

The MLI Website

The website has been revised recently. If you have time, have a look at it now to get an idea of how it is organised. We will be arranging it so that some pages will be publicly available and others will be for internal MLI use only. I will communicate separately with you later to give you passwords to access the restricted pages.

The web address is: www.mekong.es.usyd.edu.au/projects/mli/

AYAD Placements

This month two new people will join the MLI team. They are funded under the Australian Government's scheme Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development. (AYAD), a volunteer scheme through AMRC and MLI in particular. This is a 12 months assignment (Oct 05 – Sept 06) which we aim for his/her to enhance MLI activities and also to assist work of our host academic institutions. In fact there is another AYAD who just finished her work last month. They are:

1. Tanja Mackenzie will be working with Lu Xing at Regional Development Research Centre (RDRC) at Yunnan University.
Her email is tanjamackenzie@yahoo.com.au
2. Lindsay Soutar will be with Buapun Promphakping at Centre for Research on Plurality in the Mekong Region (CERP), Khon Kaen University. Welcome Tanja and Lindsay.
Her email is alsoutar@student.usyd.edu.au
3. Natalia Scurrah, just finished her position at Mekong Sub-region Social Research Centre (MSSRC), Ubon Ratchathani University.
Her email is nscurrah@gmail.com

A web page for AYAD will be created under MLI soon later.

Research Exchange

We have so far one small research exchange project organised by Lu Xing (YU), Kimkong (RUPP) and Kanokwan (UBU). See more detail → [Research Exchange](#)
Somsy, Lamphoune (NUOL) and Buapun (KKU) are also developing a small research proposal together.

Workshop on Social Sciences and Environment, Kunming 11-17 July 2005

A workshop on "Research Methods in Social Sciences Approaches to the Environment" was held at the RDRC in Kunming between 11 and 17 July. The workshop was funded by the Ford Foundation and was a collaborative activity between the RDRC and the AMRC. It was a spin-off from the MLI, but not a direct MLI funded activity. Bob Fisher facilitated and I was present as observer. This workshop provided many ideas which we can apply later for similar workshops among the MLI partners. → [REPORT](#)

Future Workshops

Following discussions between various partners, the next general MLI workshop is now being planned. The current plan is to hold a five day workshop on teaching methods in Laos in March 2006. The current plan is to focus on the use of role plays and case studies as a way of facilitating learning about complex issues. We propose to apply it in the context of the Nam Theun Hinboun Dam in Laos. I will let you know when the draft workshop plan is available on the website for comments.

There is a separate plan to hold a workshop in Vietnam in late February for Vietnam partners, TNU and CTU, on the use of social science to understand Mekong problems. This workshop will be presented in Vietnamese and English (i.e. translated). Bob and I are working on a draft plan now.

Regards to all,

Bob and Tubtim (^_^)