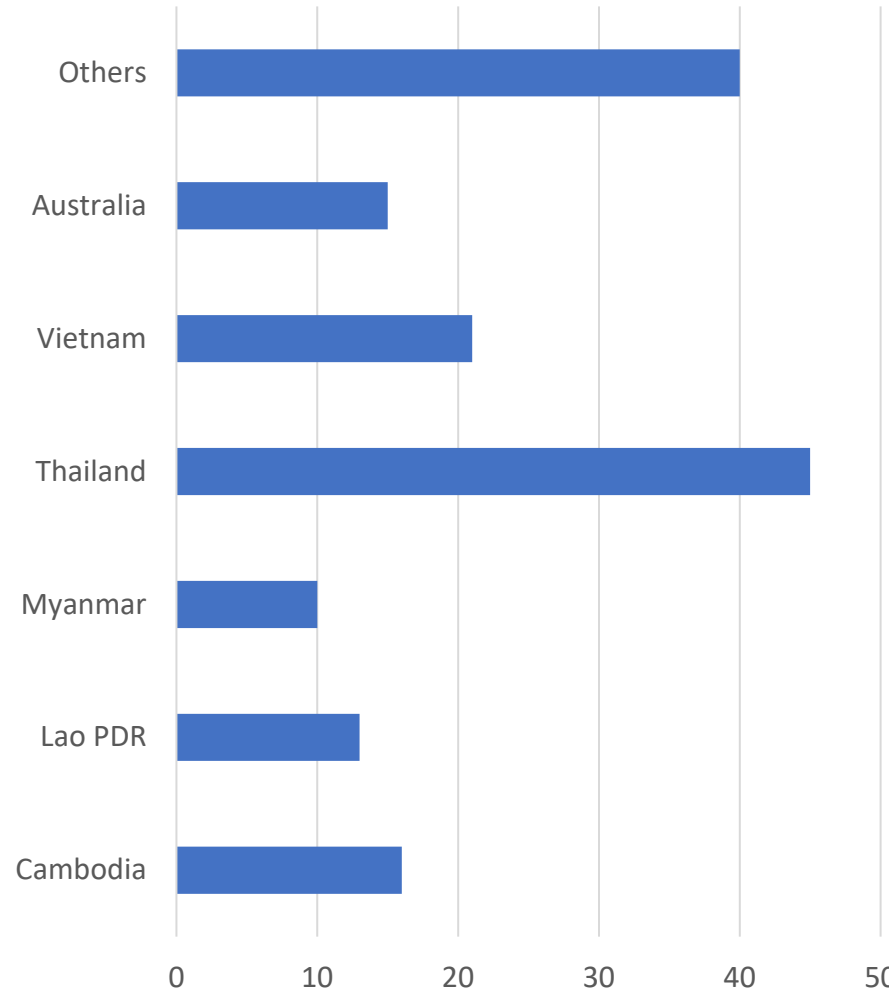
# Meeting participants



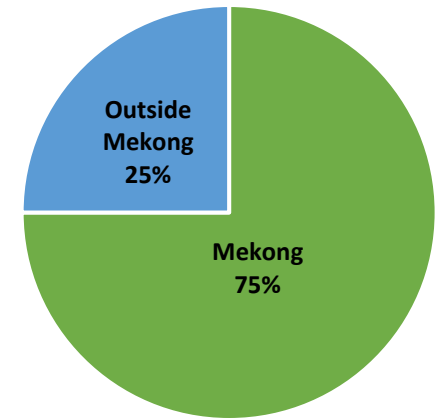
Registered participants (Total = 160)



Participants by country

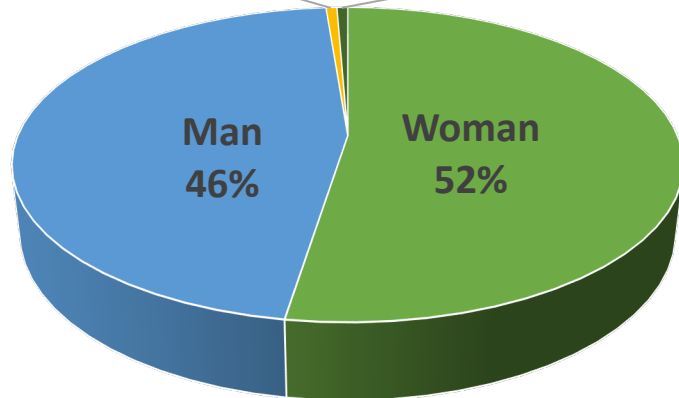


Participants by region



Non-binary  
1%

Prefer not  
to say  
1%

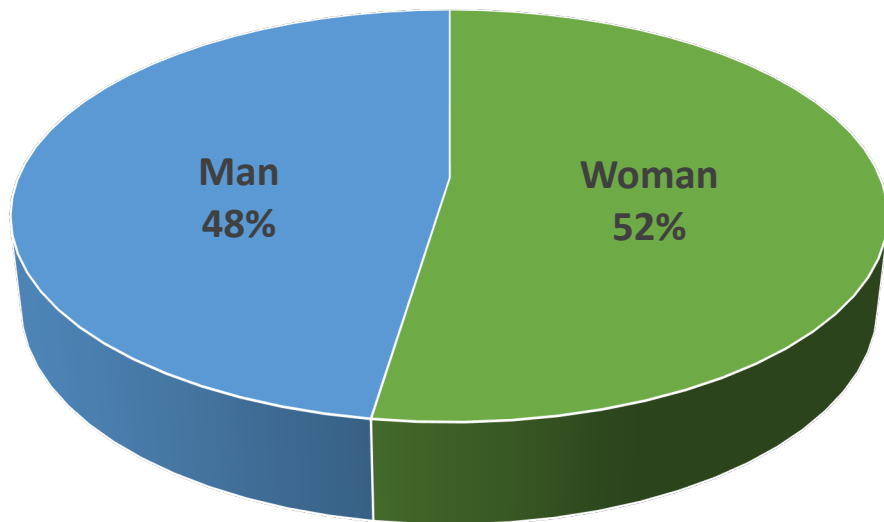


Participants by gender

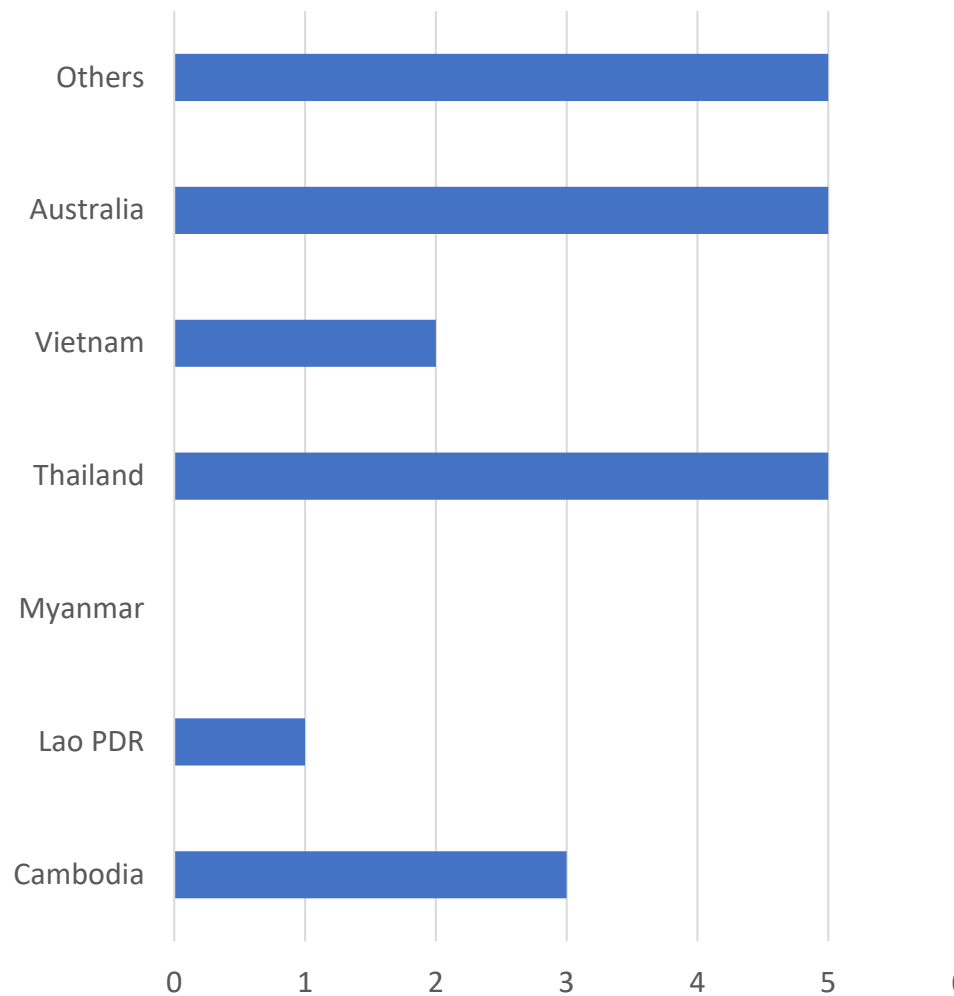
# Meeting speakers



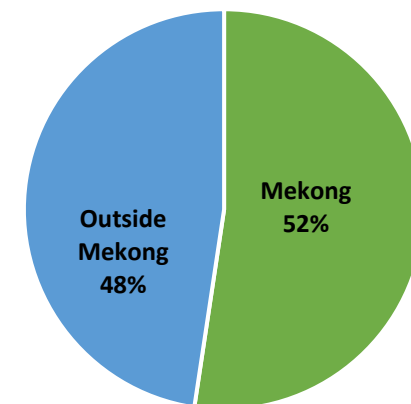
Speakers by gender (Total = 21)



Speakers by country



Speakers by region



# Background of Participants



Background of Participants	%
Government/ Policy maker	11%
Academia	44%
Business	7%
Finance/Donor	13%
CSOs	14%
Media	2%
Young professional	8%

# Event Contributors

Government of Mekong countries

Great supporters from DFAT, Sida and SEI

Program Steering Committee

SUMERNET Steering Committee

Program Secretariat

SUMERNET Secretariat

Program Advisors and resource persons

Program Fellows

SUMERNET Fellows

All other participants

Thank you!

