



SIXTH SHARING & LEARNING SEMINAR MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION INTO RIVER BASIN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: **Challenges and Opportunities**

27 June 2011
Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) are widely accepted paradigms for river basin planning and development and the sustainable management of water resources. Going from frameworks and principles to improved practices and decisions, however, has often proven difficult. Enabling meaningful public participation and constructive engagement with all stakeholders remain critical water governance challenges, especially for transboundary and international rivers. Difficulties often also arise in ensuring appropriate flow regimes are maintained so that the services provided by aquatic and riparian ecosystems can be sustained.

Climate change compounds the challenges of dealing with complex land- and water-use changes in river basins. Adapting to climate change will require long-term strategic approaches to planning that maintain flexibility in responses in the face of significant uncertainties about a set of future risks. More adaptive systems of governance are needed that enable learning from experience, but also anticipate likely change. Scientific and experienced-based knowledge will need to be better integrated.

This seminar will share and discuss the experience, knowledge and concerns of water managers, project developers and other related professionals from various river basin organizations and institutions related to water governance and research in the region and elsewhere in the world. The seminar will also explore innovative and effective tools and approaches for more integrated and adaptive river basin management



Expected Outcomes

- Better understanding of the challenges and knowledge gaps in mainstreaming climate change adaptation into river basin planning and management; and
- Better understanding of strategies for how conservation, management and development of water, land and related resources across sectors may be integrated within a given river basin while at the same time taking into account the needs to adapt to climate change.

Target Audience

The Seminar is targeted to development and river basin planners, policy and decision-makers, development and adaptation practitioners, managers and technical professionals working in the field related to water resources, river basin development and management, integrated water resources management, developers and owners of water related infrastructures in river basins, disaster reduction as well as climate change adaptation, people livelihood and development issues.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Time	Title	Presenters/Speakers
Facilitator: Mozaharul Alam , Regional Climate Change Coordinator, UNEP Regional Office for Asia Pacific (UNEP ROAP)		
08.30-09.00	Registration	
09.00-09.10	Welcome	
09.10-09.20	Introduction of Objectives: Setting the Stage and Discussion Themes	Sourasay Phoumavong , Environment Division Director, Mekong River Commission (MRC), Lao PDR
09.20-09.50 (15 minutes each)	Keynote Address	
	The role of river basin planning and development in climate change adaptation: Experience in Asia	Andrew Noble , Regional Director for Southeast and Central Asia, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sri Lanka
	Streamlining climate change adaptation into river basin management: European perspectives	Birgit Vogel , former officer of the International Commission for Protection of the Danub River (ICPDR) and Chief Technical Advisor of the Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management Project, MRC

09.50-10.20 (15 minutes each)	Case Presentations: climate change impacts and adaptation in river basin in Asia	
	Climate change impacts and adaptation for agriculture and irrigation in Chao Phraya basin, Thailand	Chaiyuth Suksri , Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
	Adaptation planning in river basin management: Experiences from Bhutan	G. Karma Chhopel , Water Resources Coordination, National Environment Commission (NEC), Bhutan
10.20-10.35	Q&A	
10.35-10.50	Refreshment Break	
10.50-11.50 (10 minutes each for 6 countries)	Panel Discussions: from community adaptation to a basin-wide adaptation strategy – a transboundary Mekong river perspective	Representatives from each of the Mekong basin countries: Cambodia, Lao, Thailand and Vietnam, with possible representatives from Southern China and Myanmar (to be confirmed)
11.50-12.10	Q&A	
12.10-12.30	Facilitated Group Discussions: What are the challenges and opportunities in Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into river basin planning and development and what mechanisms/ approaches can be incorporated to address the challenges?	
12.30-12.50	Feedback from Group Discussions to Plenary	
12.50-13.00	Synthesis	Kien Tran-Mai , MRC, Lao PDR
	Lunch	
14.15-16.00	Facilitated Group Discussions for those individuals interested in follow-up to mornings seminar:	
	What capacities need to be developed for mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into river system management and/or water management in the Mekong basin countries?	
	What kind of follow-up and collaborative activities can be undertaken in the region together in the coming months?	

Please note the logistic details:

Date : Monday, 27th June 2011

Time : 08.30 – 16.00 hrs

Venue : Siam City Hotel, 477 Si Ayuthaya Road (BTS:Phaya Thai)

All participants are invited to join the lunch at 13.00

May 2011

Partners



Photo Credit

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