



SUSTAINABLE
INFRASTRUCTURE
PARTNERSHIP



Agenda

2023 Mekong Research Symposium: Data into Action for a Resilient Mekong

Tuesday March 14 - Thursday March 16, 2023

Venue: Utopia Ballroom, Le Méridien Resort, Chiang Rai, Thailand

TUESDAY MARCH 14, 2023

MRS DAY 1: DATA AVAILABILITY AND ACTIONABLE INFORMATION

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM Registration
- 9:00 – 9:30 AM Welcome Remarks
- Thomas Schmidt, Director of Regional Environment, Science, Technology, and Health Office, East & Southeast Asia Hub, U.S. Embassy Bangkok, US Department of State
 - Aaron Brownell, Director of Regional Environmental Office, USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia
 - Asst. Prof. Chutamat Niwat, Assistant to President of Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand
 - Christy Owen, Country Director, Pact Thailand
 - Dr. Tho Nguyen, National Academy of Science, USA
- 9:30 – 10:00 AM Conference logistics and Ice Breaking Activity
Session Facilitator and Manager: Jenn Weidman, Pact Thailand
- 10:00 – 10:30 AM Group Photo and Coffee Break
- 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM **Session 1: Data for Decision Making**
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- Panelists of decision makers from regional, national, and local levels on:
What data are they using? What do they need? Are the data readily available and actionable?
- Shared Vision Planning Web based Platform for Decision Making – Dr. Thim Ly, Consultant to Planning Division, Mekong River Commission Secretariat
 - Decision Support for Flood Respond – Apimook Mooktaee, Hydro – Informatics Institute, Thailand

- Data for City and Community Decision Making - Dr. Puy Lim, Vice Chairman of Tonle Sap Authority, Cambodia
- Mekong Hydropower Economics, Socioeconomic, and Livelihood Data: Decision Making and Data Uncertainty –Dr. Apisom Intralawan and David Wood, Mae Fah Luang University

Session Moderator: *Dr. Nguyen Huong Thuy Phan, Graduate Institute Geneva, Switzerland*

Session Manager: *Dr. Pinida Leelapanang Kamphaengthong, Pact Thailand*

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Lunch Break

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Session 2: Innovation in Data and Decision Support at Frontlines



Success stories for resilience and innovation of data communication for decision making from traditional knowledge, citizen science, and knowledge sharing from local community.

- Citizen Monitoring of plastic and water pollution in the Mekong River: Oulavanh Sinsamphanh, National University of Laos, Lao PDR
- Groundwater Scarcity Drives Siem Reap hotels, Temples and Farmers to Compete - Choulay Mech, Journalist, Cambodia
- Women Vulnerability Tracker – Dr. Nguyen Minh Quan, Mekong Environment Forum, Vietnam
- Using Local Knowledge to Enhance Transboundary Cooperation in Lower Songkram River Basin, Suriya Kotamee, Thailand Citizen
- Partners with Community to Discover Endangered Species in the Mekong River: Experiences from Wonder Wonders of the Mekong - Chea Seila, Cambodia
- Mekong Water Protectors – Andrew Stone, Chiang Khong Conservation Group, Thailand

Session Moderator: *Suparek Janprasart, Institute of Sustainable Communities*

Session Manager: *Bussara Tirakalyanapan, Pact Thailand*

2:30 – 3:00 PM

Coffee Break

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Session 3: Breaking Boundary for Transboundary Cooperation



Co-organizers: Stockholm Environment Institute

Action to foster knowledge and data sharing and transboundary cooperation between Lancang River and Mekong River in consideration of ecosystem health of the Greater Mekong Basin.

- Strengthening Mekong-Lancang cooperation and Think Tank Research Network – Dr. Li Hao, Hubei University of Economics, China
- Enhancing data-sharing mechanism in the Mekong-Lancang River Basin - Dr. Thanapon Piman, Stockholm Environment Institute, Thailand
- Leveraging Multi-Development Partners Cooperation to enhance MRC Decision Support –Dr. Younghyun Cho, K-water; and Dr. Venkataraman Lakshmi, NASA/University of Virginia

Panel discussion to explore how to foster cooperation and increase collaboration in consideration of ecosystem health and increase local knowledge sharing and inclusive decision making.

- Dr. Li Hao, Hubei University of Economics, China
- Dr. Thim Ly, Mekong River Commission Secretariat, Lao PDR
- Dr. Peeranan Towachiraporn, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Thailand
- Elizabeth Thippawong, WWF, Lao PDR
- Dr. Thanapon Piman, Stockholm Environment Institute, Thailand

Session Facilitator: Agus Nugroho, SEI

Session Manager: Thanapon Piman SEI

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Welcome Dinner Reception at Le Meridien Hotel Waterfront Courtyard

WEDNESDAY MARCH 15, 2022

MRS DAY 2: OPERATIONALIZING INFORMATION

8:30 – 10:00 AM

Session 4: Nature Based Solutions



Co-organizers: IUCN, The Stimson Center, USACE

Exploring Urban Nature Based Solutions approached from various countries in adaptation to climate changes adaptation in form of TED-Talk to inspire mainstreaming nature based solutions for sustainable development in Mekong.

- Introduction to NbS and the NbS Global Standard – Katie Bimson, Programme Officer, Water, Wetlands and Nature-based Solutions, IUCN
- Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction- Dr. Guillermo Mendoza, International Programs Manager, Institute for Water Resources, USACE
- Governance and Policy- Gary Lee, Southeast Asia Program Director, International Rivers
- Urban Resilience - Praon Udomprasert, Director of Wetland Convention Division, Department of Water Resources, Thailand

- Food and water security - Danai Thaitakoo, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
- Regional Capacity Building – Dr. Ho Loc, Professor of Engineering, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

Session Facilitators: *Katie Bimson, IUCN; Courtney Weatherby, The Stimson Center*

Session Managers: *Katie Bimson, IUCN; Dr. Guillermo Mendoza, USACE*

10:00 – 10:30 AM Coffee Break

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM **Session 5: Inclusive Data Principles and Approached**



Co-organizers: Oxfam, WWF

This session unpacks the power dynamics of contemporary data driven research, and the influencing capacity of data on inclusion principles in decision making. Practitioners reflect on the role they play in challenging, perpetuating and overcoming bias in mainstream data science practices.

Keynote speakers:

- Dr. Sypha Chanthavong Head of Graduate Studies Program, Faculty of Law and Political Science, National University of Laos.
- Representative from Indigenous Women Network

Session Facilitators: *Phan Thi Thu Huong, OXFAM*

Session Managers: *Socheata Sim, OXFAM/Inclusion; Elizabeth Thippawong, WWF/Mekong for the Future*

12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch Break

1:00 – 4:30 PM **Optional Field Trips**



Co-organizers: Chiang Khong Conservation Group, IUCN, Living River Association, Mae Fah Luang University, Mekong Community Institute, OXFAM, Indigenous Women Network of Thailand

Different routes of optional field trips to gain firsthand experience on local efforts in water environmental management, youth and citizen science, and experience Mekong River environment in Chiang Rai Province. (All groups will adjure in parallel. Seats availability will be notified. Brief description will be in a separate document.

Route 1: Boonrueng Wetland Conservation Village

Route 2: Mekong School and Youth Engagement with Mekong Environmental Monitoring

Route 3: Livelihood of Local Communities in the Mekong

Route 4: Mekong River's development at Golden Triangle area
Route 5: Livelihood of Indigenous Communities in Upper Kok River Basin

THURSDAY MARCH 16, 2022
MRS DAY 3: INFORMED PLANNING AND PROACTIVE DECISION SUPPORT

8:30 – 10:00 AM **Session 6: Proposed Recommendations from Youth**



Co-organizer: US Department of Interior

Young scientists who joined the NexGen Professional Development Workshop on Mon March 13 will present their proposal on proactive decision-making schematization to optimize water-food-energy nexus and ecosystem in the Mekong.

Session Manager: *Joseph Holway*

Session Facilitators: *Claire Sheilds/Jason Riley, US DOI*

10:00 – 10:30 AM Coffee Break

10:30 – 11:45 PM **Session 7: Capturing recommendations from 2022**



Panelists will share key recommendations captured by key transboundary cooperation themes in 2022.

- SUMERNET Annual Research and Policy Forum: Leveraging Nexus for Transboundary Cooperation – Eren Zink, Embassy of Sweden, Thailand
- MUSP Track 1.5 Policy Dialogue Series – Courtney Weatherby, The Stimson Center, USA
- Regional Joint Workshop: Rivers of the Lower Mekong Region – Veerawit Tianchainan, WWF, Thailand
- The 1st Mekong-Korea International Water Forum – Dr. Youngkyu Kim, Mekong Cooperation Research Center, Republic of Korea (virtual)
- The 4th Mekong Dialogue: Water-Food-Energy-Climate Nexus – Dr. Sawang Meesang, Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand
- Energy Transition in Mekong – Tarek Ketelsen, AMPRESS, Australia (virtual)

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM **Grand Closing**

1:00 – 4:30 PM

Mekong Implementers Workshop



Mekong Implementers Workshop will convene development partners community (the United State, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, German, Republic of Korea, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Union, and Mekong River Commission Secretariat) and their implementers, such as ADPAC, the Asia Foundation, K-water, Oxfam, Pact, Stockholm Environment Institute, WWF, to name but a few, to discuss how the recommendation from the MRS can be drawn to improve current and future programs coordination and leveraged for better support the Mekong Region.

Organizing Lead: Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership (SIP) implemented by Pact

Co-organizers: ADPAC, International Rivers, the Asia Foundation, Oxfam, Stockholm Environment Institute, WWF