



11th REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM

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

DRAFT AGENDA (DAY 1)

(version 27 November 2021)

The 11th MRC Regional Stakeholder Forum

Responsible Operation and Management of Cascade Hydropower

29 November 2021

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

(open to all, not livestream)

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
8:00–8:30	<i>Registration – Log on to Zoom application</i>	<i>Org team, attendees</i>
8:30–8:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome remarks Opening remarks by senior representative of the Lao Government 	An Pich Hatda, CEO, MRC Secretariat (MRCS) TBC
8:45–9:00	Objective and introduction to the Forum: Some housekeeping rules	Palakorn Chanbanyong, Sustainable Hydropower Specialist, MRCS
SESSION 1: Keynote Address		
9:00–9:20	Keynote: International Good Practice on Operation and Management of Cascade Hydropower	Kate Lazarus, Senior ESG Advisory Lead, Asia Pacific, International Finance Corporation
SESSION 2: National Information		
9:20–10:20	Approved Sustainable Hydropower Development Strategy (SHDS 2021) for the Lower Mekong Basin – 15 min	Palakorn Chanbanyong, Sustainable Hydropower Specialist, MRCS Reps from National

	Status of national hydropower operation and management in the Mekong River Basin: Current and future/emerging constraints (ownership and operational coordination) Open Discussion (20 min)	Energy Authorities of MRC Member Countries, and China Moderated by Simon Krohn, Advisor on Sustainable Hydropower, Australian Water Partnership
10:20–10:45	Tea and Coffee Break	All
SESSION 3: Challenges, Opportunities and Lessons Learned in Responsible Operation and Management of Hydropower Projects		
10:45–11:00	Opportunities and challenges in responsible operation and management of hydropower cascades in the Basin with multiple developers and owners: Procedures and mechanisms (15 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) The need for international cooperation/dialogue for cascade dam management (Upper Mekong Basin & Lower Mekong Basin) 	Sophearin Chea, Regional Water Policy Consultant, MRCS
11:00–12:00	Lessons learned / Concepts on operation and management of hydropower projects in the Mekong-Lancang Basin-wide perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nam Ou (Developer) – 10 min 2S (EVN) – 10 min Open Discussion (10 min) Authority perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EGAT’s Water Operation Centre (EGAT) – 10 min Laos Coordination and Monitoring Center (MEM) – 10 min Open Discussion (10 min)	Developer: Nam Ou Operators/ Authorities (EVN, EGAT, MEM) Moderated by Palakorn Chanbanyong, Sustainable Hydropower Specialist, MRCS
12:00–13:15	Lunch Break	All
13:15–13:40	Lessons learned from operation and management of hydropower projects in the Mekong-Lancang (CONT’) Developer perspective	Developer - Don Sahong Moderated by Thi

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Sahong (Developer) – 15 min 	Thanh Yen Ton Nu, Navigation Operations Specialist
	Open Discussion (10 min)	
13:40–14:30	<p>Lessons learned from operation and management of hydropower projects in other international rivers</p> <p><i>International perspective (panel discussion)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Hydropower Association’s (IHA) role in promoting responsible hydropower practices • Chinese experience in managing and operating the cascade operation in Lancang • US Army Corps of Engineers / US Experience on Cascade Operation (US in the Columbia) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p><i>Moderated by</i> Benjamin GRAFF, Manager of Business Development, CNR Engineering (National Company of the Rhone River)</p>
14:30–14:50	Tea and Coffee Break	All
SESSION 4: Regional Effort to Promote Responsible Operation and Management of Hydropower Projects		
14:50–15:40	<p>MRC’s efforts in promoting responsible operation and management of hydropower cascades in the Basin with multiple developers and owners</p> <p>Panel/talk show (20 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The improved access to information and promotion of hydropower data sharing and transparency and exploration of opportunities for coordinated operating mechanisms and cooperation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Palakorn Chanbanyong, Sustainable Hydropower Specialist, MRCS 2. Nam So, Chief Environmental Management Officer, MRCS

- arrangements on hydropower cascades operations and management
- Joint Environmental Monitoring (JEM) for Mekong mainstream hydropower projects
- The Joint Study on changing patterns of hydrological regime and adaptation strategies

3. Sarann Ly, Water and Climate Monitoring specialist, MRCS

OPEN DISCUSSION/GENERAL OBSERVATION (30 min)

Forum participants

Possible questions to address could include:

- What are the specific concerns on the operation of dams? Why are these the concerns?
- What would you suggest as information sharing and notification measures/mechanisms that you consider effective?
- 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)?

Wrap up the session with key messages

Moderated by Susanne Schmeier, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

SESSION 5: Closing

15:40–15:50	Summary of outcomes	Palakorn Chanbanyong, Sustainable Hydropower Specialist, MRCS
15:50–16:00	Closing remarks by MRCS Planning Director	Bountieng Sanaxonh, Director of Planning Division, MRCS