

IDE-JETRO Mekong Research & Dialogue Workshop 2025
“Challenges for sustainable development in the Mekong region
under frequent climate disasters”

Date and Time: 9 December, 10:00-12:30

Venue: IDE-JETRO and online

1. Background

Economic development in the Mekong region, including dam and canal construction, urban development, and the development of transportation networks across the basin has led to significant environmental changes. In recent years, climate disasters such as droughts and floods have become increasingly frequent. These disasters, adding to existing transboundary basin management issues, have become major socio-economic challenges that must be addressed.

Furthermore, conflicts and distrust persist to arise between upstream and downstream countries, as well as between governments, businesses, residents, and citizens, due to intertwined interests. Uncertain international relations further complicate cross-border dialogue and cooperation in the Mekong region.

What challenges do the countries of the Mekong region face in achieving sustainable development under these circumstances, and how can they cooperate? In this workshop, three experts who have been engaged in research and international cooperation in the region will present case studies and share the latest insights with participants.

2. Program

Time	Topic
10:00-10:05	Opening Dr. Kenji Otsuka, Inter-disciplinary Studies Center, IDE-JETRO
10:05-10:30	Case study report (1) Experiences and challenges in Chiang Rai, Thailand Dr. Thanikun Chantira, School of Social Innovation, Mae Fah Luang University (MUF)
10:30-10:55	Case study report (2) Experiences and challenges in Cambodia Dr. Kimlong Chheng, Asian Vision Institute (AVI)
10:55-11:20	Case study report (3) Experiences and challenges in Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Dr. Zhifei Li, National Institute of International Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

11:20-11:30	Break
11:30-11:50	Comments Dr. Kenji Nagata, Dr. Takahiro Otsuka, JICA Ms. Maki Okabe-Aoki, Ms. Naomi Hatsukano, IDE-JETRO
11:50-12:30	Q&A, open discussion
12:30	Closing