

Different uses of the river



19/11/2009

Different perspectives on energy development



19/11/2009

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

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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?

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Rights and resources



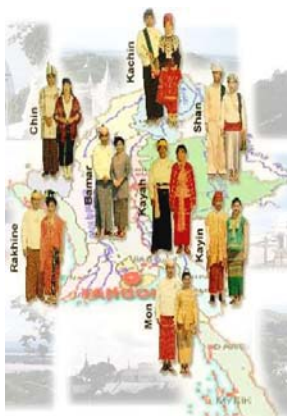
"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth – but not the oil and mineral rights." 19/11/2009

People who under Gun control

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

Burma

261,789 sq Miles
54 Million people



Natural Resources: Timber, jade, gold, natural gas petroleum, zinc, copper, coal, precious stones, hydropower etc.

- 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 10th 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

- Forced Relocation and Migration



Land Confiscation







Try to refugee

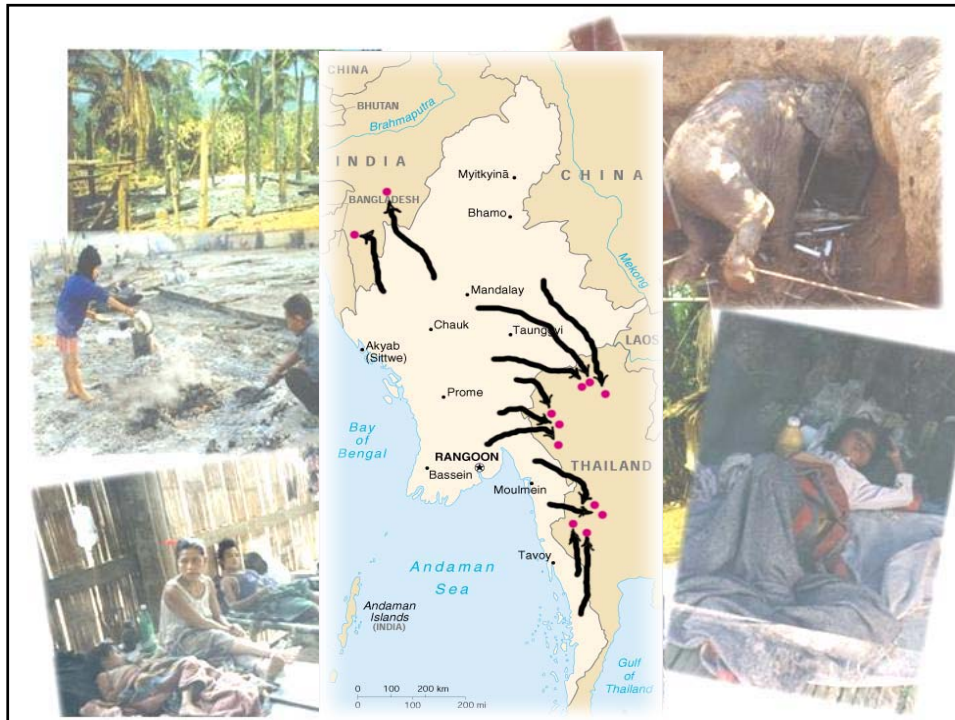


Run to Border

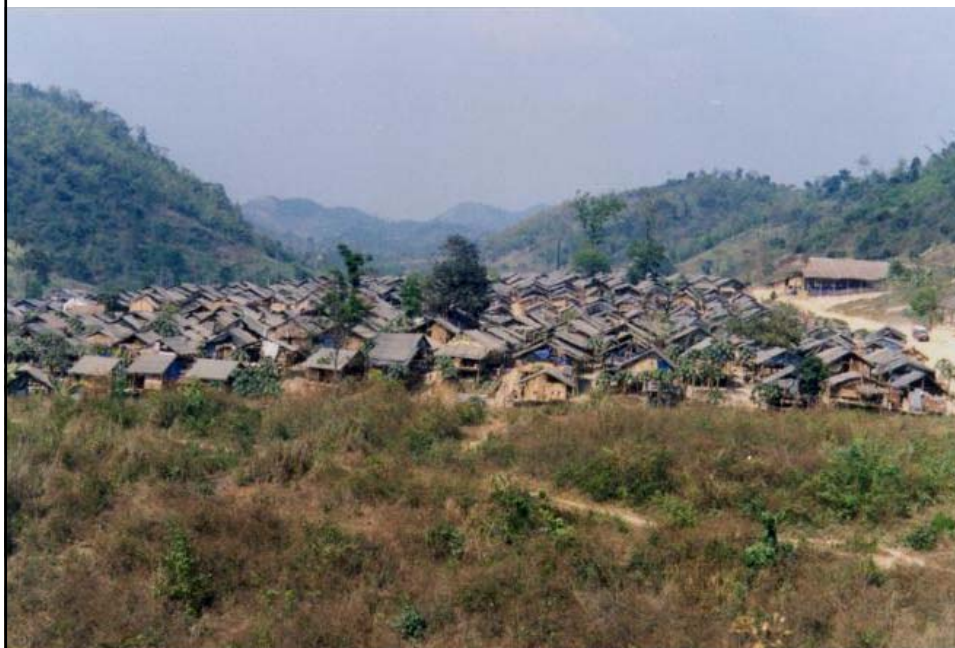


Thai-Burma border





Live in the refugee



Girls workers in the factory



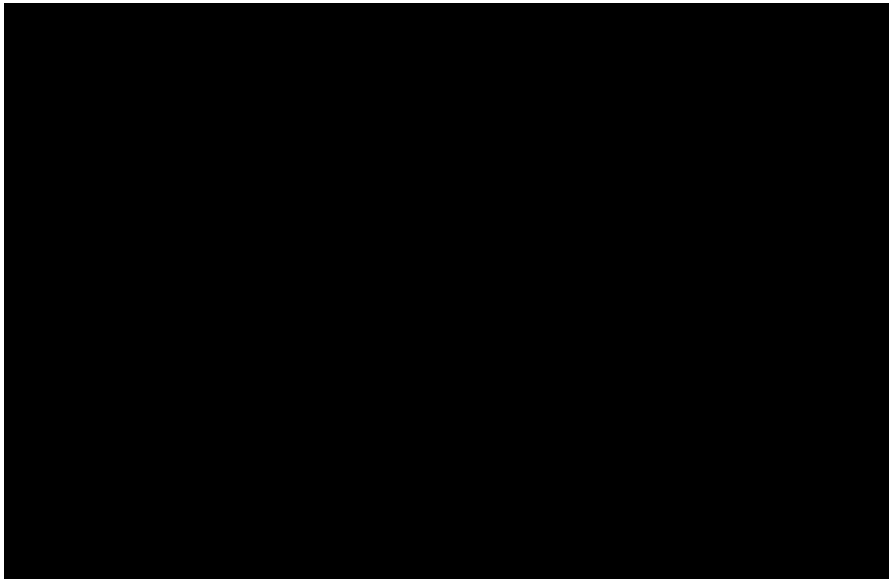
Life of Migrant worker



Children live with their Parent in
Detention center



Saffron revolution 2007



Child Soldier

- According to [Human Rights Watch \[7\]](#), recruiting and [kidnapping](#) of children to the [military](#) 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)

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Mekong Power Grid: Who will benefit?

Montree Chantawong

Towards Ecological Recovery Regional Alliance (TERRA)

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

19/11/2009

19-20 November 2009

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

**Regional Indicative
Master Plan on Power
Interconnection in the GMS**

Yunnan Province of PRC
Myanmar
Lao PDR
Thailand
Cambodia
Viet Nam

TA 5920-REG

Minimum System Requirements
Pentium II or higher,
16x speed CD-ROM drive
16 MB RAM, Windows 95,
Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.05

- View Consultant's Final Report (pdf)
- Install Acrobat Reader
- User's Guide
- Exit

Norconsult June 2002

19/11/2009

**Study for a Regional Power Trade
Operating Agreement in the Greater
Mekong Sub - Region**

TA 6100-REG

Prepared for: Asian Development Bank

November 2004

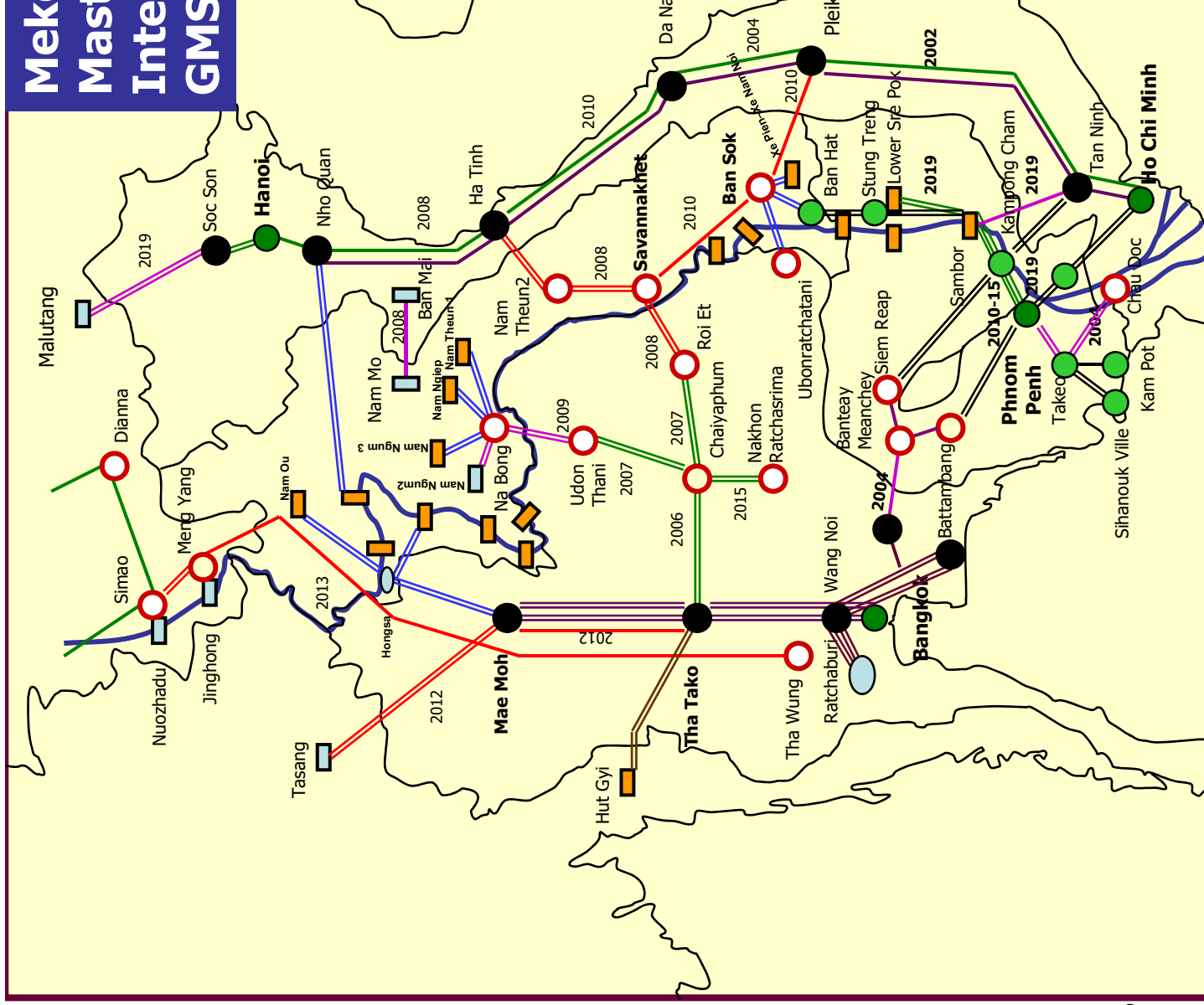
 **MERCADOS**
Mercados de Valores
Bolsa de Valores - Buenos Aires - Montevideo

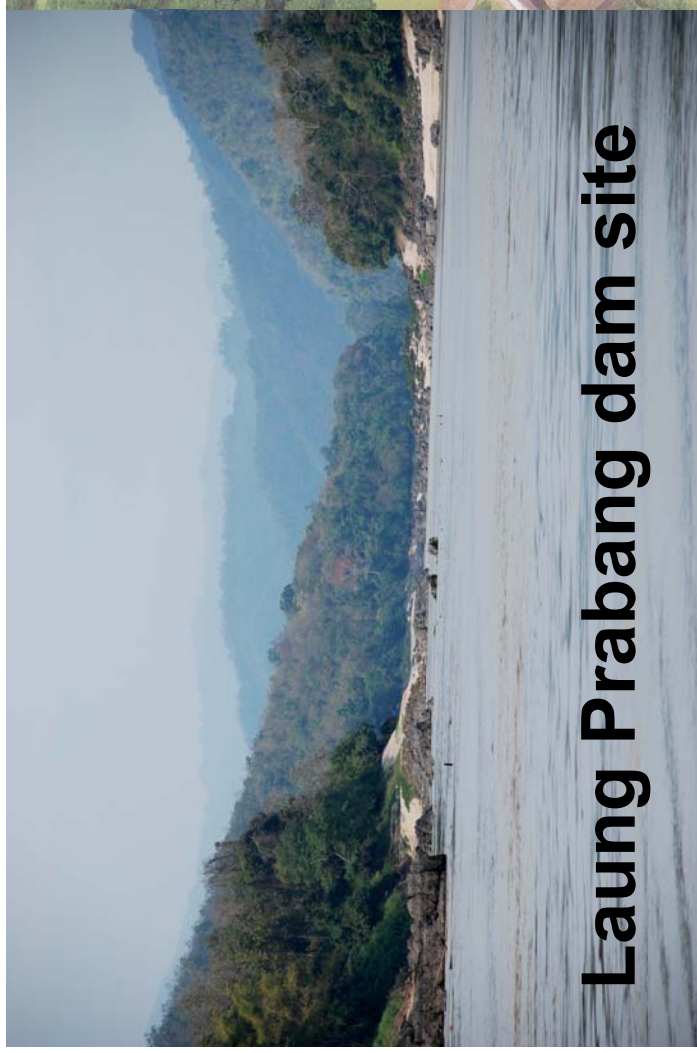
soluziona

Mekong Power Grid - Master Plan on Power Interconnection in GMS Countries, 2002

Under the GMS scheme, ADB gives priority to the grid project by preparing US 4.575.9 million worth of loans and grants for financing 32 projects with regards to transmission grids and substations construction. ADB alleged that the project will save up US 914 millions worth of regional investment.

Japan is one of the countries that have a crucial role in supporting the development of Mekong Power Grid through ADB and its own state bodies such as JICA and Japan Special Fund.





Laung Prabang dam site



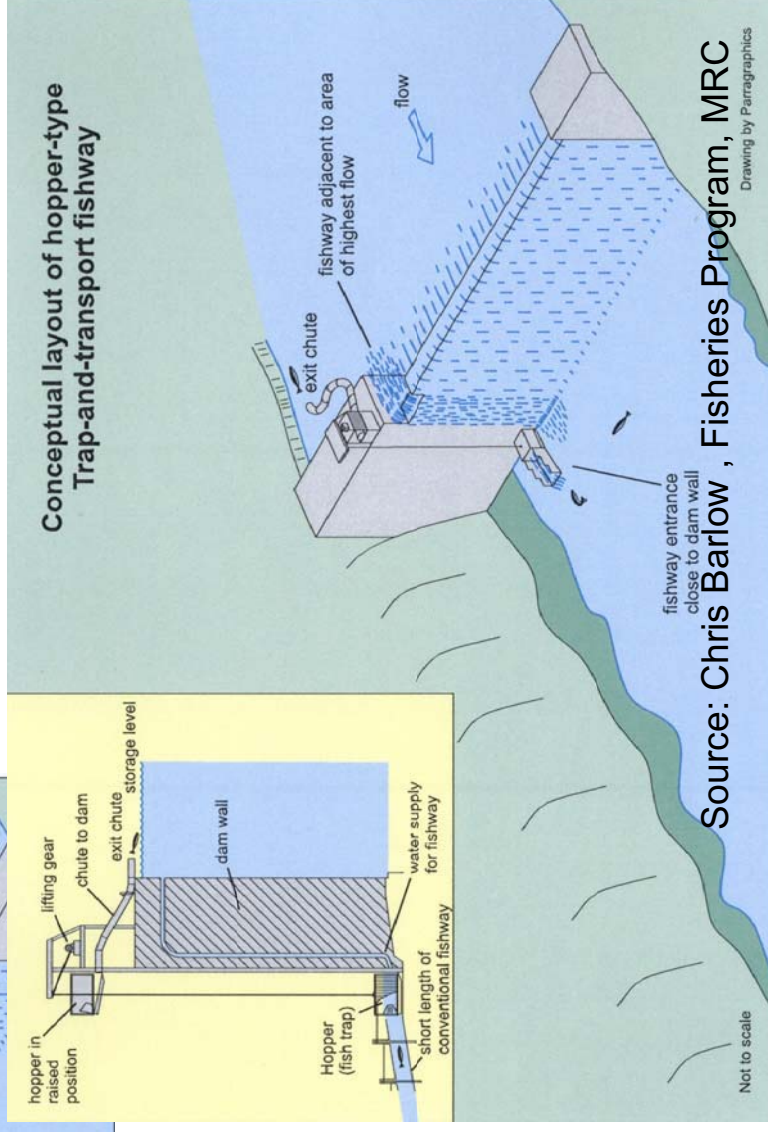
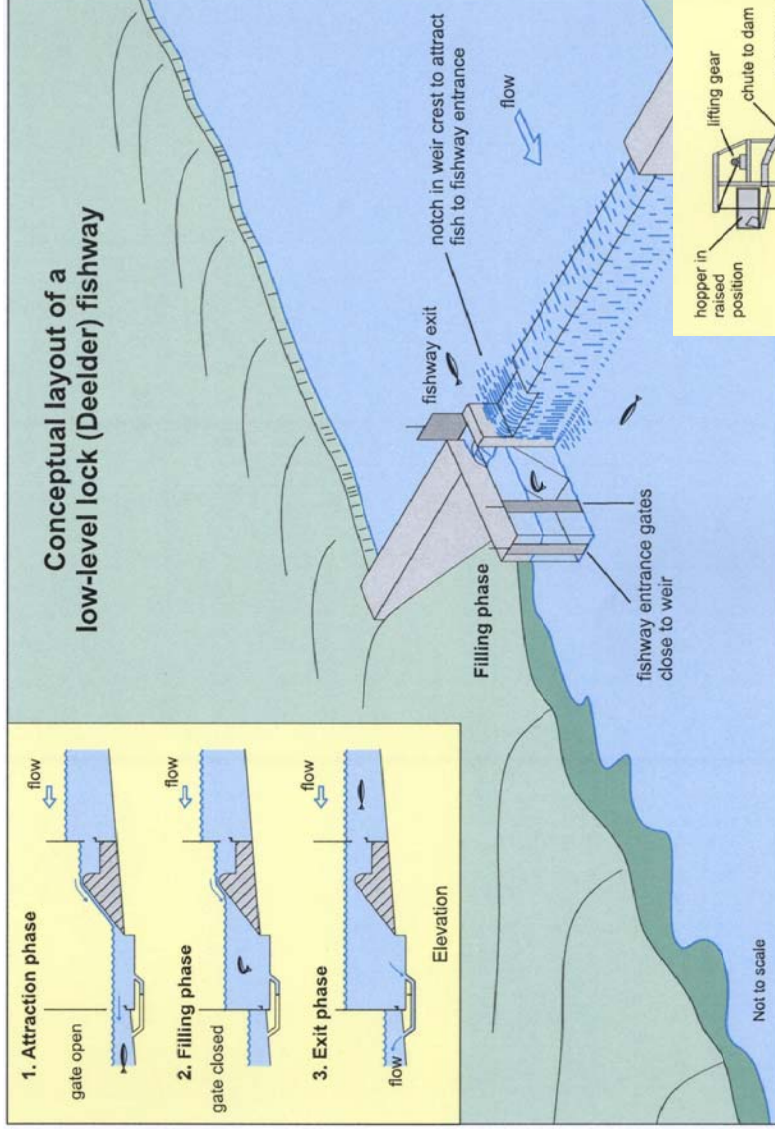
Xaiyaburi dam site

- 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”



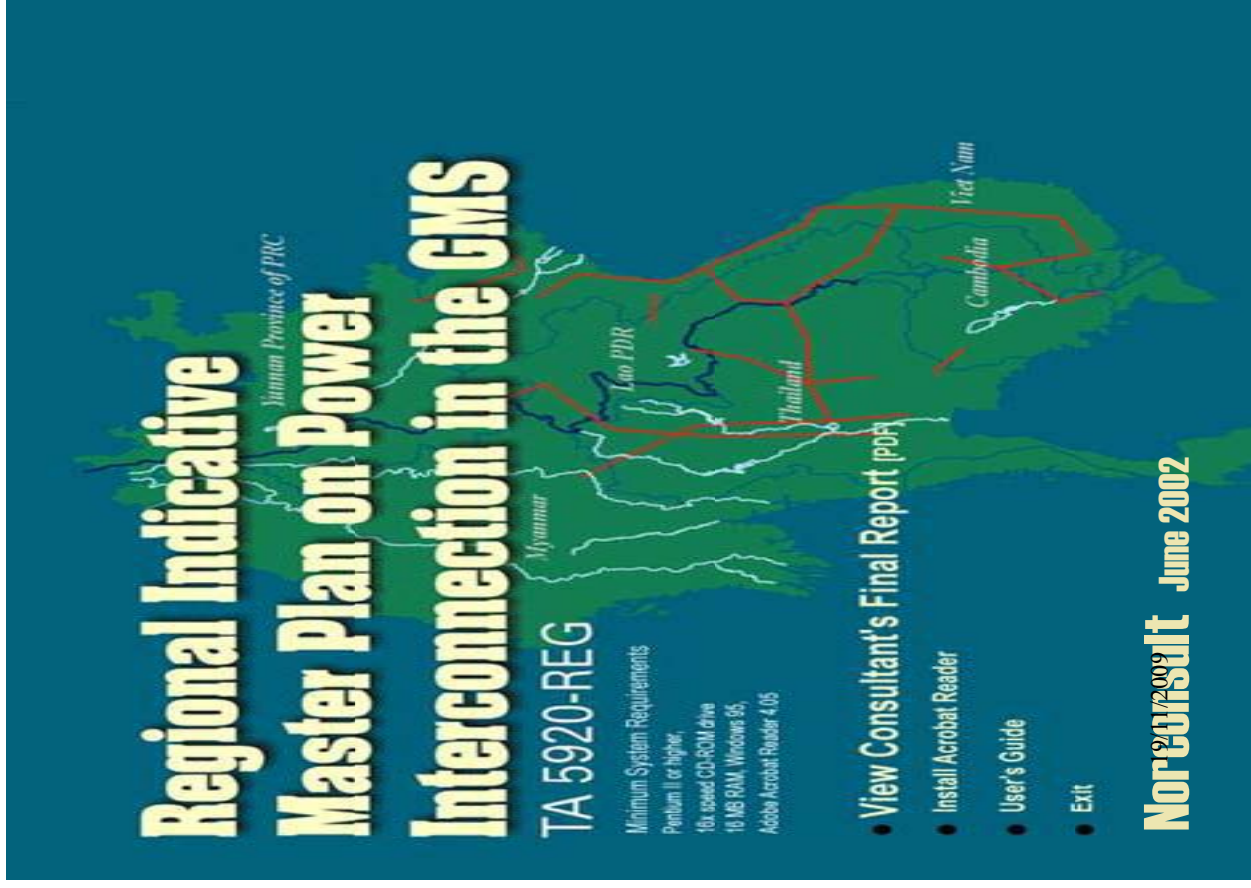
Source: Chris Barlow , Fisheries Program, MRC

Drawing by Parragraphics

Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower – Fish migration mitigation idea.

19/11/2009

Critiques on Mekong Power Grid's structure



Witoon Permpongsacharen
from MEEENET

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?

Critiques on Mekong Power Grid's structure

Regional Master Plan Interconnector TA 5920-REG

Minimum System Requirements
Pentium II or higher,
16x speed CD-ROM drive
16 MB RAM, Windows 95,
Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.05

- View Consultant's
- Install Acrobat Reader
- User's Guide
- Exit

Norconsult

2009

Potential of Renewable in Thailand

High Potential Low Development



small hydro 700 MW



solar >5,000 MW



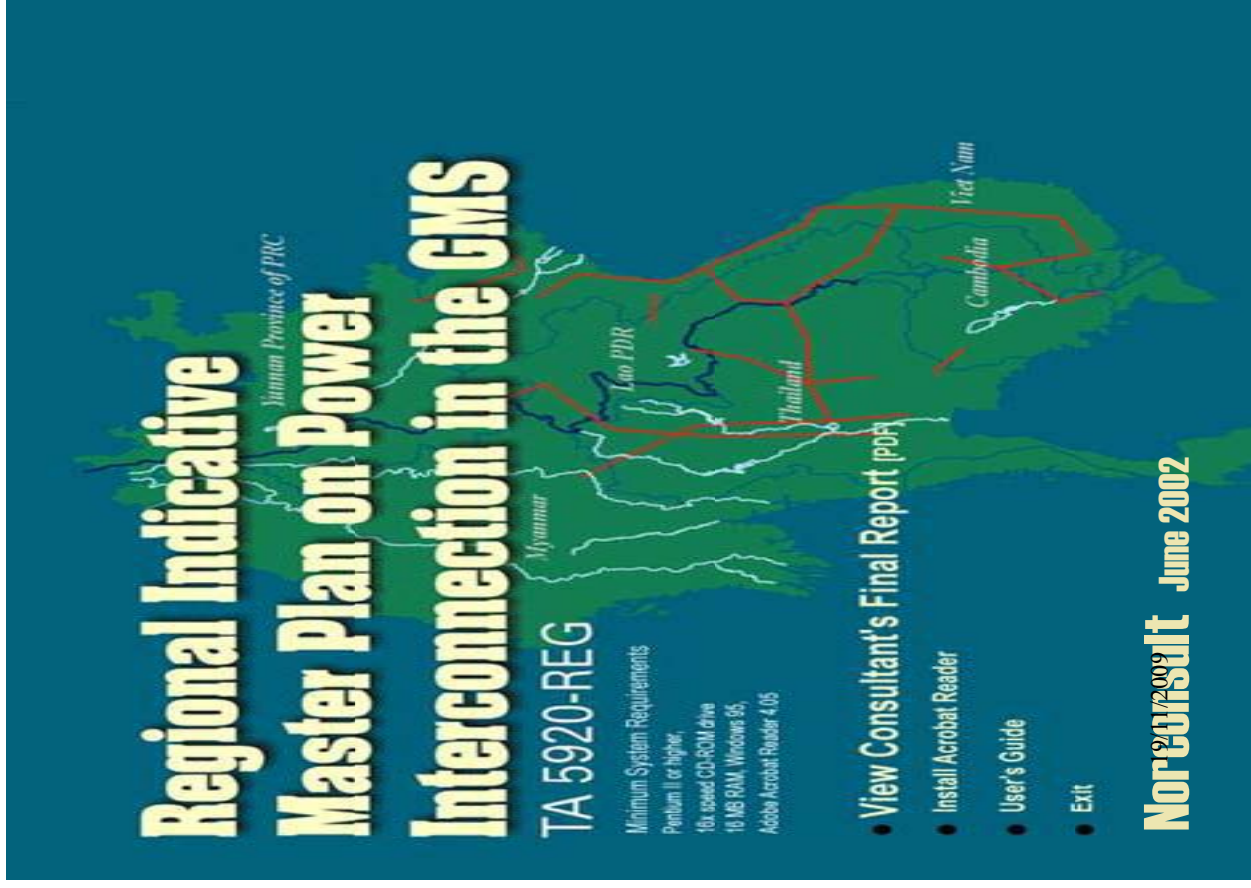
wind 1,600 MW



Biomass 7,000 MW

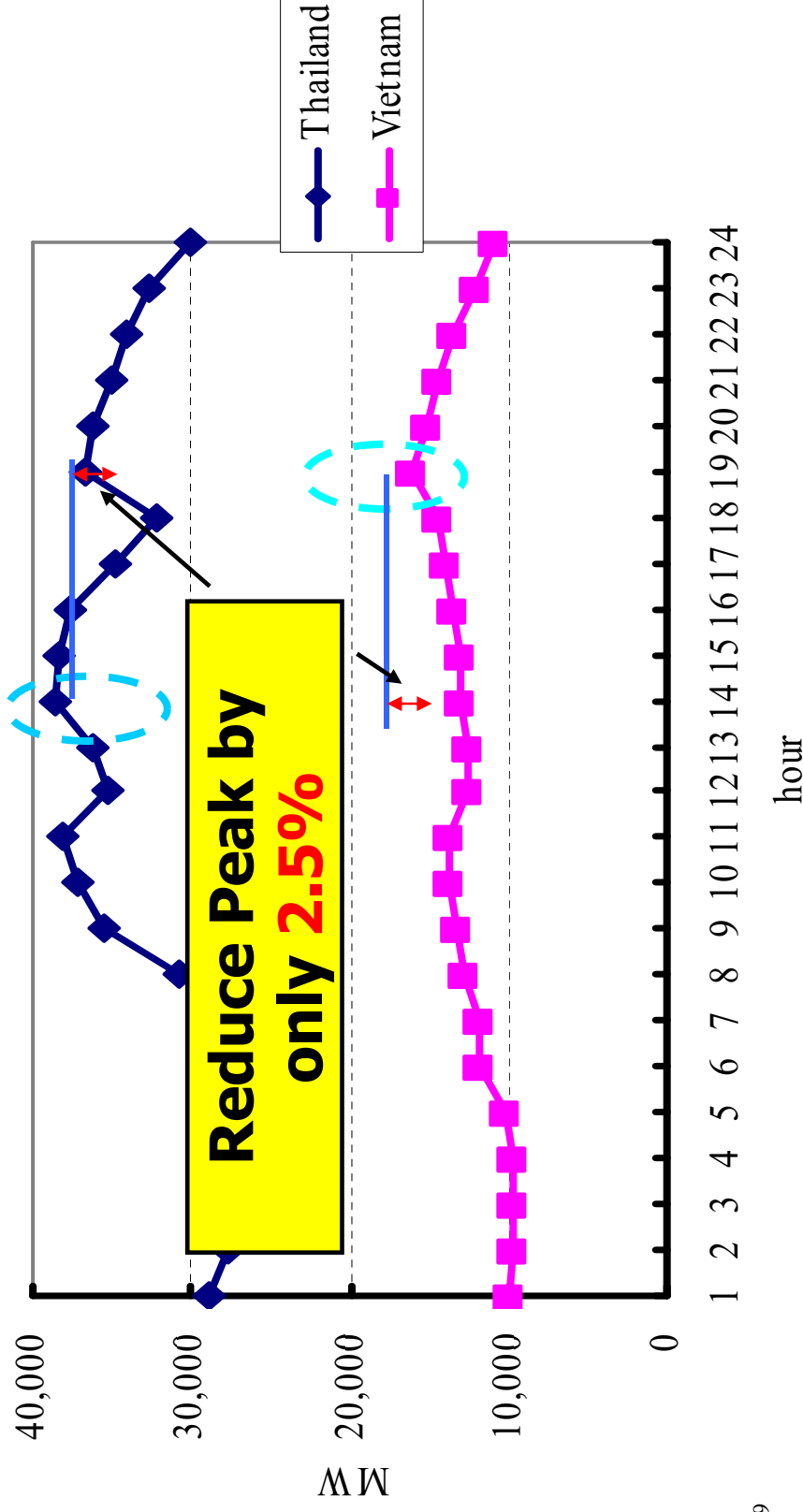
ที่มา: กรมพลังงานทดแทนและอนุรักษ์พลังงาน

Critiques on Mekong Power Grid's structure



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)



Critiques on Mekong Power Grid's structure

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- Exit

Norconsult June 2002

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.

19/11/2009



Picture: Chris Barlow , MRC



Giant Catfish in Chiang Kong, Northern Thailand
19/11/2009

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

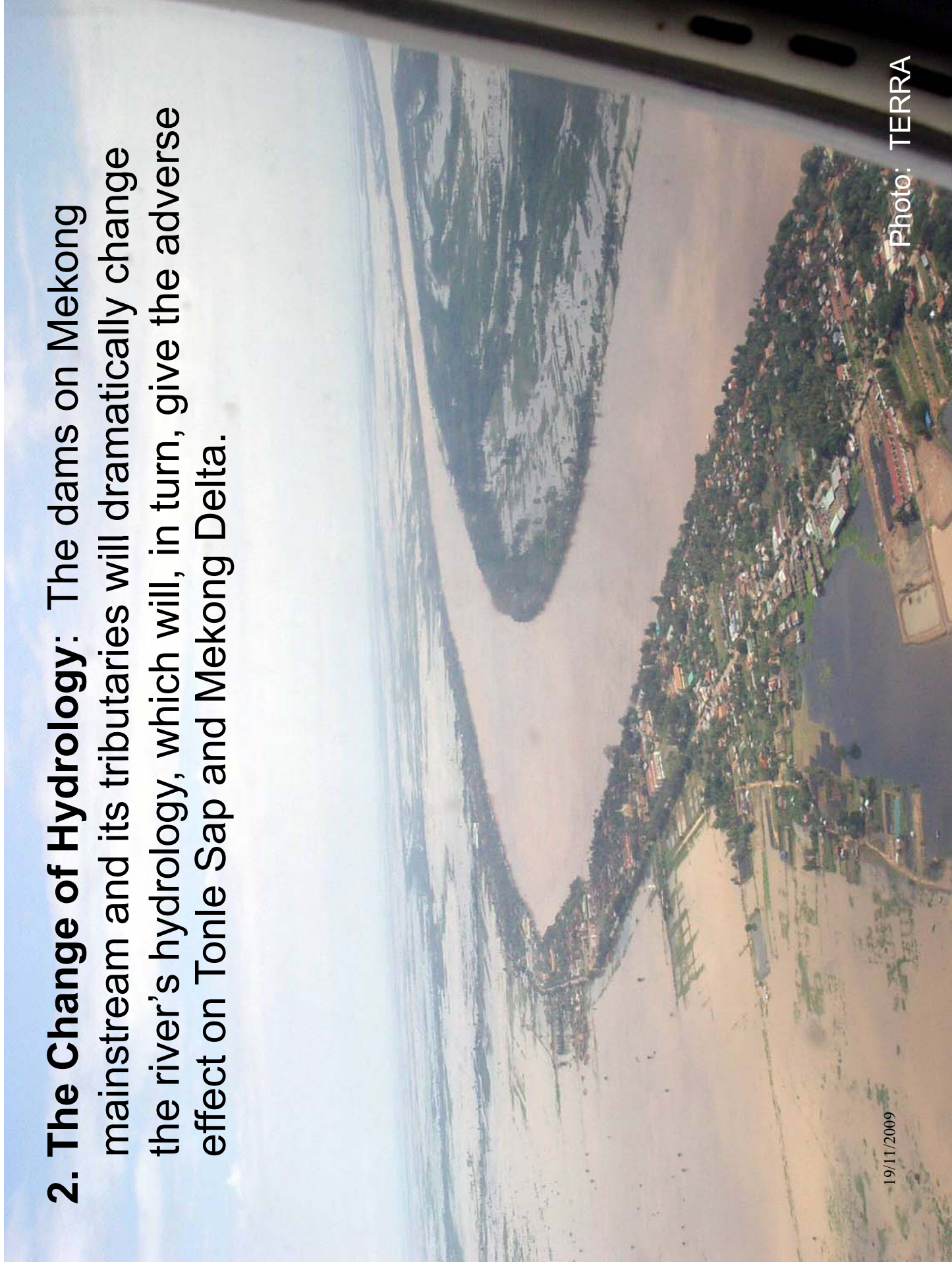
Dam will block fish migration from downstream to upstream of the river. This will affect immediately to all villagers who rely on fish catching in the Mekong mainstream its tributaries .



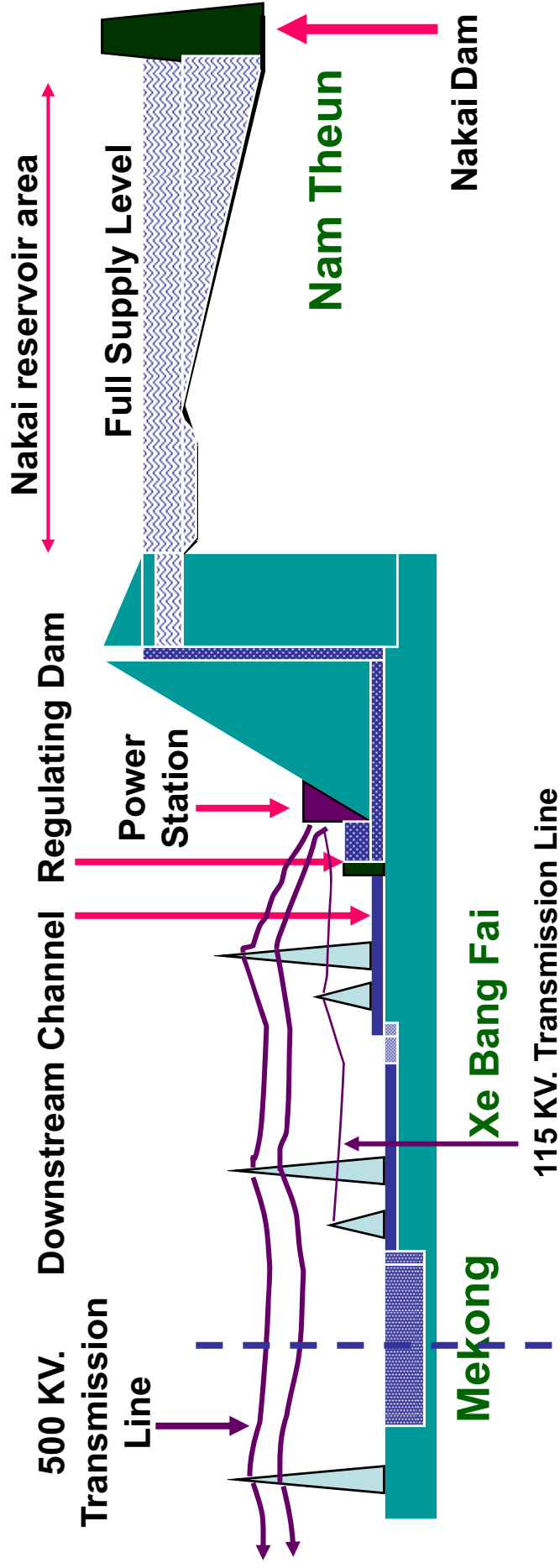
2. The Change of Hydrology: The dams on Mekong mainstream and its tributaries will dramatically change the river's hydrology, which will, in turn, give the adverse effect on Tonle Sap and Mekong Delta.

19/11/2009

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)

19/11/2009

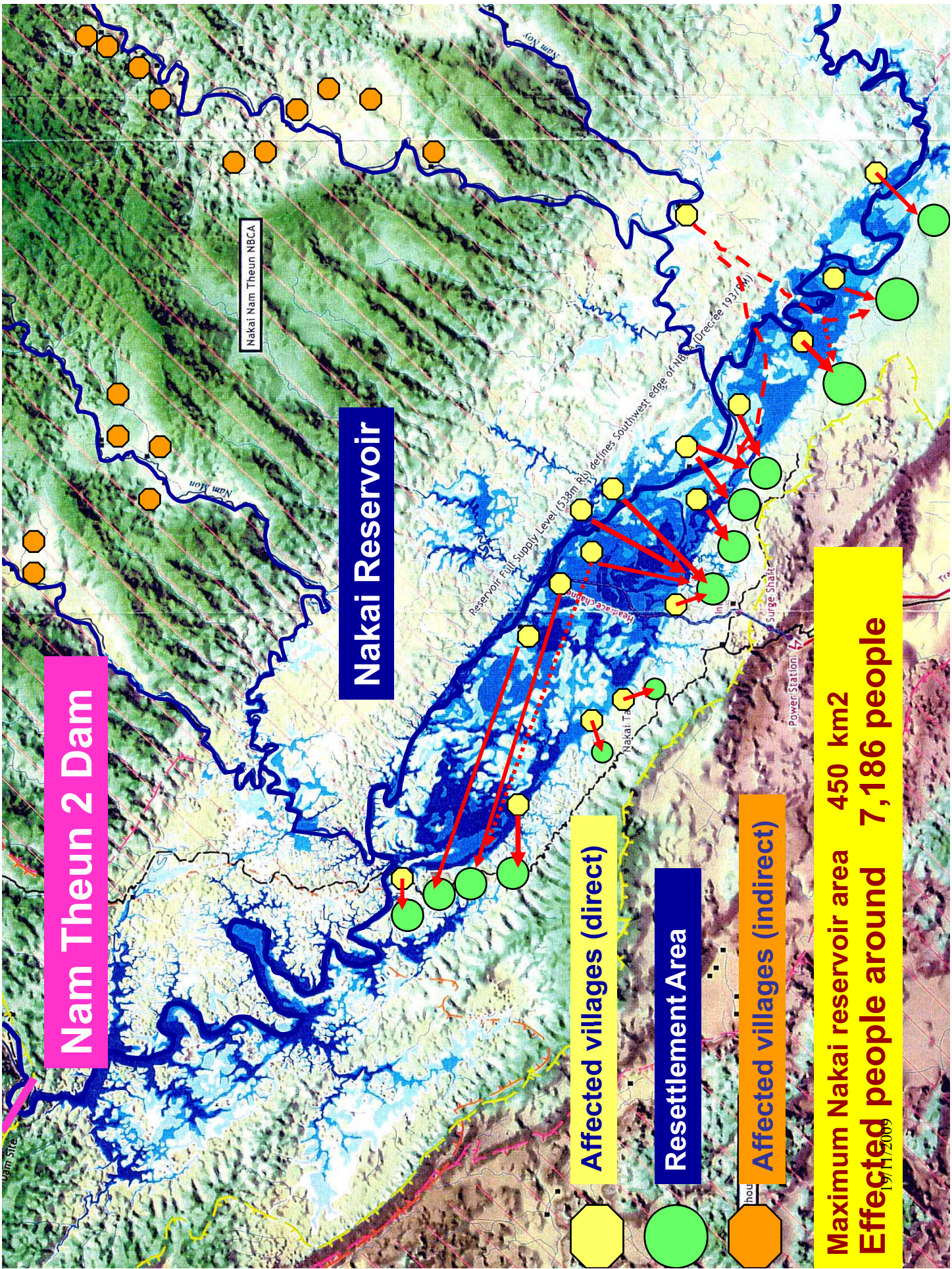
Source: Summary environmental and social impact assessment, July 2004

Rendered View of the Nakai Plateau

Showing : The Nakai – Nam Theun NBCA,
Nam Theun 2 Reservoir (Maximum Inundation),
Downstream Channel & Transmission Line



- 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.



Maximum Nakai reservoir area 450 km²
Effectuated people around 7,186 people
19/1/2009

- floods during the dry season on farming areas along the river bank, which is another source of communities' incomes.

River bank agriculture at Ban Song Khon

Photo: TERRA



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.



19/11/2009

Sweet potato at Ban Song Khon

Photo: TERRA

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.



19/11/2009

Photo: TERRA

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.



Photo: TERRA



- 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.



19/11/2009

Photo: TERRA

EGAT is continually devoted to securing **their** stability

กฟผ.

ดูแลความมั่นคง **ของตนเอง**

ทำร้าย คนไทยทั้งประเทศ

อย่างไม่มีข้อแม้ใดๆ



การเริ่มก่อสร้างสายส่งไฟฟ้าแรงดันสูง
ย (กฟผ.) 1 พฤษภาคม พ.ศ. 2512
พณฯ ทัศนศิลป์ ได้เสนอโครงการ
ขุดในภาคใต้ความมั่นคงด้านพลังงาน
คนไทยทั่วประเทศ
ตลอด ๕๐ ปีที่ผ่านมา 19/11/2009
มีมติที่ประชุมฯ พิจารณาโครงการ
คิดและก่อสร้างไฟฟ้าใหม่ ๆ กับมีข้อ

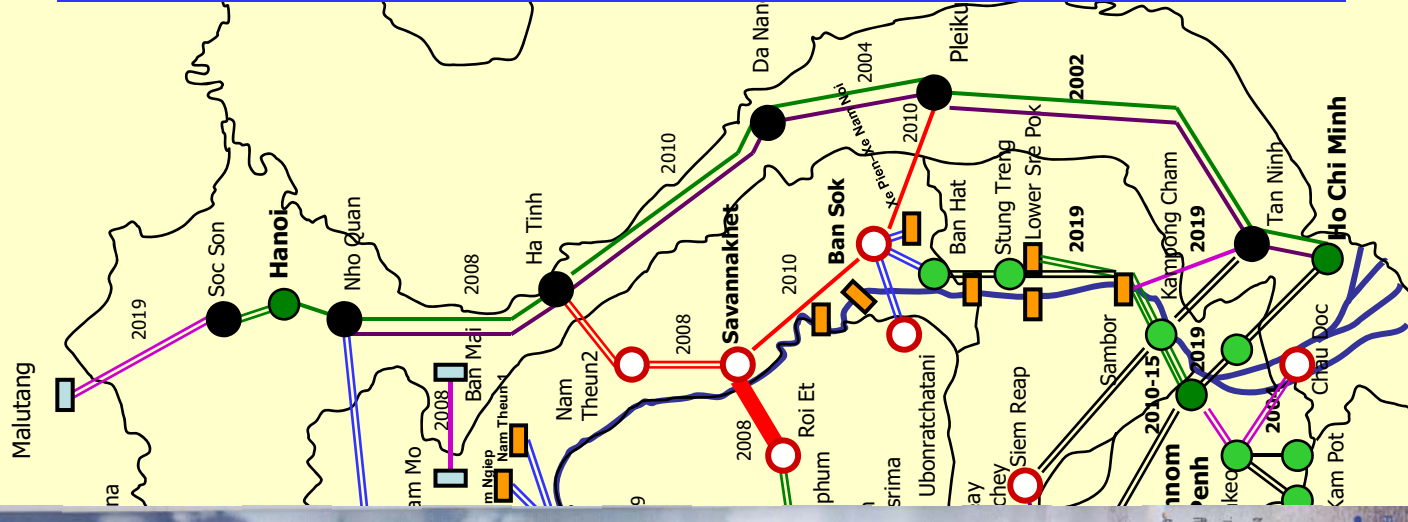
การก่อสร้างสายส่งไฟฟ้าแรงดันสูง
โรงไฟฟ้าสำคัญทั่วประเทศ
กฟผ. ยังศึกษาลงทุนสร้างโรงไฟฟ้าและ
ระบบส่งไฟฟ้า รองรับความต้องการที่เพิ่มขึ้น
 อีกทั้งยังได้พัฒนาแหล่งผลิตไฟฟ้าพลังงานทดแทน
 เช่น โรงไฟฟ้าพลังงานลม โรงไฟฟ้าพลังงาน
 แสงอาทิตย์ โรงไฟฟ้าน้ำมันขนาดเล็ก ฯลฯ

เพราะเราตระหนักเสมอว่า ความดีงาม
ใช้ไฟฟ้าของประเทศไทยจะเพิ่มขึ้น ตามการเจริญ
เติบโตของเศรษฐกิจ และเราชาว กฟผ.
มีพันธกิจหน้าที่ในการดูแลความมั่นคงของ
ชุมพลพลังงานไฟฟ้าให้กับคนไทยทั้งประเทศ



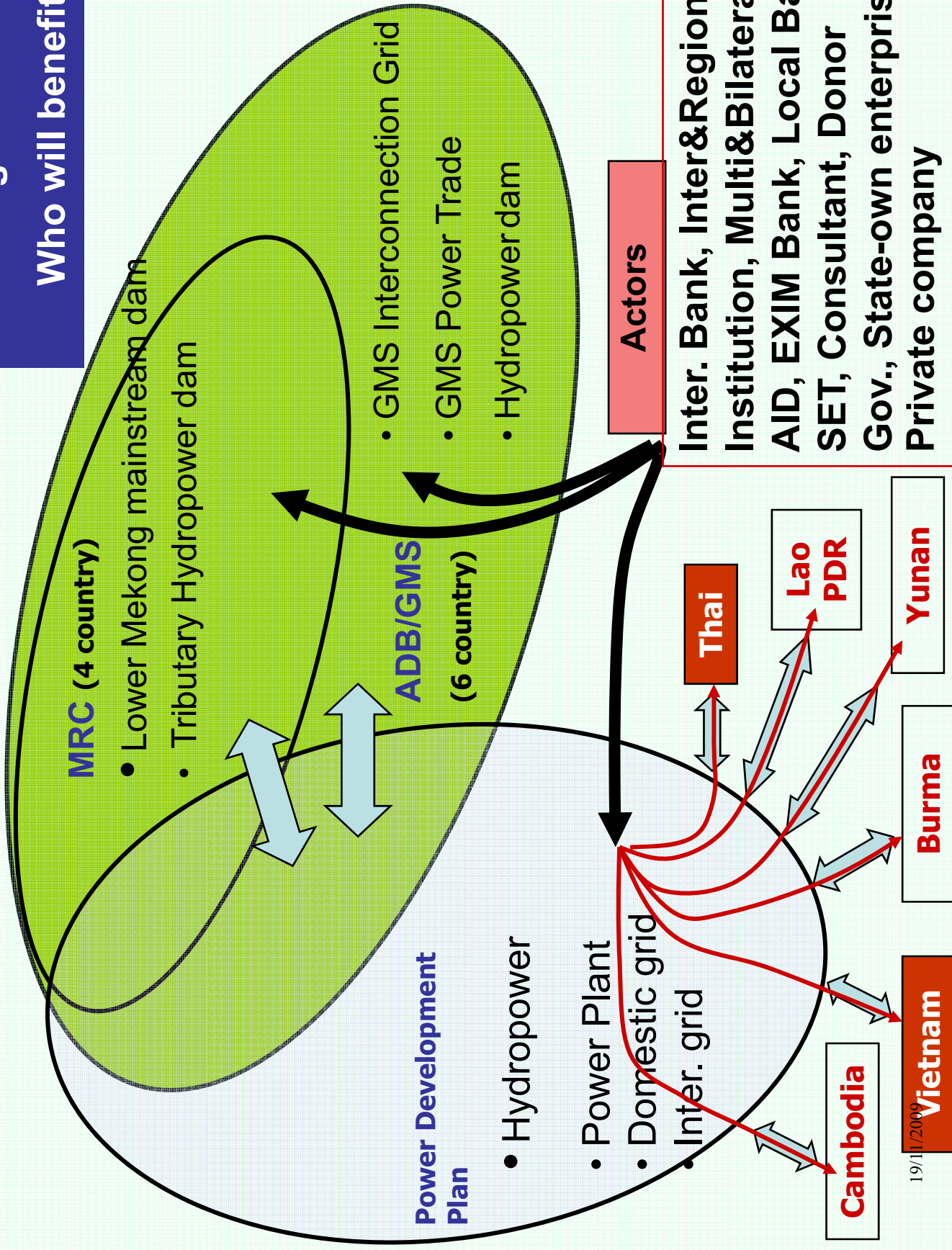
For Thailand cases,
in constructing
transmission lines
linked to the NT2 in
the area of Roi Et2-
Mukdaharn (at the
boundary).

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



Mekong Power Grid

Who will benefit?



**Mekong is the treasure and life of all Mekong people.
This major river does not belong to governments,
investors, financial institutions and politicians only.**



19/11/2009

Mekong river at Ban Pha Chan, Thailand

Photo: TERRA

Thank you



19/11/2009

Photo: TERRA



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. LEADER program in EU, various programs in Korea
 - a rural development program focused on promoting local leadership and initiative
- What's / who's the bottom?
 - People who **make a living there**
 - The power of representing one's wishes is



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3

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)

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4

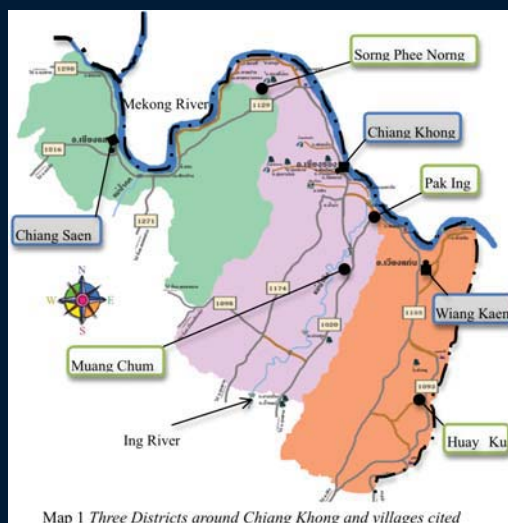
LANRAC(CIMER)



- *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 ago
 - Born in 1960
 - Number of staff: around **ten people**
 - Financial condition: I couldn't verify it!



Location and area of activity



Map 1 Three Districts around Chiang Khong and villages cited



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

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
 - **Song 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 mountains

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



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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



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10