Connecting the Mekong through Education and Training
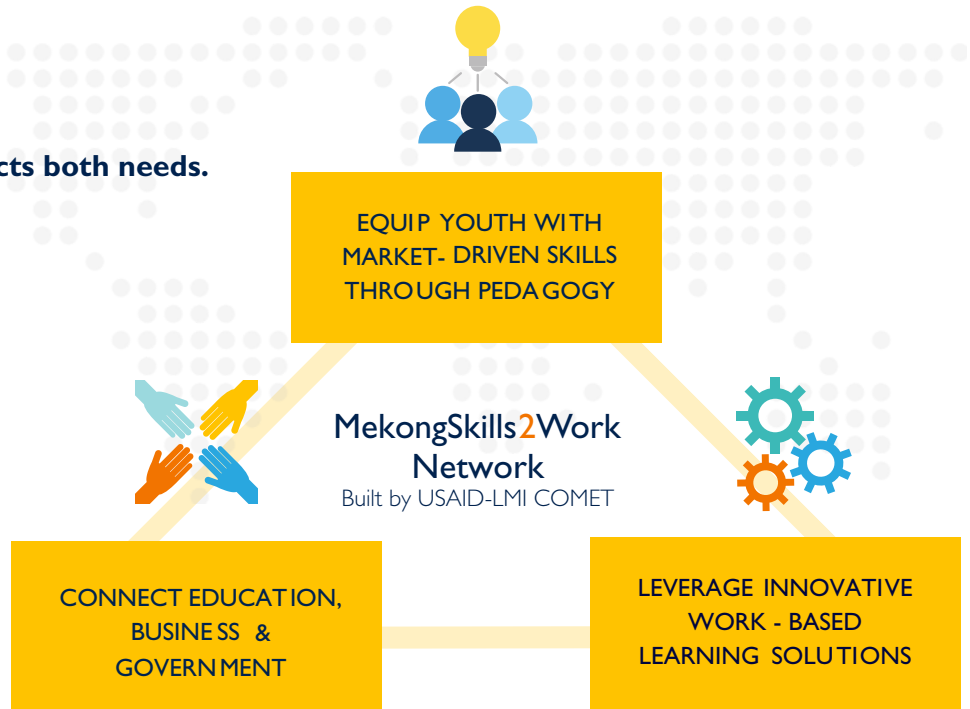
USAID - LMI COMET

Youth want quality jobs.

Employers want qualified workers.

MekongSkills2Work Network connects both needs.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Connecting the Mekong through Education and Training (USAID-LMI COMET) project narrows the development gap in Southeast Asia through the MekongSkills2WorkNetwork. The Network connects youth, universities, vocational institutions, & industry partners in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam to revamp Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education to match with market needs.

EQUIP YOUTH WITH MARKET- DRIVEN SKILLS THROUGH PEDAGOGY

MekongSkills2Work Network
Built by USAID-LMI COMET

CONNECT EDUCATION, BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT

LEVERAGE INNOVATIVE WORK - BASED LEARNING SOLUTIONS

IMPACT

REACHED OVER

44,000
STUDENTS

LEVERAGED

$8M
IN PARTNERSHIPS

TRAINED OVER

590
INSTRUCTORS

SHARING CUTTING EDGE APPROACHES & TECHNOLOGIES TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION AND MARKETS

CISCO intel amazon web services TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

The MekongSkills2Work approach combines hands-on learning in the classroom with increased work exposure. Innovation challenges serve as way to promote hands-on learning, teamwork and the use of technology, as well as to support entrepreneurial thinking and marketable solutions to real-world problems.
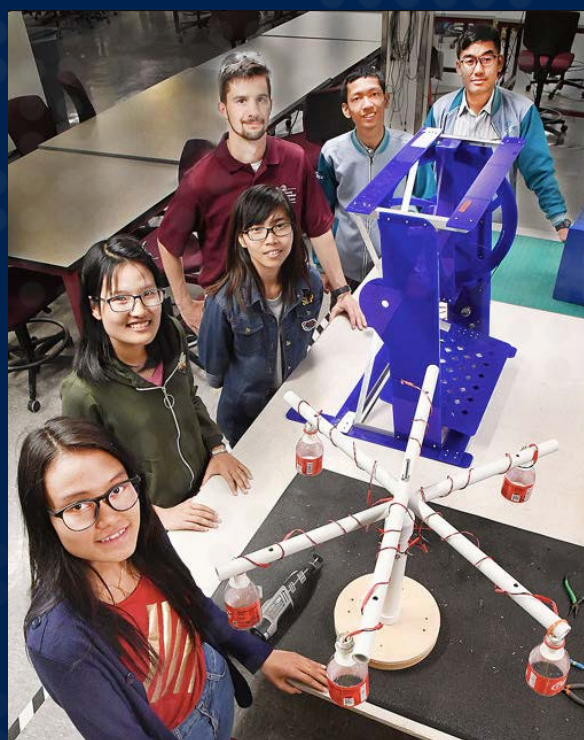
Instructor Professional Development

The project has trained instructors and administrators in dynamic teaching methods through face-to-face workshops, online resources, and an Advanced MekongSkills2Work Certification course. The project's role is now being transitioned to "expert" instructor teams who will carry forth this role over the long term.

Institutionalizing MekongSkills2Work at USAID - LMI COMET Leadership Institutions
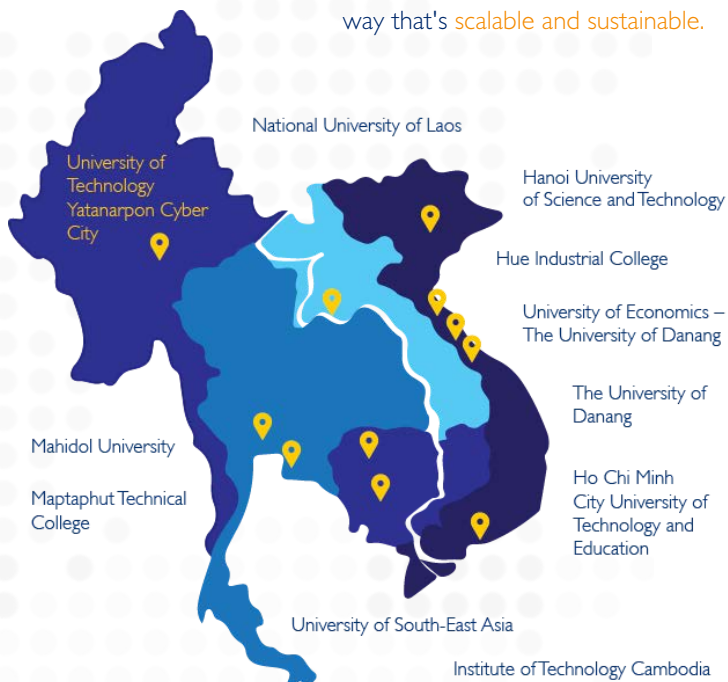
The project will continue to support administrators to adopt the MekongSkills2Work model within their institutions, to change the way of teaching and learning so their graduates can better meet the skills needs of the labor market in a way that's scalable and sustainable.

"I have a PhD in Chemical Engineering. I've been teaching for five years but was never taught how to teach. The MekongSkills2Work Sourcebook and training practices show me how to better reach my students" Paritta Prayoonyong, Lecturer, Thailand

Myanmar Students Win Top Prize at Innovation Conference in the US!

National University of Laos

University of Technology Yatanarpon Cyber City

Hanoi University of Science and Technology

Hue Industrial College

University of Economics – The University of Danang

The University of Danang

Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and Education

Mahidol University

Maptaphut Technical College

University of South-East Asia

Institute of Technology Cambodia

Five USAID-LMI COMET students from Myanmar and five from Texas A&M University won top honors and $3,000 in March 2018 for their treadle-powered device that enables off-the-grid students to read at night in an innovation conference in the United States!
The Myanmar team initially placed second in the Invent for the Planet challenge hosted by Texas A&M. The team won a trip to Texas, where the two teams collaborated on a combined prototype that won first place in VentureWell OPEN Minds 2018 Showcase.

*"The challenge has **completely changed us** as individuals...this challenge has extracted our potential throughout all the stages that we went through"* Hein Dway San, Student, Myanmar

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