



## **“Innovative Legal Education for Emerging Asia”**

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

### **MEKONG REGION LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAM**

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. A semester pilot of the MRLSP was launched in 2016 at Thailand Thammasat University’s Lampang Campus to great acclaim by the participating students. Students in the MRLSP 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.

Based in Thailand, the MRLSP endeavors to provide law courses generally unavailable elsewhere in the region, offering unique subjects targeting such regional problems as 1) Rivers Law and Shared Water Resources; 2) Public Participation in Development Decisions; 3) Migrant Labor Law; 4) Microcredit and Economic Empowerment; 5) Cross-Border Criminal Law Cooperation; 6) Human Trafficking, Stateless Persons and Refugees; 7) Agriculture Law: What Every Lawyer Needs to Know To Represent Farming Communities; 8) Biodiversity and Sustainable Development in the Mekong Region; as well as survey/writing courses like 9) Introduction to Chinese Legal System; 10) Comparative Government Procurement Law; 11) Comparative Study of Mekong Region Legal Systems and 12) Project Design and Writing Grant Proposals. (Courses 9-12 will be offered in the August-December 2018 relaunch of the MRLSP “Certificate” program). Already the alumni of the 2016 inaugural launch of the MRLSP represent a cadre of connected legal professionals who can make a positive contribution to equitable development in the GMS. The ultimate plan is to establish a two-year English language LL.M. program in “Mekong Region Law.” Once a degree program is operational, current students who perform well in the one-semester “Certificate” program will be invited back to complete the LL.M. degree.