

# Mekong Partnership For the Environment

## Mekong Matters Story Fund

### SUMMARY

**Mekong Matters Story Fund** supports journalists to report on the regional social and environmental costs and benefits of development projects in the Mekong region. These may include dams, mines, industrial development, land use and forestry concessions, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) or other related issues. MPE will provide up to US\$3,000 to cover costs for story development and may co-publish the story on its own outlets, with editorial control and attribution to the journalist and their media organisation.

### WHAT IS MEKONG PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (MPE)?

The MPE project is led by [Pact](#), along with partners including [Internews](#) and its [Earth Journalism Network](#). We support practices that facilitate socially and environmentally responsible development decision-making in the Mekong region. We also support and facilitate the [Mekong Matters Journalism Network](#) and work with partners in Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

### WHAT EXPENSES MAY BE COVERED?

MPE can cover expenses incurred in developing the story such as: regional or domestic travel, interpreter fees, database access, and translations of the story to/from English or other relevant languages. Fixed costs such as office costs or equipment are not covered.

### WHO MAY APPLY?

Applicants must be working as a journalist or studying in a journalism program. Applicants should be based in a Mekong country and/or demonstrate that the impact of the story on their audience will positively influence development in the Mekong region. Applicants must be citizens of Mekong countries, except under exceptional circumstances, such as mentoring local journalists. [Mekong Matters Journalism Network](#) members are encouraged to apply (contact [ahunt@internews.org](mailto:ahunt@internews.org) to join or for info).

### WHAT KIND OF STORIES CAN MPE SUPPORT?

Stories must be one or a series of pieces relating to MPE project objectives (see: [www.pactworld.org/mpe](http://www.pactworld.org/mpe)) and must focus on development in the Lower Mekong Sub-region. Stories with a focus on regional, cross-border angles and elements will be given strong preference. Potential stories or investigative series may focus on:

- Social and environmental costs and benefits of regional development projects such as dams, mines, industrial zones, ports, oil and gas projects, roadways and economic land and forestry concessions;
- Regional infrastructure or energy investment trends/laws/planning etc. and how they influence the above
- Stakeholder engagement through EIA, public participation processes, or other social and environmental safeguards for infrastructure projects
- Best practices for regional development projects, policies or practice, especially in light of the AEC

### APPLICATIONS AND APPROVAL

Applications will be accepted at any time through September 30, 2016. MPE will make a decision within 30 days. An agreement with MPE will require the journalists' media outlet to commit to publish the story, if it meets their journalistic standards. MPE may also publish the story on their outlets. The agreement will be fixed price with payments made based on milestones. If requested, Internews may provide story mentoring. Applications and queries can be sent with subject line "MPE Story Fund-applicant name" to [MPEAPS@pactworld.org](mailto:MPEAPS@pactworld.org),



## Application: Mekong Matters Story Fund

Journalist applicant's name:	
Citizenship:	
Address:	
Phone / Email:	
Job title:	
Media Organisation/s:	
Expected start date:	
Expected completion date:	
Summary of story idea (less than 100 words):	
Total amount requested (US\$):	

### **STORY PROPOSAL:**

- A. **OUTLINE:** Please outline the story idea, including the background and importance of the story, what impact the story might have on development in the Mekong region, and how the story or angle is unique and interesting.
- B. **PLAN:** Describe how the research and reporting will be done, and any travel involved. What types of sources will be interviewed or consulted?
- C. **DISSEMINATION:** Where do you plan to publish or distribute the story? In what formats (print, web, video etc.)? What is the circulation/audience size for each? Which languages will you produce the story in? (Translation costs may be included in your budget)
- D. **RISKS:** Describe any security, administrative, deadline delay, or other risks that the story might include for the journalist, the sources, or for MPE. How will these risks be managed?

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

- E. **BUDGET:** Provide an itemized budget that estimates expenses being requested from MPE, and how the funds will be used. Budget will be reviewed for allowability and reasonableness. (Example below. Agreements will be fixed price based on a final approved budget with payments made based on milestones, such as completion of draft story)

Expense	US\$	Description / calculation
EXAMPLE Flight: Bangkok – Hanoi – Bangkok	600	To visit sites and interview sources
EXAMPLE Hotel in Hanoi	450	6N X \$75
EXAMPLE Hire interpreter in Vietnam	300	6DX \$50, to research and interview sources
EXAMPLE Translation of final article to English	200	8 pages X \$25
<b>TOTAL US\$</b>	<b>1550</b>	

- F. Please attach (or insert details below):

- **STORY SAMPLES:** Web links or files of 2-3 of original stories you produced. Stories in English are preferred, but other languages may be submitted with a summary in English.
- **RESUME:** Your resume, CV or details of your work experience and education.
- **REFERENCES:** Names, job titles and contacts of two references familiar with your work