

Knowledge and Technology Exchange Program
Between
Vientiane City Office for Management and Services
(VCOMS)
And
Clean Water Services (CWS)
2020-2024

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Topics to be presented

- I. Project Overview and Summary
- II. Project Objectives
- III. Activities with WiSE
- IV. Project Benefits and Results
- V. Future Plans

I. Project Overview and Summary:

WiSE is one of the projects under the US-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership. It involves the exchange of knowledge, technology, and capacity building from 2020 to 2024.

II. Project Objectives:

- To ensure the sustainability of water management;
- To build strong relationships between the U.S. and ASEAN countries;
- To enhance the capacity of experts and technical staff in Southeast Asia through the exchange of knowledge, experience, and technology pertaining to water.

III. Activities with WiSE

- In 2020, VCOMS and Clean Water Services in Hillsboro, Oregon, exchanged information via Zoom due to the COVID pandemic. During that time, we could not travel to visit each other in person.
- In October 2022, four technical team members from VCOMS visited America for eight days. We attended a conference and the WEFTEC exhibition in New Orleans, Louisiana. Following that, we toured the Fernhill water treatment facility in Hillsboro, Oregon, renowned for utilizing natural treatment systems to convert sewage ponds into a magnificent recreational area accessible to the public. We also visited other water treatment facilities during this trip.

III. Activities with WiSE (continued)

- In June 2023, two technical team members from VCOMS visited the Singapore International Water Week for three days. It was an international conference with many experts in the water management sector. Following the conference, seven U.S. delegates came to visit Vientiane and VCOMS for four days.

- In September and October 2023, six technical team members from VCOMS visited the U.S. for the second time for nine days to attend the WEFTEC conference in Chicago, Illinois. Following the conference, we visited the Fernhill water treatment facility in Hillsboro, Oregon, and other facilities as part of the learning trip for our team.

III. Activities with WiSE (continued)

- In February 2024, a team of experts from Clean Water Services (CWS) (5 in total) visited VCOMS to gather data for the treatment of wastewater at Sikhot Public Pond in Vientiane to use as a pilot project for wastewater treatment in Vientiane in the future.
- In June 2024, two technical team members from VCOMS attended another Singapore International Water Week for the second time, for three days. It was an international conference with many experts in the water management sector. Following the conference, nine U.S. delegates, including CWS representatives, came to visit Vientiane and VCOMS for four days.

IV. Project Benefits and Results

Through the participation in various meetings and conferences to exchange experience and information during the time of this project, the benefits and results can be summarized as follows:

- It increases and strengthens the relationship and understanding between the U.S. and ASEAN countries.
- It helps with capacity building for the water management sector in Vientiane Capital.
- It boosts the learning of challenges we are facing and the advance in technology and innovation in the water sector.

V. Future Plans

Vientiane Capital plans to continue its technical collaboration to advance the pilot project for wastewater treatment at the Sikhottabong Public Pond in Vientiane. Currently, basic data has been collected for a feasibility study to implement this project. If successful, it will significantly enhance the partnership, collaboration, and friendship between the U.S. and Laos.