



2018

Our Year in Review

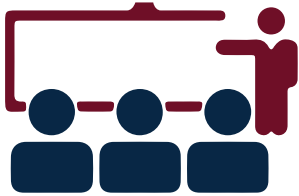
Report

Index

3	Achievements at a Glance
4	Strategic Assumptions
5	Mekong Club Operational Support
6	Understanding Modern Slavery
7	Enhancing Policy and Procedures
8	Assessing and Mitigating Risk
9	Capacity Building
10	Building Leadership
11	Community and Collaboration
12	Annexes

Achievements at a Glance

TRAINING AND AWARENESS RAISING



129 TRAINING SESSIONS
13,000+ PARTICIPANTS
13 COUNTRIES
500 COMPANIES

COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS **7**
MEMBER COMPANIES **32**
WORKING GROUPS **4**
INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLES **16**



NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS



12 PUBLISHED PAPERS
40 TIMES IN THE NEWS

PROJECTS

CORPORATE TOOLS **17**
TECH SOLUTIONS **5**



Strategic Assumptions

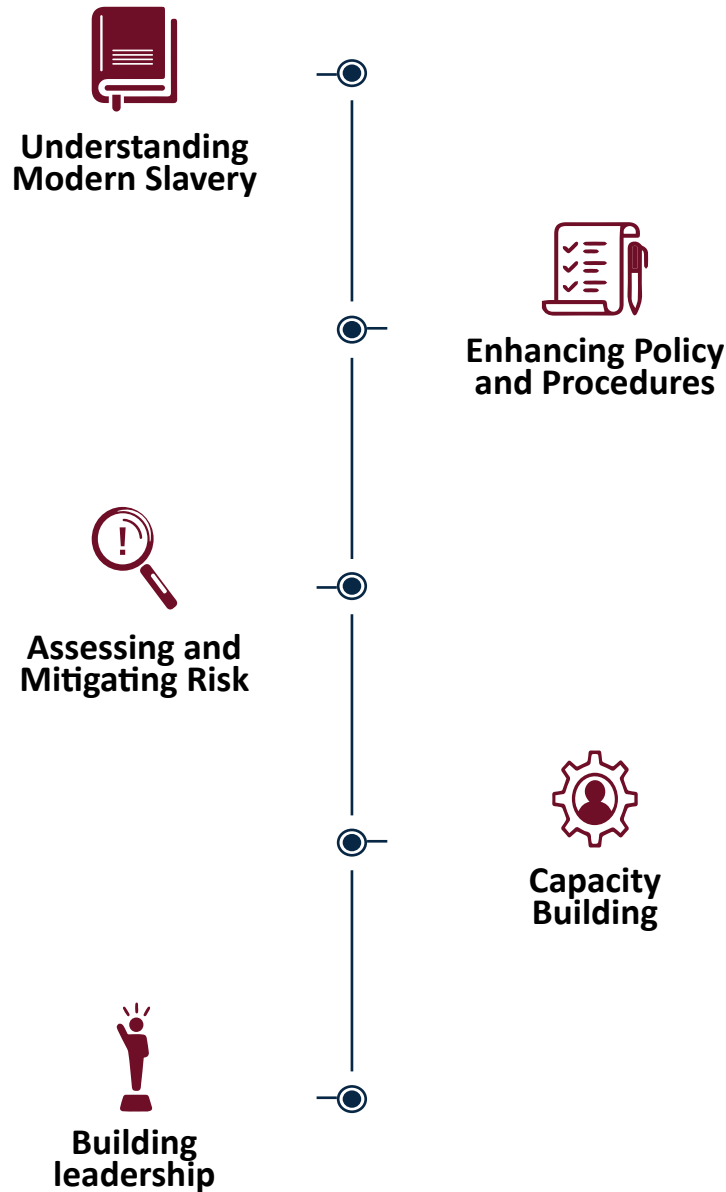
The strategic foundation of the Mekong Club Association is based on the following assumptions:

- Increased legislation, litigation, media coverage, and consumer interest has encouraged companies to expand and improve their understanding and response to the issue of modern slavery within business sectors;
- To support this process, the Mekong Club's Association was set up to encourage like-minded companies (financial services, manufacturing, retailers, and hospitality) to come together as a community to share their experiences and work together in a safe environment to address the issue of modern slavery;
- During quarterly working group meetings, participating members review available information, identify industry priorities and provide suggestions on what can be done to identify risk and add value to a collective response;
- Between these meetings, the Mekong Club takes these recommendations and operationalizes them (e.g. developing toolkits, training programs, data updates, etc.);
- Once developed and tested, these outputs are offered to businesses to improve their understanding and response to the modern slavery issue; and
- By offering this support, the business community achieves the following: increased private sector involvement, increased private sector buy-in, an expansion in the overall counter trafficking response, and a reduction in forced labor.

Working with the private sector complements existing public sector programs in an efficient and cost-effective way. This approach helps to increase our collective impact.

Mekong Club Operational Support

During 2018, the Mekong Club continued to focus on five [action categories](#) that aim to help companies address modern slavery more efficiently and effectively. Our approaches were developed with businesses for businesses, following an engagement process with sector-specific or cross-sector working groups. Each of the five clusters below address specific goals within a company’s anti-slavery strategy. Note that these categories tend to be sequential.





Understanding Modern Slavery

Many companies start out with limited knowledge regarding issue of modern slavery. Evolving factors that pose a potential business and reputational risk prompt a company to begin seeking information. During 2018, the Mekong Club addressed this need with a series of awareness raising presentations, tools and documents made available throughout Asia, including:

E-Learning

2,462 people have used our multi-language e-learning toolkit to learn about modern slavery. The full set includes 15 videos, infographic sheets, a resource manual and quizzes. Since the tool's launch, our YouTube videos have gained more than 4000 views. Several corporations are utilizing these materials to educate staff, either through their platforms or using the Mekong Club's curriculum. Major partners using this tool include Thomson Reuters (now Refinitiv) and the Foreign Trade Association (now Amfori).

Knowledge Hub

271 people used our Knowledge Hub to collect information related to modern slavery.

Publications

Major documents published to educate the private sector include:

- [Using Blockchain to Combat Modern Slavery](#)
This booklet introduces blockchain technology and the various ways in which it is being applied in the fight against modern slavery.
- [Private Sector Assessment Reports](#)
These ten reports provide a broad overview of Mekong Club target countries in terms of demographics, private sector scope and industry activity. They also investigate the extent of modern slavery and human-trafficking by country, including: Vietnam, Bangladesh, Japan, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, Indonesia, and China.
- [Modern Slavery Typologies for Financial Services](#)
This report allows financial service professionals to understand typical modern slavery scenarios for a range of industries. The information provided includes a typical victim profile, methods of entrapment, and questions that bankers may ask to identify this activity.

Media Coverage

During 2018, the Mekong Club and staff were profiled in over 40 newspaper/magazine articles, radio interviews and TV profiles. Refer to our media coverage for a sample of our media highlights.

Communication Formats

During 2018, the Mekong Club put out 12 monthly news digests, 4 quarterly newsletters and 5 special email electronic direct mail (EDMs).

Outcome

Using a range of different interventions, there was a significant increase in basic knowledge and understanding among corporate individuals seeking to understand and address the issue of modern slavery in Hong Kong and beyond.



Enhancing Policy and Procedure

Once companies have collected and analysed information on modern slavery, many move forward to establish an internal governance system to assign responsibilities to employees to take action. These employees often work in areas such as legal, communications, CSR, procurement, compliance and risk assessment. The steps often include reviewing internal and external policies, codes of conduct, and contract language with partners/suppliers to ensure the organisation is in line with prevailing trends and legal obligations. Many companies also develop an internal action plan to outline the steps that they will follow, along with the human and financial resources required.

Technical Assistance

The Mekong Club provided direct technical assistance to 145 organisations (265 meetings) to help enhance their internal policies and procedures. Examples include:

- Review of a manufacturing company's code of public and private code of conduct statements;
- Detailed analysis given to a manufacturing company on the process of migrant recruitment throughout Asia;
- Review of a company's briefing notes on legal requirements of modern slavery; and
- Inputs on an 'Environmental Social Governance' (ESG) report related to modern slavery.

Annex 2 summarises the number of meetings carried out by organisation and sector.

Policy Tools

In 2018, the Mekong Club developed a number of tools to help companies improve their analysis of modern slavery policies and procedures, including:

- [Transparency in Supply Chains Compliance Tool User Guide](#)
This tool helps companies understand modern slavery legislation and how it affects their business by navigating our flowcharts;
- [Hospitality Compliance Checklist User Guide](#)
This checklist was developed to understand the risks and remedies of modern slavery in the hotel industry. It covers topics such as third-party contractors, construction, procurement, and forced prostitution; and
- [Asian Labour Laws](#)
This tool compares labour violations and domestic laws in six Asian countries to see how countries deal differently with modern slavery.

Outcome

The activities and tools listed above significantly enhanced policies and procedures within corporations to help them better plan, prepare and operationalise the process of addressing the issue of modern slavery.



Assessing and Mitigating Risk

Many companies carry out internal risk assessments to identify any vulnerability within their businesses. For banks, this might include identifying suspicious transactions that could be linked to modern slavery which would pose a risk of money laundering. For manufacturers, this might include looking deeper within their supply chains to ensure that there are no exploitative labour practices. Below is a sample of approaches that the Mekong Club is developing, or has developed, to assist in this process in 2018.

- **Risk Assessment Matrix**
This supply chain management tool offers an interactive map of modern slavery risk, combining publicly available data and audit information only available to the Mekong Club. The tool visualises where the risk lies, by country, region, and commodity.
- **Apprise for NGOs – Victim Identification App**
Apprise for NGOs assists NGOs and authorities during investigations and rescue operations. It offers five pre-screening questionnaires in several languages. The [Apprise App Video](#) summarises the approach.
- **Apprise Audit App**
The Apprise Audit app assists auditors during factory visits through a screening questionnaire in several languages. Both Apprise projects are a collaboration between the Mekong Club and the United Nations University Institute on Computing and Society.
- **[Remediation Toolkit](#)**
This tool equips companies to address supply chain labour violations by using flowcharts to guide a person through a set of recommended actions. The toolkit includes five components: preparation, communication, investigation, remedies, and legal action.
- **[Profiling Risk: Countries & Commodities](#)**
This dashboard tool helps the business community to visualise the risk of modern slavery by country and commodity by using a combination of well-regarded data sources.

Outcome

The tools listed above have significantly enhanced the range of options available to help companies to identify and mitigate the risk of modern slavery in their business.



Capacity Building

After acquiring the information and experience needed to address the issue, there is also a need for updates and continuing education for those responding to this problem. This component offers supplementary resources to support this effort. They include the following:

- **[Introductory Guide, Data, and Keywords for Banking](#)**
15 people downloaded this guide. It provides an overview of the topic, the risks, and the emerging responses seen by financial service providers in the fight against slavery. This information is coupled with useful infographics that can be shared.
- **[Bank Training: Identifying Suspicious Activity](#)**
In 2018, the Mekong Club trained 755 financial service professionals from over 60 banks to identify the risks of slavery. This training is tailored to the needs of the audience, ranging from frontline branch staff, to senior leadership, to risk and compliance training (Annex 3).

Outcome

The written guide and extensive bank training activities listed above significantly enhanced the ability of banks to better track and respond to the issue of modern slavery.



Building Leadership

As part of our thought leadership efforts, the Mekong Club continues to act as a business incubator to take new and innovative projects from an initial concept to an operational prototype. Once developed, these projects are either expanded in-house or handed over to the private sector for refinement and replication. Below are a number of leadership projects initiated or expanded during this progress period:

- **[Business Pledge Against Modern Slavery](#)**
This pledge represents a short anti-slavery statement, supplemented by actionable steps that take companies on a journey from understanding the problem to eventually becoming a leader in the field. Each company participating in the Pledge signs up and agrees to have its logo publicly displayed on the pledge page; identifies categories in which it's taking action in the fight against modern slavery; tracks these categories alongside the Mekong Club; and contributes to the overall public score measuring the business community's aggregated impact. To date, nine companies have signed up. Please see the [pledge video](#) for more details.
- **Moon Goal Program**
The goal of the Moon Goal Program is to facilitate the process of putting in place a long-term goal for the private sector to address the issue of modern slavery within supply chains. This includes developing a website portal to link all of the relevant partners together and develop a sense of community. Please see the [Stop Slavery Summit Spotlight Session](#) and [the Stop Slavery Summit White paper](#) for additional information.
- **[End Slavery App](#)**
This points-based app allows our community to find out exactly how their actions are helping to save people from slavery. This is a free resource that can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play. Please see the [End Slavery App video](#) for more details.
- **eMin**
Using the eMIN tool, companies can ensure increased transparency in the supply chains by creating an immutable record of a worker's employment contract to be stored on the Ethereum blockchain. The app will be used by employment agencies and factories that directly employ workers, fitting in to existing recruitment processes. This project is a collaboration between the Mekong Club and Diginex.
- **ESG and Investments**
The Mekong Club has launched an ESG project in an effort to increase the ESG investment based on forced labor factors. In order to achieve this goal, the Mekong Club is spearheading the standardization of the forced labor indicators for stakeholders involved in the ESG reporting and investment such as the ESG data provider, sustainable reporting agency and the asset managers. This project also strives to positively influence the forced labor practices within the private sector while providing the asset manager with a viable investment opportunity.
- **Best Practice Case Studies**
The Mekong Club has completed four 'Best Practice Case Study' examples for the following companies: Standard Chartered Bank, H&M, Adidas and Intercontinental Hotels Group.
- **The Asia Pacific Banks Alliance Whitepaper**
The Mekong Club has collaborated with the Thomson Reuters Foundation and a group of financial institutions across Asia Pacific to produce a set of modern slavery indicators for financial services.

Outcome

These efforts have helped to add innovation to the range of viable tools and approaches available for businesses to identify and address modern slavery.

Community and Collaboration

1. Mekong Club Working Groups

Please see Annex 4 for a summary of Working Group Members and Working Group Participants.

2. [Mekong Club Staff](#)

In 2018, our team continued to grow. The expanded team includes contributors in the fields of research, IT, supply chain sustainability and accounting.

3. Partnerships

Below is a summary of partnerships developed with other organisations in 2018.

- **Regulatory DataCorp Inc (RDC):** The Mekong Club collaborated with RDC to increase the prioritisation and free provision of modern slavery related negative news hits in client screening packages for all RDC customers.
- **Diginex:** The Mekong Club and Diginex have collaborated to produce an ethereum-based application that combats employment contract substitution and abuse.
- **IBM:** The Mekong Club and IBM have shared expertise and technology, to better enhance the offering of typologies and data analytics around modern slavery activity to stakeholders such as financial service providers.
- **United Nations University Institute on Computing and Society:** The Mekong Club and UNU-CS, a United Nations research institute on technology, have been collaborating since 2017 on the 'Apprise App' concept.
- **Interpol:** In 2018, the Mekong Club delivered two half-day sessions at Interpol-run events on migrant smuggling and human trafficking in Uzbekistan and Jordan.
- **Thomson Reuters (now Refinitiv):** Mass media and information firm Thomson Reuters is using the Mekong Club's e-learning videos to raise awareness on the issue among its clients.
- **Thomson Reuters Foundation:** The Mekong Club has collaborated with the Thomson Reuters Foundation and a group of financial institutions across Asia Pacific to produce a set of modern slavery indicators for financial services.

Annexes

Annex 1

Summary of participants receiving presentations/training by country and sectors.

Location	Mixed	#	Single	#	Working Group	#	Media	#	NGO	#	Faith	#	School	#	Gov	#	Participants	Events
Hongkong	1,992	13	1025	10	90	6	0	0	27	2	0	0	3,190	13	32	1	6,356	45
China	0	0	140	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	1	175	3
USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	322	10	0	0	322	10
Singapore	185	5	269	6	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	1,115	4	20	1	1,595	17
Bangladesh	0	0	164	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2	175	6
Srilanka	63	1	265	8	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	356	2	18	2	704	14
Nigeria	500	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	1
UK	0	0	150	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	1
Uzbekistan	28	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	1
Jordan	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	1
Thailand	149	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	2	0	0	0	0	31	1	228	5
New Zealand	1072	6	113	3	0	0	4	2	20	2	140	4	1,200	3	56	4	2605	24
Malaysia	189	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	189	1
Global (Webex)	0	0	325	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	325	4
Total	4,203	31	2,126	38	90	6	6	3	101	7	140	4	6,183	32	203	12	13,052	129

Annex 2

Summary of technical assistance meetings/events by sector.

Private Sector	NGO/Faith	Media	Gov	Total Meetings
68	58	5	14	235*

*Some organisations were provided assistance over the course of several meetings

Annex 3

Summary of banks trained by the Mekong Club.

Hongkong	Country	Date	Mixed	Single
HSBC	Hongkong	3-20-2018	0	41
HSBC	Singapore	3-26-2018	0	23
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	Singapore	3-28-2018	0	46
ABN Amro	Singapore	3-28-2018	0	55
Macquarie	Singapore	3-29-2018	0	32
HSBC – Training	Thailand	4-23-2018	0	65
HSBC – Executive Training	Thailand	4-23-2018	0	14
HSBC – Intern Training	Thailand	4-23-2018	0	13
Mixed banks – training	Sri Lanka	6-5-2018	0	46
HSBC Town Hall Meeting	Sri Lanka	6-5-2018	0	77
HSBC FCR Champions	Sri Lanka	6-6-2018	0	9
HSBC Banking Training	Sri Lanka	6-6-2018	0	37
HSBC Town Hall Meeting	Sri Lanka	6-6-2018	0	67
Standard Chartered	Sri Lanka	6-7-2018	0	12
Banking Conference	Bangladesh	8-10-2018	66	0
Banking Conference	Bangladesh	8-13-2018	83	0
HSBC	New Zealand	10-31-2018	0	65
Finserv event	USA	12-6-2018	0	4
Total			149	606

Annex 4

Working group summary chart

Working Group	Members	Observers
FinServ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABN AMRO N.V. • BNP Paribas • Standard Chartered • E&Y • HSBC • Bank of America • Commonwealth Bank • Macquarie • KPMG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomson Reuters • Westpac • Citibank • Herbert Smith Freehills • JP Morgan
Apparel & Footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adidas • Disney • Li & Fung • H&M • MGF Sourcing • Kering • VF Corporation • Clarks • Philip Morris International 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-Mart • Target • Youngone • PVH Group • KA Asia
Retail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS Watson • Lidl • Coop • Crayola • Hallmark • Mattel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldi • John Lewis
Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morrisons • Hong Kong & Shanghai Hotels • Intercontinental Hotels • MGM Macau 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenview • Mandarin Oriental • Sands • Shangri-La • Swire Properties • Swire Hotels

A stylized red logo consisting of two overlapping 'M' shapes. The logo is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the page, with a thin red diagonal line extending from the bottom left towards the top right, passing through the logo.

info@themekongclub.org



www.themekongclub.org