



## **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Mekong Flood Forum**

**26-27 May 2010**

**Don Chan Palace Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

### **Second Announcement**

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) will conduct the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Mekong Flood Forum (AMFF-8) on 26-27 May 2010 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The theme for the forum is:

#### ***'Flood risk management and mitigation in the Mekong River Basin'***

The Forum aims to raise awareness on the current state of flood risk management and mitigation at the national, regional and community levels in the Mekong River Basin. Another objective is exchange of information on the progress, achievements and future outlook with respect to the five components of the Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (FMMP). These components are: *1. Establishing a Regional Flood Management and Mitigation Centre; 2. Structural measures and flood proofing 3. Enhancing cooperation in addressing trans-boundary flood and related issues 4. Flood emergency management strengthening. 5. Land management.* The products of these components are about to be completed, or have already been produced by the Regional Flood Management and Mitigation Centre of the Mekong River Commission (MRC-RFMMC) and the National Centres of the MRC Member Countries. The Forum will also provide an opportunity for participants to discuss emerging needs related to flood risk management and mitigation within the basin and to share the progress each country has made towards holistic and balanced flood management planning.

This year's forum will be held by the end of phase I of the FMMP and preceding the start of phase II. The theme reflects the need for flood risk management and mitigation in the Mekong River Basin. Stakeholders from the MRC Member Countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam), Dialogue Partners (China and Myanmar), donor agencies, MRC Programmes, scientists from the Mekong River Basin and the international community, international and national civil society organisations, and local communities are expected to join the Forum. Under the umbrella of the main theme there will be five Topics.

#### **Topic I Community focused approach to flood risk management and mitigation**

Flood preparedness and emergency management of local authorities and communities is at the forefront to encounter flood disasters. This non-structural community focused approach forms an important part of flood risk management and mitigation, which is only recently being applied in the LMB. Programmes of enhancing the competence of civil authorities at various levels, emergency managers and communities in flood preparedness and mitigation will ultimately help facilitate the objective that emergency management systems in the riparian countries are more effectively dealing with Mekong floods. Therefore assistance and technical support to disaster management authorities, particularly at sub-national levels (province, district and commune) may help to fill the gaps and needs of existing systems. Local disaster management authorities may take the lead in the development and implementation of flood preparedness programs in which clear roles and responsibilities are defined for each line department of provincial, district and commune disaster management offices. Various

innovative approaches to flood risk reduction can be carried out in support to flood preparedness programmes, including promoting local, national and regional knowledge sharing, trans-boundary province to province cooperation in flood emergency assistance, and in ensuring sustainability of flood preparedness programme activities by integrating them into the local development planning process. People-centred approaches are generally low-cost, effective, and relevant to local conditions in a flood prone area. Ownership may gradually evolve and sustainability can be secured. Under this Topic I papers are invited that present approaches and experiences of community focused flood risk management and mitigation.

## **Topic II Flood forecasting and flash flood guidance**

The meteorology, the weather forecast and conditions in a river basin create the basis for producing flood forecasts and early warnings. An efficient data collection, processing and retrieval system for meteorological and weather forecast data will be of utmost importance to enable adequate input to river flow modelling and finally the issuing of forecasts. In case of the Mekong River Basin most of the data are collected by the agencies in the riparian countries, while forecasts for the mainstream of the Mekong River are given by the MRC-RFMMC as well as by most of the riparian countries. This requires a good compatibility and timely provision of the data, based on agreed accuracy and protocols. The forecasts need to be based on up to date technology for data collection, processing, retrieval and subsequent river modelling, with a focus on flood forecasting, related to the risks in the flood prone areas. In addition to floods in the mainstream, increasingly flash floods occur in the tributaries, especially in sloping and urbanised areas. The preparation of such forecasts requires quite different ways of data/information collection and forecasting mechanisms. With respect to these two aspects a wide range of new developments need to be employed such as weather models, satellite technology, remote sensing techniques, global positioning systems, geographic information systems, automation in data collection, transmission, storage and retrieval, and actual issuing of forecasts and warnings. The applicability of new developments for the conditions of the Mekong River and its tributaries will be an important aspect of this Topic II. Papers on new developments and successful experiences are invited under this topic.

## **Topic III Structural measures and flood proofing**

The main objective of structural measures and flood proofing in the LMB will be to reduce the vulnerability of people living in the LMB to the negative impacts of floods. This requires the preparation of concrete measures at all steps that are crucial for a socio-economic and environmentally sound flood risk management and mitigation by applying the most attractive mix of possible measures, hard and soft, for the reduction of flood damage risk. This is generally implemented in five steps. The first step in the process is the proper assessment of flood damage risk. Secondly, formulation of structural flood risk management and mitigation measures. The third step involves the evaluation of the effects and impacts of the different types of measures and development of a strategy for flood risk management - for different types of flooding. In the fourth step, Integrated Flood Risk Management (IFRM) plans are to be developed on the basis of the three previous steps. These plans will include a specific set of measures and projects for the reduction of flood damage risk in a certain area. In the fifth step these measures and projects are prepared for implementation. Under this Topic III papers are invited that present methods of and experiences with structural methods of flood proofing.

## **Topic IV Trans-boundary cooperation for managing floods and related issues**

The Mekong River Basin covers parts of six countries, which implies the importance of coherent approaches in river management. This will especially be of importance during extreme conditions of floods and droughts, while under such conditions measures taken in an upstream country may have a negative impact in a downstream country. Under certain conditions measures in a downstream country may even have impacts in an upstream country.

In several river basins experience has been, or is being obtained with approaches to cooperation among the riparian countries. In light of the on-going developments in the Mekong River Basin it will be of importance to present such experiences, both for the Mekong River Basin, as well as for other trans-boundary river basins in the World. Therefore papers on experiences with effective approaches towards trans-boundary flood management will be welcome under this Topic IV.

## **Topic V Land use and climate change impacts on flood management**

Rapid population growth, a significant increase in agricultural exploitation, urbanisation and industrialisation may be observed in most of the lowland, flood prone areas. In addition there may be impacts of land subsidence and climate change. Although the changes due to these processes may be of different speed and magnitude, they all result in an increase in vulnerability for extreme weather conditions and the requirement of an increase in measures to be taken with respect to flood management. Therefore countries would have to develop a strategy and approach with respect to flood probability based land management. Current land management practices may be an important factor contributing to a situation where already regular floods may cause substantial damage to agriculture, buildings and infrastructure. More effective decision making in these fields, as well as disaster management, require on the one hand the provision of more relevant and accurate flood related information and on the other hand how conditions with respect to flood vulnerability may change in the short and longer term future under the influence of the impacts of changes as mentioned above. Improvements in land management by considering flood probability information do not only provide direct positive impacts through the reduction of damage to agriculture, buildings and infrastructure, but also indirect benefits through the avoidance of damage to the most vulnerable parts of the population living and working in the flood prone areas. Under this Topic V papers are invited that present cases where experience has been obtained with the impacts of land use and climate changes on flood management.

### **Programme**

See the preliminary programme of the Forum below.

### **Venue**

Don Chan Palace Hotel  
No.6 Ban Piawat, Fa Ngam Road, Sisattanak District,  
Vientiane, Lao PDR  
Tel: (856-21)244288  
Fax: (856-21)244111-2  
Email: [info@donchanpalacelaopdr.com](mailto:info@donchanpalacelaopdr.com), [sales1@donchanpalacelaopdr.com](mailto:sales1@donchanpalacelaopdr.com)

### **Call for papers**

Papers are invited on the five topics as described above. The call for papers can be downloaded from the MRC web site [http://www.mrcmekong.org/MRC\\_news/8th-Annual-mekong-flood-forum2.htm](http://www.mrcmekong.org/MRC_news/8th-Annual-mekong-flood-forum2.htm)

### **Registration**

The participation fee is US\$ 200 (to be paid on site). This includes access to all session, forum package, lunches and dinner reception. The registration form for participants can be downloaded from the MRC web site [http://www.mrcmekong.org/MRC\\_news/8th-Annual-mekong-flood-forum2.htm](http://www.mrcmekong.org/MRC_news/8th-Annual-mekong-flood-forum2.htm)

### **Exhibits**

At the occasion of the Forum organisations, companies, or institutions will be enabled to exhibit their activities, or products. The registration form for participation in the exhibition can be downloaded at from the MRC web site [http://www.mrcmekong.org/MRC\\_news/8th-Annual-mekong-flood-forum2.htm](http://www.mrcmekong.org/MRC_news/8th-Annual-mekong-flood-forum2.htm)

Filled out registration form for the exhibition	16 April 2010
Notification of acceptance of exhibit	30 April 2010

All other relevant documents on the Forum are available on the MRC website [http://www.mrcmekong.org/MRC\\_news/8th-Annual-mekong-flood-forum2.htm](http://www.mrcmekong.org/MRC_news/8th-Annual-mekong-flood-forum2.htm)

### **For more information:**

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<b>PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEKONG FLOOD FORUM (AMFF-8)</b>	
<b>WEDNESDAY, 26 MAY 2010</b>	
08:00-08:30	Registration
08:30-12:30	<i>MORNING SESSION</i>
08:30-09:30	<b><i>Inaugural Session</i></b> Master of Ceremony: <i>Nicolaas Bakker</i> , Chief Technical Advisor, Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (FMMP-CTA)
	Welcome address by <i>Jeremy Bird</i> , Chief Executive Officer, Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS-CEO)
	Opening Address by representative Lao PDR
	Statements by donor representatives
	Summary AMFF-7 <i>Hatda Pich AN, MRC-RFMMC</i>
	Objectives and expected outcome of the AMFF-8 <i>Nicolaas Bakker</i>
	Demonstration of the MRC's flood forecasting and flash flood guidance systems
09:30-10:00	Coffee Break, Posters and Exhibition
10:00-12:30	<b><i>Session 1: Lessons Learned from 2009 Flooding and National and MRC-RFMMC Experiences with Flood Risk Management and Mitigation</i></b>
	Lao PDR country flood report for 2009
	Cambodia country flood report for 2009
	Thailand country flood report for 2009
	Viet Nam country flood report for 2009
	Dialogue Partner report – China
	Dialogue Partner report – Myanmar
	2009 annual Mekong flood report
Panel discussion	
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-17:00	<i>AFTERNOON SESSION</i>
13:30-15:00	<b><i>Session 2: Achievements and perspectives of the Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (FMMP)</i></b>
	Flood emergency management strengthening - people-centred approach in integrated flood risk management
	Flood forecasting and flash flood guidance systems at the MRC Regional Flood Management and Mitigation Centre
	Structural measures and flood proofing
	Enhancing cooperation between the MRC Member Countries in addressing trans-boundary flood and related issues
	Flood information based land management (FIBLM)
	Questions, discussion
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break, Posters and Exhibition
15:30-17:00	<b><i>Session 3: Parallel Paper Presentations from the Mekong Region on the five Topics Followed by Parallel Group Discussions</i></b>
	Topic I: Community focused approach to flood risk management and mitigation
	Topic II: Flood forecasting and flash flood guidance
	Topic III: Structural measures and flood proofing
	Topic IV: Trans-boundary cooperation for managing floods and related issues
	Topic V: Land use and climate change impacts on flood management
18:30-20:30	Forum Dinner

**THURSDAY, 27 MAY 2010**

08:30-12:30	<i>MORNING SESSION</i>
08:30-10:30	<b>Session 4: Summary of Day 1, Plenary Paper Presentations, Discussions</b>
	Summary of Day 1 of AMFF-8 by <i>Lam Hung Son</i> , Coordinator, Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (FMMP)
	<i>Presentation of the four best submitted papers</i>
	Plenary Discussion
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break, Posters and Exhibition
11:00-12:30	<b>Session 5: Parallel Paper Presentations by Regional and International Specialists Followed by Parallel Group Discussions</b>
	Topic I: Community focused approach to flood risk management and mitigation
	Topic II: Flood forecasting and flash flood guidance
	Topic III: Structural measures and flood proofing
	Topic IV: Trans-boundary cooperation for managing floods and related issues
	Topic V: Land use and climate change impacts on flood management
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-17:00	<i>AFTERNOON SESSION</i>
13:30-14:30	<b>Session 6: Parallel Group Discussions, Formulation of Recommendations on the Topics</b>
	Topic I: Community focused approach to flood risk management and mitigation
	Topic II: Flood forecasting and flash flood guidance
	Topic III: Structural measures and flood proofing
	Topic IV: Trans-boundary cooperation for managing floods and related issues
	Topic V: Land use and climate change impacts on flood management
14:30-15:00	Coffee Break, Posters and Exhibition
15:00-17:00	<b>Session 7: Concluding Session</b>
	Presentations by the rapporteurs of the plenary sessions 1, 2 and 4 and of the parallel sessions (3, 5 and 6) on the 5 Topics
	Questions and Answers; General Comments from the Floor
	Special presentation on Future developments in the Mekong River Basin and their possible impacts on flood management
	Summary of proceedings and recommendations for follow-up by <i>Bart Schultz</i>
	Remarks by Representatives of Participants
	Presentation of the Forum Statement by <i>Hatda Pich AN</i>
Closing Address by <i>Jeremy Bird</i> , MRCS-CEO	