



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEKONG DELTA

Collaboration – Development – Wealth



SDMD 2045 is an initiative established and hosted by Can Tho University to integrate national and international collaborative research and development activities, with the goal of contribution to the sustainable development of the Mekong Delta region and beyond with a vision to the year 2045



Urgency and legal basis

Urgency

The present world is entering the era of rapid, incessant and powerful development of the scientific – technological revolution, especially The Fourth Industrial Evolution; the era of globalization, of integration – collaboration and development, notably the development of knowledge – based economy. Besides, the world is also facing great global challenges such as food security and safety, climate change and sea level rise, degradation of resources and environment, pandemics ... As a result, promoting collaboration is an inevitable trend to solve regional and global issues.

For the Mekong Delta region, this is a key area for the production of food, aquatic food, fruits of the country; ensure national food security and play an important role in exporting agricultural and aquatic products to the world's market. Facing the challenges of climate change, sea level rise and changes in the flow of Mekong Delta River as well as the need to promote strength for the prosperous development of the region, Resolution no. 120 of The Government (17/11/2017) on Sustainable development of the Mekong Delta under climate change had set a goal toward the year 2050 "The Mekong Delta becomes a highly developed region of the nation, and has an advanced level of social organization; per capita income is higher than the national average, people's livelihood is secured; the share of ecological agriculture, high technology agriculture rate reaches over 80%, forest covering rate is over 9% (compare to current rate of 4.3%), important natural ecosystems are preserved and developed.

The 13th Communist Party Congress (period 2021 – 2025) has determined the nation's socio – economic development strategy for 10 years 2021 – 2030, in which, for the Mekong Delta, "will focus on modern, large scale agricultural production, organic, high – efficiency agriculture, optimization of agricultural value; development of seed technology, processing technology, agricultural and aquatic products preserving technology; link production with consumption market and branding. Accelerate urbanization, create a regional urban network in order for vast development. Develop renewable and clean energy. Promote economic restructuring, especially agriculture structuring suitable for each ecological region, proactively and effectively implement climate change projects as well as sea level rise projects; solve erosion problems in riverbanks and coastal areas, subsidence, drought and salinity; develop an overall strategy for protection and sustainable use of water resources in the Mekong river,..."

To contribute to the successful implementation of guidelines and policies of the Communist Party and the Government, synchronous and appropriate solutions are required, in which there is a very important role of Central Agencies/ Departments of all levels and Local Communities; Institutes – Universities, enterprises and social organization through activities of collaboration. At the Third Conference of Mekong Delta Sustainable Development under Climate Change, on 13th March 2021 in Can Tho, The Former Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said: "Entrust CTU to organize dialogues for all to contribute together to a Sustainable Development of the Mekong Delta toward 2045".



Being in the central position of the Mekong Delta, Can Tho University plays a key role in the development of the region. The University's mission "To be the leading national institution for education, research and technology transfer, making significant contribution to the development of high quality human resources, fostering the talents and the advancement of science and technology to cater for the regional and national socio – economic development. Can Tho University is the crucial driving force for the development of the Mekong Delta Region". Can Tho University's vision "To be one of the leading higher education institution in terms of quality in Vietnam and one of the top universities in training and research recognized in the region and the world."

Remarkably at the moment, CTU is actively implementing the Can Tho University Improvement Project, period 2015 – 2022 supported by JICA and 9 Japanese Universities. The overall objective of the Project is to support CTU to become an excellent international university in the field of agriculture, aquaculture & fisheries, environment and other related fields, in order to contribute to the socio – economic development of the Mekong Delta region and the nation. Through 7 years of activities implementation, Project has obtained many great achievements in strengthening human resources, facilities, equipment, and scientific research – technology development; to act as a foundation for Technical Cooperation Project phase 2 (TC2), simultaneously act as an important foundation for CTU to utilize its asset, resources, continues to develop and fulfil its mission in the development of Mekong Delta region



Facing new challenges and opportunities , and with strategic development orientation of The Communist Party & Government, Can Tho University along with its resources and position, needs to connect and collaborate with relevant partners, domestically and internationally in order to carry out social responsibility as committed, to contribute for a sustainable development of the Mekong Delta region and the whole nation. **"Diễn đàn Phát triển bền vững ĐBSCL – Tầm nhìn 2045" (Sustainable Development of the Mekong Delta – SDMD Outlook 2045)** as a result, established and operated, aim to effectively facing the above issues.

Legal basic

Documents of the 13th National Congress of Vietnam Communist Party, 2021.

Resolution no. 120/NQ-CP date 17/11/2017 on Sustainable Development of the Mekong Delta under climate change

Decision no. 68/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister date 15/01/2017 on “The revision of the construction plan of the Mekong Delta region by 2030 with vision towards 2050”

Decision no. 825/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister (date 12/06/2020) on the establishment and promulgation of the Operational Regulation of the Mekong Delta Regional Coordination Council for the 2020 – 2025 period.

Decision no. 1054/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister (date 02/07/2021) on members of the Mekong Delta Regional Coordinating Council for the 2021 – 2025 period.

Decision no. 6004/QĐ-BGDĐT, date 21/09/2007 of The Ministry of Education & Training on the General Development of Can Tho University.

Resolution of the 12th Can Tho University Communist Party Congress, period 2020 – 2025. Final report of 2021 SDMD Symposium (Can Tho University and JICA co-organized on 30/3/2021 in Can Tho city)

Decision no. 1529/QĐ-ĐHCT (date 02/6/2021) of the Rector of Can Tho University establishing the Steering Committee and Working Group for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong Delta region with a vision to 2045.

Objectives of SDMD 2045 Forum

Overall objective:

SDMD 2045 is established and hosted by Can Tho University to integrate national and international collaborative research & development activities, aim for contribution to the development of the Mekong Delta and beyond with a vision to 2045.

Specific objectives:

(i) Connect, provide and share information on the current status, potential, challenges and propose solutions to develop key fields of the Mekong Delta region amongst stakeholders through regular Forum to act as a basis, to contribute to the formulation of guidelines, policies and strategies for sustainable development of the Mekong Delta region with a vision to 2045; (ii) Collaborate in making and implementing application programs and development projects (vice versa) amongst stakeholders, contribute to the development of the socio – economics – environment of the region; (iii) Develop information and data exploitation centre, to analyse and synthesize data, information; share information and consult to contribute to the sustainable development of the Mekong Delta region.

Activities of SDMD 2045 Forum

Organizing regular SDMD forum (Once per 2 years)

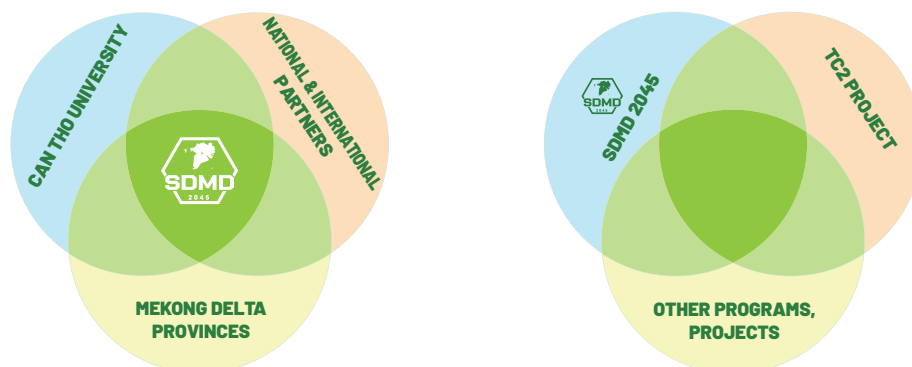
The forum convokes many participants, including central and local governments, scientists, companies, domestic and international investors; connect, share information and propose policies and solutions to support sustainable development in the Mekong Delta region. The forum also creates opportunities for communication, connection and collaboration of programs and projects between partners, domestically and internationally.

SDMD 2022 is the first forum, topic: ***"Science and Technology: Driving force toward innovation and sustainable development"***, expected to be held on 30/10/2022 at CTU.

Developing and implementing programs and projects for application and development for the Mekong Delta region

Through collaboration activities amongst stakeholders in the network, as a result it will promote formation and implementation of Programs, projects for the development of region. Can Tho University is an important "bridge" for Programs, projects. Projects can be signed at the Forum, or during the implementation of SDMD.

Plan to connect, collaborate in developing and implementing SDMD 2045 Programs and Projects.



*Collaboration and development plan for SDMD 2045 Project (left)
and Coordination between SDMD 2045 and other Programs, Projects in CTU*

Programs, Projects of SDMD 2045 (the acronym SDMD 2045 Project) are developed and implemented in the direction of:

(i) Promoting the role and strengths of Can Tho University, especially human resources, facilities, science and technology through training, research and technology transfer activities, connecting domestic and international partners together for the development of Mekong Delta;

(ii) Promoting the resources/assets of companies, enterprises in collaboration and development

- (iii) Promoting the role of the government in strategic development and creating the most suitable environment for developing;
- (iv) Attracting and promoting domestic as well as international collaboration of all programs, projects that aim to develop Mekong Delta region;
- (v) Beneficiary is Mekong Delta region.
- (vi) Interdisciplinary and inter-regional collaboration and development, connection of production – processing – business chain;
- (vii) Multilateral collaboration, including Scientists, Producers – Businesses, Investors, Sponsors...;
- (viii) Prominent issues are focused in collaboration: adaptation and mitigation of impacts of climate change; high technology application, 4.0 technology; integrated and sustainable development; Mekong Delta features.

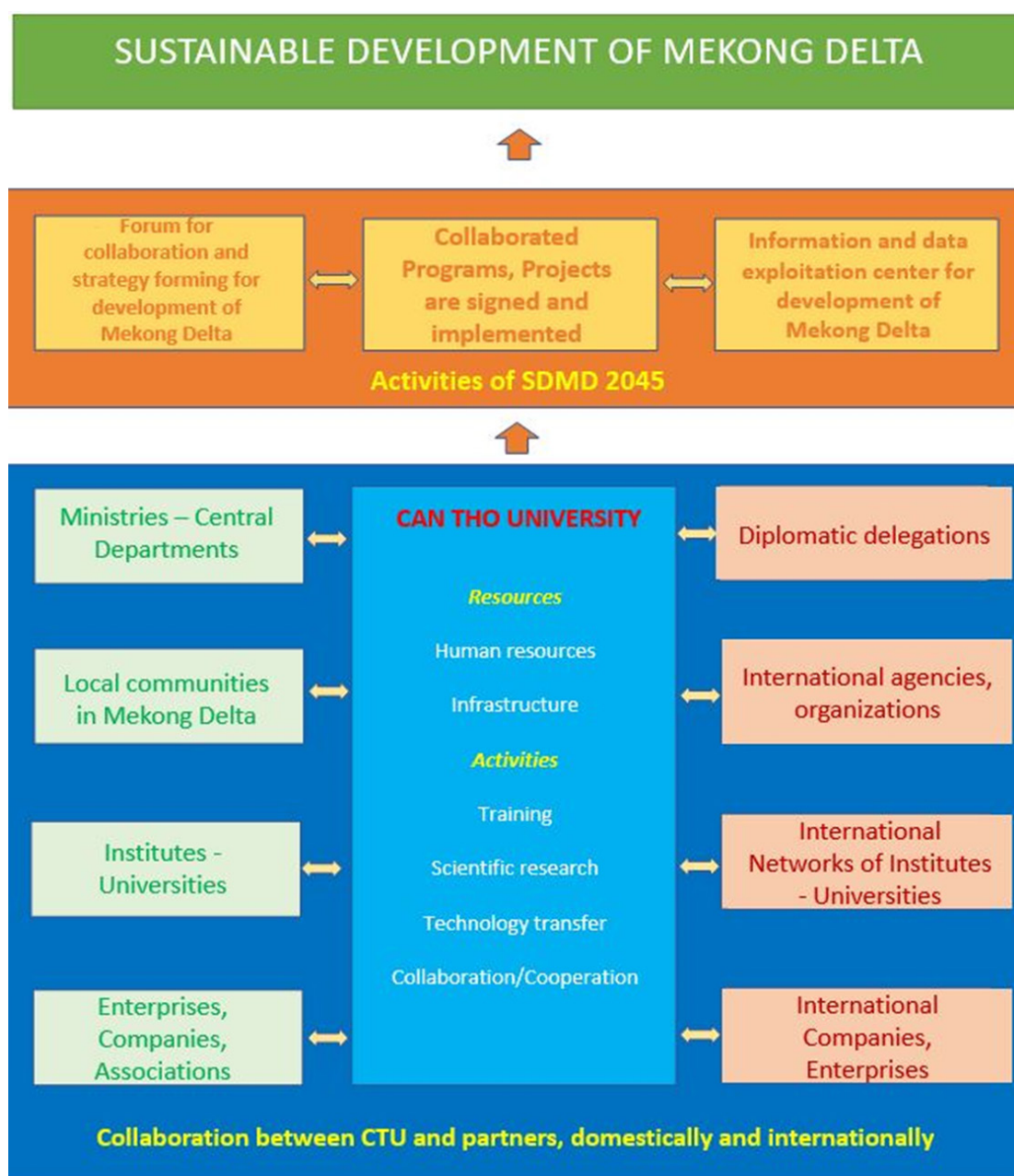


Diagram: Activities of collaboration and development of Mekong Delta

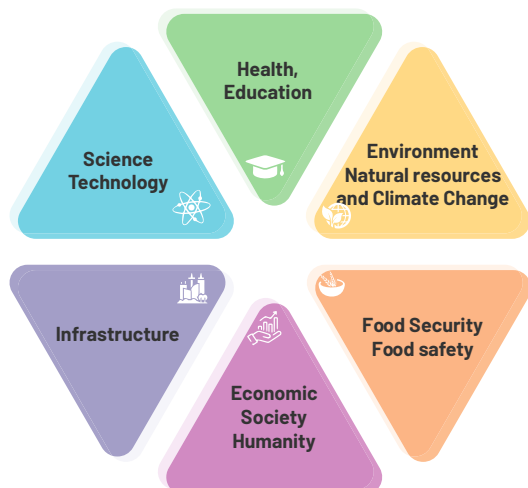


One of the important content of SDMD 2045 is to develop information & data exploitation center, provide consultation services for development of Mekong Delta in the era of The Fourth Technology Revolution. Image source: Internet

Establishment of integrated data & information center for the development of Mekong Delta

Through Technical Cooperation project of JICA (Japan)(the acronym TC2) at Can Tho University, integrated data & information center for the development of Mekong Delta will be developed and operated; and continue to advance within the framework of SDMD. Function of the center is to collect, preserve, analyze and share data, information and documents; consulting users through various means, especially cyberspace; and connecting partners, domestically and internationally. The center will continuously and dynamically operate in an effective way within the framework of SDMD 2045 forum.

Active fields of SDMD 2045 Forum



SDMD 2045 forum focus on these key fields:

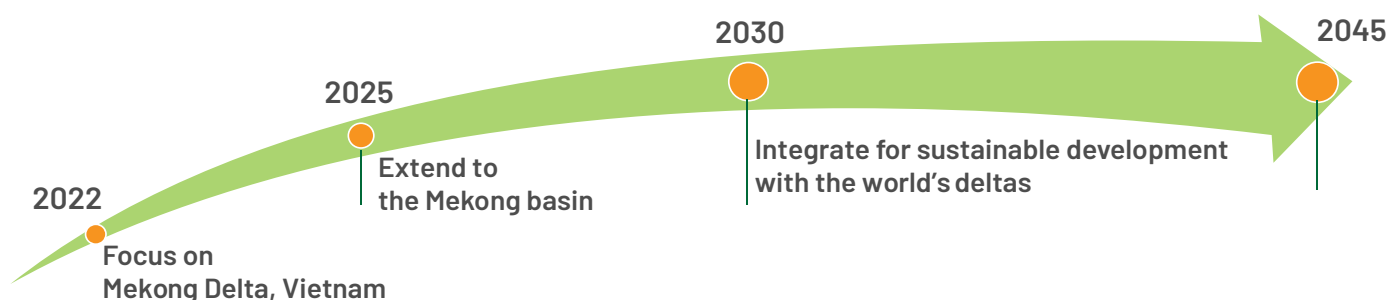
- (i) Health and education;
- (ii) Science and technology;
- (iii) Environment, climate change, natural resources;
- (iv) Food security and food safety;
- (v) Economics, society and humanity;
- (vi) Infrastructure

SDMD 2045 Partners



Vision, Orientation and Impact of SDMD 2045

Orientation of activities of SDMD 2045 as well as its impacts throughout each period are described as follows:



SDMD 2045 Outcomes



Regular SDMD Forum
(once per 2 years)



Collaborative R&D
programs, projects



Mekong Delta
Database



Consultation
and training



Publish books, journals,
documents



Seminars, exhibitions
on the Mekong Delta



Members and partners
network



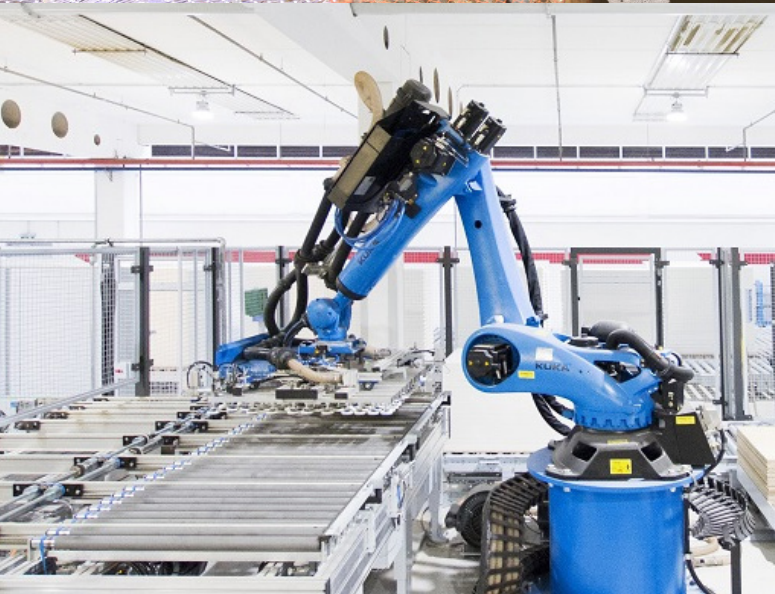
Collaboration with
major deltas in the World



Impact indicators
of SDMD 2045



Development indicators
of the Mekong Delta



The objective of SDMD 2045 Forum is to contribute to the sustainable development of the Mekong Delta and integration with the world toward 2045. Image source: CTU, Internet



SDMD 2045 Impact Assessment

At every Forum, specialized group will collect comments, ideas, suggestions, evaluations of participants and partners;

For collaborative Programs, projects; comments, ideas, suggestions and evaluations of partners will be collected after termination of Programs, Projects.

Every 5 year surveys will be conducted, opinions and suggestions of stakeholders about impacts of SDMD forum will be collected;

Main indicators for SDMD impact assessment according to the sustainable development criteria of OECD as follows: relevancy, coherency, project's effectiveness, use of resource's efficiency, impact, sustainability.



OECD Project Impact

Image source: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/>



Contact Information



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