



# Mekong River Commission

P.O. Box 6101, 184 Fa Ngoum Road, Unit 18,  
Ban Sithane Neua, Sikhottabong District, Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR  
Telephone: (856-21) 263 263. Facsimile: (856-21) 263 264

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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1. Consultancy Summary:

- **Title:** Consultant to provide technical inputs for a short film/video to explain about navigation channel improvement on Mekong River.
- **Consultancy type:** SSA
- **Duration:** in the period from 15 September to 31 December 2018
- **Reporting to:** TD Director and Navigation Operation Specialist
- **Total number of days:** 12 working days (including traveling if needed)
- **Required deliverables for this consultancy:** Please refer to Section 5
- **Daily timesheet requirement:** Yes, submitted with invoice
- **Daily stand up meeting requirement:** No
- **Finger print scanning requirement:** No
- **Monthly work plan requirement:** At inception of the work
- **Monthly timesheet requirement:** Yes, when submit invoices for the hours worked.

### 2. Background

The Mekong River is one of the world's largest rivers and runs through six countries in Southeast Asia from China to Viet Nam. Governing the river basin in a sustainable and equitable manner has been a challenge for Mekong countries, yet it also presents an opportunity for collaboration. The Mekong River Commission (MRC), established by a 1995 agreement between Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam, is an inter-governmental organisation working towards sustainable development through dialogue and cooperation within the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB). Within an agreed legal framework, these countries, with different national interests and priorities, discuss their needs and challenges in development, and negotiate better use of shared water resources for the benefit of the region and its 65 million people.

For hundreds of years, the Mekong River has been a vital passageway for people and goods. Today, the Mekong is still an essential means of transportation for many of the people living in the region and plays an increasingly important role in international trade and tourism. Within the LMB, the Mekong River and its major tributaries are navigable during the high-water season (about eight months of the year), with the exception of a 14-km section just north of the border between Cambodia and the Lao PDR – the impassable Khone Falls.

The Development Plan for International Navigation on the Lancang-Mekong River (2015–2025) regulated by the Joint Committee on Coordination of Commercial Navigation (JCCCN) consists of navigation enhancement measures including clearance of the Mekong for navigation. The JCCCN members are China, Myanmar, Thailand and Lao PDR. The development plan is an agreement among the JCCCN members, signed in April 2000.

Over the years, the MRC spent substantial efforts in development of the Master Plan for Waterborne Transport (so-called MRC Navigation Master Plan). The development carefully considered other agreements on Mekong, including the Plan for International Navigation on the Lancang-Mekong, to avoid conflicts in technical standards and requirements. The MRC ensures to well inform and make transparent all information to its member countries and other stakeholders.

With above-mentioned reasons, it is essential for the MRC to have a professional introduction video to promote the organisation’s works and achievements over 23 years. In addition, a video to explain about navigation enhancement measures such as rock blasting on Mekong River would be useful communication tools. The navigation video is also an education video on navigation improvement measures including rock blasting/rock removal on the Mekong river and its impacts to the river environment in Mekong river compared to other interventions e.g. river bank protection and river port construction or fishing by electric shocks.

The video should start with some of the introduction about the Navigation on upstream Mekong river and navigation channel improvement measures. The target of the video is to make clear the difference between blasting the whole Mekong river and channel improvement by rock removal and dredging.

**3. Objective of the consultancy:**

The consultant is expected to work with the Video Film Maker to make sure the video uses a combination of animations, infographics and available or new footage to explain rock blasting or rock removal on Mekong river and its impacts to aquatic life in Mekong river.

**4. Responsibilities and tasks**

The consultant is expected to do the followings::

- Review materials and video footages on the Mekong navigation in MRC.
- Provide technical inputs that the film maker can use to make a short film/video of around 10 minutes to explain about navigation channel improvement including rock blasting/rock excavation on Mekong River and its impacts to aquatic life in Mekong river.
- Coordinate with the film maker to make sure the video is to raise awareness of several measures of navigation enhancement measures and techniques and focus on rock blasting/rock removal for the Governments of the four-member countries, NGOs and media in the region. It would be simple communication that can reach also on educated public audience in the region who care about Mekong River’s issues.
- Make sure computer graphic animations of rock removal procedures, chiseling navigation channels, chipping rock embankments, mitigation measures to limit damage from the use of explosives, etc. are used,
- Review and approve the information on rock blasting/rock removal in clear language, using audio-visual techniques to enhance audience recall.
- Review and approve the demonstration of the destructive method of fishing, indiscriminately killing all life between the two electrodes and compare with the chiseling of some channel banks in the river, how much this is killing fish-stocks.
- Review the documentation for scholars, developers, stakeholders, by clearly explaining the extent of the rock removal/rock blasting for improving the navigation channel and increase the safety of navigation along the Mekong.
- Travel with the film maker for recording, if necessary.
- Approve the final cut.

**5. Deliverables and timelines**

<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Estimated level of effort (days), incl. consultations</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<i>The navigation video</i>		

1. Technical inputs provided which the film maker can use to make a short film/video of around 10 minutes to explain about navigation channel improvement including rock blasting/rock excavation on Mekong River and its impacts to aquatic life in Mekong river.	03	10 October 2018
2. Coordination with the film maker to make sure the video is to raise awareness of used navigation enhancement measures and techniques and focus on rock blasting/rock removal	04	20 October 2018
3. Information on rock blasting/rock removal presented in clear language, using audio-visual techniques to enhance audience recall.	02	15 November 2018
4. Effective and clear demonstration of the destructive method of fishing, indiscriminately killing all life between the two electrodes and compare with the chiseling of some channel banks in the river, how much this is killing fish-stocks	02	15 December 2018
5. Approve the final cut	01	15 December 2018
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	

## 6. Working arrangement

Reporting line: Director of Technical Support Division

Communication line: The Consultant will work under the supervision of the Director of the MRCS Technical Support Division, the consultant will work with relevant staff of the MRCS including the Navigation Specialist as well as international expert. Furthermore, he/she will work in close collaboration and coordination with the both National Mekong Committee Secretariats.

Work station: Home office work and travel to the MRC Secretariat, Vientiane Lao PDR and MRC MCs if required.

## 7. Qualifications/requirements

The Consultant will have to meet the following requirements:

- Engineering degree in waterway design
- High level knowledge and experience in waterway management
- Good knowledge of Inland waterway transport on the Mekong River.
- Good knowledge of Mekong river hydraulic condition
- Good knowledge with waterway management technology
- Experience in raising awareness among different population groups on rock blasting and its impact to marine aquatic life/environment of rivers.
- Fluency in spoken and written English
- Excellent writing, presentation, and reporting skills

## 8. Condition of Payment

The Consultant will be required to enter in a contract with the MRC Secretariat as per the terms and conditions of the contract document.

Payment will be based on time recordings in accordance with MRC procedures, the completion of the outputs (see Section 5), and the invoice submitted to the MRCS.

## 9. 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 are without MRCS highest levels of authority' permission is considered illegal and will be charged by relevant local and international legal procedures.

**English Competency: TOEIC score 600-700 (or equivalent)**

**10. Other requirements:**

- Invoice and approved timesheets of work hours spent (for each payment).

**11. Signature block**

<b>MRC Secretariat</b> Division: Technical Support Division Name of Director: -----  Signature: -----	    Date: -----
<b>Consultant</b> Name of consultant: -----  Signature: -----	    Date: -----