

Food Security in the Mekong - The Water, Food and Energy Nexus Revisited

11-13 March 2013, Chiang Rai

The Mekong river sustains a wide variety of livelihood systems, and is producing food for domestic consumption as well as for export. This constitutes a backbone for local communities as well as being vital for national economies in the region. There are however several contemporary challenges to the future of food production that needs to be observed and understood, including for instance the possible development of hydropower projects and the threat to region-wide fisheries.

The region is now facing rapid population growth, urbanization and economic growth, increasing demand for energy, food and water. As a response, the countries of the Mekong Basin are increasingly considering hydropower as a solution to their growing energy needs.

The construction of dams, and the subsequent alteration of the water regime, may pose immediate and long-term threats to food security unless food and water needs are taken into account. Moreover, the challenges go beyond the hydropower debate since other interventions and investments are increasingly claiming considerable portions of the available water and land resources.

Solutions to food-, energy-, and water-security issues will only be sustainable when the three sectors work together.



This workshop will discuss food security from a nexus perspective with particular emphasis on scientific analysis and evidence as well as generating tools and appropriate responses. Prioritization will be placed on scientific analysis of the food security element (fisheries of prime, but not single, importance) of the nexus and determination of how it relates to the other areas of the nexus – water and energy in the Mekong context. It is addressing researchers, policy-makers, governments in the region, international organizations, as well as a wider civil society.

The organisers

The Shared Waters Partnership is a part of UNDP's Transboundary Waters Programme and is implemented by the UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI. It promotes cooperative approaches to shared water by strengthening multi-stakeholder platforms, improve efforts to align diplomatic and development work and build capacity to create robust, responsive institutions in cooperative shared water management. The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is a non-profit research organization dedicated to improving the management of land and water resources for food, livelihoods and the environment. IWMI is a member of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food secure future.

Venue:

MaeFahLuang University, Campus Hotel, Chiang Rai, Thailand

Registration:

Register by sending an email to kyungmee.kim@siwi.org.

Preliminary Programme

March 11

Welcoming speech

Reception and light dinner

March 12

9.00 Registration

11.00 Welcome and opening speech

11.30 Plenary session 1: *Food security and the nexus*

Plenary session 2: *Long term risk and vulnerability in the Mekong*

14.15 Commentators and discussion

15.30 Parallel sessions:

Panel 1: Reflections on Food Security (food production; allocation; alternatives to the existing livelihood system; fisheries)

Panel 2: Reflections on Risks and Vulnerabilities in the Mekong (Primary risks; identifying factors for vulnerability; consequences and scenarios)

17.00 Reporting from session work by rapporteurs

18.30 Dinner

March 13

9.00 Summing up day 1 (Rapporteur); outlining the 2nd day (Organisers)

9.30 Plenary session 3: *Hydropower, fish and food security*

10.30 Key institutions and their work in the region

13.30 Parallel sessions – working towards the solutions:

Panel 1: Food security vulnerability – inventory and map

Panel 2: Food security solutions – policy responses and options

15.30 Roundtable discussion in plenum

16.30 Wrap-up

17.00 Close of Workshop