



# **The Mekong River Commission**

## **The 1995 Agreement, Organization and Programmes**

Director Navuth Te  
Technical Support Division  
Mekong River Commission Secretariat



# Content

- I. MRC Structure, Agreement, & Profile
- II. The MRC Strategic Planning Cycle
- III. The MRC Programmes

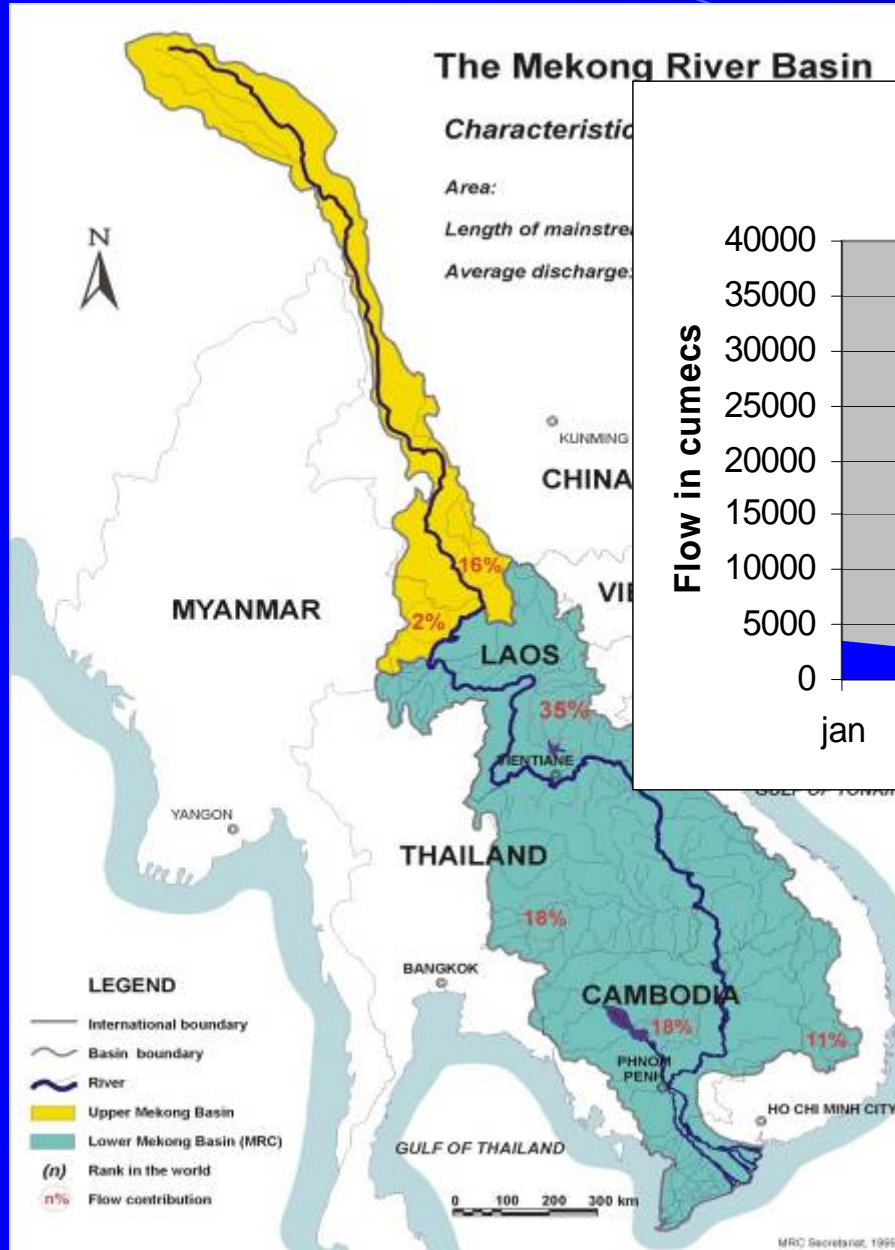
### The Mekong River Basin

*Characteristic*

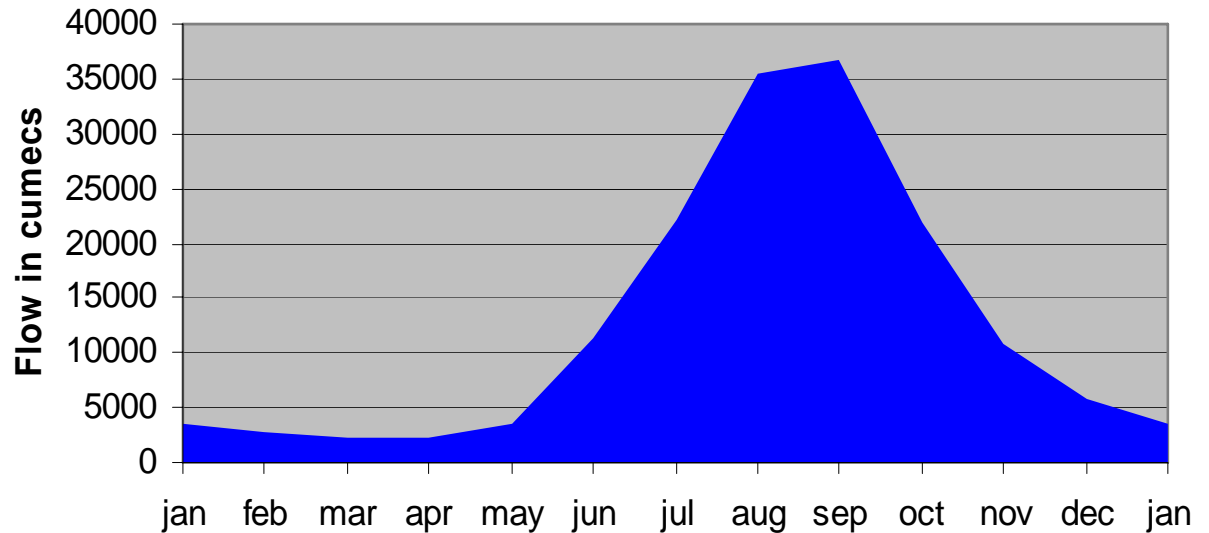
Area:

Length of mainstre

Average discharge:



### Average flow in Kratie 1960-2004

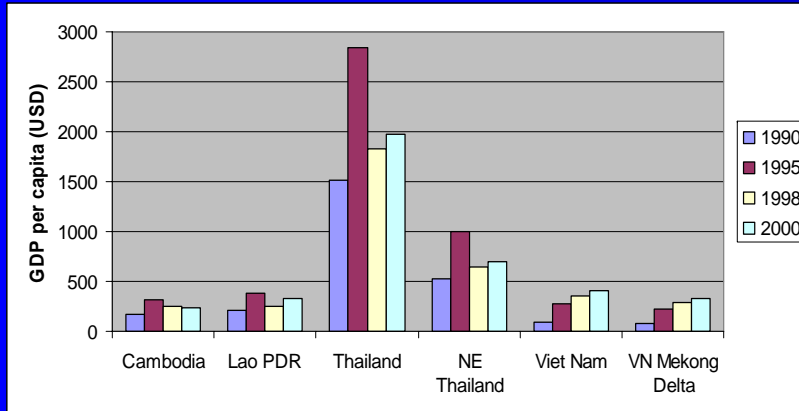


### Lower Mekong (82%)

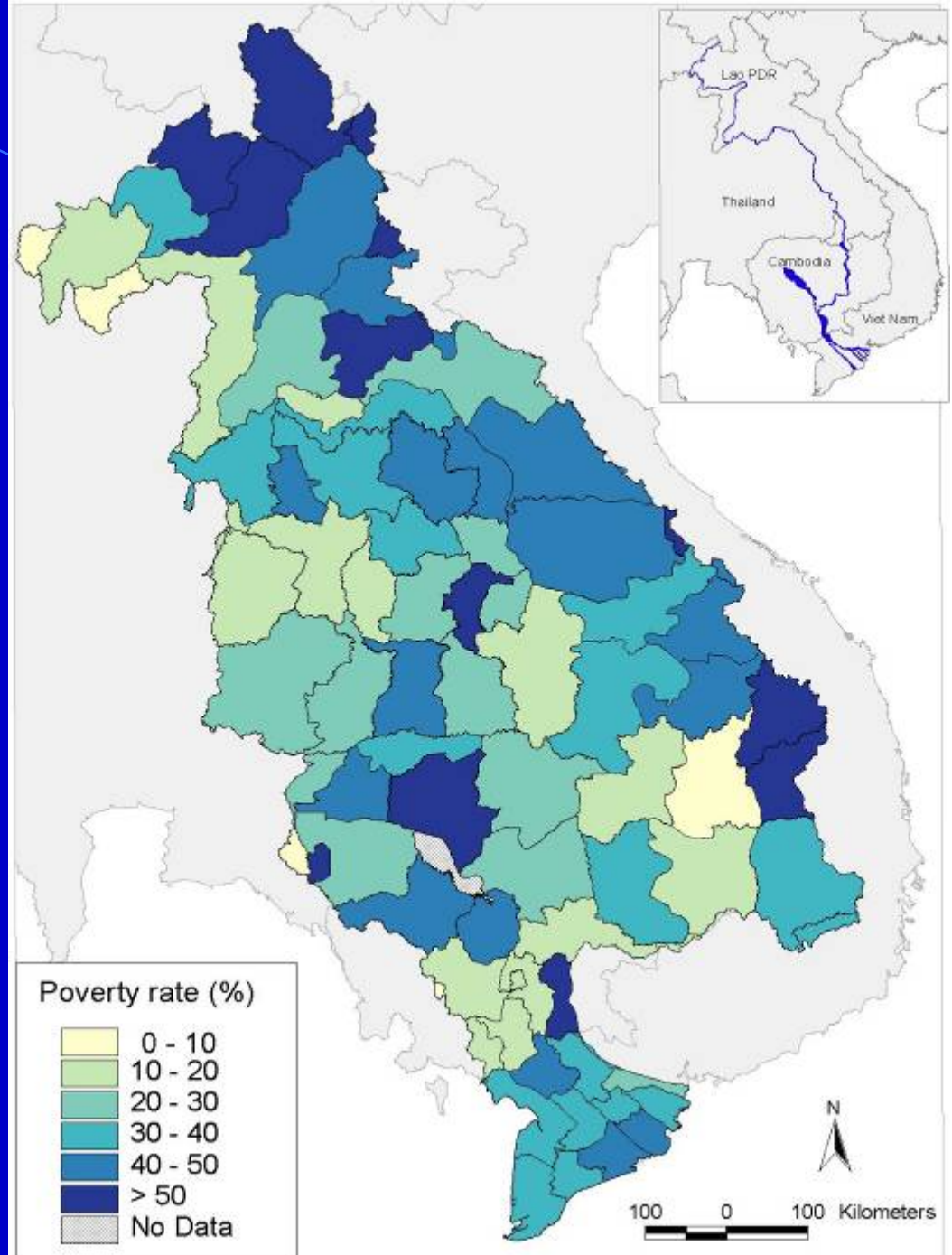
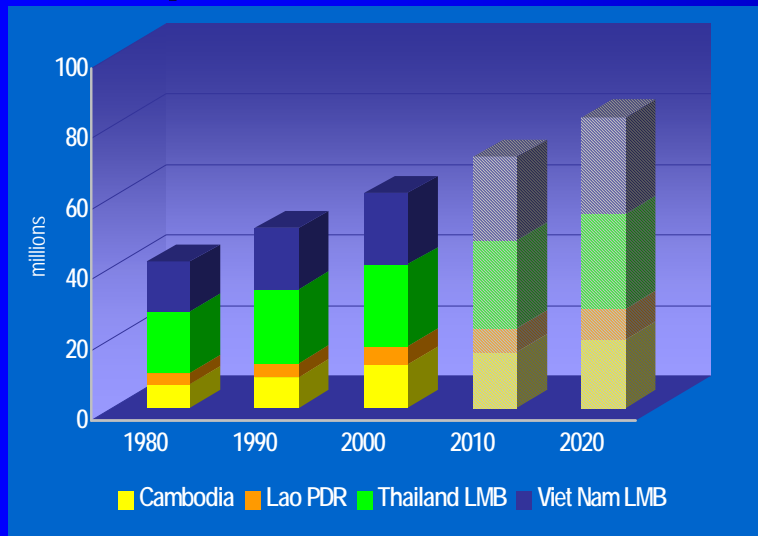
- Cambodia – 18%
- Lao PDR – 35%
- Thailand – 18%
- Viet Nam – 11%

# Poverty

## GDP per capita



## Population increase

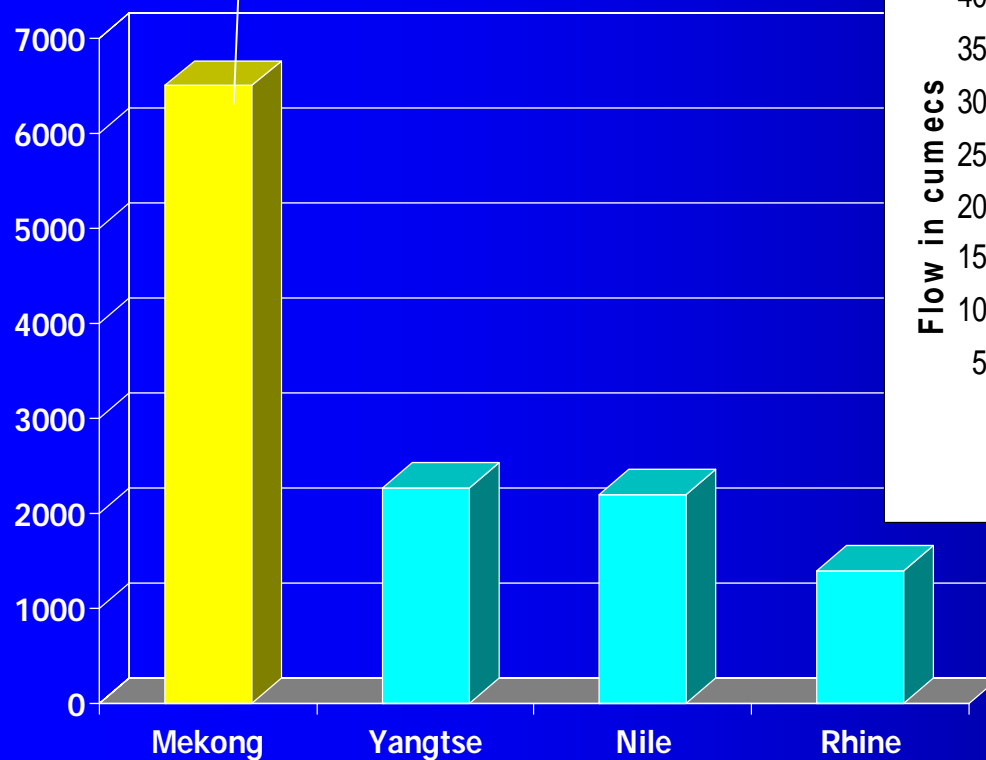


# Large volume of water flowing in the river = 475 km<sup>3</sup>/year

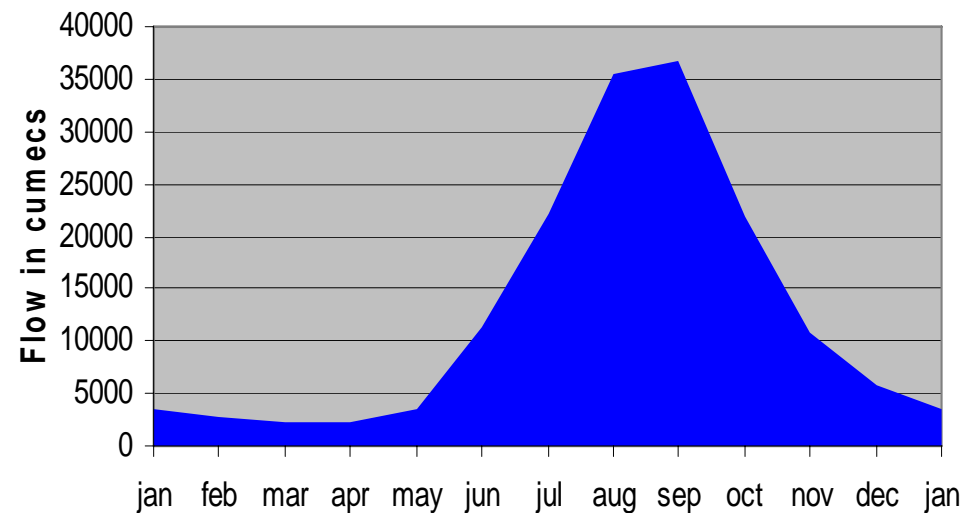
= 6,500 m<sup>3</sup>/person/year

## High seasonal variability

m<sup>3</sup>/person/year



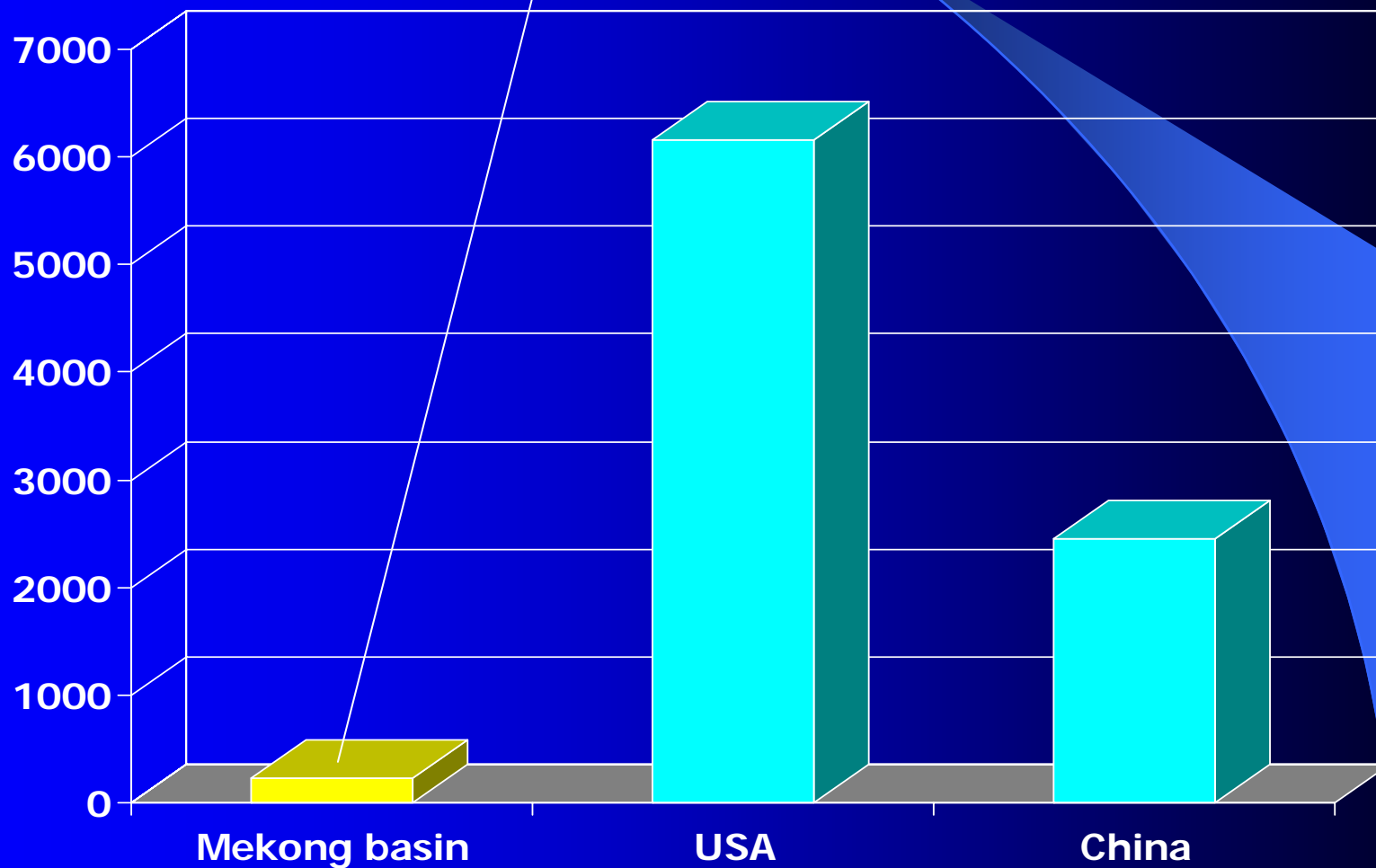
Average flow in Kratie 1960-2004



# Low volume of water stored in reservoirs 20 billion m<sup>3</sup>

m<sup>3</sup>/person

= **230** m<sup>3</sup>/person





## Water Resources – Present Use



- **Mekong Fisheries:** 2-3 mio tonnes / year (2% of global capture)
- Value > US\$ 2,000 million
- 49 – 82% of animal protein in LMB from aquatic food



# I. MRC Structure, Agreement and Profile





# What is MRC ?

- Knowledge-based International River Basin Organization
- Inter-governmental institution helping its member states to co-develop and co-manage the water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin
- Set up by Member States in 1995 ; UN before that since 1957

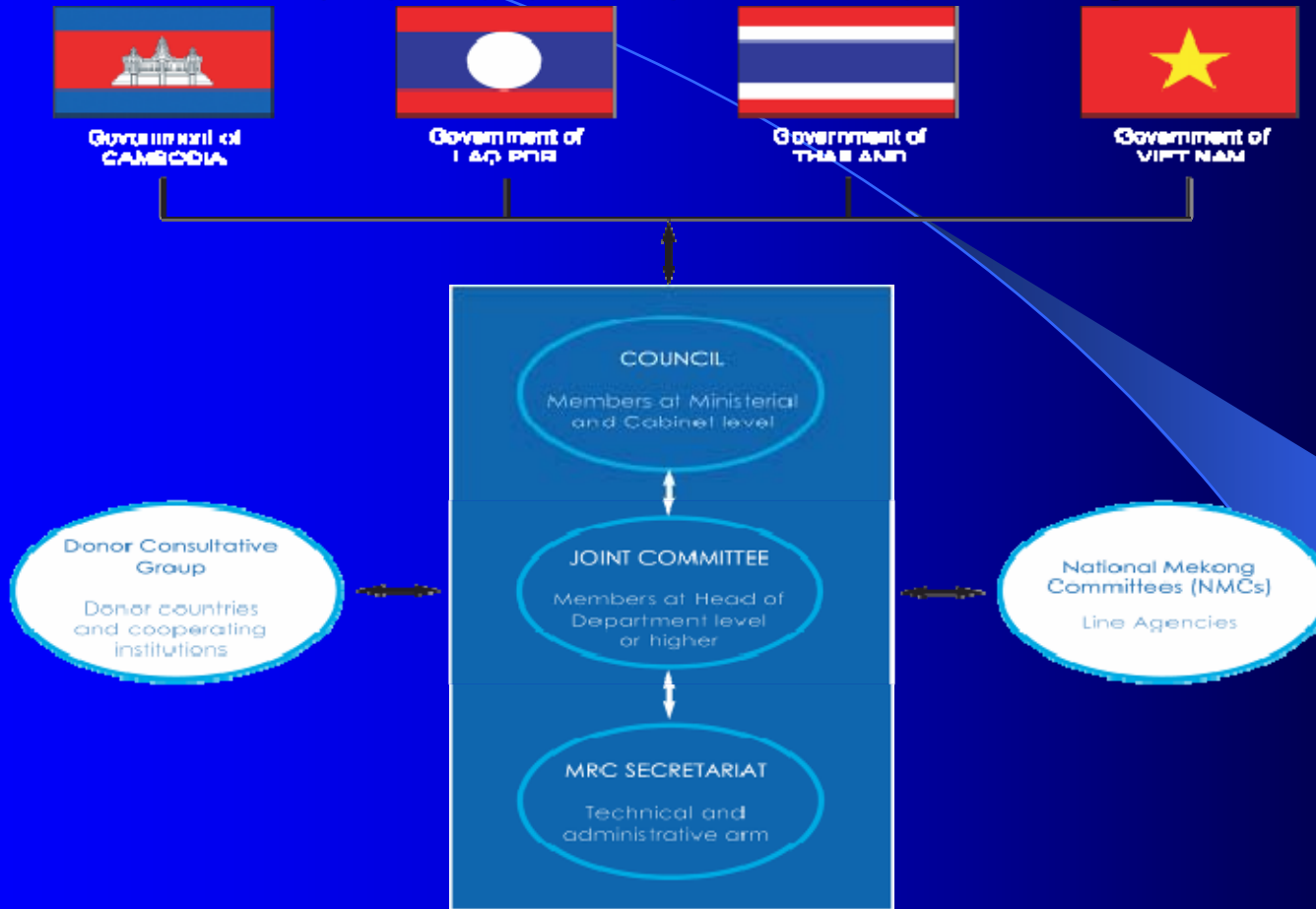
Mekong Committee																	Interim Mekong Committee										MRC																	
1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001



To achieve a common vision :

An economically prosperous,  
socially just and environmentally sound  
Mekong River Basin

# The structure of the MRC



## Our Dialogue Partners



China



Myanmar



# What is MRC's mission ?





## **Article 1: Areas of cooperation**

To cooperate in all fields of sustainable development, utilisation, management and conservation of the water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin ...

- ...including, but not limited to:
- irrigation
  - hydro-power
  - navigation
  - flood control
  - fisheries
  - timber floating
  - recreation and tourism...



## **Article 2: Projects, programmes and planning**

To **promote, support, cooperate and coordinate** in the development of the full potential of sustainable benefits to all riparian States and the prevention of wasteful use of Mekong River Basin waters...



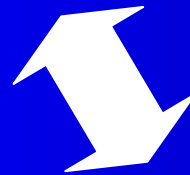
## **Article 3: Protection of the environment and the ecological balance**

To **protect the environment**, natural resources, aquatic life and conditions, and ecological balance of the Mekong River Basin from pollution or other harmful effects...

# Profile: Functions and role - international knowledge-based RBO

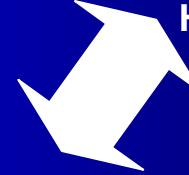
## Promoting cooperation

Trans-boundary  
Trans-sectoral  
IWRM approach



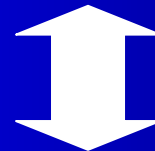
## Promoting environmental protection

Monitoring and reporting  
Harmonized rules and procedures  
Awareness



## Leadership for sustainable development

Joint planning  
Analysis of development options  
and their implications  
Co-ordination and promotion



## Common knowledge base

Hydro-meteorological network  
GIS and Decision Support Tools  
Data exchange, harmonization,  
integration and dissemination



## **Profile: MRC as a cooperation and integration platform**

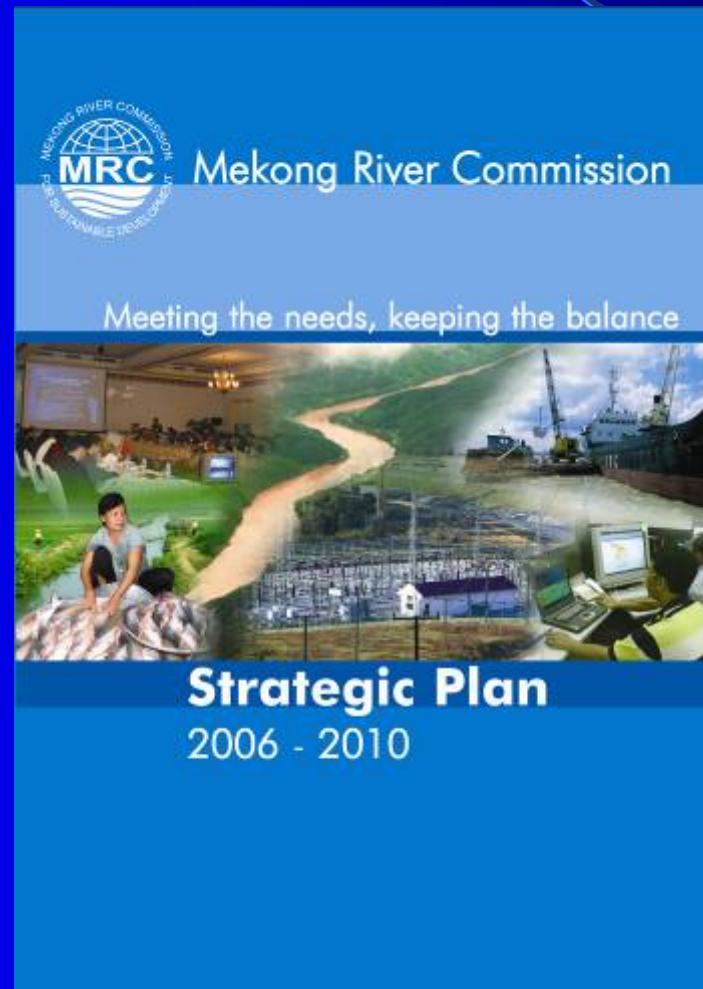
- **Increased cooperation among member states**
  - JC and Council meetings
  - Regional workshops
  - Bilateral and tri-lateral meetings on trans-boundary issues
  - Participatory programme preparation with stakeholders
- **Increased dialogue with upstream countries, mainly China**
- **Increased transparency on regional development plans**
  - BDP database; BDP subarea participatory process
  - Hydropower database and maps



## **II. MRC Strategic Planning Cycle**



# The MRC Strategy 2006-2010





## **Our Vision**

An economically prosperous, socially just  
and environmentally sound Mekong River Basin



## Contributing to the **UN Millenium Development Goals**

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger  
Ensure environmental sustainability



**MRC SP Goal: More Effective Use of the Mekong's Water and  
Related Resources to Alleviate Poverty while Protecting the  
Environment**

# MRC Strategy 2006 - 2010

Goal: Water use for poverty alleviation while protecting the environment



## Goal 1:

To promote and support coordinated, sustainable and pro-poor development



## Goal 2:

To enhance effective regional cooperation



## Goal 3:

To strengthen basin-wide environmental monitoring and impact assessment



## Goal 4:

To strengthen the Integrated Water Resources Management capacity and knowledge base of the MRC bodies, NMCs, Line Agencies, and other stakeholders

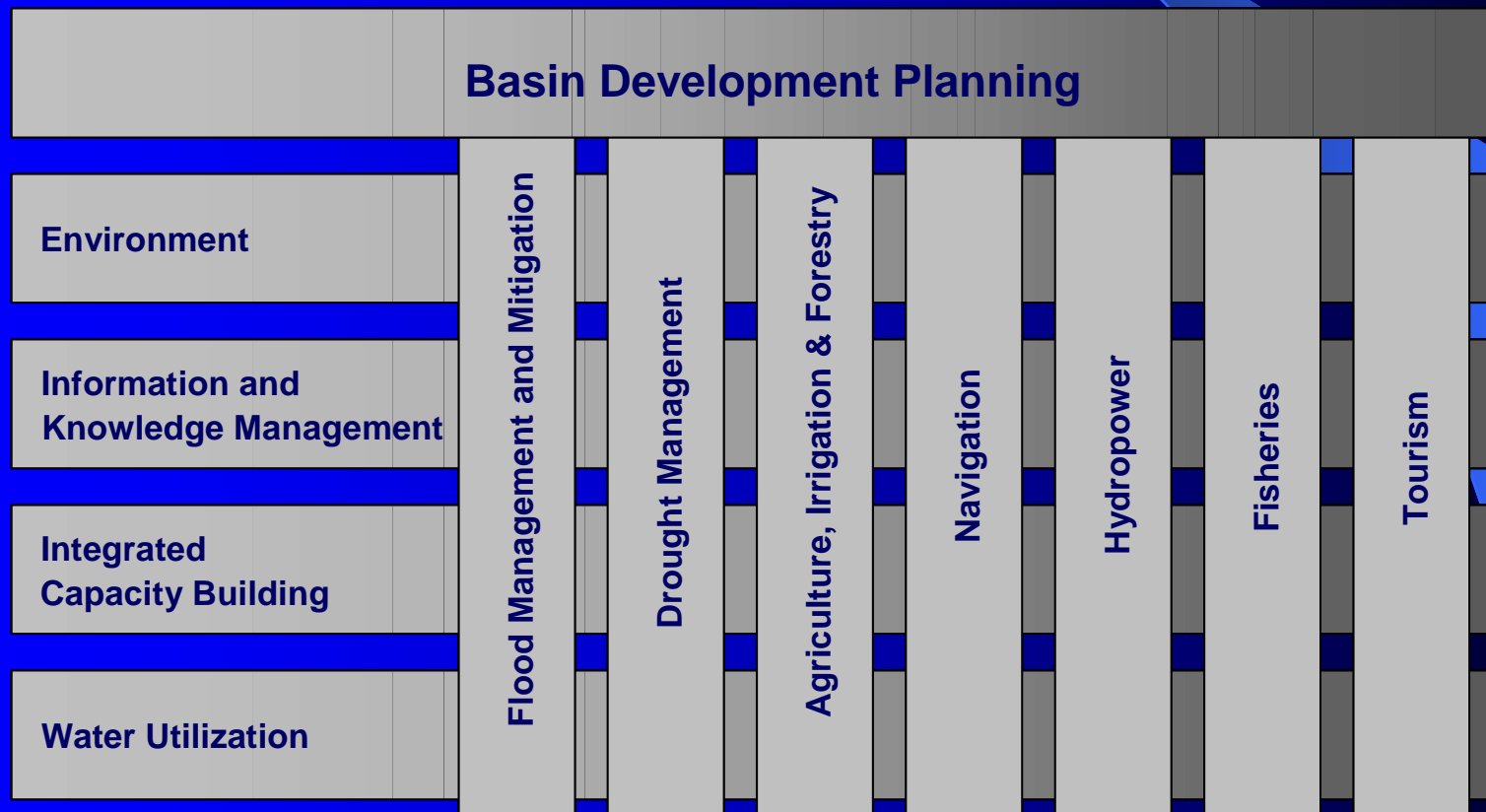


# III. MRC Programmes



# Strategy Implementation

## Integrated Programme Approach





# The MRC Work Programme

April 2006

The image displays three overlapping covers of the MRC Work Programme reports. The leftmost cover is for April 2006, featuring a map of the Mekong basin and the text 'MRC WORK PROGRAMME 2006' and 'Towards an economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River Basin'. The middle cover is for 2007, titled 'MRC Work Programme 2007', and the rightmost cover is for 2008, titled 'MRC Work Programme 2008'. Both the 2007 and 2008 covers feature a map of the basin and a vertical strip of three photographs: a woman in a field, a person in a boat, and a river scene. The MRC logo and 'Mekong River Commission' text are present on all covers.

Mekong River Comm

Mekong River Commission

Mekong River Commission

MRC WORK PROGRAMME 2006

MRC Work Programme 2007

MRC Work Programme 2008

China

China

Myanmar

Myanmar

Viet Nam

Viet Nam

LAO P.D.R.

LAO P.D.R.

THAILAND

THAILAND

THAILAND

THAILAND

CAMBODIA

CAMBODIA

Towards an economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River Basin



# Goal 1: sustainable, p

- **Mekong basin development**  
 Subarea-based
- **Flood forecast**  
 hydro-met data  
 community-based
- **Navigation safety**  
 Aids to navigation
- **Fisheries cooperation**  
 projects in form of
- **Watershed Management**  
 policy development
- **MRC Hydropower**



Phnom Penh Post 4

## Mekong

By Post Reporter

In an onboard ceremony in the Mekong river at Phnom Penh Port, government ministers, foreign ambassadors and the Mekong River Commission (MRC) launched the first 24-hour navigational buoy system placed on Cambodia's waterways.

"This is the first buoy system of 56, plus 12 lead buoys over a 100-km stretch of the river," said Belgian Ambassador Jan Matthysen, at the launch. "It will improve the safety and efficiency of navigation for sea-going vessels and barges can proceed in 24 hours a day."

Over the next six months, more buoys will be installed over a 100 km stretch of the river in Cambodia. The buoys will create a safe channel from Phnom Penh to the Cambodia-Vietnam border.

Installing this international recognized system of aids to navigation will transform the shipping industry in Cambodia into one of the most modern in the country, said, Minister of Public Works and Transport Chanthol.

"The project will create a safe sailing window by allowing vessels to navigate at night," he said. "It will make river transport to and from Cambodia more cost-effective and efficient."

Cambodia's potential for river ports has grown dramatically in recent years.





## Goal 2: regional cooperation

- MRC governan
- Framework for Cambodia – Vie
- Hydrological da
- Cooperation or with China.

*The* CAMBODIA DAILY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2007

NATIONAL

### Cambodia, VN To Simplify Mekong Shipping

BY LOR CHANDARA  
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

An agreement is being negotiated between Cambodia and Vietnam that will cut down the number of Mekong River checkpoints, through which cargo ships must pass, in order to facilitate the speedy arrival of goods to the Phnom Penh port, officials said.

Mom Sibun, secretary of state for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, said by telephone Wednesday that the agreement, about which officials from both countries have already met several times, is necessary to give the country's entire shipping industry a boost.

"We need an agreement between Cambodia and Vietnam to improve shipping activity across the Mekong River before entering our Phnom Penh port," he said.

There are currently four checkpoints on the Mekong—two in Vietnam, two in Cambodia—at which cargo ships need to be processed, he said, adding that it has taken ships up to two weeks in the past just to navigate through the nautical bureaucracy.

In the would-be agreement, there will be only two checkpoints, one at the border and another at Phnom Penh port, he said.

Chan Dara, director of Phnom Penh port's shipping department, said the pending agreement will help increase the level of economic activity in Cambodia.

"The agreement will better facilitate shipping activity.... This can attract more shipping to Phnom Penh," he said, adding that he ultimately hopes to reduce the number of checkpoints to just one at the Phnom Penh port.

The agreement stands to benefit other countries that use the Mekong for commerce—like Singapore and many European countries—and another meeting to discuss the matter is due to be held in Ho Chi Minh City in January, he said.

The Mekong River Commission is coordinating the negotiations, according to Hiek Phirun, a navigation representative for the MRC, which is an intergovernmental body created by the four countries that share the Lower Mekong Basin—Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.

Through the MRC, the Belgian government has put about \$1 million into establishing 56 buoys along the roughly 100-km stretch of the Mekong from the Cambodia-Vietnam border to Phnom Penh port, which will not only make navigation safer, but will also allow for economical night travel for ships.

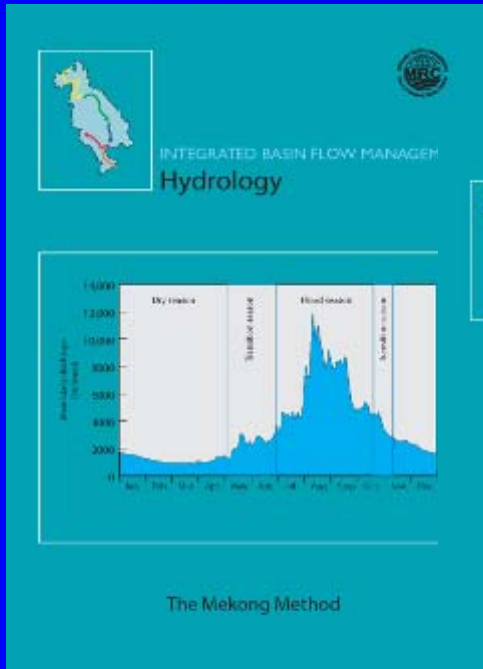
Once drafted, the agreement will need approval from the National Assembly, Mom Sibun said.

# Goal 3: environmental monitoring

## Health monitoring

...ing monitoring system;  
...cies.

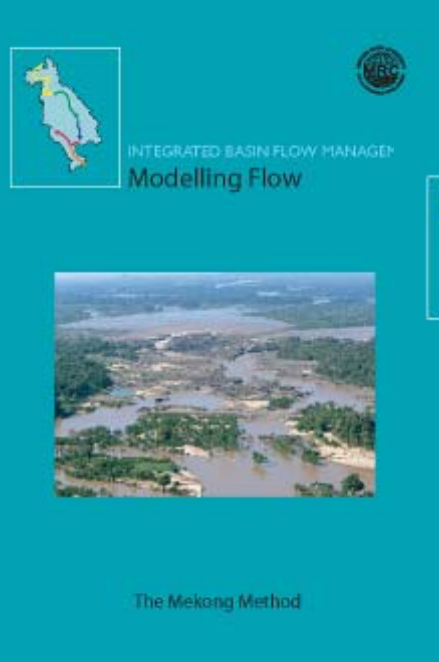
## Governance



INTEGRATED BASIN FLOW MANAGEMENT  
Hydrology

The Mekong Method

Climate change  
consideration



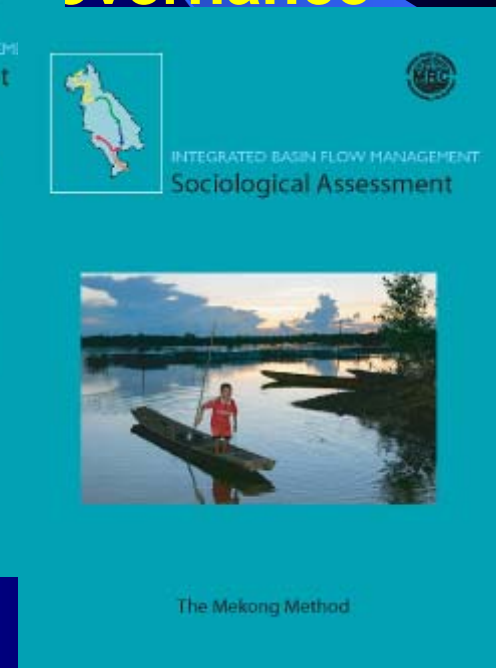
INTEGRATED BASIN FLOW MANAGEMENT  
Modelling Flow

The Mekong Method



INTEGRATED BASIN FLOW MANAGEMENT  
Biophysical Assessment

The Mekong Method



INTEGRATED BASIN FLOW MANAGEMENT  
Sociological Assessment

The Mekong Method

# Supporting the Mekong Partnership Programme

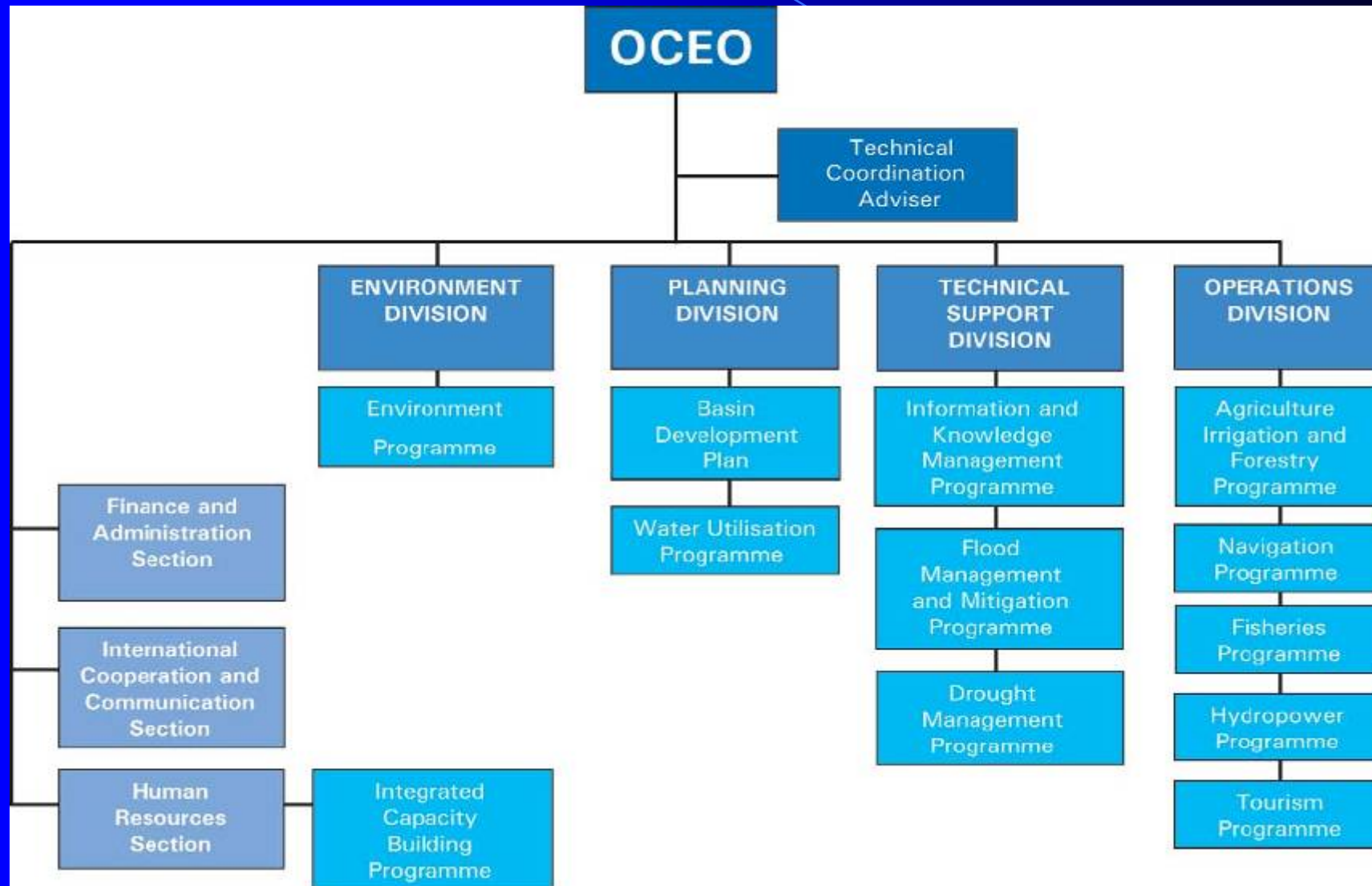




# Thank you

[www.mrcmekong.org](http://www.mrcmekong.org)

# MRC Secretariat Organisational Structure

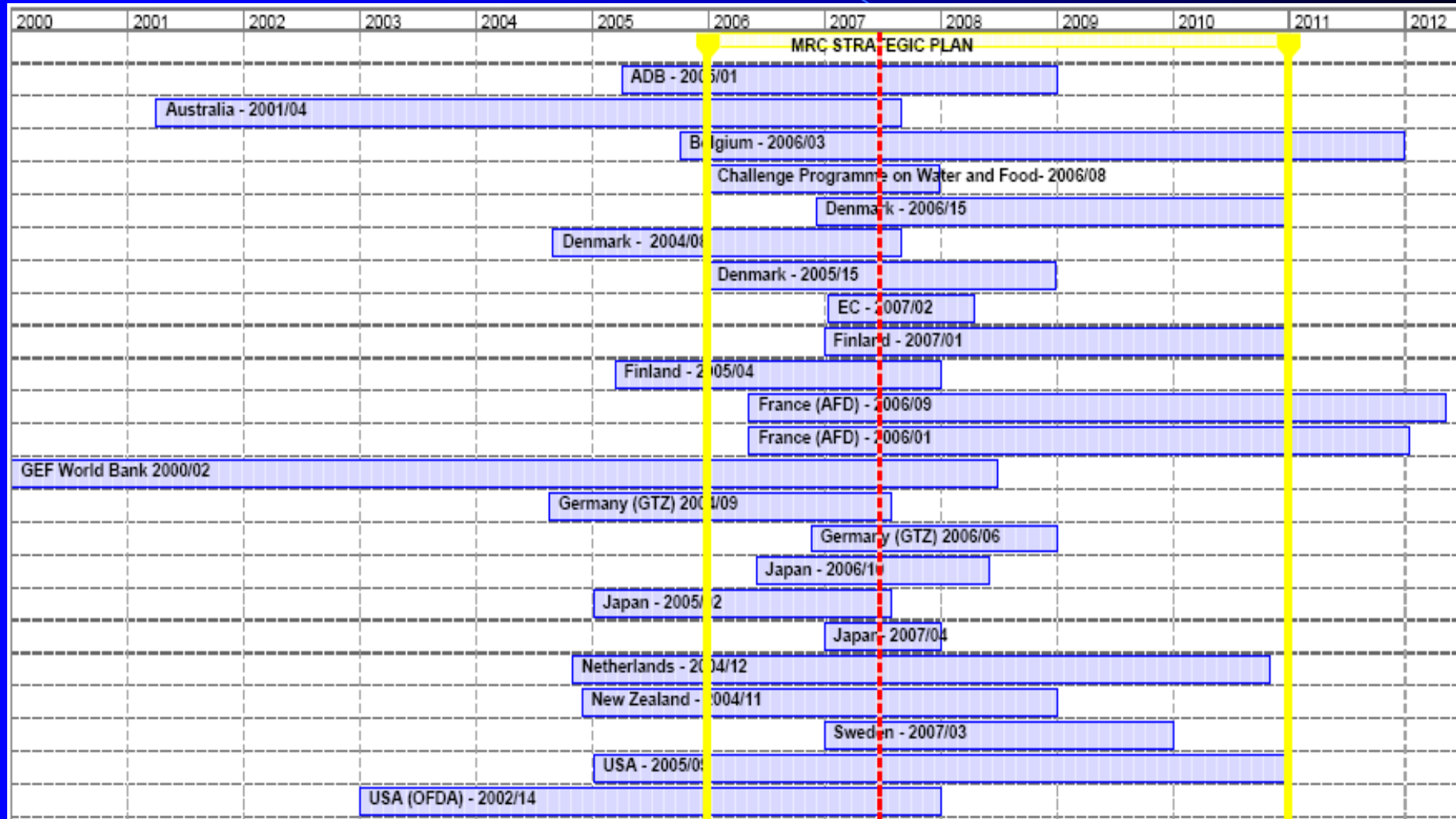




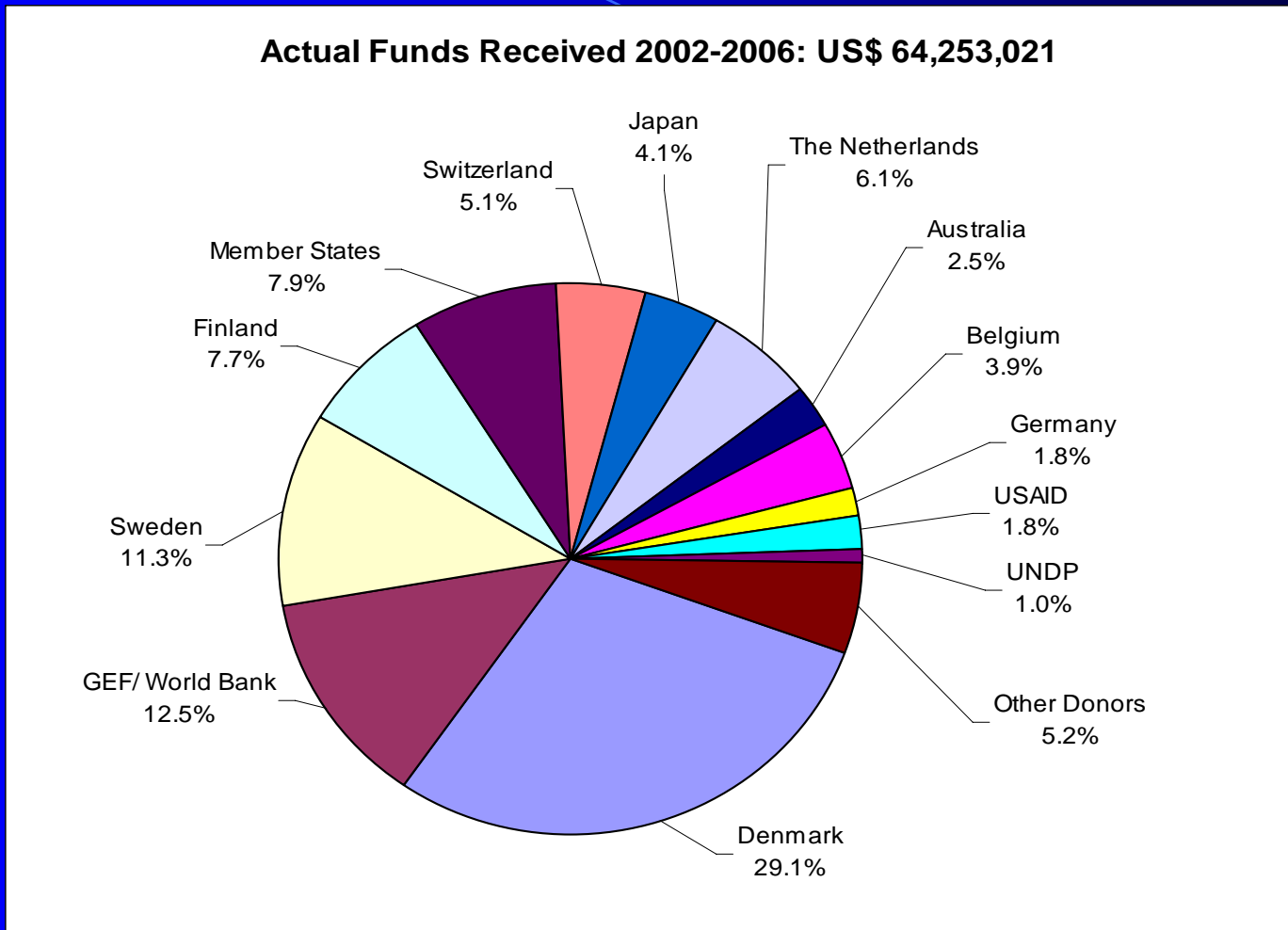


# Donor support modalities

## Duration of major active agreements



# MRC Income & Profile

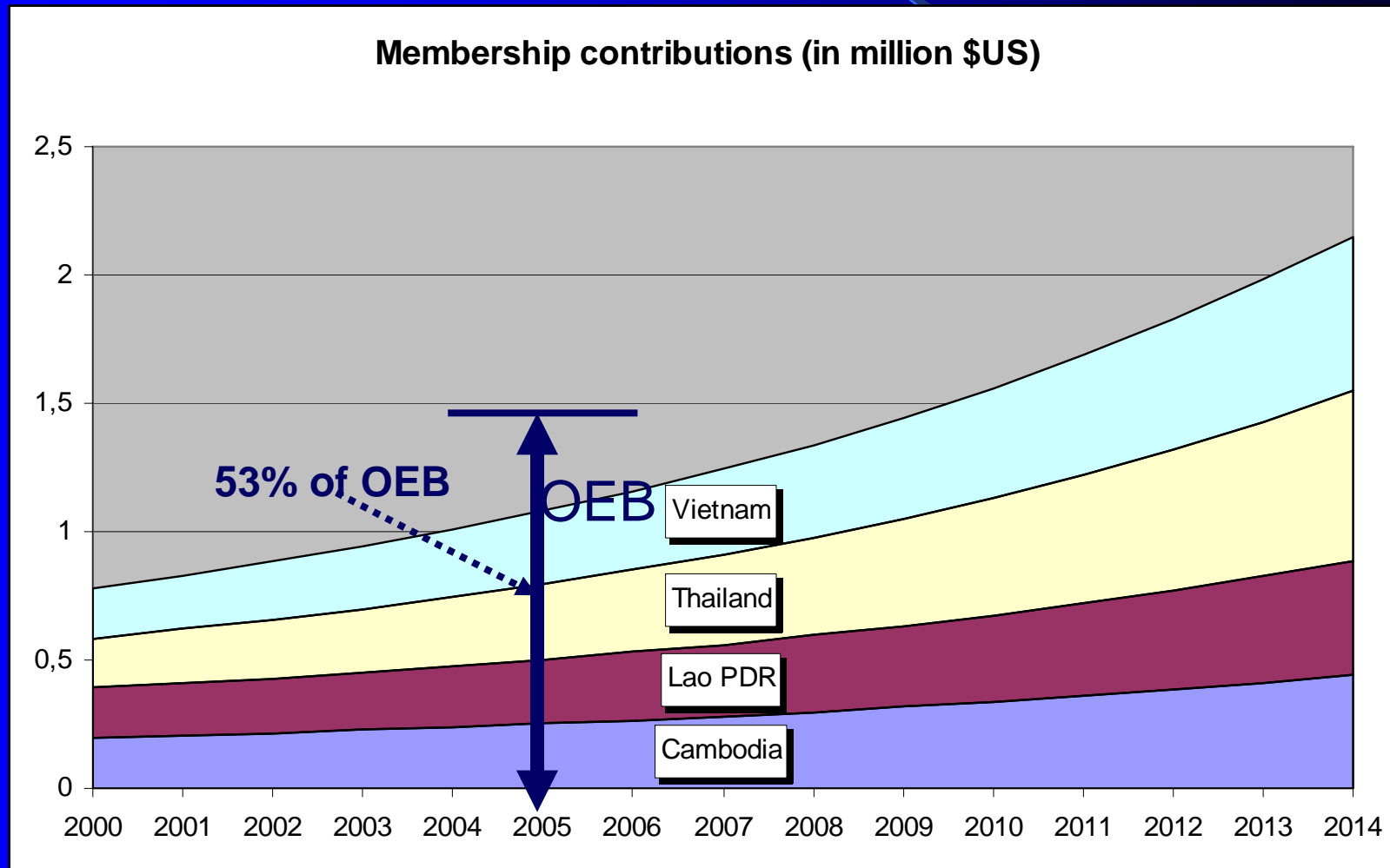


TA from:	Germany	US\$ 13.6m (hard pipeline: 11.7m)
	Japan	US\$ 1.5m
	France	US\$ 0.3m





# MRC Income & Profile: Increased country ownership





# MRC Income & Profile

## MRC Portfolio Coverage 2000 - 2008

