



M-POWER-CPWF Research Fellowships Program 2011-2013

The Mekong Program on Water, Environment and Resilience (M-POWER¹), with the support of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) through the CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF²) offers a research fellowships program to support 60+ researchers in the Mekong Region.

The main objective of the fellowships program is to build capacity of people interested in improving research-based knowledge and policy for the fair and sustainable management of water resources in the region. A complementary objective is to ensure research fellows gain experience from at least one other country in the region, in addition to their home country.

The first call of the research fellowship program, begun in 2011, is being implemented by the GMS Study Center of Yunnan University on behalf of M-POWER. Five research fellowships were awarded to conduct original research during 2011-2012. It is anticipated that the research fellows will gain a deeper understanding of the various water governance challenges being faced by the Mekong Region and be involved in public events and deliberations.



Supported by:



¹ The Mekong Program on Water, Environment and Resilience (M-POWER) is a network of collaborating organisations and individuals working towards democratising water governance in the Mekong Region (www.mpowernetwork.org).

² The Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF) is an international, multi-institutional research initiative with a strong emphasis on partnerships, adaptive management and participation. The Mekong Basin program focuses on making hydropower better (www.mekong.waterandfood.org).

Introducing the 2011-2012 Fellows

Research Fellow: Chau Thi Minh Long.

Title of the research: *Impacts of hydropower on farmers' livelihoods in the Sre Pok River in Vietnam: A case study of the Buon Tua Srah hydropower project*

This study aims to assess impacts of hydropower on livelihoods of local communities. The Buon Tua Srah hydropower project was constructed on the Sre Pok River in Vietnam and has significantly impacted farmers in Krong No District. However, there is little information available on the livelihood impacts. The study will enhance understanding of these impacts and discuss possible mitigation solutions with communities, officials and the hydropower developer.

Hosted by: Western Highlands Agriculture and Forestry Science and Technology Institute. Mentor: Dr. Lilao Bouapao, Independent Researcher, Lao PDR.



Research Fellow: Ham Kimkong.

Title of the research: *Understanding decision-making processes around hydropower in the 3S Region in Cambodia: Challenges for local livelihoods.*

This study's main focus is exploring the gaps and weaknesses in hydropower decision-making mechanisms within the Government of Cambodia. The research will attempt to understand the mechanisms of coordination and information-sharing among relevant ministries and public consultation efforts as well as discuss solutions to improve hydropower management practices for local communities and government agencies.

Hosted by: The Royal University of Phnom Penh. Mentor: Dr. Kanokwan Manorom, Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand.



Research Fellow: Kesa Ly.

Title of the research: *Improvements in hydropower management and decision-making in the Mekong: Cases from the 3S Region in Cambodia.*

In coordination with key Cambodia government ministries, this study identifies the challenges facing hydropower management and decision-making along the Mekong River in Cambodia. The study attempts to increase awareness among the Government of Cambodia on hydropower management issues with an aim towards improving its management capability.

Hosted by: Cambodia Center for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC). Mentor: Dr Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC, Cambodia.



Research Fellow: Pichai Uamturapojn.

Title of the research: *Understanding the causes and processes of organizational changes in and/or between River Basin Organisations (RBOs) in Thailand and Lao PDR.*

This study addresses how River Basin Organizations involve stakeholders in flood management within the traditional technical context. It aims to examine the operational processes and practices of stakeholders in both Thailand and Lao PDR and analyse the relationship between RBOs and other actors in the basin.

Hosted by: Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, Japan. Mentor: Mr Pech Sokhem, Hatfield Consultants, Canada.



Research Fellow: Wang Jian Ping.

Title of the research: *Reflections from good practices of the Erhai Lake Basin Management Commission (ELBMC), China, in Integrated Watershed Management.*

The study focuses on the practices and efforts of integrated watershed management by the ELBMC in the Erhai Lake, China's 2nd largest highland lake, that flows into the Lancang (Upper Mekong) River in Yunnan province. The study analyzes and evaluates the performance and efficiency of ELBMC and also explores the possibility of applying the findings to the broader Mekong River Basin.

Hosted by: Greater Mekong Sub-regional Study Center (GMSSC), Yunnan University. Mentor: Lu Xing, Yunnan University, China.

