



## Mekong River Commission

For Sustainable Development

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 1. CONSULTANCY SUMMARY

<b>Title:</b>	Regional Consultant for Sustainable Transport Workshop in the Lower Mekong Basin
<b>Consultancy Type:</b>	Special Service Agreement - home-based, daily rate: one-time assignment, 1 TOR, number of consultancy days within 9 calendar months
<b>Division:</b>	Planning Division
<b>Duration:</b>	10 working days from May to December 31, 2024
<b>Duty Station:</b>	Home-based and MRCS office
<b>Reporting to:</b>	PD Director
<b>Expected Deliverables:</b>	Please refer to Section 5

#### 2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

MRC's overall objectives are to promote freedom of navigation, to increase the international trade opportunities for the MRC member countries' mutual benefit, and to assist in coordination and cooperation in developing effective and safe waterborne transport sustainably and protectively for the waterway environment. Inland navigation in the Mekong River Basin contributes to more sustainable transportation, but it also carries significant environmental risks. Petroleum products and other dangerous goods can cause significant pollution or major incidents affecting riparian communities if not appropriately managed. Task 1.1.1.5.2 was proposed for the 2024 Multi-year Working Plan (MWP) to assist the member countries in training on the emergency response plans for sustainable transportation of dangerous goods along the Mekong River.

#### **Providing training materials on the implementation of transboundary environmental impact assessment for inland navigation in the Lower Mekong River Basin**

Some Mekong Member Countries have appropriate legal frameworks to ensure that environmental and social assessment, management, and monitoring are undertaken for existing and future IWT projects. However, the capacity and resources of line agencies to monitor and enforce laws and regulations for environmental protection in the inland navigation sector are limited. The Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Inland Navigation in the Lower Mekong Basin were compiled by expert groups from four Mekong member countries in 2023.

Also, MRC Member Countries have decided to implement guidelines for conducting transboundary environmental impact assessments (TbEIA) in the Mekong River Basin as needed. The TbEIA Guidelines are designed as a supporting tool applicable to member countries' national EIA legislation systems. Building on and supplementing the MRC Procedure for Notification, Prior Consultation, and Agreement (PNPCA), these TbEIA Guidelines address potential transboundary environmental impacts of development projects.

The objective of this training is to support the implementation of the Environmental assessment guidelines for inland navigation in the Lower Mekong Basin, including EIA and EMP and monitoring, while also considering the potential transboundary impacts for port, vessel, and waterway improvements.

### **Preparing materials and conducting training on emergency response plans for sustainable transportation of dangerous goods along the Mekong River.**

Inland navigation in the Mekong River basin is contributing to more sustainable transportation, particularly as a substitute for road transport. However, it also poses significant environmental risks. Petroleum products and other dangerous goods are increasingly transported along the Mekong River. If not managed properly, these cargoes can cause substantial pollution or even major incidents, such as fires and explosions affecting riparian communities. Therefore, MRCS will assist the member countries in training and sharing good practices on the emergency response plan for sustainable transportation of dangerous goods along the Mekong River.

The training should include international and country-specific legislation frameworks for Emergency Response to Oil Spills. It will provide requirements for in-place equipment, human resources, reporting procedures, cooperation mechanisms, and capacity-building instructions.

### **3. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY**

This consultancy aims to provide training materials and conduct training for trainers on emergency response plans for sustainable transportation of dangerous goods along the Mekong River.

### **4. EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Training material on implementing Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment for inland navigation in the Lower Mekong River Basin.
- Training material on International and country-specific Legislation framework for Emergency Response Plans.
- Training material on in-place equipment and human resources requirements, reporting and cooperation, and capacity building.
- Preparation of training material and conducting training on Emergency Response Plans for Sustainable Dangerous Goods Transportation along the Mekong River.

**5. DELIVERABLES AND CONCRETE TIMELINES**

<b>Deliverables and Expected Quality</b>	<b>Number of Days/Hours</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Training material on implementing transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment for inland navigation in the Lower Mekong River Basin	2	May, 2024
Training material on International and country-specific Legislation framework for Emergency Response Plan	2	May, 2024
Training material on in-place equipment and human resources requirements, reporting and cooperation, and capacity building	2	May, 2024
Preparation of training material and conducting training on Emergency Response Plans for Sustainable Dangerous Goods Transportation along the Mekong River	4	June, 2024
<b>Total Number of Days/Hours</b>	<b>10 days/75 hours</b>	

**6. REQUIRED TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Provide training material on:
  - the Implementation of Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment for inland navigation in the Lower Mekong River Basin;
  - international and country-specific Legislation framework for Emergency Response Plan;
  - in-place equipment and human resources requirements, reporting and cooperation, and capacity building.
- Prepare training material and conduct training on Emergency Response Plans for Sustainable Dangerous Goods Transportation along the Mekong River.

**7. PAYMENT MODALITY**

- A first payment (20% of total contract value) will be paid after signing the contract.
- The second payment will be paid after the deliverables outlined in section 5. The final payment will be made based on the deliverables outlined in section 5, including all reports, a short progress report, and a timesheet. All deliverables must be satisfactorily accepted by the MRCS Planning Division.
- The Consultant will invoice for completed deliverables outlined in Section 5.

Note: The consultancy rate is defined by the MRCS consultancy rate policy and the level of consultancy. MRC is a tax-exempted agency for the work done for the MRC. Consultant, in case a mission is required, will be covered with a return ticket to and from the assigned duty stations with a daily related subsistence allowance of 75% of the UN for the mission days.

## **8. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Intellectual property rights - IPR: Information, data, database, knowledge resources in the forms of briefings, reports, proceedings, articles, essays, etc. issued by and for the MRCS will be the MRCS property.

Any utility, announcement, and disclosure that is without MRCS's highest levels of authority' permission is considered illegal and will be charged by relevant local and international legal procedures.

## **9. DECLARATION OF NON-FRAUDULENCE AND PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA**

The Subscriber shall adhere to the MRC's relevant rules and regulations of the MRC on personal data protection, business exclusion, fraud prevention, and anti-corruption principles and shall be under strict disciplinary measures should any violation occur.

## **10. WORKING ARRANGEMENT**

### **Communication Line**

The Consultant will work under the supervision of the Director of the MRCS Planning Division; the consultant will work with relevant staff of the MRCS, including the Navigation Specialist. Furthermore, he/she will work in close collaboration and coordination with the National Mekong Committee Secretariats and the National Navigation Experts

## **11. QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS *(select or add as appropriate)***

- Master's degree in environment or waterborne transport management or Higher degree.
- High-level knowledge and experience in environment or waterborne transportation (>10 years).
- Good knowledge of Environmental Impact Assessment for inland navigation, Emergency Response to Oil Spills, and Sustainable Dangerous Goods Transportation.
- Demonstrated ability to deliver courses for International Institutions with English as the language regarding environmental issues and SDG is very important.
- Fluency in spoken and written English.
- Excellent writing, presentation, and reporting skills.
- Experience with MRC or being hired by a UN-based organization is advantageous.

**12. SIGNATURE BLOCK**

MRCS:  
Full Name: Mr. Theerawat Samphawamana  
Title: Director of Planning Division

Consultant:  
Incumbent's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Incumbent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_