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Lower Mekong Public Policy Initiative



LMPPPI research partners discuss proposed collaborative research projects exploring challenges associated with the water-food-energy nexus in the Lower Mekong region.

Photo: FETP

Duration

June 17, 2013 – June 16, 2016

Planned Budget:

\$4,000,000

Prime Implementer:

Harvard Kennedy School

LMPPPI

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The Lower Mekong Public Policy Initiative (LMPPPI) seeks to generate knowledge, promote learning, and stimulate dialogue on public policies to support environmentally sustainable economic development and improve livelihoods in the five countries of the Lower Mekong: Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar.

BACKGROUND & APPROACH

Promoting sustainable development outcomes in the Lower Mekong region presents scientific, management and governance challenges. Project activities are designed to advance a sophisticated understanding of the water-food-energy nexus and to help meet regional decision-makers' need for research-driven policy analysis in support of sustainable development goals.

NETWORK BUILDING FOR CROSS-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

Building upon the strengths of research institutions in the Lower Mekong Region and other academic partners worldwide, the initiative is establishing a network of knowledge development partners and supporting cross-disciplinary and cross-border research collaborations that will promote the study of particular sustainable development questions in the context of the region's larger natural bio-physical and socio-economic systems.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

The project engages with Fulbright Economics Teaching Program (FETP) faculty and students to promote the teaching and study of policy challenges associated with sustainable development and natural resources management. Project efforts focus on integrating LMPPPI research and policy formulation work into FETP's existing teaching and research activities and expanding FETP's course offerings in environmental policy.

ACTIONABLE RESEARCH

The project's research activities are organized around three crosscutting themes: *The Future of the Environment in the Mekong* encompasses challenges related to natural resource governance, including energy generation issues; *The Future of Agriculture in the Mekong* examines challenges centered on agriculture, livestock, or fisheries; and *The Future of Livelihoods in the Mekong* studies issues of national/regional commerce, local natural resource-based economies, or urban/regional planning. Economic and governance recommendations will be a key feature of LMPPPI's research, supplying decision-makers with insights they can deploy in the formulation and implementation of public policy.

POLICY DIALOGUE AND OUTREACH

Aspiring to promote effective and coordinated approaches to resource management, economic integration, and sustainable development in the region, project policy dialogue activities aim to create a forum for a broad range of government, private sector, and other key parties across the region to discuss common dilemmas.