



## **2020 MEKONG JOURNALISM EXCHANGE**

**Dates:** February 9, 2020-February 22, 2020

**Destinations:** California, USA; Chiang Khong, Thailand; and Bangkok, Thailand

The **2020 Mekong Journalism Exchange** will bring together twelve qualified journalists from five Mekong countries (Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam) to participate in a two-week journalism exchange from February 9, 2020-February 22, 2020. Journalists will explore critical water security and disinformation issues in the Mekong region, and receive in-depth, skill-based trainings in investigative and environmental reporting, fact-checking, and best use of social media in the newsroom from renowned journalist-training programs at UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, Internews, Poynter, Facebook, and Google. The journalism exchange will commence in California for a water security case study and culminate in Bangkok/Chiang Khong, Thailand where journalists will have the opportunity to visit the Chiang Khong District along the Mekong River, interact with relevant regional experts, and attend various conferences and events that will build their skills and networks related to fact-checking, environmental reporting, and transboundary water issues.

**Funding:** The **2020 Mekong Journalism Exchange** is funded by a grant from the US Department of State. Funding covers:

- Roundtrip airfare to and from participant's home country and throughout the journalism exchange
- Ground transportation, airport transfers
- Visa and baggage fees
- Lodging in each of the journalism exchange destinations
- Programmatic meals and a modest per diem to cover other meals
- Cultural activities and networking opportunities

### **Program Requirements:**

1. **Story Filing:** Journalists are required to file at least one story or a series of blogs and/or social media posts resulting from their participation in the journalism exchange.
2. **Participant Presentation:** One essential element of this professional experience is the journalist-to-journalist interaction. All participants are required to prepare and submit a short paper (1,000–1,500 words) that addresses water security and/or disinformation/propaganda issues in their respective country. Each participant will make a panel presentation (approximately 10 minutes) based on the topic of his/her paper, **which must be submitted at least two weeks before the start of the program.**

**Eligibility:** Media professionals from print, broadcast and online news organizations including editors, reporters, columnists, producers, bloggers, videographers, and photo journalists with a minimum of five years of experience are eligible to apply. **Journalists who bring environmental journalism experience reporting on water security issues in the Mekong region are encouraged to apply.** The journalism exchange will include a total of 12 journalists from Mekong countries, including Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. **Applicants must be a national of one of the countries listed and proficient in the English language.**

**Application Requirements:** All applicants are required to complete the Mekong Journalism Exchange application form online.

**2020 Mekong Journalism Exchange  
Application**

<b>1. PERSONAL INFORMATION</b>			
Full Legal Name (as it appears on your passport)			
Family Name (as it appears on your passport)			
Given Name(s) (as it appears on your passport)			
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Date of birth: month			
Date of birth: day			
Date of birth: year			
Birthplace (city/town, state/province, country)			
Country of citizenship			
Country of permanent residence			
<b>2. CONTACT INFORMATION</b>			
Cell phone number (+country code – area code – xxx-xxxx)			
Office phone number			
Home phone number			
Email address			
Secondary email address			
Current or local mailing address (street, apt #)			
Current or local mailing city			
Current or local mailing province/state/country			
Current or local mailing postal/zip code			
Address valid until (month/year), if permanent list “N/A”			
Complete permanent mailing address			
<b>3. WORK EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION</b>			
Current position title			
Current employer, organization, business, etc.			
Complete address of employer			
Twitter handle			

**4. QUESTIONNAIRE**

Provide a brief description of your news organization, its reach, and your role. (250 words max)

Describe your interest in the journalism exchange theme (s) and how it is relevant to the beat you cover. (250 words max)

What do you expect to gain or learn from the journalism exchange? (250 words max)

Please describe 1 or more story ideas that could come out of the journalism exchange that you would like to write about. Describe your idea and dissemination plan. (250 words max)

**5. REQUIRED ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS**

<b>Resume</b> (Please attached and e-mail or fax your most recent resume with this application)		
<b>Recommendation letters</b> (Please attach and e-mail or fax 2 complete recommendation letters with this application)		
<b>6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>		
Other fellowships, scholarships, or exchange programs that you have participated in		
Have you previously participated in a EWC or U.S. State Department program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please list the program name(s)		
If yes, please list the program year		
How did you learn about the 2020 Mekong Journalism exchange?		

**APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION:** I hereby certify that the information I have given on this application and supporting documents is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have read, understood, and accepted the Applicant's Certification.

Signature		Date Month/day/year	
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