



Basin Development Plan 2nd Regional Stakeholder Forum

'Unfolding Perspectives and Options for Sustainable Water Resources Development in the Mekong River Basin'

15-16 October 2009, Chiang Rai, Thailand

Forum facilitator:

Dr. Vitoon Viriyasakultorn



Senior Environmental
Governance Specialist

Dr. Viriyasakultorn worked as Senior Environmental Governance Specialist for ECO-Asia, a regional programme of USAID from 2007 – August 2009. Before that He was programme coordinator of Agriculture, Irrigation and Forestry Programme (AIFP) of the MRCS for two and a half years. His previous work at the Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC) in Bangkok for 12 years included different positions from trainer to top level management of the organization.

His professional work has been mainly on capacity building and training on natural resources conflict management, facilitation, programme management, and organizational development. He currently serves on the Academic Committee of the Rotary Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

Session 1 – The Mekong River Basin: Emergence of Knowledge on Development Challenges and Opportunities

Mr. John Dore



Water Advisor, AusAID
Facilitator of Session & Theme 1

John Dore is also Program Director of the research network M-POWER (Mekong Program on Water Environment and Resilience) research network, and a political economy and governance writer with particular interest in: regionalism; transboundary and multicultural, deliberative engagement and negotiation processes. Recent writings include editing and contributing chapters to several books – Social Challenges for the Mekong Region (White Lotus), Democratising Water Governance in the Mekong Region (Silkworm Mekong Press), Contested Waterscapes in the Mekong Region: Hydropower, Livelihoods, Governance (Earthscan), NEGOTIATE (IUCN), and a special issue of Water Alternatives Journal focused on ‘WCD+10: Revisiting the Large Dams Controversy’

Mr. Suon Seng

Centre for Development Oriented Research, Cambodia, Facilitator of Theme 2

Geoffrey Blate, Ph.D., leads WWF’s Climate Change initiatives in the Greater Mekong Subregion. He is a tropical forest ecologist with 15 years of research and project management experience in the Amazon, Indonesia, and most recently in mainland Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam). Dr. Blate’s career has focused on forest conservation, the role of forests in international development, and climate change adaptation options for forest management. His interests encompass both basic and applied research, but a longstanding passion for biodiversity conservation and a sense of urgency in the need to harmonize conservation with development goals have been motivating factors throughout his career. In this regard, he has developed productive working relationships with an array of partners ranging from local people to government and academic researchers. Geoff received his Ph.D. in tropical forest ecology from the Botany Department, University of Florida, his Master’s Degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and his B.S. from the University of Rochester.

Dr. Geoffrey Blate



Climate Change Coordinator, WWF
Facilitator of Theme 3



Mr. Ton Lennaerts

Chief Technical Advisor
MRC BDP Programme



Title of the presentation:

Mekong water resources development: emerging trends and plans

Abstract: While millions of poor people use the natural resources of the Mekong River Basin for their food security and livelihoods, the Mekong's water and related resources are largely undeveloped. The hydrological regime of the mainstream can be considered to be in, or very close to, its natural state. However, the cumulative impacts of emerging trends and developments at the global, basin and national levels are expected to modify the flow regime over the coming decades.

This presentation will provide an overview of the emerging trends, existing plans, and increasing opportunities for the private sector in the development of water and related resources in the Mekong Basin. A clear and re-confirmed commitment by the riparian countries to a basin-wide IWRM approach is now important to guide this accelerated



**Mr. Changsaveng
Boungong**

Department of Electricity
Ministry of Mines and
Energy, Laos PDR



Title of the presentation:

Hydropower development for poverty reduction in Laos: opportunities and challenges

Abstract: This presentation aims to share *Gov of Laos' perspectives* on how hydropower development can contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction in Laos and can be implemented in a sustainable manner. It emphasizes the importance of hydropower to achieve socio-economic development objectives in Laos. It shares the updated information on hydropower development plans and the policies of the Laos Government to make sure that hydropower will contribute to poverty reduction. The Laos government perspectives on challenges and opportunities for sustainable hydropower development in the context of global and regional electricity demand, the sustainability of the fisheries and ecosystem and for equitable development are shared to invite Forum' s participants ideas on the ways forward.



Dr. Tira Foran

Researcher, M-POWER

Dr. Tira Foran is a Research Fellow at Chiang Mai University–Unit for Social and Environmental Research. He is interested in the policy and politics of transition to more sustainable energy systems in developing Asia. Based in Thailand since 2001, Tira has recently worked on estimation of commercially achievable alternatives to central station power; policy instruments for energy efficiency and renewable energy; and improved mechanisms for stakeholder participation. Ph.D. (Geography) from University of Sydney, M.S. from University of California at Berkeley, A.B. from Harvard. Past work with the World Conservation Union (Thailand), The Nautilus Institute (California), and Environmental Defense (California).

Title of the presentation:

Market opportunities for electricity supply in the Mekong region and alternative energy production options

Abstract: Electricity markets in the Mekong region are profoundly influenced by the quality of long-term official power system planning practices. This talk reviews several important planning practices: demand forecasting, options assessment, and risk assessment. The author emphasizes the relevance of IRP (integrated electricity resource planning) as a proven best practice. IRP gives balanced treatment to demand-side and supply-side options are given balanced treatment, with the objective of investing in the least-economic cost first. The time has come for Mekong electricity utilities to implement IRP principles. IRP can be designed as an integrated, participatory assessment, and in recent years a number of independent analysts have called for Thailand to initiate such a process. As an input to such a process, the author asked: how much electricity from power stations greater than 20 MW could be avoided if Thailand were to attain its ‘practically achievable potentials’ in clean domestic options: (1) energy efficiency; (2) renewable energy; (3) combined heat and power systems fired by natural gas. A detailed preliminary estimate of ‘clean domestic’ options Thailand can achieve by 2018, but not included in PDP 2007 Revision 1, sums to more than 7900 MW (approximately 33,000 GWh). The figures that Thailand will actually achieve depend on successful implementation of energy efficiency measures in commercial and industrial buildings, as well as on enhanced tariffs for renewable energy. Results depend on participation by the private sector, thoughtful incentives, and political commitment to more transparent and open planning.



**Mr. Xaypladeth
Choulamany**

Coordinator
MRC Fisheries Programme

Mr. Xaypladeth has been Deputy Director General of the Department of Planning and International Cooperation in the agriculture and forestry sectors.

He was actively involved in establishing the Living Aquatic Resource Research Center (LARReC) in Vientiane, serving as its founding director between 1999 and 2004. Mr. Xaypladeth has been active in developing numerous community fisheries programmes in the Lower Mekong Basin. He has also been actively involved in formulating national strategies for agricultural development, biodiversity, watershed-based development, wetland management and forestry in the ministry.

As director of LARReC, Mr. Xaypladeth prepared the aquatic resources component of the National Biodiversity Strategy in 2000. He also authored the report "Traditional Use and Availability of Aquatic Biodiversity in Rice-Based Ecosystems" in 2005.

Title of the presentation:

Mekong fisheries and basin development planning

Abstract: The presentation highlights key characteristics of Mekong fisheries, such as its diversity, its dependence on river flow, and importance of fish migrations, which all contribute to its extraordinary productivity and production, making it the world's largest inland fisheries. Mekong fisheries are now affected by water development in the basin, in particular the construction of dams. In fact, basin development and healthy fisheries are not contradictory, if fisheries were considered adequately in basin planning. In order to achieve this, additional research is necessary in fisheries ecology and valuation; integrated planning approaches are needed; and communication between stakeholders and sectors has to be improved. Importantly, negative impacts from basin development have to be assessed and, wherever possible, mitigated. The MRC Fisheries Programme has undertaken important activities in this direction, and first results are now available. They point out what is needed to maintain productive Mekong fisheries whilst developing the basin.



Dr. Andrew Noble

Regional Director
IWMI Southeast and Central
Asia, Lao PDR

Dr Andrew D. Noble is Regional Director of International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and Principal Research Scientist with a strong background in agronomy and soil science. Prior to joining IWMI in 2002, he was a Principal research Scientist with CSIRO Land and Water based in Townsville, far north Queensland, Australia, where he worked in both the wet and semi-arid tropics on issues associated with land degradation including soil acidification and the potential role of clay based materials in rehabilitating degraded soils. He has held Lecturing positions (1982 - 1989) at the University of KwaZulu Natal South Africa and Project Leader and Principal Research Scientist with the Institute for Commercial Forestry Research (1989 - 1992) working in the area of commercial plantation forestry. He has over 108 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters and over 100 conference proceedings. He has supervised several MSc and PhD thesis and is on the editorial board of several international journals.

Title of the presentation:

Global food crisis, future prospects of food supply and demand and the role of irrigated agriculture in LMB

Abstract: Overall there is a need to transform our agricultural systems, both large and small scale, in order to ensure long-term food security. This will require that these systems have built into them components that provide ecosystem services.

There is an unique opportunity for the governments of the region to promote a shift to more sustainable agricultural production systems, capitalizing on the current conjunction of rapidly changing, responsive agricultural economies; a new longer-term, regionally oriented planning perspective stemming from international awareness of climate change; and the “breathing space” of 20-30 years that projections suggest is available to the GMS region before radical changes in climate occur. By using this period to identify, pilot, implement and scale up measures to build more resilient communities, the GMS region will be well positioned to handle the more extreme changes predicted for the second half of the century – and more urgently, will alleviate current poverty and food insecurity.

Mr. Sok Saing Im

Natural Resources Planning
Specialist
Cambodian National Mekong
Committee

Title of the presentation:

**Changing land use in Cambodia, implication for
poverty reduction and challenges with the
current agricultural land concession**

**Ms. Chawee
Wongprasitporn**

Royal Irrigation Department
Thailand

Title of the presentation:

**Thailand water transfer and diversion scheme
for irrigation development and poverty reduction
- opportunities and risks and lessons learned**

**Dr. Buapan
Prompakping**

Faculty of Humanity, Khon
Kaen University
Thailand

Title of the presentation:

**Lessons learned from the Greening Esarn
Project**

Buapun was awarded Ph.D. from Bath University in 2000. The title of his thesis is 'Rural Transformation and Gender Relations in the Northeast of Thailand'. He is at present Associate Professor of Faculty of Humanity and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University. In recent years, he was a member of the ESRC Research Group on Well-being in Developing Countries – WeD and led a research project of this Research Group in the Northeast of Thailand. His interests of research are rural development, gender relations, social capital and wellbeing. At present, he and his colleagues form a research group called 'Wellbeing and Sustainable Development – WeSD' at Khon Kaen University to continue and expand the research of the WeD Research Group.

Abstract: Irrigation is a means for improvement of agricultural productivity, therefore has been considered to be one among important strategies of the government to reduce rural poverty. During the 1980s and 1990s large-scale water infrastructures lost their economic appeal and funding due to the opposition to dams, largely from the environmentalists. However, the advent of regional development of Mekong sub-region pushed by ADB saw the expansion of large-scale water infrastructures again. This presentation will consider irrigation development in the Northeast of Thailand under the context of regional development of Mekong sub-region. The Northeast of Thailand has been known as the poorest region, with poor quality of soil and therefore the lowest agricultural productivity. Irrigation has been at the center of development plan for decades. Growth in both agricultural sectors and industries of this region mounted the demand of water, resulting in 'water deficit' of the region. One of the strategies the government adopted is to import water from neighboring countries. The presentation will finally discuss the extent to which poor farmers of the Northeast will be benefit from irrigation projects, and try to identify what would be appropriate strategy for irrigation development in the future.

Dr. Jorma Koponen

Helsinki University of
Technology
Finland

Title of the presentation:

**Climate variability and change and impacts on
the Mekong Basin**



Dr. Hossein Jalilian

Cambodia Development
Research Institute (CDRI)
Cambodia

Hossein Jalilian (PhD, Reader in Economic Development, University of Bradford) is the research director at CDRI (Cambodia Development Resource Institute), Cambodia. He has considerable experience in research, consultancy and teaching in Africa and Asia; his research interest is in the area of macro economic modelling, growth and poverty. of around 1000 households. The information generated allows us to forecast possible impacts that changes in the Mekong River's regime flow may have on the livelihood of the households directly affected and through that possible impact on the poor and poverty in the country.

Title of the presentation:

Tonle Sap and social vulnerability to potential changes in the Mekong's flow regime

Abstract: Poverty in Cambodia is amongst the highest in the world. Although considerably reduced over the last decade from a rate of around 45% to its present level of 35%, it is still substantial. Poverty is predominantly rural based, and given that the Mekong River Basin covers over 85% of the country, not surprisingly most of population including the poor lives in areas that are covered by Mekong River Basin which contains Tonle Sap. The poor in particular are heavily dependent on resources that are directly and indirectly provided by the lake and the Mekong Basin plain as well. Any change in the Mekong River's flow regime therefore is expected to severely impact the livelihood of the poor as well as the larger population that depends on resources derived from the Mekong River Basin. The fish catch from the lake alone is close to a quarter of a million tones per year, accounting for the half of the total fish catch in Cambodia. Since 2001, through its Poverty Dynamic Study (PDS) which is funded by the WB, CDRI has conducted research on the dynamic of poverty in Cambodia, using samples from 9 villages in the country that represent different geographic conditions in there. Through 6 round of surveys conducted in 2001, 2005 and 2008, we have generated a panel data on various socio-economic factors and characteristics of around 1000 households. The information generated allows us to forecast possible impacts that changes in the Mekong River's regime flow may have on the livelihood of the households directly affected and through that possible impact on the poor and poverty in the country.



Dr. Nguyen Van Sanh

Can Tho University, Vietnam

Dr. Nguyen Van Sanh is the Deputy Director of the Mekong Delta Development Research Institute at Can Tho University. He obtained his Doctorate degree in policy in Rural and Agriculture Economic Development from Arkansas University, after his Bachelor degree in crop science at Can Tho University and Master of Science in Agricultural Systems from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. Dr. Sanh's research background has revolved around themes such as community based natural resource management, regional approaches for integrated rural development and livelihood for food security and poverty reduction, particularly in the Mekong region. Dr. Sanh has authored and co-authored literature relating to areas such as flood control and mitigation, poverty reduction and community development, and food security.

Title of the presentation:

Climate change: understanding of likely impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation options in the Mekong Delta

Abstract: Vietnam ranks among the top five most impacted countries due to climate change as reported by the World Bank in 2007. In the worst case projection, more than one-third of the Viet Nam Mekong Delta, where 17 million people live and nearly half the country's rice is grown, could be submerged if sea levels rise by three feet in the decades to come.

Intrusion of salt water and industrial pollution could contaminate much of the remaining delta area. The risks of climate change for Vietnam go far beyond the Mekong Delta up into the Central Highlands, where rising temperatures could put the coffee crop at risk, and to the Red River Delta in the north, where large areas could be inundated near the capital, Hanoi.

This presentation illustrates the potential impacts of climate change on the Mekong Delta of Viet Nam and how vulnerable the people and their livelihoods are to climate change. There are no simple answers to adaptation where on-going strategies have demonstrated both success and failure. The key in adaptation is to look at the Delta as one system without administrative borders of provinces to ensure integrated and well coordinated adaptation strategies.

Session 2 – Cumulative Impact Assessment of Transboundary Economic, Environment and Social Implications of Water Resources Development

Dr. Robert Mather



World Conservation Union – IUCN
Facilitator of the session & parallel
session 2.3

Robert Mather has a PhD from Cambridge University, awarded in 1992, for field work on primate ecology in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. Robert joined WWF in 1993 to coordinate a large project for the Huay Kha Kaeng-Thung Yai Naresuan World Heritage site, in western Thailand, and subsequently established the WWF Thailand Office in 1995, taking it from a start-up operation to a nationally well-known and respected organisation with 60 talented staff by 2005. During this time Robert led projects working on conservation of elephants, tigers, and marine turtles, as well as a number of environmental education programmes and protected areas management work. He also initiated a number of innovative partnerships with the private sector. Robert started to work on Mekong issues in 2001 and from 2005-2008 led WWF's Living Mekong Programme based out of Vientiane, Lao PDR. During this time the programme enjoyed rapid growth and a multimillion dollar annual budget, focused on environmental issues in hydropower development, road construction in headwaters and floodplain areas, conservation of priority sites throughout the basin from the Tibetan Plateau to the Delta, Mekong Dolphins, Mekong Giant Catfish and the linkages between local livelihoods and sustainable management of wetlands. Robert joined IUCN in 2008 and is now responsible for IUCN's programme in 3 countries – Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, including initiatives such as the Mekong Region Water Dialogues supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Dr. Chaiyuth Suksri,

Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, Facilitator of parallel session 2.1

Dr. Larry Hass, Chief Technical Advisor,

Initiative for Sustainable Hydropower, MRC, Facilitator of parallel session 2.2

Mr. Suon Seng

Centre for Development Oriented Research, Cambodia, Facilitator of parallel session 2.4



Dr. Phoumin Han

Economist
MRC BDP Programme



Title of the presentation:

Basin-wide development scenarios - objectives, definitions, approach to assessment and the use of results for basin-wide discussions and decision making

Abstract: In a large and complex basin as the Mekong basin, with six sovereign countries, it is not feasible to 'force' a rigid and constraining basin development plan, based on basin optimization techniques. Nor is it feasible to prepare an 'IWRM Strategy for the Lower Mekong Basin', which would look at the 'integration' of water related national policies, strategies and procedures of the sovereign riparian countries. But it is feasible to prepare an IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy, which focuses on how development can proceed in a way that meets proper IWRM guidelines and concepts. The most sensible option to develop guidance on how water related development can proceed in a way that is sustainable from a basin perspective and mutually beneficial to the LMB countries, is through a basin-wide dialogue of the results of a comprehensive assessment of basin-wide development scenarios. The scenarios represent different levels of water resources development in the Mekong Basin. Each scenario would be formulated to represent different combinations of sectoral development, recognizing the synergies and trade-offs between sectors. This presentation presents an overview of the proposed approach, methodology and process of the formulation and assessment of basin-wide development scenarios.



Mr. Voradeth Phonekeo

Manager MRC Initiative for
Sustainable Hydropower

Voradeth Phonekeo joined the Mekong River Commission Secretariat as Project Manager for the Hydropower Programme on 28 April 2008. He holds a Master of Science in Hydropower Engineering from Moscow. Mr. Voradeth served the Government of Lao PDR in the field of hydropower for more than 20 years and prior to joining the MRCS, he worked as IWRM National Planning Expert for Nam Ngum River Basin Development Project. In the beginning of his career he has been involved extensively in assembly and maintenance of hydro generators and hydro turbines for hydropower plants. He has been involved with feasibility studies of large hydropower projects such as Theun Hinboun, Nam Theun 2, and Nam Ngiep. He has also been an active participant in all stages of hydropower development and in many aspects such as power purchase negotiation, concession agreement, public consultation at all levels.

Title of the presentation:

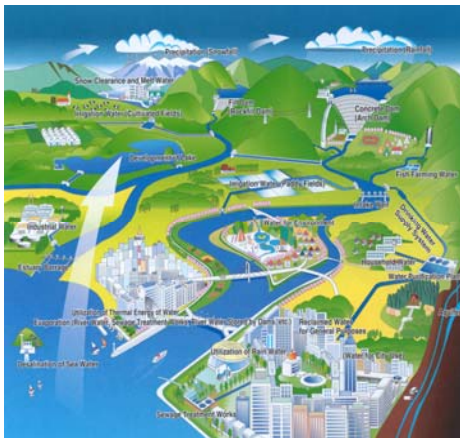
SEA of mainstream hydropower dams - objectives and scope as derived from stakeholder consultations

Abstract: This MRC Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) seeks to identify the potential opportunities and risks, as well as contribution of hydropower to regional development, by assessing alternative mainstream Mekong hydropower development strategies. In particular the SEA focuses on regional distribution of costs and benefits with respect to economic development, social equity and environmental protection. There was strong debate in most workshops and workshop group activities were used to summarise and rank group consensus. Fisheries and agriculture were priority themes for all countries. Other themes which ranked highly in all countries included: Power & energy security, navigation, water quality, livelihoods and poverty reduction. Ten themes and key strategic issues were consolidated into a list of eight, based on the scoping consultations. For each theme a scope and methods paper has been drafted. These are key documents for the SEA as they outline the approach and substantive scope of the assessment. The theme papers involved intensive input from all members of the team as well as MRCS. The SEA is an important first step to strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity to undertake the formal prior notification, prior consultation agreement (PNPCA) process that proposed mainstream dams in the LMB will trigger. It will be the first time the formal MRC process is utilized for mainstream developments, when all the issues will be addressed by the 4 countries in the MRC platform. The SEA began in May 2009 and is scheduled to complete the final report and recommendations by mid-2010.



Dr. Thanapon Piman

Senior Modelling Specialist
MRC BDP Programme



Title of the presentation:

Hydrological assessment of basin-wide development scenarios-tools and results

Abstract: The LMB countries have formulated and agreed on 9 basin-wide development scenarios, some of which comprise sub-scenarios. First the scenarios will be assessed on a range of hydrological impact indicators. The results are then fed into the assessment of the transboundary economic, social and environmental impacts.

This presentation will provide an overview of the 9 scenarios and the approach and methodology used for their hydrological assessment. Preliminary results indicate that subject to the assessment of risks and uncertainties, and from the single perspective of water availability, the four countries can now agree that the “LMB 20-Year Plan Scenario” reflects the quantity of water that could be ‘consumed’ by proposed developments in this scenario, without impacting on the present dry season flow. This does not necessarily mean that all of this development can proceed: the economic, social and environmental impacts must be determined and this will guide how much of this development will be ‘acceptable’.



Dr. Jeffrey Richey

Washington University
USA

Title of the presentation:

Uncertainties to be addressed in the hydrological assessment of development scenarios

Jeffrey Richey is a Professor in the School of Oceanography and Adjunct Professor in the College of Forest Resources, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the Quaternary Research Center, University of Washington. He received his B.A. from Stanford University, MSPH from the University of North Carolina, and PhD from the University of California, Davis. His research involves the biogeochemistry and hydrology of large-scale river basins, and how to implement geo-information systems for analysis of complex basins. His long-term multi-national study of the Amazon has served the dual purposes of gaining a broad mechanistic understanding of the fluvial system, and of establishing data baselines needed to assess anthropogenic perturbations. He has been extending this perspective to Southeast Asia/Mekong, South Asia, and to Africa. He has approximately 150 publications and conference presentations, was Vice-Chair of the IGBP LOICZ (Land Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone), is on the Scientific Steering Committee of the Amazon LBA program, and directs the Puget Sound Regional Synthesis Model program. He was awarded the Medalha Ademar Cervellini de Merito Academico, by the University of Sao Paulo. He has worked with the World Bank and GEF on projects of “dynamic information frameworks, in Brazil, China, Mozambique, Lake Victoria basin countries, and Bhutan, and is a member of the World Bank’s Hydrology Expert Facility.



Dr. Phoumin Han

Economist
MRC BDP Programme



Title of the presentation:

Economic impact assessment of basin-wide development scenarios – methodology and process

Abstract: The main purpose of the economic assessment is to estimate the benefits and costs of the various development scenarios in order to determine whether the proposed investments will be able to generate adequate net economic benefits in the future. The economic analyses will be undertaken on an incremental basis by contrasting the annual net economic benefits in the “future with” and “future without” development situations projected over a given period. Net present values of the incremental net benefits will then be estimated for each development scenario. In order to take account of future uncertainties, sensitivity analysis will also be carried out. The equitable distribution of the economic benefits from water resources development is a key development objective. A distributional analysis will therefore be undertaken in order to determine the likely allocation of the incremental net economic benefits between the four LMB countries. In addition, employment created by the scenario interventions (e.g. hydropower, irrigation and flood mitigation) as well as jobs and livelihoods lost (e.g. fisheries) will be estimated for each LMB country and the overall basin economy.



Dr. Ashley Hall

Senior Fishery Expert



Title of the presentation:

Basin-wide development scenarios: Fisheries Assessment Methodology

Abstract: The presentation outlines the proposed methodology to estimate the likely outcomes of development scenarios on future yields of fish. The assessment employs a 'guild' framework to characterize the vulnerability of different types of fish inhabiting the basin to development pressures. The impact of planned dams and flood control embankments as barriers to fish migration will be estimated from potential changes to accessible spawning and feeding habitat. Using an empirical model, flow change impacts on fish yield in the flood zone arising from: (i) water storage above planned dams and (ii) water abstractions for irrigation, will be predicted from changes to habitat availability measured in terms of flood extent and duration. Potential gains in yield arising from: (i) reservoir fisheries created above tributary dams, and (ii) an expansion of rice-field fisheries by irrigation projects will be estimated as the product of the 'new' areas of each type of fish habitat and their typical areal fish yields.



Mr. Keo Tai

Programme coordinator
Community Economic
Development (CED), Cambodia

I graduated in Bachelor of Law from Royal University of Law Economics (RULE) and Bachelor of Education from Human Resources University (HRU) in Cambodia. Currently, am studying for my Master Degree in Development Management at Norton University. Of course, after I had graduated, in 2006 I started working as a **Project Officer** with Working Group for Weapons Reduction (WGWR) in Community Security Project. In 2007 I worked as an **Investigations Coordinator** for Actions Pour Les Enfants (APLE) on child sexes which have been conducted by pedophiles. Currently I am working for Community Economic Development (CED) as A **Programs Coordinator** of NREM and Livelihoods in Northeast provinces of Cambodia.

Title of the presentation:

Other approach in economic assessment by the local in upstream of Mekong in Cambodia; A case study of Sambor hydropower dam study sites and its richest biodiversity area

Abstract: In this CED's presentation, it would be focused on the important and the relevant of Sambor Hydro Dam study sites to its richest biodiversity area called Prey Lang which is the last evergreen forest in Southeast Asia on its economic value.

1- Current linkages of Sambor Planned hydro dam Area to Richest Biodiversity Prey Lang (in three communes of Sombor district of Kratie and one commune of Siem Bok district of Stung Treng Province , Cambodia)

- *Sambor-Planned Hydro-Dam Area*
- *Richest Biodiversity Prey Lang- the evergreen forest along up-Mekong*

2- Two possible approach practicing in Economic Assessment by the local in upstream of Mekong in Cambodia

- *Through protecting in sustainable uses on their Non-timber forestry products (NTFPs approach) for their community and family income.*
- *Through community action research of their wetlands biodiversity and their income from those resources (action research approach).*



**Mr. Phetsamone
Southalack**

Environment Specialist
MRC BDP Programme



Title of the presentation:

Environment impact assessment of basin-wide development scenarios – methodology and process

Abstract: The basin development scenarios represent different levels of possible water resources development in the Mekong mainstream and its tributaries, which will cause different changes in hydrological conditions and characteristics, and thus, different environmental impacts.

This presentation introduces the proposed methodology to carry out environment assessment of the scenarios. The purpose of the environmental assessment is to evaluate the environmental impacts of the different scenarios in the context of the five environmental development objectives previously agreed between the countries as being most relevant to strategic decision taking. The acceptability of these impacts to each Member State is the principal means for determining the magnitude of the development space that each scenario offers.



Dr. John Gary Soussan

Director
Stockholm Environment Institute

John Soussan is a Professor in the Stockholm Environment Institute and is Science Director of the SEI Asia Centre in Bangkok. His work focuses on the people-resource-policy relationships in developing countries, with in particular a focus on Asia, the region in which he has worked continually for the last 30 years. A geographer by training, John has extensive experience in the management of inter-disciplinary approaches in different aspects of sustainable development and has a track record of major projects funded by a range of organizations, including bilateral donors, multilateral development banks, UN agencies and environmental NGOs. John has worked in over 50 countries and has expertise in a range of environment and development issues including water resources, energy, strategic environmental assessment, community forestry, coastal zone development, livelihoods analysis, poverty reduction strategies and policy development.

Title of the presentation:

Strategic approach to assessment of development impacts on the people and environment

Abstract: The presentation considers the issue of how to assess the impacts of different forms of development on the environment and on people, both within the vicinity of where development takes place and further afield. The first part of the presentation considers some of the conceptual issues involved in understanding the relationship between prediction (of possible impacts), evaluation (of the significance of the impacts) and mitigation (steps to reduce or compensate for the impacts). It then gives an overview of an approach to considering these relationships in a structured way: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The origins and purpose of SEA approaches are outlined and a brief discussion on different types of SEA is provided. The second part of the presentation is a summary of the approach to and findings from a major recent SEA in the Mekong Region, the SEA of the Hydropower Master Plan for Viet Nam. This SEA considered the consequences of proposals for multiple hydropower development schemes within the context of the long-term planning of power supply and development of the country. An approach to provide more effective measures to reduce or mitigate both social and environmental impacts emerged from the study within the framework of the internalisation of such impacts in the economic assessment of hydropower development.



Ms.Thorn Riguen

Project Officer of Mekong Project
Fisheries Action Coalition Team
(FACT)

Thorn Riguen graduated BA of Sociology in 2006(Royal University of Phnom Penh-RUPP) and MA of Sociology/Anthropology; Major Rural Development (2008) from RUPP. Her experiences are freelance researcher for NGOs, Research company, and academic research such as KHANA, BBC, IRL, and etc. Presently, she is working in FACT since January, 2009

Title of the presentation:

The Impacts of Upstream Development to Wetland and Biodiversity resource in Tonle Sap

Abstract: Tonle Sap is the big wetland area in Cambodia that absorbs floodwater from Mekong River by 20%, and 60% of Tonle Sap water originates from Mekong River. The lake wet area is 13,260 km² in the wet season, the size decreases to 2,300 km² in the dry season. In Tonle Sap, the flooded forest area for fish spawning and so on (197km²). This is the flood pulse in Tonle Sap.

By the upstream development such as Dams and Hydropower dams since 1950, there are nearly 6,000 dams built in lower Mekong. 23 dams are the big dam. This development has two main impacts to Tonle Sap: less flow in wet season and the long term flood in dry season. Building dam will block fish migration; decrease rainy season and increase flood in dry season. This changing will effect to floodplain, fish spawning, fish breeding, and fish habitat. Any upstream Mekong hydro development will alter the essential hydro-ecological processes upon which the Tonle Sap fishery depends. This fishery is critical to the livelihoods of over a million people in over 140 communities.



**Mr. Suparek
Janprasart,**

Sociologist/Socio-economist
MRC BDP Programme

Title of the presentation:

**Social impact assessment of basin wide
development scenarios**



Mr. Mark Dubois

Research Fellow
WorldFish Center

Title of the presentation:

Social implications of water resource development

Mark Dubois is Research Fellow and Project Leader for WorldFish engagement in the Wetlands Alliance at the World Fish Center, Greater Mekong Regional Office, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (email: m.dubois@cgiar.org). His research interests seek to bring together natural and social sciences in understanding complex systems in the context of rapid ecological, economic and social change. His current work focuses on participatory methodologies for constructing and communicating knowledge, political ecology, adaptive capacity development and exploring the relationship between human and ecosystem wellbeing. Mark has been working in the Mekong region since 1999.



Ms. Ikuku Matsumoto

Country Director, Laos
International Rivers South East Asia

Ms. Matsumoto works with International Rivers' Southeast Asia team to focus on monitoring the dam building industry in the Laos, and promoting better planning processes and technologies for sustainable use of water and energy resources. Before joining International Rivers in 2009, she was a policy officer in the Environment and Social Development Department of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), one of the private arms of World Bank Group in Washington, DC. Prior to joining the IFC, Ms. Matsumoto was a Program Director of Friends of the Earth Japan (FoEJ), leading campaigns, developing advocacy strategies, and coordinating among local, national and international NGOs in order to reform the social and environmental policies and practices of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Nippon Export Investment Insurance (NEXI).

Title of the presentation:

Large scale hydropower projects and their impacts on local communities in the Mekong River Basin

Abstract: Large scale of water development projects will decrease the level of access to natural resources, on which communities depend for their livelihoods. This will increase the level of impoverishment, undermine food security, especially among the ethnic minority and poor households and the loss of subsistence agriculturalists and thus the loss of culture. In order to promote more sustainable and peaceful ways of meeting people's energy and water needs, first of all the importance of the Mekong river basin's natural resources to people's livelihoods and food security must be recognized and placed centrally in any basin development plan. Second, due to the potentially devastating impacts to regional fisheries and food security, the Mekong River's mainstream should be placed off-limits to dam development. Third, comprehensive options assessment for meeting the region's energy and water needs should be undertaken. Fourth, if dam projects are identified as the most appropriate option, affected people should give their agreement and indigenous people should give their free, prior and informed consent, as recognized by international law. Legally binding agreements for mitigation and compensation should be negotiated and affected communities should be guaranteed a share in the project's benefits.



**Dr. Apichart
Anukularmphai**

President, Thailand Water
Resources Association

The Guest Speaker

Educated in Israel and the United States, Dr. Apichart Anukularmphai has over thirty years of experience in research, policy and institutional development, and management in the field of integrated water resources management and agricultural and rural development. He has served on a number of national, high-level policy making committees (e.g., National Water Resources Committee; National Rural Employment Generation Committee; Sub-committee for Co-ordination of Provincial and Central Plans for Rural Development; Committee for Co-ordination and Acceleration of Water Resource Development). He has extensive international experience in development cooperation, networking and institutional development, and has strong linkages with international research, development, and funding organizations; has demonstrated exceptional qualities for international and intercultural relations.

Dinner speech:

**What is IWRM? From Rio to MRC Basin
Development Planning – Repeating the same
mistakes or moving towards sustainable
transboundary basin management?**

Abstract: Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) has gained worldwide recognition as an important approach to more effective management of water resources locally, regionally and globally as evidenced by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) which stated that “every country to develop IWRM plan by 2005”. However, there remains some confusion about what IWRM really is, is it a plan, a process, or an outcome? The JPOI statement in fact if interpreted narrowly may mislead countries into simply preparing IWRM plans as the end goal rather than putting IWRM into practice. IWRM as a process in water resources management is infinitely more important and meaningful than simply to have an IWRM plan, an experience shown in the case of Thailand. There is no fixed rule, procedure or template for the implementation of IWRM rather it depends much on the political, social and economic conditions of each country. It can be argued that implementing IWRM would need a road map or action program which would provide short-term and long-term sets of activities and outputs. On the other hand, it is also of vital importance to have a coalition of key players or champions who can act as catalysts for change and who has the motivation and influence to engage the government and obtain its full endorsement and support in espousing IWRM. Finally, another critical factor for success is to be consistent in pursuing IWRM objectives and have patience in pursuing the same.

IWRM when put into practice will bring about change in the water sector. It is these changes which make water resources management vastly different from the past notion of business as usual. It is critical to create changes through IWRM, i.e. the change of mindset of all involved in water resources management, the change in decision making process by stronger stakeholder participation, the change towards management rather than development, the change from separate responsibility to partnership, the change in the way we develop capacities for IWRM by also looking at institutional systems and mechanisms rather than pure training, among others. When we look at IWRM, it is these changes that should matter more than just IWRM plans as our key outputs.

MRC remains a useful organization in bridging and promoting close cooperation of the four member countries in managing the Mekong River and its vast natural resources for the well being of the region's population. To be even more effective, MRC needs to fully embrace IWRM principles, and integrate them in its operations. But beyond rhetorics, what can and should MRC do to be a genuine and effective champion of IWRM? What are its strengths and what opportunities should it open up to? What are its areas of weaknesses that it should address at the same time? MRC needs to continuously evolve in all aspects of its operations, it cannot be a dormant organization. Forefront is to change the mindset of looking at Mekong river as a resources base to be exploited only to accelerate economic growth of the region. Rather, to look at the Mekong as a sustainable resource for promoting quality of life and maintaining the ecological system for generations to come. To shift from simply sharing water to sharing benefits as well in a sustainable manner. The IWRM – based Basin Development Strategy for the Lower Mekong Basin seems to give more emphasis for having “an IWRM Plan”, but the challenge is how to implement IWRM as a process. Strengthening policy, strategic planning, implementation, and monitoring capacities for IWRM is crucial, and with the cross-border nature of the Mekong is something that MRC is in a very good position to address.

Session 3-Understanding the Distribution of benefits and costs, the potential winners and losers

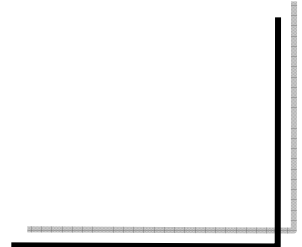
Dr. Andrew Noble



Regional Director– IWMI
Facilitator of the session 3

Dr Andrew D. Noble is Regional Director of International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and Principal Research Scientist with a strong background in agronomy and soil science. Prior to joining IWMI in 2002, he was a Principal research Scientist with CSIRO Land and Water based in Townsville, far north Queensland, Australia, where he worked in both the wet and semi-arid tropics on issues associated with land degradation including soil acidification and the potential role of clay based materials in rehabilitating degraded soils. He has held Lecturing positions (1982 - 1989) at the University of KwaZulu Natal

South Africa and Project Leader and Principal Research Scientist with the Institute for Commercial Forestry Research (1989 - 1992) working in the area of commercial plantation forestry. He has over 108 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters and over 100 conference proceedings. He has supervised several MSc and PhD thesis and is on the editorial board of several international journals.





Mr. Zhou Shichun,

Senior Engineer,
General Institute of Water
Resources and Hydropower
Planning and Design, China

Title of the presentation:

**Contribution of the Lancang hydropower
cascade to economic development and the
downstream water regime - the perspective of
the Chinese Government**

Dr. Alan Brooks

World Fish Centre

Alan Brooks is the very recently appointed Director Greater Mekong for the WorldFish Center based in Phnom Penh Cambodia. Prior to that Alan served as Center's Regional Director South Asia based in Bangladesh for 4 years. Alan joined DFID in 1998 to lead on an institutional strengthening fisheries project for 5 years and thereafter, led a consortium of private companies to oversee Dfid's entire rural livelihoods programme. A further 12 years Alan has worked on long term, private sector, research and development projects in Thailand, India, Zambia and Malawi. Alan holds a Masters degree from the University of Stirling, UK.

Title of the presentation:

Capture fisheries, dams, mitigations measures and alternative sources of fish production

Abstract: In this presentation we briefly show that capture fisheries in the Mekong Basin are of major importance by global standards and crucial to food security basinwide. Fish production is much higher than cattle production in the region, and in Cambodia and Laos in particular, fish also outweigh pig and chicken production, meaning that there are currently no alternatives to offset possible losses in capture fisheries production. . We then emphasize measures that can minimize or mitigate the impact of dams on fish resources. These measures are multiple and cover dam location, spillway design, clearance of vegetation in the dam reservoir, filling schedules, and reservoir management. The case of fish passes is also detailed, and it is concluded that although fish passes are possible mitigation options for smaller dams on tributaries, on the lower part of the Mekong there are no fish passes that can accommodate the size and intensity of mainstream fish migrations during the peak season. The last section of the presentation deals with alternative sources of fish production (aquaculture and stocking in reservoirs). We show that freshwater aquaculture is booming only in Vietnam, and that for the other riparian countries it does not seem likely to replace capture fisheries. Furthermore, in Vietnam the freshwater aquaculture sector targets foreign consumers and does not contribute much to local food security. We conclude that dam development in the Mekong is a potential threat to food security. There are multiple options for dam location and design, as well as for mitigation, but none of them will completely compensate for the potential loss of fish production, and the replacement of lost capture fisheries by aquaculture is very unlikely.



Mr. Nguyen Hong Toan

National Adviser for MRC BDP
Programme

Mr. Nguyen Hong Toan has more than 35 years of experience in the water sector including 10 years as Secretary General of the Viet Nam National Mekong Committee and the Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Viet Nam and 8 years working at the MRC Secretariat. His expertise is in the areas of policy and institutional development, especially transboundary water governance. Holding a Master degree on water resources management from India, Mr. Toan also has extensive experience in hydraulic designs, environmental impact assessment and other water resources management related areas. Mr. Toan is currently Director of the Centre for River Basin and Natural Resources Management and Member of the Secretariat of the Viet Nam Committee on Large Dams.

Title of the presentation:

From assessments to strategy for sustainable basin development and to implementation-Path being followed by MRC BDP

Abstract: There has been increasing demand from both riparian countries and project developers for the provision of an integrated basin perspective against which ambitious national plans and proposed projects can be assessed to ensure an acceptable balance between economic, environmental and social outcomes, and mutual benefits to the countries. This has led to the preparation of an IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy by the four Lower Mekong Basin countries (LMB), supported by the MRC.

The IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy will provide a clear and re-confirmed commitment by the countries to a basin wide IWRM approach to guide basin development in a sustainable way. The Strategy will define the 'development space' of the basin's water and related resources within which the countries can plan and work, supported by strategic guidance and a package of IWRM guidelines that will assist policy makers and water managers in the use and management of the 'development space'. Practical institutional mechanisms will be agreed to adapt the strategic guidance and processes in the Strategy into the various transboundary and national planning, decision-making and governance processes, which complement activities and processes now underway.

Professor
Dr. Surichai Wunkeaw

Director
Department of Sociology &
Anthropology, Chulalongkorn
University

Title of the presentation:

**Articulating the promises and impossibilities –
Vision of the MRC Basin Development Planning
and its draft IWRM Strategy**

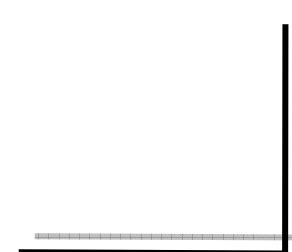
Session 4-Strengthen Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement

Richard Friend



Consultant
Facilitator of the session 4

Richard Friend is a freelance consultant and researcher working in the Mekong Region. He specializes in natural resources management, sustainable livelihoods, participatory approaches and governance.





**Mr. Suparek
Janprasart,**

Sociologist/Socio-economist
MRC BDP Programme

Title of the presentation:

**BDP Stakeholder Participation and
Communication Plan - the ambitions and
lessons learned with the implementation to date**



**Mr. Thanosak
Thanasarn**

A member of River Basin
Committee (RBC) of Kok and
Northern Kong basins

Title of the presentation:

BDP process at the sub-basin level, the role of RBOs, and the coherence between sub-basin, national and basin planning

He is Lecturer of Rajabhat Chiang Rai University and followings are his accomplished:

1. Thai habitat organic farm project
2. Farmer School Project
3. IWRM in Kok Basin
4. Research on community water resources management
5. Simple Photometer for Flow Injection Analysis

Mr. Khy Lim

Communication Officer
MRC International Coordination
and Communication Section

Title of the presentation:

**Preparation of the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015
–Process and expected involvement of
stakeholders**



Mr. John Dore

Water Advisor, AusAID

John Dore is also Program Director of the research network M-POWER (Mekong Program on Water Environment and Resilience) research network, and a political economy and governance writer with particular interest in: regionalism; transboundary and multicultural, deliberative engagement and negotiation processes. Recent writings include editing and contributing chapters to several books – Social Challenges for the Mekong Region (White Lotus), Democratising Water Governance in the Mekong Region (Silkworm Mekong Press), Contested Waterscapes in the Mekong Region: Hydropower, Livelihoods, Governance (Earthscan), NEGOTIATE (IUCN), and a special issue of Water Alternatives Journal focused on 'WCD+10: Revisiting the Large Dams Controversy'

Title of the presentation:

Multi-stakeholder platform - would it be able to inform and influence decision making?

Abstract: Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) are a part of governance in which different stakeholders are identified, and usually through representatives, invited and assisted to interact in a deliberative forum that focuses on: i) sharing knowledge and perspectives, ii) generating and examining options and iii) informing and shaping negotiations and decisions.

MSPs are an approach for constructive engagement and learning about complex problems. MSPs can be influential by bringing together stakeholders in a new form of communication and decision finding. A way of focusing the MSP contribution to water negotiations is to use the 4Rs as part of a systematic and semi-structured approach. The 4Rs refers to rewards, risks, rights and responsibilities. For example:

- The rewards being sought from a particular project or development approach;
- The involuntary and voluntary water-related risks;
- Water-related rights;
- The various water-related responsibilities of state and non-state actors.