



LOWER MEKONG RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACTS ON HYDROPOWER TRADE SCENARIOS WORKSHOP

September 27, 2019

Venue: Grand Centre Point Rachadamri Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Why does renewable energy development matter to hydropower investment in the Lower Mekong region?

Thailand is the largest energy-importing country in the Lower Mekong region. The country's energy imports mainly consist of hydropower imported more than 10 projects built in neighboring Lao PDR and Myanmar, as well as at least one coal-fired power plant in Laos and imports of liquid nitrogen gas. Dozens more hydropower projects are in the planning stages in both these countries, many of which are intended for export to Thailand. Meanwhile, energy demand and forecast levels in Thailand have been fluctuating widely, and there appears to be a current oversupply in its domestic gross energy production capacity.

The Thailand National Power Development Plan (PDP) of 2018 sets the country's renewable energy targets at a much higher level than in previous PDPs, prioritizing the need to tackle climate change and reduce greenhouse gases emissions. The 2018 PDP mentions solar, wind, and biomass as renewable energy sources. Indicating a shift in thinking, hydropower—which has previously been grouped with renewable energy— is not regarded as a renewable energy source under the PDP 2018. There are already indications that the new administration will seek to revise the PDP, potentially increasing the contribution of renewables even further.

Thailand's gross national energy production (including imports) has already significantly exceeded current levels of demand, which has led to an excessive reserve margin and higher costs for consumers. Implementation of the PDP 2018's renewable energy targets is likely to reduce the need for overseas hydropower investment and energy imports, affecting bilateral trade between Thailand and the exporting countries. ***It is timely, therefore, to consider how the current targets for increasing the share of renewables in Thailand's energy mix can have co-benefits for sustainable hydropower planning in the Lower Mekong region.***

The Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI)-Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership (SIP), implemented by Pact in collaboration with the Stimson Center and partners, will organize *a workshop on Lower Mekong Renewable Energy Development and Impacts on Hydropower Trade Scenarios on September 27, 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand*, to discuss and promote understanding of the likely impacts of the PDP 2018, and to envision probable energy futures for Thailand and the Lower Mekong region. A good understanding of various scenarios with differing levels of renewable energy development and power imports will be essential context for government agencies, investors and stakeholders in all Lower Mekong countries as they develop their own energy policies and investment plans - and consider the cumulative environmental impacts of various energy scenarios.

Workshop objectives

- To facilitate dialogue among key stakeholders around probable scenarios for renewable energy development through implementation of Thailand's PDP 2018, and the likely impacts hydropower investment and trade to the whole Lower Mekong region
- To invite government and non-government and stakeholder perspectives on renewable energy development, promote understanding of alternatives to hydropower development, and identify sustainable energy investment plans
- To consider the comparative environmental impacts of various energy development scenarios and promote understanding of Spatial Multicriteria Assessment (SMCA) and impact assessments methodologies such as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA)



Program agenda

Time	Program	Responsible persons
8:30 - 9:00	Registration	Pact Thailand
9:00 - 9:30	Welcome remarks	Mr. John Choi, US Embassy, Bangkok, Thailand
	Introduction and objectives of the workshop	Mr. Suparek Janprasart, LMI-SIP
Session 1: Understanding Thailand PDP 2018 and its renewable energy development target, and likely impact scenarios on hydropower investment and trade in the Lower Mekong region		
Moderator: Mr. Brian Eyler, The Stimson Center		
9:30 - 10:15	Perspective of impact of Thailand PDP on power trade and renewable energy development in the Lower Mekong	Ms. Maythiwan Kiatgrajai, USAID Clean Power Asia
	Thailand Renewable Energy Development and Investment	Mr. Cherid Kalayanamitr, Electricity Authority of Thailand (EGAT)
10:15 - 10:45	Renewable energy cost review and alternative LMB energy development plan	Dr. Apisom Intralawan, Mae Fah Luang University
10:45 - 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 - 11:45	Comparison of scenarios of Lower Mekong Renewable Energy Development and Hydropower Investment and Trade Impacts	Mrs. Courtney Weatherby, The Stimson Center
11:45 - 12:30	Plenary discussion: Next steps, additional considerations, additional scenarios, etc.	Mr. Brian Eyler, The Stimson Center
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch	
Session 2: Spatial Multi-Criteria Analysis (SMCA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)		
Moderator: Dr. Boualem Hadjeriouab, Oak Ridge National Laboratory/US Department of Energy		
13:30 - 14:00	Presentation on Strategic Multi-Criteria Assessment: Methods and case studies from the UK and Myanmar Strategic Environmental Assessment Presentation	Dr. Julien Harou, Renewable Energy Expert
14:00 – 15:00	Plenary discussion: Alternatives to energy investment	Dr. Boualem Hadjeriouab, Oak Ridge National Laboratory/ US Department of Energy
	• Renewable Energy Promotion Institute, Laos	
	• Ms. Kate Lazarus, International Finance Cooperation (IFC), Myanmar	
	• Dr. Lam Thuy Duong, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam	
	• Ministry of Mine and Energy, Cambodia	
• Mr. Cherid Kalayanamitr, Electricity Generation Authority (EGAT), Thailand		
15:00 – 16:00	Small group discussions on renewable energy development and impacts on regional hydropower investment and trade	Participants/Mr. Brian Eyler
15:45 - 16:00	Coffee break	
Session 3: Ways forwards and next steps		
16:00 - 16:45	Reporting to plenary	Participants/Dr. Pinida Leelapanang Kamphaengthong, LMI-SIP
	Questions and answers	
16:45 - 17:00	Next steps and closing	Mrs. Christy Owen, Pact Thailand