

MEKONG - REPUBLIC OF KOREA COOPERATION FUND (MKCF)

THE 10TH CALL

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FUNDING CYCLE 2026

ADVANCING REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP THROUGH INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

The MKCF invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) for project proposals that:

- ✔ Address shared regional challenges
- ✔ Strengthen Mekong-Republic of Korea (ROK) cooperation
- ✔ Deliver impactful and measurable results
- ✔ Demonstrate potential for scaling up and replication
- ✔ Promote innovative regional solutions

Grant Size

USD 300,000 – 1,000,000

Project Duration

2-3 Years

Submission Deadline

April 10, 2026

PROJECTS MUST ALIGN WITH THE SEVEN PRIORITY SECTORS:



Culture
and
Tourism



Human
Resources
Development



Agriculture
and Rural
Development



Infrastructure



Information
and
Communication
Technology



Environment



Non-
Traditional
Security
Challenges

EOIs must be submitted to the respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the five Mekong countries or the ROK.



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION



MEKONG – ROK COOPERATION FUND (MKCF)

Announcement of the 10th Call for MKCF Regional Project Proposals

Introduction

The Mekong–Republic of Korea (ROK) partnership was launched in 2011, leading to the establishment of the Mekong–ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) in 2013. The MKCF supports cooperative projects led by the Mekong countries and the ROK under the Mekong–ROK cooperation framework.

The Fund promotes collaboration in seven priority sectors, as outlined in the Mekong–Han River Declaration for Establishing a Partnership for People, Prosperity, and Peace, adopted during the 1st Mekong–ROK Summit in 2019.

The fund provides grants for projects with a regional focus—benefiting multiple Mekong countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, and Thailand)—while aligning with national priorities to foster regional integration. Projects may be implemented in a single country, but their outcomes should benefit the broader Mekong region as well as the ROK.

Funding Criteria

MKCF supports catalytic and innovative projects in the following seven priority sectors. *The EoI must indicate the Sector and the sub sector.*

Sectors	Sub Sectors
(1) Culture and Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Preservation and restoration of cultural heritage sites▪ Expansion of youth education in culture, arts, sports and creative economy.▪ Cultural tourism development, including creative industries on art, music including cultural exchanges and cultural entrepreneurship▪ Promote cultural and creative industries▪ Empower cultural professionals and enhancing networks, knowledge and exchange among creative agents among Mekong and ROK▪ Smart tourism - use of digital tools and services to advance sustainable and smart tourism, sustainable investment promotion in Mekong tourism sector

(2) Human Resources Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote education and skill development in digital age ▪ Cooperative alliance among the Mekong countries for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) / Career and Technical Education (CTE) ▪ Capacity building for MSMEs and entrepreneurs to enhance job opportunities and successful trade and investment environment in the Mekong countries ▪ Greening TVET, new skills, upskilling/reskilling on emerging industry needs
(3) Agriculture and Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of regional agricultural value chain ▪ Strengthening regional agriculture supply chains ▪ Mekong agricultural productivity improvement ▪ Rural finance and market development ▪ Digital rural transformation for agricultural development in the Mekong region ▪ Promotion of food security and food safety
(4) Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity building in regional project management related to infrastructure (road, power communication etc.) ▪ Critical infrastructure development in rural areas for agriculture development
(5) Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Application of ICT for regional disaster risk management / climate change adaptation (e.g. early warning system) ▪ Estimation of crop production with ICT ▪ Development of regional agriculture market information system ▪ MSME Digitization and Fintech ▪ E-commerce & paperless trade and customs facilitation ▪ Development of alliance with the Mekong countries on ICT infrastructure / regional connectivity ▪ ICT application and broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas, application of ICT in disaster management, application of ICT in production sectors (industry, agriculture) and transport and logistics ▪ ICT application in public governance ▪ Promote digital transformation and encourage use of internet of things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big data, Block chain technology and digital content
(6) Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote the use of electric vehicle (EV) ▪ Sustainable management of natural resources ▪ Climate change mitigation and adaptation measures ▪ Sustainable transport and logistics ▪ Promotion of ESG in production sectors ▪ Green infrastructure for climate resilience in the Mekong ▪ Use and application of traditional knowledge in natural resources management, water and forest conservation and management etc.

(7) Non-traditional Security Challenges

- Facilitation of safe labor migration within the Mekong region
- Disaster management for natural hazards Clearance of explosive remnants of war, illegal drug trafficking, human trafficking
- Prevention of security areas to address transnational crime, terrorism and violent extremism
- Cyber security to build an open and secure cyber space
- Safe Mekong, combating Illicit Trafficking, surveillance techniques and transboundary coordination etc.

Eligibility Requirements

Entities eligible to apply for the MKCF include:

- Government agencies and autonomous organizations from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand (CLMVT), as well as the Republic of Korea (ROK).
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, and training institutes from CLMVT and the ROK.
- International organizations, including UN agencies and international NGOs with offices in the Mekong countries and the ROK.
- Organizations with at least five years of experience in implementing development projects.

Note: *The MKCF does not provide funding or assistance to individuals.*

Budget and Project Duration

- MKCF provides grants ranging from \$300,000 to \$1,000,000 per project.
 - The Fund encourages triangular (three-way) or quadripartite (four-way) collaborations with other donors, such as the Mekong River Commission (MRC), Japan, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, and Canada. Additional funding sources should be leveraged when necessary.
 - Grants are available for joint activities with regional or international entities, formalized through cooperation agreements.
 - Ineligible activities: Construction of buildings, rent payments, and utilities.
 - Project duration: 2–3 years.
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Expression of Interest (EOI) Submission

- Applicants must submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) when applying for the MKCF.
- The EOI must include all required components and submit them in PDF format only and budget template in excel format.
- For preparing the Eoi, please refer to the **MKCF Management Manual** which provides comprehensive guidelines on project application processes, financial management, procurement, monitoring, and reporting requirements for project proponents and implementing agencies.

- Submission deadlines:
 - For government agencies, NGOs, and academic institutions from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand please submit EOs to the Focal Point at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand **by April 10, 2026**. The country focal point is mentioned below.
 - For international organizations (including UN agencies and international NGOs): Submit EOs to the ROK MOFA **by April 10, 2026**. The MoFA RoK focal point is mentioned below.
- **AI-generated Eols will be rejected; we encourage the use of human effort in developing Eols and Project Proposals.**
- **Only shortlisted Eols will be contacted** for the next phase of the application process to submit the **Full Project Proposal**.

Country	Focal Point in the MOFA	Email
Cambodia	Mr. Sok Sorathvatanak	soksorathvatanak@gmail.com
Lao PDR	Ms. Noy Amphone	mekong.dialoguepartners@gmail.com
Myanmar	Ms. Aye Aye Myo	srcd.myanmar@gmail.com srcd.mfa@gmail.com
Viet Nam	Ms. Ha Kieu Oanh	mekong.mofa@gmail.com
Thailand	Ms. Laksanaree Insrikrai	laksanaree.i@mfa.go.th
ROK	Mr. Junha Hwang	rokmekong2014@mofa.go.kr jhahwang23@mofa.go.kr

For Further Enquiries

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