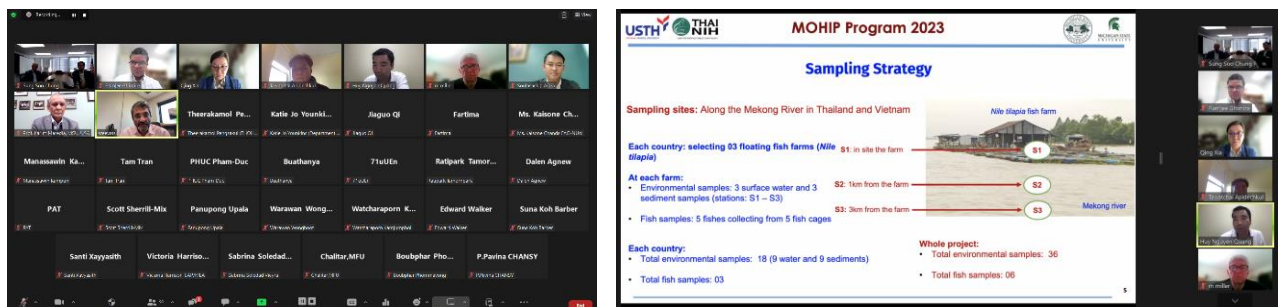


MOHIP Holds Research Projects Kickoff Meeting

On October 2, 2023, the Michigan State University (MSU) Mekong One Health Innovation Program (MOHIP) announced the three winning proposals for the MOHIP Research Grant at the kickoff meeting, an important milestone for the program. The three proposals represented diverse and critical issues facing the lower Mekong region that demand new knowledge and evidence-based problem solutions in the lower Mekong countries, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. Each research project is unique in its focus, methodology, and the context of the country. The researchers will employ the One Health approach to tackle the health challenges and their intricate relationship between humans, animals, and the environment.

The three winning research proposals are:

1. Laos: Soulasack Vannanmahaxay (PI), National University of Laos
Project Title: Surveillance and control of brucellosis in Vientiane, Lao PDR
2. Thailand: Tawatchai Apidechul (PI), Mae Fah Luang University (MFU), Thailand.
Project Title: Exposures and potential health risk from animals and environmental exposures among the hill tribe and stateless people living in border areas of Thailand-Myanmar-Laos: One Health Approach
3. Vietnam: Nguyen Quang Huy (PI), University of Science and Technology of Hanoi (USTH), Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST)
Project Title: Surveillance of antibiotic contamination, coliform bacteria, and resistome in the Mekong River basin environment of Thailand and Vietnam from the One Health perspective



At the meeting, each PI of the three projects introduced their proposal. Representing the Office of East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the U.S. Department of State (MOHIP sponsor) Ms. Katie Jo Younkens gave welcome remarks and congratulated the three projects' PIs. She spoke highly about the successes and accomplishments of the MOHIP program in the first year. Research project country team members, MOHIP advisors and country coordinators were also in attendance at the meeting. They shared positive thoughts about the proposals and the potential impact the research will bring to the lower Mekong countries, specifically on country health policies and practices. The MOHIP program will announce the second round of calls for research proposals in the near future.