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**USAID Mekong Adaptation and  
Resilience to Climate Change**

## **WORKSHOP ON HARNESSING CLIMATE FINANCE: Challenges and Opportunities for Rural Adaptation in the Lower Mekong Basin**

*July 6-7, 2016*

**Swissôtel Nai Lert Park, Bangkok, Thailand**

The USAID Mekong Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change (USAID Mekong ARCC) project will conduct a workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, on **July 6-7, 2016** to present project understanding and experiences on linking rural adaptation initiatives field tested at community sites in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam to **climate change financing**. Findings will also be presented from the project's research-driven examination of challenges and opportunities in scaling adaptation actions at the rural level into fundable projects. The workshop will bring together national government representatives from a range of line ministries, development partners (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, FAO, ADB, USAID GIZ, IFAD, etc), and practitioners to achieve the following objectives:

### **Objectives of Workshop:**

- 1) Share USAID Mekong ARCC's research results on opportunities, constraints and future prospects of climate finance for rural adaptation in the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB);
- 2) Assess feasibility at national and regional levels for scaling rural adaptation strategies in the LMB; and
- 3) Identify scaling mechanisms through policy alignment, planning processes and climate financing opportunities.

### **Background:**

USAID Mekong ARCC project is a five-year project funded by the USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) in Bangkok and implemented by the global development company, DAI. Now in its final year of implementation, the project has focused on identifying the environmental, economic and social effects of climate change in the LMB, and assisting highly exposed and vulnerable rural populations in ecologically sensitive areas to strengthen their capacity to adapt to projected climate change impacts on water resources, agricultural and aquatic systems, livestock, and ecosystems.

For more than two years the USAID Mekong ARCC project tested Community and Ecosystem-based Adaptation Initiatives with rural communities in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. Results were shared at a March 2016 USAID Mekong ARCC workshop in Bangkok titled **Evidence-Based Adaptation: Stories from the Field on Strengthening Community Resilience** on how targeted communities across the LMB used scientific climate information and local understanding to identify current and future climate vulnerabilities and develop practical responses to address these threats. Through presentations and facilitated country breakout sessions, participants achieved an increased awareness of small-scale rural adaptation approaches to strengthen community resilience. Critically, participants explored the potential for replication and scalability of the field-tested rural adaptation initiatives.

With the March workshop laying the ground work in identifying a range of tested rural adaptation initiatives that could be scaled, the upcoming workshop, titled **Harnessing Climate Finance: Challenges and Opportunities for Rural Adaptation in the Lower Mekong Basin**, will build on

this and explore how governments and development partners can align objectives and prioritize actions to tap adaptation financing mechanisms.

### **Workshop Focus:**

A key outcome from the Evidenced-Based Adaptation workshop was interest shared by government official and development partner participants in scaling the broad rural adaptation solutions tested by USAID Mekong ARCC (e.g. water management, livelihood diversification, climate smart approaches to agriculture, aquaculture, and livestock management, etc.) at its field sites across the LMB. These approaches and the larger financing landscape related to small-scale rural adaptation will be presented at the **Harnessing Climate Finance** workshop as part of an overview of a recent assessment USAID Mekong ARCC undertook on obstacles and opportunities to tap an array of international, regional and national financing instruments. A clearer understanding will also be gained of linkages between these rural adaptation initiatives and national policy mechanisms, such as National Adaptation Plans, Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, and other national climate change strategies. Additionally, a roadmap will be developed for each representative country around the rural adaptation initiatives it wishes to prioritize, and concepts prepared that are targeted at specific financing streams for climate change adaptation.

### **Anticipated Workshop Outcomes:**

- Increased knowledge of opportunities and constraints of climate finance for rural adaptation in the LMB;
- Improved understanding of future prospects for multilateral, foundation and private sector funding streams and priorities toward rural adaptation;
- Connections clarified between targeted rural adaptation initiatives and national policy strategies and climate financing mechanisms;
- Initial concepts of scalable, packaged rural adaptation initiatives developed and reality checked with development partners and financing experts;
- Deeper understanding gained of how governments and development partners can respond to each other's needs/requirements vis-à-vis policy processes and climate financing mechanisms.

### **Workshop Format:**

Workshop sessions will take place through both plenary and breakout groups. USAID Mekong ARCC will present an overview of results from its work in the field, a review of the March workshop outcomes, and findings of its research on climate financing for rural adaptation. Government and development partner participants will engage in facilitated breakout sessions by country to discuss project linkages to the national planning processes, development partner priorities and project packaging. Climate finance and project proposal experts will present enabling conditions required for national governments in the LMB to connect to multilateral funds. Panel sessions will be facilitated by regional experts.

***The workshop will be conducted in English.***

For more information please contact [info@mekongarcc.net](mailto:info@mekongarcc.net) or visit [www.mekongarcc.net](http://www.mekongarcc.net)

## DRAFT Agenda

### Day I: Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Time	Session	Presenter/ Facilitator
8:30-9:00	Registration	
9:00-9:15	Opening	Dr. Kollawat Sakhakara  Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Thailand
9:15-10:00	Review of USAID Mekong ARCC results from March Community-Based Adaptation workshop and climate risk profiles	Paul Hartman, USAID Mekong ARCC Chief of Party
10:00-10:30	Policy analysis of national rural adaptation goals and strategies across the LMB	Seonmi Choi Regional Advisor UNEP-UNDP Poverty Environment Initiative
10:30-10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:45-11:45	<i>Country breakout session: Policy Enabling Conditions</i>  Aligning USAID Mekong ARCC field tested rural adaptation initiatives with national adaptation policy planning goals and strategies	Development partners as facilitators:  Pavit Ramachandran, ADB–Cambodia (TBC) Anna-Katharina Deinhard UNEP–Laos Christoph Mairesse GIZ–Thailand Beau Damon, FAO–Vietnam  Government representatives present, and key country advisor as resource persons
11:45-12:15	Report back from the country breakout session	
12:15-13:15	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:15-14:15	Analysis on financing feasibility for rural adaptation  Presentation of findings from research analysis	Ornsaran Manuamorn, Climate Financing Specialist Del McCluskey, DAI
14:15-15:00	<i>Talk Show</i> Project Design: What are common elements financiers look for in project concepts?	Panel Yusuke Taishi, UNDP T. David Hodgkinson – ADB (TBC) Dr. Peter King, USAID ADAPT-Asia Natalie Phaholyothin, Rockefeller Foundation Facilitated by Alex Smajgl, Managing Director, Mekong Region Futures Institute
15:00-15:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:15-16:15	<i>Country breakout session: Scoping Exercise</i>  Identification of key elements for initial concept notes on prioritized rural adaptation initiatives in each country.	Development partners as facilitators:  Ornsaran Manuamorn, Climate Financing Specialist-Laos Sumit Pokhrel, Asian Development Bank-Cambodia Andrew Wyatt, IUCN-Vietnam Christoph Mairesse GIZ–Thailand
16:15-17:00	Report back from country breakout session	

**Day 2: Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Time	Session	Presenter/ Facilitator
8:30-9:00	Registration	
9:00-9:15	Recap from Day 1	
9:15-9:45	Development Partners Report Back	Representatives from development partners on panel Facilitated by Paul Hartman
9:45-10:30	<i>Partnership Marketplace</i> From Concept to Funding: Identification of suitable international and national financing mechanisms	Representatives from development partners and government participants Facilitated by Alex Smajgl, MERFI
10:30-10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:45-11:45	<i>Group work:</i> Project development Developing a Road Map	<b>Development partners as facilitators:</b> Saengroaj Srisawaskraisorn, USAID—Thailand Ammar Kawash, WFP —Cambodia (TBC) Andrew Wyatt, IUCN—Vietnam Jonas Dallinger, GIZ— Laos PDR
11:45-12:15	Report back from group work	
12:15-12:30	Wrap-up	Paul Hartman, USAID Mekong ARCC Chief of Party
12:30-12:45	Closing	Alfred Nakatsuma U.S. Agency for International Development
12:45-14:00	Lunch	