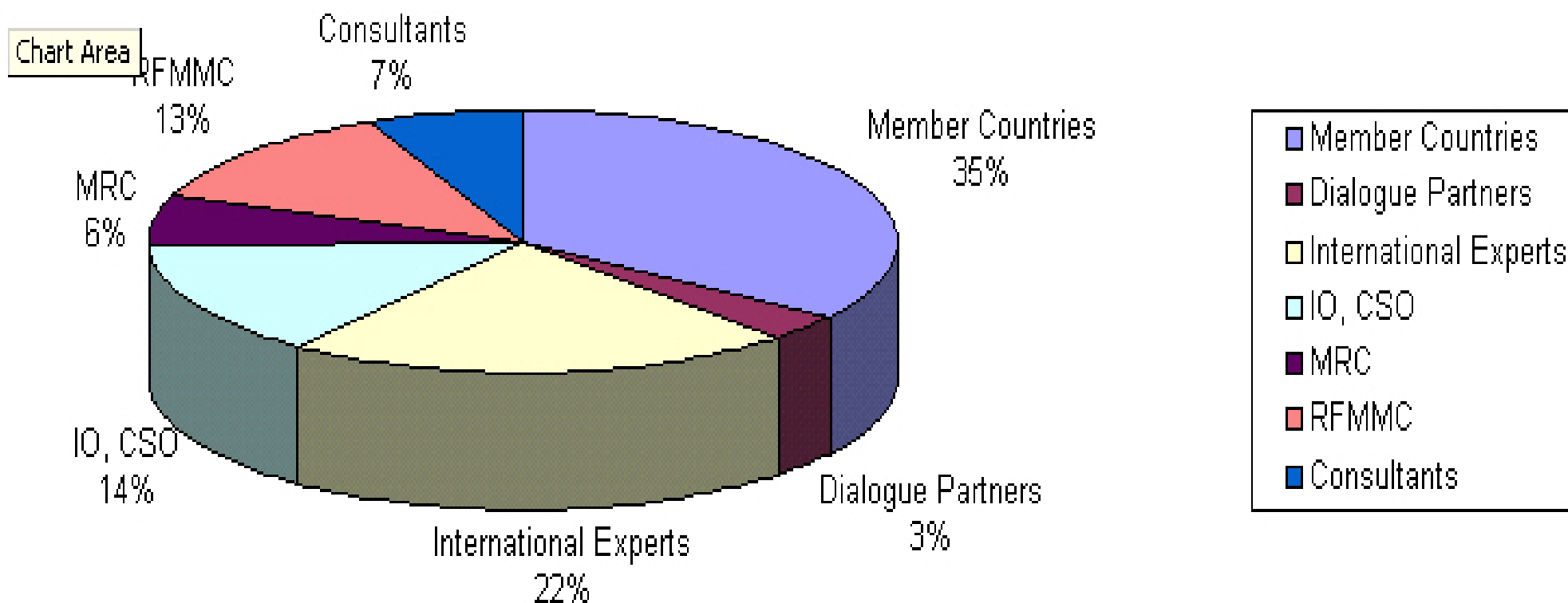




AMFF-4 Summary of Proceedings



Total participants = 118



AMFF-4

Summary of Proceedings



- **Opening Session**
- **Session 1: Country Reports**
- **Session 2: Community needs**
- **Session 3: International experience**
- **Session 4: Regional FF**
 - **China & Myanmar**
 - **MRC / RFMMC (on-going, the Roadmap)**



AMFF-4

Summary of Proceedings



- **Session 5: Group Discussion**
 - Five breakout groups
- **Session 6: Plenary Session**
 - Presentations by groups
- **Session 7: Closing**
 - Summary of proceedings:
 - Lessons learned and key issues raised



Fourth Annual Mekong Flood Forum



Summary of Proceedings

(Lessons Learned/Issues Raised)



Fourth Annual Mekong Flood Forum



Session 1—Country and Regional Reports—Last Year's Flood and National Flood Forecasting and Warning Experiences

- MRC countries have good insight into the events that drive flooding in their countries; basic flood characteristics are known within the limits of the data that have been collected
- All of the countries (Lao PDR and Cambodia, principally) need human and technical capacity development
- The countries realize that planning—proper mobilizing of the existing resources before the flood season—is needed if they are to adequately cope with destructive flooding
- Lao PDR and Thailand share a common experience with respect to the cause of severity of flooding for the parts of the countries in the Mekong River Basin
- Thailand is coordinating flood-management activities of several organizations as it establishes a unified National Crisis Center
- Vietnam has a highly coordinated hydromet monitoring and forecasting system.
- The MRC RFMMC initiative to prepare an annual flood report will benefit from:
 - The experience of the first attempt for the 2004 flood
 - Joint planning of future reports with MRC member countries
 - Focusing on who the reader is, a technocrat, a donor, a policy maker, NGO, other?



Fourth Annual Mekong Flood Forum

Session 2—Lower Mekong and Other River Basin Experience: Meeting Community Needs

- The several community oriented projects that were discussed demonstrate that it is feasible and practical to provide flood early warning to flood-at-risk communities
- The projects seem to be serving two purposes, to:
 - provide early warning to at-risk communities and
 - test, evaluate, and adopt tools that are appropriate to the circumstances.
- There is no best tool—when considering the ACF, CRC, and Bangladesh experiences—but there are tools that can be effectively applied
- Local ownership of these systems has been shown to work
- We must not underestimate the resources, skills, and initiative of district-level officials in Flood Preparedness Planning
- MRC is committed to preparing an inventory of communities at risk and estimate the cost, time, and resources needed to provide flood early warning to their inhabitants



Fourth Annual Mekong Flood Forum



Session 3—International and Regional Experiences: Flood Forecasting, Dissemination of Flood Forecasts and Warning Products

- Robust and reliable technologies to monitor and forecast stream flow and rainfall in the developed world are in widespread use; they continue to evolve rapidly.
- The technologies have been integrated into systems that are used for aspects of water management. It seems safe to assure that there are economic benefits to the societies that implement them.
- MRC and riparian staff understand the hydrology and climatology of the Basin.
- Is the integration of that local knowledge base, combined with the appropriate models and tools in imported systems, the key to providing practical tools in the Mekong in the near terms?
- What are the national and regional requirements for flood management and mitigation? ...to which systems proponents can configure their systems?



Fourth Annual Mekong Flood Forum



Session 4—Regional Flood Forecasting and Warning, and Status of FMMP Implementation

- China developed system requirements against which a system is being developed. The NWSRFS was ported to China ten years ago; the current Chinese system has many similar attributes
- The Chinese experience is that system development takes a requirements analysis, coupled with time, planning, and resources to go proceed
- MRC is evaluating short-term forecast accuracy. Are the countries making a similar objective analysis to determine which forecasting approach is most effective?
- Road Map mission; MRC policy is to improve data collection, do nothing for short-term forecasting improvements, and provide a framework for medium-term forecasting.
- Will the anticipated improvements in data collection and other human and technical capacity provide the basis for medium-term forecasting?



Fourth Annual Mekong Flood Forum



Session 5 and 6

Lao PDR—Extend hydromet network, adopt satellite rainfall estimation for flash- and other flooding. Need to adopt medium-term forecasting before 2009. Flood lessons learned-need timely data, coordination of institutions, use old regional protocol, share technology implementations



Fourth Annual Mekong Flood Forum



Session 5 and 6

Thailand—Medium term forecast, sharing of rainfall data, conduct pilots in transboundary basins. Need to compare existing and new models. Agree to Road Map in principal, need NMCs to be committed, comment on phased development, sequence of national and regional reports not in proper sequence.



Fourth Annual Mekong Flood Forum



Session 5 and 6

Vietnam—Short-term MRC forecast is useful (1-day) Longer forecasts for consideration only, concern is for maximum forecasted level, want MRC forecasts at 700 and 1900. Medium term forecasts imply more data, national tributary forecasts to be shared with other countries, capacity development critical. VN supports HYCOS/AHNIP and is committed to the Road Map. Other issues.....Interagency coordination good, network redesign, network protocols, more data from China, drought issues need to be considered, exchange personnel, joint projects, and other collaboration. Support technology transfer. Need more qualified staff to work with MRCS. AFF was good to help MRC community learn from others.



Fourth Annual Mekong Flood Forum



Session 5 and 6

Cambodia—Short term needs improvement between Pakse and Stung Treng as 1st priority. Medium term forecast useful for agriculture. Many comments on extending flood warnings to additional communities at risk, increasing the frequency of dissemination, and improving communications. Cambodia needs national flood forecasting center



Fourth Annual Mekong Flood Forum



Session 5 and 6

Cambodia—Short term needs improvement between Pakse and Stung Treng as 1st priority. Medium term forecast useful for agriculture. Many comments on extending flood warnings to additional communities at risk, increasing the frequency of dissemination, and improving communications. Cambodia needs national flood forecasting center



Fourth Annual Mekong Flood Forum



Session 5 and 6

Regional—Data collection-communication between MRCS and countries essential. Need high quality, timely data, and timely forecast dissemination, need to tailor products to users, link RFMMC with research institutes, SRE/Climate forecasts needed for medium forecasts, number of stations adequate? Define and treat flash- and mainstream floods appropriately, develop flood risk mapping, use line agency capacities.