

Melia Hotel Hanoi, Viet Nam November 13-14, 2012









With support from **Australian AID**

About the Forum

The CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food had the pleasure to co-host this event with the Institute of Water Resources Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam; the Mekong Program on Water, Environment and Resilience M-Power); and the International Water Management Institute.

At this second Mekong Hydropower Forum, we explored the relationships between water, food and energy. Delegates considered these relationships in the light of the rapid development of hydropower within the Mekong River Basin. Water, food and energy are all essential resources in the development of the Mekong countries, both now and in the future. How can we manage these relationships sustainably, to make sure that the development goals and aspirations are met in fair and inclusive manner?

This year, the Forum coincided with results emerging from CPWF-Mekong and its network of partners. The sessions were organised around the following scales:

At the dam site: options for producing food, and sustaining livelihoods around dams, valuing additional use-values for dams.

In the catchment: managing dam cascades.

Across the basin: governing for water, food and energy.

The Forum at a Glance

Day 1 - November 13, 2012

09.00-	Opening ceremony		
10.30			
10.30	Coffee		
11.00-	1: Starting Small:	2: The Values of Multiple	3: Planning and Decision
12.30	Hydropower Dams for	Uses	Support Tools to Deal with
	Water, Food and Energy		the Nexus
12.30	Lunch		
13.30-	4: Water, Food and	5: Sharing for Energy,	6: Hydropower Governance
15.00	Energy in Catchments:	Food and Water	and its Implications for
	Managing Catchments to		Upstream/Downstream
	Maximise the Benefits of		Negotiations and
	Water Infrastructure		Resettlements (Part 1)
15.00	Coffee		
15.30-	7: Dams, Livelihoods and	8: Gender, Water and	6: Hydropower Governance
17.00	Flows	Food	and its Implications for
			Upstream/Downstream
			Negotiations and
			Resettlements (Part 2)
18.00-	Banquet		

Day 2 – November 14, 2012

09.00-	Orientation		
09.30			
09.30-	9: Mekong Experiences With	10: The Good Dam	11. Research Challenges In
11.00	Sustainable Hydropower		Water Governance:
	Development (Part 1)		Institutions, Environment
			and Livelihoods (Part 1)
11.00	Coffee		
11.30-	9: Mekong Experiences With	12: Managing	11: Research Challenges In
13.00	Sustainable Hydropower	Controversy	Water Governance:
	Development (Part 2)		Institutions, Environment
			And Livelihoods (Part 2)
13.00-	Lunch		
14.00-	13: Entitlements and Benefit-	14: The Results of an	15: Donorship for Water,
15.30	Sharing Amongst Dam-	Exploration into the	Food and Energy in the
	Affected Communities	Water Food Energy	Greater Mekong
		Nexus in the Mekong	Subregion
15.30	Coffee		
16.00	Closing		

Opening Remarks

Dr Vu Van Thang, Chief, Directorate of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Water, food and energy are of primary importance to all countries. Economic progress is increasing throughout the region, but with that comes greater exploitation of natural resources. Thus the balance of water, food and energy needs to be managed better in the face of growing populations and economic stresses.

Viet Nam faces challenges in managing water, partly due to the construction of dams in other countries. Energy production has improved greatly over the last twenty years but is still lower per capita in Viet Nam than in neighbouring countries, so it needs to increase further in order for the country to progress economically. However, economic progress also requires food and water, so balancing these demands is another challenge.

Agriculturally, Viet Nam has achieved a lot, but more needs to be done. The forum will help us understand the needs of the region regarding food, water and energy moving into the future.

HE Mr Hugh Borrowman, Australian Ambassador to Viet Nam

It is a pleasure to assist in opening this second Mekong Forum on Water, Food and Energy. The Australian government, through the Australian aid program, is proud to be supporting this event.

Across the globe, sources of water, food and energy are all coming under greater pressure and, along with climate change, these pressures are increasingly intertwined. Policies seeking to address problems in one area can have unintended impacts in another.

Peace, prosperity and security in the region are strongly linked to choices made about sharing, developing and managing water, food and energy. Shortages of any of these could lead to community unrest and, ultimately, geopolitical instability.

Within the Greater Mekong Subregion, as in Australia, there is scope for much greater recognition of the interdependencies between these issues, and the consequent trade-offs and synergies. Dr Thanh alluded to these.

For example, there have been cases in both the Greater Mekong Subregion and Australia where policies to boost agricultural output through cheap or free water allocations or electricity for pumping stations have led to over-exploitation of water resources.

The need to do more in this area has been recognised by the Australian government.

The Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Julia Gillard MP, delivered a White Paper on Australia's role in the Asia Century to provide a roadmap for Australia to navigate the coming decades. This roadmap is for the whole of Australia – governments, business, labour unions, and the broader community. The White Paper outlines an ambitious set of national objectives and pathways to guide Australia to 2025.

Under the policy goal of building sustainable security, Australia has committed to work with Asia by "contributing to good policies and sustainable management practices", and "strengthening capacity at all levels of partner governments to manage water resources". A major part of this effort has been through the Australian Mekong Water Resources Program, which has been partnering with governments of the GMS, civil society organisations, research institutes and the Mekong River Commission.

I note that Session 15 of the program is being hosted by the AusAID Mekong Water Resources Unit to discuss what donors can do to support the region in managing future needs for water, food and energy. I encourage you to participate in this session, which will help to inform AusAID's next phase of this program.

The issues you will be discussing over the next two days are central to the future economic development, poverty reduction, regional cooperation, and peace and stability of the Greater Mekong Subregion. May it lead to ongoing dialogue and collaboration to better manage water, food and energy for the decades to come.

Dr. Bui Nam Sach, Director, Institute of Water Resources Planning

The Mekong basin is a source of civilisation and the cradle of Asian cultures, and millions of people are dependent on the Mekong basin. Fish is an important source of protein and fundamental to food security for the 60 million people living along the Mekong. There are over 12,500 fish species in the region, many with commercial uses.

One of the challenges today is excessive use of water. Other challenges are also coming to the fore, particularly the responsibility to share resources between various countries. Many changes and challenges are due to economic development along the river.

Booming economies also demand more energy as well as more water. There are both credits and debits from development – two major debits are the threats to food security and pressure on resources.

Twelve per cent of rice exports worldwide come from this area, and this major industry is just one example of the many that could be adversely affected by changes to hydrology resulting from dam construction. The Mekong delta is particularly vulnerable to impacts from what other countries do upstream. It is my hope that recommendations and proposals will emerge from this forum regarding economic growth, the sustainable use of resources, food security, and maintaining biodiversity. Let us not forget that the social welfare of millions of people is at stake.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Bui Nam Sach, Director, Institute of Water Resources Planning

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to deliver these closing remarks of the second CPWF Mekong Forum on Water, Food and Energy.

Our forum this year has been brilliantly organized by the Challenge Program on Water and Food, the Institute of Water Resources Planning, M-POWER and the International Water Management Institute, with financial support from Australian Aid. Together they led the forum to a success and satisfied an immense agenda. Thanks are also due to the chairs of the many sessions who led discussions to a very successful conclusion.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This year the Forum was attended by over 200 participants from 15 countries, including six countries in Mekong region and many international organisations.

Through all the presentations and discussions, we all hope decision makers, media and the public can see the links between sustainable hydropower development and water, food and energy security. I feel confident since this is the area where CPWF and different international donors are playing a critical role and have shown their tireless efforts in supporting Mekong countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank to Australian Aid for your generous support. Thank you for being with us.

I hope the forum sends a message to governments in the Mekong region about the problems we are facing and the transformations we must undertake to achieve an optimum state of basin development.

In closing, I would like to say a special thank you to the support staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, and to the press for making our discussions available to the public. We sincerely appreciate your efforts.

Thank you once again for coming to Hanoi and thank you for your contributions in the form of ideas, critical comments and insights. Let us keep this conversation going and collectively build a sustainable future.

I would like to officially close the 2nd Mekong Forum on Food, Water and Energy.

Thank you very much.

Keynote Address



Stuart Orr, WWF International Dams on the Mekong River: Lost Fish Protein and the Implications for Land and Water Resources

View the PowerPoint presentation

Water, food and energy tradeoffs are becoming increasingly important worldwide, not just on the Mekong. Only now are we beginning to gain understanding of the impacts of hydropower development.

Our research used the concept of a land and water footprint, the idea being to take water out of the 'water box' and study the connections between land and water. We asked the question, how much land and how much water is needed to replace protein from fish lost due to hydropower development? There are various pathways to replace lost protein, but what are the institutional and infrastructure changes we need to make?

Not all proteins are the same because of differing micronutrients, so replacing fish with other proteins is quite complex. The increases in water and land needed to mitigate the impact of dams are significant. Land conversion rates (to agriculture) in all countries in the basin are historically low, so there is already a red flag there. Also, what are the implications for the poor of changing from a fish-based to a land-based agricultural and economic structure? The livestock needed to replace fish protein need more land and more water.

Discussion

A representative from Cambodia pointed out that 81% of protein consumed in Cambodia is from fish. In particular, small fish consumed whole provides calcium and other micronutrients. How will this source of calcium, for example, be replaced by other protein sources?

A Vietnamese delegate made the point that dams will impact land use in the Mekong delta, which is a big rice production area, and that the social impacts of changing uses of land and water also need to be addressed.

Stuart's response was that we must keep in mind the benefits of hydropower in increasing energy production, so a mature discussion of tradeoffs is needed and hopefully this research will assist in starting that discussion. Nobody is saying dams don't have benefits but the tradeoffs are very tight and discussion should be framed with that in mind.

Another issue raised was that often water professionals are very aware of the daily flux in the water sector but unaware of what is happening in the agricultural sector. To what extent can progress in agriculture mitigate losses due to hydropower? Flood damage also needs to be considered in regard to agriculture.

Hydropower is necessary because growth is not possible without energy. Who benefits and how do you ensure benefits are shared by everybody? Stuart's response was to be cautious of the overselling of benefits of dams by their operators. Food security is crucial but not as well understood or as well advertised as energy benefits, as it primarily impacts the poor.

Agricultural innovation is necessary to ensure food security, especially if irrigable land is all used up, as rain fed agriculture is not nearly as efficient as irrigated agriculture.

Keynote Address



The Food-Water-Energy Nexus: What Is It, and What Does It Mean For The Mekong?

Larry Harrington, Research Director, CPWF View the PowerPoint presentation

The Challenge program works worldwide and the water-food-energy nexus is an issue in every major river basin in the developing world. Lessons can be learned from other countries' experiences.

Population is increasing everywhere so these issues are both pressing and serious and need to be considered carefully, especially as all countries on the Mekong share the water and its resources. However, upstream interests can differ from downstream interests so dialogue between these communities is important.

Society is composed of different groups and creating equitable outcomes requires creativity and innovation. Successful outcomes have been achieved in other countries such as India and Egypt thanks to good research and lateral thinking, and the challenge for Mekong countries is to find similarly creative solutions to the issues they face. Win-win outcomes are possible.

SESSION 1 - STARTING SMALL: HYDROPOWER FOR WATER, FOOD AND ENERGY

Date:	Time:	11.00-12.30	Led by: IWMI	Facilitator: Kim Geheb
13 November, 2012				

About this session: What can individual dams do to not only meet their electricity generating outputs, but also to meet livelihood and water management goals? This session explores practical, evidence-based ideas for how dams can be planned, managed and operated in ways that can meet multiple goals beyond energy production alone. It presents the findings from new research, reminds participants of what is already known, and considers why these ideas are useful and how they can be built into hydropower planning frameworks in the Mekong.

Notes on the session: Presentations were followed by group discussions on how hydropower companies can improve resettlement and livelihood support in a rapidly changing world, and how they can best use decision support systems in that process. There was consensus that communication between companies and resettled communities needs to improve, and that long term monitoring of resettled communities is needed.

SESSION 2 - THE VALUES OF MULTIPLE USES

Date: 13 November, 2012	Time: 11.00-12.30	Led by: WorldFish	Facilitator:
			Benoit Laplante

About this session: Because hydropower is intended to produce energy, we typically know a lot about the value of hydropower. But what is the value of other opportunities – recreational, food production, flood management and transport – and how do these contribute to the overall value of the dam? This session builds on research that has explored these kinds of values, drawing on experiences in both the hydropower sector and the irrigation sector. In addition, the session will consider whether losses as a result of hydropower in one sector (e.g. fisheries) can be compensated by increases in other sectors (e.g. new opportunities emerging as a result of dam development).

What people said

"I wish there was more time to discuss. The Cambodian water resource planners would have had some interesting things to say."

SESSION 3 - PLANNING AND DECISION SUPPORTING TOOLS TO DEAL WITH THE NEXUS

Date:	Time:	11.00-12.30	Led by: SEI	Facilitator:
13 November, 2012				Mr Suon Seng

About this session: This session will introduce participants to a new analytical platform for the water-energy nexus with a focus on hydropower. Two modelling tools SEI has developed

[&]quot;The first presentation was too technical and had too many graphs and figures."

are now dynamically linked: WEAP (Water Evaluation and Planning System) and LEAP (Longrange Energy Alternatives Planning System). WEAP is a scenario-based tool for integrated water resources planning which provides a framework for planning and policy analysis. WEAP allows the examination of impacts of climate change, the role of different technologies in both supply-side and demand-side management, and the inter-relationships with energy. LEAP is an integrated modelling tool that can be used to track energy consumption, production and resource extraction in all sectors of an economy. This will then be put into a larger context linking food and climate change. SEI will share its experiences with these tools in other regions and invite participants to share their thoughts on the possible uses of these and other tools to deal with the water-food-energy nexus in the Mekong region.

What people said

"A bit technical."

"Modelling is hampered by lack of data and poor data quality."

"Modelling has some value is shaping the discourse on dams."

SESSION 4 - WATER, FOOD AND ENERGY IN CATCHMENTS: MANAGING CATCHMENTS TO MAXIMISE THE BENEFITS OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Date:	13 November, 2012	Time:	13.30-15.00	Led by: ICEM	Facilitator:
					Jeremy Carew-Reid

About this session: In the Mekong, evidence of managing and planning dams at catchment scales is slim; and yet the cumulative impact of dams on catchments and the basin as a whole is likely to be considerable. But managing hydropower at these scales is complex, so how can it be done? This session draws on research and experience from elsewhere in the world, and how planning at this scale can meet the goals of producing more food and energy and managing water at the same time.

What people said

"It's hard to imagine why this isn't getting more attention."

"It would seem the whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

SESSION 5 - SHARING FOR ENERGY, FOOD AND WATER

Date: 13 November,	Time: 13.30-15.00	Led by: IWMI	Facilitator:
2012			Chu Thai Hoanh

About this session: All hydropower represents give and take - there are costs to local communities and the environment which are, in turn, benefits to hydropower; for example, poor land use upstream can cause rapid sedimentation on hydropower reservoirs. Do benefit sharing ideas, such as Payment for Environmental Services (PES), represent good

ways to 'pay' for conservation, increase food production, and develop energy supplies? In this session, we draw on Viet Nam's considerable experience with PES; we learn from experiences in benefit sharing from other resource sectors and other countries; and we contemplate models for how benefit sharing can mitigate negative impacts for hydropower-affected communities, while benefitting individual dams as well as cascades.

Notes on the session: Four case studies were presented, followed by a Q&A session and discussion. Some of the questions raised in this session:

- Who pays for ecosystem services? How can you put a price on these services?
- A challenge is that one function may provide many services, whereas one service may be a result of many ecosystem functions. How do you then work out payments?
- Is it possible to alleviate poverty and preserve ecosystems at the same time?
- Can benefit sharing and PES contribute to sustainable hydropower development?

SESSION 6 - HYDROPOWER GOVERNACE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR UPSTREAM/ DOWNSTREAM NEGOTIATIONS AND RESETTLEMENT

Date:	Time:	Led by:	Facilitator:
13 November, 2012	Part 1: 13.30-15.00	M-POWER	Lu Xing
	Part 2: 15.30-17.00		

About this session: This session aims to highlight preliminary findings and methodological issues from fellows of the CPWF M-POWER Research Fellowship Program on Water Governance in the Mekong Region. Presentations and discussion will focus on whether or not hydropower governance responds to, enables or constrains peoples' upstreamdownstream dynamics and negotiations. In addition, the session will address general concerns from water governance research around flood and environmental management, their institutional arrangements, and how they are supportive of livelihoods dependent on water resources.

What people said

"The session on resettlement covered a lot of issues: the role of China in the region, social change in Myanmar and much more. This was an exciting session and a very useful exchange of information."

"It was really interesting to see the similarities between the challenges of resettlement in Laos and in Viet Nam. Perhaps the Lao government has better experience working with companies on resettlement."

SESSION 7 - DAMS, LIVELIHOODS AND FLOWS

Date:	Time: 15.30-17.00	Led by: IWMI	Facilitator:
14 November, 2012			

About this session: Can the flow regulation service of large reservoir dams in the Mekong be improved to maximise the benefits for people living downstream? Is it possible to build consideration of downstream fisheries and other livelihood needs into dam operation,

particularly in cascades of dams? What lessons can be learned from other countries and regions?

What people said

"Where is the 'political' and 'economic' in the nexus? It seems everyone is very 'scientific'."



See more Forum photos

SESSION 8 - GENDER, WATER AND FOOD

Date:	Time: 15.30-17.00	Led by:	Facilitators:
14 November,		Oxfam Australia	Khanh Ngy Thi;
2012			Green ID. Michael
			Simon; Oxfam
			Australia

About this session: Men and women use and perceive water and related natural resources very differently. Understanding the intersection between water and food from the perspectives of men and women is critical to assessing food and water security and how resilience is realised. Yet in many situations of project development and planning women are under-represented and under-considered.

This session will look at how environmental and social assessment and hydropower planning processes include and consider gender - in particular we look at Mekong specific guidelines and key assessment tools in the hydropower sector: the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocols, and the Rapid Strategic Assessment Tool, to look at how women's rights, considerations and voices could be better included.

Notes on the session: This was a consultative session as Oxfam has only recently received funding for this project and was looking for input. The fundamental questions asked were: Would hydropower look different if women were making the decisions? How can we facilitate involvement of female stakeholders, and what would be the economic benefits of that?

What people said

"The gender session was an exciting discussion and very participatory. It was useful to think explicitly about the role of women in hydropower."

"A good judge of a country's development is the health of its children. As long as we have countries where women are primary caregivers, any benefit sharing mechanism that doesn't exclusively target women is missing three quarters of the debate."

SESSION 9 - MEKONG EXPERIENCES WITH SUSTAINABLE HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT

Date:	Time:	Led by:	Facilitator:
14 November, 2012	Part 1: 09.30-11.00	CPWF	Lu Xing
	Part 2: 11.30-13.00		

About this session: Since 2009, many organisations, such as CPWF, M-POWER, and WWF, have been working together to promote sustainable hydropower development in the Mekong Basin. Several Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol trials and assessments were conducted, and roundtable and dialogue activities organised among stakeholders from both the upper and lower Mekong Basin, as well as study visits to learn about best practices in sustainable hydropower development worldwide. During the process, certain issues have emerged that need to be further addressed, such as: the opportunities and challenges in the existing mechanism in the region for sustainable hydropower development; the capacity gap of employing different types of toolkits in the Mekong region; and which cooperation mechanism in the Mekong region promotes best practices in sustainable hydropower development.

This session looks at insights from hydropower developers and NGOs on the benefits and the challenges of implementing different toolkits, and to further explore ways forward for sustainable hydropower development in the Mekong region.

What people said

"We think that resettlement work is the most difficult task but it is also fundamental to the success of a hydropower project, which means that if we do a good job in resettlement work, we're already halfway through to the success of the project. It's good to consult the community and listen to their opinions and their requirements."

"We need to include the costs of sustainability measures in the cost of the project so they can be reflected in the final price of the electricity."

"The future of hydropower depends on having good environmental and social safeguards; if they can't be managed adequately you have to think about whether the project should go forward or not."

SESSION 10 - THE GOOD DAM

Date:	Time: 09.30-11.00	Led by:	Facilitator:
14 November, 2012		CPWF	Michael Victor

About this session: What is a 'good dam'? This session considers the issue of dams at a fundamental level. What defines the 'good' dam, and what is a 'bad' one. This highly participatory session looks to participants to reveal what they think a dam should achieve and what it means for their countries. The purpose of the session is not to decide whether dam building is "good" or "bad", but how it can be done better considering social, environmental and institutional considerations. The session will use excerpts from the recently released film "Mekong" to generate the discussion.

The film was produced and directed by Douglas Varchol with support from CPWF, IUCN and Sida. The film features stories of Mekong citizens up and down the river, from fishers on the Tonle Sap, to activists still fighting at the Pak Mun dam in Thailand, to a vice minister from Laos convinced he can build one of Southeast Asia's most sustainable dams. Filmed in four countries, and narrated and subtitled in four languages, it includes footage of China's Mekong [Lancang] dams, as well as on-site footage of the controversial Xayabouli dam in Laos.

What people said

"In some cases the good dam is the dam that is not built."

"A good dam is one that supports civil society."

"A good or bad dam is decided by the operators and investors and whether they listen to people's concerns, more than the physical structure of the dam."

"Are proposed dams based on proven technologies? The Mekong mainstream should never be used as a testing ground for unproven technologies."

"Why not prove good dams are possible by fixing the ones that have already been proven to be bad?"

SESSION 11 - RESEARCH CHALLENGES IN WATER GOVERNANCE: INSTITUTIONS, ENVIRONMENT AND LIVELIHOODS

Date:	Time:	Led by: M-POWER	Facilitator:
14 November, 2012	Part 1: 09.30-11.00		Kanokwan Manorom
	Part 2: 11.30-13.00		

About this session: This session highlights preliminary findings and methodological issues from fellows of the CPWF M-POWER's Research Fellowship Program on Water Governance in the Mekong Region. Presentations and discussion will focus on the livelihood conditions of people resettled as a result of hydropower development. In addition, the session will address general concerns from water governance research around flood and environmental management, their institutional arrangements, and how they are supportive of livelihoods dependent on water resources.

What people said

"This is a good body of work. How do we bring it to wider attention?"

SESSION 12 - MANAGING CONTROVERSY

Date:	Time: 11.30-13.00	Led by: D	Facilitator:
14 November, 2012		Foundation for	Sokem Pech
		Doing Good Work	

About this session: Dam construction creates tremendous controversy. How can this be managed more effectively? In this session, participants will deliberate on the management of these controversies, how they can be diminished, and how some degree of consensus can be achieved between competing interests – including agriculture, irrigation, fisheries and water management sectors, to deliver a better dam.

The goal of this session is to encourage constructive discussion about how best to manage controversy among competing interests in hydropower development outside the typical science meeting 'present and question' format.

Notes on the session:

A fictional dam in Africa, shared by two countries where the dammed river forms their borders, was used to illustrate how easily controversy can escalate once it begins. A presentation outlining the controversy generated by the dam's construction was followed by a role playing session. A panel was formed representing the governments of the two countries, the hydropower developer, a minister for irrigation and a representative from the fishing community. The audience played journalists so the session resembled a press conference, and some hard questions were asked.

What people said

"This was a fantastic session; it should be done in all these kinds of forums."

[&]quot;Rather amazing what can be done with small grants."

"The panel could have been more controversial in the role playing, they tried too hard to reach consensus."

"This was a very creative presentation, and it was a great idea to use a fictional situation to remove any sensitivity from it."

SESSION 13 - ENTITLEMENTS AND BENEFIT-SHARING AMONGST DAM-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Date:	Time:	14.00-15.30	Led by: M-POWER	Facilitators:
14 November, 2012				Edsel Sajor, DaoTrong
				Tu, Le Thi Thu Huong,
				Rutmanee Ongsakul,
				Lilao Bouapao, Suon
				Seng

About this session: What might be the essential elements of a fair and equitable program for resettlement and development for affected communities in the context of dam construction in the Mekong? What is the agenda and what are the necessary mechanisms for implementation for the scheme to be responsive to their present and future livelihoods and development? What can be learned from cases of current and past resettlement and development planning and actions about adequacy and implementation issues in officially claimed equitable compensation and livelihood programs? How might such packages have been framed alternatively for more desirable outcomes?

This session will focus on addressing these essential issues of entitlements and benefitsharing of dam-induced affected communities and aims to stimulate thinking around the notion of an appropriate and comprehensive framing of the terms and mechanisms that ought to constitute an equitable resettlement, and long-term development for WSI-affected communities in the Mekong.

What people said

"I would have liked to see more talk about remediation and what you do when a dam has been in operation for a while but has had negative impacts on the people that haven't been remediated. How do you get benefits back to those people?

"The presentation was good summary of important points. I liked the debate portion of the session but the prompt/question was unclear, which made the discussion frustrating."

SESSION 14 - THE RESULTS OF AN EXPLORATION INTO THE WATER FOOD ENERGY NEXUS IN THE MEKONG

Date:	Time: 14.00-15.30	Led by: CSIRO	Facilitator:
14 November, 201			John Ward

About this session: Mekong development investments are discussed and assessed from the perspective of a single sector, such as energy. A singular focus on meeting energy security objectives can create unexpected side-effects that potentially jeopardise water and food

security. Understanding cross-sectoral implications in the trans-boundary context of the Mekong Region is critical to jointly achieving national aspirations of water, food and energy security, and to avoid conflicting, incompatible interventions. This session presents the results of a five country, multi-sectoral assessment of six major development strategies currently being contemplated for the wider Mekong Region. The assessment employed mixed methods, addressing investments such as hydropower, irrigation, water diversion, and responses to sea-level rise. The primary objective of the session is to provide an open invitation and forum to discuss the findings of water, food and energy connectivity and the trans-boundary implications for the Mekong.

What people said

"Irrigation is not a silver bullet for poverty alleviation."

"People adapt based on their values and beliefs, willingness to adapt, and capacity to adapt."

"A lot of the connectivity in the water, food and energy sectors is in fish, land use change, migration, labour shifts, and management of energy demand. If you get the critical nodes right, you might safeguard the nexus in a way that you preserve the security of all three sectors."

"The nexus is not water OR energy OR food, it's water AND energy AND food."

SESSION 15 - DONORHSIP FOR WATER, FOOD AND ENERGY IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION

Date:	Time: 14.00-15.30	Led by: AusAID	Facilitator:
14 November, 2012			John Dore

About this session: What can donors do better to support governments, business, research institutions and civil society in improving governance of water, food and energy? There are many sources of policy engagement, technical assistance and funding available for better management of water and food. Donors only represent a small subset of these actors.

In this context: to what areas should donors provide their policy, technical assistance, or funding support in the future? Are there some problems in the water-food-energy nexus where donor assistance is the missing ingredient or could be the catalyst? Are there some areas where donor support has been less than effective in the past, and either needs to be improved or left to other actors?

The Australian Government's Mekong Water Resources Program has been working since 2007 to strengthen institutions, build reliable knowledge and inform decision-making for water resources management in the Greater Mekong Subregion. A new phase will commence in 2013. The session is part of the consultation process for determining what the program should do in the next phase.

Notes on the session: After a brief presentation, participants were invited to identify one issue they believe is important to focus on over the next few years. How can AusAID provide assistance in these areas? Responses were many and varied.

What people said

"Where are the other stakeholders? The people on the ground, particularly the rural poor, are not represented in this room."

"The session was very interactive and participatory."

"This was a good use of the gathering of so many people and so much expertise in one place."

Cambodia

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