

URGENT

No 0630/ 867



Thai National Mekong Committee Secretariat
Department of Water Resources
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๒๙ February B.E. 2559 (2016)

Dear Sir,

Subject: Response to the Statement by Local People on Dams in the Mekong Region

Department of Water Resources (DWR) as Thai National Mekong Committee Secretariat (TNMCS) acknowledges the receipt of your letter dated 26 November 2015 regarding the Statement by local people on dams in the Mekong Region in which their concerns and requests are raised and conveyed to DWR for its further consideration and response.

First of all, we would like to inform you that DWR has carried out its works toward the path of sustainable development of the Lower Mekong Region, which underlines the principle stipulated in the 1995 Mekong Agreement. Regarding the ongoing development of hydropower projects on the Mekong Mainstream, we are fully aware of potential impacts of proposed projects to livelihood of local people and ecological balance of the river.

In January 2015, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment sent official letter to the Government of Lao PDR regarding a Prior Consultation of the Don Sahong Hydropower Project which raised our concerns on the potential transboundary impacts of the Project, including ecological system, fisheries ecology, fish migration, seasonal crop and livelihood of Thai people. It was also essentially recommended further that the proper impact assessment and appropriate mitigation measures be conducted for the sake of our environment and quality of life for the people in the region.

These concerns were brought up and gathered at extensive public consultation meetings with active participation from concerned local stakeholders in eight provinces situated along the Mekong River during the PNPCA processes. In this case, it is certain that local voices and concerns have been fully heard and addressed by TNMC through the regional cooperation and working

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mechanisms specified under the 1995 Mekong Agreement. This is to make sure that the decision-making processes with the participation of local stakeholders have been properly assessed and made, and this will contribute to sustainable solution to the Mekong river and people of the region.

In addition, DWR has realized of the long-term impacts of the proposed development projects in the Mekong Region, it has initiated a comprehensive impact study, among other things, with a fifteen-year timeframe starting from the year 2014. The long-term relevant scientific data and information and database system have been carried out and will be set up in order to monitor and assess the past, present and future of changes in the Mekong river. This study will certainly help us to come up with clearly concrete policy direction associated with prevention and mitigation measures with proven scientific evidence of how those impacts to the Mekong river and the people will be protected and minimized.

It is believed that our course of action at regional and national levels toward the cooperation of the Mekong river basin will contribute to sustainability and prosperity of the whole region.

Hopefully this information will be of some use.

Yours sincerely,



(Mr. Suphot Tovichakchaikul)
Director General
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