



Day 1

Some highlights

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Day 1: Some highlights



Opening session:

- Sustainability <-> benefit for people
- Sustainability <-> the “responsible private sector”
- Sustainability <-> multi-stakeholder involvement
- Balancing cost and benefits



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Session 1 - presentations:

- "Integration" – the need, the challenge
- New approaches/tools by MRC programs for HP dev
- Positive/small flow impact of development scenarios
- Fish migration:
 - MS dams in lower/middle MB: cannot mitigate
 - Mekong special and fundamentally different
 - think mitigation from start
- 1995-A Art 5: Prior Consultation for all MS dams



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Session 1 – discussion:

- Need for a more representative forum, including communities/civil society
- Impacts are more than flows, also salinity, sediments, water quality, biodiversity – and people
- Fisheries in upper reaches/tributaries still matter
- Daily operation of dams to be considered
- PNPCA a private sector concern, but a government responsibility



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Session 2 – presentations:

- Ambitious power development plans in LMB countries, with sharply accelerating HP development
- Benefits from HP both economic (trade) and social (rural electrification)
- Recognition of need to respect the 1995-A
- Small to positive flow impacts of China dams, some impacts on sediments, none on fish migration
- An integrated system, ref. GMS power sharing



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Session 2 – discussion:

- HP projects for PNPCA individually, but in basin context
-- long timeframes, mainly MS dams
- Need to ensure transparency in HP data, information, EIA, CIA..
- NT2 – a good example, but not directly replicable
- HP development only one aspect of countries' multi-sector development plans



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Said about MRC's role:

- Provider of independent information, data and studies
- Provider of useful tools (BDP/DSF modeling, SEA, CIA..)
- Already contributing to HP through existing programs (FP, EP, BDP, NP)
- Providing a forum

... but so far little specifics on proposed HP Program



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Said about this Consultation:

- Timely and unique: Bringing the water/environment and energy communities together on a key issue for the region
- A true multi-stakeholder gathering (albeit without direct community representation)

A personal conclusion:

- Day 1 was a good beginning. Can we keep it up? (... and thanks to Yu Yin, Rachel and Theresa!)