

July 2009



Mekong River Commission

REPORT

FOURTEENTH DIALOGUE MEETING

28 July 2009

Vientiane, Lao PDR

Meeting the Needs, Keeping the Balance

**REPORT
of
THE FOURTEENTH DIALOGUE MEETING**

between

**the Mekong River Commission
and
the People's Republic of China
and
the Union of Myanmar
28 July 2009, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

GENERAL

1. The MRC and its Dialogue Partners, the People's Republic of China and the Union of Myanmar held the Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting (hereinafter referred to as "The Meeting"), on 28 July 2009, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

2. Distinguished participants at the Meeting included Delegates from the People's Republic of China (China), the Union of Myanmar (Myanmar), Members of the MRC Joint Committee and the MRC Delegations. Professional and support staff from the MRC Secretariat also attended the Meeting. (Attachment No. 1: List of Participants)

3. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Monemany Nhoibouakong, Permanent Secretary of the Water Resources & Environment Administration, Lao PDR and Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2009/2010.

A. OPENING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MRC JOINT COMMITTEE FOR 2009/2010

4. The Chairperson opened the Meeting by welcoming the distinguished Members of the Joint Committee, Heads and Members of Delegations from the People's Republic of China and the Union of Myanmar, and other participants including MRC Secretariat staff. (Attachment No. 2: Opening Statement)

5. The Chairperson provided the Meeting with an update of MRC's work over the past year. Significant progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Organisational Review. 20 out of 38 recommendations have been implemented since the Independent Review report was presented in January 2007. Considerable progress was also made regarding the Permanent Location of the Secretariat in the past year.

6. The MRC has scaled up its efforts to address emerging issues such as climate change and increasing hydropower development across the region. Following the 2008 flood, the Commission is working on providing accurate and timely flood forecasting for the current wet season.

7. The Chairperson underlined the importance of maintaining and strengthening cooperation in the Mekong Basin, to strengthen joint interest for wider development of the Mekong River Basin. The Chairperson welcomed the growing dialogue between the MRC and China and Myanmar before outlining the proposed agenda.

8. The Chairperson concluded the opening statement by reiterating her appreciation to all Delegates for taking part in the Meeting and declared the Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting open.

B. STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

9. The Head of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Diao Mingsheng, Permanent Representative of China to UNESCAP, thanked the MRC Secretariat for organising the Meeting and the Government of Lao PDR for the generous hospitality accorded to the Delegation. (Attachment No. 3: Statement by the Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China)

10. Over past 14 years, Dialogue Meetings have played an important role in enhancing mutual understanding and trust between the upper and lower basin countries and brought about substantial levels of cooperation. China appreciates MRC's efforts to reduce poverty and improve the wellbeing of the people on the Mekong Basin. It similarly welcomed MRC's contribution to enhancing cooperation and communication among all Mekong countries which greatly supports achieving this goal. China attaches great importance to the dialogue and will continuously offer strong support so as to contribute to poverty alleviation.

11. Significant progress has been made since the last Dialogue Meeting when the renewed Agreement on Provision of Hydrological Information of the Lancang/Mekong River was signed. Daily sharing of hydrological data continues to assist Lower Mekong Basin countries in preparing and mitigating floods. A mission by the MRC Chief Executive Officer to China in October 2008 was fruitful and successful. Mutual understanding and trust has helped develop the relationship between P.R China and the MRC.

12. P.R. China and MRC have strengthened ties, particularly at a technical level. A Navigation Seminar on Waterway Safety and Navigation Improvement, held in October in 2008, was co-hosted by P.R. China and MRC. P.R. China would like to see further detailed proposals in the area of Navigation and will take part in the related activities. China stands ready to take part in the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the mainstream dams planned for the lower Mekong basin.

13. Under the current Global Financial Crisis, countries in Mekong subregion face severe challenges. Domestically, P.R. China is taking measures to mitigate effects of the Crisis and is also supporting countries in the subregion to recover from the Crisis. China's support includes a \$10 billion China-ASEAN fund on Investment Cooperation to support infrastructural development in the region. Furthermore, P.R. China is enhancing cooperation in energy conservation, environmental protection, development and utilization of new and renewable energies to foster new incentives for growth in the Asian economy.

14. Climate change is another impending challenge faced by P.R. China and the region. Coping with Climate Change is a priority task for both the MRC and China. China announced that it is the first developing country to formulate a National Plan for Coping with Climate Change and set targets of cutting energy consumption and emissions of main pollutants.

15. P.R. China has taken climate change into consideration with regard to hydropower and water resources development. For example, China has taken steps to avoid affecting water discharge, water temperature, sediment, fish migration and other environmental factors. Furthermore, P.R. China stands ready to utilise dams on the Lancang River to assist Lower Basin countries in safeguarding against flood and navigation.

16. In closing, the Head of the Delegation of China underlined that the subregional cooperation is based on China's foreign policy of making friends and partners in the surrounding areas. China looks forward to working with the MRC and all the other Mekong countries to bring about greater prosperity to the region.

C. STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

17. The Head of the Delegation of the Union of Myanmar, Mr. Ko Ko Oo, Director of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, Ministry of Transport expressed his great pleasure to participate in this Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting organised by the Mekong River Commission. (Attachment No. 4: Statement by the Head of Delegation of the Union of Myanmar)

18. The Union of Myanmar was pleased to learn that the MRC had made substantial progress in the implementation of the 1995 Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Lower Mekong Basin. Myanmar noted the progress in implementing of its Strategic Plan 2006-2010 and congratulated the MRC for its achievements.

19. The Representative of the Union of Myanmar indicated that his Ministry has been involved with various activities of the MRC for many years. The cooperation was not limited to participation in Dialogue Meetings but Myanmar had a keen interest in the MRC Programmes and sought further areas of cooperation with the MRC.

20. In closing, the Representative of Myanmar also expressed thanks to the Government of the Lao PDR for hosting this Meeting.

D. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

21. The Meeting noted there were no comments on the agenda and it was adopted as proposed. (Attachment No. 5: Agenda)

E. REPORT ON THE HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS IN THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN

22. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Secretariat invited Dr. Sompong Boonprasert, Senior Hydrologist, to brief the Meeting on the Hydrological Conditions in the Lower Mekong Basin. (Attachment No.6: Report on the Hydrological Conditions in the Lower Mekong Basin)

23. The Meeting was briefed on the hydrological and meteorological situation in the Lower Mekong Basin from 1 January 2009 to 7 July 2009. Based on the hydro-meteorological data from the MRC Member Countries and international organisations made available to the MRC Secretariat, the general picture that emerges is that both meteorological and hydrological patterns were considered 'normal' for the season.

24. The Southwest Monsoon started relatively early. The indications reveal that the season started a week or two early over most of the Basin. Definitions of the onset of the SW Monsoon are provided in the report in terms of accumulated rainfall and onset of the flood season on the Mekong mainstream in terms of discharge threshold.

25. In April, May and June, the Northern and Central regions (Chiang Saen, Vientiane, Mukdahan, Pakse), total rainfalls were marginally above average. The SW Monsoon in these regions started two weeks earlier than normal. Rainfall in 2009 was significantly below average in the upper areas of Sesan and SrePok. The Delta areas witnessed highly variable rainfall. As of 7 July 2009, the flood season in the area between Phnom Penh and the Delta had yet to begin.

26. Early onset of monsoonal rainfall in the region saw the value of soil moisture significantly higher than average in April 2009. The Lower Mekong Basin saw low soil moisture of zero to 20 percent in January and an increase of up to 70 percent in April 2009.

27. According to the definition proposed in the report, the onset of the flood season between Chiang Saen and Kratie began well within the usual onset weeks at the end of June and the beginning of July. By contrast, the downstream areas in Phnom Penh to Chau Doc had not yet experienced the start of the flood season, as of 7 July 2009.

28. High frequency water level oscillations on the Mekong mainstream have been increasingly reported over the past number of years. The water level fluctuations are relatively minor and are an indication of the impact of upstream hydropower operation, details are provided in the report. A recommendation from the study was for the provision of hydro-meteorological data from the upper Lancang-Mekong in China be extended to the low flow season in addition to the current provision during the flood season.

29. Thailand acknowledged the advantages and disadvantages of hydropower development in the upper reaches of the Lancang-Mekong. According to a MRC study, water level fluctuations are particularly discernible in the dry season between Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang. Thailand requested that the variable fluctuations be reported to the National Mekong Committees to provide clear information to their public. Hydropower development and their operations should be notified to the MRC and increased transparency and hydro-meteorological conditions should be provided to MRC all year round. Thailand requested MRCS to consider installing more hydro-meteorological stations to measure the condition of the Mekong River more precisely, particularly in Northern Laos.

30. Viet Nam showed its appreciation for the presentation by MRCS. Viet Nam reiterated Thailand's request for information regarding fluctuations. The MRCS in this regard should inform the NMCs in order to better inform riparian populations. Viet Nam also stressed the value of China's data in supporting the hydrological reports.

31. The CEO informed the Meeting that data from Jinghong and other mainstream stations in the Lower Mekong Basin is available on a daily basis on the MRC webpage. Communications between MRC and the four Member Countries has also improved. Based on the information received from the hydrological stations based in China, the CEO informed that the large spike in the 2009 water level in Vientiane came from natural rainfall in tributaries rather than the operation of dams in Yunan. The CEO acknowledged the need for more mainstream stations and will continue dialogue with Myanmar, China and Member Countries on this issue.

32. The Chairperson provided a brief summary of the presentation and comments and desire to work closely with Dialogue Partners to explore wider issues such as climate change. She suggested to add to the report a conclusion and next steps and suggestions for relevant information to provide to Member Countries for appropriate further actions. She mentioned that additional hydro-meteorological stations could be installed throughout the Basin to improve data availability and to provide information for addressing climate change impacts in the Mekong Basin.

F. UPDATE BY DIALOGUE PARTNERS

F.1 WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND UTILISATION OF LANCANG RIVER

33. The Chinese Delegation provided an overview of the Lancang/Mekong River and the socio-economic situation, catchment area and the Lancang Basin population. (Attachment No. 7: Water Resources Development and Utilisation of Lancang River)

34. Water resources in the Lancang River Basin are abundant with a population of about 6.6 million (2007) people. Average annual rainfall is about 500-1700mm and runoff comes from rainfall, groundwater and snowmelt. Total water resources are rich however development and utilisation is very low – less than four percent. The main utilisation of water resources is agriculture.

35. Hydropower development supports economic development and is mainly taking place on the Lancang River mainstream. Water quantity for the Lancang River is abundant and quality is good with great potential for hydropower.

36. China's Western Development Strategy will lead to further infrastructure construction, water conservancy, transportation and other projects to speed up development. In the Strategy, China attaches equal importance between socio-economic development and ecological and environmental protection to maintain the river's health.

37. Thailand sought clarification of planned irrigation land coverage and whether the data provided in the presentation was planned development or current developments. China emphasized that future irrigation demand in this area would be very small due to the small area of agricultural land. China further explained that the data presented was forecasting future planned development. China stated that small and medium sized rivers would be the source of future irrigation development not the mainstream due to the topographical situation. Thailand requested to be informed of further irrigation extensions.

F.2 LANCANG RIVER HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

38. The Chinese Delegation provided an overview on the Lancang River Hydropower Development and Environment Protection. (Attachment No. 8: Lancang River Hydropower Development and Eco-environment Protection)

39. Eight hydropower projects in a cascade, including two reservoirs, are planned for the lower reaches of the Lancang from Miaowei to the border. Total installation capacity is 16,460MW.

40. The Chinese Government has introduced strict procedures for environmental assessments of the Water Basin Master Plan and for individual hydropower projects. Lancang River hydropower development will not affect downstream water volume.

41. A recent report found that there will be some impact on sediment movement, however, there are no barrier impact on migratory fishes. The report also found that the projects in Southern China would benefit downstream flood control, irrigation and water supply, and would to some extent modify the flow regime downstream.

42. China notified the Meeting on its annual activities of Lancang hydropower development, between August 2008 – July 2009. China reported on the Xiaowan hydropower project. A great deal of care went into the elaborate design. Meticulous construction has gone through extensive safety inspections. The project will also support agricultural production, facilitate shipping passage, and ecology. At the same time the project will support the reduction of flood impacts to downstream areas.

43. The Xiaowan Reservoir plans to impound water during the flood seasons avoiding reductions in dry season flow downstream. Initial impoundment will be achieved in stages and based on water inflow. Initial impoundment will be about 4.5 billion cubic metres and will take into account impacts on downstream regions to ensure acceptable flow releases. Coordinated operation control will be achieved through downstream reservoirs to ensure downstream flows.

44. As the next step, further study on the Xiaowan reservoir impoundment plan for the next stage will be carried out in 2010 and necessary information will be provided to the MRC Secretariat and Member Countries. China hopes to be involved in any ecological environment study to better understand water use and environmental protection on the lower reaches.

45. The Thai delegation thanked the Chinese delegation for its informative presentation. Current cooperation with MRC is very positive and Thailand look forward to seeing the MRC-China cooperation develop with the fisheries and environment programmes, and the Initiative for Sustainable Hydropower. Thailand would like to see an action plan outlining concrete steps to further this cooperation. Thailand acknowledged the role of re-regulating reservoirs to lessen the flow fluctuations impact. Thailand would also like to see sufficient

provision of water assigned to the diverse eco-system of the Lancang-Mekong. This needs to be quantified and priority given for these amounts. Lastly, since China is working on a large number of dams, information particularly on dam impoundment, hydropower shut down, etc. should be shared with downstream countries so they can better inform their public.

46. Cambodia reiterated its thanks to the Dialogue Partners for their strengthened cooperation and thanked China for its presentation. Cambodia stated the importance of information sharing with China to have a meaningful Basin Development Plan. Upstream data is very useful for this purpose. To have a meaningful plan in the lower Mekong basin, LMB countries would greatly appreciate the continued and extended information sharing regarding water usage in the upper Mekong river countries.

47. The Lao PDR delegation highlighted the importance of cooperation with P.R. China on the ongoing Strategic Environmental Assessment.

48. Viet Nam was impressed with the specific information provided by China on the cascade of dams in Yunan Province. The delegation stressed the need for joint activity for considering the effects of the dam cascade on the downstream areas.

49. The Chairperson thanked P.R. China for the highly informative presentation and looked forward to learning more from China on how to best develop water resources in a sustainable manner.

F.3 NAVIGATION – PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

50. The Chinese Delegation provided an update on the status of navigation development along the Lancang-Mekong. (Attachment No. 9: Navigation Cooperation on the Lancang/Mekong River)

51. Since the Seventh Dialogue Meeting in 2002, communications between China and MRC have been constantly strengthened. This is particularly pertinent to navigation. Significant progress has been made in the cooperation on navigation.

52. China provided the Meeting with an overview of the present navigation situation on the Lancang/Mekong River. Following the completion of the navigation improvement project among China, Myanmar and Thailand in 2004, the navigation condition on the 331 km river channel from the 243 border mark between China and Myanmar to Ban Husai in Lao PDR had been greatly improved. Vessels with 300 Dead Weight Tonnage can now sail on the river channel between China and Myanmar to Jinghong, China throughout the year. In 2008, the navigation on the Lancang/Mekong River was severely impacted by the Global Financial Crisis with only 300,000 tonnes of cargo travelling along the aforementioned section. 98 ships are now registered in China for international waterborne transport, the biggest is 380 tonnes.

53. The existing Joint Committee on Coordination of Commercial Navigation on the Lancang-Mekong River (JCCCN) framework has proved to be a worthy multinational navigation management organisation. The annual JCCCN meeting provides a forum for all Member Countries to share information in aspects of joint navigation development and provides a forum to discuss navigational issues in the region. Several achievements of JCCCN thus far include the unification of port dues, promotion and upgrade of the navigational channel and the installation of navigational aids.

54. China recommended that all riparian countries should kick off the overall navigation study and plan on the Mekong River as soon as possible. Countries should also seek capital investment to expedite the navigation development along the river. China recommended to further develop river transport human resources and waterborne industry and establish navigation safety and security management systems to effectively contribute to the facilitation of water way transportation among the four countries.

55. Lastly, China extended an invitation to specialists and officials from both the MRC and Lower Mekong Basin countries to see Yunan province's navigable facilities, exchange expertise, share academic results to further strengthen the friendship between China and the Lower Mekong Basin countries.

56. Myanmar supported the work of the JCCCN and will further its cooperation with Mekong countries to implement navigation projects.

G. UPDATE BY THE MEKONG RIVER COMMISSION

G. 1 ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE THIRTEENTH DIALOGUE MEETING

57. The CEO informed the Meeting of the organisational changes of the MRC and programmes' achievements since the Thirteenth Dialogue Meeting in August 2008, Vientiane, Lao PDR. (Attachment No.10: Hydrological Information Exchange)

58. The MRC Stakeholder process has advanced since the last Dialogue Meeting. A Stakeholder Policy at Governance Level is currently being considered by Member Countries. This follows on from a regional meeting on stakeholder engagement held on 25 November 2008 in Vientiane.

59. With the financial and technical support from Development Partners, the MRC has made significant progress vis-à-vis its Work Programme. This includes formulation of the MRC Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative. A Climate Change and Adaptation Forum was held on 2-3 February 2009 in Bangkok to discuss knowledge gaps and explore synergies and collaboration with a wide array of organisations in the region.

60. Strong endorsement was received with regard to MRC's new Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower (ISH) at a Regional Multi-stakeholder Consultation on 25-27 September 2008. The scope and modality for hydropower related activities was discussed at a number of national and regional consultations and are now captured in the ISH work plan. The MRC, in early 2009, launched a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). It looks at opportunities and risks of mainstream dam developments and provides a common strategic framework and baseline for considering the 11 mainstream proposals. Hydropower sustainability assessment tools are now being tested in the Sekong, Sesan and SrePok (3Ss) sub-basin under the Environment Considerations for Sustainable Hydropower Development (ECSHD). This is a cooperation between MRC, ADB and WWF.

61. The Fisheries Programme organised an expert group to discuss mitigation measures for the barrier effects of dams on 22-23 September 2008. It was concluded that there is a high risk that mainstream dams will impede migration and lead to reduced production, economic losses and loss of livelihoods and at careful attention will be required on mitigation measures.

62. The MRC has been working on the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy. It is one of the most important outputs of the Basin Development Plan Programme Phase 2 (BDP2). The Strategy outlines how water and related resources can be developed using a basin perspective to the national planning processes. The Strategy is likely to be finalised in the first half of 2010.

63. The Information and Knowledge Management Programme has accelerated implementation and has made significant steps on initiating discharge and sediment monitoring following a regional workshop held on 21-22 October 2008 in Vientiane.

64. The CEO highlighted the importance of exchange of hydrological information when updating the Meeting on the Flood Management and Mitigation Programme's (FMMP) work. Since the August 2008 flood, FMMP has improved data acquisition and transfer mechanisms, flood forecasts have been improved, flood forecasts are more prominent on the MRC website.

65. Significant progress has been made in the Navigation sector, making waterways safer and economically more attractive. China and MRC cooperation has been particularly strong in this area. The first Joint Seminar on navigation was held in Jinghong on 14-16 October 2008.

66. Regional cooperation has also increased between ADB and ASEAN. Senior MRC staff visited both headquarters in 2009. Work is also currently taking place to advance a cooperation with the Mississippi River Commission. MRC have also been active in strengthening cooperation with Non-Governmental Organisations and the private sector through participation in a number of meetings and forums.

67. The Meeting took note of the progress of the MRC since the last Dialogue Meeting.

G.2 HYDROLOGICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE

68. The Chairman called upon the Secretariat to introduce the agenda item. The CEO, assisted by Dr. Sompong informed the Meeting on the progress on Hydrological Information Exchange (Attachment No. 11: Hydrological Information Exchange)

69. The general progress in the cooperation on hydrological data exchange in the flood season was outlined since the signing of the extension Agreement and its Implementation Plan during the Thirteenth Dialogue Meeting.

70. The MRC continues to provide supplementary funds to cover parts of communication and operation expenses for data provision. China provides twenty-four hourly water level and twelve hourly rainfall data. This data is used by the Regional Flood Management and Mitigation Centre for flood forecasting.

71. Two hydrological stations, namely Jinghong and Man'An, in Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China have been improved. This includes the establishment of the Data Centre at the Provincial Bureau of Hydrology and Water Resources in Kunming. Two new laptops were also provided for field operations at the aforementioned stations.

72. The MRC expressed their appreciation for the valuable contribution under the Agreement on provision of Hydrological data in flood season and the assistance from the Ministry of Water Resources of China to successfully enable the implementation of the Agreement. Lastly, MRC outlined areas for further technical collaboration such as year-round data provision, technical visits and staff exchange.

73. Thailand expressed its appreciation of P.R. China's sharing of information for flood forecasting in the Lower Mekong Basin countries. Further cooperation on sediment data and water quality data will be important to review water quality and quantity.

74. P.R. China acknowledged MRC's role in implementing the Agreement on Provision of Hydrological Information of the Lancang/Mekong River in Flood Season. China also thanked the CEO for his role in further developing the relationship between MRC and Dialogue Partners and will strive to strengthen cooperation and transparency with not only MRC but bilaterally with the Lower Mekong Basin countries. P.R. China wished further exchange of staff between MRC and China and noted the strong future for cooperation.

75. Viet Nam also appreciated the cooperation and would like to extend its scope, further to reciprocal visits of experts and data exchange, Viet Nam would like to see the scope of hydrological data transfer expanded to dry season.

76. P.R. China made a short presentation on the status of the cooperation between China and MRC on hydrological information in Flood Season. China regularly provides latest rating curves and related cross-section data to the MRC Secretariat. Both sides have jointly upgraded information provision systems to provide real-time or close to real-time data. Between 2002-2007, the Yunan Hydrology Bureau of China sent hydrological data of 13,664

records to the MRCS. China continued to provide hydrological information during the 2007 and 2008 flood season even though the renewed agreement was not in place. Daily data sent by Yunan during the 2008 flood season contributed greatly to downstream countries' flood management. Before every flood season, MRCS sends experts to Yunan province to test the equipment and software.

77. P.R. China put forward some suggestions for cooperation in the future. MRC is required to replace outdated equipment in time to ensure timely data provision. China will also observe the effects of the Jinhong station and will inform the MRC once the rating curves have been modified. Thirdly, exchange of expertise was proposed in flood forecasting and disaster management, sedimentation, water resources management, water conservation, and irrigation technologies, for example between MWR and MRC, as well as MRC Member Countries. Other areas includes joint assessment for the functioning of hydrological data provision in the flood season, reciprocal visits between MWR and MRCS, for example visit to Yangtze River, and bilateral cooperation and technical communication between China and MRC Member Countries. China indicated that prior to consider the possibility to extend the agreement to the dry season, the two parties should carry out a joint assessment of the past seven years cooperation

78. The Meeting took note of the comments and proposed that the MRCS follows up on the recommendations.

G.3 FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION ON NAVIGATION

79. The agenda item was introduced by the CEO, assisted by the Programme Coordinator, Navigation Programme. (Attachment No. 12: Cooperation on Navigation).

80. The four Upper Mekong Countries and the MRC share a similar strategy for navigation. The Meeting was informed of the benefits of, and requirements for, cooperation on navigation. They include vast potential for exchange of expertise and experiences; exchange of essential data and relevant information on enhanced navigation development; and benefits such as expensive overlaps and duplication can be avoided and negative impacts can be identified and mitigated effectively through collaboration mechanisms.

81. The cooperation between the MRC and P.R. China has been strengthened through a jointly organised technical seminar on Waterway Safety and Navigation Improvement in Jinghong, October 2008. A delegation from the Navigation Programme also attended the JCCCN meeting in Myanmar from 8-9 October 2008.

82. MRC has also extended invitations to a regional seminar on Inland Waterways Transport in Europe and South East Asia to be held in Ho Chi Minh City on 10-11 September 2009. China has been invited a day earlier for bilateral talks at technical level.

83. Concrete recommendations for further cooperation with Dialogue Partners includes the harmonisation of waterways classification and standardisation of the design of navigation locks

84. The Meeting was pleased to note the increasing cooperation between China and the MRC on navigation.

G.4 OTHER AREAS OF POTENTIAL COOPERATION

85. The MRC Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the increased cooperation and coordination between Dialogue Partners and the MRC (Attachment No.13: Letter Exchange). The cooperation should advance through technical collaboration using available expertise. Areas of potential cooperation are Reciprocal Visits; Sharing hydrological data; Strategic Environmental Assessment; MRC Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative; MRC Summit and MRC+2; and the State of the Basin Report.

Reciprocal Visits

86. An area of potential cooperation between Dialogue Partners and MRC is through expert exchanges. This could take place in areas of hydrodynamics and flood forecasting.

87. A mission by the MRC to the Flood Control Office of the Yangtze River Water Resources Commission and the Department of Water Resources in Hubei and Hunan Provinces are the first of these visits. Further exchanges could take place around areas such as climate change and adaptation, sediment monitoring and management.

Sharing Hydro-meteorological Data

88. An extension Agreement and its Implementation Plan for a five year period was made on 29 August 2008 during the Thirteenth Dialogue Meeting. This has led to improvements of the Data Centre at the Provincial Bureau. The MRCS is also currently exploring the possibility of extending the cooperation on sharing data year-round on a daily basis for Jinghong and Man'An as indicated in paragraph 71.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

89. MRC identified SEA of mainstream hydropower development as an area of future cooperation. China has indicated that it will positively consider sending experts to join the relevant research to exchange information on related issues with the MRC and LMB countries.

MRC Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative

90. The Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative (CCAI) concept and framework was endorsed at the Twenty-ninth Meeting of the Joint Committee in March 2009. The overall scope of the CCAI is climate change impact assessment and adaptation planning and implementation within the Mekong River Basin. The overall outcome of the CCAI will contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, poverty eradication and improved food security.

91. The cooperation with China and Myanmar under CCAI would aim at improving the forecasting of climate change impacts and hydrological modelling in the LMB. The cooperation may also provide benefits to all parties through experience exchange on adaptation strategies. MRC would like initiate this cooperation by inviting experts of the Dialogue Partners to the: 'Regional Technical Workshop on Application of Modeling Tools for Climate Change Impact Assessment' taking place on 8-9 September 2009 in Bangkok (detailed agenda included in Attachment 2).

MRC Summit and MRC+2

92. The MRC is planning to hold a Summit on the occasion of its 15th anniversary of the signing of the 1995 Mekong Agreement in April 2010. (See Agenda Item I)

State of the Basin Report

93. The MRC is currently working on the second edition of the State of the Basin Report, first published in 2003. The second version aims at providing a comprehensive overview of environmental and socio-economic situation and will offer same trend for near future. The State of the Basin Report will provide an assessment of status and trends of water and water related resources considering the goal of an economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River Basin. MRCS would like to extend the scope of the State of the Basin Report to the upper Mekong/Lancang Basin.

94. China expressed its readiness to join the SEA of the mainstream dams on the Lower Mekong Basin. Should MRC want to undertake other joint activities, MRCS should continue to contact the Head of Delegation directly and he will follow-up with his capital. China raised

the issue regarding the SEA and requested the Secretariat to provide some detailed information on this activity. The CEO briefed the Meeting on the process and signalled that China's early involvement would be timely. He invited dialogue countries to participate in the regional workshops

95. Myanmar would also like to further technical cooperation with riparian countries through the Dialogue Meeting and other events and activities.

H. DATE AND VENUE OF THE FIFTEENTH DIALOGUE MEETING

96. It was proposed that the Fifteenth Dialogue Meeting be held back-to-back with the MRC Joint Committee meeting on 26-30 July 2010.

97. China and Myanmar had no objection to the proposed dates. The Chairperson invited the Dialogue Partners to participate as observers in the Thirty-first Joint Committee Meeting to take place in March 2010 in Lao PDR.

I. DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED MRC SUMMIT

98. The agenda item was introduced by the CEO, and was presented by Director Sourasay Phoumavong, MRC Secretariat. He outlined the rationale, the five objectives, and the timeline for preparation of the MRC Summit. (Attachment No. 14: Discussion on the proposed MRC Summit)

99. The MRC would like to explore the possibility to involve China and Myanmar at the proposed MRC Summit. The concept of "MRC+2" is being introduced as one possible approach to strengthen cooperation with Dialogue Partners. The Term 'MRC+2' could be introduced to refer to the technical cooperation between Dialogue Partners and MRC. China has also emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperation at a technical level.

100. It is hoped that the Dialogue Partners would identify focal points to attend the Technical seminars, confirm representation at the MRC Summit at Ministerial level and to confirm the concept of MRC+2.

101. Myanmar acknowledged the MRC+2 as a way of strengthening cooperation.

102. Lao PDR thanked the Secretariat for the presentation on the MRC Summit preparations. The theme of the Summit still needs to be clearly identified as should the intended outcome of the MRC Summit. The JCWG should also define the involvement of the Heads of State. These issues must be clarified before getting into the detailed preparations. Thailand noted that it is important to agree on the precise outputs of the Summit, taking into account any requirement for prior approval by the Thai parliament.

103. The CEO acknowledged the important points. Following further internal discussions a briefing summary note will be circulated. Regarding the budget for the MRC Summit, a contribution has been reserved from OEB. In addition, some Development Partners have already indicated a willingness to provide budgetary support the MRC Summit.

104. The Meeting was pleased to note the comments from Member Countries and Dialogue Partners.

L. STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE MRC JOINT COMMITTEE FOR 2008/2009

105. Dr. Saksit Tridech, Chairman of the MRC Joint Committee for 2008/2009 delivered an address to the Meeting on the occasion of the handover of the Joint Committee chairmanship to Lao PDR.

M. CLOSING STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR 2009/2010

106. Mme. Monemany Nhoybouakong, Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2009/2010 delivered her closing statement and thanked all delegates for their constructive engagement during the meeting. (Attachment No. 15: Closing address by the Chairperson of the Joint Committee for 2009/2010)

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT NO. 1	LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
ATTACHMENT NO. 2	OPENING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MRC JOINT COMMITTEE FOR 2009/2010
ATTACHMENT NO. 3	STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
ATTACHMENT NO. 4	STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
ATTACHMENT NO. 5	AGENDA
ATTACHMENT NO. 6	REPORT ON THE HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS IN THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN
ATTACHMENT NO. 7	WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND UTILISATION OF LANCANG RIVER
ATTACHMENT NO. 8	LANCANG RIVER HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN
ATTACHMENT NO. 9	NAVIGATION COOPERATION ON THE LANCANG/MEKONG RIVER
ATTACHMENT NO. 10	HYDROLOGICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE
ATTACHMENT NO. 11	COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA AND MRC ON HYDROLOGICAL INFORMATION IN FLOOD SEASON
ATTACHMENT NO. 12	FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION ON NAVIGATION
ATTACHMENT NO. 13	LETTER EXCHANGE
ATTACHMENT NO. 14	DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED MRC SUMMIT
ATTACHMENT NO. 15	CLOSING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR 2009/2010

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. MRC MEMBER DELEGATIONS

CAMBODIA

1. H.E. Mr. Pich Dun
Secretary-General, Cambodia National Mekong Committee
Alternate Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Cambodia
Head of Delegation
2. H.E. Mr. Kol Vathana
Deputy Secretary-General
Cambodia National Mekong Committee
3. Mr. So Sophort
Director of Projects Department
Cambodia National Mekong Committee
4. Mr. Chann Rotana
Deputy Director of International Organization Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
5. Mr. Yin Savuth
Deputy Director of Hydrology and River Works Department
Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology

LAO PDR

6. Mme. Monemany Nhoibouakong
Permanent Secretary, Water Resources & Environment Administration
Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat
Member of the MRC Joint Committee for the Lao PDR
Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2009/2010
7. Mr Phonechaleun Nonthaxay
Director-General
Department of Water Resources
Water Resources & Environment Administration
Alternate Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Lao PDR
8. Mr. Bounthom Manibod
Director, Division of Intergovernmental Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9. Dr. Daovong Phonekeo
Deputy Director General
Department of Electricity, MEM
10. Mr. Souphasay Komany
Director of Policy & Legislation Division
Department of Water Resources

11. Mr. Aloun Sayavong
Director of Water Resources & Management Division
Department of Water Resources
12. Mr. Keomany Luanglith
Director of Planning & Cooperation Division
Department of Water Resources
13. Mr. Phonepaseuth
Deputy Director of Planning & Cooperation Division
Department of Water Resources
14. Mr. Chanthaneth Boualapha
Deputy Director General
Department of Water Resources
15. Mr. Kongngeun Choulamontry
Assistant Director General
Department of Water Resources
16. Mr. Oudomsack Philavong
Assistant to Director General
Department of Water Resources
Water Resources & Environment Administration
17. Mr. Virana Sonnasinh
Deputy Director, Planning Division
Cabinet Office
Water Resources & Environment Administration

THAILAND

18. Dr. Saksit Tridech
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)
Vice-Chairman of Thai National Mekong Committee
Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Thailand
Head of Delegation
19. Dr. Siripong Hungspreug
Director-General
Department of Water Resources, MNRE
Secretary General of Thai National Mekong Committee Secretariat
Alternate Member of MRC Joint Committee for Thailand
20. Mr. Suphot Tovichakchaikul
Deputy Director-General
Department of Water Resources, MNRE
21. Mr. Samrit Wilaipronratana
Director of Bureau of International Cooperation
Department of Water Resources
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
22. Mrs. Pakawan Chufamanee
Director of Mekong Affairs Branch
Department of Water Resources
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

23. Ms. Nuanlaor Wongpinitwarodom
Senior Policy and Plan Analyst
Bureau of International Cooperation
Department of Water Resources
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
24. Mr. Prasom Fangtong
Counsellor
Division of Development Affairs
Department of International Organization
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
25. Ms. Phawinee Chansamran
Third Secretary
Division of Development Affairs
Department of International Organization
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
26. Mr. Nirat Phuriphanphinyo
Senior Engineer, Bureau of International Cooperation
Department of Water Resources
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
27. Mr. Burachat Buasuwan
Senior Policy and Plan Analyst, Bureau of International Cooperation
Department of Water Resources
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

VIET NAM

28. Dr. Le Duc Trung
Secretary General
Viet Nam National Mekong Committee
Member of MRC JC for Vietnam
Head of Delegation
29. Mr. Truong Hong Tien
Senior Programme Officer
Viet Nam National Mekong Committee
30. Mr. Do Hung Viet
Senior Official
Department of International Organization, MoFA
31. Dr. Le Bac Huynh
Deputy Director General
Department of Water Resources Management, MONRE
32. Mr. Le Van Diem
Senior Programme Officer
Viet Nam National Mekong Committee

B. DIALOGUE PARTNERS

China

33. Mr. Diao Mingsheng
Permanent Representative of China to UNESCAP
Embassy of China
Bangkok, Thailand
34. Mr. Lu Haitian
Deputy Director
Department of International Organizations and Conferences
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Beijing
35. Mr. Zhang Qing
Second Secretary
Department of International Organizations and Conferences
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Beijing
36. Mr. Zhong Yong
Deputy Director
Department of International Cooperation, Science and Technology
Ministry of Water Resources, Beijing
37. Mr. Yu Fuliang
Deputy Director
China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research
Beijing
38. Ms. Tian Ying
Engineer
Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design General Institute
Beijing
39. Mr. Wang Dezhong
Deputy Director General
Yunnan Navigation Affairs Managing Bureau
Kunming
40. Mr. Xue Ting
Senior Engineer
Yunnan Navigation Affairs Managing Bureau
Kunming
41. Mr. Peng Cheng
Chief Engineer
Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design General Institute
Beijing
42. Mr. Zhang Jianhua
Chief Engineer
Office Branch of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design General
Institute
Beijing
43. Mr. Li Ningjun
Senior Engineer, Deputy Director
International Department, HYDROCHINA
Beijing

44. Mr. Ding Tongbing
Assistant to the Permanent Representative of China to UNESCAP
Bangkok, Thailand

Myanmar

45. Mr. Ko Ko Oo
Director, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems
Ministry of Transport of the Union of Myanmar
46. Mr. Aung kyaw Hmue
Assistant Director
Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems
Ministry of Transport of the Union of Myanmar

C. MRC SECRETARIAT

47. Mr. Jeremy Bird
Chief Executive Officer
48. Mr. Sourasay Phoumavong
Assistant to CEO, and
Director of Natural Resources Development Planning Division
49. Dr. Pornsook Chongprasith
Director of Environment Division
50. Mr. Do Manh Hung
Director of Operations Division
51. Mr. Navuth Te
Director of Technical Support Division
52. Ms. Nguyen Thu Mai
Chief, Finance and Administration Section
53. Ms. Weena Aksornkaew
Chief of Human Resources Development Section
54. Ms. Bérengère Prince
Officer-in-Charge, International Cooperation and Communication Section
55. Mr. Christoph Mor
Technical Coordination Advisor
Technical Coordination Unit
56. Dr. Sompong Boonprasert
Senior Hydrologist
Technical Support Division
57. Mr. Hiek Phirun
Programme Coordinator, Navigation Programme
Operations Division

58. Mr. Lieven Geerinck
Chief Technical Advisor, Navigation Programme
Operations Division
59. Mr. Voradeth Phonekeo
Project Manager, ISH
Operations Division
60. Mr. Larry Haas
Consultant, ISH
Operations Division
61. Mr. Damian Kean
Communication Officer
International Cooperation and Communication Section
62. Mr. Khy Lim
Communication Officer
International Cooperation and Communication Section
63. Mr. Frédéric Jeanjean
Donor Coordination Officer
International Cooperation and Communication Section
64. Ms. Siliphone Sisavath
Programme Officer
International Cooperation and Communication Section
65. Ms. Laong Nuon
Junior Riparian Professional
International Cooperation and Communication Section

D. ORGANISERS

Department of Water Resources

66. Mr. Keomany Luanglith
Chief of Planning and Cooperation Division
67. Mr. Phonepaseuth Phouliphanh
Deputy Chief of Planning and Cooperation Division
68. Mr. Phonesay Simmalavong
Deputy Chief of Planning and Cooperation Division
69. Mr. Khamsoné Philavong
Technical Officer of Planning and Cooperation
70. Ms. Hongkham Vongsay
Technical Officer of Planning and Cooperation

MRC Secretariat

71. Ms. Manivanh Phanouvong
Senior Programme Assistant, International Cooperation and Communication Section
72. Ms. Chansouk Souphanthavong
Secretary to Chief, International Cooperation and Communication Section
73. Ms. Viengvilay Sinprasith
Secretary, International Cooperation and Communication Section
74. Ms. Songkane Sayavong
Senior Administrative Secretary to Chief, Finance and Administration Section
75. Mr. Seree Damnernpiriyakul
Network Administrator, Finance and Administration Section
76. Mr. Khamphet Phiphattana
Maintenance Supervisor, Finance and Administration Section

OPENING STATEMENT

By

Mme. Monemany Nhoibouakong

Permanent Secretary

Water Resources & Environment Administration

Member of the MRC Joint Committee for the Lao PDR

Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2009/2010

H.E. Mr. Pich Dun

Secretary-General, Cambodia National Mekong Committee

Alternate Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Cambodia

Mr. Phonechaleun Nonthaxay

Director-General

Alternate Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Lao PDR

Lao National Mekong Committee

Dr. Siripong Hungspreug

Director-General

Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Secretary General of Thai National Mekong Committee Secretariat

Alternate Member of MRC Joint Committee for Thailand

Dr. Le Duc Trung

Secretary-General

Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Viet Nam

Mr. Diao Mingsheng

Permanent Representative of China to UNESCAP

Head of Delegation of China

Mr. Ko Ko Oo

Director, Directorate of Water Resources & Improvement of River System

Head of Delegation of Myanmar

Mr. Jeremy Bird

Chief Executive Officer of MRC Secretariat

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

Colleagues and friends

I am pleased to welcome all distinguished Members of the Joint Committee, Heads and Members of Delegations from the People's Republic of China and the Union of Myanmar, and staff from the MRC Secretariat to this dialogue meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

I thank the government of Lao PDR for hosting us here today in this hotel and I thank all participants – especially the delegates from our dialogue partners, China and Myanmar for participating in this meeting.

Since we met in August last year this year - much has happened within the organization.

- The Commission has come some way to implementing the recommendations of the Organisational Review, which were presented in a final report in January 2007. To date, 20 out of the 38 recommendations have been implemented in a wide range of areas – including Capacity building, management principles, information management, financial management and the permanent location of the Secretariat.
- The process to make a final decision on the permanent location in particular took several steps closer this year. Several meetings were held throughout the year. The Council has a deadline of September this year to make a final choice. More information will be provided during the Joint Committee meeting to be held tomorrow. You will note that it is item D.2 on the agenda for tomorrow.
- The MRC is starting to take a more public role - as the potential for hydropower development across the region sparks some debate over the best way to utilize the river. People on both sides of the argument are taking to the media. This is a healthy thing. It means that people are becoming engaged with the issue. I am also pleased to see that the MRC is taking a direct approach to being involved in this dialogue. The Strategic Environmental Assessment – part of the Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower - was launched in recent months – and it includes such measures as a web-page on the MRC site calling for public submissions. This follows in the tradition that the MRC has already established of public engagement and consultation. Indeed, this includes the considerable increase in stakeholder dialogue over the last year - coupled with increased levels of participation in community decision making across the basin within the BDP;
- The MRC has also begun to up-scale efforts to try and better understand a range of issues that will impact on the basin – not the least of which being climate change;
- As you can see if you walk down to the river – it is beginning to look full. The flood season – that can last until September here in Vientiane – is starting again. This is the first flood season since last year’s devastating August floods. Like last year - the MRC faces another test of its ability to predict and warn for floods. It remains to be seen if the range of improvements in flood forecasting made after the lessons of last year have had an effect.

So as the organisation’s role increases there is much to discuss – and I hope you will participate fully and help make today’s dialogue lively and open - as there is much on the agenda.

I am delighted that we will be hearing an address from a representative of the Government of the Union of Myanmar. Myanmar is an important dialogue partner with the MRC – and I look forward to expanding the relationship.

We will hear information garnered through cooperation with our other valuable dialogue partner – China – concerning Water Resources Development on the Lancang/Mekong, the Lancang River Hydropower Development and Environmental Management Plan – and recent moves to improve navigation cooperation on the Lancang/Mekong. Cooperation with China has strengthened in recent years and this has in-turn made the MRC a stronger organization.

This will lead later to a broader discussion about navigation issues and opportunities for cooperation in this area.

There are many cross-cutting trans-boundary issues in this area – such as hydropower – which I mentioned before – but also water quality, pollution – and perhaps most importantly – the potential for political solutions to open up the region to trade and improve one another’s economies.

Lastly – we will discuss today the MRC Summit of Prime Ministers – that will occur on the 15th anniversary of the signing of the 1995 Mekong Agreement - tentatively - April next year. The summit will provide an excellent opportunity for the organization to increase cooperation with the GMS and ASEAN. It could also dynamically improve the relationship with you – our Dialogue Partners, China and Myanmar; reaffirm high level political commitment from Member Countries to the MRC; and reaffirm the provisions of the 1995 Mekong Agreement.

We need to discuss how we can use this meeting as a political tool to further the agenda of the MRC and strengthen water resource management in the basin for the benefit of all those that depend on it.

So – without further hesitation, I would therefore like to invite all of you to begin discussions as we start the first agenda item today.

May this meeting be a fruitful and successful one and I look forward to hearing your ideas.

-ends-

STATEMENT

By

Mr. Diao Mingsheng

Head of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China,
at the 14th MRC Dialogue Meeting

**Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Jeremy Bird, CEO of MRC,
Distinguished Colleagues,**

I am very pleased to lead the Chinese Delegation to attend the 14th Dialogue meeting with MRC. First of all, please let me, on behalf of the Chinese Government to extend our sincere appreciation to MRC and the Laotian Government for your well-organized preparation work and warm hospitality accorded to the Chinese delegation.

During the past 14 years, the dialogue meetings played an important role in enhancing mutual understanding and trust between the upper and the lower basin countries and brought about substantial cooperation, which benefited a lot the livelihood and welfare of the people in the riparian countries. The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to the dialogue and will continuously offer our strong support so as to contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable development of the Mekong subregion.

Distinguished colleagues,

We are happy to note that significant progress has been made since the last dialogue meeting. The renewed Agreement on Provision of Hydrological Information of the Lancang/Mekong River in Flood Season by Ministry of Water Resources of China to MRC Secretariat was signed at the last dialogue meeting. In Implementation of the Agreement, China will continue to provide assistance to the lower basin countries to guard against flood. Last October Mr. Bird paid his first visit to China. The visit turned out to be fruitful and successful. During the trip, Mr. Bird had an extensive and in-depth exchange of views with officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Transport and experts from HydroChina Corporation. These discussions deepened mutual understanding and trust between MRC and China and will surely promote our future cooperation. Just when Mr. Bird kicked off his visit, the Seminar on Waterway Safety and Navigation Improvement was held in Jinghong, Yunnan province jointly by China and MRC. This seminar marked another step forward for our collaborative exploitation of the great potential in Navigation of the Mekong river.

Based on the established sound and healthy relations between China and MRC, China is willing to work together with MRC to further this good momentum. China will continue to update MRC on the conditions of water resources and hydropower development and environmental management plan of the Lancang River and is ready to join the Strategic

Environmental Assessment of the mainstream dams planned for the lower Mekong basin. China also attaches importance to technical exchange and communication with MRC and would like to see further detailed proposals. In the navigation area, China wishes to strengthen cooperation with MRC and will take active part in related activities.

Distinguished colleagues,

Under the current global financial crisis, the economic development of countries in the Mekong subregion are faced with severe challenges. To cope with the crisis, China has taken decisive and strong measures domestically to ensure the stable and rapid growth of the Chinese economy. Meanwhile China takes an active part in the regional cooperation and helps countries in the surrounding areas, especially the Mekong subregion countries to recover from the crisis. China has decided to set up a US\$10 billion "China-ASEAN Fund on Investment Cooperation" to support infrastructural development in the region and introduce a pilot program of using RMB in the settlement of cross-border trade in Shanghai and four cities in Guangdong Province to boost economic cooperation and trade with neighboring countries and regions. Up to now, the multilateralization process of the Chiang Mai Initiative, which China raised and has been advocating in great effort has made so remarkable progress that the regional reserve pool is coming into being to better protect our region from financial risks. Furthermore, China has enhanced cooperation with regional countries in energy conservation, environmental protection and development and utilization of new and renewable energies to foster new incentives for growth in the Asian economy. By 2010 a China-ASEAN free trade area with a combined population of 1.9 billion and an aggregate GDP of nearly US\$6 trillion will be fully established, which will mark a new era in our economic cooperation.

Distinguished colleagues,

Climate change is another impending and formidable challenge in front of us. Coping with Climate change is one of the priority tasks for both MRC and China. China is the first developing country that has formulated the National Plan for Coping with Climate Change and has set the targets of cutting energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product (GDP) by about 20% from 2005 to 2010 and emissions of main pollutants by 10% in the same period and raising the forest coverage rate from 18% to 20% and the proportion of renewable energies in primary energy resources from 7.5% to 10%. Tangible results have been achieved. According to incomplete statistics, China's energy consumption per unit of the GDP has decreased by 10.1% in the past three years, saving energy equivalent to about 300 million tons of standard coal and emitting some 750 million tons less of carbon dioxide cumulatively. As for water resources and hydropower development and environment management of the Lancang River, we have taken into account the effect of climate change, too. For example, in hydropower projects on the Lancang River, we have taken all necessary measures to avoid affecting water discharge, water temperature, sediment, fish migration and other environmental factors. Furthermore, we are ready to use the dams to assist the lower basin countries in safeguarding against flood and navigation. We have also taken an active part in the biodiversity conservation corridor initiatives under the GMS framework to safeguard the biodiversity in the subregion.

Distinguished colleagues,

The above facts, among others, speak volume for the responsible attitude of China towards the Mekong subregional cooperation. This attitude is embedded in China's foreign policy of making friends and partners in the surrounding areas and fostering an amicable, stable and prosperous neighborhood. We will continue to faithfully carry out this policy in our relations with MRC and look forward to working together with colleagues from MRC and all the other Mekong countries to bring about greater prosperity to our region.

In conclusion, I wish every success to today's dialogue. Thank you.

STATEMENT

By

U Ko Ko Oo

Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems
Ministry of Transport
Leader of Myanmar Delegation to the
Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting, Vientiane, Lao PDR on 28 July 2009

***Mme. Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

It is a great pleasure for us today to take part in this meeting. On behalf of the Myanmar delegation, may I express our thanks to Mekong River Commission for holding this important meeting. Firstly, I like to introduce my delegation member, Mr. Aung Kyaw Hmuu. He is an Assistant Director and working for the River Conservancy Department of our Directorate.

Mme. Chair,

During the Fifth Dialogue Meeting which was held in Phanampenh on 20th July year 2000; Myanmar Delegation suggested to improve the existing mechanism, such as inviting the dialogue partners to participate in the workshops, seminars and human resources development activities conducted under Mekong River Commission. After that we have participations in activities of workshops, seminars and human resources development conducted

under Mekong River Commission and international / regional organization. Not only participation but we have keen interest in the Mekong River Commission programs and always seeking means and ways to cooperate with Mekong River Commission. We would like to express our gratitude for these supports of Mekong River Commission.

Mme. Chair,

It is pleased to learn that Mekong River Commission has been making sustainable progress in implementation of the Mekong River Commission strategic plan. Through the dialogue partner mechanism, we can involve in some programmes and we can express our interests, at a certain level. For the future implementation of the strategic plan, Myanmar would like to reaffirm its continued cooperation with Mekong River Commission through well-established mechanisms.

Mme. Chair,

Before I conclude, I would like once again to express our great honor to the Government of Laos People's Democratic Republic for hosting this important meeting. I wish you all a successful and fruitful discussion.

Thank You.

AGENDA

Monday 27 July 2009

19:00 Reception Dinner for the Dialogue Partners and for the Delegates of the Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting hosted by the Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2009/2010

Tuesday 28 July 2009

8:00 – 8:30 Registration

8:30 – 8:40 A. Opening Address by the Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2009/2010

8:40 – 8:50 B. Statement by the Head of Delegation of the People’s Republic of China

8:50 – 9:00 C. Statement by the Head of Delegation of the Union of Myanmar

9:00 – 9:10 D. Adoption of the Agenda

9:10 – 9:30 E. Report on the Hydrological Conditions in the Lower Mekong Basin

9:30 **F. Update by Dialogue Partners**

9:30 – 10:00 F.1 Water Resources Development in the Lancang/Mekong

10:00 – 10:20 F.2 Lancang River Hydropower Development and Environmental Management Plan

10:20 – 10:40 F.3 Navigation Cooperation on the Lancang/Mekong River

10:40 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 **G. Update by the Mekong River Commission**

11:00 – 11:15 G.1 Achievements since the Thirteenth Dialogue Meeting

11:15 – 11:30 G.2 Hydrological Information Exchange

11:30 – 11:45 G.3 Future Prospects for Cooperation on Navigation

11:45 – 12:00 G.4 Other Areas of Potential Cooperation

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch hosted by the Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2009/2010

13:30 – 14:30 H. Discussion on Cooperation - Agenda items **E** to **G**

14:30 – 14:40	I.	Date and Venue of the Fifteenth Dialogue Meeting
14:40 – 15:00	J.	Discussion on the Proposed MRC Summit
15:00 – 16:10		Coffee Break/Preparation of Report of the Meeting
16:10 – 16:40	K.	Review of the Draft Report of the Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting
16:40 – 16:50	L.	Closing Statement by the Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2009/2010
16:50 – 17:00	M.	Statement by the Chairman of the Joint Committee for 2008/2009
17:00 – 17:10		Group Photo
18:30		Dinner hosted by the Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2009/2010

Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting
Mekong River Commission
28 July 2009
Vientiane, Lao PDR



E. HYDROLOGICAL SITUATION REPORT IN THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN -1st Jan. to 7th Jul, 2009-



Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting
Mekong River Commission
28 July 2009
Vientiane, Lao PDR



Objective

To analyze hydrological condition from 1 Jan. to 7 July 2009, for Lower Mekong Basin



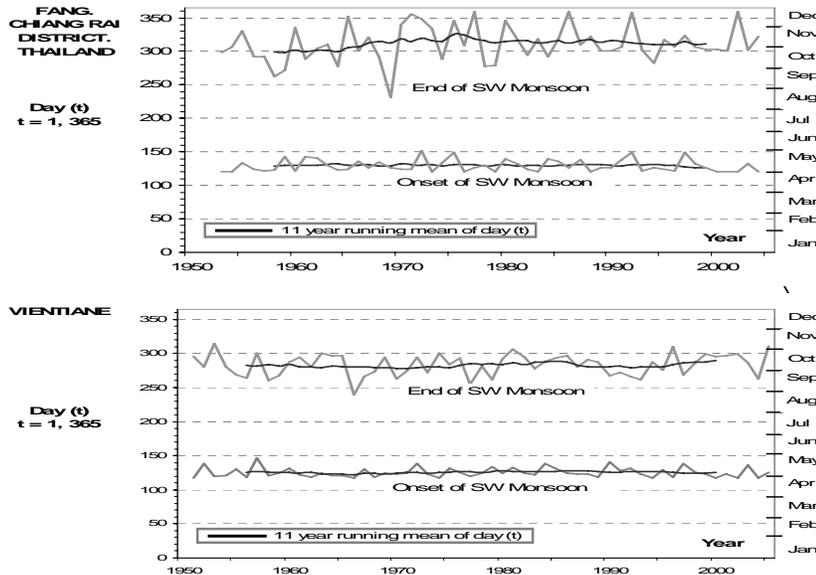
AHNIP & HYCOS STATIONS MAP



2

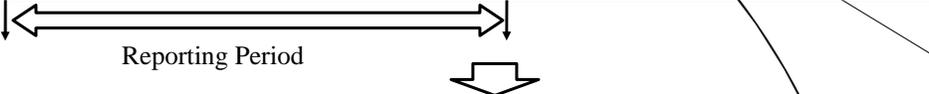


The historical onset and withdrawal dates of the SW Monsoon at selected sites in the LMB



South West (SW) Monsoon Onset in Lower Mekong Basin (LMB)

Dry season				Wet season						Dry season	
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NE Monsoon			Transition (T)		SW Monsoon				(T)	NE Monsoon	



✓ A definition of the onset of the SW Monsoon is proposed
 ✓ The indications are that it started a week to two weeks early over most of the Basin.

Site	2009 SW Monsoon Onset
Chiang Saen	13 th April
Vientiane	26 th April
Kratie	27 th April
Pleiku	8 th May
Tan Chau	8 th May



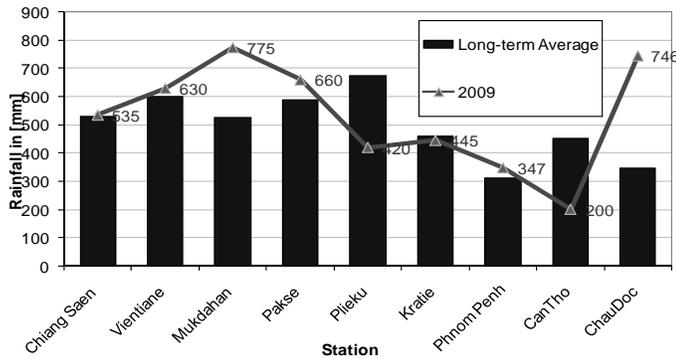
Total rainfall at selected sits over three months in the LMB

No	Station	Mean Rainfall Apr, May and Jun [mm]	
		1950-2008	2009
1	Chiang Saen	530	535
2	Vientiane	600	630
3	Mukdahan	525	775
4	Pakse	590	660
5	Plieku	675	420
6	Kratie	460	445
7	Phnom Penh	311	347
8	CanTho	450	200
9	ChauDoc	345	746

5



APRIL, MAY and JUNE Rainfall Total



- ✓ In Northern and Central regions (Chiang Saen, Vientiane, Mukdahan, Pakse) total rainfalls was marginally above average.
- ✓ In upper reach of Sesan, SrePok (as indicated by Pleiku) the 2009 rainfall was significantly below average .
- ✓ Highly variable situation was observed in the Delta areas, as indicated by Kratie, Phnom Penh, Chau Doc, and CanTho values).

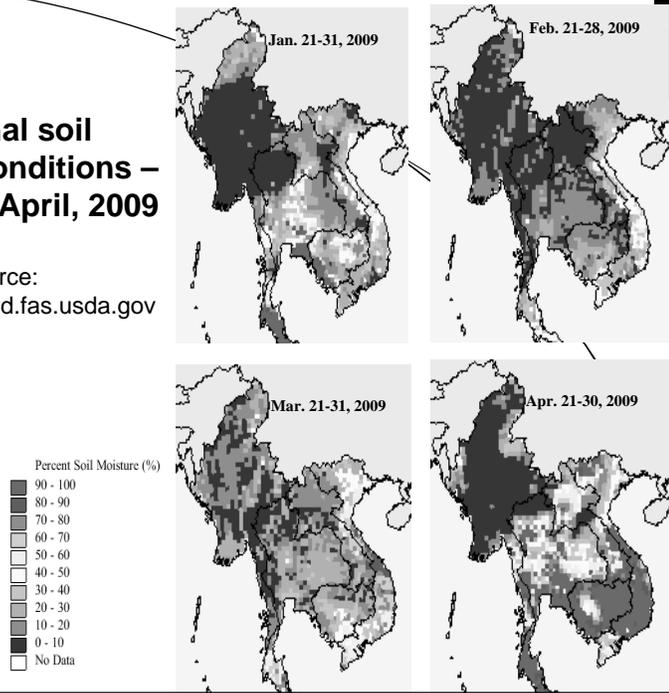
6

Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting
 Mekong River Commission
 28 July 2009
 Vientiane, Lao PDR



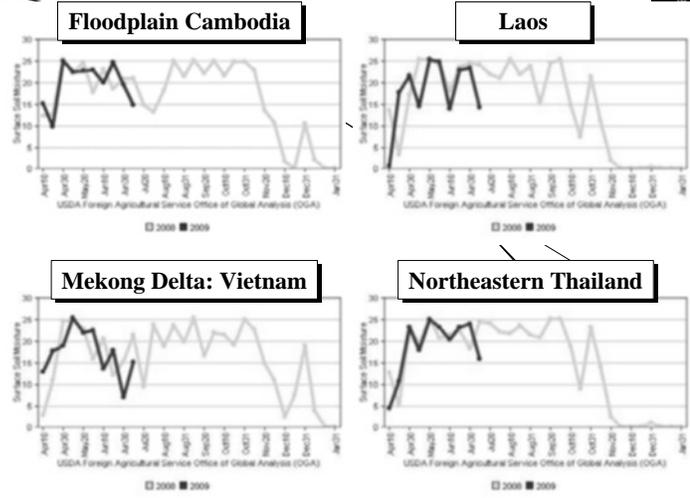
Regional soil moisture conditions – January to April, 2009

(Source: <http://www.pecad.fas.usda.gov>)



7

Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting
 Mekong River Commission
 28 July 2009
 Vientiane, Lao PDR



Soil moisture displayed low values in the LMB beginning from January to March. But in April the value of soil moisture was relatively high compared to average, which corresponded to the early onset of monsoonal rainfall in the region

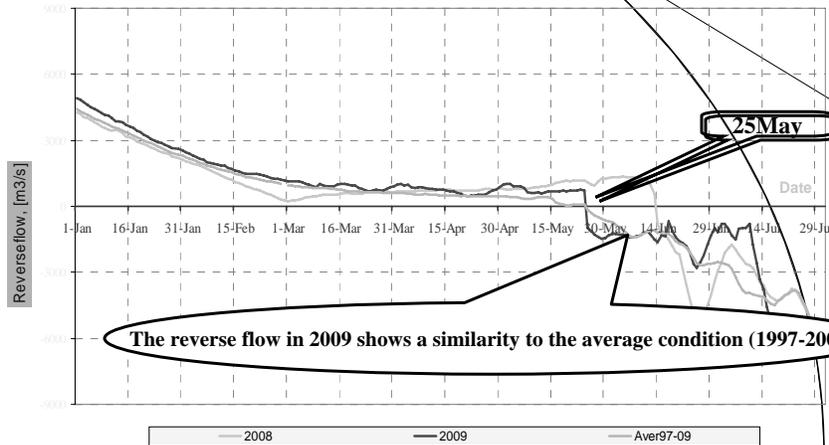
8

Water Level and Reverse Flow of The Tonle Sap Lake

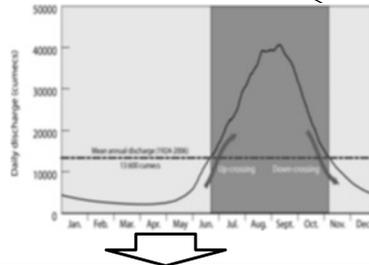


Site	Minimum water levels (masl) for n-day duration in dry season (Feb., Mar. and Apr.)				
	10 day	30 day	60 day	90 day	
Prek Kdam	average	0.87	0.95	1.02	1.12
	2009	0.96	1.14	1.21	1.30

Reverse flow Hydrograph to the Tonle Sap Lake



Onset of flood season

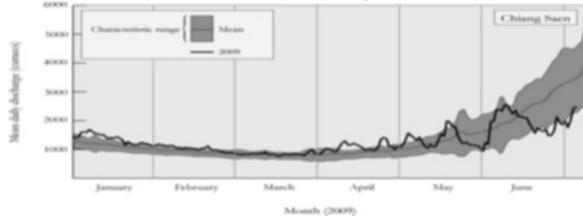


- In 2009 between Chiang Saen and Kratie the flood season began well within the usual onset weeks (end of June and beginning of July).

- For downstream areas in Phnom Penh to Chau Doc, the flood season has not started (as of 7th July).

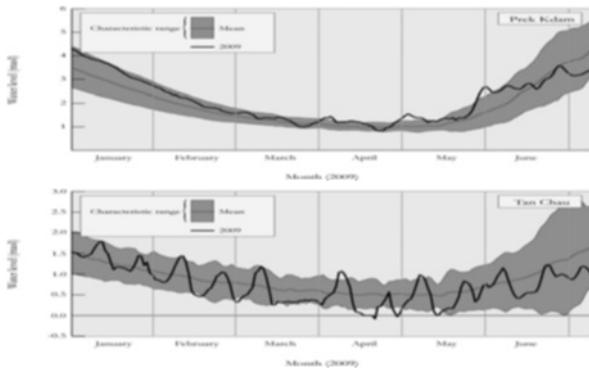
Site	Onset of the flood season		
	Historical average	Standard deviation	2009
Chiang Saen	28 th June	13 days	4 th July
Vientiane	3 rd July	14 days	6 th July
Pakse	29 th June	16 days	1 st July
Kratie	1 st July	16 days	24 th June
Phnom Penh Port	19 th July	16 days	<i>not started</i>
Prek Kdam	10 th July	16 days	<i>not started</i>
Tan Chau	18 th July	19 days	<i>not started</i>
Chau Doc	22 nd July	17 days	<i>not started</i>

Daily discharge Hydrograph at Chiangsaen



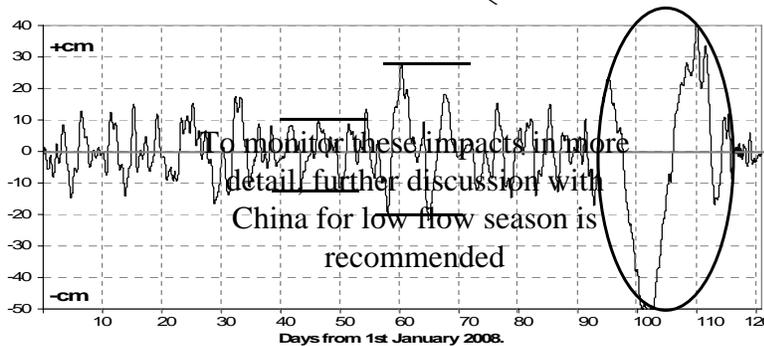
Generally the 2009 dry season discharges (chiangsaen to Kratie) > 10-12% above average

Daily water level hydrograph at Prek Kdam and Tan Chau



In Cambodia plain and Delta areas, water levels were closer to average, though in some short periods (< 10 days) they were below average.

High frequency water level oscillations during the low flow season at Chiang Saen



To monitor these impacts in more detail, further discussion with China for low flow season is recommended

Time series of water level variation , resulting from the sum of the three critical high frequency harmonics (diurnal, five-day and seven-day).

- ✓ The frequency water level fluctuation in dry season indicated the impact of upstream hydropower operation. Diurnal fluctuation of a few cm, five-day and weekly fluctuations were between 20-50 cm
- ✓ Flow data during dry season from upstream area of LMB is useful for the analysis.



Thank you for your
attention



Mekong Mainstream monthly discharge 1960 to 2008 (cumecs)

Month	Mainstream Site						
	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Vientiane	Nakhon Phanom	Mukdahan	Pakse	Kratie
Jan	1,150	1,690	1,760	2,380	2,370	2,800	3,620
Feb	930	1,280	1,370	1,860	1,880	2,170	2,730
Mar	830	1,060	1,170	1,560	1,600	1,840	2,290
Apr	910	1,110	1,190	1,530	1,560	1,800	2,220
May	1,300	1,570	1,720	2,410	2,430	2,920	3,640
Jun	2,460	3,110	3,410	6,610	7,090	8,810	11,200
Jul	4,720	6,400	6,920	12,800	13,600	16,600	22,200
Aug	6,480	9,920	11,000	19,100	20,600	26,200	35,500
Sep	5,510	8,990	10,800	18,500	19,800	26,300	36,700
Oct	3,840	5,750	6,800	10,200	10,900	15,400	22,000
Nov	2,510	3,790	4,230	5,410	5,710	7,780	10,900
Dec	1,590	2,400	2,560	3,340	3,410	4,190	5,710

1. Overview

- Lancang River originates in Qinghai Province, flows through Tibet and Yunnan in China, known as the Mekong River after leaving China, and flows through Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam
- Lancang-Mekong River has a total length of 4880km and annual average runoff of 475 billion m³, while water resources from China amounts for 13%
- Lancang River has many tributaries and owns rich water resources and hydropower resources. Inter-annual runoff changes is stable, and distribution is concentrated during year

2. Socio-economic Situation

- Population of Lancang River Basin is about 6,6 million (2007) with urbanization rate 25%. Catchment area and population are mainly distributed in Yunnan Province
- The whole region is sparsely populated, and mainly are minority settlements
- There is 1.3 million ha of cultivated land, of which only 20 percentage are irrigated. Irrigation conditions become a major limiting factor for increase of agricultural productivity
- Economic centers locate in Yunnan Province, and general economic condition of the whole region is far below average national economic level
- Agricultural production is at low level

3. Water Resources in Lancang River Basin

■ Water resources is abundant

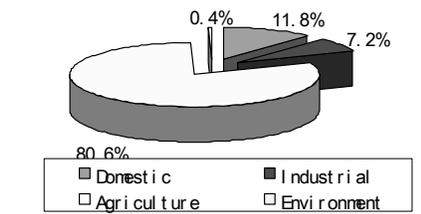
- Average annual rainfall is about 500 ~ 1700mm, and total water resources is about 74 billion m³ in China
- Runoff mainly comes from rainfall with snowmelt and groundwater recharge as supplement
- Water resources per capita is more than 10,000 m³
- Most runoff flows out of China directly with annual average more than 70 billion m³

4. Water Resources Development and Utilization of Lancang River Basin

4.1 Water resources development and utilization is low

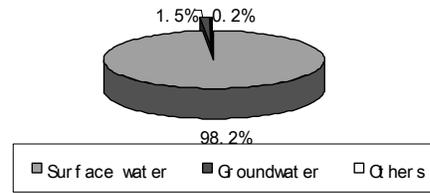
- Total water resources is rich and water resources per capita is much higher than national average level, while development and utilization rate of surface water resources is less than 4%. Main current utilization is for agricultural irrigation
- Regional water quality is generally good

4. Water Resources Development and Utilization of Lancang River Basin



Total current water use is about 2.6 billion m³ in which agricultural water use amounts to 81%, and domestic water use amounts to 12%

Surface water supply amounts to 98% of total water use. And the utilization amounts less than 4% of surface water resources



4. Water Resources Development and Utilization of Lancang River Basin

4.2 Water shortage is caused by lacking of key projects, and drought resistance ability is low

- Due to lacking of key water supply projects with good regulation ability, water supply is seriously affected by natural water condition. Current water supply can not meet water need. Drinking water safety for more than 1/4 urban and 1/2 rural population can not be guaranteed
- Drought resistance ability is weak. Drought last long period in high frequency, which limits development of agriculture to certain extent

4. Water Resources Development and Utilization of Lancang River Basin

4.3 Standards of flood control projects are low, and flood control capacity is weak

- Total flood control storage of existing small and medium-sized reservoirs on the tributaries is less than 100 million m³. Low construction standards, weak flood control capacity as well weak infrastructure of existing projects lead to unguaranteed safety of downstream areas
- Key projects with mainstream flood control are under construction or planning

5. Hydropower Resources Development and Utilization of Lancang River Basin

- Lancang River owns abundant hydropower, meanwhile coal as well as other mineral resources are relatively indigent
- Hydropower development supports driving economic development along the river basin
- Hydropower which can be developed is mainly concentrated on the mainstream

6. Vision for Water Resources and Hydropower Resources Development

- Water quantity of Lancang River is abundant and water quality is good, with great potential for hydropower development
- The coming decades are critical period for the Lancang River Basin to readjust economic structure and promote economic development to a new level
 - Construction of water supply projects to ensure drinking water safety
 - Strengthening of flood control construction to improve flood control capacity
 - Developing industry with priority of ecological and environmental protection

Prospects of Water Resources Development and Utilization in Lancang River Basin

- ❑ To fill water gap for agricultural irrigation for food security
- ❑ To construct concentrated-type water supply projects and various drinking water projects to solve safety problem of drinking water
- ❑ To improve flood control capacity through strengthening river embankment, construction and regulation of Nuozhadu Station and other key reservoirs, combining with advanced flood management measures
- ❑ In the next decade, total water resources use will be less than 5% of surface water resources of Lancang River in China

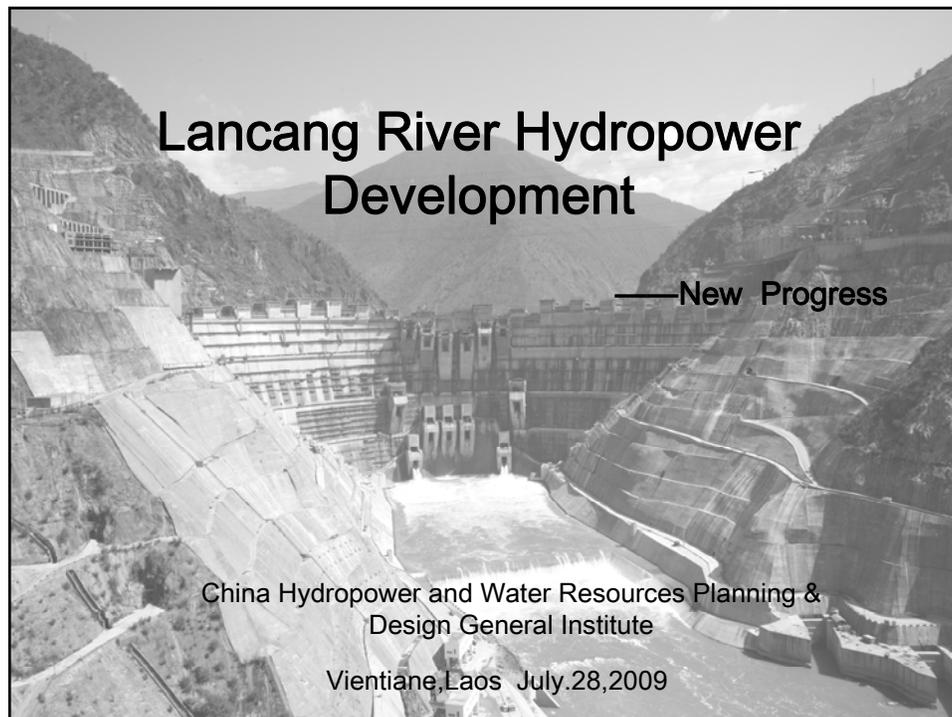
6. Vision for Water Resources and Hydropower Resources Development

- **With implementation of China's Western Development Strategy, infrastructure construction of water conservancy, transportation and others will speed up. Traditional industrial structure will be gradually adjusted for which exploitation of natural resources-based industries will be strongly supported. Industrial economy proportion will be increased**
- **China's Western Development Strategy asks for increasing demand of electricity. Hydropower generation in South-West China will meet the electricity demand**

6. Vision for Water Resources and Hydropower Resources Development

- **China will consider coordination between socio-economic development as well as ecological and environmental protection, and attach high importance to ecological and environmental protection of the Lancang River Basin to maintain river health**





Outline

1. General situation of river and development planning
2. Aug.2008-July 2009 Annual Activities of Lancang River hydropower development
3. Work to be done in next stage
4. Suggestions

1.1 General Introduction

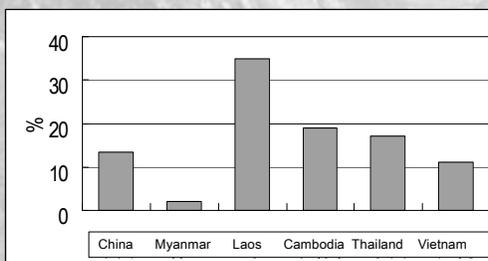
Lancang River originates from Qinghai province , China , it flows across the Qinghai , Tibet and Yunnan , goes out of the boundary at the Mengla country , Xishuangbanna prefecture , Yunnan Province. After that it is changed into another name, Mekong river. Mekong river runs through Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia , Vietnam , before entering the South China Sea in a delta south of Ho chi minh City , Vietnam.



Basic Characters

Lancang-Mekong River Extends approximately 4880km , the section of which is about 2160km in China (with a fall of 4583m) (about 44% of the total length and 90% of the total fall)

Runoff Percentage of related countries



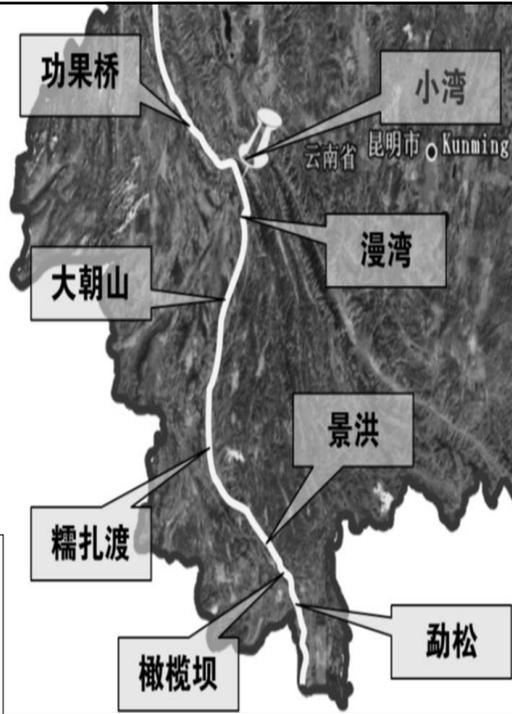
The average annual means runoff volume of Lancang River at the boundary is approximately 64 billion m³ (about 13.5% of that at the sea outlet)

1.2 Hydropower Plan

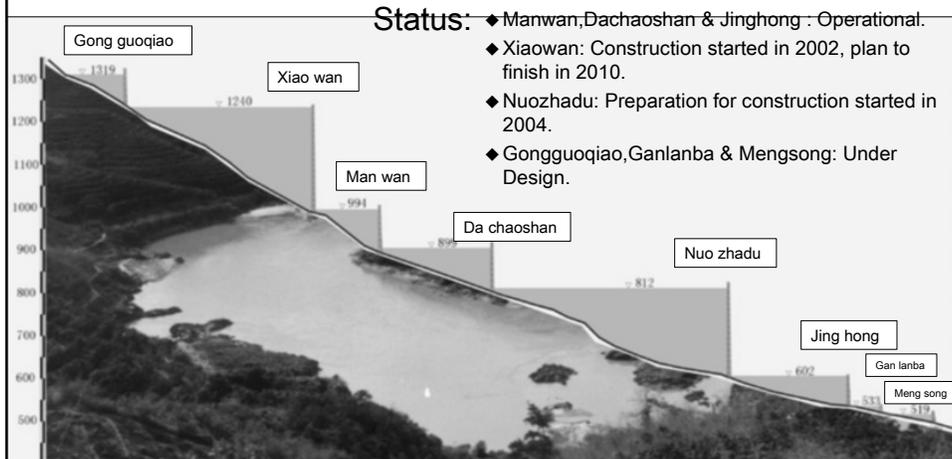
➤ 8 cascades planned on lower reach of Lancang river (from Miaowei to boundary)

➤ Water Head Utilized : 828m

➤ Total Installed Capacity : 16460MW



Cascade Development on lower reach of Lancang River



➤ Development scheme : 8 cascades with 2 large reservoirs.

➤ Tasks : Electricity generation mainly , navigation , flood control and water supply.

➤ Development scale : total installation capacity 16460MW , yearly electricity generation 74 billion kWh.

1.3 Major conclusions of 13th dialogue seminars

① The Chinese government agencies have developed strict procedures for environment assessment of water basin master plan and for individual hydropower project, environment monitoring and project approval as well as takeover. These procedures are able to effectively follow the environment protection in hydropower development.

② As a result of water basin environment assessment, Mengsong cascade near the boundary is held on developing to avoid impact to migrant fishes.



1.3 Major conclusions of 13th dialogue seminars

③ Conclusion of study to the downstream Mekong River:

- a. Lancang River hydropower development will not effect downstream water volume ;
- b. Some impacts on downstream sediment movement ;
- c. No barrier impacts on migratory fishes ;
- d. Benefits for downstream flood control, irrigation and water supply;
- e. No obvious impacts on downstream flow regime at present, because of the small reservoir volume of existing Manwan, Dachaoshan and Jinghong hydropower stations.

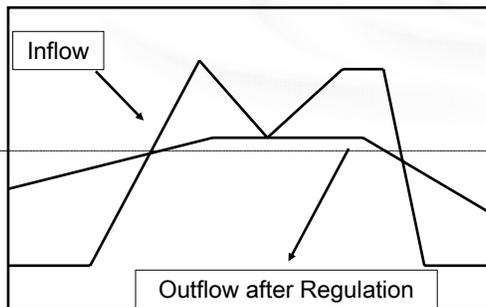
The cascades regulated capacity will increase with the completion of Xiaowan and Nuozhadu hydropower stations.

It will reduce Lancang River runoff volume of the border in wet season , and increase it in dry season obviously.



1.4 Downstream water level fluctuation in dry season

① Ganlanba Hydropower Project is planned to be operated as a re-regulation reservoir to the upstream cascade on dry season.



1.4 Downstream water level fluctuation in dry season

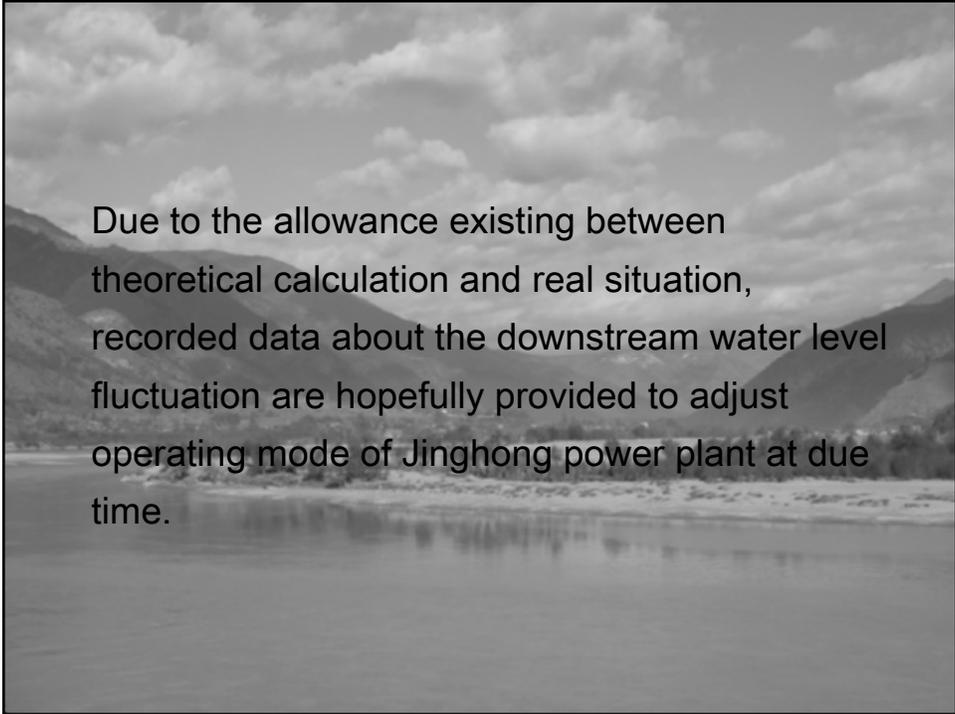
② Prior to completion of Ganlanba project, the Jinghong project will be operated as re-regulation reservoir.

The Jinghong project is designed to operate to:

a. Release the base flow of river channel;

b. Take peak-load with conditions.





Due to the allowance existing between theoretical calculation and real situation, recorded data about the downstream water level fluctuation are hopefully provided to adjust operating mode of Jinghong power plant at due time.

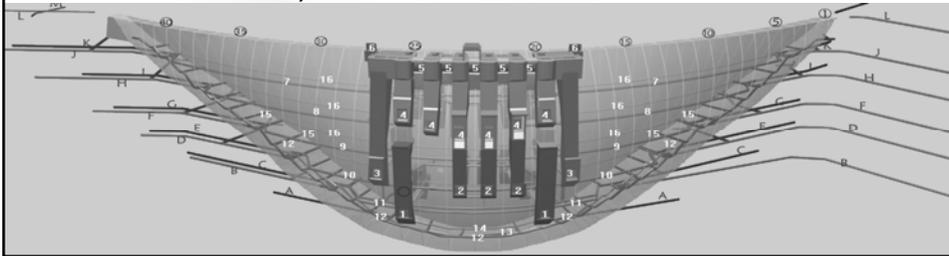
Outline

1. General situation of river and development planning
2. Aug.2008-July 2009 Annual Activities of Lancang River hydropower development
3. Work to be done in next stage
4. Suggestions

2.1 Activities of Xiaowan Hydropower Project

① Elaborate Design

A great amount of research has been conducted (on the topics of impoundment planning, flood control, earthquake proofing and self-check report on design of impoundment safety assessment)



2.1 Activities of Xiaowan Hydropower Project

② Meticulous Construction

A number of construction technical requirements have been worked out, such as *Technical Requirements for Safety Monitoring of the First Impoundment Period and Initial Impoundment Period of Hydraulic Complex Structures and Technical Requirements for Plug Construction of Bottom Outlet and Middle Outlet of Dam Body Diversion.*



2.1 Activities of Xiaowan Hydropower Project

③ Inspection and approval

- a. On December 15, 2008, the initial impoundment was accepted at the stage of closing the gate and plugging the diversion tunnel of Xiaowan Hydropower Project.
- b. On May 11~15, 2009, an Engineering Consultancy Team conducted consultation on Research Report on the Arch Dam Safety -Static Working Conditions.
- c. By the end of June 2009, an expert team for Xiaowan Hydropower Project in Lancang River basin has conducted four inspections.
- d. In June 2009, safety assessment was carried out before the diversion bottom outlet of Xiaowan Hydropower Project is closed.
- e. In the end of June 2009, impoundment of Xiaowan Hydropower Project was approved.



2.2 Initial Impoundment Plan on Xiaowan Hydropower Project in 2009

① Impoundment Principle:

- a. During the impoundment period, discharged flow should meet comprehensive demands for water use, for the downstream areas along Lancang -Mekong River, for industrial and agricultural production, shipping and ecology. At the same time, the reservoir impoundment will be used to reduce the impacts of flood of Lancang River upon downstream areas as much as possible.
- b. Based on downstream demands for water use, impoundment time and flow of the Xiaowan Reservoir will be arranged rationally.



2.2 Initial Impoundment Plan on Xiaowan Hydropower Project in 2009

② Impoundment Control Factors:

- a. Requirements for irrigation and water supply in the Mekong River basin
- b. Requirements for ecological water of the river channel
- c. Requirements for navigating water of Mekong River
- d. Requirements for flood control of Mekong River

2.2 Initial Impoundment Plan on Xiaowan Hydropower Project in 2009

③ Impoundment Plan:

Xiaowan Reservoir is planned to impound water in flood seasons. It is mainly used to retain and intercept flood and alleviate flood control pressure on downstream countries as much as possible. In addition, the reservoir will maintain normal discharged flow in non-flood periods as much as possible to reduce impacts of the impoundment upon the downstream regions.

2.3 Assurance Measures for Initial Impoundment of Xiaowan Hydropower Project in 2009

① Impoundment by Stages

With normal water level of the Xiaowan Reservoir being 1,240m, initial impoundment will be achieved by stages, and based on water inflow, it is scheduled to impound water up to dead water level of 1166 m in main flood season of 2009 and total impoundment amount will come up to approximately 4.5 billion m³. Reservoir capacity above 1,166m will not be impounded until the flood season of 2010 when a large water inflow is coming.



2.3 Assurance Measures for Initial Impoundment of Xiaowan Hydropower Project in 2009

① Impoundment by Stages

The reservoir impoundment up to 1,166m in the year of 2009 will be carried out by stages. The first stage will be filled to 1,125m with 2.2 billion m³, and subject to impact analysis and assessment upon downstream regions, the impoundment plan will be adjusted in accordance with analysis and assessment results to ensure that the second stage will be filled to 1125m~1166m under the condition that the impacts on the downstream regions are within the acceptable range.



2.3 Assurance Measures for Initial Impoundment of Xiaowan Hydropower Project in 2009

② Uniform Impoundment Measures

In the course of initial impoundment, uniform impoundment will be carried out as per the set impoundment flow.

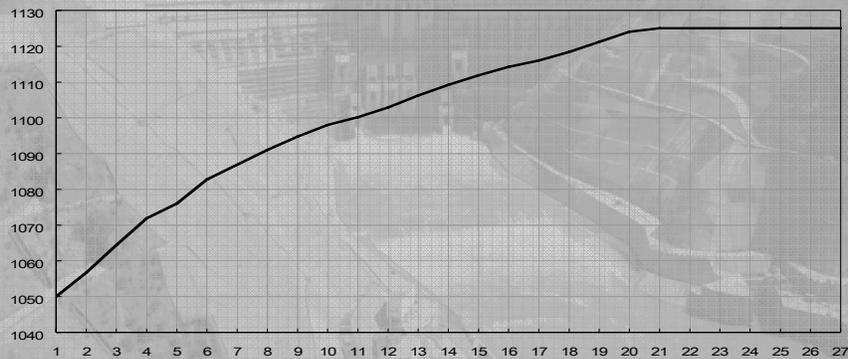
2.3 Assurance Measures for Initial Impoundment of Xiaowan Hydropower Project in 2009

③ Re-regulating Reservoir

In the course of impoundment of the Xiaowan reservoir, if sharp rise and fall occurs to discharged flow, the joint operation control will be carried out through downstream reservoirs of Manwan, Dachaoshan and especially Jinghong to counter regulate the discharged flow so that the flow leaving China can satisfy the requirements of comprehensive water use of downstream Mekong River.

Occurrence of impoundment to El.1,125m

The flow left in impoundment progress was controlled, so the water level rose rate is uniform, and the progress of outflow is similar to natural situation.



Outline

1. General situation of river and development planning
2. Aug.2008-July 2009 Annual Activities of Lancang River hydropower development
3. Work to be done in next stage
4. Suggestions

Work to be done in next stage

- Strictly observe in-stage impounding requirement, check and accept as staged.
- Further the study of Xiaowan reservoir impoundment plan for next stage at the help of MRC and other riparian countries' governments, to minimize adverse effect and maximize favorable effect to the downstream side.
- Continuously follow up the operation mode of completed power stations and their adverse effect to the downstream side. Operating mode of cascaded plant may be adjusted after in-depth study, if necessary.

Outline

1. General situation of river and development planning
2. Aug. 2008-July 2009 Annual Activities of Lancang River hydropower development
3. Work to be done in next stage
4. Suggestions

Suggestions

- We wish to be involved in ecologic environment study in relation to the Mekong River to make understood water use and environment protection on the lower reaches.
- We hope being provided with the study outcome of impact of development and water use of lower reaches river channel upon the ecologic and environment influence of upstream Lancang River.



Address on Navigation (China)

Respectable Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning!

Since the 7th dialogue meeting in 2002, the communications between China and MRC have been constantly strengthened, there is a vast common ground between China and MRC in term of Mekong river navigation, it is worthy noted that, in compliance with the consensus of the last dialogue meeting, with the participation of the MRC, the Dept of Transport of Yunnan Province held seminar on safety and improvement of navigation channel in Xishuanbanna prefecture in Yunnan Province, over 50 participants, including experts from MRC, delegates from six riparian countries, and other international specialists, attended the seminar, which successful provides an opportunity for all the participants to share information, exchange experiences and deepen their friendship among them. On behalf of China, I would like to use this occasion to introduce the present navigation situation on the Lancang-Mekong river.

1. After the completion of the navigation improvement project among China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand in 2004, the navigation condition on the 331 kms river channel from 243 border mark between China and Myanmar to the Ban Husai in Laos had been greatly improved, the channel currently is in a good condition, so far so good!
2. Nowadays, the vessels with 300 Dead Weight Tonnage (DWT) could sail on the river channel from border mark 243 between China and Myanmar to Jinghong, China throughout the year. And several wharfs include a passenger pier, a cargo pier and a container terminal are under construction, which are supposed to wrap up in three years. The upgrade of the port infrastructures will greatly enhance the transport capacity on the river by 2000,000 tonnage and 400,000 passengers per year. Among the projects under construction, Guan Lei wharf will be installed with container handling equipment by the end of 2010, also the containerization of Menhan wharf will be conducted in 2011, China will continue to boost the development of navigation on the Lancang-Mekong river, exert effort to offer the sound service to all the navigation stakeholders.
3. In 2008, the navigation on the Lancang-Mekong river are severely impacted by the world economy crisis, according to the statistics released by the port authority, the total cargo volume Transported in such river section was only 300,000 tonnages, 20,000 passengers in the last year, which experienced a decline in comparison with the year of 2007. Now there are 98 registered ships in China undertake the international waterborne transport, the biggest DWT is 380 tons, convincingly, with the crisis's fading away, the increasing trend of both cargo and passenger transportation is bound to recover.
4. The existing JCCCN management frame proves to be an effective multinational navigation management organization, through the regime of JCCCN, many practical job had been done to promote the development of navigation on the river, the JCCN annual meeting provides a forum for all the member countries to share information in aspect of joint navigation development, also the member countries could seek for solutions for the issues which they are all concerned about, then put the consensus into implementation by using this regime. Through the concerted effort among four JCCCN countries, there are significant achievements been obtained in varied aspects, such as the unification of port dues; the promotion of the upgrade and extension of navigation channel; the installation of navigation aids and maintenance of channel; as well as the establishment of the monitoring system of navigation safety and security.

5. Nevertheless, there currently exist no specific navigation cooperation regime on Mekong river between China and the two down-stream countries, but China believes that through the dialogue meeting of MRC or other channels, the communication among six countries on Mekong river navigation could be strengthened and deepened.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

According to the previous experiences, I would like to submit my recommendations as follows:

1. In the first place, nearly all the riparian countries had input capital investment more or less to improve the navigation facilities, so we can bravely said that the divergence in navigation scope among riparian countries are absolutely overwhelmed by their common aim of developing navigation on the Mekong river to benefit local society, the navigation cooperative foundation is solid, therefore, all the riparian countries should kick off the overall navigation study and plan on the Mekong river as soon as possible, meanwhile to initially seek for capital investment to expedite the harmonious navigation development throughout the river.
2. In the second place, China will actively utilize the management frame of JCCCN, on the basis of the previous cooperation experiences, join hands with other three countries to boost the navigation development and the maintenance management, develop the river transport human resource and waterborne industry, establish navigation safety and security management system (search and rescue frame), all of these will contribute to the facilitation of water way transportation among four countries.
3. In addition, in consideration of healthy and sustainable navigation development, any river-crossing constructions behavior, which locates on navigable river stretch defined by the Commercial Navigation Agreement among four Countries, must take into account of the waterborne requirement seriously, even large scale navigation projects to be conducted by anyone of JCCCN member countries is expected to inform the other JCCCN countries before the project start, because the JCCCN joint management frame is supposed to be respected by its member countries.
4. Last but not least, we hope specialists and officials of both MRC and down stream countries could be our guests in Yunnan, we could make field study of our navigable facilities, share academic results, exchange our experiences, all of these will strengthen our friendship, expedite the navigation collaboration among all the riparian countries in Great Mekong Sub region.

Thank you!

Vientiane, Laos
28th July, 2009-7-23

Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting
Mekong River Commission
28 July 2009
Vientiane, Lao PDR



G.2 - HYDROLOGICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Objectives

- Agreement with China and Implementation Plan
- Activities in 2009
- Data Provided
- Acknowledgement and Looking Forward.

1

Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting
Mekong River Commission
28 July 2009
Vientiane, Lao PDR



Agreement and Implementation Plan

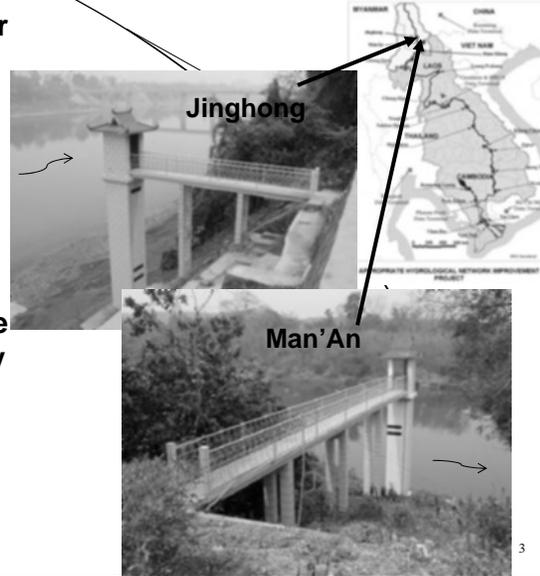
- **The Agreement on the Provision of Hydrological Information of the Lancang/Mekong River in Flood Season between the Ministry of Water Resources of the P.R. China and the MRC was signed on 1 April 2002, expiring on 31 March 2007.**
- **The extension Agreement and its Implementation Plan for next five years has been signed on 29 August 2008 during the 13th Dialogue Meeting in Vientiane.**

2

Implementation Plan (flood season 2009)



- ✓ MRC continues to provide supplementary funds to cover parts of communication and operation expenses for data provision.
- ✓ China provides twenty-four hourly water level and twelve hourly rainfall data sent daily to MRCS at 7AM since 15 June 2009 . Data have been used by RFMMC for flood forecasting
- ✓ Rating curves and cross sections, logger data shall be provided.

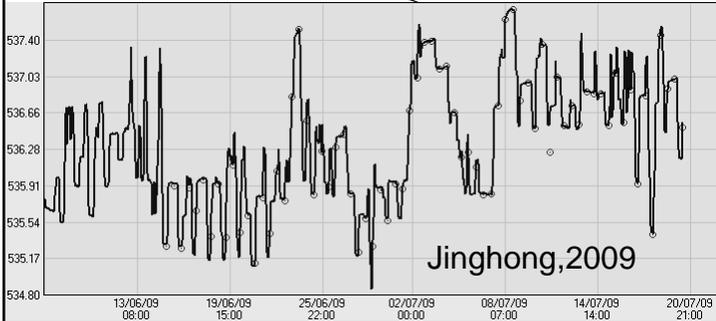


Activities in 2009

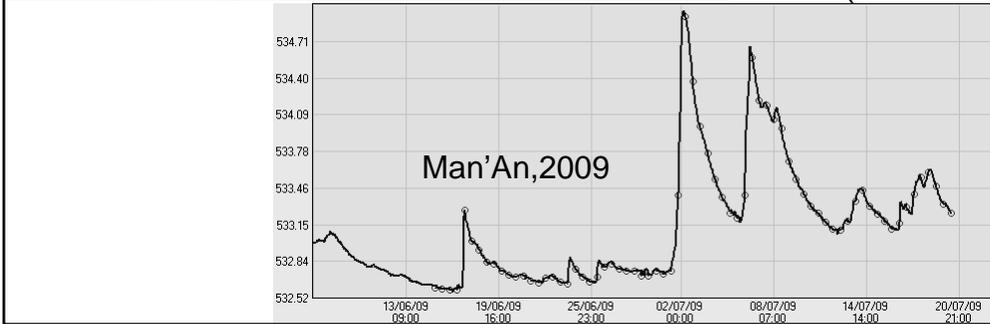


- **Provision of data to MRCS**
 - Automatic data of Jinghong and Man'An have been provided since 15 June 2009.
 - Manual data also provided to validate the accuracy of automatic data.
 - Two new laptops have been provided in February 2009 for the field operation at Jinghong and Man'An stations
- **Technical mission to Kunming, Jinghong & Man'An: (22-27 June 2009)**
 - to ensure the normal operation of data collection and transmission to MRCS during the flood season 2009.
 - to investigate the problem of rainfall sensor at Man'An station.
 - Technology transfers between the two sides were encouraging.
 - Rain gauge (TB3) sent to Jinghong on 21 July 2009 for replacing the existing one at Man'An station

Data provision in 2009



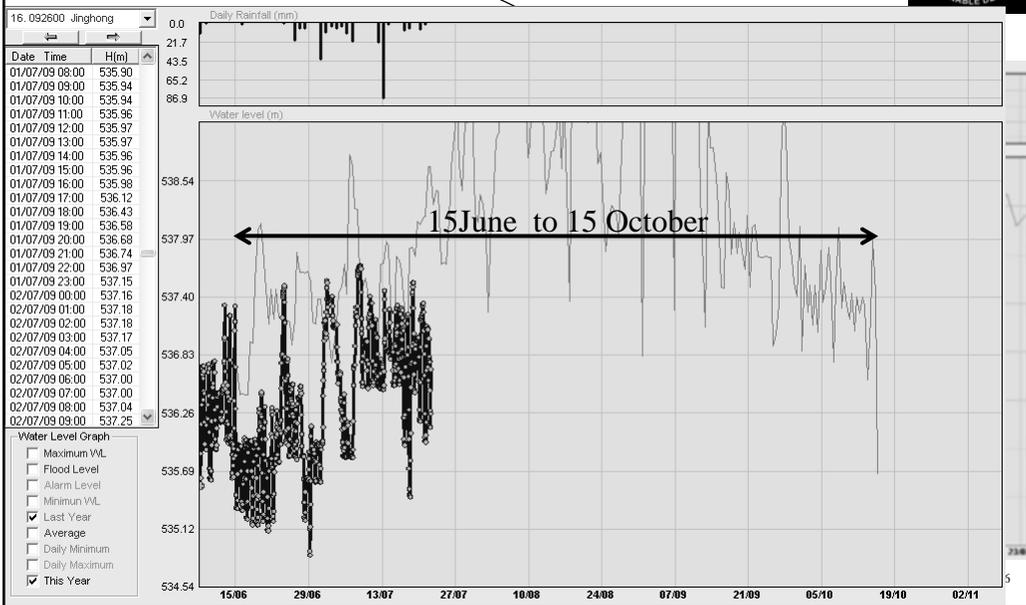
- Accurate and reliable data have been provided to MRCS.



Data provision in 2009



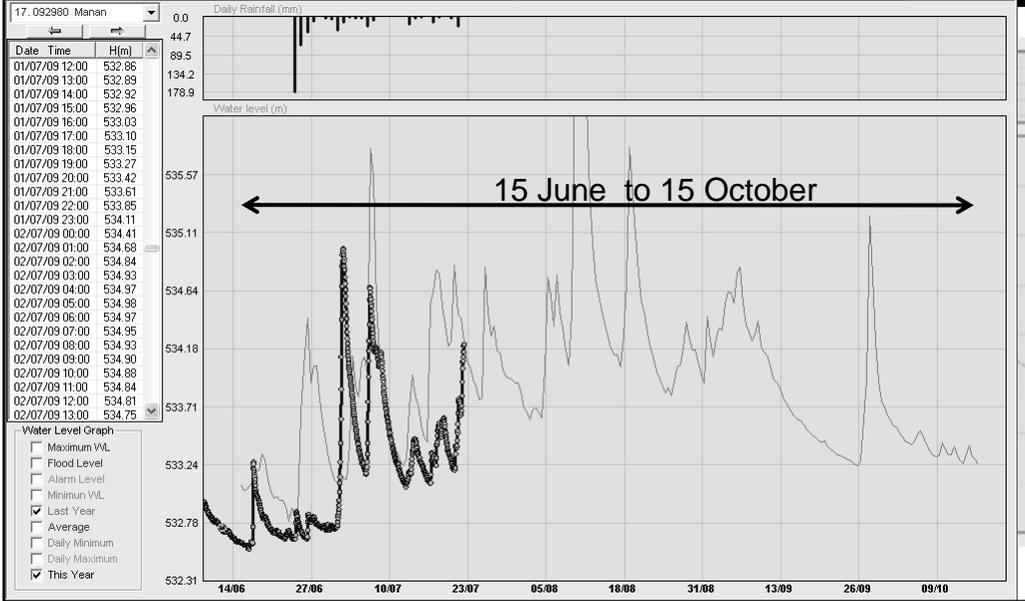
Jinghong



Data provision in 2009



Man'An





Acknowledgement and Looking forward.....

- **Highly appreciates valuable cooperation under the Agreement on provision of Hydrological data in flood season.**
- **Greatly appreciates the assistance from the Ministry of Water Resources of China to enabling successful implementation of the Agreement.**
- **Potential for technical collaboration in other areas such as year-round data provision, technical visit and staff exchange.**

THANK YOU ₉

The Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting

Cooperation between China and MRC on Hydrological Information in Flood Season

Zhong yong, Yu Fuliang, Tian ying

Ministry of Water Resources, P.R. China

July.28 , 2009

Contents

- 1. History of cooperation on the provision of hydrological information**
- 2. Summary of the implementation status**
- 3. Some suggestions for future cooperation**

1. History of cooperation on the provision of hydrological information

- **Frequent flood is the most dangerous natural disaster caused by the Lancang-Mekong River which links up the six Basin countries**
- **As the upstream country, the Chinese government pays serious attentions to floods in the Mekong countries. Based on the sprit of humanitarianism, the Chinese government undertakes concrete actions to prevent the Mekong floods and so that to make contributions to flood prevention and disaster mitigation in the Mekong River Basin.**

- **On 1 April 2002, the MWR of China and the MRC signed the Agreement on provision of hydrological information of Lancang-Mekong River in flood season in Phnom Penh, which initiated the cooperation in flood prevention and disaster reduction between two sides.**





Signing of the experts meeting minutes

- An implementation plan was signed between the Yunnan Provincial Hydrology Bureau and the MRCS on 29 March 2003 to implement the Agreement after two rounds of experts meetings.

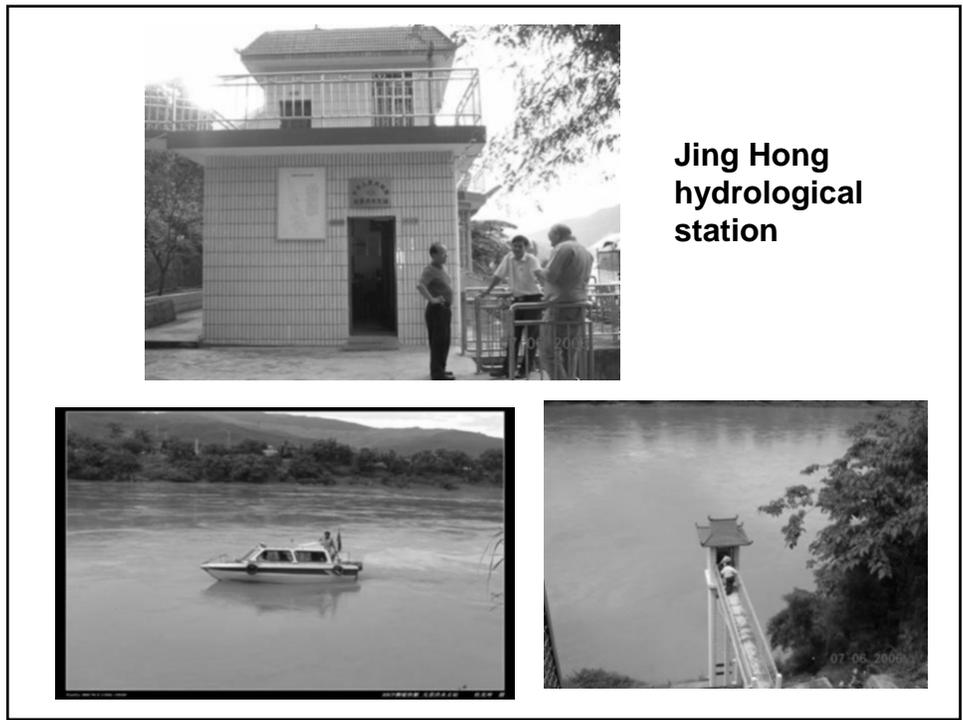
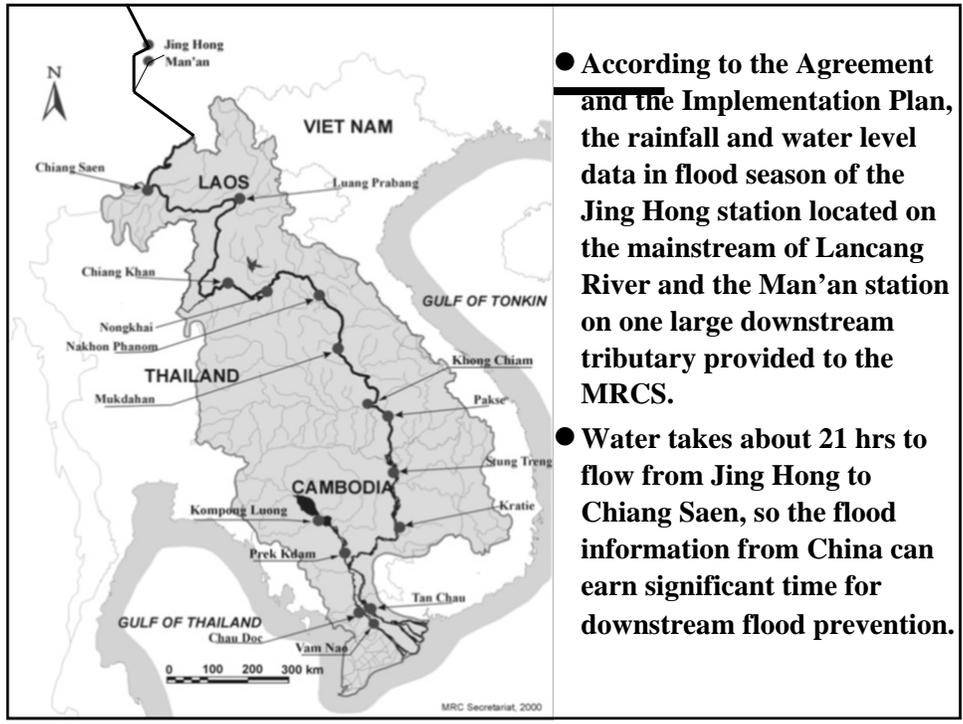


Signing of the Implementation Plan

Ministry of Water Resources of P.R. China and MRC signing the renewed Agreement in 2008



The hydrological data in flood season provided by the Ministry of Water Resources of P.R. China plays an important role on the downstream flood control and disaster reduction.





**Man'an
hydrological
station**

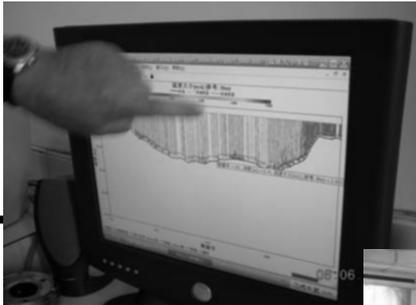


2. Summary of the implementation status

- **Following the Agreement and the Implementation Plan, the Yunnan Hydrology Bureau of China has input lots of resources to carry out the observation, verification and transmission of the daily data of water level of twenty four values and two values of 12 hrs rainfall data (at 20:00 and 8:00 Beijing time) of the two stations to the MRCS in annual flood season from 15 June to 15 October.**
- **Regularly provided the latest rating curves and related cross-sections data of the two stations.**
- **Monthly downloaded the original data from the loggers and transmitted to the MRCS.**

2. Summary of the implementation status

- **The Chinese side and the MRCS have jointly conducted upgrading of the information provision systems of the two stations. The Chinese side has completed the civil engineering works and the MRCS provided some relevant equipments and software as well as partial financial support.**
- **From 2002 to 2003, the Chinese side had to collect and provide data by manual work. The automatic observation and transmission system started to operate after the completion of upgrading of the information provision systems in 2004.**



Monitoring system trial

- **Experts from two sides have carried out friendly and fruitful cooperation.**



Experts exchanging ideas



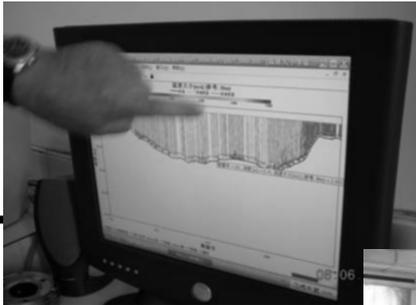
Installing and testing equipments

2. Summary of the implementation status

- **From 2002 to 2007, the Yunnan Hydrology Bureau of China had sent 13664 records of hydrological data to the MRCS.**
- **In the flood seasons of 2007 and 2008, the Chinese side still provided hydrological information to the MRCS although the renewed agreement was not yet in place (signed in August, 2008).**
- **The provision of hydrological information in flood season by China has played an important role in improving the quality of Mekong River flood forecasting and early warning.**

2. Summary of the implementation status

- **The Chinese side and the MRCS have jointly conducted upgrading of the information provision systems of the two stations. The Chinese side has completed the civil engineering works and the MRCS provided some relevant equipments and software as well as partial financial support.**
- **From 2002 to 2003, the Chinese side had to collect and provide data by manual work. The automatic observation and transmission system started to operate after the completion of upgrading of the information provision systems in 2004.**



Monitoring system trial

- **Experts from two sides have carried out friendly and fruitful cooperation.**



Experts exchanging ideas

Conclusions :

In recent years, mutual understanding and trust between China and the basin countries have been greatly increased and the cooperation and exchange in various fields have been strengthened under GMS and ASEAN+China mechanisms. This has created good conditions for China and MRC to conduct cooperation in hydrological information provision in flood season. We believe that both sides will continue to make friendly and fruitful cooperation under the dialogue framework.

3. Some suggestions for future cooperation

After signing of the renewed Agreement in 2008, two sides will conduct additional five years term cooperation in hydrological information provision in flood season. The Chinese side would like to put forward some suggestions for future cooperation.

a. Equipment updating

- **The equipments installed at the two stations have been in operation for more than five years, and part of them are outdated and unstable.**
- **The Yunnan Hydrology Bureau expects the MRCS to replace the outdated equipments in time to ensure good operation of the automatic monitoring system in the following five years.**

b. Technical communication on the Jing Hong hydrology station

- **In order to observe the effects of the Jing Hong hydropower operation on the cross-section and the rating curve at the Jing Hong hydrological monitoring station, the Chinese side has increased flow read times at the station and verified the rating curves.**
- **The Chinese side will continue to observe the effects on the rating curves at the Jing Hong station, and will inform the MRC timely once the rating curves have to be modified.**

c. Expertise exchange in water resources field

- **Flood forecasting and disaster mitigation, sedimentation, water conservation and irrigation technologies etc. between MWR and MRCS**
- **Joint assessment for function of the hydrological data provided by China during the flood season**
- **Reciprocal technical field visit for the interested projects between MWR and MRCS, such as the visit to Yangtz River**
- **Bilateral cooperation and technical communication between China and MRC countries**

Thanks !

Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting
Mekong River Commission
28 July 2009
Vientiane, Lao PDR



G.3 - COOPERATION ON NAVIGATION

Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting
Mekong River Commission
28 July 2009
Vientiane, Lao PDR



Content

- Background and Justification for Cooperation on Navigation between Upstream Partners and MRC
- Activities 2008-2009
- Next activities



Benefits of and requirements for cooperation on navigation.

Synergy between Quadrangle Navigation Agreement and article 9 of the 1995 MRC Agreement.

There are direct geographical overlaps (between Golden Triangle and Luang Prabang) in both Treaties.



MRC and the four Upper Mekong countries share a similar strategy for navigation development on the Mekong river, the benefits include:

- Vast potential for exchange of expertise and experiences;
- Exchange of essential data and relevant information will enhance navigation development;
- Expensive overlaps and duplication can be avoided;
- Negative impacts can be identified and mitigated effectively through collaboration mechanisms.



Seminars on Waterway Safety and Navigation Improvement

**The First Joint Seminar
in Jinghong, 14-16
October 2008**



On technologies for channel regulations and improvement works of the Lancang-Mekong River and environment protection.



Outcomes of the First Seminar

- Increased awareness on the importance of Lancang-Mekong navigation for socio-economic development.
- Enhanced the understanding on the best practices of sound river regulating works.
- Increased knowledge on the significance of the environment and ecology of the river within the framework of waterborne transport



About 50 participants from the six Lancang-Mekong riparian countries and international guest speakers attended the Seminar.



MRC navigation projects and private port initiatives that accelerate the development of Mekong Waterborne Transportation

Recommendations on Navigation Lock Standards



Hydropower developments could pose a barrier to navigation, but they also offer the possibility of providing more reliable and consistent water depths that will facilitate larger vessel capacities.

The only way to efficiently realise the benefits of inland waterway navigation in harmony with hydropower development is the construction of navigation locks.

Of course **one standard** will be required to design the locks

Recommendations on Navigation Lock Standards



MRC has conducted a review of international ship lock specifications and their relevance to the proposed hydropower developments on the Mekong mainstream.

The planned locks for the Lancang hydropower dams in P.R. China have also served as basis for the Standard Specifications for Navigation Locks

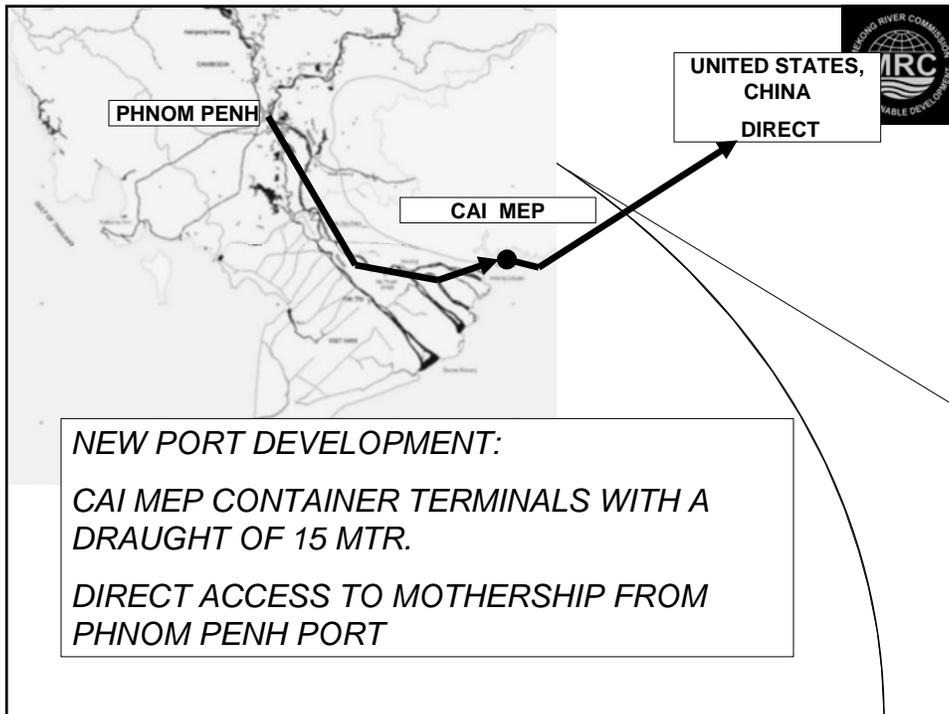
The recommendations will ensure common operation, safety rules and navigation conditions for the crossing of all the locks on the Mekong mainstream



Agreement on Waterway Transport between Viet Nam and Cambodia

The Agreement on Waterway Transportation
between Cambodia and Viet Nam facilitated by the
MRC Navigation Programme has been agreed
upon.

The two parties have planned to sign this
Agreement in October 2009.





The knock-on effect on river ports in the sub-region is spectacular. Inland container ships can now link their cargo to the container ports in Cai Mep, the final transshipment before arrival in overseas ports such as the United States.



Strong commitment for further cooperation

P.R.China letter to MRC dated 13 April 2009:

'Reaffirming the strong relationship between MRC and China, and committing to further strengthening cooperation. In particular, priority will be on improving navigation safety on the Lancang Mekong river.'

MRC would like to propose the following cooperation activities:

- **Harmonization of Waterway Classification**
- **Standardization of the Design of Navigation Lock**



Invitation for Seminar in Ho Chi Minh City, 10-11 September 2009

MRC, Government of Flanders, Viet Nam Inland Waterway Administration and PIANC will organize a regional seminar on

'Inland Waterway Transport in Europe and South
East Asia'



MRC has extended the invitation to P.R. China and Myanmar to participate in this Seminar.



The seminar includes the following themes:

- Inland waterway container transport;
- Multimodal transport;
- Legal and economic aspects of waterborne cross-border transport;
- Legal and economic aspects of waterborne transit transport.



Thank you for your kind attention



Mekong River Commission

P.O. Box 6101, 184 Fa Ngoum Road, Unit 18,
Ban Sithane Neua, Sikhottabong District, Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR
Telephone: (856-21) 263 263 Facsimile: (856-21) 263 264

L0004/09

5 January 2009

Dear Mr. Diao,

Subject: MRC Cooperation with China

Further to our constructive meeting at your offices in Bangkok on 13 November 2008 and the earlier visit to Beijing in October 2008, I would like to follow up on your suggestion to outline in more detail specific areas where cooperation between MRC and the People's Republic of China could be strengthened.

The aspects we have summarized in this letter build on our earlier discussions and at the meeting between MRC and Dialogue Partners held in Vientiane in August 2008. Again we would like to sincerely thank you and your delegation for the presentations and interventions made at that meeting.

Possible areas and modalities for strengthening our future cooperation include:

1. Reciprocal visits of Experts

Developing a better understanding of the current and future water resources contexts in the upper and lower parts of the Lancang-Mekong Basin and further building a solid relationship for technical cooperation would be facilitated by the exchange of experts from MRCS to work in China and for Chinese experts to work in MRCS. Visits to key areas in the basin could also be arranged. We have proposed a number of areas for possible reciprocal visits of experts starting in early 2009.

Mr. Diao Mingsheng
Permanent Representative of China to UNESCAP
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
57 Rachadapisek Road,
Bangkok 10310, Thailand
Tel.: 66 2 2450088, Fax: 66 2 2485898

Specific areas for exchanges of experts are:

Topic	Visit of MRCS experts to China	Visit of Chinese experts to MRCS
Hydropower development (3 weeks in Quarter 1, 2009)	Staff from MRC's Sustainable Hydropower Programme (SHP) and Basin Development Plan (BDP) Programme could work with the appropriate agency in China to understand the technical characteristics, impoundment schedules and operating rules of the cascade of projects planned for the Lancang River. Some field visits to completed dam: or dams under construction would be valuable to increase our understanding.	Experts from China could work within MRCS on the initial activities of the SHP and review preliminary assessment results from the various development scenarios in the BDP. Experts could take the opportunity of their time in the LMB to visit a number of important areas, including the Nam Theun 2 Hydropower Project, the Tonle Sap in Cambodia or the Mekong Delta.
Hydrodynamic modeling (3-6 weeks in Quarter 1-2, 2009)	Modelling specialists from MRC's Information and Knowledge Management Programme (IKMP) and BDP could work with the appropriate agency in China responsible for modelling the expected changes in river flows and sediment from the Lancang projects and comparing their results with those from MRC's models.	Experts from the appropriate Chinese agency could then work in Vientiane with the MRCS modeling team on a range of issues using MRC's Decision Support Framework covering flow, sediment and water quality models. Other areas include 2D and 3D models used for river modeling and bank erosion.
River Flood Forecasting (1 week Qtr 1-2, 2009)	Following the proposed visit of Chinese experts to MRCS (next column), we suggest a visit of MRCS experts to the Ministry of Water Resources in Beijing, the Bureau of Hydrology and Water Resources in Yunnan Province and perhaps one other major river basin in China in which flood forecasting plays a major role in water management.	We suggest an initial visit by Chinese experts to MRC's Regional Flood Management and Mitigation Centre in Phnom Penh for an introduction to MRC's flood forecasting system. This visit could include management level staff from the Ministry of Water Resources and the Yunnan Bureau of Hydrology and Water Resources and two operational forecasters. Visits to national flood forecasting centres could also be considered.

If there is agreement in principle that such exchanges of experts could go ahead, we would be pleased to work with the assigned agencies to develop more detailed agendas and logistical arrangements. We would cover the full costs of MRCS staff visiting China.

Other exchange visits to consider in the future could include (i) climate change modelling and adaptation, (ii) sediment monitoring and management, and (iii) water quality monitoring.

2. Sharing of hydro-meteorological data

2.1 Real time data

Building on our successful collaboration since 2003 in sharing daily hydro-meteorological data in the flood season for two sites at Jinghong and Man'An, we would like to explore the possibility of extending this cooperation throughout the full year. The data would be important to improve our overall understanding of the hydrology of the basin, to provide advance operational information on low water levels for shipping in the upper parts of Lao PDR and Thailand, and provide operational forecast information for the cascade of hydropower dams

proposed for the upper part of the Lower Mekong Basin. Furthermore it would, in the longer term, provide useful data for our work in climate change, drought forecasting and adaptation and water quality assessment. As discussed with the Ministry of Water Resources in October 2008, we recognize that this would incur additional data collection costs and we would be prepared to discuss the scale of such costs and how we might be able to contribute to them.

2.2 Data for calibration of MRC models

Flood Forecasting: To better understand and calibrate our flood forecasting models, we would like to undertake an assessment of rainfall projections on the flood forecast results. This would require comparison of past satellite obtained rainfall data with historic observed rainfall data from ground stations in China for 2006. The selection of 2006 for the calibration exercise is based on availability of both satellite data and ground observed data for the Lower Mekong Basin. In this regard we appreciate being provided with: (i) daily rainfall records for all stations in the Chinese part of the Lancang-Mekong basin for the flood period June to October 2006; (ii) daily water level and discharge data for the same period for river gauging stations on the Lancang mainstream (except for Jinghong which we already have); and (iv) reservoir operation data for the dams that were actually operational in the flood season of 2006.

Decision Support Framework: In addition to information on the impoundment plans and operation rules of dams in the Lancang River described in the table on exchange of experts above, we realize that sediment delivery into the river from the upstream part of the basin is important for the river basin as a whole. We would certainly benefit from a better understanding of the sediment loads (both bed load and suspended load) and any future changes that can be expected in the future as a result of dam construction in China and the operation of those dams in relation to sediment flushing. Data in this area would significantly enhance our modeling of sediment in the Lower Mekong Basin and therefore the advice that we can give to member countries and potential dam developers in the lower part of the mainstream. We would therefore be interested in obtaining the results of any sediment studies that have been carried out related to these issues as well as the data themselves.

Climate change: Also, as you are aware, we unfortunately had to postpone our regional forum on climate change and adaptation and this has now been re-scheduled to 2-3 February 2009. Cooperation between China and MRC in this area could significantly enhance creation of a baseline dataset and improve modeling of potential climate change impacts and thereby the development of mitigation and adaptation measures. This would have potential benefits for both China and MRC member states. We hope to be able to discuss these further with Chinese experts during the rescheduled regional forum in Bangkok in February.

3. Cooperation in preparing the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of mainstream dam proposals in the Lower Mekong Basin

Under our Hydropower Programme, member states have agreed that we will carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the mainstream dams planned for the Lower Mekong Basin. We plan to initiate a scoping stage for the SEA in January 2009 followed by the full assessment string in March 2009 over a period of about 9 months. As we discussed in our meeting with the China Hydropower and Water Resources Planning and Design General Institute, it would be very useful to involve them in the SEA to provide a better understanding of the likely changes that will occur as a result of the operation of dams in the Lancang River.

In particular, the expected changes in flow, sediment and water quality regimes and any issues regarding fisheries.

While we already have some data, we feel that the involvement of experts from the Institute would significantly enhance the available information and improve the outcome of the SEA. It would also be an excellent demonstration of the increased cooperation between China and the MRC. If such involvement is possible, we would be very pleased to discuss implementation modalities and timing.

4. Improving Navigation Safety

As commercial navigation on the Lancang-Mekong river increases in response to economic growth in the region and a realization of the environmental benefits of river transport over rail and road transport, there is a need to intensify our attention to considerations of safety and environmental protection. We look forward therefore to further cooperation between MRC and the Yunnan Administration of Navigation Affairs Bureau following the jointly sponsored seminar on Waterways Safety and Navigation Improvement held in Jinghong in October 2008. We also undertake to share copies of draft reports prepared for MRC on issues related to navigation safety and improvement, particular where they are relevant to the area covered by the Joint Committee on Coordination of Commercial Navigation (JCCCN).

This is a rather long letter, but perhaps predictably so as it signifies the broad range of areas where synergies exist in the sustainable development and management of the river system and the scope for technical cooperation between PR China and MRC. I hope that we will be able to realize this cooperation and look forward to our future discussions. If you feel there is a need for staff from MRCS to travel to China to further outline some of these ideas, please let us know, together with the appropriate focal points.

Finally let me pass on our best wishes to you and your colleagues for 2009.

Yours Sincerely



Jeremy Bird
Chief Executive Officer
MRC Secretariat

Cc: H.E Mr. Sin Niny
Secretary General
Cambodia National Mekong Committee
MRC JC Member for Cambodia

Mr. Chanthavong Saignasith
Director General
Lao National Mekong Committee
MRC JC Member for Lao PDR

Dr. Saksit Tridech
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MRC JC Member for Thailand
MRC JC Chairman for 2008/2009

Dr. Le Duc Trung
Acting Secretary General
Viet Nam National Mekong Committee
MRC JC Member for Viet Nam

中华人民共和国常驻联合国亚太经社会代表处
 PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE UNITED
 NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Yatai (2009) 011

13 April 2009

Dear Mr. Jeremy Bird,

Re: MRC Cooperation with China

With reference to your letter dated 5 January 2009, I would like to express my deep appreciation to your suggestions on the cooperation between MRC and China.

China attaches great importance to its relationship with MRC, which has been maintaining a good developing momentum since last year. China would like to continue its joint effort with MRC to push the cooperation forward in a stable and efficient manner.

After careful study on the suggestions made by the MRC, we hold the view that cooperation priority should be put in the area of navigation. The two sides should further strengthen their cooperation on the basis of the achievements made by the Seminar last year, and striving for concrete achievements in an early opportunity.

As for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of mainstream dam proposals in the Lower Mekong Basin, we regard it very meaningful to the sustainable development of hydropower, and will positively thinking about sending experts to join the relevant research, to exchanging information on related issues with Lower Mekong Basin countries.

Reciprocal visits of experts and sharing of hydro-meteorological data involves multi-sectors in China, we're making a careful study and

RECEIVED	
Date	17 APR 2009
Chrono #	824
Distribution	2009
CEO	
TCA	
WUP	
FAS	
HRD	
ICCS	JG
ENVD	
OPS/HP	
PD	
FSD	
RC/MC	

Address: Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Kingdom of Thailand
 57/10 Rajabhisek Road, Bangkok 10400 Thailand
 Tel: 66-2-2450088 ext. 2201/2202 Fax: 66-2-2485898 E-mail: escap@mfa.gov.cn

中华人民共和国常驻联合国亚太经社会代表处

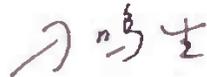
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

going through internal negotiation process currently. We'll reply to this in
due course.

I'm looking forward to working with you in the year 2009.

With best regards,

Sincerely Yours,



Diao Mingsheng

Permanent Representative of China to UNESCAP

Mr. Jeremy Bird

Chief Executive Officer

MRC Secretariat

P.O.Box 6101, 184 Fa Ngoum Road, Unit 18

Ban Sithane Neua, Sikhottabong District, Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR

Fax: 856-21-263264

Address: Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Kingdom of Thailand
57 Rachadaphisek Road, Bangkok 10400-Thailand
Tel: 66-2 2450088 ext. 2201/2202 Fax: 66-2 2485898 E-mail: escap@mfa.gov.cn



Mekong River Commission

P.O. Box 6101, 184 Fa Ngoum Road, Unit 18,
Ban Sihanouk Neua, Sikhottabong District, Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR
Telephone: (856-21) 263 263. Facsimile: (856-21) 263 264

No. L 0388/09

12 May 2009

Dear Mr. Diao,

Re: MRC Cooperation with China

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 13 April 2009, reaffirming the strong relationship between MRC and China, and committing to further strengthen the cooperation.

We welcome China's attention to safety and environment protection through improved navigation safety on the Lancang-Mekong River. Based on your guidance, the MRC will liaise further with Yunnan Administration of Navigation Affairs Bureau and propose some detailed suggestions building on the jointly sponsored Seminar held last October.

On one specific point, the Mekong River Commission and the Government of Belgium are organising a two-day seminar on inland waterway transport in Europe and South East Asia. The MRC is pleased to extend invitations to five Chinese delegates to take part in the Regional Seminar on Inland Waterway Transport to be held on 10-11 September in Ho Chi Minh City. Seminar themes of mutual interest to China and MRC include the legal and economic aspects of waterborne cross-border transport, and all aspects of inland waterway container and multimodal transport. Furthermore, the Regional Seminar will provide a platform for discussions on formulating a detailed Action Plan for further Navigation activities on the Lancang-Mekong River. The Navigation Programme would therefore like to invite the Chinese delegation to Ho Chi Minh City one day prior to the Seminar to hold bilateral talks on 9 September 2009 on areas for further collaboration.

It is encouraging to hear that China will positively consider sending experts to exchange information with regards to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), of the mainstream dams planned for the Lower Mekong Basin (Terms of Reference attached). I am pleased to note that the SEA scoping phase has now commenced. China's involvement in the study would be greatly welcomed as early as convenient. If necessary, we are able to support the logistical costs associated with Chinese experts travelling to Vientiane to take part in this process. Once the relevant authorities in China have decided on the principle of cooperation, we would be in a position to exchange ideas on the scope of their participation. China's engagement in informing this process would lead to a greater mutual understanding of hydropower operations and MRC's ability to provide independent analysis as was the case of the August 2008 flood.

Mr. Diao Mingsheng
Permanent Representative of China to UNESCAP
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
57 Rachadapisek Road,
Bangkok 10310, Thailand
Tel.: 66 2 2450088, Fax: 66 2 2485898

L:\2009\Colln\triest\China

Regarding reciprocal visits of experts and sharing of hydro-meteorological data, including real-time data and data for calibration of MRC models, we look forward to your suggestions in due course.

I will be in Bangkok on 20-22 May for a Ministerial meeting organised by the United Nations Environment Programme on transboundary water resources management and would welcome the opportunity to meet you again and discuss our continued partnership as well as arrangements for the upcoming Dialogue Meeting. If that is convenient, my office can be in touch with your colleagues to arrange a mutually convenient time.

In the meantime, I would again like to thank you and your colleagues for your continuing support to MRC.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Bird
Chief Executive Officer
MRC Secretariat

Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting
Mekong River Commission
28 July 2009
Vientiane, Lao PDR



J. – DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED MRC SUMMIT

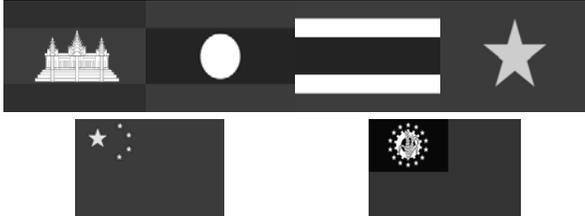
Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting
Mekong River Commission
28 July 2009
Vientiane, Lao PDR



Why an MRC Summit?

MRC response to address global and regional challenges:

- Reducing poverty
- Enhancing livelihood
- Achieving Sustainable energy development
- Adapting to climate change
- Addressing transboundary and cumulative effects





Objectives of the MRC Summit

Towards cooperative utilization and coordinated management of the Mekong River by:

- i. Reaffirming the highest level of political commitment of Member States to the successful implementation of the Mekong Agreement and the continued relevance of the MRC in the changing development context as the symbol of cooperation in sustainable water and related resources development to support socio-economic policies in the MRC countries;



Objectives Cont.

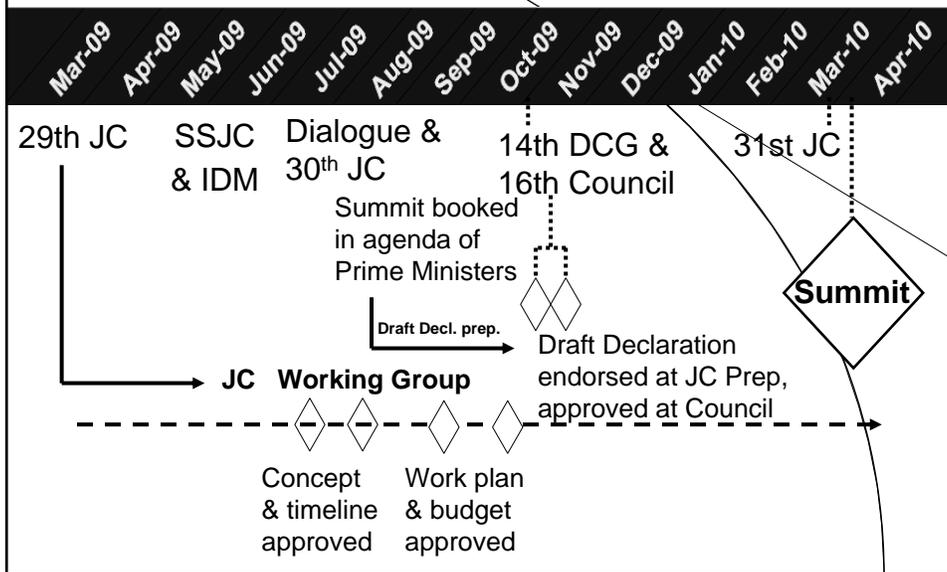
- ii. Providing a vision for the MRC for the next 15 -20 years
- iii. Strengthening the MRCs working relationship with China and Myanmar in the sustainable use of the Mekong River resources for mutual benefits of the riparian countries and their people; and
- iv. Enhancing cooperation between MRC, GMS, ASEAN and Development Partners aiming at the coordination and harmonization of actions toward sustainable development and management of the Mekong water resources;

Aimed to:

- v. Raise the image of the Mekong River Commission and its cooperation with other riparian countries, international organisations, development partners and other stakeholders.

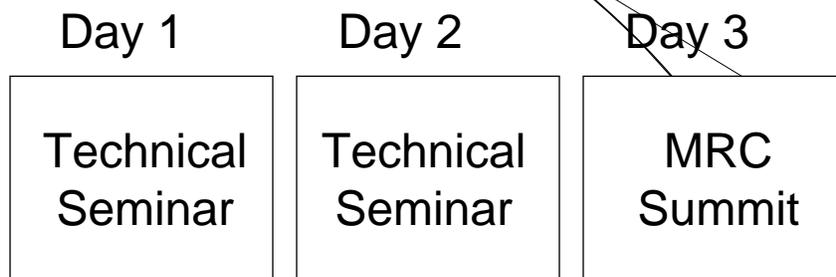


Timeline of the Summit



Summit Organisation

4 - 5 April, 2010*



* The host nation, Thailand, has agreed in principle on the MRC Summit dates. This is subject to the availability of the four Member Countries Prime Ministers



Next Steps for Dialogue Partners

Technical Seminars

Confirm participation of relevant focal points/line agencies to the MRC Summit Technical Seminars



Next Steps for Dialogue Partners Cont.

MRC Summit

Confirm appropriate level of Representation

- Should the four Member Countries send their Prime Ministers, it is expected that Dialogue Partners' would attend at Minister level

Possible launch of "**MRC+2**"

- To reflect technical level cooperation of Dialogue Partners-MRC

Fourteenth Dialogue Meeting
Mekong River Commission
28 July 2009
Vientiane, Lao PDR



THANK YOU

CLOSING STATEMENT

By

Mme. Monemany Nhoibouakong

Permanent Secretary

Water Resources & Environment Administration

Member of the MRC Joint Committee for the Lao PDR

Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2009/2010

H.E. Mr. Pich Dun

Secretary-General, Cambodia National Mekong Committee

Alternate Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Cambodia

Mr. Phonechaleun Nonthaxay

Director-General

Alternate Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Lao PDR

Lao National Mekong Committee

Dr. Saksit Tridech

Permanent Secretary; Chairman of the MRC Joint Committee 2008-2009

Thai National Mekong Committee

Dr. Le Duc Trung

Secretary – General

Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Viet Nam

Mr. Diao Mingsheng

Permanent Representative of China to UNESCAP

Head of Delegation of China

Mr. Ko Ko Oo

Director, Directorate of Water Resources & Improvement of River System

Head of Delegation of Myanmar

Mr. Jeremy Bird

Chief Executive Officer of MRC Secretariat

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

Colleagues and friends,

We have reached the end of the fourteenth dialogue meeting. I am pleased to say that I feel this was a productive day.

We have talked listened and shared ideas in a way that demonstrates the MRC's commitment to productive and open dialogue.

The spirit of cooperation between the four Member Countries is one of the main strengths of the organization. This is emboldened with the cooperation that we have been lucky enough to see from China and Myanmar here today.

I look forward to seeing the progress relating to water-use development and Lancang/Mekong Hydropower Development. The possibilities for cooperation in navigation

are very exciting – and could have a huge impact on the lives and economic situation of ordinary people living in the basin.

Tomorrow – many of you here will attend the 30th Meeting of the MRC Joint Committee. Today's discussions have provided me with a valuable perspective into many of the issues that will be discussed tomorrow.

In closing today - I would like to extend a warm thank-you to delegates who attended – particularly – our friends from The People's Republic of China and The Union of Myanmar. I wish to express my gratitude to the MRC Secretariat, Mr. Jeremy Bird, and the Secretariat staff for arranging logistical support for this meeting today in such a professional fashion.

I hope you have a pleasant stay in Vientiane and I look forward to welcoming you at the dinner tonight.

Let us adjourn to take the group photos.

-ends-