

OUR TEAM MEMBERS

At AIT (Gender and Development Studies):

Philippe Doneys
Donna L. Doane
Christine Widjaya
Duanghathai Buranajaroenkij
Duangsamorn Jatupornpimol

In Cambodia:

Sina Norm
Pisey Chea
and research team

In Lao PDR:

Phetsakhone Somphongbouthakanh
Engsone Sisomphone
Boutsady Khounnouvong
Souknida Yongchialorsautouky
and research team

In Myanmar:

SEGRI (Social Economic and Gender
Research Institute)
and research team

In Viet Nam:

Phuong Pham
Hieu Dinh Minh
and research team

CONTACT US

ESP-Mekong Empowerment and Security Project

Email: esp.mekong@ait.asia

Tel.: +662 524 5779, +662 524 5668

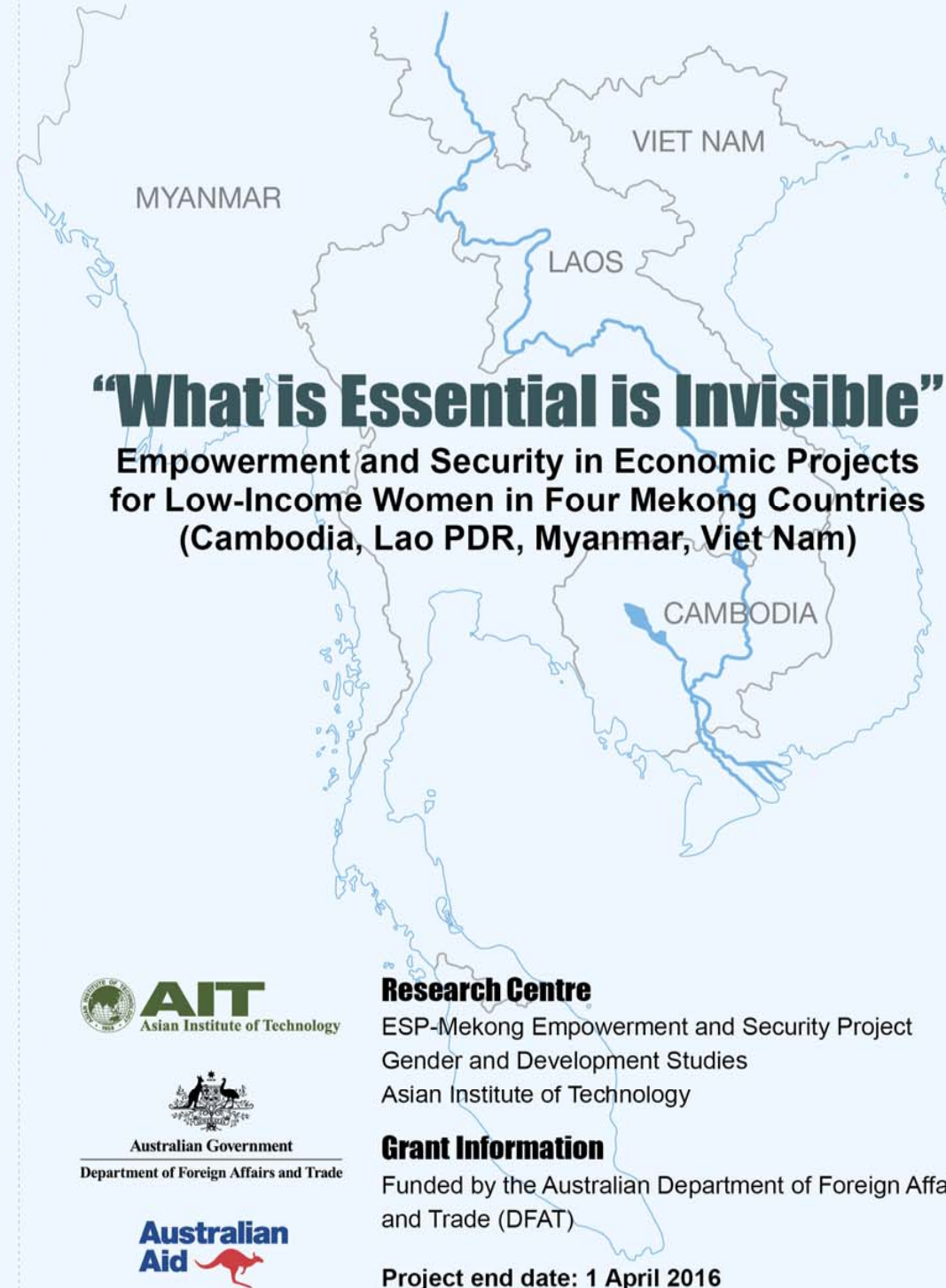
c/o Dr. Philippe Doneys or Dr. Donna L. Doane

Gender and Development Studies
School of Environment, Resources and Development

Asian Institute of Technology

P.O.Box 4 Khlong Luang, Pathumthani 12120 THAILAND

<http://www.gds.ait.ac.th/esp-mekong>



Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Research Centre

ESP-Mekong Empowerment and Security Project
Gender and Development Studies
Asian Institute of Technology

Grant Information

Funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Project end date: 1 April 2016

FOCUS OF RESEARCH

This research project, using both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods, focuses on women's economic empowerment and social protection projects in four Mekong countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

It will involve an exploration of the gaps between the level of policy makers and intended beneficiaries in terms of their conceptions of the ideas of empowerment and security and their perceptions of what is happening on the "ground".

In addition, the research aims to specify under what conditions empowerment (as locally defined) and an increase in a sense of security (again, as locally defined) come as a result of economic empowerment and social protection projects, and under what conditions there seems to be no such apparent benefit – or even negative effects – in spite of the well-meaning intentions of the projects.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

One concern of this research is thus to understand gaps between project-driven goals and the actual needs, values and priorities of beneficiaries, with the aim of achieving sustainable forms of empowerment and security.

It also explores the question of whether benefits are more tangible or intangible to different stakeholders, and how communication between beneficiaries and policy makers might be improved.



OUTPUTS and DELIVERABLES

- A monograph of research findings will be translated into the languages of the four Mekong countries involved (Khmer, Lao, Myanmar/Burmese and Vietnamese), designed for policy makers, development practitioners and local organizations
- Academic papers and presentations at meetings and conferences
- Training sessions for researchers at both regional and country levels
- A final workshop to which policy makers, development practitioners, local organizations and academics related to gender and development will be invited, to present the findings and foster debates and discussion on the theme of "empowerment" and "security" of low-income women in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region

TARGET GROUPS

Local organizations, academics, development workers, policy makers (both at the provincial and national levels), INGOs, and international organizations working on gender-related issues in the four countries

