

Call for applications

Climate Skills Programme

Shape the Future: Join the Youth Green Innovators for Sustainable Enterprise 2026 Programme

Mekong Institute at Can Tho University is now calling for applications for the Youth Green Innovators for Sustainable Enterprise Programme, under the framework of the “*Climate Skills – Seeds for Green Transition*” programme (Climate Skills). The programme is implemented in collaboration with the Mekong Institute, Can Tho University, the British Council in Viet Nam, Edinburgh Napier University (United Kingdom), and ASSIST Vietnam. We are seeking motivated young applicants from the Mekong Delta who are passionate about addressing climate challenges, promoting sustainable development, advancing green entrepreneurship, and contributing to an inclusive green economy in their local communities.

Introduction to Mekong Institute

Mekong Institute, Can Tho University, Viet Nam, was established on July 14, 2025, pursuant to Resolution 57 of the Can Tho University Council. The Institute serves as an interdisciplinary research and engagement hub that promotes sustainable development and resilience across deltaic and river basin regions.

Guided by the vision of LEAD (Learning, Engagement, Advancement, Development), the Mekong Institute delivers its mission through the RISE approach (Research, Integrate, Support, Engage) and fulfils its mandate via the REACH framework (Refine, Educate, Advance, Connect, Harness).

The Mekong Institute aspires to become a leading regional and international centre for interdisciplinary research, knowledge exchange, and practical engagement, contributing to long-term sustainability and resilience in the Mekong Delta and beyond. To achieve this, the Institute focuses on:

- Serving as a focal point for interdisciplinary research and engagement on sustainable development and resilience in delta and river basin regions.
- Advancing collaborative initiatives that integrate research, innovation, and capacity-building across sectors and stakeholders.
- Supporting communities, practitioners, and decision-makers through strategic knowledge, training, and applied solutions.
- Promoting partnerships and exchanges among scientists, youth, local communities, government agencies, and international organizations to strengthen regional resilience and sustainable futures.

Introduction to Climate Skills programme

Viet Nam is a highly vulnerable country to the impacts of global environmental challenges such as air pollution, rising sea levels, plastic waste, and others. At the same time, significant efforts are currently being made to address and mitigate these issues in pursuit of a greener economy. In the British Council's recent Next Generation research report, young people in Viet Nam aged 16–30 identified clean water and sanitation, clean energy, environmental action planning, and adequate living conditions as their top priorities.

The Climate Skills – Seeds for Transition programme provides a platform that equips young people with the knowledge, skills, and capacities needed to understand, mitigate, and adapt to climate change, empowering them to contribute to a greener and more inclusive transition. Developed through the long-standing collaboration between the British Council and HSBC, the programme supports youth skills development with a strong focus on education and sustainability. Implemented across six countries – the United Kingdom, Mexico, Brazil, India, Indonesia, and Viet Nam – the programme aims to empower young people, including those experiencing marginalisation, to take an active role in climate action and the transition towards sustainable energy systems. Its overarching goal is to establish a Green Talent Network, connecting youth equipped with globally relevant green skills.

In Viet Nam, the programme focuses on young people aged 18–35 from vulnerable or low-income communities in the Mekong Delta, providing training, resources, and opportunities for climate entrepreneurship, advocacy, and cross-sectoral collaboration. Through a combination of capacity-building, youth-led initiatives, and long-term partnerships, Climate Skills fosters youth employability, strengthens community resilience, and advances sustainable development at local, regional, and global levels.

Climate Skills programme objectives

The general objective of the project is to build a network of youth equipped with the knowledge, skills, and ambition to address climate change issues in the Vietnamese Mekong Delta (VMD) region and the broader area in general. Specific purposes include:

- To empower the youth network to strengthen its leadership and capacity to influence climate change adaptation efforts and community resilience in the VMD.
- To develop spaces for knowledge-sharing, community-based engagement, and meaningful “competence exchange” among youth networks and practitioners across the region.
- To amplify the voice of young people and expand capacity-building opportunities, including the engagement of institutional lecturers and local stakeholders in policy advocacy for climate change adaptation, with a strong emphasis on gender equality and social inclusion.
- To provide vulnerable youth with practical green skills and entrepreneurship pathways, enabling them to participate effectively in the transition towards sustainable and circular economies.

- To support youth-led climate initiatives through training, mentorship, and collaborative innovation, fostering long-term partnerships between communities, academia, employers, and development actors.
- To strengthen regional and global connections among young leaders, education institutions, grassroots organisations, and policymakers in order to promote inclusive climate action and sustainable development in the Mekong Delta.

Scope and Programme Activities for Selected Candidates

The Mekong Institute at Can Tho University is pleased to invite applications from young people in the Mekong Delta, particularly youth leaders, community practitioners, students, graduates, and early-career professionals who are passionate about addressing climate challenges and contributing to sustainable development in the region. Eligible applicants are young people aged 18–30 who are living, studying, or working in the Mekong Delta and are committed to creating positive local impact through green innovation, entrepreneurship, and youth leadership. We especially encourage applications from young women, rural youth, ethnic minority youth, disadvantaged youth, and those who feel left behind in the transition to a green economy.

In partnership with Edinburgh Napier University (United Kingdom), Can Tho University, and ASSIST Vietnam, the programme will deliver a series of learning, exchange, and innovation activities connecting young people from Viet Nam and the United Kingdom. The initiative aims to strengthen youth capacity, promote inclusive green entrepreneurship, and build long-term collaboration between two regions: the Vietnamese Mekong Delta, Viet Nam and Edinburgh, United Kingdom, during the period from July to October 2026. Key activities include:

- Participating in a series of practical training and capacity-building activities, beginning with the official programme launch and onboarding session, followed by interactive learning modules on climate literacy, green entrepreneurship, circular economy, innovation skills, leadership development, and collaboration with peers from Viet Nam and the United Kingdom.
- 20 selected applicants will take part in an intensive on-site training programme at Can Tho University, Viet Nam (8–10 July 2026), where participants will strengthen their knowledge and practical skills in sustainable enterprise, eco-innovation, facilitation, and community-based problem solving. Following the training, 10 outstanding participants will be selected to join the Youth Innovation Lab in Edinburgh, Scotland, while the other participants will continue through the online international innovation programme. Details on financial support and participation benefits are provided in the section for selected participants.
- Participation in the Youth Innovation Lab (1–3 September 2026), delivered in the United Kingdom and online, where participants will co-create innovative solutions with international peers, receive mentoring support, present their project ideas, and discuss next-step plans to ensure the long-term sustainability and impact of their initiatives.

Benefits for Selected Candidates

Selected applicants participating in the programme will be entitled to the following benefits:

- Full funding support: Fully-funded grants will be provided to cover participation in all programme activities. Any additional personal expenses incurred will not be covered under any circumstances.
- Certificate of participation: Participants who complete all phases of the programme will receive an official certificate issued by the organising institution.
- Mentorship and expert support: Opportunities to be accompanied and supported by a network of experts, researchers, and youth leaders with outstanding climate initiatives in both Viet Nam and the United Kingdom.
- International exchange opportunity in Edinburgh, United Kingdom: Outstanding participants or teams may be selected to join the Youth Innovation Lab in Edinburgh, where they will learn, connect, and collaborate with young people and partner organisations from both countries.
- Access to specialised knowledge and practical learning: Participants will benefit from training and knowledge exchange in areas such as green entrepreneurship, circular economy, climate literacy, innovation, community engagement, and inclusive development.
- Future engagement opportunities: Participants may also be invited to join and collaborate in other relevant programmes, initiatives, and projects implemented by the Mekong Institute.

Requirements for Candidates

Number of Selected Applicants: A maximum of 20 applicants will be selected.

Eligibility Criteria

The programme invites applications from candidates who meet the following requirements:

- Applicants must be between 18 and 30 years of age.
- Applicants must be living, studying, or working in the Mekong Delta and have an interest in areas related to climate change, sustainable development, green entrepreneurship, circular economy, community development, social innovation, or other relevant fields.
- The programme particularly welcomes applications from young women, rural youth, ethnic minority youth, disadvantaged youth, and those who feel underrepresented in the transition to a green economy.
- Applicants are encouraged to have basic English communication skills. However, strong English proficiency is not required as interpretation support will be available during the program.
- Applicants should demonstrate strong motivation, relevant expertise, which may include part-time work, volunteering, internships, field placements, or full-time employment related to climate change and sustainable development.
- Applicants should have experience in implementing projects or delivering training programmes for young people.

- Applicants must have a passport valid for at least 6 months (as of September 2026)
- Applicants must be able to commit fully to the programme timeline and participate in all required activities as directed by the Programme Lead and Coordinator.
- Applicants must be willing to comply with the Child Protection Policy and the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Policy of the Climate Skills programme (training will be provided upon selection).

Selection Criteria for Programme Candidates

1. Mindset & Motivation

Candidates should demonstrate:

- A **solution-oriented mindset**, with the ability to identify challenges (e.g. flooding, waste, unemployment) and think proactively about solutions.
- A strong sense of **community responsibility**, with a genuine interest in creating opportunities that benefit their local area, particularly in “green work.”
- A willingness to **learn, grow, and collaborate**, including openness to new ideas and engaging with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

2. Inclusion & Opportunity

Priority will be given to individuals who:

- Experience barriers to accessing the green economy.
- Come from underrepresented or underserved groups, including:
 - Women
 - Ethnic minorities
 - Young people from immigrant backgrounds
 - Individuals facing financial hardship

3. Commitment & Participation

Candidates must:

- Be **available and committed** to programme activities scheduled in **July and September**.
- Show reliability and readiness to actively participate in all required sessions.

4. Digital & Practical Readiness

Candidates should:

- Be **comfortable using digital tools** (e.g. Zoom, online collaboration platforms), or willing to learn.
- Demonstrate the ability to engage in **online international exchange activities**.

- Be willing to **reflect on their learning journey**, including maintaining a learning log to track progress and ideas.

Application Documents:

Interested candidates are kindly invited to submit their application via the official Google Form: <https://forms.gle/7uvQ8vApxL3DScU48>

Applicants are required to prepare and upload the following supporting documents:

- A Curriculum Vitae (CV) of no more than two (2) A4 pages.
- A Motivation Letter (maximum two (2) A4 pages) outlining the reason why applicants deserve this scholarship, applicant's interest, motivation, and proposed engagement plan.
- A Letter of Recommendation (*optional but encouraged*)
- Relevant diplomas, certificates, and academic transcripts.

Application deadline: Applications must be submitted by 24 May 2026.

The evaluation results will be communicated via email within 7-10 working days after the application period closes.

* Contact Information:

For further information or additional enquiries, applicants are kindly invited to contact the programme team:

- Email: climateskills@ctu.edu.vn (cc MSc. Phan Ky Trung – Project Coordinator: pktrung@ctu.edu.vn & Mr. Nguyen Duc Trung: trungnd.titus@gmail.com)
- Support hotline: +84 7834 090 34

* Applicants who meet the interview requirements will be contacted directly to arrange an online short interview with the Organizing team.