



## **Greater Mekong Subregion - Core Environmental Program**

Workshop on Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and  
Adaptation in Yunnan and Guangxi Provinces of PR China, Thailand and  
Viet Nam

24-26 February 2009, Flower Garden Hotel, Viet Nam

### **Draft of 2 February 2009**

#### **Context**

Human-induced climate change is a major environmental and development issue with serious implications for biodiversity, food security, and water. The report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that observed changes in climate have already affected ecological, social, and economic systems, and sustainable development is threatened by climate change. The IPCC suggests that climate change is likely to result in a wide range of adverse effects including increasing temperatures, rising sea levels, increased intensity of storms, greater frequency of heat waves, floods and droughts, more rapid spread of diseases, and accelerated loss of biodiversity. These impacts are likely to reduce economic growth and exacerbate poverty in many developing countries. Examples of currently observed changes include:

- Change in the characteristics of extreme weather and climate events (e.g. natural hazards such as storms and droughts);
- A general reduction on crop yields in many tropical and sub-tropical regions;
- Decreased water availability in water-scarce regions of the sub-tropics;
- Shifts in plant and animal distribution ranges; and,
- Increased exposure to vector-borne and water-borne diseases.

This may have serious consequences on livelihoods of populations in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). For rural economies in the GMS, the additional stress imposed by climate change, particularly as it affects the characteristics of natural hazards, could threaten goals of poverty alleviation.

In cities, water supply difficulties may be further aggravated by changes in rainfall regimes and hydrology, threatening economic development. Furthermore, climate change risks may also affect infrastructure investments such as hydropower plants (shortage of water), flooding and damage to roads, bridges and railways, and impact of acid rain on infrastructure.

The IPCC assessment released in 2007 indicates that the densely populated river deltas and coastal areas in the Mekong subregion will be among the worst affected regions worldwide. Countries in the Mekong subregion are expected to be significantly impacted by sea-level rise and Vietnam was identified as among the ten worst affected developing countries worldwide. Other countries of the Mekong subregion are also predicted to face difficulties associated with different forms of climate change impacts like more frequent storm events and extreme weather conditions.

Countries of the Mekong subregion need to design and implement adaptation strategies aimed at enhancing the adaptive capacity and resilience of vulnerable communities as a matter of priority.

## **Aim**

The aim of the workshop is to bring together experts and officials from Yunnan and Guangxi Provinces of China, Thailand and Vietnam to share information on the impacts, vulnerability and adaptation measures and responses related to climate change. This meeting is a component of the GMS project entitled “Risks and Adaptation from Climate Change in BCI Pilot Sites in PRC, Thailand and Vietnam”.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To provide capacity development in relation to some options for adaptation strategies suitable for adoption by the governments of the Mekong region countries in response to climate change;
- To share, discuss and highlight recent findings on the impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change relevant to the Mekong region countries;
- To discuss adaptation measures adopted by communities and local governments to address current and imminent climate change impacts;
- To develop a platform for future collaboration among relevant organizations involved in research and policy development on adaptation to climate change in the Mekong region countries.

## **Participants**

Selected participants from the government, academic and research sectors have been invited to the workshop. The full cost of participation of invited participants will be met by the project.

## **Workshop Format**

The workshop will consist of discussions and presentations of papers. The meeting will be small (about 20-25 people in total) and focussed to encourage discussion and participation by all attendees.

Participants from governments, universities, other research institutions and other organisations will be invited to share their views.

Invited speakers will also give an overview of the projected impacts and vulnerability of the Mekong subregion to climate change and lead discussions of options for adaptation to climate change. Workshop discussions will identify knowledge gaps and priorities among the participants.

The workshop outputs are expected to lead discussions of key follow-up activities to help governments at the national and local levels meet the challenges posed by climate change impacts.

## **Date**

24-26 February 2009

## **Venue**

Flower Garden Hotel, Hanoi

## **Contact for further information:**

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# Draft Program

(As of 2 February 2009)

**Workshop chairman: to be advised**

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Day 1:</b>                      | <b>Tuesday 24 February</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>9.00 – 12.00</b>                | <b>Introduction</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 09.00 – 11.00<br><br>11.00 – 12.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening, introductions and welcome</li> <li>• Welcome: Welcome presentations to be made by distinguished leaders from Vietnam (to be decided by the host – MONRE)</li> <li>• Climate change adaptation: Opportunities and challenges for GMS region – Professor Gao, China (to be confirmed)</li> <li>• Future climate projection for GMS: Concerns on climate change in a regional context – Suppakorn Chinvano</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 12.00 – 13.00                      | <i>Lunch</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>13.00 – 17.00</b>               | <b>The plausible future impacts of climate change in the GMS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 13.00 – 17.00                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-resolution Climate Scenarios for 21st Century and Applications in Impacts Assessments on Water Resources in China - Professor Xu Yinlong, China</li> <li>• An Introduction to the Climate Change Explorer Tool: Locally Downscaled GCM Data for Thailand and Vietnam – Kai Kim Chiang</li> <li>• Strategies and Countermeasures to Climate Change for Agriculture in Northeast China – Xie Liyong</li> <li>• Effects of climate change ECHAM4-A2 scenarios on rice and other major crops in Thailand using CropDSS shell - Attachai Jintrawet</li> <li>• Climate change and air pollution interaction: co-benefit opportunity – N. T. Kim Oanh</li> <li>• Discussion on impacts of climate change in a country and regional context</li> </ul> |
| <b>Day 2:</b>                      | <b>Wednesday 25 February</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>9.00 – 12.00</b>                | <b>Risk and vulnerability to climate change</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09.00 – 12.00                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change, water insecurities and food systems in Monsoon Asia – Ram Bastakoti</li> <li>• Vulnerability and adaptation to droughts and floods in Thailand – Atsamon Limsakul</li> <li>• Climate change adaptation as a development strategy: a major challenge for Southeast Asia countries – Suppakorn Chinvano</li> <li>• Social Vulnerability to Climate and Institutional Changes - Luong Quang Huy and Nguyen Thanh Thao</li> <li>• Discussion on communicating risk and risk management, how</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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|                      | to address uncertainty about future risk and how to lead stakeholders to suitable actions to manage future risk. Dr Luong Quang Huy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1200 – 1300          | <i>Lunch</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>13.00 – 17.00</b> | <b>Some possible adaptation strategies to climate change in the GMS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 13.00 – 17.00        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Target Program and policy of Viet Nam to respond to climate change - Dr. Nguyen Van Thang, Viet Nam</li> <li>• Possible adaptation strategies to climate change in the GMS – with a focus on impact on agriculture, water resource sectors and rural livelihoods in Vietnam - Dr Luong Quang Huy, Vietnam</li> <li>• Discussion on possible adaptation strategies to climate change in GMS – with a focus on impact on agriculture, water resource sectors and rural livelihoods in Thailand</li> <li>• Discussion on possible adaptation strategies to climate change in GMS – with a focus on impact on agriculture, water resource sectors and rural livelihoods in Yunnan and Guangxi provinces of China</li> </ul> |
| <b>Day 3:</b>        | <b>Thursday 26 February</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>9.00 – 12.00</b>  | <b>Country breakout sessions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1200 – 1300          | <i>Lunch</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>13.00 – 17.00</b> | <b>Next stages and closing session</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 13.00 –14.00         | Reporting on the country breakout sessions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 14.00 –15.00         | Discussion on the next stages and future collaboration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 15.00 - 16.00        | Closing session                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |