



# 11<sup>th</sup> REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM

29-30 November 2021 | Vientiane | Siem Reap | Bangkok | Ha Noi

## DRAFT AGENDA (BOTH DAYS)

(version 27 November 2021)

### The 11<sup>th</sup> MRC Regional Stakeholder Forum

*Responsible Operation and Management of Cascade Hydropower*

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*Regional Consultation on the Sanakham Hydropower Project’s Prior Consultation Process*

29–30 November 2021

*via video conferencing, with host locations in Vientiane (Lao PDR), Siem Reap (Cambodia), Bangkok (Thailand) and Hanoi (Viet Nam)*

#### Day 1: Responsible Operation and Management of Cascade Hydropower (open to all, not livestream)

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
8:00–8:30	Registration – Log on to Zoom application	Org team, attendees
	<p><b>Link:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3cT1KXV">https://bit.ly/3cT1KXV</a></p> <p><b>Log on ID (if required):</b> 917 5158 1798</p> <p><b>Access code (if required):</b> 1234567890</p>	
8:30–8:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome remarks</li> </ul>	An Pich Hatda, CEO, MRC Secretariat (MRCS)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening remarks by senior representative of the Lao Government</li> </ul>	TBC
8:45–9:00	Objective and introduction to the Forum: Some housekeeping rules	Palakorn Chanbanyong, Sustainable Hydropower Specialist, MRCS
<b>SESSION 1: Keynote Address</b>		
9:00–9:20	<b>Keynote: International Good Practice on Operation and Management of Cascade Hydropower</b>	Kate Lazarus, Senior ESG Advisory Lead, Asia

		Pacific, International Finance Corporation
<b>SESSION 2: National Information</b>		
9:20–10:20	Approved Sustainable Hydropower Development Strategy (SHDS 2021) for the Lower Mekong Basin – 15 min	Palakorn Chanbanyong, Sustainable Hydropower Specialist, MRCS
	Status of national hydropower operation and management in the Mekong River Basin: Current and future/emerging constraints (ownership and operational coordination)	Reps from National Energy Authorities of MRC Member Countries, and China
	<b>Open Discussion (20 min)</b>	<b>Moderated by</b> Simon Krohn, Advisor on Sustainable Hydropower, Australian Water Partnership
<b>10:20–10:45</b>	<b>Tea and Coffee Break</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>SESSION 3: Challenges, Opportunities and Lessons Learned in Responsible Operation and Management of Hydropower Projects</b>		
10:45–11:00	<b>Opportunities and challenges in responsible operation and management of hydropower cascades in the Basin with multiple developers and owners: Procedures and mechanisms (15 min)</b>	Sophearin Chea, Regional Water Policy Consultant, MRCS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MRC’s role and engagement of developers in responsible hydropower development in relation to coordinated operation of cascade hydropower (5 Procedures and Joint Action Plan of projects undergone the MRC PNPCA)</li> <li>The need for international cooperation/dialogue for cascade dam management (Upper Mekong Basin &amp; Lower Mekong Basin)</li> </ul>	
11:00–12:00	<b>Lessons learned / Concepts on operation and management of hydropower projects in the Mekong-Lancang</b>	
	<b>Basin-wide perspective</b>	Developer: Nam Ou Operators/ Authorities (EVN, EGAT, MEM)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nam Ou (Developer) – 10 min</li> <li>2S (EVN) – 10 min</li> </ul>	
	<b>Open Discussion (10 min)</b>	<b>Moderated by</b> Palakorn Chanbanyong, Sustainable Hydropower Specialist,
	<b>Authority perspective</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EGAT’s Water Operation Centre (EGAT) – 10 min</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laos Coordination and Monitoring Center (MEM) – 10 min</li> </ul>	MRCS
	<b>Open Discussion (10 min)</b>	
<b>12:00–13:15</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	All
13:15–13:40	<b>Lessons learned from operation and management of hydropower projects in the Mekong-Lancang (CONT')</b>  <i>Developer perspective</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don Sahong (Developer) – 15 min</li> </ul>	Developer - Don Sahong  <b>Moderated by</b> Thi Thanh Yen Ton Nu, Navigation Operations Specialist
	<b>Open Discussion (10 min)</b>	
13:40–14:30	<b>Lessons learned from operation and management of hydropower projects in other international rivers</b>  <i>International perspective (panel discussion)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Hydropower Association's (IHA) role in promoting responsible hydropower practices</li> <li>Chinese experience in managing and operating the cascade operation in Lancang</li> <li>US Army Corps of Engineers / US Experience on Cascade Operation (US in the Columbia)</li> </ul>	1. GU Hongbin, Deputy Director General, China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute (CREEI) 2. ZHANG Muzi, Division Director of General Affair Division in International Cooperation Department, CREEI 3. Mr Steven Barton, Chief Columbia Basin Water Management Division, US Army Corps of Engineers 4. Joao Costa, Head of Sustainability, International Hydropower Association  <b>Moderated by</b> Benjamin GRAFF, Manager of Business Development, CNR Engineering (National Company of the Rhone River)
<b>14:30–14:50</b>	<b>Tea and Coffee Break</b>	All
<b>SESSION 4: Regional Effort to Promote Responsible Operation and Management of Hydropower</b>		

Projects		
14:50–15:40	<p><b>MRC’s efforts in promoting responsible operation and management of hydropower cascades in the Basin with multiple developers and owners</b></p> <p><b>Panel/talk show (20 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The improved access to information and promotion of hydropower data sharing and transparency and exploration of opportunities for coordinated operating mechanisms and cooperation arrangements on hydropower cascades operations and management</li> <li>• Joint Environmental Monitoring (JEM) for Mekong mainstream hydropower projects</li> <li>• The Joint Study on changing patterns of hydrological regime and adaptation strategies</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Palakorn Chanbanyong, Sustainable Hydropower Specialist, MRCS</li> <li>2. Nam So, Chief Environmental Management Officer, MRCS</li> <li>3. Sarann Ly, Water and Climate Monitoring specialist, MRCS</li> </ol>
	<p><b>OPEN DISCUSSION/GENERAL OBSERVATION (30 min)</b></p> <p><i>Possible questions to address could include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the specific concerns on the operation of dams? Why are these the concerns?</li> <li>• What would you suggest as information sharing and notification measures/mechanisms that you consider effective?</li> <li>• How can developers/governments and stakeholders work together in order to mitigate/minimize impacts from hydropower operations (and to improve information sharing and notification measures/mechanisms)?</li> </ul>	<p>Forum participants</p> <p><b>Wrap up the session with key messages</b></p> <p><i>Moderated by</i> Susanne Schmeier, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education</p>
SESSION 5: Closing		
15:40–15:50	<b>Summary of outcomes</b>	Palakorn Chanbanyong, Sustainable Hydropower Specialist, MRCS
15:50–16:00	<b>Closing remarks by MRCS Planning Director</b>	Bountieng Sanaxonh, Director of Planning Division, MRCS

## Day 2: Regional Consultation on the Sanakham Hydropower Project's Prior Consultation Process (*open to all, livestream*)

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
08:00–8:30	<p><i>Registration: Log on to Zoom connection</i></p> <p><b>Link:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3I05KDZ">https://bit.ly/3I05KDZ</a>  <b>Log on ID (if required):</b> 921 8362 9567  <b>Access code (if required):</b> 1234567890</p>	<i>Organizing team, attendees</i>
<b>SESSION 1: Introduction</b>		
08:30–8:35	Introduction: Agenda and general housekeeping	Sopheak Meas, Communication Officer for Press, MRCS
08:35–08:42	Welcome remarks by Dr An Pich Hatda, MRC Secretariat CEO	MRCS CEO
08:42–08:50	Opening remarks by H.E. Mr Sinava Souphanouvong, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Lao PDR	Lao Government
08:50–08:55	Overview of the Sanakham project: A video	Sopheak Meas
08:55–09:00	<b>Implementation Progress</b> of the MRC Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNPCA) Prior Consultation Process for the proposed Sanakham Hydropower Project	Ly Thim, Chief River Basin Planner, MRCS
09:00–09:15	<b>Recap of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Information Sharing on the proposed Sanakham Hydropower Project:</b> Documentation, response to key comments, and specific inputs needed	Sophearin Chea, Water Policy Consultant, MRCS
09:15–09:45	<b>Updates on the Progress of Project Implementation for Pak Beng, Pak Lay, and Luang Prabang,</b> and the implementation progress of the Joint Action Plan of each project	Rep of Lao Govt (MEM)
<b>09:45–10:00</b>	<b>Open Discussion</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>10:00–10:15</b>	<b>Tea and Coffee Break</b>	
10:15–11:00	<b>Report on National Information Sharing/Consultation Meeting</b> by notified countries and notifying country, incl. on national consultation process and outcomes	MRC Member Countries
<b>11:00–11:10</b>	<b>Open Discussion</b>	<b>All</b>

<b>SESSION 2: Final Draft Technical Review Report (TRR) for the proposed Sanakham Hydropower Project</b>		
11:10–11:30	Hydrology and hydraulics; sediments and river morphology	Sarann Ly, Water and Climate Monitoring Specialist, MRCS
11:30–12:00	Environment and fisheries; socio-economics	Nguyen Thi Ngoc Minh, Socio-Economic Specialist, MRCS
<b>12:00–13:00</b>	<b><i>Lunch break</i></b>	
13:00–13:20	Dam safety, and navigation	Palakorn Chanbanyong, Sustainable Hydropower Specialist, MRCS
<b>SESSION 3: Discussion and Recommendation on the Final Draft TRR for the proposed Sanakham Hydropower Project</b>		
13:20–14:20	<b>Open discussion on the thematic areas of the TRR:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydrology and hydraulics; sediments and river morphology</li> <li>• Environment and fisheries</li> <li>• Dam safety and navigation</li> <li>• Socio-economics</li> </ul>	All
<b>SESSION 4: Evaluation, conclusion and Next Step</b>		
14:20–14:30	Forum satisfaction survey	All
<b>14:30–14:45</b>	<b><i>Tea and Coffee Break</i></b>	
14:45–15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recap of overall key points</li> <li>• What’s next for the PC Process of the proposed Sanakham hydropower project</li> </ul>	Anoulak Kittikhoun, Chief Strategy and Partnership Officer, MRCS
15:00–15:10	<b>Closing remarks by Dr An Pich Hatda, MRCS CEO</b>	MRCS CEO
15:10	<b>End of the 11<sup>th</sup> Regional Stakeholder Forum</b>	