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Chapter 1 : Contested Waterscapes in the Mekong Region - - acheter English books | racedaydvl.com

Request PDF on ResearchGate | On Jan 1, , Tira Foran and others published Pak Mun dam: perpetually contested.

The water resources of the Mekong region – from the Irrawaddy and Nu-Salween in the west, across the Chao Phraya to the Lancang-Mekong and Red River in the east- are increasingly contested. Their plans and interventions should provide some benefits, but also pose multiple burdens and risks to millions of people dependent on wetlands, floodplains and aquatic resources, in particular, the wild capture fisheries of rivers and lakes. *Contested Waterscapes in the Mekong Region* examines how large-scale projects are being proposed, justified, and built. How are such projects contested and how do specific governance regimes influence decision making? *Contested Waterscapes in the Mekong Region* shows how diverse, and often antagonistic, ideologies and interests are contesting for legitimacy. It argues that the distribution of decision-making, political, and discursive power influences how the waterscapes of the region will ultimately look and how benefits, costs and risks will be distributed. These issues are crucial for the transformation of waterscapes and the prospects for democratizing water governance in the Mekong region. *The Human Landscape of Modernisation and Development* "This important book is overdue now that ill-advised mainstream dams are back on the development agenda? Any hydro dams built on tributaries should be multi-purpose with affected riparian communities first among beneficiaries. The volume probes whether the drives for hydropower and large-scale irrigation may be reconciled with livelihoods, and suggests that political agendas backed by constructed knowledge will be the determining factor. First, it is very informative on a range of issues. It includes a great deal of information on the politics of dam development for both hydropower and irrigation. Second, there are a useful set of maps and tables locating and defining both completed and planned dam projects. Third, the fifteen chapters are conspicuously well written. Given the fact that thirty-seven co-authors contributed to *Contested Waterscapes*, we must give credit to the editors for their fine work. Even a reader well versed in various aspects of water resource development and management will find this book a valuable reference. Written in a scholarly yet accessible style, the book presents a coherent analysis of the links between livelihoods, governance, and hydropower – one of the most contested development issues in the region. *Changing Waterscapes in the Mekong Region: Tira Foran, Kanokwan Manorom 4: Irrigation in the Lower Mekong Basin Countries: The Beginning of a New Era? Hydropower in the Mekong Region: What are the Likely Impacts on Fisheries? The Promise of Flood Protection: Songs of the Doomed: Bestsellers in this subject.*

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Chapter 2 : Southeast Asian Seminar Series: Past seminars - Mekong Research Group - The University of

The Pak Mun Dam has an annual generation capacity of GWh and sits 17 meters tall, meters wide, and its reservoir is 60 square kilometers (6). The main purposes were for electricity generation and irrigation.

Francois Molle 1 Introduction: These rivers have constituted defining features of Southeast Asian cultures, religions, ways of life and substantive economies. Entering large plains and ending in wide deltas, they have been diverted to support large-scale irrigation, while all along their course, they have long provided fish and other aquatic products to local dwellers, as well as means of transportation. In upper catchments, their tributaries have, for centuries, been tapped by highlanders for small-scale irrigation and other domestic uses. As a result, agrarian landscapes have traditionally been divided between forested highlands, exploited directly or through swidden farming techniques; intermountain valleys with bottoms mostly under paddy cultivation; large plains and deltas devoted to rice cultivation under various guises; and uplands planted to both rice and field crops. This book focuses on the dynamics of waterscape transformation in the Mekong region: Waterscapes are an expression of the interaction between humans and their environment and encompass all of the social, economic and political processes through which water in nature is conceived of and manipulated by societies. In other words, waterscapes are landscapes viewed through the lens of their water resources, taken as a defining element of both ecosystems and human life. As the subtitle indicates, this volume puts particular emphasis on three dimensions of Mekong waterscape transformations: For various reasons that include the Indochina wars and other political circumstances, the region is still characterized by a low density of large dams compared with other parts of the world. But current economic growth rates combined with high fossil fuel prices have spurred a rush towards hydropower generation that has the potential to completely remodel regional waterscapes. Second, livelihoods refer to the means of subsistence of rural, often impoverished, populations for whom a substantial part of their livelihoods is linked to the use and management of forest and wetland ecosystems, fisheries and the practice of rain-fed and irrigated agriculture. As such, they are directly threatened by large-scale transformations designed and decided in other spheres, often without their knowledge. The third issue of governance refers to the distribution of decision-making power. All transformative options that result in large-scale alterations of the hydrological regime, in terms of quantity, quality, timing or sediment load, tend to generate externalities that affect particular ecosystems and users. These externalities result from the nature of the hydrological regime, which interconnects individual or groups across river basins, and from its manipulation through hydraulic infrastructure and associated management rules. All interventions, whether implemented by the state dams, flood control, irrigation schemes, inter-basin transfers, etc. Governance, thus, refers to the way in which decisions are made and power exercised, and to the spatial and social distribution of related benefits and externalities. This section only recaps the main historical benchmarks as a way of contextualizing the questions addressed in the chapters of this volume. An executive agent was posted in and a permanent office created later. Wheeler, a retired engineer from the US Army Corps of Engineering, who recommended three top-priority projects: The development focus of the Mekong Committee shifted somewhat to tributary projects, with a total of eight dams constructed up to the early s under its auspices, including the Nam Ngum Dam in Laos and several others in northeast Thailand. Thailand, the closest Cold War ally to the US in mainland Southeast Asia, received substantial economic aid and advice from the US and the World Bank, with an emphasis on electrification, roads, reservoirs and canals Muscat, Inaugurated in and foreshadowing what would become the predominant development strategy of Laos from the s onwards, the Nam Ngum 1 Dam became a significant earner² for Laos and now sells 70 to 80 per cent of its power to Thailand. In , the US government signed an agreement with the Mekong Committee for the collection of basic scientific data for the whole of the Lower Mekong mainstream, and in agreed to fund the phase 1 pre-feasibility study of the Pa Mong mainstream project, together with a later feasibility study. The dam, as laid out in studies by USBR , was of truly awesome dimensions: It would displace , people, a figure

that was later revised upwards to , In , the Mekong Committee published its first major basin-wide development plan: The report built on the previous studies and was, by any standards, grandiose and comprehensive, listing some possible projects on the tributaries and the mainstream: While the tributary projects were seen as attractive in dealing with the short-term developmental needs of riparian countries, it was the long-term development potential of the major dams that would comprehensively uplift the region see Figure 1. The IBP report also proposed additional field investigations that would include fisheries, forestry, resettlement, wildlife, sedimentation, Mekong River crossings, navigation facilities, urban studies, archaeological studies and environmental studies Friesen, However, growing unrest and resistance by the Pathet Lao guerrillas in the region eventually derailed the Pa Mong Project, making it both too costly and too risky Biggs, The Mekong Committee ultimately disbanded in , when the Pathet Lao and the Khmer Rouge acceded to power, while Vietnam was about to reunify. Reservoir water bodies appear in the darkest shade of grey. Contributions to the committee from riparian nations also dropped significantly because of their own financial situation Friesen, These changes altered the working base of the Mekong Committee dramatically. In , after one year of negotiations, the three remaining country members of the original group negotiated new terms of cooperation and decided to form the Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, with a base in Bangkok. This, however, did not entail that the vision of comprehensive development of the mainstream had vanished. In , an Interim Mekong Committee study reiterated that a mainstream cascade of dams should have priority once the committee was reunited to its initial four-member structure. In an effort to reframe and reassess the options for water resources development, a revised Indicative Basin Plan was published in Interim Committee, as only 16 out of the possible projects outlined in the Indicative Basin Plan had been implemented. Significantly, unlike the plan, the revision now saw the generation of hydropower as the largest benefit of developing a cascade on the Mekong mainstream, with other benefits, such as flood control, fisheries and navigation, insignificant in economic terms. In the wake of the revised plan, in the Interim Committee commissioned another study of the potentialities for mainstream development: Mekong Mainstream Development Possibilities: Summary Report Interim Committee, Although a more environmentally sensitive rhetoric was deployed and minimal changes to the cascade scheme were made, the report did not really change the overall configuration of the Mekong development project. The total number of people to be displaced by the development of the cascade, however, was still estimated at ,; and this was only a rough and preliminary estimate, which led to the conclusion that more studies on social and environmental impacts would be required on a project-by-project basis. In , the governments of Laos and Vietnam, while remaining socialist states, initiated market-oriented economic reforms Doi moi tu duy in Vietnam and the New Economic Mechanism in Laos. As regional stability was restored step by step, Western bilateral aid agencies, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank ADB returned in earnest, offering aid and investment opportunities. Support for hydropower projects was high on their agendas Ryder, In , a new arrangement between the four original members of the Mekong Committee was signed, and the four governments re-established their cooperative efforts under the new banner of the Mekong River Commission MRC , despite its weakened mandate compared with that of the original Mekong Committee Ratner, ; see Chapter 14 in this volume. Centred on establishing a market-based economy, the GMS programme, to date, has emphasized physical interconnectivity of the region, entailing the construction of major infrastructure projects such as transnational highways, railways, hydropower dams and regional transmission lines, and programmes that encourage cross-border trade and the integration of markets. Far less, however, has been achieved in addressing the environmental and social issues that have accompanied this economic growth Cornford and Matthews, Furthermore, much of economic growth has benefited urban areas rather than rural areas, leading to negative impacts on subsistence-based rural livelihoods and growing inequality UNEP and TEI, This allowed the ADB to focus unhindered on regional economic development, while leaving the potentially contentious management of the Mekong River to the MRC see Chapter A paramount current dynamic is the groundswell of hydropower projects in the region. The growing enthusiasm for hydropower is

increasingly driven and exploited by private companies, financiers and government elites who largely bypass the traditional players such as the MRC, the ADB or the World Bank, with complex impacts upon political decision-making Chapters 2 and 3. While electricity-dependent segments of society particularly industry, but also urban elites may benefit from hydropower plants, the manner in which many projects are currently being developed offers little comfort to those affected. In parallel with the interest in hydropower, Mekong countries display ongoing interest in expanding irrigation and flood control infrastructure. Despite disappointing experiences with recent irrigation development or rehabilitation projects in Laos and Cambodia, the promise of improved productivity, food security and poverty alleviation puts irrigation expansion on the agenda of politicians and development banks. Thai politicians also mobilize such arguments when making renewed proposals for massive irrigation development e. Opportunities for rent-seeking from large construction contracts may also drive irrigation agencies and consulting firms. Globally, the World Bank has argued that it is necessary to boost investment in water infrastructure Grey and Sadoff, 2002, while high rice prices in 2008 have quickened new donor interest in expanding irrigation works in Cambodia. In the Mekong region, the burst of investor interest in hydropower and the revival of donor interest in irrigation take place in a governance context where developers externalize costs; where authorities do not systematically screen and rank projects according to economic, environmental and social criteria; and where planners think in terms of supply-side, not demand-side, alternatives Greacen and Palettu, 2002. In short, recent water resources development occurs in a context where evidence of coordinated, rigorously justified river basin development is not strong. Despite a process of democratization and the emergence or strengthening of civil society organizations NGOs, academics and community-based organizations, megaproject triumphalism complemented by faith that socio-political and ecological impacts can be mitigated and transcended remains pervasive. Such critique, when informed by credible knowledge e. But, of course, in the gulf between lessons offered and lessons learned we find the full spectrum of politics. How political processes unfold varies among Mekong countries; but one important dynamic since the 1990s is that of national and transnational civil society advocacy. Obvious targets for such advocacy are the MRC ostensibly set up to harmonize river basin development plans and international development banks. The governments in the Mekong region have often dismissed or constrained critical conversations about water, social change and development. But instead of drawing only pessimistic conclusions about democratization in the region, the chapters in this book invite the reader to explore more thoroughly how waterscapes have been, and are being, imagined and transformed. The first part focuses on hydropower expansion in the region, the second on issues of livelihoods and local development, while the third part reflects on knowledge, discourses and power. Hydropower dam development in the region is then illustrated by three case studies of dams in various stages of development. Built between 1990 and 2000 in a context of local support and resistance, the Pak Mun case offers a wealth of insights into the challenges of fair compensation, mitigation and participatory management, as well as a window into the complexity of rural livelihoods and democratization. Chapter 4 by Shannon Lawrence reviews the development of the Nam Theun 2 Dam, the largest as well as one of the most publicized and contentious water resource projects in Laos. Containing a trans-basin water diversion, hydropower and rural development scheme of unprecedented size, complexity and aspiration, the project breaks new ground in terms of promises made to better the lives of affected people. The authors explore, in particular, the MW Tasang Project in Shan State, showing how private enterprise has taken the lead from the Thai state in tapping hydropower from Myanmar. Chapter 6 by Chu Thai Hoanh and colleagues explores irrigation, an activity that accounts for 80 to 90 per cent of all water abstractions in the Mekong region. Water is considered a key factor for shifting from single-crop, mainly rain-fed rice, to multiple cropping systems and increasing crop yields. Large investments in irrigation systems have been made in all Mekong countries; more effort is also being paid to improving the efficiency of existing schemes. But the rationale that underpinned irrigation development worldwide during the 1960s and 1970s is being increasingly questioned for countries such as Vietnam or Thailand. The potential for poverty alleviation in Laos or Cambodia seems substantial; but recent disappointing experience with projects demands caution.

Chapter 7 by David J. Countervailing policy narratives, combined with new agricultural practices and markets, make the Songkhram a microcosm of social forces operating in the Mekong more broadly. Chapter 8 by David Biggs and colleagues seeks to understand why certain land- and water-use policies prevailed over others and how historical patterns of land development and water use have had an enduring effect in local society and in the physical environment. Technology played a very important role in later reclamation efforts and a culture of scientific positivism still largely animates state plans. The chapter considers how this historical trajectory of physical remodelling of the delta has created huge permanent maintenance costs that are likely to increase as sediments are retained by upstream dams and as sea-level rise threatens the stability of coastal areas. The allocation of these costs is central to the current political economy of the delta. Chapter 9 offers another approach to learning from the past as ecological modellers Juha Sarkkula and colleagues reconstruct the essence of the Mekong flood pulse system using time series data in order to explore the nexus between hydropower development and fisheries impacts. The authors explain how hydropower development changes the natural flood pulse and the hydrograph, directly undermining the productivity of the system by reducing inundated habitats, delaying the onset of flooding and shortening growth periods for aquatic organisms, with negative impacts upon fisheries productivity, nutritional security INTRODUCTION 15 and economic activity for a significant portion of Cambodians, as well as other populations in the basin. Quantification of fisheries productivity is difficult because of the complex floodplain ecosystem and the diffuse fisheries. With the pace of hydropower development quickening, and with potentially damaging hydropower projects on the Lower Mekong, the authors argue that finding an acceptable balance between dams and productive fisheries is an urgent issue for the region. Building on the historical, political and ecological case studies presented above, Part III offers a set of analytical perspectives that unpack discursive and ideological dimensions of power and reveal several dimensions of the politics of knowledge. Interestingly, they show that both large and small-scale irrigation projects have been proposed by authorities as preferred solutions during the past six decades. Despite repeated setbacks and failed implementation, large projects and basin-scale diversion schemes are perpetuated. They deliver not just loads of wealth, but symbolic advantages irresistible to those who seek power. The authors demonstrate how difficult it is to keep all people and roads dry in these areas since preferred solutions privilege one area over another and inevitably displace the problem of unwanted water. They argue that better practices are possible, but require both a stronger state, able to restrict land use, and a more secure and reflexive state, able to make more realistic and considered promises. Is this an impossibly tall order for Mekong societies?

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Kanokwan Manorom This paper analyzes the impacts of major dams on the livelihoods of natural resource-dependent families in the Mekong Basin. Three key issues are addressed.

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Chapter 4 : Pak Mun Hydropower Dam, Thailand | EJAtlas

By François Molle, Louis Lebel, Tira Foran View abstract The catchment area of the Mekong River and its tributaries extends from China, through Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and to Vietnam.

Western Religions and environment: Hinduism and Buddhism Local ecological knowledge Case study: Dismantling the Divide between Indigenous and Scientific Knowledge. Development and Change Environmental Discourse and Practice. Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Resource Management. Social Ecology Versus Deep Ecology. Islamic Environmental Ethics, Law and Society. Pojman, , Environmental Ethics: Readings in Theory and Application, pp. Devall, Bill and George Session. The Buddhist Attitude towards Nature. Excerpt from Louis P. Some Bioregional Theory and Practice. Excerpt in Peter C. Philosophy and Tactics, pp. Awakening the Spirit of Hinduism. Environmentalism and Political Theory: Toward an Ecocentric Approach. Hydropower, Livelihoods and Governance, pp. Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique. Excerpt in Lori Gruen and Dale Jamieson eds. Readings in Environmental Philosophy, pp. New York and Oxford: Tragedy of the Commons. Environment and Environmentalism in Thailand: In Hirsch, Philip ed. Environment and Environmentalism in Thailand, pp. Isager, Lotte and Soren Ivarsson. Contesting Landscapes in Thailand: Tree Ordination as Counter-territorialization. Critical Asian Studies 34 3: Doing What Comes Naturally? Women and Environment in Development. World Development 21 Gender and Environmental Protection in the Jharkhand, India. Journal of Peasant Studies 27 2: London and New York: Local Knowledge in the Environment-Development Discourses: From Dichotomies to Situated Knowledges. Critiques in Anthropology 19 3: The Case for Animal Rights. The Environmental Ethics and Policy Book, pp. Asian Ethnicity 5 1: Dwellers in the Land. Feminism, Politics and the Environment. On the Cutting Wedge of Feminist Environmentalism. Development, Ecology and Women. A Note on the Ultimate Resource. Southeast Asia Rivers Network. Asian Ethnicity 2 2: Asian Ethnicity 5 2:

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Chapter 5 : à,£à, ".à,"à,£.à,•à,™à,•à,§à,£à,£à," à,jà,°à¹,à,™à,£à,jà,çà¹Œ

Contested Waterscapes in the Mekong Region Tira Foran and Kanokwan Manorom Pak Mun Dam: Perpetually contested

This book examines how large-scale projects are being proposed, justified, and built. It shows how diverse, and often antagonistic, ideologies and interests are contesting for legitimacy. The Human Landscape of Modernisation and Development. Any hydro dams built on tributaries should be multi-purpose with affected riparian communities first among beneficiaries. The volume probes whether the drives for hydropower and large-scale irrigation may be reconciled with livelihoods, and suggests that political agendas backed by constructed knowledge will be the determining factor. First, it is very informative on a range of issues. It includes a great deal of information on the politics of dam development for both hydropower and irrigation. Second, there are a useful set of maps and tables locating and defining both completed and planned dam projects. Third, the fifteen chapters are conspicuously well written. Given the fact that thirty-seven co-authors contributed to *Contested Waterscapes*, we must give credit to the editors for their fine work. Even a reader well versed in various aspects of water resource development and management will find this book a valuable reference. Written in a scholarly yet accessible style, the book presents a coherent analysis of the links between livelihoods, governance, and hydropower - one of the most contested development issues in the region. Texte du rabat The water resources of the Mekong river catchment area, from China, through Thailand, Cambodia and Laos to Vietnam, are increasingly contested. Governments, companies and banks are driving new investment in roads, dams, diversions, irrigation schemes, navigation facilities, power plants and other emblems of conventional "development. Changing Waterscapes in the Mekong Region: Tira Foran, Kanokwan Manorom 4: Irrigation in the Lower Mekong Basin Countries: The Beginning of a New Era? Hydropower in the Mekong Region: What are the Likely Impacts on Fisheries? The Promise of Flood Protection: Songs of the Doomed:

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Chapter 6 : Contested Waterscapes in the Mekong Region : Francois Molle :

Foran, Tira, and Kanokwan Manorom. forthcoming. Pak Mun Dam: Perpetually Contested? Chapter 3. In Contested Waterscapes in the Mekong Region: Hydropower, Trans.

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