**The Mekong School is now accpeting applications**

The Mekong School is a unique training program for civil society advocates from the Mekong region (China, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam) who are working on environmental and human rights issues.  The seven month-long program provides participants with knowledge of environmental and human rights law, with a strong focus on addressing land rights issues resulting from large-scale infrastructure projects such as hydropower dams, mines, power plants, and highways.  Through a series of field visits, participants learn how citizens are using national, regional, and international legal frameworks to advocate for equitable development in the Mekong region.  Finally, program graduates focus on ways in which they can join together as alumni to campaign for greater public participation and transparency in development planning.

The learning objectives of the Mekong School are:

* To understand the links between human rights and environmental protection
* To understand the impacts of development-induced displacement on marginalized people and the importance of land rights to rural and indigenous communities
* To learn about the series of proposed dams on the mainstream of the Mekong River, and the potential impacts of these dams on regional food security, livelihoods, and the environment
* To learn how communities are advocating for greater public participation in EIA processes and enforcement of environmental and human rights laws in the Mekong region
* To understand the importance of local knowledge in advocating for the right to participate in decision-making processes and natural resource management
* To develop students’ practical skill base in research, advocacy and campaign work
* To build positive relationships for future cross-border collaboration

Our ideal candidates are individuals who have directly experienced environmental and human rights challenges in their own communities and are highly motivated to address these issues through legal advocacy.  We welcome candidates from indigenous and rural communities who will benefit from increased knowledge of environmental and human rights law.  We are looking for people who are enthusiastic about partnering with environmental and human rights advocates throughout the Mekong region and who aspire to become future community leaders.  We have no formal education requirements, but require basic English communications skills.  The training takes place in Chiang Mai, Thailand from June to December of each year, and includes a two-month practicum in which students return to their home countries to conduct field work. Housing, transportation, and a modest living stipend are provided to successful candidates.

The deadline for applications is **February 1**of each year.  For more information, please visit our website at[www.earthrights.org](http://www.earthrights.org/).  To request an application form, please contact the Mekong School Coordinator atmekong@earthrights.org.