



“Innovative Legal Education for Emerging Asia”

• Cambodia • Guangxi • Laos • Myanmar • Thailand • Vietnam • Yunnan •

MEKONG REGION LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAM

Quick Facts

1. Based in Thailand, the Mekong Region Legal Studies Program (MRLSP) brings together students from throughout the Greater Mekong Subregion (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the Chinese regions of Yunnan and Guangxi) for study of advanced Masters level law courses focused on solving and managing problems common in the region.
2. MRLSP students are encouraged to compare the process of lawyering in each of the Greater Mekong Subregion (“GMS”) countries and to commit to serving disadvantaged communities in their home countries--as individual lawyers, NGO staff or government officials. The overall goal of the MRLSP is to train lawyers to protect vulnerable citizenry in the GMS development process, focusing on cross-border solutions to shared regional problems.
3. The MRLSP currently runs as a one-semester “Certificate” program offering a semester of courses as follows: 1) Introduction to the Chinese Legal System; 2) Comparative Study of Mekong Region Legal Systems; 3) Comparative Government Procurement Law and 4) Project Design and Writing Grant Proposals. This Certificate program doubles as the first semester of a prospective LLM program on Mekong Region Law. Once the LLM program is established, students who perform well in the Certificate program will be invited back to complete the LLM degree.
4. The MRLSP is open to fourth/fifth year undergraduate law students, graduate law students, practicing lawyers and law school faculty. Students attend the MRLSP at no cost to the student. All tuition costs, program required travel costs, student housing costs and a daily stipend are provided for the student by China-Mekong Law Center or other sponsoring organizations.

5. The next MRLSP will operate from August 20, 2018 through December 14, 2018. A two-week student vacation occurs in October 2018. Students are expected to be present for the entire program. Because of the high academic demands of the MRLSP, the program operates on the following model: One week of classes, followed by one week of reading (then so on for the whole semester), so that students attend 7 weeks of classes and spend 6 weeks preparing for classes. The last week of the program is dedicated to exams. Students are required to prepare well for class and participate in class discussions. Any failure to do so will result in the student's dismissal from the Program (costs of travel back home covered by the MRLSP).
6. The application process for the MRLSP is quite rigorous, requiring prospective students to demonstrate sufficient English language skills, strong academic performance, a commitment to public service and a willingness to work hard for self-improvement. For the student willing to work diligently, the MRLSP offers a transformational experience in improving legal analysis and professional skills.
7. The formal application process for the August-December 2018 MRLSP will begin in December 2017. However, we welcome interested candidates to contact us earlier with inquiries or to obtain an application. Please feel free to contact us at mitterhoff@chinamekong.org.
8. The planned courses for the 2018 August-December MRLSP are a) Introduction to the Chinese Legal System; b) Comparative Government Procurement Law; c) Comparative Study of Mekong Region Legal Systems and d) Project Design and Writing Grant Proposals. (Courses subject to change at short notice). Students who successfully complete the four courses will receive a Certificate in "Mekong Region Legal Studies."
9. The goal of the MRLSP is to establish an LL.M. degree program in Mekong Region Legal Studies. Once the degree program is established, students who perform well in the MRLSP Certificate program will be invited back to complete the LL.M. degree.
10. The MRLSP offers the student a wonderful opportunity to improve their academic and professional skills, learn how other countries deal with similar social and economic problems and to build relationships with other legal professionals from the Greater Mekong Subregion.