



Regional Collaboration on Hydropower Development on International Rivers

Xaypaseuth Phomsoupha, Ph.D.
Director General
Department of Energy Business
Ministry of Energy and Mines

Seville, Spain
9-11 October 2017

The Mekong River



- Watershed in Tibet Plateau
- The basin drains a total land area of approximately 795, 500km²
- The total length around 3,000 miles from its watershed to the South

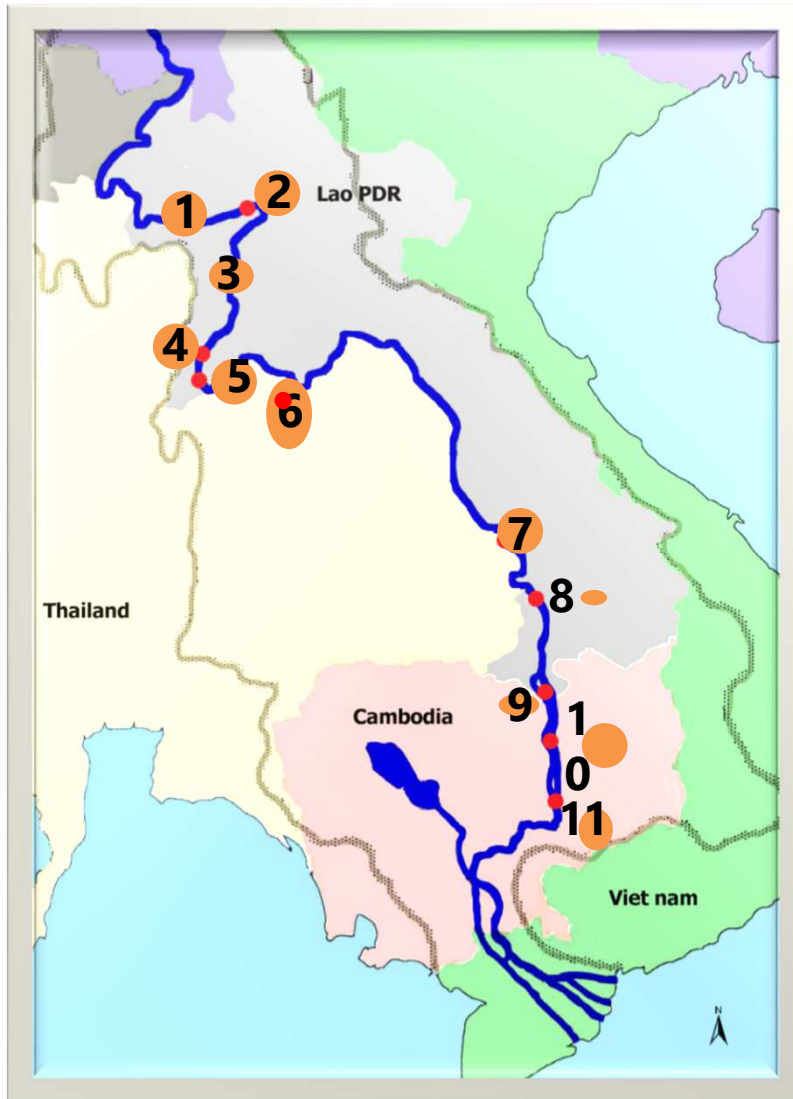
Geographical Feature

- Flowing from its watershed through three provinces in China
- Parts making borders between Myanmar and Laos, and between Laos and Thailand
- Many parts traversing the territories of Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam
- Emptying into the South China Sea

Hydrological Characteristic

- Upper stretch in China contributes 16% of the total flow
- Lower stretch from the Laos-China border to the South China Sea
- Main tributaries mostly in the territory of Laos contribute 36% of the total flow
- The rest is from other basin areas

Hydropower Projects on Lower Stretch



1. Pak Beng	980 MW
2. Luang Prabang	1,410 MW
3. Xayaburi	1,285 MW
4. Pak Lay	1,320 MW
5. Sanakham	570 MW
6. Pak Chom	1,079 MW
7. Ban Koum	2,000 MW
8. Phou Ngoy	800 MW
9. Don Sahong	260 MW
10. Stung Treng	980 MW
11. Sambor	460 MW
Total	11,144 MW

Mekong River Commission-MRC

- Establishment: 1957
- Members: Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam
- Observers: Myanmar, and Yunnan Province of China
- Functions: To jointly manage the shared water sources and sustainable development

Action

- In passive action at the outset due to unstable political climate during the 1960s' and the early 1970s
- In full action when the Agreement for the Cooperation and Sustainable development was accorded in 1995
- Collaboration on hydropower on the lower stretch materialized when Laos initiated the first hydropower project in 2007

Policy Moving to Action

- The first hydropower project named “Xayaburi HPP” with an installed capacity of 1,285MW
- Study began 2007
- Prior consultation undertaken during 2011-1012
- Construction started end 2012
- Commercial operation expected 2019

MRC Requirements- 1995 Mekong Agreement

	Notification	Prior Consultation	Agreement
<u>Tributaries</u> Wet & Dry Season	XXX		
<u>Mainstream</u> 1. Wet Season			
- Intra-basin Use	XXX		
- Inter-basin Diversion		XXX	
2. Dry season			
-Intra-basin Use		XXX	
- Inter-basin Diversion			XXX

Prior Consultation

- Dispatching pattern of HPP
- Water release/quality
- Sediment flushing
- Navigation
- Fish passage
- Possible transboundary impacts

Post-Consultation Works

- The completion of the prior consultation has left additional works for Laos
- Post-consultation process works to address concerns of MRC member countries and stakeholders
- Accepting works after the consultation process, Laos was required to redesign the project to comply with the MRC guidelines/requirements

Post-Consultation Works

- The completion of the prior consultation has left additional works for Laos
- Post-consultation process works to address concerns of MRC member countries and stakeholders
- Accepting works after the consultation process, Laos was required to redesign the project to comply with the MRC guidelines/requirements

Reflection of the First Hydropower Project

- Overall construction progress achieved at 85%
- All construction activities are going on smoothly
- Being the first mainstream project-versatile, transparent, and inclusive
- Requirements of 1995 agreement deemed completely satisfied
- Other mainstream projects like 260MW Don Sahong HPP and 980MW Pakbeng HPP in the Lao territory follow suit

Thank you very much for your attention

For more information:

Tel: 021 453539

Fax: 021 415 626

Mail: energy@deb.gov.la

Web: www.poweringprogress.org