



SOUTHEAST ASIA REGIONAL WEBINAR

DATE & TIME: 3 February 2021 @ 0900 Geneva / 1500 Phnom Penh/Vientiane/Bangkok /Hanoi

Timing for webinar: 100 minutes

Upholding Mekong Cooperation for Present & Future Challenges

Southeast Asia has been a beacon of transboundary cooperation since the late 1950s, and especially since the signing of the Mekong Agreement in 1995. The Mekong Spirit of Cooperation has driven mutually beneficial outcomes despite numerous challenges causing impacts along the Mekong, including floods, droughts, disruption to natural water and sediment flow regimes from water infrastructure (including from mainstream and tributary hydropower) and other developments, plastics pollution and increasingly climate change. Riparian States, the Mekong River Commission (MRC), and more recently the Lancang Mekong Water Resources Cooperation (LMC Water), with the support of the LMC Water Center, have been working together and exploring effective means and modes in addressing these issues with innovation and good neighbourliness, including data exchange. In a transboundary context, achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 6.5 on integrated water resources management requires effective transboundary cooperation since 60 per cent of the world's freshwater flows in shared basins. A coherent and coordinated approach to shared water management is important for all SDGs including health, food, energy, environment, peace and more. This webinar thus seeks to support SDG6 Global Acceleration Framework which aims to strengthen implementation of SDG6.

The webinar aims to:

- **Provide an opportunity for transboundary dialogue** with and between states, regional actors and international partners on key current or emerging issues facing the region's transboundary rivers;
- **Outline potential next steps for strengthening solutions** in the short, medium and long-terms to these current or emerging issues, including efforts to support capacity-building and financing.

The webinar outcome will be an "Issue Brief" that will summarise the discussions and potential next steps.

To access the WEBEX online platform and login to the webinar, please click on the hyperlink [here](#).

This regional webinar is being implemented through the financial support of the European Union.

Follow updates on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn via the hashtags: **#watercooperation #MekongRiver**

(Twitter: @UNECE_Water @MRCMekong / Facebook: @UNECEWater / @MRCMekong LinkedIn: @UNECEWater)

Webinar Agenda: Data & Information-Sharing for Regional Cooperation

Welcome & Housekeeping (5mins)	
SESSION MODERATOR: <i>Dr Anoulak Kittikhoun, Chief Strategy and Partnership Officer, MRCS</i>	
Importance of data-sharing for transboundary cooperation: perspectives from the Water Convention and other global processes (5mins)	
<i>Ms Sonja Koepfel, Secretary, Water Convention Secretariat</i>	
Support from the EU to the Mekong River Commission and the Water Convention as transboundary water cooperation platforms (5mins)	
<i>His excellency Pirkka Tapiola, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, European Union in Thailand</i>	
Data measuring transboundary water cooperation: update on SDG Indicator 6.5.2 reporting in Asia (5mins)	
<i>Ms Solene Le Doze, Environment and Development Division, United Nations Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</i>	
Data-sharing on the Mekong (focus on drought/flood management and DRR)	
SESSION MODERATOR: <i>Mr Remy Kinna, Water Convention Secretariat</i>	
MEKONG SPEAKER 1: THAILAND (8 mins) Dr Somkiat Prajamwong Secretary General, Office of Natural Water Resources (ONWR) and Thai National Mekong Committee	<i>Perspective of a Lower Mekong Basin state: how can improving data exchange help to mitigate flood and drought impacts?</i>
MEKONG SPEAKER 2: MRC Secretariat (8mins) Dr An Pich Hatda Chief Executive Officer, MRC Secretariat	<i>Why flood and drought remain key challenges for the Mekong and how to best ensure transparency, quality and timeliness in water data sharing for forecasting and warning information</i>
MEKONG SPEAKER 3: LMC Water Centre (8mins) Mr Dong Yanfei Deputy Secretary General, LMC Water Centre	<i>How to promote Lancang-Mekong River Basin Management by strengthening data and information sharing and collaboration.</i>
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION – FINNISH EXPERIENCE (8 mins) Dr Lea Kauppi Senior Advisor, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) Bureau Member, Water Convention	<i>The importance of data sharing to Finland for managing its transboundary rivers and lakes as well as the value add of the Water Convention.</i>
Targeted Questions & Answers (40 mins)	
Summary of Discussions & Closing remarks (5mins)	
SESSION MODERATOR: <i>Dr Anoulak Kittikhoun, Chief Strategy and Partnership Officer, MRCS</i>	