#### สัญญาเลขที่ PDG 5310002 รายงานการดำเหินการฉบับสมบูรณ์

ระหว่างวันที่ 10 พฤศจิกายน 2552 ถึงวันที่ 9 มีนาคม 2553

#### โครงการ

"การจัดประชุมสัมมหา International Seminar on Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing Experience from Japan and Mekong Countries"

สำนักงานกองทุนสนับสนุนการวิจัย

โดย

ศูนย์วิจัยสังคมอนุภูมิภาคลุ่มน้ำโขง คณะศิลปศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยอุบลราชธานี

#### บทคัดย่อ

รายงานฉบับนี้ เป็นรายงานการดำเนินการโครงการ "การจัดประชุมสัมมนา International Seminar on Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing Experience from Japan and Mekong Countries" จัดโดยศูนย์วิจัยสังคมอนุภูมิภาคลุ่มน้ำโขง คณะศิลป ศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยอุบลราชธานี ซึ่งจัดขึ้นเมื่อวันที่ 19-20 พฤศจิกายน 2553 โดยมี วัตถุประสงค์เพื่อสร้างการตระหนักถึงความสำคัญของวัฒนธรรมท้องถิ่นและความเป็นภูมิภาค แห่งลุ่มน้ำโขง ซึ่งในปัจจุบันกำลังเผชิญกับความท้าทายต่อการเปลี่ยนแปลงของโลก ซึ่งการ สัมมนาในครั้งนี้จะเป็นความร่วมมือระหว่างนักวิชาการในภูมิภาคลุ่มน้ำโขงและญี่ปุ่น แลกเปลี่ยนประสบการณ์การทำงานในด้านการพัฒนา การเปลี่ยนแปลงทางวัฒนธรรมและการ ปรับตัว ความหลากหลายและ การฟื้นฟูวิถีชีวิตของคนในท้องถิ่น เพื่อแสดงให้เห็นว่าความรู้ ท้องถิ่นและองค์กรทางสังคมจะสามารถบูรณาการเข้าในปฏิบัติการพัฒนาในภูมิภาคได้อย่างไร และเพื่อสร้างจุดแข็งต่อการฟื้นฟูเอกลักษณ์ของภูมิภาค การประชุมดังกล่าวได้รับการตอบรับ จากผู้เข้าร่วมประชุมเป็นอย่างดี ผลจากการประชุมไปสู่การแลกเปลี่ยนความรู้ และข้อคิดเห็นต่อ ประเด็น ต่าง ๆ ที่เกี่ยวข้องกับลุ่มน้ำโขง รวมถึงการสร้างเครือข่ายระหว่างนักวิชากร NGOs ทั้ง ในและนอกพื้นที่ รวมถึงในระดับนานาชาติและโดยเฉพาะความร่วมมือระหว่างประเทศญี่ปุ่นและ ลุ่มน้ำโขง

#### Abstract

This report is the overall report of the "International Seminar on Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing Experience from Japan and Mekong Countries" held on November 19-20, 2009 organized by Mekong Sub-region Social Research Center [MSSRC], Faculty of Liberal Arts, Ubon Ratchathani University.

The objective of the seminar is to reemphasize and reevaluate the importance of locally cultural and social sensibilities in the Mekong region, as the pace of economic development quickens and the region's incorporation into the global economy intensifies. This seminar thus aims to bring together assorted stakeholders – selected Japanese and Southeast Asian regional experts, NGOs, and local voices from the Mekong region – to discuss and share perspectives on development, cultural change and adaptation, diversity, and the resilience of local livelihoods. We aim to assert local culture and worldview into the discourse of Mekong development, to explore how local knowledge and social organization could be better integrated in regional development practices, and to reinvigorate efforts to revive Mekong regional identity.

The outcomes from the seminar bring to sharing knowledge and let us to thinking of important thing to living together in the Mekong region. Indeed, building networks of academics and activists at the local to global level especially with Japanese is also the important one.

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**Project Title:** International Seminar on "Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River:

Sharing Experiences from Japan and the Mekong Countries"

**Type of event:** Invited Seminar entitled 'Talk Globally, Act Regionally'

Organizer: Mekong Sub-region Social Research Center [MSSRC]

**Ubon Ratchathani University** 

#### **Co-organizers:**

• Mekong Program on Water, Environment and Resilience

• Mekong Regional Studies Institute, Ubon Ratchathani University

• Social Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University

• Japan Watch Project, Thammasat University

• International Fellowship Program of Thailand Alumni Network

• Faculty of Law, Ubon Ratchathani University

#### **Supporters:**

• Japan Foundation [JF]

• Mekong Program on Water, Environment and Resilience [M-POWER]

• Mekong Regional Studies Institute [MRSI]

• Thailand Research Fund [TRF]

#### **Background:**

The Mekong River serves as the life blood for over 60 million people, flowing through a region rich in ethnic and cultural diversity, ancient and modern civilizations, and supporting myriad livelihoods, trade routes, and biohabitats. Home to over seventy different ethnic groups, the river forms an intrinsic part of Southeast Asian society, the cultural and ecological heart of mainland Southeast Asia.

The Mekong river originates on the Tibetan plateau, its flow connecting China and Southeast Asia physically and historically. The downstream Mekong region comprises a common cultural area consisting of the modern-day nation-states of Thailand, Burma, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Each span of the river basin supports a unique part of Mekong culture. The river sustains the livelihoods, norms, rituals, customs and communities central to the formation of the Mekong regionalism. The diversity of Mekong cultures is the most salient characteristic of the basin; highly diverse ethnic groups speaking languages from five different language families; monumental histories marking the waxing and waning of great civilizations and witnessing the transformations of a continent from kingdoms to modern nation-states. Cultural continuity across generations depends on the livelihoods sustained by the river's resources: its fish, its water, its affordance as a means of transportation and trade. Despite its vast cultural diversity, there are also marked cultural commonalities: Buddhism in particular has been a unifying force and one undergirding the cultural integrity of the Mekong as a region, at least in the lowlands. Other forms of religious belief and rituals involving the river also serve to unite disparate highland and lowland cultures, creating a unity amidst the diversity of Mekong peoples.

The enormous cultural diversity of the region – including groups like the Hmong, Mien, Khmu, Tai-Lao, Cham, Khmer, Kinh, Jarai, Kuay, Stieng, Tampuan, just to name a few – and the vast disparities in livelihoods, economic development and access to social resources have, predictably, both caused and resulted in disputes over natural resources and rights to their use. Competition over the Mekong's resources is increasingly fierce, with different cultures making different demands based on their particular socioeconomic practices

and societal needs. Ranging from the smallest of subsistence forest dwellers to massive multinational conglomerates and the competing needs of nation-states, the claims being made to riparian resources are vastly different in scale, style, and urgency.

Cultures living along the Mekong have all developed their own systems for understanding, managing, and valuing natural resources, systems which are, to varying degrees, interdependent. With recent dramatic expansions in population and with the relatively sudden reorganization of economics into an ever more global regimen, the resources of the river and the indigenous systems for maintaining them have come under incredible pressure and strain. Many livelihoods that have persisted for centuries are suddenly becoming unviable and eclipsed by alternate forms within a global capitalist system. The river and its resources are being redefined and expropriated by actors often from far afield, who just a few decades ago had little or no interest in the river and who appeared to Mekong people as remote and inconsequential. Now the river is being managed and developed by forces and people who may have no direct presence among those living along the river itself. Local control of resources has passed out of local hands, and this disenfranchisement and disempowerment has led to frustration, anger and discontent. Upstream and downstream relations, often taken for granted as remote and disconnected, now prove to be urgent matters which directly impact the very flow and viability of the river itself. Among the most critical such hotspots are the Tonle Sap biosphere in Cambodia, Sipandone wetlands in Laos, the Mekong Delta in lower Vietnam, and the Mun River watershed in northeastern Thailand. Each of these illustrate the importance and centrality of Mekong resources, especially the biodiversity of fisheries, upon which people have relied for millennia and the rapid and drastic way such resources can be endangered by global forces acting on very local contexts.

Understanding the factors influencing the changes in Mekong culture and people's adaptation to such changes can be fostered through open and frank dialogue. Only through such dialogue will Mekong societies, and broader Asian and Southeast Asian societies at large, be able to ensure peace and co-prosperity in the region. The use or exploitation of resources in any one area of the Mekong now becomes an issue among all cultures and ethnicities dependent on the river. Open-minded debate and a willingness to learn and understand each other is absolutely critical to the region's immediate future stability.

Current subregional cooperation in the Mekong region is predicated on policy coordination among states in a circumscribed space. The cooperation process between the Mekong countries is currently envisioned as broader intra-regional projects rather than as a form of integration within the area it delineates. Japan and Western countries have, as donors, encouraged the Lower Mekong countries to promote subregionalism. Prominent among these are the Swedish government, the Danish government, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank; Japan, too, has been a key donor in the region and has emphasized alleviating poverty of the Mekong people by promoting infrastructure to facilitate trade in the region. Japan has a long history of economic support in the region, though initiatives that have brought tremendous growth. At this seminar, we propose to share the lessons of Japanese's experiences in promoting subregional growth, including the subregionalism perspectives, with relevant local and Southeast Asian stakeholders. This intention forms a central part of the proposed seminar.

The Mekong region's integration into global economics and politics prompts us to offer a conference motif: *Talk globally and act regionally*. The aim is to reconcile the different scales of development and resource management, between the global and the local, and to ensure that local voices and perceptions are not ignored or drowned out by dominant discourses of international development and nation-state politics. We aim to facilitate open dialogue targeting the impacts of regionalism and regionalization among Mekong cultures and societies. We want to integrate the voices of international and local expertise, and thereby

reconcile and empower both. Our seminar aims to stimulate the open sharing of different perspectives and learning in order to envision alternate forms of globalization which allow more space for local voices. We want to promote regionalization in Southeast Asia in a way that includes more than the voices of elite powerbrokers. Given Japan's leadership and innovation in many of these areas and Japanese commitment to the Mekong region, we aim in particular to foster connections between Japanese expertise and local expertise to realize these goals.

Underlying concepts and approach of the seminar, learning points and sharing perspectives. The objective of the seminar is to reemphasize and reevaluate the importance of local cultural and social sensibilities in the Mekong region, as the pace of economic development quickens and the region's incorporation into the global economy intensifies. Local worldviews have been increasingly marginalized in the face of dramatic socioeconomic upheaval, and this has led to social conflict, alienation, and dislocation.

This seminar thus aims to bring together assorted stakeholders – selected Japanese and Southeast Asian regional experts, NGOs, and local voices from the Mekong region – to discuss and share perspectives on development, cultural change and adaptation, diversity, and the resilience of local livelihoods. We aim to assert local culture and worldview into the discourse of Mekong development, to explore how local knowledge and social organization may be better integrated in regional development practices, and to reinvigorate efforts to revive Mekong regional identity.

Understanding sociocultural change and how people have adapted themselves to emerging conditions is an important area of research. But we submit that it is not only locals who need to adapt and change. Larger stakeholders, wielding large budgets, international support, and powerful discourses of development and economic prosperity must also adapt to local values ways of knowing. Debates on cultural diversity and its meaningful incorporation into development projects can lead to more fruitful economic outcomes and offers a better chance for lasting peace. Creating peace in society is a long term process which requires the engagement of all parties and every sector of society. It requires being flexible and openminded, innovative and diplomatic. Our seminar proposes to foster peace and understanding by creating dialogue on the following:

- Understanding Mekong culture and its cultural diversity as based on Mekong resources.
- Understanding the dimensions of subregionalism and globalization, and how they impact Mekong resources and the maintenance of local livelihoods. This includes understanding how Mekong cultures have changed and transformed, and incorporates issues of international cross-border cooperation.
- Learning and sharing from countries and experts beyond the region, but who influence Southeast Asian regional economic growth, and understanding the root of conflicts to assist in both prevention and resolution.

To reach the goal of the seminar as laid out, the seminar will invite experts representing different scales of influence, from international, to regional, to local. Topics will be organized in a way to enhance the sharing of perspectives across different panel sessions and topics: globalization and the Mekong culture, enhancing the open dialogue for eliminating Mekong conflicts due to the use of the resource and understanding the differences between cultures that contribute to the Mekong society. *Talk globally, Act Regionally* as the underlying motif of the seminar will foster an open dialogue for learning and sharing perspectives. Panel sessions at the seminar will address the following topics:

- Globalization, subregionalism and urgent social issues related to the Mekong society and culture.
- The role of Japan in the Mekong region.
- Understanding Mekong ethnicity, race, gender, and cultural difference in the context of conflicts over the use of riparian water resources.
- Promoting local resilience in maintaining indigenous Mekong culture and customs
- Rethinking conflict prevention and conflict resolution across local and global scales in the Mekong region.
- Law and Regulation in the Mekong: Trade and River Management

#### Summary:

The seminar is intended to be the first of many steps in the effort to make local voices heard and to make local cultural relevant to development discourse. The seminar is being organized by the Mekong Subregion Social Research Center (MSSRC) at Ubon Ratchathani University, whose mission and research foci specifically address Mekong development and local culture issues. As organizers of the seminar, we believe Mekong cultural issues have been neglected in the last few decades, at the same as the region has been targeted for accelerated development. Just when local cultural adaptation should matter most, it has been almost entirely ignored. We believe that this seminar, drawing on and integrating Japanese and local Southeast Asian expertise, can serve as a valuable contribution for revitalizing local cultures and insisting they be made relevant, part and parcel of any development agenda.

We believe that our seminar, as proposed, would resonate strongly with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Mekong-Japan Exchange Year 2009, that it is commensurate with the Ministry's goals, and that building networks and alliances among Japanese and Southeast Asian experts would prove enormously beneficial to the people of the Mekong, and to Asia as a whole

#### **Seminar snapshot:**

- 1 ½ day seminar with 100 participants, to be held in Ubon Ratchathani Province, Thailand
- Format: invited seminar with panel sessions and exhibitions

**Duration:** Thursday 19 - Friday 20 November 2009 [1 ½ Day seminar]

#### **Objective:**

The objective of the seminar is to reemphasize and reevaluate the importance of local cultural and social sensibilities in the Mekong region, as the pace of economic development quickens and the region's incorporation into the global economy intensifies. Local worldviews have been increasingly marginalized in the face of dramatic socioeconomic upheaval, and this has led to social conflict, alienation, and dislocation.

This seminar thus aims to bring together assorted stakeholders – selected Japanese and Southeast Asian regional experts, NGOs, and local voices from the Mekong region – to discuss and share perspectives on development, cultural change and adaptation, diversity, and the resilience of local livelihoods. We aim to assert local culture and worldview into the discourse of Mekong development, to explore how local knowledge and social organization may be better integrated in regional development practices, and to reinvigorate efforts to revive Mekong regional identity.

#### **Focal Points:**

The premises underlying the seminar include:

- That it is critical to understand Mekong cultures and their reliance on Mekong river resources.
- That it is important to reconcile and integrate the perspectives of localism, subregionalism, and globalization, and mitigate the impacts that regional development has on indigenous cultures and livelihoods.
- That learning and sharing among governors, funding supporters, scholars, experts and locals from the region and from supporting countries like Japan is a crucial way to ensure regional peace, economic prosperity, cultural dignity, and human rights in the Mekong region.

<u>Main Participants:</u> 100 participants: Japanese and Mekong Countries academics, government officials, NGOs, and representatives from Japan organizations.

#### **Expected Outcomes:**

Our key objective is to reassert the importance of Mekong culture into the discourses and debates surrounding development. We believe this seminar will contribute to that goal by fostering dialogue and professional relationships among interested experts and local stakeholders. This seminar will serve as the basis for durable future collaborations, research, and information exchange. The MSSRC, as organizers of the seminar, also intend to produce an edited volume (Proceedings) based on the panel presentations. We also expect substantial media coverage and publicity among interested organizations that will emphasize our focus on Mekong culture and our collaboration with the Japan foundation and our participation in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Mekong-Japan Exchange Year 2009

#### **Programme**

#### International Seminar on Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing Experiences from Japan and the Mekong Countries

การสัมมนาทางวิชาการนานาชาติเรื่อง

"ความหลากหลายทางวัฒนธรรมในลุ่มน้ำโขง:

การแลกเปลี่ยนประสบการณ์จากญี่ปุ่นและประเทศในลุ่มน้ำโขง"

Thursday 19 - Friday 20 November 2009 Tubtim Room, Ubon International Hotel, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

Thursday, 19 November 2009

**Morning** 

08.00 - 08.30 Registration

08.30 – 08.40 Conference Background

Asst.Prof.Dr. Inthira Sahee Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts, UBU

**08.40 – 09.00 Opening Address** 

Prof. Dr. Prakob Virojanagud President, UBU

09.00 – 10.00 Keynote Speech

"Globalization, Subregionalism and the Mekong Social Issues"

**Prof. Surichai Wan'geao** Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University

And **Prof. Yuji Baba** Kyoto Bunkyo University

10.00 - 10.45

Session I: The Roles of Japan and ADB in the Mekong Region

Jean-Pierre Verbiest ADB Thailand Country Director

Assoc Prof. Dr. Siriporn Wajjwalku Director of National Policy and

Transnational Relations Division, TRF

10.45 - 11.00 Break

11.00 - 12.30

Session II: Understanding Mekong Ethnicity, Gender and Difference, and Their Roles in Conflicts over the Use of Riparian Resources

**Prof. Dr. Philip Hirsch** Director, Australian Mekong Resource Centre

**Khun Tee** Chairman, Pa-O Youth Organization

**Montree Chantawong** Towards Ecological Recovery and Regional Alliance (TERRA)

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Sommai Chinnak Ubon Ratchathani University

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch

#### **Afternoon**

13.30 - 14.45

Session III: Promoting Resilience in Maintaining Mekong Culture and Customs

Assoc.Prof. Motoki Akitsu Kyoto University Assoc.Prof. Lu Xing Yunnan University

Dr. Thanyatip Sripana Institute of Asian Studies

Chulalongkorn University

Chair: Asst. Prof. Dr. Yaowalak Apichatvullop

Director, Center for Research on Plurality in the Mekong (CERP), Khonkaen

University

14.45 - 15.00 Break

15.00 - 16.30

Session IV: M-POWER Special Session: Mekong Water Governance

Assoc.Prof. Lu Xing Yunnan University Kanokporn Deeburee M-POWER Fellow Jakkrit Sangkamanee M-POWER Fellow

Ram Chandra Bastakoti M-POWER Coordinator

Prof. Phijaisakdi Horayangkura Faculty of Law Assumption University

Facilitator: Asst. Prof. Dr. Kanokwan Manorom Director, MSSRC

#### Friday 20 November 2009

9.00 - 12.00

The Future of the Mekong: Mutual understanding as a way towards conflict prevention and resolution focusing future roles of Japan

Katsumi Kakazu Director General, Japan Foundation Pakawan Chufamanee Thailand Nation Mekong Committee

Mekong River Commission (MRC)

Asst. Prof. Dr. Kanokwan Manorom Director, MSSRC, Ubon Ratchathani University

Asst. Prof. Dr. Yaowalak Apichatvullop Director, CERP

Chair: Asst. Prof. Dr. Peter Vail National University of Singapore

12.00 – 12.30 Closing Remark

Katsumi Kakazu Executive Director,

> The Japan Foundation, Southeast Asian Bureau Director General, The Japan Foundation, Bangkok

#### **Narrative Report**

#### **Background of the seminar**

On 19-20 November 2009, Mekong Sub-region Social Research Center (MSSRC) of Faculty of Liberal Arts, Ubon Ratchathani University had organized an International Seminar on 'Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing Experiences from Japan and the Mekong Countries'. This seminar was undertaken in collaboration with a number of institutions, including the Mekong Program on Water, Environment and Resilience, the Mekong Regional Studies Institute of Ubon Ratchathani University, Social Research Institute of Chulalongkorn University, Japan Watch Project of Thammasat University, International Fellowship Program of Thailand Alumni Network and Faculty of Law of Ubon Ratchathani University with supported by Thailand research Fund and Japan Foundation, with 150 participants including academics, government, local NGOs, international NGOs, students and villagers that came from Thailand, Japan, China, Australia, Singapore and Burma.

Our seminar aimed to reemphasize and reevaluate the importance of locally cultural and social sensibilities in the Mekong region We expected to bring together assorted stakeholders – selected Japanese and Southeast Asian regional experts, NGOs, and local voices from the Mekong region – to discuss and share perspectives on development, cultural change and adaptation, diversity, and the resilience of local livelihoods. We also hoped to assert local culture and worldview into the discourse of Mekong development, to explore how local knowledge and social organization could be better integrated in regional development practices, and to reinvigorate efforts to revive Mekong regional identity.

The seminar was divided into 6 themes including;

- 1. Globalization, Sub regionalism and the Mekong Social Issues
- 2. Session I: The Roles of Japan and ADB in the Mekong Region
- 3. Session II: Understanding Mekong Ethnicity, Gender and Difference, and Their Roles in Conflicts over the Use of Riparian Resources
- 4. Session III: Promoting Resilience in Maintaining Mekong Culture and Customs
- 5. Session IV: M-POWER Special Session; Mekong Water Governance
- 6. The Future of the Mekong: Mutual understanding as a way towards conflict prevention and resolution focusing future roles of Japan

#### Achieving objectives

According to our observation throughout the course of the seminar, we assessed that we quite achieved our objectives. Information, contents and critical critiques, questions and concerns pertaining to the current Mekong region and Mekong river basin situation were significantly raised in the seminar as we had ever expected. Detailed summarization of them are below.

On the theme, "Globalization, Sub regionalism and the Mekong Social Issues", our keynote speaker, Prof. Surichi Wan'gaeo, a lecture at Chulalongorn University argued that there were crashes of values and egos of 'globalization between two camps, those who supported and opposed globalization. He furthered addressed importance of network in supporting each other to analyze impacts of global policies on local people and roles of academics and research in drafting development agenda and monitoring a powerful globalization in the Mekong region.

The presentation of Prof. Yuji Baba from Kyoto Bunkyo University on a "Thai Lue in the trans-national context" properly supported arguments of Prof. Surichai. His speech

highlighted ethic peoples who had been marginalized and had become stateless people with a context of globalization.

On the session I: "The Roles of Japan and ADB (Asian Development Bank) in the Mekong Region", Mr. Jean-Pierre Verbiest, an ADB Country director gave us critical roles of ADB in the GMS. Their roles in GMS' development were mainly based on a concept of 3Cs – "Connectivity, Competitiveness, and Community". According to his ADB's standpoints, the 3 Cs had provided lots of economic and development opportunities to many people in many different ways. Assoiciate Professor Dr. Siriporn Wajjwalku, director of National Policy and Transnational Relations Division of TRF, gave a similar view on the connectivity of people, goods and services around the Mekong region through many development efforts and based on regional integration ideology which was pushed heavily by big donors like Japan and ADB. She also was provocatively to show us how little Mekong people had known about these donors, especially Japan despite of the fact that Japan had played such a big role in the region many years. Very few knowledge about Japan had been documented by the Mekong people. Therefore, she ended up her lively presentation by motivating participants to further study and learn more about Japan.

On session II: "Understanding Mekong Ethnicity, Gender and Difference, and Their Roles in Conflicts over the Use of Riparian Resources", Professor Dr. Phillip Hirsch Director of Australian Mekong Resource Center, critically analyzed relationships between differences and conflicts over the use of riparian resources in the Mekong River Basin. He noted that development had brought both potential conflicts and differences for both rich and poor people. He finally concluded that development must respect differences of people. Access to resource must be based on social justice, Potential conflict must be steadily reduced by respecting richness of cultural and natural diversities revolving around Mekong people and their environmental contexts. Mr. Montree Juntawong, the NGOs from TERRA reflected impacts of Mekong Power Grid on local scale, especially a case of Lao people by clearly saying that poor people would not get profits from this project. Mr. Khun Tee who is a chairman of Pa-O Youth Organization echoed voices of the Burmese people living along the Thai and Burmese border who had long been suffering from the military regime. He showed that these people had no opportunities to seek their secured life in accessing to resources as these resources were controlled by the regime.

On session III: "Promoting Resilience in Maintaining Mekong Culture and Customs", Dr. Thanyatip Sripana a researcher at Asian Studies Institute of Chulalongkorn University, presented her research about the Vietnamese migrant workers living in Malaysia. She told a long story of their difficult lives and copping strategies to survive in new and different social and cultural spaces. Prof. Lu Xing, Director of GMS study center of Yunnan University, presented that an introduction of cash crops to ethnic communities in Sipsong Panna had brought a disintegration within ethnic groups. Some ethnic people had benefits of a project whilst other got very few. And Prof. Motoki Akisu from Kyoto University said that development activities had been involved by both local people and NGO network. He mainly discussed roles of NGOs in supporting local development using a case study of Nan Province of Thailand.

On session IV: "M-POWER Special Session; Mekong Water Governance, the research team of Mekong Program on Water, Environment and Resilience" presented background of what was MPOWER, who they were and how they worked, achieved and contributed to water governance in the Mekong river management. The two research fellows of MPOWER presented their research. Jakkrit Sangkamanee, a Phd. Candidate at Australian National University discussed a concept of hydro-ethnology and political economy of water

management using a case of a small scale irrigation project launched at community located along the Mekong river. He argued that water management in this village was mainly based on political motive. Villagers had exercised their power to negotiate and mobilize water resource with government overtime. For example, villagers wrote a proposal to the government to get a water project. Kanokporn Deepuree, a Phd. candidate at Research Center for Social Development of Chiang Mai University presented her research on roles of women in fishery management in Songkram river basin, Thailand. She argued that cultural dimension and local knowledge had played great roles in managing fishery resource. Prof. Dr. Pijaisak Horayankura a law professor at Assumption University, discussed international law and regulation must be considered to be a tool in managing Mekong mainstream.

On the second day of the seminar, we organized a session on "The Future of the Mekong: Mutual Understanding as a Way towards Conflict Prevention and Resolution". We intended to focus on the future roles of Japan in the Mekong development. Mr. Katsumi Kakasu, a director of Japan Foundation was invited to give a speech on roles of Japan Foundation in a Mekong development. He presented important JF's activities as a donor organization. Detailed programs supported were presented including education, cultural and academic exchanges. Following his speech, it was a discussion on roles of Mekong River Commission (MRC) presented by a representative from Thailand National Mekong Committee (TNMC), Mrs. Pakawan Chufamanee. She described functions of MRC in the Mekong basin management based on triple bottom lines, "Environment, Social and Economy". She insisted that MRC was still an intergovernment agency doing research and seeking knowledge to support decision making of the country's members of MRC. Dr. Kanokwan Manorom, a director of MSSRC presented her research on Contract farming in Laos. She argued that contract farming was contested by two camps, Neo-liberalization and Neo-Marxism. Lao farmers joining contract had less power to negotiate with firms. Small farmers were integrated to regional food trade. How smallholders would get benefit from contract farming must be further studied. Lastly, Dr. Yaowalak Apichatvullop, a director of Center for Research on Plurality in the Mekong Region of Khon Kaen University, presented way forward to mutual understanding and working together among research institutes to understand a transition of Mekong region.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, we have believed that this seminar is very fruitful for creating a mutual understanding among institutes about the Mekong region within a context of globalization. The seminar also emphasised that we were undergoing and encountering regional development challenged by free market economy. These challenges included high mobility of people and goods around the region, environmental depletion, cash crops squeezing out food crops, marginalization of people who could not adapt to modernization or acess to benefits of market economy, , differentiation and potential conflicts among groups of people who had different access to resources and benefits of development projects. We also had seen a big push of donors like Japan and ADB in developing the Mekong region. Finally we had learnt that we must not only have a regional approach to understand integration of Mekong region but also find ways to cope with and respond to the Mekong challenges in these days and in the long run.

#### **General Evaluation of the Project**

The seminar was set for one and a half day composing of topics reflecting a core concept of our seminar, 'talk globally, act regionally'. The topics ranged from local to global issues as seen from the seminar agenda. We conveyed the discussion through given speeches and thematic panels from many scholars working in the Mekong. To keep the seminar more attractive, we provided some exhibitions the Mekong photographs portraying lives and bloods of Mekong people depending on Mekong river basin. Hence, productive works of

International Fellowship Program of Thailand Alumni Network (IFP) and International Child Support (ICS) were displayed.

We had evaluated our seminar by using the questionnaire. However, only a few participants returned an evaluation form back to us. Some of them emailed us later saying very positive about the seminar. Most of the suggestions made by them were on improving better facilities in the seminar room, like loud speaker and air conditioner.

On thematic sessions, some participants suggested us to focus more on particular issues and inclusion of voices of grassroots people. As we had local people including NGOs attending the seminar, we sought a support from IFP, one of the co-organizer, to translate from English to Thai for those who could not use English language.

Overall, we had found relatively successful in organizing this seminar as we had seen the seminar went interactively and constructively. Some participants brought up some critical questions about Mekong development such as what were the appropriate roles of donors to keep development sustainably and how institutes working in the Mekong region could be strengthened and networked through series of constructive dialogues, possible collaborations and so on. Participants were sparked and motivated by one of the speakers who was saying that we had known little about Japan's roles in the Mekong while Japan had already played such crucial roles in Mekong development long time ago. Therefore, this seminar paved a good channel for many people to understand Japan and to encourage people to find further ways to know more about Japan and its big and significant roles in the Mekong.

Hence, we had found that this seminar opened opportunities for people and institutes to know each others. For example, the seminar had provided space for both Japanese scholars, NGOs, regional scholars and local academics to further develop their possible network and collaboration. Scholars from Waseda University attending our seminar later on came to visit our center, MSSRC and other institute at Khon Kean University who had worked on the Mekong issues. They wanted to learn more about what these institutes had been doing about the Mekong.

Interm of no. of participants joining our seminar was more than we expected. Actually we planed to have 100 participants. In fact, about 150 people were joining our seminar. Although the Laotian, Vietnamese and Cambodian scholars could not join this event because of their internal constrains, we had some speakers presenting about some of their stories.

Number of participants joined the seminar were more than we expected. They were from many sectors including academics, government, local NGOs, international NGOs, students and villagers. This seminar opened opportunity for both the host, MSSRC's and other institutes to develop further collaboration Although the Vietnamese and Laotian speakers could not join us because of their time. We had people who studied about these two counties talked about these countries. It was very pity that we did not have our friends from Cambodian because of political reason. It was very good that we had also Japanese people working in the Northeast region of Thailand joined the seminar.

The discussion during the seminar was very fruitful especially on the second day. It showed that there was a strong debate about Mekong Development and the role of Japan in the region.

Some minor changes of the seminar's agenda were made. Only one session was dropped out which was "Law and the Mekong Management". As we firstly planed to have the Faculty of Law of Ubon Rathchathani University to co-host with us and run this session, but they decided to cancel their program later. Second, we had a cancellation from our Vietnamese scholar who was supposed to be one of the panelists. We then promptly replaced her by inviting the other scholar to give a presentation about Vietnamese people. Our Cambodian friend gave us very short notice about not coming to our seminar because of political reasons (it was just about a time that political dispute was hotly sparkling between the Thailand and Cambodia). We regretted not to have our Cambodian friends to share their knowledge with us.

#### Lesson for carrying out the project

We have learnt that partnerships in working together are very important. Therefore, we will continue to seek a cooperation with Japanese, other regional experts, institutes and NGOs to run useful, creative and fruitful activities to enhance our understanding about the Mekong and critically reflect challenges and ways to cope with them.

#### **Pictures**



Opening Address by Prof. Dr. Prakob Virojanagud, President, UBU





Keynote Speech "Globalization, Subregionalism and the Mekong Social Issues" Prof. Surichai Wan'geao And Prof. Yuji Baba





Session I: The Roles of Japan and ADB in the Mekong Region Jean-Pierre Verbiest, Thailand Country Director, ADB Assoc Prof. Dr. Siriporn Wajjwalku Thammasat University/



Session II: Understanding Mekong Ethnicity, Gender and Difference, and Their Roles in Conflicts over the Use of Riparian Resources



Session III: Promoting Resilience in Maintaining Mekong Culture and Customs



Session IV: M-POWER Special Session: Mekong Water Governance



The Future of the Mekong: Mutual understanding as a way towards conflict prevention and resolution focusing future roles of Japan



Closing Remark by Mr. Katsumi Kakazu Executive Director, The Japan Foundation, Southeast Asian Bureau Director General, Japan Foundation, Bangkok



Exhibition



Participants & Discussion

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142.	Ratchapon Pakdeethai	MSSRC volunteer	UbonRatchathani University		
143.	Mancharee Pongsutthi	MSSRC volunteer	UbonRatchathani University		
144.	Prattana Phayoongwong	MSSRC volunteer	UbonRatchathani University		
145.	Chaichai Krongyut	MSSRC volunteer	UbonRatchathani University		itisgai@hotmail.com
146.	Ajchara Simlee	MSSRC volunteer	UbonRatchathani University		
147.	Metiwon Chinwung	MSSRC volunteer	UbonRatchathani University		
148.	Chanpen Thongchai	Officer	Faculty of Liberal Arts, UBU		
149.	Sirichai Phibanwang	Officer	Faculty of Liberal Arts, UBU		
150.	Stephan Kohlbacher	UBU Media	Faculty of Science, UBU		Stephan_Kohlbacher@yahoo.com

# ภาคผนวก

# Globalization, Subregionalism and Mekong Social Issues

Sharing experiences for what?

#### Surichai Wun'Gaeo

Chair Professor

Director, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies Chulalongkorn University

Presidents, Asian Rural Sociology Association [ARSA]

Surichai Wun'gaeo, Ubon Ratchathani, 19 November 2009

.

#### **Key Points**

- Logics of Globalization
- Possibilities for Redefinition from our Sharing of Experiences.
- Time for Perspectives Change

#### **Globalization**

#### 1. Economic Globalization

\*Market Logic : the prime movers: trade , investment , consumption

\*Information and Communication Technology(ICT)

\*Hegemony of neoliberalism: market fundamentalism

Surichai Wun'gaeo, Ubon Ratchathani, 19 November2009

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#### 2. Deficits of Economic Globalization

- \*Environmental and resources deficits
- \*Governance and Democratic deficits
- \*Human security deficits
- \*Social deficits: inequality and injustices

#### 3. Social Globalization [Secondary Logic]

- One-eyed Giant of Economism
- G8 → G 20
- ASEAN Charter
- Joint China Japan Korea: East Asian Community

4

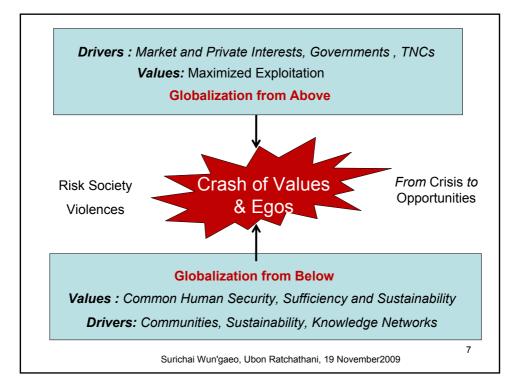
## Development Experiences in an Era of Extremes:

- Fast-track Globalization, Competitiveness and Human Insecurities, i.e. FTAs, EPAs
- · World of Winners and Losers
- 80 % of the Region's GDP belongs to 1 upper classes of 15% people; remaining 20 % shared by lower class es 0f 85% people in developing countries
- Unregulated financial market and global CRISIS

Surichai Wun'gaeo, Ubon Ratchathani, 19 November2009

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# Globalization and Social Conflicts Globalization from Above Governments, TNCs 1) Acceptance 2) Adaptation 3) Alternatives 4) Denial 5) Closure national regional transnationa Globalization from Below Communities: Rural, Urban, Cross-border, Transnational Surichai Wun'gaeo, Ubon Ratchathani, 19 November2009



#### **Mekong Social Issues**

#### a) East Asia and Mekong Region

- Greatest cultural, economic, ecological diversity
- ♦ Responses to Global and Planetary crisis

#### b) Human insecurities under Globalization:

- Community disintegrations and cultural fragmentations
- Explosive migration and human trafficking
- Financial instability, Volatility of capital flows
- Communicable diseases , pandemics
- Environmental disruptions and global warming
- Media and childhood insecurity
- Competitive and Antagonistic Nationalisms and

#### Cross-border citizen insecurities

8

### Context of Imbalances & New Politics of Empowerment

- Regionalization of development: "national interests" vs. "transboundary interests"
- Stronger private economic actors & market forces
   VS Weaker social actors/stakeholders
- Polarizing Discourses: Increasing distrusts and social alienation
- ASEAN, ADB, MRC for whom? Legitimacy crisis?
- What values for our common future?
   Solidarity, Human Security and Social Justice

Surichai Wun'gaeo, Ubon Ratchathani, 19 November 2009

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#### **Challenges for our Common Future**

- Market-driven globalization: Governance beyond Governments
- New need for *multi-level, multi-layered* governance
- Necessity to have/create an atmosphere of partnerships (No country, No actors/stakeholders can do it alone)

#### **Challenges for our Common Future**

- "Real-world" problems of development, e.g. trade-off between resources exploitation & conservation
- Perception gaps & unfavorable climate of opinions
- Complexity of actors/stakeholders & actions
- Institutionalizing Communities and CSO as legitimate stakeholders
- Universities and the research networks as transformative learners

Surichai Wun'gaeo, Ubon Ratchathani, 19 November 2009

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#### Globalization(s), Subregionalism and Human Security Social **Economic** Globalization Globalization Living Together Private Interests, competitions Gaps: within and between countries Social Capital and between regions **Cultural Capital** Risks and Human Insecurities: Civil Society exploitation of children &women common conflicts **Human Security** thru Zero-sum politics Solidarity Authoritarianism Governments without Democratic Reforms Governance Conflicts & Violence: Regional and Friends VS Enemies Global Citizenship Permanent Tensions & War? Social Learning 12 **Beyond National Models**

#### Conclusion

- 1. New Awareness
  - Globalization [s] and Risks
  - Politics of Identity and its Limits
- 2. New Realization of Perspective Change
  - Economic ≠ Social integration
  - Institutional lags
  - Hybrid Governance

Surichai Wun'gaeo, Ubon Ratchathani, 19 November2009

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#### Conclusion

- 3. Necessity of Partnerships
  - Mutual Learning in Multi-stakeholder context
- 4. Need for Creation of Enabling Environments, and new Policy Platforms
- 5. New Knowledge and Research Policy Platforms
  - Transformative Learning

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#### International Seminar on

#### "Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River:

Sharing Experiences from Japan and Mekong Countries"

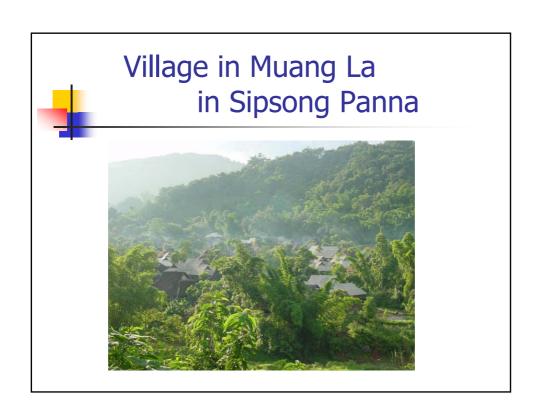
#### Yuji BABA

Kyoto Bunkyo University, Japan

19 – 20 November 2009 Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

# Tai Lue Migration from Muang La











## Ho in Phonsali, Northern Laos



## Temple in Muang U, Phonsali, Northern Laos









## Man Kho ritual in Thawanpa, Nan: a part of Chao Luang Muang La ritual



## Tai Lue in Chiang Kham, Phayao in festival



# Roles of Japan & ADB in Mekong Subregion

International Seminar on Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing Experiences from Japan and the Mekong Countries

Mr. Jean-Pierre Verbiest Country Director Asian Development Bank

Ubon Ratchathani 19-20 November 2009





## **The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)**

#### Myanmar

Land area: 677 thou sq km

Population: 54.8 M

GDP per capita: US\$255 (2005)

#### **Thailand**

Land area: 513 thou sq km

Population: 65.8 M

GDP per capita: US\$3,133

#### The GMS in 2006

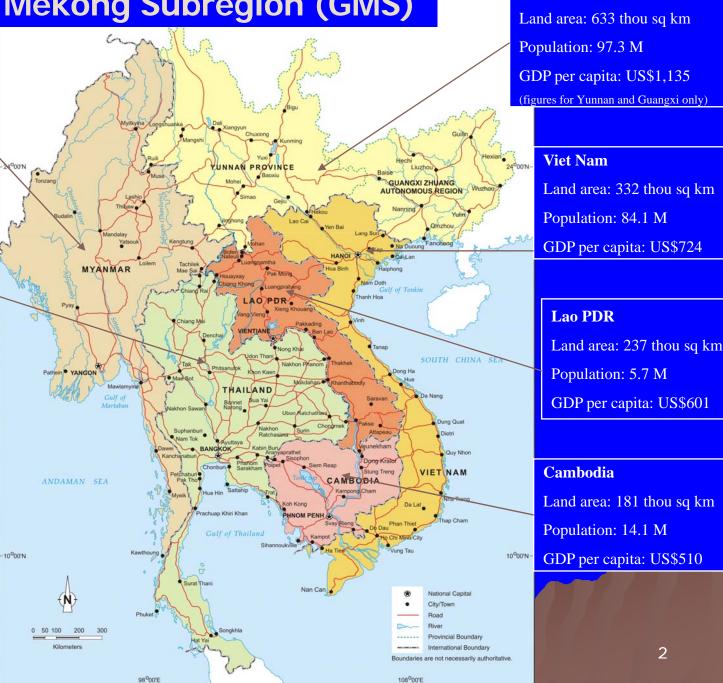
Land area: 2.6 M sq km

Population: 323 M

GDP per capita: US\$1,453\*

\* excludes Myanmar





**People's Republic of China** 

2

## Key Challenges in the GMS in the early 1990s

- Recent conflict
- Lack of access to markets and other economic opportunities, and social services
- High incidence of communicable diseases, illegal drug use, trafficking of women and children
- Degradation of the environment and unsustainable depletion of natural resources

## Why regional cooperation in the GMS?

- Allows countries to take advantage of their complementarities and linkages
- Provides an important tool to address shared challenges
- Enables countries to support each other in pursuing their respective national development goals

Regional cooperation is the only answer to the development challenge of land-locked countries



## The GMS Program

- Strategic priorities:
   Connectivity, Competitiveness,
   Community (3Cs)
- GMS sectors and themes
  - Transport
  - Telecommunications
  - Energy
  - Environment
  - Tourism
  - Human resource development
  - Trade Facilitation
  - Investment
  - Agriculture





## **GMS Results**

## Connectivity:

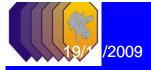
Facilitating subregional trade and investment

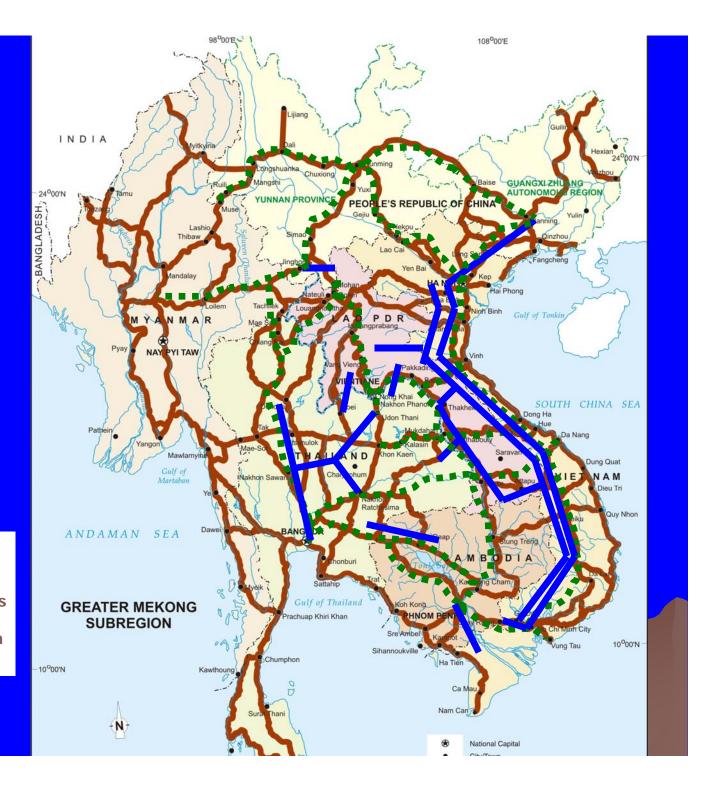
2015



■ ■ ■ Telecommunications

Power Transmission Line





## **GMS** Results

- Competitiveness: Simplifying processes for cross-border commerce and tourism
- Trade and transport facilitation
- GMS Business Forum encouraging private-public sector dialogue
- Cooperation in agriculture
- Managing the environment and shared natural resources



## **GMS** Results

## **Community:** Jointly addressing shared concerns

- Communicable disease control
- Promotion of safe migration
- Prevention of trafficking of women and children
- Promotion of the GMS as a single tourist destination
- Building capacity for development management



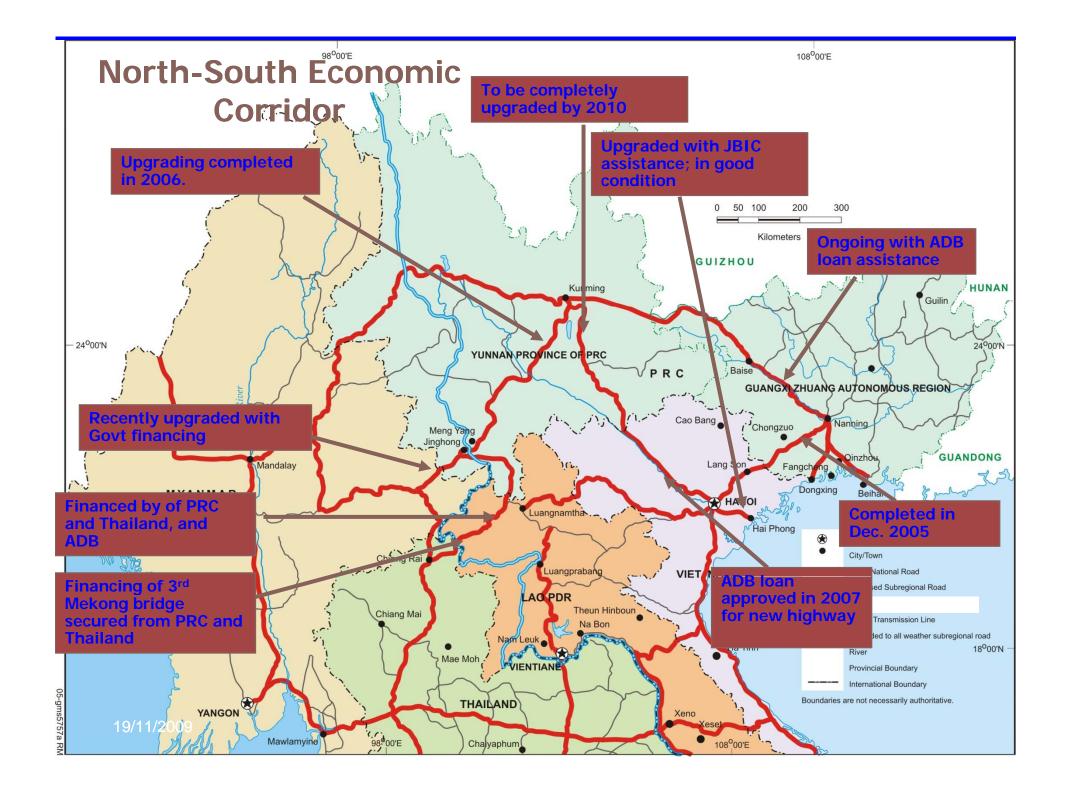
## Macroeconomic and Poverty Indicators of GMS Countries

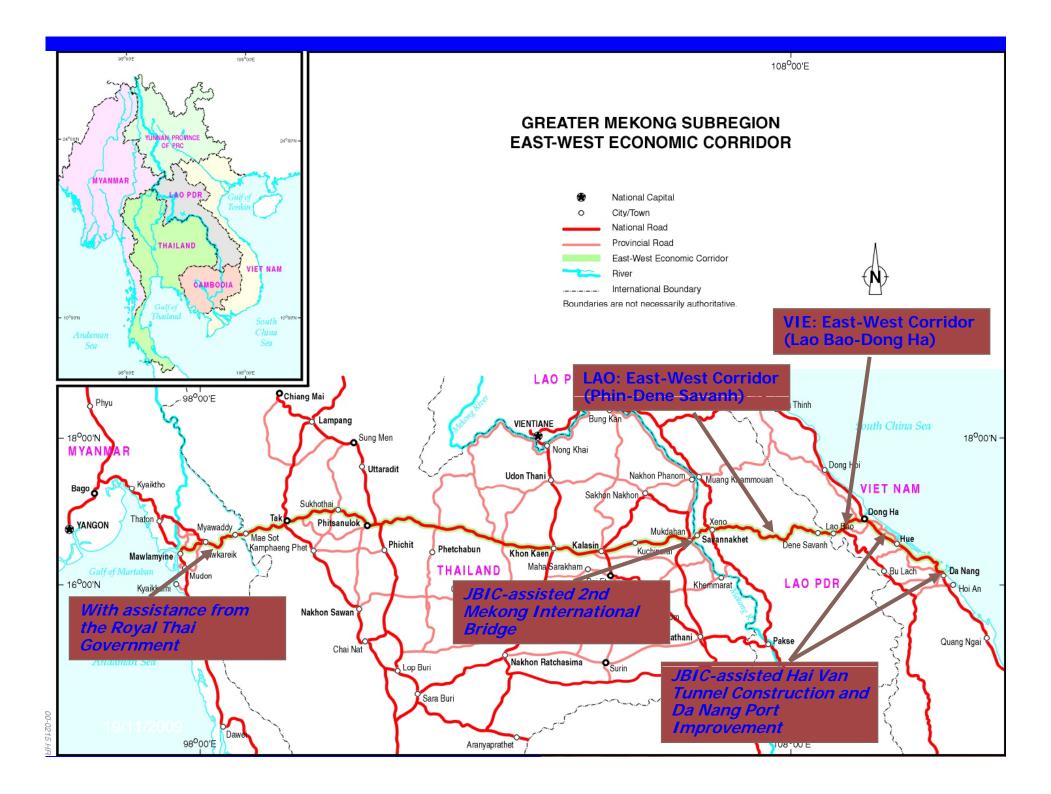
	1992	2006
Total exports (US\$ million)	36,343 a	181,761 a
Tourist arrivals (thousands)	10,005 (1995)	22,378
Foreign direct investment (US\$ million)	2,144	6,969

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Excludes the People's Republic of China (PRC)

	Poverty Incidence (US\$1-a-Day) Headcount Ratio (in %)		
	1990	2003	
Cambodia	46.0	33.8	
PRC: Yunnan/ Guangxi <sup>b</sup>	23.8/7.8	7.9/3.4	
Lao PDR	52.7	28.8	
Thailand	10.1	0.7	
Viet Nam	50.7	9.7	

b Based on national poverty line





#### **GMS Southern Economic Corridor** Roads O PDR 107000'E THA Pleiku Quy Nh on remaining sections. Aranya prath et BANGKOK Pha nom Sarakham Siso phon Siem Reap Chonburi Tuy Hoa CAMBODIA Sattahip Van Phong -12<sup>0</sup>30<sup>1</sup>N Nha Trang Patheay Kompong Cham Da Lat oc Ninh VIET NAM PH NOM PENH Phan Rang-Thap Cham Neak Loeung Sre Ambel Kilometers v Rieng Bien Hoa Bavet Phan Thiet i Minh City Sihanoukville aigon) National Capital City/Town jung Tau Airport Southern C Can Main Road Sou Secondary China Railway Gulf of Thaila Mouth of Ca Mau International Boundary Upgrading to be completed Boundaries are not necessarily auth 9<sup>0</sup>00'N 9<sup>0</sup>00'N Nam Can 104<sup>0</sup>00'E 107<sup>0</sup>00'E

#### 104<sup>0</sup>00'E 107<sup>0</sup>00'E GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION CAMBODIA - VIET NAM HO CHI MINH CITY - PHNOM PENH HIGHWAY PROJECT 12<sup>0</sup>30'N Kompong Chhan B. Dang Krien Kompong Cham Patheav PHNOM PENH CAMBODIA Dong Sai An Suong HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON) VIET My Tho O Long Xuyer Hon Chong O Vinh Long South Ba Dong Khanh Hung Gulf of Thailand National Capital City/Town 9000'N 9000'N-Airport Project Road Secondary Road Railway 0 10 20 30 40 50 International Boundary Boundaries are not necessarily authoritative Kilometers /2009

## **Key GMS Outcomes**

Phnom Penh-Ho Chi Minh City Highway Improvement Project

- Savings in travel time and cost
- Bilateral trade increased by 40%
- Number of people crossing the border expanded by over 50%
- Special border economic zone creating jobs



## **Key GMS Outcomes**

East-West Transport Corridor Project

- Savings in travel time and cost
- Increased economic opportunities
- FDI rose from US\$18M (1995-2000) to US\$200M (2001-2005)
- Improved access to schools and safe water
- Poverty incidence fell by 35% in Savannakhet, Lao PDR



## **Key GMS Outcomes**

## Impacts in border areas:

- Improved consumer welfare
- Cross-border labor migration providing source of livelihood and means to diversifying income
- Greater access to higher quality health services across borders
- Acquisition of better farming techniques from neighboring countries



## **Other Key Outcomes**

- Sustainable and reliable electricity supply through cross-border interconnection
- Higher tourism arrivals and revenues and increased awareness of sustainable tourism
- Improved prevention and control of communicable diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS in border areas
- Greater ability to limit trafficking of people and illegal trading activities

## **Going Forward**

- Continued investments in subregional infrastructure
- Enhanced focus on "soft" areas
  - Communicable disease control, capacity development for HIV/AIDS prevention
  - Sustainable tourism development
  - Flood and drought management and mitigation
  - Biodiversity conservation corridor development
  - Water supply and sanitation along corridor areas
- \$850M of regional ADF resources needed for 2009-2012

# Japan's Role in the Mekong



### Forming links with the Mekong

Various areas in the Mekong Region that had not been previously linked together are now truly trying to link up via three economic corridors developed by Japan and other Mekong regional development programs. Great hopes for future growth are now beginning to sprout in the Mekong Region as more goods and people flow than ever before.

Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw

Thailand

Bangkok

Second Mekong International Bridge

Yangon

Starting at Kunming, in Yunnan Province in China, this corridor is split into two routes: one goes to Bangkok, Thailand, and the other is linked to Hanoi, Viet Nam.

This corridor links areas between Mawlamvine in Myanmar, and Da Nang in Viet Nam, by way of northeast Thailand and Savannakhet, in Laos. The Japanese government built the Second Mekong International Bridge in December 2006 and pledged to provide an additional aid of US\$20 million to improve the efficiency of logistics and distribution of the east-west and southern economic corridors at the Japan-Mekong Foreign Ministers' Meeting in January 2008.

#### Southern Economic Corridor

This corridor, which is a part of the Asian corridors, but expectations are that this corridor will be a substantial economic and industrial artery when completed.

#### Road No.9



#### Hai Van Tunnel



#### **Development Triangle**

In order to assist the underdeveloped regions along the borders of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam, the Japanese government announced at the December 2005 Japan-CLV Summit that it would provide a total of JP¥2billion in FY2005 in ODA as a form of cooperation; this was followed by another announcement at the January 2007 Japan-CLV Foreign Ministers' Meeting that US \$20million in assistance would be granted through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

Highway, links between Bangkok, Thailand and Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam through the capital of Cambodia. It lags behind in construction compared to the other two

#### Japan-Mekong Region Partnership Program

#### Three Goals

- Enhanced Japan-Mekong Region partnership
- Sustainable economic growth of the Mekong Region
- Life with dignity for the people in the Mekong Region and fulfillment of their potential

#### Three New Initiatives

- Expansion of ODA to the Mekong Region / Assistance to the Development Triangle and promotion of efficiency of logistics and distribution in the Mekong Region through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)
- Bilateral Investment Agreements with Cambodia and Laos
- Japan-Mekong Region Ministerial Meeting

Viet Nam

Ho Chi Minh City

Goals of the Region



### Linking to the future

Economic relations between Japan and Mekong Region Countries have become ever closer since the announcement of the Japan-Mekong Region Partnership Program. Particularly, Japan has entered into Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) or investment agreements with Mekong Region Countries, and there have been remarkable developments in the evolution of these partnerships. Japan and the Mekong Region have begun to move forward together toward a future of hope and growth.



Data on Japan-Mekong relation

Total Trade Value



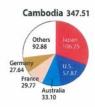
#### **Assisting the Mekong Region**

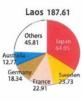
Japan supports the Mekong Region in diverse sectors through Official Development Assistance (ODA), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and other forms of

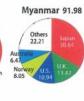
The partnership between Japan and the Mekong Region has become even stronger through such efforts. This is an asset that Japan and the Mekong Region share and should serve as a signpost to a more prosperous future.

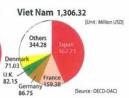
## Japan's ODA to the Mekong Region

#### Amount of DAC Countries' ODA Disbursements (2006)











#### Cambodia

Since 1999, Japan has assisted Cambodia in developing legal systems necessary to establish the rule of law in the country. Japan provided technical cooperation in drafting the civil code and the code of civil procedure and continues to support capacity building of legal and judicial experts.







Japan has provided grant aid for the project for the improvement of the Vientiane No.1 Road, a trunk line of the capital that connects the road network in the region.



In response to Cyclone Nargis which hit Myanmar and claimed over 84,000 lives, Japan dispatched a Japan Disaster Relief Medical Team, which treated 1,202 people in the worst-affected Ayeyarwaddy Division.





Japan has provided ODA loan in developing the Mass Rapid Transit System (Blue Line and Purple Line) to relieve traffic congestion in Bangkok and to improve the urban environment through reduction of vehicle exhaust fumes and greenhouse gas emissions.



In order to prevent high risk epidemic such as avian influenza, Japan provided grant aid and technical cooperation to improve bio-safety laboratories of the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE). NIHE is expected to play a role as a core research institute to tackle infectious diseases in the Mekong Region.





### **Cultural ties**

Cultural exchanges between Japan and Mekong Region Countries are flourishing. Also, Japan is actively helping these countries protect their rich cultures and valuable heritages.

#### Cambodia



The Japanese Government Team for Safeguarding Angkor was formed in 1994. Over 700 Japanese specialists have been sent to help restore heritage sites in cooperation with Cambodian experts.

#### Laos



Through the Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects in FY2006, Japan helped Laos build a traditional culture education center (completed in 2008).

#### Myanmar Myanmar



A presentation on Japanese anime (animation film) in Yangon attracted many enthusiastic anime fans and animators.

#### Thailand



Goodwill ambassador Hideki Togi, a traditional court music player, staged a concert at Thailand's Wat Arun to commemorate the 120th anniversary of Japan-Thailand Diplomatic Relations.

#### Viet Nam

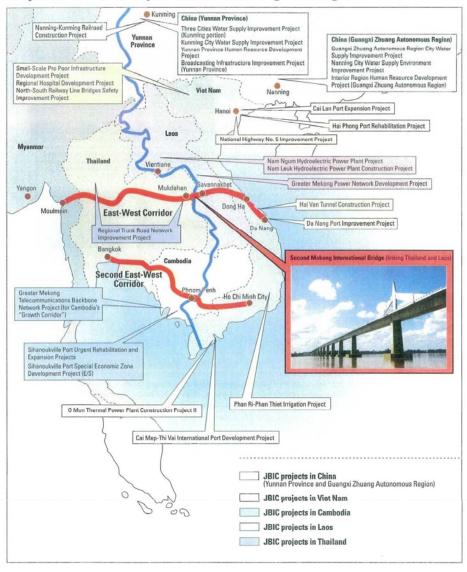


Large-cultural events were held in Viet Nam and Japan in 2008 to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relationship.

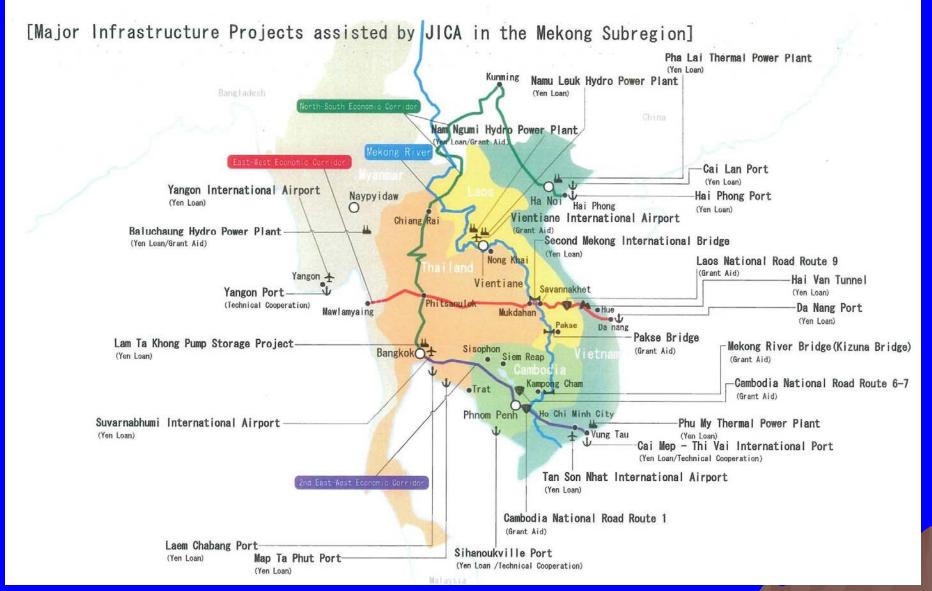


JBIC and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) have presented the governments of Cambodia and Laos with Blue Books on Best Practices in Investment Promotion and Facilitation. The Blue Books propose policy measures such as legislative, institutional and organizational reform, and enhancements in information providing potential, all needed to promote foreign direct investment. JBIC will continue to promote support programs aimed at achieving the policy reforms proposed in the Blue Books.

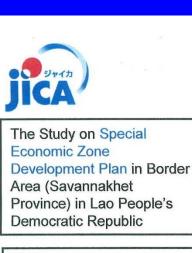
#### Major ODA Loan Projects in the Mekong Sub-region











Integrated Master Plan for Sustainable Development of Siem Reap/Angkor Town

Master Plan Study for the Coastal Channels and Ports Development in the Kingdom of Thailand

Transport Master Plan of the Phnom Penh Metropolitan Area

Study on Regional Development of the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Growth Corridor

Master Planning and Feasibility Study of the Sihanoukville Port

TUNNAN PROVINCE GUANGXI ZHRANG AUTONOMOUS REGION DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC SOUTH CHI East-West Corridor 2nd East West Corridor VIET NAM CAMBODIA Kawthoung Phuket 9

Comprehensive Study on Logistics System in Lao PDR

Study on the National Transport Development Strategy in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (VITRANSS2)

The Study on the Integrated Regional Development Plan For Savannakhet and Khammaouan Region in Lao People's Democratic Republic

#### National Road Network

Master Plan Development Project in Cambodia

Master Plan for Maritime and Port Sectors in Cambodia

**Bold Line:** 

**Nation wide Master Plan** 

Japanese Master Plan Projects in GMS



## Thank you

## The GMS Program

Reducing poverty through regional cooperation





International Seminar on Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing Experiences from Japan and the Mekong Countries

## Rethink: Japan in the Mekong Region



Siriporn Wajjwalku

19/11/2009

#### **Outline of the Presentation**



- 1. What did the document say?
- 2. Some observations
- 3. What is the reality in the field?
- 4. Doubt on complicated situations
- 5. How did the academic world respond?
- 6. Where are we going?- Rethinking?



#### What did the document say?

19/11/2005

#### MOFA Document (1)

#### Japan and Mekong Region



2003 New Concept of Mekong Region Development

2004 Master Plan on the CLV Development Triangle

2005 Japan's Initiative for the Mekong Region development

2006 The Mekong Exhibition

2007 Japan-Mekong Region Partnership Program

2008 The 1st Mekong-Japan FMM in Tokyo

MOFA Document (1)

#### **Japan and Mekong Region**



2009 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Mekong-Japan FMM in Cambodia

2009 The Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers' Inaugural Meeting, Thailand

2009 Mekong-Japan Exchange Year

2009 The 1st Mekong-Japan Summit in Tokyo

2009 The Mekong-Japan Action Plan 63

19/11/2009

#### MOFA Document (2)



## 2003 New Concept of Mekong Region Development

- Reinforcing regional integration
- Attaining sustainable economic growth
- Harmonizing with environment

#### MOFA Document (3)



#### 2007 Japan-Mekong Region Partnership Program

- 3 Goals
- 1. EnhanceJapan-Mekong Region Partnership
- 2. Sustainable economic growth of Mekong Region
- 3. Life with dignity for the people in Mekong Region and fulfillment of their potential
- 3 Priority areas 1. Integrate economics of the region and beyond
  - 2. Expand trade and investment between Japan and the region
  - 3. Pursue universal values and common goals of the region

19/11/2009

#### **MOFA Document (4)**



#### 3 New initiatives

- 1. Expansion of ODA to the Mekong Region
  - CLV Development Triangle
- 2. Bilateral investment agreements with Cambodia and Lao PDR
- 3. Japan-Mekong Ministerial Meeting

#### MOFA Document (5)

#### The CLV Development Triangle



- The border provinces of Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam which are least developed in the Mekong Regions
- The construction of roads, bridges, schools, and hospitals and improvement of water supply system

19/11/2009

#### **MOFA Document (6)**

### 2009 A New Partnership for the Common Flourishing Future

- 1. A Comprehensive Development in the Mekong Region
- 2. Construction of a Society that values Human Dignity
- 3. Expanding Cooperation and Exchanges
- 4. Enhancing Cooperation with other Frameworks in Asia-Pacific Region

### Japan-Mekong (1)



#### Scheme based

- 1. Japan-Mekong
- 2. Japan-ASEAN (Mekong)
- 3. Japan- GMS (Mekong)

19/11/2009

### Japan-Mekong (2)



#### <u>Issues based</u>

- Foreign policy (relations): Diplomatic Blue book
- 2. Economic cooperation
- 3. Development cooperation: Tokyo Declaration 2009
- 4. ODA

#### Some observations



- 1. Heavy emphasis on infrastructure, construction, and rapid economic growth
- 2. Heavy reliance on the exploration of natural resources
- 3. Uncritically assume that the benefits of economic growth will be shared by all in the region, and will lead to property reduction
- 4. Questions related to civil society involvement in planning and implementation

19/11/2005

#### Japan in Mekong Region: Why?



- To bridge the development gap between new and old members of ASEAN, and thereby contribute to its closer integration
- 2. A region that pursue s sustainable development compatible with conservation of the environment and is resilient to various threats endangering human being and human dignity



### What is the reality in the field?



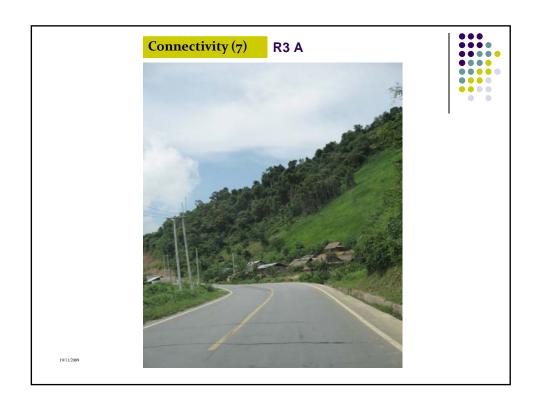




















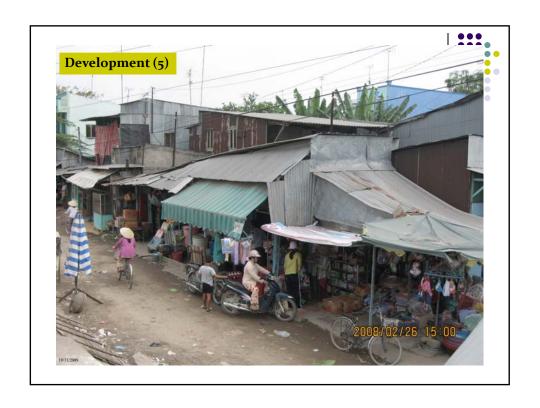
























Countries"



#### Doubt!!



- Questions related to Japan's contribution to development of Mekong Region
- 2. Questions related to Japan's model and experiences of development
- 3. Questions related to "knowledge" about "Japan and Mekong Region"
- 4. Where are "People" in this "Map"? (Japanese and Riparian countries' people)



### How did the academic world respond?

Articles on	Name of Journal and year	2000									
apan in GMS/Mekong	Asian Economics				1		1				
Region	ASEAN Economic Bulletin							1			
	Asian Perspective									1	
	Contemporary Asia						1				
	Contemporary Southeast Asia									1	
	Ecology& Society					1				1	
	European Journal of East Asian Studies					1					
	GMS development Studies						2				
	International Journal of Physical Distribution & Logistics Management	1									
	JCAS Symposium series						1				
	Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography		1								
	Southeast Asian Studies								1		
19/11/2009	Total	1	1		1	2	5	1	1	3	



### <u>Japan and Countries in Mekong Region</u> (BILATERAL)

	Year & Name of Journal	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1. Japan											
1. Japan and China	Asian Perspective								1		
	Asia Pacific Journal of Management			1							
	China: An International Journal						1				
	Comparative Economics			1							
	Educational Media, Memory, and Society										1
	Foreign Affairs							1			
19/11/2009	Japan and the World Economy							1		1	1

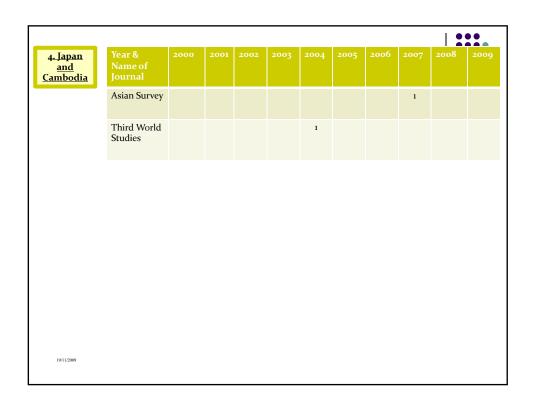
International Seminar on "Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing Experiences from Japan and Mekong Countries"

	**									0	
<u> 1. Japan</u>	Year & Name of Journal	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		2007	2008	2009
and China	Japanese and International Economies			1							
	International Security						1				
	Pacific Affairs	1	3	1	3						
	Social Science Japan		1								
	Stanford Journal of East Asian Affairs						1				
	The Asia- Pacific Journal				1		7	8	8	8	4
	The Chinese Journal of International Politics								1		
19/11/2009	The Pacific Review						1				

2. Japan and	Year & Name of Journal	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<u>Vietnam</u>	Asia-Pacific Review										1
	Energy Review							2			
	International Electronic Journal of Health Education								1		
	International Relations of the Asia- Pacific										1
	The Asia- Pacific Journal						1			1	1
19/11/2009	Vietnam Studies									1	

International Seminar on "Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing Experiences from Japan and Mekong Countries"

	0									
3. Japan and	Year & Name of Journal		2001	2002	2003	2004		2006	2007	2009
<b>Thailand</b>	Asian Economics						1			
	Comparative Economics					1				
	Cross- Cultural Psychology						1			
	Development Policy Review							1		
	Economic Development		1							
	Japan & The World Economy	1								
	Mid-Atlantic Journal of Business		1							
19/11/2009	Social Science& Medicine									1



									2	
<u>5. Japan</u> and Laos	Year & Name of Journal		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
	Japanese Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene		1							
19/11/2009										



### Rethink: Japan in the Mekong Region

- -Actors
- -Areas
- -Disciplines
- -Methodology
- -Researchers
- -Granting agency

19/11/2009

### Rethink: Japan in the Mekong Region



The possibility to establish the Japanese Studies Network-Mekong

# Difference and conflict over development of riparian resources in the Mekong

Philip Hirsch Australian Mekong Resource Centre School of Geosciences University of Sydney

19/11/200

# Conflict over the use of riparian resources in the Mekong

- Examples of conflict
  - Dams
    - (Pak Mun, Yali Falls, Theun-Hinboun, Don Sahong...)
  - Plantations
    - (Eucalyptus, rubber)
  - Mining
    - (Gold/copper; bauxite)
  - Organic farming
    - recent case of Yasothorn

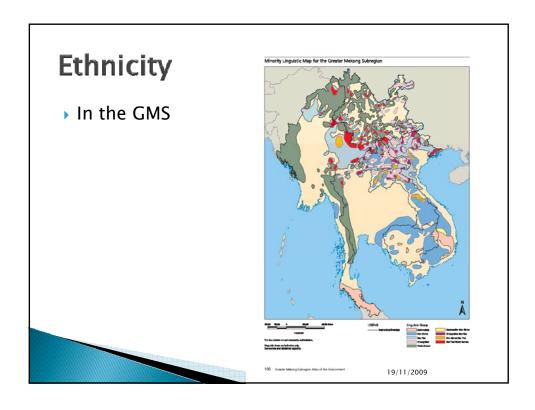
# Conflict over the use of riparian resources in the Mekong

- Expression of conflict
  - Protests
  - Deflected conflict and suffering
  - "silent violence"
  - International
    - but rarely expressed at country to country level

19/11/2009

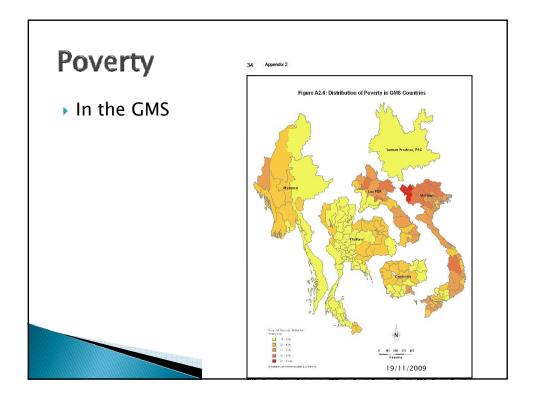
# Development and difference in the Mekong

- Dimensions of difference
  - Ethnicity
  - Poverty and Class
  - Gender
  - National development directions and level of income
- Development, homogeneity and difference
  - Does development produce similarity or difference?
    - · Development and homeneity
    - · Development and difference



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### **Economic difference in the GMS**

Table 1: Selected Economic Indicators

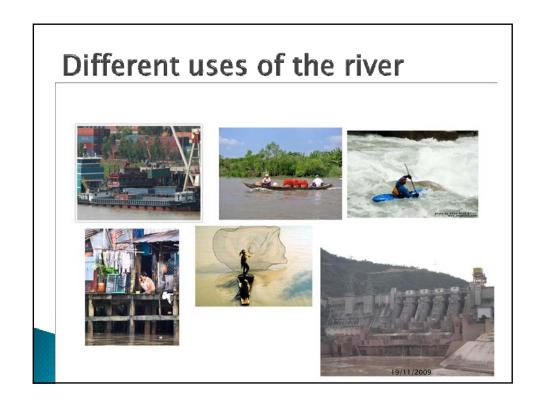
Country	GDP growth (Annual Ave, 1992–2006,%)	GDP (\$ million) 2006	Population (million) 2006	GDP per capita (\$) 2006
Cambodia	8.4	7,264	14.2	513
Guangxi Zhuang AR, PRC	11.7	50,190	49.4	1,015
Yunnan Province, PRC	9.5	60,224	44.7	1,348
Lao PDR	6.5	3,433	5.7	599
Myanmar	9.6	13,002	56.2	231
Thailand	4.5	206,247	65.2	3,162
Viet Nam	7.7	60,883	84.2	723
GMS Economies	8.3	401,245	319.6	1,255
PRC	10.3	2,626,304	1,311.0	2,003

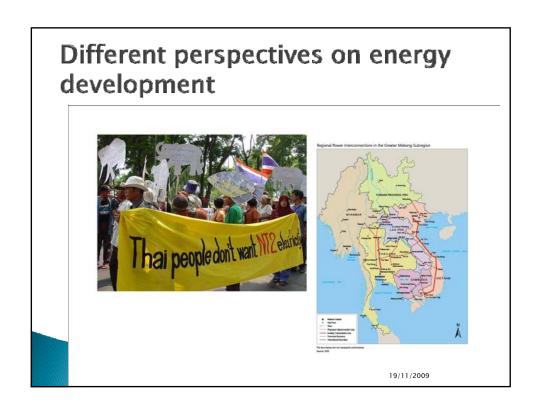
Source: ADB 2007. The Mekong Region Trade: Trends, Patterns and Policies, p. 1

Sources: Asian Development Bank, Statistical Database System (SDBS) Key Indicator Series, downloaded 25 July 2007; National Bureau of Statistics of China, China Statistical Yearbook, IMF World Economic Outlook database, April 2007 for Myanmar's GDP (estimate for 2006 based on actual data for 2003).

# Development and difference in the Mekong

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## Difference, cooperation and conflict

- Difference, complementarity and cooperation
- Difference, competition and conflict

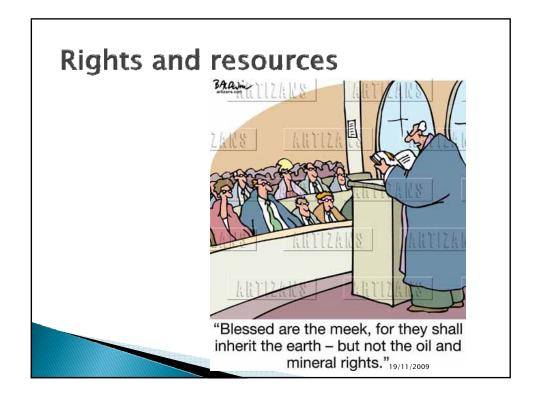
19/11/2009

# Reducing or accommodating difference?

- Is difference necessarily a source of conflict?
- Reducing difference...
  - Reducing inequality, but...
  - ... suppressing cultural diversity, destroying biodiversity
- ... or accommodating difference
  - mainstream: respect for rights, just outcomes, "pro-poor" development... But with respect for different ways of life, and choices of livelihood
  - alternative: respect for different ways of engaging with development, regional integration

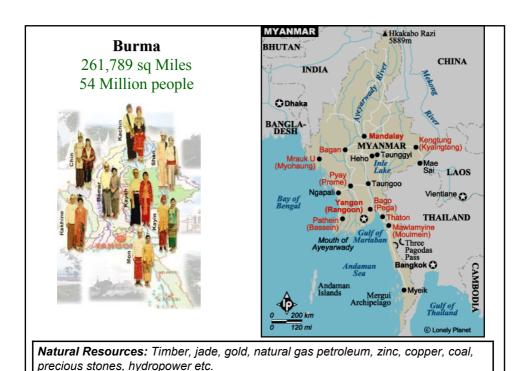
### A final thought...

Can development in the region accommodate both the fruits of economic prosperity and the richness of cultural and natural diversity that are the true wealth of the Mekong?



# People who under Gun control

Under the Gun - an overview of the plight of ethnic people in Burma's conflict zones'



- Over 100 diverse ethnicities
- Independent on 4 January 1948 as the "Union of Burma"
- Civil war ongoing since 1949
- Since 1962 ruled by military dictatorship that currently calls itself SPDC (State Peace and Development Council)
- In 1989 Military regime adopted the name "Union of Myanmar"

- One of the poorest countries in the world
- UN Status Least Development Country (LDC)
- Burma has the largest army in South East Asia, and the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in the world.
- 49% of the State's budget is used for the military.

One of the worst human rights records anywhere in the world.

### Refugee

- In India: estimated 70,000 unregistered refugees
- In Bangladesh: about 20,000 in camps and at least 100,000 outside camps
- In Thailand: 14 refugee camps along Thai-Burmese border / About 140,000 refugee and new arrival
- Internally Displacement Person = Over 600,000
- Migrant Worker = 1-1.5 million in Thailand alone.
- More than 2000 political prisoners in Burma

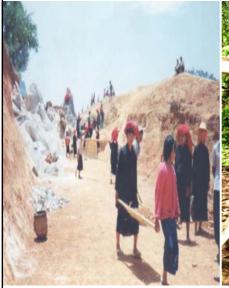
### Why do they become like this?

- Long Civil War and Political crisis
- Long-term national economic crisis
- Increased militarization around army bases and natural resource development projects
- No Peace, No Freedom and No Human Rights

### Systematic HUMAN RIGHTS abuses Committed by the regime's troops

- documented in numerous reports by international human rights organisations and the UN
- · Including:
  - forced labor
  - forced relocation
  - confiscation of lands and crops
  - arbitrary arrest and detention
  - extrajudicial killing
  - torture
  - rape

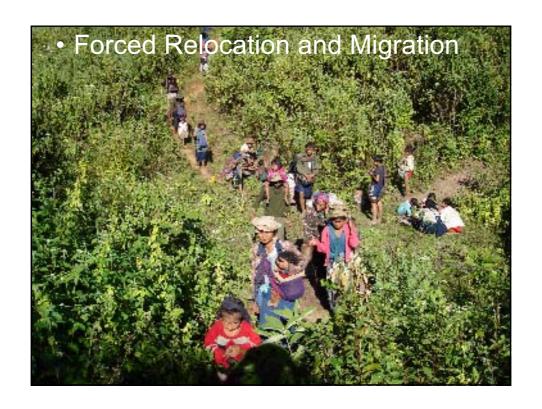
### **Forced Labor**





Rail way construction

Building for Military base













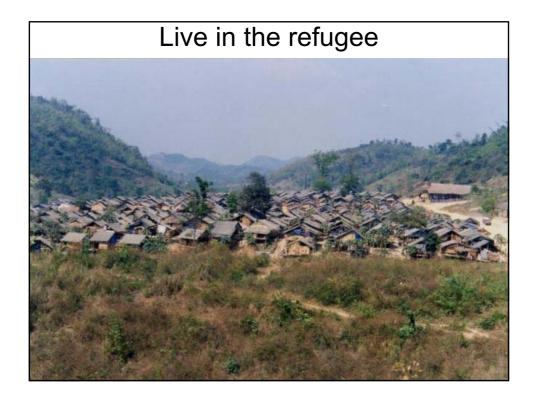




















## **Child Soldier**

- According to <u>Human Rights Watch</u> [7], recruiting and <u>kidnapping</u> of children to the <u>military</u> is commonplace.
- An estimated 70,000 of the country's 350,000-400,000 soldiers are children..

### **Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment**

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." Article 5, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- •Torture during Detention
- •Torture during Forced Portering and Forced Labor
- •Torture of Villagers in Areas of Ethnic Armed Conflict (Arrest, detention, and torture, land and property confiscation)

### Internally Displace People

The major causes of forced relocation and internal displacement in Burma are the following:

- Conflict induced Displacement and the "Four Cuts" campaign
- Development Induced Displacement
- Displacement Resulting from Resource Scarcity

Most often, IDPs resettle to an area that falls into one of four groups:

- 1. A state-controlled relocation site or satellite town
- 2. An area under full SPDC control
- 3. An area or camp controlled by an armed opposition group
- 4. The jungle, fields, or other remote, usually "free fire" or black areas of Burma
- At Least 632,978 IDP along Thai-Burma Border (Source: Six Month Report, BBC

### **Force Labor**

- Forced Portering
- •Forced Labor for Infrastructure Projects ( road, bridge, military camp...etc)
- Forced labor for military camps and income generation projects
- Forced prison labor
- Forced Military conscription
- •Forced Labor Involving International Participation (ex. Dam on salwee river, 4500 megawatt, natural gas pipelines)
- •Directly or indirectly force ( to attend regular meeting to receive latest demands for labor; demanding labor, materials, and money)

### Life of Ethnic Minorities women

 Women in non-Burman ethnic nationality areas are particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses and suffer the worst abuse and discrimination. Health care, including access to family planning methods, and education are severely underdeveloped in these areas.

### Forced

Forced relocations, forced labor, forced portering in war zones, and physical, mental, and sexual abuses. Forced marriage

### · Migrant worker

3 Ds Job – Dirty, Difficult and Dangerous women are cheaper labor than men, arbitrary arrest and detention, victims of sexual abuse and violence.

### Rape and Torture

systematically raped by military personnel as part of a campaign of ethnic cleansing. Rape used as a weapon, physical and mental torture,

## Documentation of Rape and Sexual Violence

### Licence to Rape: Shan State, No. of women and girls 625

- 83% of rape cases committed by high ranking military officers (commander)
- 61% gang-rapes
- 25% of the rapes resulted in death, In only one case was a perpetrator punished by his commanding
  officer

#### Shattering Silences: Karen State, No. of women and girls 127

- Half of the rape incidents were committed by high-ranking officers
- 40% were gang-rapes
- In 28% of cases women were killed after being raped

#### Catwalk to the Barracks: No. of women and girls 50

- Scores of "comfort women" forced to work by day-forced into sexual slavery at night.
- 30 young women, including schoolgirls, Made to stay at military base and take part in a military "fashion and beauty show"
- Over half cases committed by military officers, often in front of, or together with their troops.

### Unsafe state: Chin State, No. of women and girls 39

 Women and girls as young as 12 are being raped in their home and farms, while travelling outside their village and when conscripted as forced labor.



## Thank you

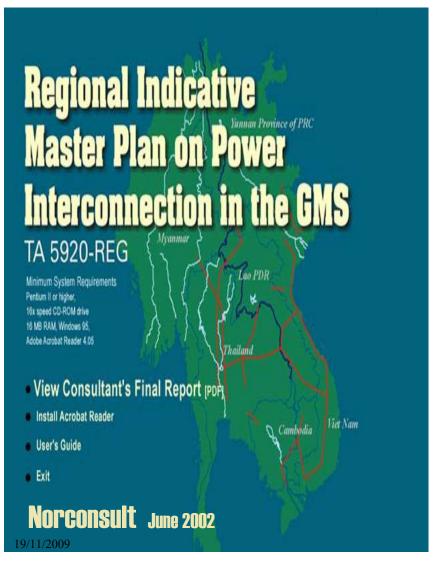
- Khun Htee
- · Chairperson (Pa-Oh Youth Organization) Thai-Burma Border
- Human Rights Trainer ( Mae Tao Clinic) Thai-Burma Border
- Coordinator ( EarthRights Student Union)

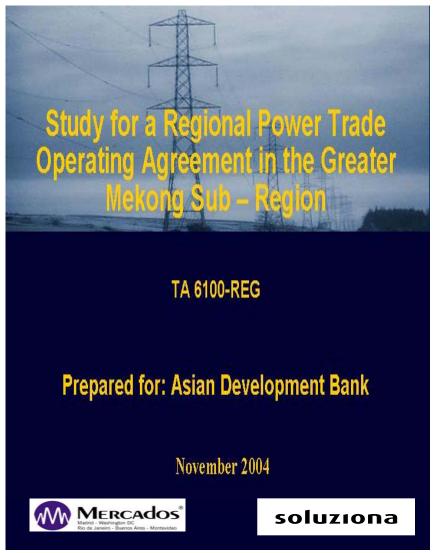
Email: khuntee3@gmail.com Email: ersuoffice@gmail.com

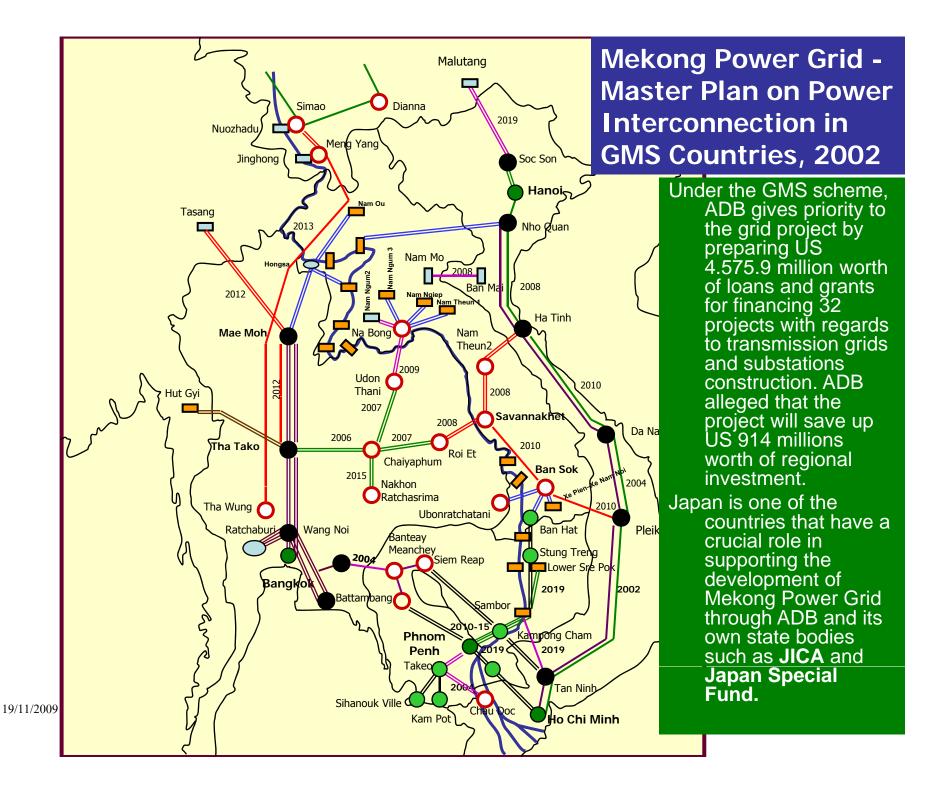
Mobile: 089 432 9012



# Asian Development Bank (ADB)

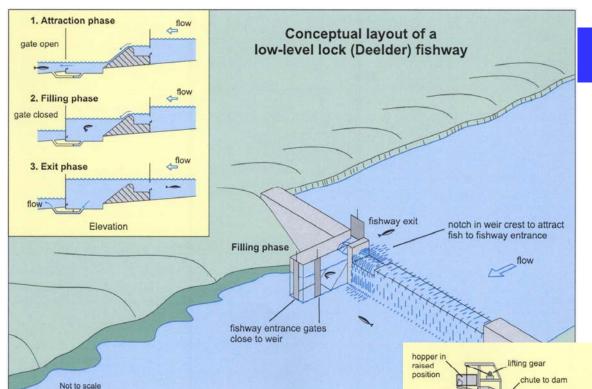








- In addition, under the support of Japan ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), MRC was funded to develop Hydropower Program, especially, Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower (2008-2015). Out of the total fund of US 8.2 millions, JAIF, in corporation with Finland, has given US 5.6 millions to the project.
- ISH proposed 11 hydropower dams on lower Mekong mainstream.
- The aim of Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower is to ensure that all stages, from developing to operating (construction and management), of hydropower projects on the Mekong River, especially the ones proposed to be built on the mainstream, are implemented under the same standard. For example, the standard will be applied on the assessment of impacts on fish migration and fishery productivity and impacts mitigation.



## **Elevator?**

"this is such a superb innovation for hydropower development"

"this is the most ridiculous invention of the decade"

# Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower –

Fish migration mitigation idea.

Conceptual layout of hopper-type
Trap-and-transport fishway

exit chute
storage level

dam wall

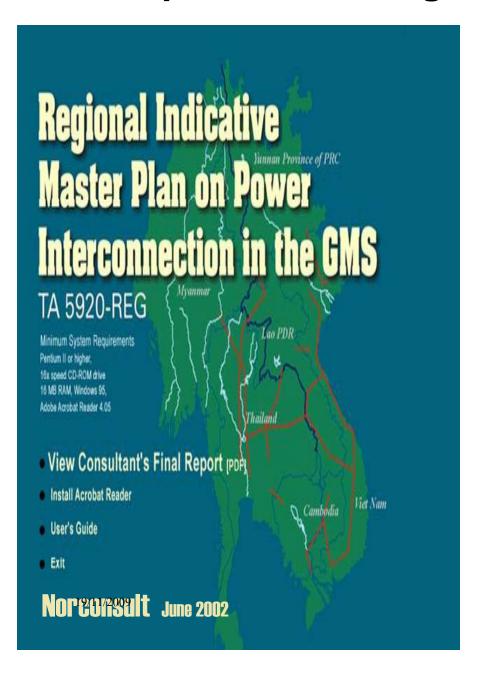
Hopper
(fish trap)

dam wall

water supply for fishway
fishway entrance close to dam wall

Source: Chris Barlow , Fisheries Program, MRC
Drawing by Parragraphics

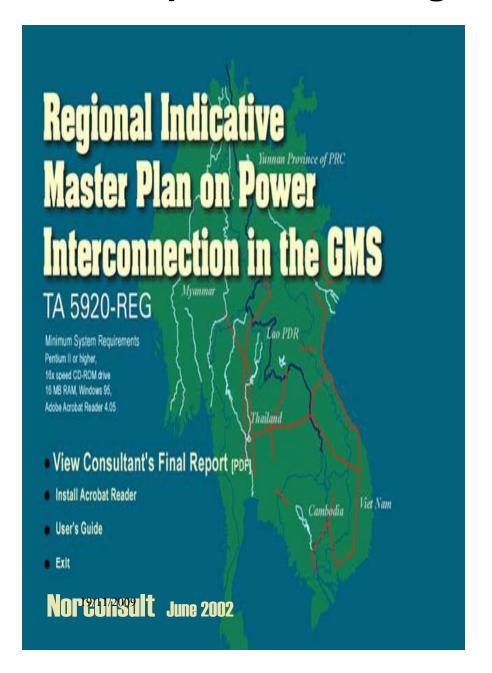
19/11/2009



# Witoon Permpongsacharen from MEENET

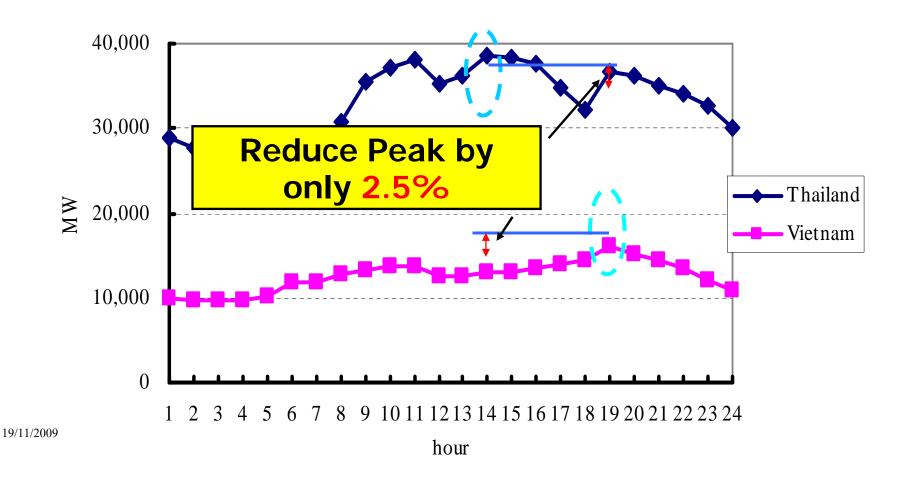
Mekong Power Grid is the proposal created to satisfy endless consumption. Should we maintain the infinite power demand? And Regional power grid needs the regulating body. But the question is who should get the regulatory mandate which will inevitably involve with the sensitive issue of sovereignty of each country?

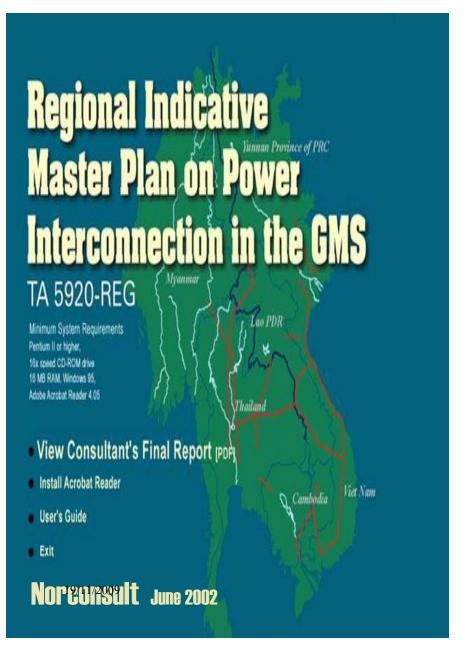




Bretton W. Garrett, an expert of transmission operation stated that as 4 phases of developing the project are not specified in the Indicative Master Plan on Power Interconnection, the alleged benefit, which is electricity price will decline because of the operation of absolute power interconnection and trade, is not at all reliable.

The power interconnection can cut the region's peak demand by only 2.5 percent which is very low, while preventing each country from achieving its fullest potential of demand side management (DSM)





## Chuenchom Sangarasri

Greacen from Palang Thai group

The investment will face very high risks. A total 200,000 million baht (for dams construction) is needed for the investment which may give the benefit of only 90,000 million baht. Despite the unreliable benefits, the Mekong people are inadvertently made to pay at least 48,000 million baht for the power interconnection.

## **Critiques on Mekong Power Grid's impacts includes:**

Impacts on Fish Migration and Fishery Productivity:

In the middle and lower Mekong, the fish catch is around 1.9-2.5 million tons which amounts to more than US 3 billions each year. The Mekong fishery is then the most productive (freshwater) fishery in the world. Also, more than 70% of fish catch in the lower Mekong needs long distance migration the Mekong River.



YANGON

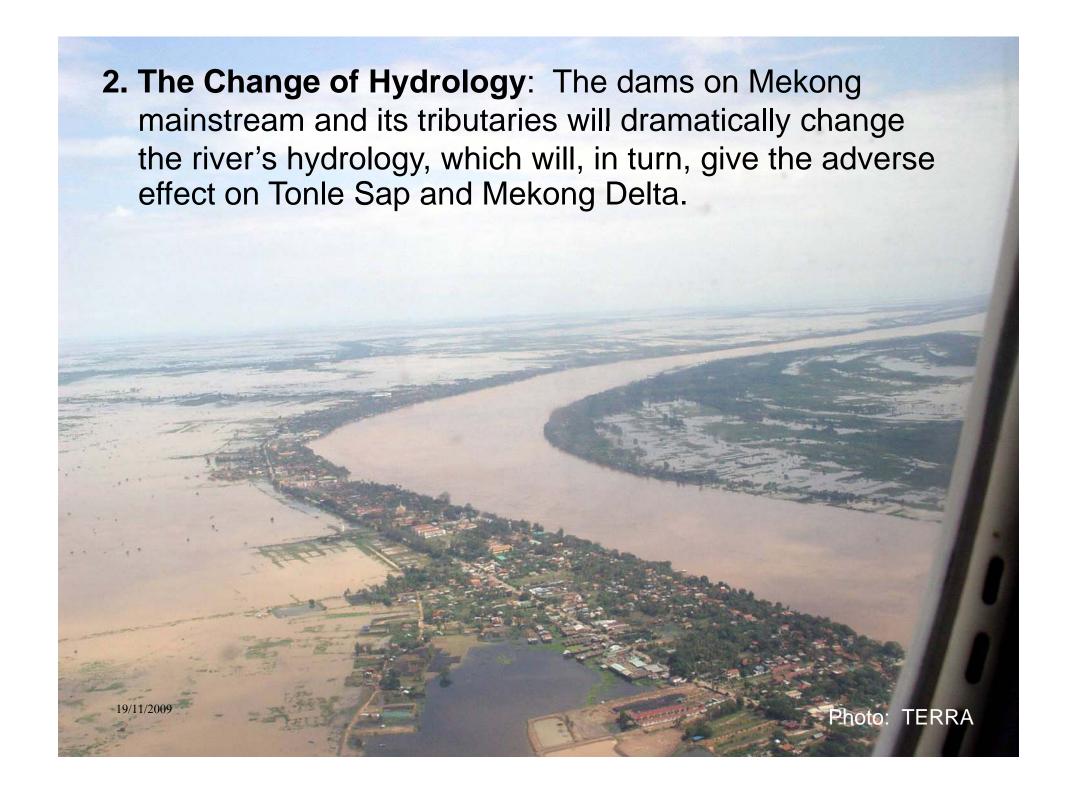
Picture: Chris Barlow, MRC



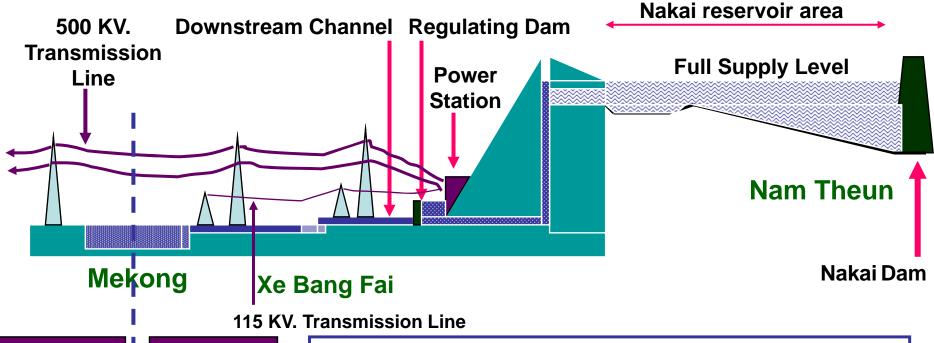
In Lower Mekong area, fishes migrate all year round in the mainstream and tributaries. Building dams on the Mekong will adversely affect river's ecosystem and life cycle of those fishes.

Photo: TERRA





## Schematic Diagram for Nam Theun 2 Hydroelectric Project



THAILAND

LAO PDR

### **Description of the project**

1. Maximum Nakai reservoir area 450 square kilometers

2. Total storage capacity 3,910 million cubic meters

3. Generation capacity 1,088 MW

4. Total cost of the project US\$ 1.3 billion

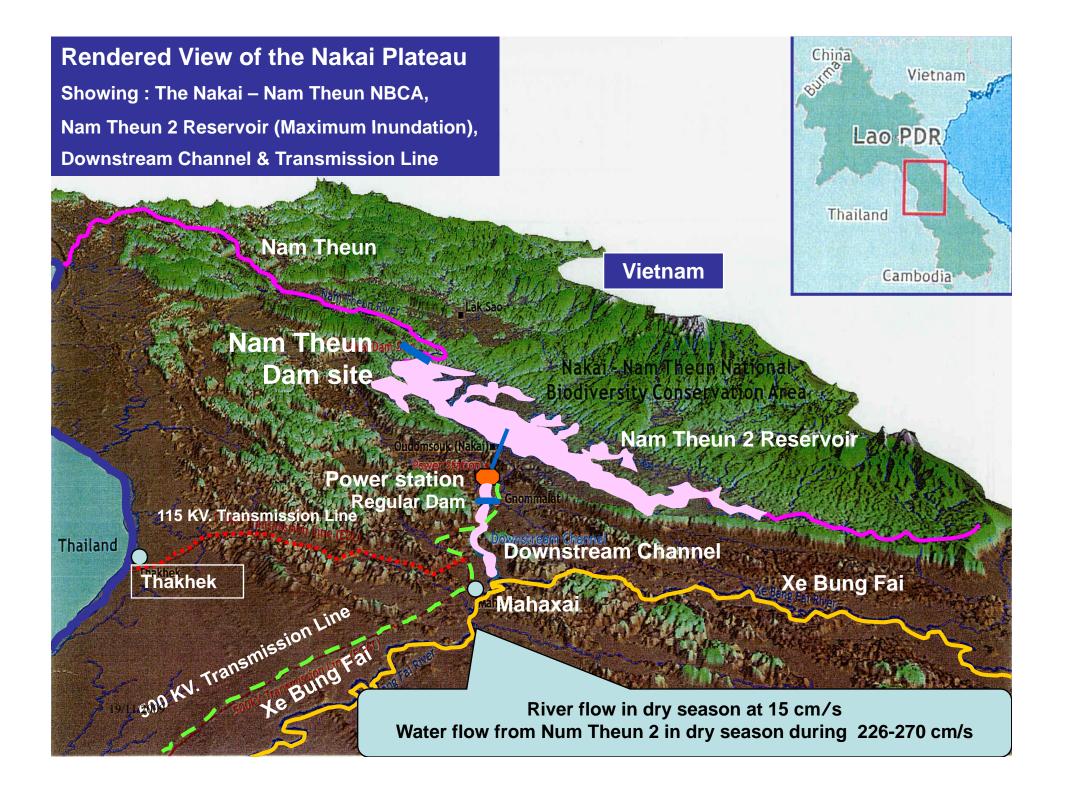
5. Direct and indirect impact in Nakai area around 7,186 people

6. Direct and indirect impact in Xe Bang Fai around 50,000 people

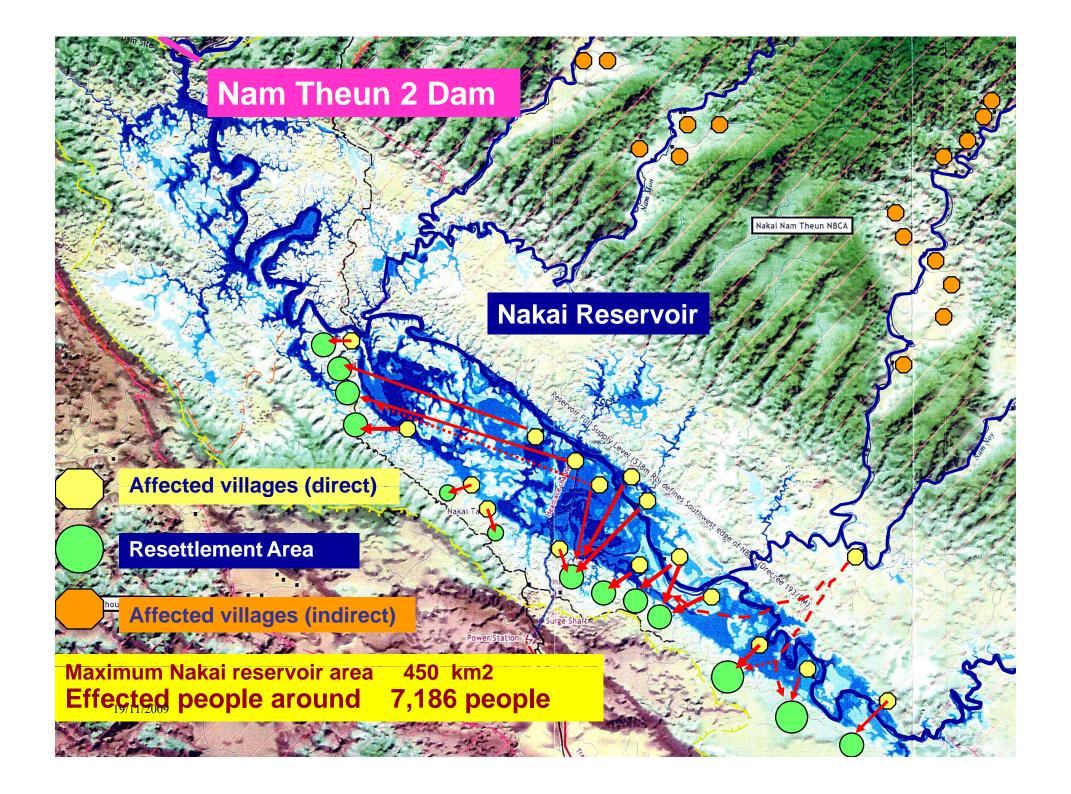
7. Operation by Nam Theun 2 Power Company Limited (NTPC)

Source: Summary environmental and social impact assessment, July 2004

19/11/2009



- 3. The Impacts on the communities: The construction of dams and transmission lines have directly caused many impacts on local communities, such as:
- floods on community's land, some of which are crucial for their livelihoods.





People do river bank agriculture from November to March. Villagers can cultivate and produce such as maize, soil bean, sweet potato, cotton, onion, garlic, cabbage, long bean, chili etc.



# The research study in 6 villages in 2008 by Nature Care Foundation in Ubon Ratchathani province found that;

 Villagers earn incomes from river bank agriculture around 25,000 -85,000 bath (715 – 2,428 U\$) per family per year.



From some natural food on the river bank such as earth crickets, many village people can earn around 1,000-10,000 baht (28 – 285 U\$) extra income per year.







• The impacts on fishery which is the community's major source of income and nutrients.

From the 2007 account book of Ban Pha-chan fishing group, the villagers have recorded around 398,000 bath or 11,370 U\$ from selling fish.

Research study by faculty of Arts, Ubon Ratchathani university (July-August 2008) found that at least 150 species fish species were known to villagers in the 2 villages as fishes they caught in daily life.



ญาณในการดแลความมั่นคงด้านพลังงาน คนไทยทั้งประเทศ

คอด 40 ปีที่ผ่านบา 9/11/2/009 ด เโลยีที่ถ้าวหน้า พัฒนาการบริหารจัดการ ดและการส่งไฟฟ้าพร้อม ๆ กับฝึกซ้อม ระบบส่งไฟฟ้า รองรับความต้องการที่เพิ่มขึ้น อีกทั้งยังได้พัฒนาแหล่งผลิตไฟฟ้าพลังงานทดแทน เช่น โรงไฟฟ้าพลังงานลม โรงไฟฟ้าพลังงาน แสงอาทิตย์ โรงไฟฟ้าพลังน้ำขนาดเล็ก ฯลฯ

มีพันธกิจหน้าที่ในการดูแลความมั่นคงของ ขมพลังงานไฟฟ้าให้กับคนไทยทั้งประเทศ



Malutang

Hanois

2008

Savannakhet

2010

Ban Sok

Ban Hat

2019

Stung Treng

Ho Chi Minh

Theun2

2008

Ha Tinh

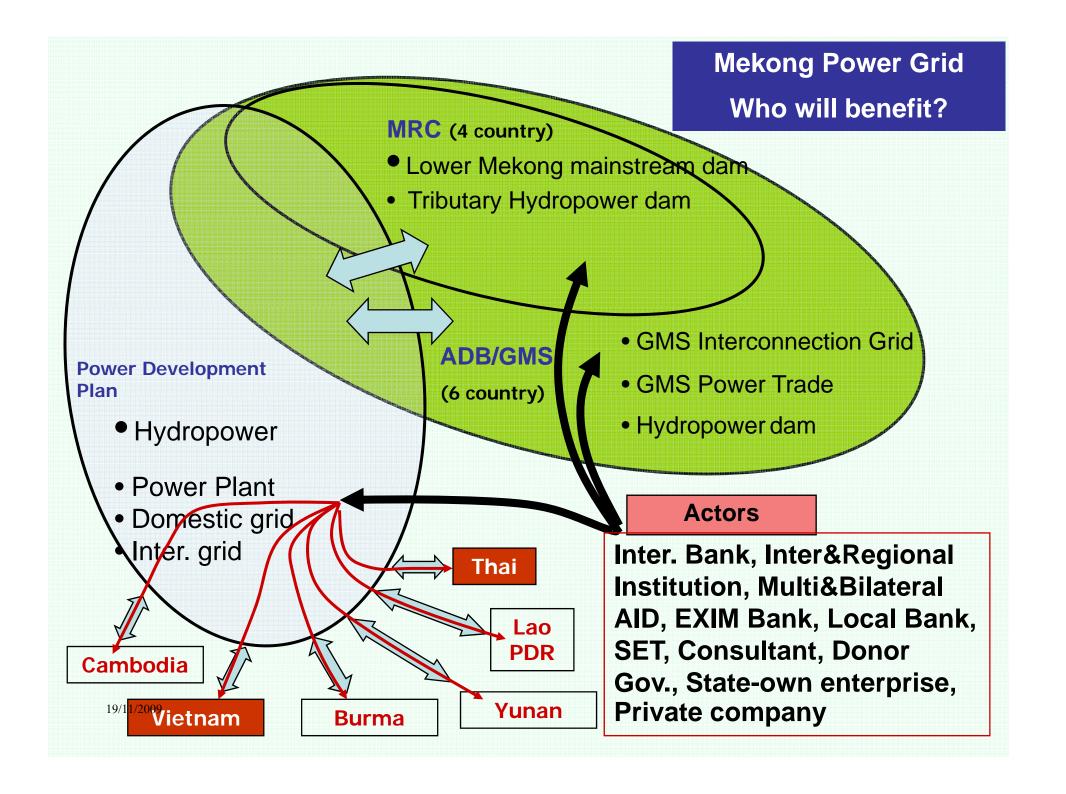
Da Nan

Pleiku

2002

For Thailand cases, in constructing transmission lines linked to the NT2 in the area of Roi Et2-Mukdaharn (at the boundary).

> EGAT paid more than 100 people to demolish the house and cut down the trees on the property owned by Mrs. Thongdaeang Sangsawat, aged 56, on December 17, 2008 in Roi Et province in order to clear up the land for the location of transmission lines.







International Seminar on Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing Experiences from Japan and the Mekong Countries Session III: Promoting Resilience in Maintaining Mekong Culture and Customs



#### The NGO Activities from the

**Bottom:** Focusing on a local NGO's programs for conserving local cultures and resources in Northern Thailand

Motoki Akitsu

Graduate School of Agriculture,

Kyoto University

#### Brief self intro.



- I have been studying rural society, mainly in Japan
  - A lot of rural problems: depopulation, aging, agricultural depression, etc.
  - New waves: rural renovation program, new farmers, rural tourism, etc.
- Conducting comparative studies globally
  - Korea, Tanzania, Hungary, Thailand
  - Depends on a chance: no planning!
- Visiting Thailand for four years



#### From the bottom



- Economic development and rural depression
  - Experienced in most developed countries
  - To Introduce bottom-up rural policy
    - E.g. <u>LEADER</u> program in EU, various programs in Korea
      - a rural development program focused on pr leadership and initiative
- What's / who's the bottom?
  - People who make a living there
  - The power of representing one's wishes is

#### Role of intermediates



- Power of local people
  - Weak in the developing / mid-developed countries (as well as Japan?)
  - Intermediates play an inevitable role
    - E.g. NGOs, municipalities, activists, etc.
- Focus on a local NGO
  - NGOs have a substantial role in Thai society
  - (A relevant gateway for a Thai study beginner like me)

#### LANRAC(CIMER)



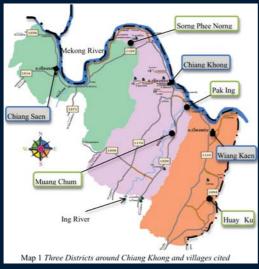
- Lanna Natural Resources and Cultural Conservation in Mekong Region
  - Use an acronym 'LANRAC' hereafter
- General info.
  - Head office in Chiang Khong
  - Mr. N established it 13 years ac
    - Born in 1960
  - Number of staff: around ten people
  - Financial condition: I couldn't verify it!

Intern'l Seminar on the Mekong

5

#### Location and area of activity





Chiang Khong

Tolland

Intern'l Seminar on the Mekong

6

#### **Activities**



- Nature conservation
  - To establish a local system for river (fish) / forest conservation
- Cultural conservation
  - To research history, religion, custom, etc. and to write reports
  - To utilize old knowledge for getting income
- Educational programs
  - For college students and urban NGOs

Intern'l Seminar on the Mekong

7

#### Four research sites



- Nature conservation
  - Pak Ing village (about 40 households)
    - located at the mouth of the Ing River to the Mekong
  - Muang Chum village (182 households)
    - · located along the Ing River
- Cultural conservation
  - Sorng Phee Norng village (1,273 people)
    - located along the small valley near the Mekong
  - Huay Ku village (144 households)
    - located on the steep slope of fairly high

#### Pak Ing: fish preservation



- Fish preservation segment
  - designated for 200 meters from the mouth of the Ing River goin upstream
  - initiated by the LANRAC several years ago
  - LANRAC urged the village people to set up their own committee
    - to keep a watch on the prohibition of catching fish

Intern'l Seminar on the Mekong

a

## Pak Ing: ritual for conservation



- · an "extending life" ritual
  - introduced newly by the LANRAC for the purpose of river conservation
  - A white thread connecting prayer to the river water about 200 meters distant from the place





Intern'l Seminar on the Mekong

## Muang Chum: river and forest



- River and wet forest
  - conservation
  - Established in 2000
  - Crisis in 2003: the then headman planned to chop down the trees of the wet forest
  - Mr. N explained importance of it and made the villagers embrace conservation successfully
  - Villagers renewed the rules for the preservation of the areas



11

# Muang Chum: feeling of pride



- The village has received a lot of attention
  - Information on the conservation activities available on website
  - Persons who want to study its program come to the village
- Villagers feel pride
  - Not only material benefits
  - But mental benefits that make villagers willing to live there



## Sorng Phee Norng: cultural renovation



- Two divisions, Huay Sa and Huay Tu
  - Huay Sa: the Lahu are dominant
    - Huay Tu: the Tai Lue ,the Akha form a majority
  - To concentrate on the Lahu division
    - The NGO's report, my interview data or
- The NGO encourages the villagers
  - revive their old traditions
  - Designated a special community forest used for a certain revived ritual

Intern'l Seminar on the Mekong

13

#### Sorng Phee Norng: cattle



- Raising cattle
  - 12 head of cattle owned by villagers commonly
  - Aim
    - To get cash flowing locally and stop village youth from migrating to big cities by increasing opportunities to make a living



#### Huay Ku: long report



- Inhabited by Hmong people
  - They once fought against the Thai government
    - LANRAC wrote a fairly long research report in 2007
    - It devotes almost half of the whole volume to the chapter "Community Relation and Culture"
      - It expresses the interest of the NGO in conserving the minor

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# Huay Ku: keeping and breeding animals



- 40 head of common cattle
  - Recommended by Mr. N
- Plans of breeding business
  - Roosters for cockfighting
  - Bulls for bullfighting
- To make a big quilt
  - To continue traditional embroidery skills eminar on the Mekong





#### **Educational program**



- To accept study tour
  - For college students
    - One-day visits to study the idea of rural development
    - For some weeks or as long as two months to experience real rural life



 E.g. Mekong river tour to study ecosystem and social problems





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#### Lessons from the case



- How to act against exogenous development
  - In the case of the plan of a industrial park
- The idea of endogenous development
  - From the life history of Mr. N
- To Promote resilience of cultures and resources
  - Embedded in the daily livelihood of local people
  - Intern'l Seminar on the Mekong

     Using eves from outside

#### Against the exogenous



- A plan of industrial park in Chiang Khong
  - National project in the Thaksin period
    - Site: more than 1,600 ha in the rice-growing district along the Ing River
- Mr. N's strategy
  - He gave up urging farmers to stop selling lands
  - To make the farmers aware of the negative impacts experienced at other industrial parks
    - Even if no property rights, people have a right to protest against the environmental degradation
    - 'Land is intrinsically public'

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#### Locally based education



- Mr. N have questioned the modern curriculum
  - It's from the west
    - · It isn't useful for local life in Thailand
  - To Attach importance to local ways and local knowledge
- The idea requests new businesses based on an endogenous point of view
  - It isn't an easy task but they would be a model for local living that maintains local culture and pride

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#### Embedded in daily livelihood



- Cultures and resources would be resilient only when they are embedded in the daily livelihood of local people
  - New businesses with keeping cultures and resources are embedded as well
- Autonomous organization
  - New system for conservation must be organized by local people

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#### Using impacts from outside



- The view from outside
  - Discovers unnoticed goodness of local life
    - But the capital from outside should be rejected
  - It makes villagers proud of living there and participating in the activities
    - · Remember the case of Muang Chum
- · To make full use of various media
  - Internet
  - Local media
    - Paper, signboard, etc.



#### "localology"



- It is developed for promoting resilience and renovating villages having great difficulty in Japan
  - The keyword is "to look for what we have"
    - vs. "to want what we don't have"
- What we should discover using this method:
  - Knowledge of hydrological, botanical, climatologic, cultural and historical nature
  - It puts great importance on the role of outsiders
    - Outsiders can help villagers to notice the unrecognized value of things

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#### Concluding remarks



- The rural societies in the Mekong region share, more or less, the same situation as those in Japan, because we live in the one borderless world.
- It's a great pleasure for me, if my report can contribute to giving some suggestions for the coming rural prosperity in the Mekong countries.



### Thank you for your attention.

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International Seminar on "Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing Experiences from the Japan and Mekong Countries"

Socio-Cultural Implications of Cash Crop Expansion in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province, PRC

Xing Lu
GMS Study Center, Yunnan University

#### Cash Crop Expansion

- 1960's rubber expansion
- 1970's sugar and tea expansion
- 1980's private rubber expansion
- 1990's pineapple expansion
- 2000's banana expansion

International Seminar on "Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing Experiences from the Japan and Mekong Countries"

#### Changes in Land Use

- The major drivers:
  - Policy
  - Market
  - Technology development
  - Agricultural Extension

#### Nature of Production Organization

- Market-oriented production
- Household-dominated production
- Community's outwards instead of inwards relations
- State-dominated extension
- Natural resources-based development

International Seminar on "Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing Experiences from the Japan and Mekong Countries"

#### Implications of Cash Crop Expansion

- Materialism
- Individualism
- Disintegration
- Traditional cultural loss
  - Religion
  - Knowledge
  - institutional
  - Historic memory

Thank you!

# M-POWER as knowledge network: Reflections from experiences

International Seminar on "Cultural diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing experiences from Japan and the Mekong countries" Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand, 19-20 November, 2009



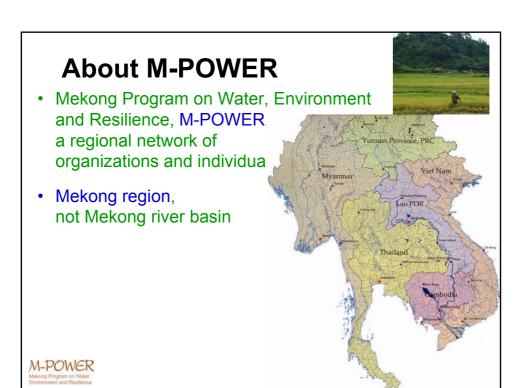


#### **Two parts**

- About M-POWER
- · Some reflections







#### **Objectives**

- Improved livelihood security, human and ecosystem health in the Mekong Region through better water governance
  - Foster and contribute to the growth of regional networks of governance researchers committed to critical analyses and actions
  - Empower disadvantaged groups by facilitating forums and mechanisms whereby the views, needs and rights of marginalised and vulnerable groups are articulated



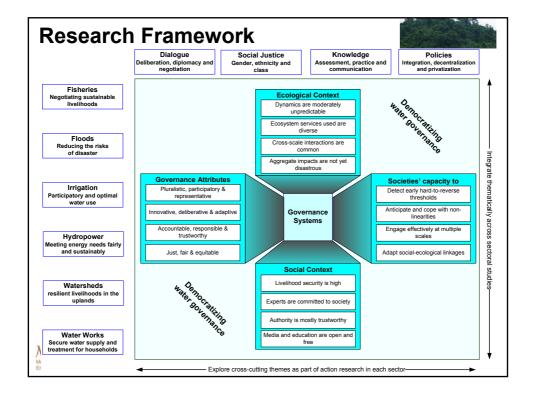


#### **Main activities**

- Research
- Regional and national events
- Publications and communications







#### **Working groups**

Floods Bach Tan Sinh

Hydropower Tira Foran Urban waterworks Edsel Sajor

Fisheries Richard Friend

Upland watersheds Lu Xing

Irrigation Chu Thai Hoanh

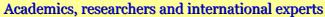
Social justice Babette Resurreccion

Knowledge Antonio Contreras

Policies Francois Molle

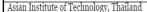
Dialogues John Dore / Kate Lazarus

Synthesis Xu Jianchu





#### **Partner Organisations**



Department of Environmental and Water Resources Engineering (DEWRE), College of Technology (CoT), Cantho University (CTU), Vietnam

Center for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge, China Centre for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC), Cambodia

Centre for Water Resources Conservation and Development (WARECOD), Vietnam

Chiang Mai University Unit for Social and Environmental Research (CMU-USER). Thailand

Social Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand EcoDev, Myanmar

Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)

Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT), Cambodia

Green Watershed, China

Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, France & Laos

Institute of Tropical Biology (ITB), Vietnam Inter Press Service (IPS), Thailand International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

National Institute for Science and Technology Policy and Strategy Studies (NISTPASS), Vietnam

National University of Lao PDR

Palang Thai

The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Ubon Ratchathani University. Thailand

Yunnan University - Regional Development Research Center (RDRC), China

Capacity Building Initiative (CBI), Myanmar

International Rivers, Thailand/USA

Helsinki University of Technology (TKK)/Department of Civil and

Environmental Engineering, Finland

The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), PRC China

Griffin nrm, Thailand/Australia

Water, Research and Training Centre (WRTC), Myanmar

8 academic institutions, 11 NGOs, 7 INGOs, 3 others



#### Research fellowship

- M-POWER research fellowship scheme established & operational
- 8 rounds of fellowships (2 round each year) awarded 31 fellowships
- Central to our long-term objective of fostering a cohort of governance scholars





#### Reflections

- Collective engagement and collaboration
- Creating space for dialogue and deliberation
- Working as a knowledge hub: Policy inputs
- Some limitations: Identity and coordination





## Collective engagement and collaboration

- · Comparative studies with regional focus
- Bring diverse capacities and experiences together
- Value-added of M-POWER- working together across organizations and countries







M-POWER

There have been several outstanding efforts but still many significant un-tapped opportunities to work closely together

## Creating space for dialogue and deliberation

Regionalizing an issue can provide secure spaces for individuals



M-POWER aims to ensure that significant policies and projects are

examined in the public sphere



#### Working as a knowledge hub: **Policy inputs**

- Contribute to the knowledge-base by research – inputs for policy process
  - eg. Irrigation and fisheries, floods risk adaptation, hydropower/electricity planning,
- Sharing the outcomes and regular interaction with stakeholders
  - Book series, working papers, research update, listserv
- 'Social capital' cohort of researchers rapid response capacity



M-POWER M-POWER has been instrumental in bringing researchers to contribute to the knowledge-base which ultimately feed the policy process

#### Some limitations: Identity and coordination

- Diversity in working environment and interest of stakeholders
- Variation in compliance to the reporting requirements of coordination node
- Differences in approaches as well





M-POWER Diversity among network members creates challenges for coordination and cooperation

#### **Conclusions**

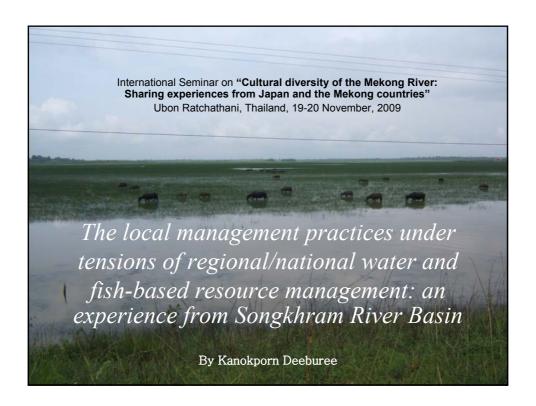
- Network of like-minded organizations and scholars is important to achieve the desired outcome
- Successful in bringing together researchers and organizations with expertise and interest in water governance
- Effort is needed to support individual identities of partners while still providing effective coordination

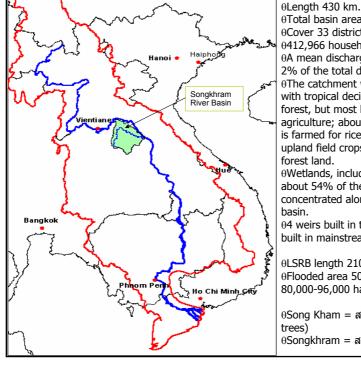


Organized but informal networks play a vital role in the governance of water in Mekong Region complimenting, informing and challenging inter-governmental processes.









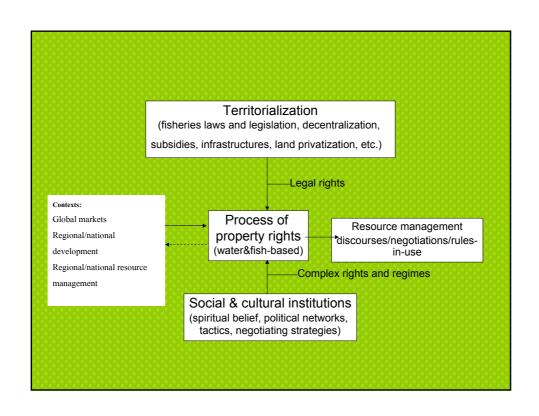
O'Cotal basin area 13,128 km²
O'Cover 33 districts of 4 provinces
O'All,966 households
O'All mean discharge of about 300 m³/s or
2% of the total discharge of the Mekong
O'The catchment was formerly forested
with tropical deciduous or monsoon
forest, but most has now cleared for
agriculture; about 39% of the catchment
is farmed for rice and the remainders for
upland field crops with some remnant
forest land.
O'Wetlands, including rice fields cover
about 54% of the catchment and are

about 54% of the catchment and are concentrated along the lower part of the basin.

04 weirs built in the tributaries; 2 weirs built in mainstream river

 $\theta$ LSRB length 210 km.  $\theta$ Flooded area 500,000-600,000 *rai* or 80,000-96,000 ha

θSong Kham = สงคาม (a grove of *Kham* trees) θSongkhram = สงคราม (War)





#### Questions

- How ordinary people response to the degradation of property rights?
- How do they vindicate their rights on resource properties?

#### Unit of analysis:

#### Property right processes

(access and negotiating strategies)

#### Target groups

- <u>Bag net fishery group</u>: representative of individual use rights and illegal commercial fishery. (Pak Yam)
- <u>Communal fishery auction</u>: representative of community rights in fish and water resources. Utilize an illegal method, *Kad* (set bag-net) and seine nets, in harvesting fish resource in communal river. (Tha Pan Hong)



#### Fisher's discourse

- "Catching fish is not the crime";
- "If we don't catch them; they will be caught by other countries";
- "Who can prove that we are the cause of fish decline? (It might cause by people who catch fish in other countries)"; and
- "Should we conserve fishes for other's benefits?"















#### Conclusions

- Different perceptions/values: Scarce Resources VS Community Asset.
- Different power level: Local economy VS Regional economy.
- The decentralization policy reinforcing formal rights and undermining community right institutions widely.
- The social enclosure of community property rights and resource assets results the spatial enclosure of local fisheries.
- Social and cultural institutions of local communities assist to rearrange
  property rights that dominated by formal authorities or more powerful
  political agencies, to gain more opportunities in resource competition. But
  right recognition is unstable as long as local property rights are not
  accepted formally.

#### **Hydraulics of Water Projects:**

## The Flows of Powers and Waters in Northeastern Thailand

Jakkrit Sangkhamanee
M-POWER Fellow
MSSRC, Ubon Ratchathani University

www.mpowernet.org

International Seminar on Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing Experiences from Japan and the Mekong Countries 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand



#### A Role of Japan Foundation, Bangkok in Promoting International Cultural and Intellectual Exchange for Sustainable Relations of the Mekong Region

Mr. Katsumi Kakazu, PhD candidate in Socio-Linguistics Executive Director, The Japan Foundation Southeast Asian Bureau Director General, The Japan Foundation, Bangkok

# JAPAN FOUNDATION Outlines of Presentation

- 1. Summary of JFBKK Activities
- 2. JF Works with ASEAN and East Asia
- 3. JFBKK and GMS Countries
- 4. Conclusion: A Way Forward to Promote Mutual Understanding for Sustainable Relations of the Mekong Region

# Summary of JFBKK Activities

#### The Japan Foundation, Bangkok

In 1974 it opened a liaison office in Bangkok to assist its full implementation of cultural exchange between Thailand and Japan as well as to create networks with affiliated cultural organizations and individuals in Thailand. Since 1992 its operation has been scaled up to cover the increasing occasions of cultural exchange not only between two countries but also among the respective regions.

The Japan Foundation, Bangkok has three functioning departments in conjunction with JFHQ's three major business groups as to provide respective partners with sufficient services namely.

- v Arts and Culture Department
- Japanese Language Department
- Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Department

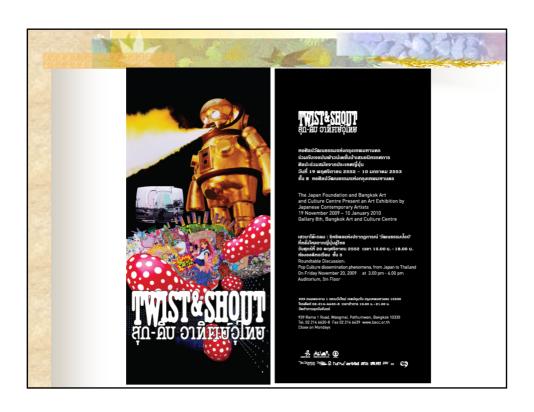
### **Art and Culture Department**

The Arts and Culture Department carries out a variety of cultural activities to promote cultural-exchange and cultivate the cultural diversity in the region. It has initiated many events such as art exhibitions, music concerts, stage performances, academic lectures, film showings and so on.









## Japanese - Language Department

It is an institution specialized in supporting activities in Japaneselanguage education in Thailand, aiming to contribute to the balanced understanding of Japan from a broad perspective.

The department is endeavoring to fulfill its mission by: (1) sending teaching specialists to universities and high schools; (2) offering a variety of Japanese - language courses offered at The Japan Foundation, Bangkok and (3) organizing related activities such as annual speech contest in August and the Japanese Language Proficiency Test in early December.





#### Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Department

With the aim to deepen understanding of Japan abroad and to foster and support good relations between Japan and other countries, the Japan Foundation provides a diverse range of grant programs for Japanese studies institutions and grant fellowships that enable scholars to conduct research in Japan. We also carry out intellectual exchange programs such as collaborative research projects and dialogues to enhance understanding of regional or global issues, seeking measures to solve such issues with Japanese involvements.

#### Program contents:

- Grant Programs to Japanese institutions abroad;
- Fellowships for scholars conducting research on/in Japan
- Support programs, both by Headquarters in Tokyo and the Japan Foundation Bangkok, for international collaborative projects and dialogues.



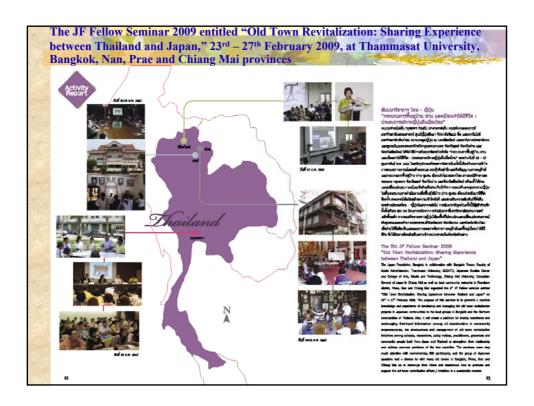
The JF Fellow Seminar 2007 on the occasion of 120th Anniversary of Thai – Japan Diplomatic Relations entitled ""Living Community in Japan: Local Pathway towards Sustainable Development" at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

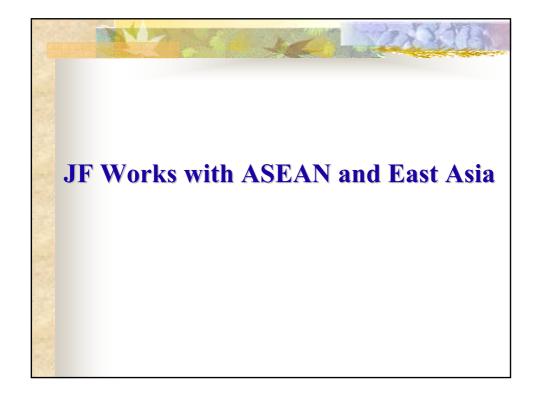




The JF Fellow Seminar 2008 entitled "Experience of Minamata: Community Revitalization and Environmental Restoration," 14th 16th February 2008, at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, and Map Tha Phut Industrial Estate, Rayong Province







#### Japan Foundation Southeast Asian Bureau

The Bureau will act as a catalyst to form an equal, futureoriented, and multi-dimensional partnership with the people of the region from the viewpoints of

- (1) fostering Japan's relations with the respective countries;
- (2) supporting the endeavors for community building among the countries of the region;
- (3) contributing to solve various global issues by sharing Asian cultural values such as the spirit of tolerance, which have a universal significance.

#### Japan Foundation Southeast Asian Bureau

#### **Three Guiding Principles**

- 1. Collaboration: multi-dimensional collaboration with the people of Southeast Asia and the formation of a regional community through network building Prioritized Areas:
  - ensuring regional security and development in planning, implementing, and supporting the collaborative efforts to solve regional and/or global common issues
  - constructing a community that is based on social justice and dynamism
  - v facilitating dialogue and co-existence of diverse cultures and values

#### Japan Foundation Southeast Asian Bureau

2. Community: building a community in which citizens with different backgrounds can live together and further mutual understanding

#### **Prioritized Areas:**

- v increasing mutual introduction of contemporary culture, such as "pop culture", and promoting the study of the Japanese language, culture, and society, which will lead to a more sharing attitude between Asian and Japan within the region
- shaping common culture and raising people's awareness of symbiosis through inter-cultural dialogues and activities and the building of multi-cultural societies at the grassroots level
- establishing an identity as "Asians", with an emphasis on youth exchange

#### Japan Foundation Southeast Asian Bureau

3. Creation: sharing, reviving, and disseminating the Asian knowledge and culture

**Prioritized Areas:** 

- v conserving and reviving the cultural heritage and diverse knowledge of Asia
- v creating a common culture and values of Asia
- v establishing creative spheres in the region and promoting Asian brands throughout the world









International Conference on "The Prospect of Japanese Language Education in Southeast Asia" organized by Thammasat University, 16th - 17th October 2008, Bangkok, Thailand



# Japan – East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS)

- Based on this plan, the Government of Japan will invite students and youths mainly from the EAS member states (ASEAN, Australia, China, India, New Zealand, the ROK) every year for the next five years, with a view to establishing a basis of Asia's stalwart solidarity by expanding youth exchange. Various kinds of exchange programs including inviting and dispatching youths will be implemented in cooperation with concerned countries and organizations.
- As the first invitation project based on the program, a group of 200 Chinese senior high school students will visit Japan from May 30 (Wed) to June 7 (Thu). The group will visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will attend a seminar on Japan-China relations in Tokyo. After that, the members of the group will interact with Japanese high-school students and citizens through attending joint classes and club activities in high schools, staying in Japanese people's homes, and visit cultural, economic, and social facilities in Yamagata, Ibaraki, Aichi, Osaka, Hyogo, Hiroshima, and Okinawa Prefectures. (The Japan-China 21st Century Exchange Program, which started last year, will be comprised in the JENESYS Programme from this fiscal year).
- Besides China, the Government of Japan intends to invite young people under this program from ASEAN countries, Australia, India, New Zealand, and the ROK.
- This program is expected to deepen mutual understanding among young people who will assume important roles in the next generation in each East Asian country, establish a basis for Asia's stalwart solidarity, and promote friendly feelings toward Japan in each country.





# JFBKK and GMS Countries



Seminar on Children's Book and Reading Promotion co-organized by JFBKK and SVA in collaboration with National Library of Laos, 5th July 2006, Vientiane, Lao PDR:

| International Collaboration of Collaboration



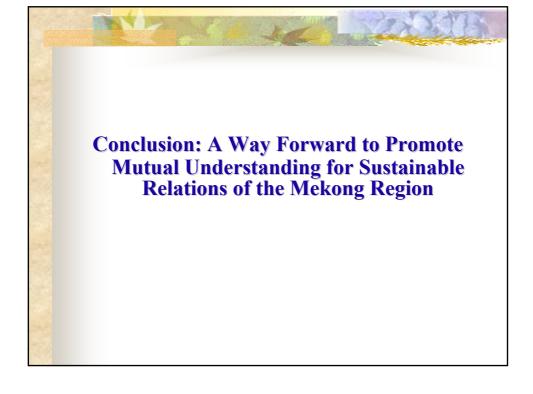
International Workshop on "Gender, Migrant Workers and Citizenship in Greater Mekong Sub-region: Economic and Political Perspectives for a World in Crisis"during 1st – 3rd June 2009 at AIT Conference Center, Thailand







Special lectures on "Constructive Inheritance of Traditions: the Past, Present and Future of the Weaving Cultures of Japan and the Mekong region" on 11th November 2009 in Chiang Mai and 14th November 2009 in Mahasarakham



#### New Perspectives of promoting mutual understanding through intellectual exchange dialogues of Japan Foundation Bangkok

- i) Diversified society and public tolerance
- ii) Peace-building and culture
- iii) Environment and culture
- iv) Social values of science and technology
- v) International governance and economic prosperity

"International collaboration is crucial. International cultural and intellectual exchanges are becoming more and more important.

What the Foundation and its affiliated offices have achieved toward world peace, diversity of culture and enhancement of world culture in the last quarter of a century is no way small. The Foundation and its affiliated offices, particularly Southeast Asian Bureau and Bangkok Office, will continue to make its best efforts to pursue its objectives in this twenty first century.



# THE FUTURE OF THE MEKONG COOPERATION

by Ms. Pakawan Chufamanee
Director of Mekong Affairs Division
Bureau of International Cooperation
Department of Water Resources

## **MRC COOPERATION**

- Cooperate on the basis of sovereign equality and territorial integrity in the utilization and protection of the water resources of the Mekong River Basin
- Cooperate and coordinate to formulate Basin Development Plan
- Utilize water resources of the Mekong River System in reasonable and equitable manner
- Environmental and ecosystem protection
- Maximize water uses of the Mekong River for economic development with reliability
- Capacity building of personnel and organization



### Vision for the Mekong River Basin

"An economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound"

Vision for the MRC

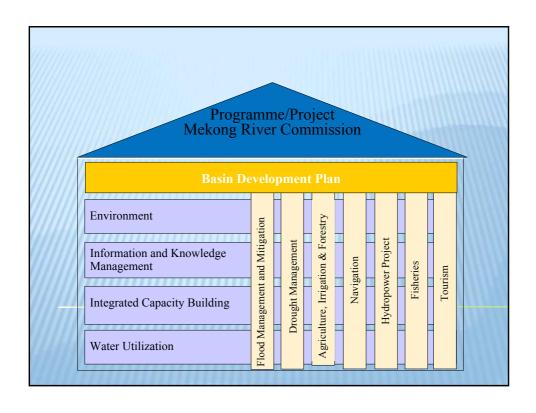
"A world class, financially secure. International River Basin Organisation serving the Mekong countries to achieve the basin Vision"

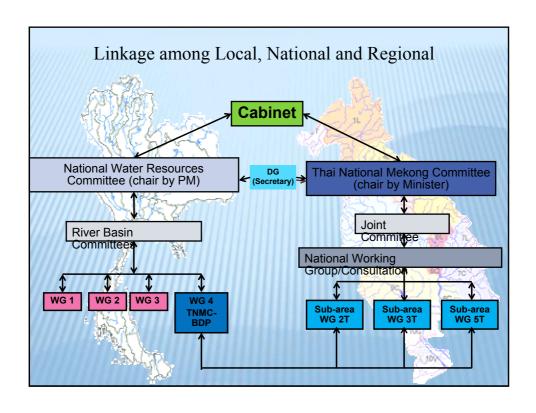
Mission of the MRC

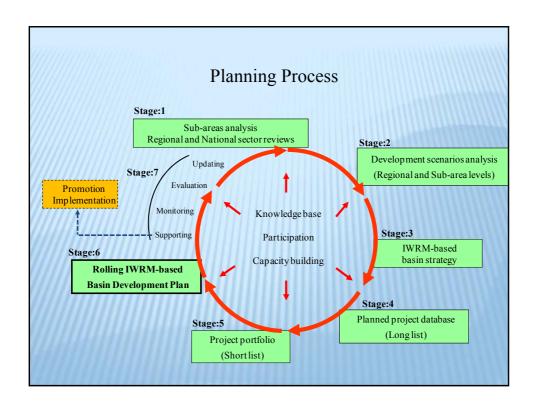
"To promote and coordinate sustainable management And development of water and related resources for the countries' mutual benefit and the people's well-being"

#### MRC STRATEGIC GOALS 2006 - 2010

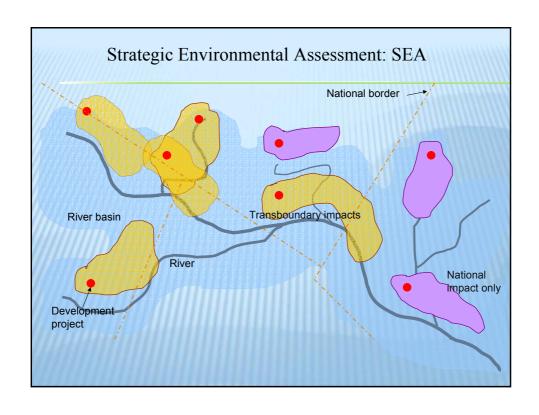
- **Goal 1**: To promote and support coordinated, sustainable and pro-poor development
- Goal 2: To enhance effective regional cooperation
- **Goal 3**: To strengthen basin-wide environmental monitoring and impact assessment
- Goal 4: To strengthen the Integrated Water Resources
  Management capacity and knowledge base
  of the MRC bodies, NMCs, Line Agencies,
  and other stakeholders

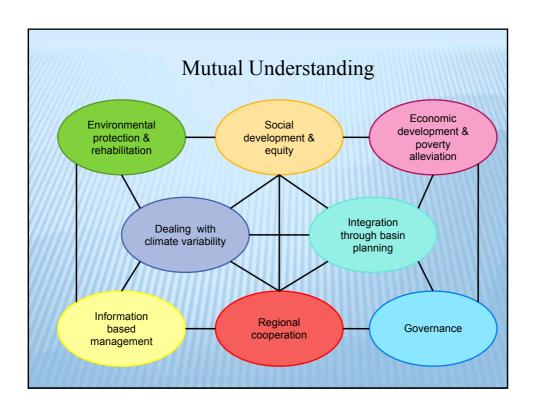






Technical	Environment	Social/Economic
Procedures /Technical Guidelines •Procedures for Data and	Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (TbEIA)	MRC Communication Policy Strategy
Information Exchange and Sharing (PDIES)	Strategic Environmental	MRC for Stakeholder Engagement
•Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and	Assessment (SEA) Hydropower on Main Stream	Scenario impact assessment on social
Agreement (PNPCA) •Procedures for Water Use Monitoring (PWUM)	SEA on BDP	Social impact monitoring
•Procedures for the Maintenance of Flows on the Mainstream (PMFM)	Scenario impact assessment on environment	Scenario impact assessment on economic
•Procedures for Water Quality (PWQ)	Climate Change Adaptation Initiative	Benefit/Cost analysis on hydropower projects
Decision Supporting Framework (DSF)	(CCAI)	





# Roles of Government and Donors in Contract Farming: Case of Laos

BY Dr. Kanowan Manorom

Mekong Sub-region Social Research Center [MSSRC]

Ubon Ratchathani University

November 20, 2006

International Seminar on "Cultural diversity of the Mekong River: Sharing experiences from Japan and the Mekong countries"

Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand, 19-20 November, 2009

# Contexts of Contract Farmingn

- Increased coordination of food production through forieng direct investment
- Expanding of higher-value crops
- Backward and forward market linkages need to be established
  - provision of information on market demand, technical support, rural credit, and etc

# Globalization of food production (con't)

- Improved farm inputs, product accreditation, and markets for the produce
- Rural poor responds to worldwide competition governed by international trade, agreements and food safety standards and requirements

# Lao Agriculture

 An estimated 80% of the national population is still employed in agriculture, producing 39.2% of GDP. The bulk of this farming is done using non-mechanized, traditional farming methods without commercial inputs.

# Lao Agriculture

In 1986, Government of Laos (GoL)
introduced the 'New Economic Mechanism
(NEM) which entailed a fundamental shift
from a planned economy, managed by the
state, to a free market economy with very
little state interference.

# Lao Agriculture

- Lao PDR has moved steadily to strengthening it relations with neighboring countries and participating in regional and international bodies.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has greatly stimulated economic growth, playing a key role in poverty reduction. Laos PDR witnesses economic growth rates of 7.2% in 2008.

# Lao Agriculture

- In recent years, hundreds of thousands of hectares of land has been provided to regional and international investors in the form of concessions.
- Most of the concessions have been provided on very favorable terms, for periods of 30 or more years and at amounts averaging \$6.00 per ha per year.

# Arguments

- Contract farming brings two different things to farmers
  - Benefits (modern agriculture based on the idea of commodity based approach)
  - Impacts (social and environment based on neo-marxism perspectives)

## **Benefits of Contract Farming**

- Market access
- Increased income
- Reduction of risk price fluctuation
- Credit and financial intermediation
- Timely input and production markets
- Monitoring and labor incentive
- Introduction of High value crops

## **Benefits of Contract Farming Cont)**

- A promising tool to facilitate market linkages
- Market opportunities for high-value crops and livestock production
- A tool to enable a transition to commercial production
- An effective private-sector-led mechanism to facilitate the transition
- Improving the profitability and raise the incomes of small farmers

# Challenges of Contract Farming

- Monopoly
- Burden of labor management
- Contract enforcement
- · Bias toward large farm
- Requirement for increased management skills
- Increased risk
- Health and environmental implications

# Contract farming as mechanism for poverty reduction in Laos

- China, Thailand and Vietnam are major contractors in Laos
- Example of profits from <u>rice</u> under CF: on average (ADB 2008)
  - Yield
    - 3,272 Kg/hectare (CF)
    - 2,603 KG/Hectare (Non-CF)
  - Profit per area of land
    - 2,924,000 million Kip/hectare (CF)
    - 1,751,000 million Kip/hectare (Non CF)

# Conceptualizing Contract farming

- Social relations of production and control of the labor process
- CF is subsumed within a broader phenomenon of global restructuring of agrarian production relations

# Conceptualizing contract farming

- Socio-economic differentiation
  - favor more capitalized smallholders
  - neglecting the poorest segments of the population: marginalized labor of poorer peasants

## Roles of Government and Donors

- Promoting farmer cooperatives
  - Enhancing a bargaining and negotiating power
- Creating enabling environment policy for the poor farmers
  - Contract enforcement is practically possibly by legal system and court mandatory
  - Land tenure



# International Seminar on "Cultural Diversity of the Mekong River:

Sharing Experiences from Japan and Mekong Countries"

#### Asst.Prof.Dr. Yaowalak Apichatvullop

Director, Center for Research on Plurality in the Mekong Region (CERP) Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Khon Kaen University

19 – 20 November 2009 Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

## Four thoughts on the future of Mekong

- $\lambda$  Can we really prevent conflicts from happening ?
- $\lambda$  How can we tolerate ( or even better ) respect differences ?
- λ How do we achieve mutual understanding? Understanding of what?
- λ How do we ( as an individual as well as an organization ) contribute to the promotion of mutual understanding?