

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE TRAINING?



Some JRPs have continued working with the MRC after completing the programme. Others have returned to National Mekong Committees or government ministries where they worked before entering the programme. All JRPs return to their home countries with many new skills and valuable experience.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Application forms are available from the MRC website (www.mrcmekong.org), from the National Mekong Committees in each riparian country, and from the MRCS in Vientiane. If you have difficulty in finding a form, contact the MRC Human Resources Programme Officer at the MRCS. You will need to provide copies of academic records and a letter of recommendation from your current organisation. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview.



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THE MEKONG RIVER COMMISSION

TODAY'S TALENT... TOMORROW'S EXPERTS



THE JUNIOR RIPARIAN PROFESSIONAL PROJECT

THE MEKONG RIVER COMMISSION (MRC)



The MRC is a regional government agency promoting the sustainable development of water and related resources in the Mekong River Basin. Its Member States, Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam, signed a treaty for the sustainable development of the basin in 1995. Under this treaty, the four countries agreed to cooperate in developing, using, managing and conserving the river basin's water and related sources in areas such as fisheries, flood control, irrigation, hydropower and navigation. In developing sustainable benefits and addressing harmful effects such as pollution, they also agreed to prevent water from being wasted and to protect the basin's environment, including its natural resources, aquatic life and ecological balance.

The MRC runs programmes in fields such as Agriculture and Irrigation, Environment, Fisheries, Hydrology, Navigation, Flood Management and Mitigation. Basin Development Planning, Integrated Capacity Building and an Information Knowledge Management Programme underpin these technical fields.

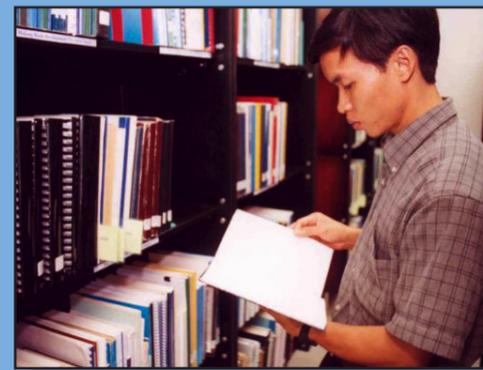
THE JUNIOR RIPARIAN PROFESSIONAL (JRP) PROJECT



The JRP project offers medium-term training to talented and enthusiastic individuals from the MRC member countries. Young professionals working in technical fields related to water resource and environmental management are invited to apply for a six-month to one-year training programme within the JRP project. Candidates are expected to come from groups such as National Mekong Committee and line agency staff, riverbasin organisations, and academic institutions.

Successful applicants will follow on-the-job training, hands-on work experience and transfer of technical knowledge on water-related issues. The JRP package is designed to ensure a broad and comprehensive training experience.

WHY DOES THE MRC RUN THE JRP PROJECT?



Tradition: The MRCS has run similar training programmes since 1964 as part of its 'riparianisation' objective: the goal is that the organisation will eventually be staffed entirely by citizens of Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Investment: The MRC uses the JRP Project to build up its own human resources and those of its close partners in the Member States. It is part of a long-term process that generates well-trained and skilled riparian professionals to manage the Lower Mekong Basin, thus ensuring a pool of water expertise in the future.

WHO CAN APPLY?



Applicants must be riparian nationals aged 35 years or under. A university degree and professional experience in a water-related discipline are required, as is the ability to work in an English language environment. Women are encouraged to apply, and special provision can be made for women with or expecting young children.

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING



Successful applicants are given working contracts through the MRC Integrated Capacity Building Programme. JRPs undergo an initial two-month intensive training period covering six core modules: MRC orientation, Integrated River Basin Planning, Strategic Planning and Management, Project Cycle Management and Logical Framework Analysis, Gender Mainstreaming, and Facilitation Capability. They also take an on-line course on Integrated River Basin Management, the philosophy underpinning all the MRC's work.

Work assignments will then be designed by the JRPs themselves, together with advisors. At their designated work sites, JRPs will work on their assignments under the guidance of a assigned supervisor.