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SUMERNET Annual Meeting 2017

29-30 March 2017, Sunway Hotel Phnom Penh, Cambodia

SUMERNET Policy Forum: Agenda

Thursday 30th March 2017

SUMERNET Policy Forum – Opportunities for regional research and partnership approach in supporting the implementation of water security related Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030

Participants: about 80-100 pax including SUMERNET research and regional assessment partners, research mentors, SRAAC, boundary partners, SSC, Secretariat, Regional partners and donor agencies, relevant Cambodia government officials, media, and other stakeholders in the region.

MC: Dr. Albert Salamanca, SEI Research Fellow

Rapporteurs: May, Vanessa, Page

Date	Activities	Chair, speakers, moderators	Remarks
8:30-9:00	Registration	Nipa, Vanessa, May, Page, and IFReDI staff	
9:00-9:20	**Session 1: Welcoming and opening** • Welcoming remarks • Opening speech	Dr. Chu Thai Hoanh, SUMERNET SC Chair Dr. AnnaKarin Norling, Embassy of Sweden, Bangkok H.E. Nao Thuok, Secretary of State at Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia	
9:20-10:10	**Session 2: Introduction and setting the scene** • Introduction to SUMERNET network and SUMERNET Policy Forum 2017 • Opportunities and challenges for Cambodia in achieving SDGs and Agenda 2030 • Addressing gender and social equity in sustainable development in Cambodia • Q&A	Presenters: • Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, SUMERNET Programme Manager • H.E. Dr. Van Monyneath, Deputy Secretary-General, National Council for Sustainable Development , Cambodia • Representative of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Cambodia (t.b.c.)	10 min for each presentation, followed by Q&A after all the presentations
10:10-10:40	**Group photos and coffee break**		

10:40-12:00	**Session 3: Panel discussion** **Panel 1 – Sustaining fishery and agriculture in the Mekong for food security (SDG 2: food security)** Moderator: Dr. Carl Middleton, Chulalongkorn University Panelists: - Mr. Chheng Phen (IFReDI) - Dr. Eric Baran (WorldFish) - Dr. Mak Sithirith (CDRI) - Mr. Sangmalang Viphongsay (Boundary partner of RECOVER project, MOWRAM, Lao PDR) - Dr. Nguyen Van Giap (LMPPI) - H.E. Dr. Mak Soeun (GDA, MAFF, t.b.c.)	**Panel 2 – Addressing climate change uncertainties and impacts on development (SDG 13: Climate action)** Moderator: Dr. Louis Lebel, SUMERNET Steering Committee Panelists: - Dr Babette Resurreccion, SEI - Dr. Sangam Shrestha, AIT - Ms. Nguyen Thi Lanh (Boundary partner of Vietnam assessment case study, the Southwest Steering Committee) - Mr. Suy Sovann (Boundary partner of Cambodia case study, MOWRAM Cambodia - Mr. Ho Thang (Boundary partner of EWEC-FC project, Department of Science and Technology Vietnam) - Mr. Kyaw Zin Than (Boundary partner, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River System, DWIR, Myanmar)	
12:00-13:00	**Group Lunch**		
13:00-14:15	**Panel 3 – Transboundary water governance: institutional challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation (SDG 6 &17)**	Moderator: Mr. Niall O'Connor, SEI Asia Centre Director Panelists: - Mr. Hak Socheat (CNMC) - Dr. AnnaKarin Norling (Swedish Embassy) - Mr. Sumit Pokhrel (ADB GMS EOC) - Dr. Chu Thai Hoanh (SUMERNET) - Dr. Carl Middleton (Chulalongkorn University) - Mr. Li Zhang (Yunnan University)	
14:15-14:35	**Coffee Break**		Setting up 'World Café'
14:35-14:40	**Session 4: Identifying concrete opportunities for regional research and partnership in supporting the implementation of water security related goals of Agenda 2030** Introduction to the session	Moderator: Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, SUMERNET Programme Manager	Resource persons: Ha, Albert, Agus, Miaojie, Vanessa, May, Page
14:40-15:00	Understanding the policy needs on water	Invited policy makers in charge of	

	security related goals	SDGs for each of three themes discussed in three policy panels	
15:00-15:30	World Café: Exploring collaborative opportunities at three stations	Station facilitators: Ha, Albert, and Agus Resource persons: Invited policy makers	The participants will select one station to visit and explore collaborations.
15:30-15:55	Reporting back on concrete opportunities General reflections	Invited researchers representing each of the three stations Representatives of forum participants	Plenary session
15:55 -16:00	**Wrap up and closing**	Dr. Chu Thai Hoanh, SUMERNET Steering Committee Chair	
End of SUMERNET Policy Forum and Annual Meeting 2017			

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SUMERNET Policy Forum
Opportunities and challenges for regional research and policy partnerships in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030)

30 March 2017 | Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Panelists Profiles

This year's SUMERNET Annual Policy Forum aims to explore the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030 at the regional and national levels. This policy forum will aim to enhance dialogue and interaction between the researchers, local boundary partners and policy actors at different levels. The discussions will aim to reach a better understanding of how research agendas and policy engagement activities can be made relevant and useful in addressing the practical challenges in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Session 2: Introduction and setting the scene

This panel is devoted to understanding the efforts of our host country Cambodia in planning for, and achieving, the SDGs along with addressing gender and social equity issues for sustainable development in the Mekong Region.

Panelists:

1. **H.E. Vann Monyneath**, Deputy Secretary General, National Council for Sustainable Development, Cambodia
2. **Representative from** Ministry of Women's Affairs, Cambodia (t.b.c.)

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H.E. Vann Monyneath is the Deputy Director General of National Council for Sustainable Development Cambodia and ASEAN Chairman, taking charge of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030. He is also the Deputy Secretary General of the National Committee for Management and Development of Coastal Areas. His main responsibility in the Ministry of Environment is on ASEAN Environmental aspects, strategic planning and coastal projects/programmes.

Session 3: Panel 1 – Sustaining fishery and agriculture in the Mekong for food security for all (Goal 2: food security for no hunger)

This parallel panel 1 aims to address SDG 2: food security in the two key sectors of fisheries and agriculture. The panel will discuss the key challenges in ensuring food security in the Mekong especially with respect to these sectors.

Moderator: Dr. Carl Middleton, Chulalongkorn University

Panelists:

1. **Mr. Chheng Phen**, Inland Fisheries Research and Development Cambodia (IFReDI)
2. **Dr. Mak Sithirith**, Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI)
3. **Mr. Sangmalang Viphongxai**, Xayaburi District Agriculture and Forest Office (DAFO), Savannakhet province, Lao PDR (Boundary partner of RECOVER project)
4. **Dr. Nguyen Van Giap**, Lower Mekong Public Policy Initiative (LMPPI)
5. **Dr. Eric Baran**, Senior Scientist, WorldFish
6. **H.E. Dr. Mak Soeun,** General Directorate of Agriculture, Cambodia (t.b.c.)

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Dr. Carl Middleton is Assistant Professor and Deputy Director for Research on the Master of Arts in International Development Studies (MAIDS) Programme, and Director for the Center for Social Development Studies (CSDS), in the Faculty of Political Science of Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. He graduated from the University of Manchester, UK with a Bachelors in Civil Engineering, and a Doctorate in Environmental Chemistry. Before joining the MAIDS program in 2009, he spent six years working with international and local civil society organizations throughout the Mekong Region on issues related to sustainable development. His research focuses on environmental policy and politics, with a particular interest in the political ecology of water, land and energy in Southeast Asia and environmental justice.



Mr. Chheng Phen is the Acting Director of Inland Fisheries Research and Development Institute (IFReDI), Cambodia. His main focus is on fisheries monitoring, and food and nutrition security. Before joining IFReDI, Mr. Chheng Phen was the CEO of Narith Import Export Co. Ltd., Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and the Aquaculture Extension Officer of Southeast Asian Outreach, a not-for-profit group.

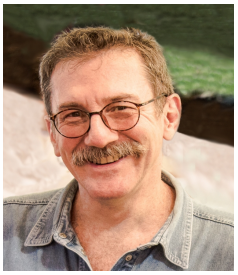
Dr. Mak Sithirith is the Head of the Environment Unit, Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI).



Mr Sangmalang Viphongxai is an agronomist in the Xayaburi District Agriculture and Forest office (DAFO) in Savannakhet province, Lao PDR. He has more than 18-years of field experience with rice production and pest control. He is the boundary partner for the RECOVER project in SUMERNET to help link the research with DAFO Xayaburi and helps farmers in Phonethan and Dongyang villages with organic rice production including compost making, bio-extract making, green manure, soil improvement and mushroom production.



Dr. Nguyen Van Giap is a senior researcher at the Lower Mekong Public Policy Initiative (LMPPI)/Fulbright Economics Teaching Program (FETP). His main research areas include agricultural demand and price analysis, and agriculture development. He is currently working on issues of sustainable aquaculture and evaluation of rural development program in the Mekong River Delta of Viet Nam. He has published his research on Applied Economics, Marine Resource Economics, Aquaculture Economics and Management. He got a Ph.D. in Applied Economics from Auburn University. Before joining LMPPI, He was a post-doctoral researcher at Auburn University, a lecturer at Tan Tao University, and the director of Southern Center for Agricultural Policies and Strategies (SCAP) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



Dr. Eric Baran is a tropical fisheries specialist and a Senior Scientist at WorldFish, an international research center focused on fisheries and aquaculture. Eric holds a Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography and has worked in twelve countries in Africa, South America and Asia. For the past 16 years he has been working in the Mekong Region, with a focus on fish resource sustainability, impact of dams, river basin management and environmental valuation. His 60 publications on Mekong fish and fisheries can be accessed at: www.worldfishcenter.org.

Session 3: Panel 2 – Addressing the uncertainty in climate change and development for all in the region (Goal 13: Climate action)

This parallel panel 2 focuses on the Mekong Region in the context of climate uncertainties and the interaction between the impacts of climate change and the patterns of development. The panel will explore the different ways these uncertainties can be addressed in both research and policy-making.

Moderator: Dr. Louis Lebel, SUMERNET Steering Committee

Panelists:

1. **Dr. Babette Resurreccion**, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
2. **Dr. Sangam Shrestha**, Associate Professor of Water Engineering and Management, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
3. **Ms. Nguyen Thi Lanh**, Management Specialist, the Southwest Steering Committee, Vietnam (Regional Assessment of Vietnam)

4. **Mr. Suy Sovann**, Deputy Director of Department of Hydrology and River Works, Department of Hydrology and River Works, Cambodia
5. **Mr. Ho Thang**, Deputy Director, Provincial Department of Science and Technology, Vietnam
6. **Mr. Kyaw Zin Than**, Deputy Director, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR), Myanmar (Regional Assessment of Myanmar)

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Dr. Louis Lebel has been with Chiang Mai University since 1999. He has on-going research interests and a range of publications spanning ecology, epidemiology and public health, political science and environmental governance. He used to coordinate the Mekong Program on Water, Environment and Resilience (M-POWER) network. He has contributed to several international global environmental change research programs over the past 15 years. Currently he is the Director of Unit for Social and Environmental Research (USER) at Chiang Mai University, a member of the SUMERNET Steering Committee, and an SEI Associate.



Dr Babette Resurreccion is Senior Research Fellow with SEI Asia. She has expertise on gender, livelihoods, climate change adaptation, migration, and natural resource management in Cambodia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. Babette was formerly Associate Professor of Gender & Development Studies at the School of Environment, Resources & Development of the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok. She received her Master's and Doctorate in Development Studies from the International Institute of Social Studies, the Hague.



Dr. Sangam Shrestha is an Associate Professor of Water Engineering and Management at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand. Dr. Shrestha has expertise in hydrological modelling and climate change impact and adaptation in the water sector. His recent publications include "Climate Change and Water Resources" (CRC Press), "Managing Water Resources under Climate Uncertainty" (Springer) and "Groundwater Environment in Asian Cities" (Elsevier). He has been conducting several projects related to water resources management, climate change impacts and adaptation and working with international organizations such as APN, CIDA, FAO, IFS, IGES, and UNESCO. Dr. Shrestha is also a Visiting Professor at National University of Laos (NUoL), Lao PDR, and University of Yamanashi, Japan and research fellow of Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan.



Ms. Nguyen Thi Lanh is a management specialist in the Department of General Management, the Southwest Steering Committee, Can Tho City, Vietnam since 2012. She is the Boundary Partner for the Regional Assessment Study in Vietnam. She has a Master's in Environment Management, College of Environment and Natural Resources, CTU. Her main areas of work is water resources management in Vietnam, especially in the Mekong River Delta including dry-season planning, floods, water pollution, and local livelihoods and food security.



Mr. Suy Sovann is the Deputy Director of Department of Hydrology and River Works, Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM), Cambodia. He has been with MOWRAM since 1996, involved in projects such as the River Basin Water Resource Utilization Project (2014-2019) for six river basins in south Phnom Penh & west Tonle Sap and the ADB-GMS Flood and Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Project with the National Flood Forecasting Center. He is the boundary partner for the Regional Assessment Study in Cambodia.



Mr. Ho Thang is the Deputy Director of the Provincial Department of Science and Technology, Thua Thien Hue province, Vietnam. Currently, he is responsible for science and technology management. Mr. Thang is involved in in applying research findings and looking at implications for socio-economic development planning and policy making. He has a Master's and Ph.D degree in agricultural economics and rural development. He is the boundary partner for the EWEC-FC project.

Mr. Kyaw Zin Than the Deputy Director of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR), Myanmar. He is the boundary partner for the Regional Assessment Study in Myanmar.

Session 3: Panel 3 – Transboundary water governance: institutional challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation (Goals 6: Clean water and sanitation & SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals)

Panel 3 is a plenary session to share perspectives about transboundary governance in the Mekong River and, in particular, the institutional challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation. The panel will refer to the current efforts of national and regional institutions with mandates for transboundary water management in efforts to achieve water security related goals of Agenda 2030. The panel discussion is expected to identify the areas for concrete cooperation among the regional institutions, development partners, and research communities, and strengthen partnerships to address future challenges.

Moderator: Mr. Niall O'Connor, SEI Asia Centre Director

Panelists:

1. **Mr. Hak Socheat**, Director of the Planning and Cooperation Department, Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC)
2. **Dr. AnnaKarin Norling**, First Secretary, Senior Research Advisor – Environment and Natural Resources, Embassy of Sweden, Bangkok
3. **Mr. Sumit Pokhrel**, POSITION??? ADB GMS EOC
4. **Dr. Chu Thai Hoanh**, SUMERNET Steering Committee Chair
5. **Dr. Carl Middleton**, Assistant Professor and Deputy Director for Research on the Master of Arts in International Development Studies (MAIDS) Programme, Chulalongkorn University
6. **Mr. Li Zhang**, assistant to the director of Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Yunnan University

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Mr. Niall O'Connor is the Centre Director of SEI Asia Centre since March 2016. Niall has a wealth of experience, having worked in NGOs, governments and in academia. Over the last 15 years, he has led senior leadership and management positions in Western, Eastern and Southern Africa. This included six years as Country Director in Gambia and Senegal for Concern Universal (a UK based international NGO), before joining WWF in 2008. In August 2011, Niall started as the Regional Director for WWF Eastern and Southern Africa, demonstrating his strong leadership and management skills for this challenging position in WWFs biggest Programme Office.



Mr. Hak Socheat is the Director of the Planning and Cooperation Department, Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC). Mr. Socheat has been working for Cambodia National Mekong Committee since 1995 on the field of Environment, Flood Management, Planning and international cooperation. He holds a Master's of Engineering in Environmental Sciences with specialization in Environmental Planning and Management from UNESCO-IHE, the Netherlands.



Dr. AnnaKarin Norling is the First Secretary, Senior Research Advisor – Environment and Natural Resources, Embassy of Sweden, Bangkok. Prior to her position at the Embassy she worked at Sida in Stockholm with international research cooperation mainly within natural sciences, environment and climate. She has worked as an assistant director at the International Science Programme at Uppsala University. In addition, she has acted as a lecturer. She holds a Ph.D. in Engineering Physics from Uppsala University, Sweden.



Mr. Sumit Pokhrel is Senior Climate Change Specialist in ADB. He has over seventeen years of professional experience in the field of program coordination and development working in Nepal, the US and the Mekong Region. His diverse experience includes ecosystems/community based climate change mitigation and adaptation; landscape conservation and livelihoods development; disaster incident management; energy conservation; environmental planning; and environmental assessments and compliance. Prior to joining Asian Development Bank's Environment Operations Center in 2007, Sumit has provided services to agencies such as the US Environment Protection Agency (EPA), US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), World Bank (WB) and World Health Organization (WHO). Sumit has a Master's degree in Environmental Science from Southern Illinois University, USA.



Dr. Chu Thai Hoanh has over 40 years of experience in research and management in agriculture and water management including: hydraulic modeling, crop modeling, optimization, and production supply-demand and climate change scenario analysis. Currently he serves as the chair of the SUMERNET Steering Committee, Emeritus Scientist of International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Advisor of the Lower Mekong Public Policy Initiative (LMPPI), Associate of UNU-Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) and is an SEI Associate.

Representative from Institute of Southeast Asia Studies, Yunnan University, Yunnan University



Dr. Carl Middleton is Assistant Professor and Deputy Director for Research on the Master of Arts in International Development Studies (MAIDS) Programme, and Director for the Center for Social Development Studies (CSDS), in the Faculty of Political Science of Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. He graduated from the University of Manchester, UK with a Bachelors in Civil Engineering, and a Doctorate in Environmental Chemistry. Before joining the MAIDS program in 2009, he spent six years working with international and local civil society organizations throughout the Mekong Region on issues related to sustainable development. His research focuses on environmental policy and politics, with a particular interest in the political ecology of water, land and energy in Southeast Asia and environmental justice.



Mr. ZHANG Li is a researcher and the assistant to the director of Institute of Southeast Asian Studies at Yunnan University (China). He was a visiting scholar at University of Wisconsin-Madison (the U.S.) during September 2015 to October 2016 and is now a PhD. Candidate in Yunnan University. He has been working on a project on water diplomacy: transboundary water cooperation and conflict between China and the Lower Mekong Countries (Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam). His interest is in water diplomacy, public diplomacy, and transboundary water cooperation in Southeast Asia.