



Australian Government

# THAILAND

## MEKONG-AUSTRALIA PARTNERSHIP

### Kingdom of Thailand

**\$7.99 million**  
MAP estimated spend  
(2024-25)

**\$1.44 million\***  
Leadership and Skills

**\$1.00 million\***  
Economic Resilience

**\$1.03 million\***  
Transnational Crime

**\$3.90 million\***  
Water and Climate

**\$0.63 million\***  
Social Inclusion

\*Estimated spend (2024-25)

Australia and Thailand are Strategic Partners and have had diplomatic relationships since 1952. In 2024, the Mekong-Australia Partnership (MAP) delivered 18 bilateral and regional projects in Thailand, including technical assistance, short courses, workshops, high-level engagements and dialogues, and capacity building.

Australia is working with Thailand through our regional development programs, including MAP to support a peaceful, stable and prosperous region. MAP supports a broad range of mutual interests between Australia and Thailand. MAP programs works across climate resilience; water security; social inclusion; economic resilience; subregional integration; transnational crime; and leadership and skills to address shared and transboundary challenges.

MAP is supporting Thailand's ambitions to improve subregional integration through technical support on the Eastern Economic Corridor, helping ACMECS

reach its potential and promoting better standards for infrastructure development.

Australia and Thailand are working to address cross-border challenges, including improving water security, building climate resilience and countering and disrupting transnational crime.

MAP-funded projects in Thailand were delivered by a range of organisations, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Monash University, Oxfam, Stockholm Environment Institute, Mekong Institute, and The Asia Foundation.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



### LEADERSHIP AND SKILLS

Providing Masters scholarships and delivering tailored short courses including on air quality and OECD accession.



### ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Supporting planning for high speed rail to consider vulnerable communities.



### TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

Promoting collaborative research on transnational crime and scam centres.



### WATER AND CLIMATE

Supporting the Eastern Economic Corridor Office on water-sensitive, climate-resilient design.



### SOCIAL INCLUSION

Promoting fair procurement outcomes for women and elevating voices of vulnerable groups.



#### CASE STUDIES

#### REDUCING PLASTIC WASTE IN THAILAND

Mekong Plastics Innovation Hub with CSIRO



MAP and Australia's CSIRO established the Indo-Pacific Plastic Innovation Network. Local Thai company CIRAC, which has pioneered an innovative recycling process, was connected through MAP support to engage with a network with investors and financing opportunities. Through this network, CIRAC secured partnerships with Green2Get and METALCOM which are key customers for the sale of recycled aluminium.

#### SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THAILAND

Mekong Inclusive Water Governance Program Phase 2 with Oxfam

Naree Wongsachon is an advocate for the rights of ethnic groups rights in southern Thailand. Naree is an Urak Lawoi, one of Thailand's nomadic seafaring tribes.

The Urak Lawoies face decreasing livelihood opportunities and restricted access to traditional ritual sites. Australia is working through Oxfam, to support women to increase their voice in water resource management, including through the Indigenous Women Network of Thailand.



#### A REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON TRANSBOUNDARY HAZE

Mekong-Australia Partnership: Building Human Capacity



MAP supported a regional dialogue on "Cooperation for Clean Air in the Mekong Subregion" in May 2024 in Chiang Mai, bringing together thirty policymakers, academics and civil society advocates to discuss air quality and transboundary haze in the subregion. Participants identified opportunities for collaboration to address common issues, including agricultural crop burning. Other policy recommendations were put forward to improve data collection and sharing, to raise awareness, and to test innovative solutions to address the root causes of the problem.

#### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



142 participants in 7 masterclasses on topics including agriculture, climate, governance and OECD accession.



Delivered tax crime training to nearly 100 Thai participants who continue to apply new knowledge.



Developed an Environmental and Social Safeguards toolkit for SMEs for government services and certifications.



Trained over 100 local women in northern Thailand on minimising disaster risks.