



– AGENDA –

Promoting Regional Cooperation in the Mekong River Basin

June 2, 2006

Novotel Hotel

Vientiane, Lao PDR

Objectives: Share experience and build common understanding of effective methods, tools and terminology for addressing transboundary conflict prevention and resolution, and launch collaborative engagement between USAID and Mekong River Commission (MRC) Secretariat on transboundary water cooperation.

9:00 – 9:10 Welcoming Remarks
Dr. Olivier Cogels
CEO, MRC Secretariat

9:10 – 9:20 Introductory Remarks
Mr. Winston Bowman
Regional Environment Director
USAID Regional Development Mission/Asia

9:20 – 9:45 MRC Strategic Plan 2006 – 2010: Goal 2 on Regional Cooperation
Mr. Hans Guttman, MRC Secretariat

Session Objective: To present the Strategic Plan for 2006-2010: Goal 2 on Regional Cooperation, and relevant program initiatives, including Concept Note developed by Conflict Management and Mitigation Working Group and process for developing Conflict Management Strategy to implement Goal 2.

9:45 – 10:30 International Experiences on Water Transboundary Cooperation
Prof. Aaron T. Wolf, Oregon State University

Session Objective: To present international experience on water transboundary conflict and cooperation models, including the international water events database and training module. Presentation followed by discussion.

10:30 - 10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 - 12:00 Overview of Terminology on Conflict Prevention and Resolution
Ms. Deborah Dalton, U.S. EPA Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center
Dr. Cynthia Irmer, Environmental Cooperation-Asia (ECO-Asia)
Prof. Aaron T. Wolf, Oregon State University

Session Objective: To provide overview of conflict management terminology and linkages between conflict management, consensus building, conflict prevention, and public participation. Presentations followed by discussion.

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 Tools and Techniques for Conflict Management and Public Participation

Ms. Deborah Dalton, U.S. EPA Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center
Dr. Cynthia Irmer, ECO-Asia
Mr. Douglas Sarno, ECO-Asia
Dr. Vitoon Viriyasakultorn, MRC Secretariat

Session Objective: Present international best practices, tools and techniques for conflict prevention and resolution that highlights linkages to public participation. MRC Secretariat to present existing tools and techniques used throughout various programmes. Presentations followed by discussion to establish common understanding among various MRC programmes on techniques, tools and vocabulary.

3:00 – 3:15 Coffee Break

3:15 – 4:00 MRC Secretariat Strategy on Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

Mr. Hans Guttman, MRC Secretariat
Dr. Vitoon Viriyasakultorn, MRC Secretariat

Session Objective: MRC Secretariat leads discussion on a preliminary strategy for institutional strengthening and capacity building at the MRC Secretariat and NMC-levels to enable effective conflict management.

4:00 – 4:45 MRC – USAID Cooperation: Review Program Work Plan

Mr. Hans Guttman, MRC Secretariat
Mr. Paul Violette, ECO-Asia

Session Objective: To discuss MRC Secretariat – USAID program of cooperation.

4:45 – 5:00 Overview Inception Workshop

Mr. Hans Guttman, MRC Secretariat
Mr. Paul Violette, ECO-Asia

Session Objective: To discuss the inception workshop program agenda, goals, expected outcome of the inception workshop.



– AGENDA –

**Inception Workshop:
Promoting Regional Cooperation in the Mekong River Basin
June 5-6, 2006
Ban Chiang Hotel
Udon Thani, Thailand**

DAY 1: JUNE 5, 2006

Objective: Raise awareness of transboundary water cooperation and launch regional program on transboundary cooperation.

Facilitator: Mr. Douglas Sarno, ECO-Asia

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:20 Welcoming Remarks
Dr. Wijarn Simachaya,
Director Environment Division, MRC Secretariat

Objective: MRCS presents objectives of the workshop and the new initiative on regional cooperation on building conflict management capacity at MRCS and NMCs to support implementation of Goal 2 in the MRC Strategic Plan 2006-2010.

9:20 – 9:30 Introductory Remarks
Mr. John Pasch
Regional Water Advisor
USAID Regional Development Mission/Asia

Objective: USAID representative provides introductory remarks on how MRC and ECO-Asia will collaborate on implementing Goal 2.

9:30 – 10:15 International Experiences on Transboundary Water Cooperation
Prof. Aaron T. Wolf, Oregon State University

Objective: To provide overview on transboundary water cooperation, international best practices, models for cooperation, and challenges including water event database. Presentation to be followed by discussion.

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 - 12:00 Overview of Conflict Management and Public Participation

Moderator: Mr. Douglas Sarno, ECO-Asia
Speakers: Ms. Deborah Dalton, U.S. EPA Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center
Dr. Cynthia Irmer, ECO-Asia
Dr. Viton Viriyasakultorn, MRC Secretariat

Session Objective: To provide overview of public participation, conflict management, conflict prevention, and resolution principles and terminology. Presentations followed by discussion.

Session format: 15 minute overview by moderator, 20 minutes for each speaker presentation, and 15 minutes for Q&A

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 Tools and Techniques for Conflict Management and Public Participation

Moderator: Mr. Hans Guttman, MRC Secretariat
Speakers: Prof. Aaron T. Wolf, Oregon State University
Ms. Deborah Dalton, U.S. EPA Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center
Mr. Douglas Sarno, ECO-Asia

Session Objectives: To provide an overview of conflict management and public participation tools and techniques. Presentations followed by discussion.

Session format: 15 minute overview by moderator, 20 minutes for each speaker presentation, and 15 minutes for Q&A

3:00 – 3:15 Coffee Break

3:15 – 4:45 Lessons Learned from Mekong River Basin Countries: Building National Capacity

Moderator: Prof. Aaron T. Wolf, Oregon State University
Speakers: Ms. Deborah Dalton, U.S. EPA Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center
Selected NMCs Representatives

Session Objectives: To provide an overview of lessons learned from other countries and watersheds on regional cooperation; share lessons learned and experiences from MRC countries in developing conflict management institutional and policy framework including national capacity building program, challenges and needs; and discuss experience from an EPA perspective in providing assistance to Thailand to develop institutional and human capacity.

Session format: 15 minute overview by moderator, 20 minutes for each speaker presentation, and 15 minutes for Q&A

4:45 – 5:00 Overview and Plans for Day 2

Mr. Douglas Sarno, ECO-Asia

Objective: To provide overview of Day 2 program and public participation capacity building program.

4:45 – 5:00 Closing and Wrap-up

Dr. Wijarn Simachaya, MRC Secretariat

DAY 2: JUNE 6, 2006

Objectives: Deliver a training course on public participation and consensus building, and identify next steps for regional collaboration on transboundary cooperation.

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:30 Public Participation Case Studies
Dr. Solieng Mak, MRC Secretariat
Dr. Wolf Hartmann, MRC Secretariat

Objective: MRCS provides overview of on-going public participation practices, selected case studies and challenges in promoting public participation

9:30 – 12:00 Training on Consensus Building and Public Participation

Facilitators: Mr. Douglas Sarno, ECO-Asia

Resource

Persons: Ms. Deborah Dalton, U.S. EPA Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center
Dr. Cynthia Irmer, ECO-Asia
Prof. Aaron T. Wolf, Oregon State University

Objective: Introduce NMC participants to best practices in designing and implementing programs for effective consensus building and public participation.

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 Next Steps: Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

Moderator: Mr. Paul Violette, ECO-Asia
Speakers: Dr. Vitoon Viriyasakultorn, MRC Secretariat
Prof. Aaron T. Wolf, Oregon State University

Session Objective: To provide overview of collaboration between ECO-Asia and MRCS and identify collaboration activities with MRCS and NMCS; to discuss the appointment of national coordinators from each MRC country; to discuss the needs assessment questionnaires to identify capacity building needs at MRCS and NMCS; to develop the regional capacity building program; to discuss the conflict inventory development using Prof. Wolf's model; and to discuss the water transboundary cooperation training.

Session format: 10 minute overview by moderator, 20 minutes for each speaker presentation, and 40 minutes for Q&A

3:00 - 3:15 Coffee Break

3:15 - 3:45 Next Steps: Regional Program of Collaboration
Dr. Vitoon Viriyasakultorn, MRC Secretariat
Mr. Paul Violette, ECO-Asia

3:45 – 4:00 Closing Remarks
Dr. Vitoon Viriyasakultorn, MRC Secretariat