

Venue

The conference will be held from 23-25 February, 2011 in Luang Prabang, a city located in the north central of Lao PDR, about 425 km north of Vientiane. The exact address is:

Huean Luang Prabang
Ban Sankkalok, Luang Prabang
Tel. (856-71) 260 500
Fax. (856-71) 260 501
www.hueanluangprabang.com

Registration

Please visit the website <http://www.mekongfloodconference.net> and complete the online registration form.

Workshop Organisers



Mekong River Commission (MRC)

MRC is an intergovernment organization established in 1995 to promote and co-ordinate sustainable management and development of water and related resources for the countries' mutual benefit and the people's well-being by implementing strategic programmes and activities and providing scientific information and policy advice. MRC member countries are Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. MRC is promoting a programme of regional cooperation for sustainable water resources development at basin scale in areas of basin planning, water utilization, environment, flood management & mitigation, fisheries, agriculture, irrigation and forestry, hydropower, navigation and capacity building. Please visit www.mrcmekong.org.



Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operation. It provides viable, forward looking solutions for political economic, ecological and social development in a globalised world. GIZ promotes complex reforms and change processes, often working under difficult conditions. Its corporate objective is to improve people's living conditions on a sustainable basis. For more information, see the website: www.giz.de



GFA Consulting Group GmbH

The GFA Group is a global player with numerous subsidiaries and partner companies worldwide. The company's success is achieved in providing consultancy and support services to institutions and organizations which endeavor to improve people's lives. It combines competence at sector and management level with application of innovative technology for project planning, project implementation, human resource development and financing. One core expertise lies in natural resource management; land management, protection of water-sheds and mitigation of the risk of natural disasters. GFA addresses and encourages local initiatives and integrates consumers into institutional structures by developing and implementing tailor-made solutions for community-managed systems. Please visit www.gfa-group.de



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

ADPC is a regional resource centre committed to reduce the impact on communities and Countries in Asia and Pacific region since 1986. ADPC works to achieve this by raising awareness, helping to establish and strengthen sustainable institutional mechanisms, enhance knowledge and skills and facilitate exchange of information, experience and expertise through training and technical, networking, partnerships and regional programmes. Please visit <http://www.adpc.net>

For further information, please send email:

info@mekongfloodconference.net



International Workshop People Centered Approach in Flood and Land Management in the Mekong Basin

Sustained Implementation and Planning for Future Challenges at the Sub-National Levels

23-25 February 2011,
Luang Prabang, Lao PDR



Background

After the devastating floods of 2000 and 2001, the Member Countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam) of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) entered into discussions to take drastic steps towards the reduction of damages to infrastructure, economic losses and loss of lives and livelihoods as a result of extreme floods. The Mekong River Commission's Joint Committee and Council endorsed the Flood Management and Mitigation Strategy in 2001, which was followed by the implementation of a dedicated Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (FMMP). Since 2004, the implementation of the FMMP, consisting of five components, has been gradually developed and achieved in line with the MRC's Strategic Plan 2006-2010. Most of the expected outputs already have been or will have been delivered by the early 2011. Through its interventions, FMMP has provided direct and indirect support to the Member Countries as per the needs identified by them.

Although significant progress has been made in dealing with floods through improved planning, preparedness, forecasting and warning, emergency management and response, rehabilitation, better land-use etc., reality teaches us that due to rapid economic developments, population growth, infrastructure developments and land-use changes the flood risk only has increased. MRC prepares for the continuance of the flood management and mitigation for another five years in accordance with the MRC's Strategic Plan 2011-2015 achieving its regional mandate by delivering its core functions and supplementary interventions with the help of its National Mekong Committees (NMCs) and Line Agencies (LAs).

The Flood Preparedness, Emergency Management Strengthening and the Land Management Component of the FMMP 2004-2011 are community centered activities and directly address the needs of flood vulnerable communities in the Member Countries. This also indicate/guide the strengthening and operations of government agencies at different levels i.e., national, provincial, district and commune as well as national and international development partners. This is vital for enhancing communication, coordination and cooperation between these stakeholders, as well as the consistency of national disaster management and mitigation policy implementation. Enhanced flood preparedness and land management practices are an important factor in contributing to a situation where the regular Mekong floods cause substantial damages to public and private assets and livelihoods. More effective decision-making in flood and land management required the provision of relevant and accurate flood related information, capacity building of disaster management officials, development of flood management tools, knowledge sharing and public education and awareness. Improvements in land management by considering flood probability information provides direct positive impact through the reduction of damage to agriculture and infrastructure, but also indirect benefits through the avoidance of damage to the most vulnerable parts of the population living and working in the flood plains.

With continued support since 2004 from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) represented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO), the Component 4 and Component 5 of FMMP have addressed enhancing capacities and cooperation among authorities and organizations at various levels of the Member countries to apply more efficiently appropriate disaster preparedness, emergency management and land management policies and tools in the field of flood management.

While the Annual Mekong Flood Forums (AMFF) has been providing an opportunity since 2002 to bring the variety of stakeholders around the globe to discuss the achievements and challenges to the Lower Mekong Basin, the FMMP and its implementing partners has been actively engaged in promoting and disseminating the lesson learnt at the province, district and community levels linking with the national frameworks. In 2007, a regional lesson learnt workshop was organized in Khon Kaen, Thailand on the innovative approaches to flood risk reduction in the lower Mekong basin. Various National Flood Forums and Lesson Learnt Workshops organized under the component 4 and 5 has show cased the good practices on flood and land management interventions by involving the local authorities

The International workshop on People centered approach in Flood and Land Management in the Mekong River Basin: Sustained Implementation and Planning for Future Challenges is jointly organized by the Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS), its technical support partner such as Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and GFA Consulting Group GmbH with funding support from GIZ. The workshop will provide an opportunity for participants of the international, national and local level planning, development agencies and stakeholders to enhance opportunities to share experiences and lessons, identify emerging trends and strategies, develop and enhance people-centered approach to flood and land management and mitigation in the Lower Mekong Basin.

Workshop Themes

The central focus of the workshop is on People-centered approach in Flood and Land Management in the Lower Mekong Basin. The main themes of the workshop are;

1. Flood Preparedness and Risk Reduction Programmes at Sub-National Levels: Lesson Learnt and Way Ahead.
2. Effective Land Use Planning and Flood Probability Information for Flood Plains.
3. Partnerships for Flood Risk Reduction and Integration into National and Local Development Planning Framework.
4. Mekong Children Forum on Flood Safety in a Changing Climate.

Participants

Participants will be primarily from the MRC's Member Countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam and Thailand) through the National Mekong Committees (NMCs), the National Disaster Management Officers, the line agencies, planning agencies and officials from Provincial and District Disaster Management Committees, Red Cross Societies, NGOs working in flood risk reduction and environmental degradation, universities and officials from UN Agencies, Development Partners.

Workshop Format

The workshop will employ a range of formats to enable participants to share knowledge and stimulate active discussions: Presentations, Plenary Sessions and Discussions, Break-up group discussion, Poster and Photo Exhibitions, Film Screening based on the main themes of the workshop. Each of the themes will be further divided into sub-themes such as ;

1. Flood Preparedness and Risk Reduction Programmes at Sub-National Levels: Lesson Learnt and Way Ahead.
 - 1.1: Reflections by National, Provincial, District and Commune officials
 - 1.2: Safer Brother Provinces: Experiences from Province to Province Flood Management and Mitigation Cooperation
 - 1.3: Effective Community Based Early Warning Systems and Disseminations.
2. Effective Land Use Planning and Flood Probability Information for Flood Plains
 - 2.1: Flood Information Based Land Management
 - 2.2: Flood Probability Information and Production of Flood Probability Maps for the Flood Plains: Experiences from the Member Countries
3. Partnerships for Flood Risk Reduction and Integration into National and Local Development Planning Framework
 - 3.1: Integration of Flood Risk Reduction into National and Local Development Planning
 - 3.2: Public Private Partnerships for Implementation of National and Sub-national CBDRM programmes.
4. Mekong Children Forum on flood safety in a changing climate
 - 4.1: Child focused Flood Risk Reduction
 - 4.2: Flood Awareness through Education Department Officials
 - 4.3: Educating Teachers and Students on flood safety