Recap of
1st Regional Stakeholder Information Sharing on PNPCA
Prior Consultation Process for Pak Lay Hydropower Project

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I. Background

- Uni Institute
- Researchers
- Development Partners
- NGOs
- Private Sector & Consultants
- Member Countries
- MRC Secretariat
- Media

160 participants

- 30.64%
- 20.23%
- 7.51%
- 12.14%
- 12.72%
- 6.94%
- 13.87%
- 20.23%
II. Snapshot of Forum proceeding

05 technical aspects: hydrology & hydraulics, sediment transport, environment & fisheries, navigation, dam safety, and Social-economic issues.

Concerns on transboundary impacts and cascade and standardize procedures for quality control during construction and operation of the dams.

Questions on fish related issues, social economic impacts & dam safety.

Progress and status of the Joint Action Plan for Pak Beng hydropower project and the Xayaburi design changes review, as well as its linkage to the prior consultation process of the Pak Lay project.
III. Forum’s follow-ups

1. 1st Forum on PLHPP PC process
   • Comment matrix with questions, concerns and comments in Forum Report

2. JCWG meeting
   • Presented & shared comment matrix to the Member Countries

3. Clarification from GoL
   • 18 Nov 2018 Lao PDR sent clarification (fisheries, dam safety, socio-economic issues)

4. Update comment matrix
   • Update responses as Annex 4 of the Forum Report

5. Draft TRR
   • Consider comment matrix during drafting of TRR

6. 2nd Forum on PLHPP PC process
   • Preliminary findings and comments follow-ups
IV. Summary of key comments (1)

1. **Detailed hydraulic condition** should be studied carefully for further infrastructure design

2. **Baseline data and information for diversity and biology/ecology of concerned species** should be collected and fulfilled. Ensure sufficient data and appropriate approach and methodology for assessment of environment and fisheries of the Pak Lay HPP can be improved, especially **fish species**

3. Ensure the accuracy and adequate information or data in the CIA/Transboundary ESIA.

4. Improve the **navigation design** that should take into account **additional fish passage**

5. More research and data analysis particularly **dam safety and quality control**
IV. Summary of key comments (2)

6. **Transboundary impacts** and **benefit sharing issues** need to be addressed.


8. More **in-depth information and technical discussion at consultation meetings** and the **developer / project owner** should play an active role in the discussion.

9. **Broader engagement to open national consultation process**. The information about the Pak Lay national consultation meetings should be made available to the public.

10. Having **independent parties** to **monitor** developers and to ensure the **quality assurance** during construction and operation of the dams.
V. Feedback - Fish related issues

**Fish data survey →** EIA part “Existing Biotic Environment in the Project Area”, fish sampling conducted same time with water quality, representing the two seasons (wet 13-16 Sep 2011 and dry seasons 3-6 Feb 2012).

**Assurance of survival rate of migrated fishes →** recommended that PLHPP fish pass is compatible with the **Xayaburi fish pass**. Technically fish swim through many ways such as fish passage, spill way, slow turbine (environmental friendly turbine), navigation lock.

**Fish species data adequately to design the fish passage:** (1) collection, (2) aquaculture or breeding and restocking for endangered local fish species → fish restocking station according to the fish passing status in the operation period.

**Fish passage design →** fish passing conditions basically similar to the natural river course in both the construction period and the flood releasing period. Fishway is designed with resting pools.

**Layout of upstream migration during construction, adequate dimension for increasing fish biomass downstream, availability of Xayaburi fish pass monitoring information →** Detailed information will be provided in the next stage.


Chinese Standards for dam safety → In the Chinese standard, different design criteria are adopted according to the scale of the dam and the impact of the consequence on the lower reaches. Chinese standards with translation into English: DL5108-1999 Design Specification for Concrete Gravity Dam, and SL319-2005 Design Standard for Concrete Gravity Dams.
V. Feedback - Social economic impacts & transboundary

Good coordination between the countries and the region on flood management and mitigation, water management from upstream to downstream, prolonging the prior consultation to address all issues identified villages in downstream area. Policy to manage, mitigate and monitor downstream villages in Lao territory in near future. Environmental and social management committees will set out mechanism to avoid potential impact.

Backwater effect under normal flow conditions→ backwater calculation (1) schemes with floods of various frequencies & (2) corresponding water levels upstream of the dam. Calculated scheme with a water level upstream of the dam of 240m and a reservoir inflow of 16700m3/s. Details in the feasibility study report.

Transboundary social impacts and Cumulative Impact Assessment, Energy assessment and gender component→ Study area divided by zoning. Upstream project area identified. Environmental and social management committee of GoL will plan for details by using new technology.

Community resettlement and the strategy→ Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) set out preliminary livelihood restoration plan, Committees will work with the project developer and follow Decree 84, taking experiences on Nam Ou 1-7 dams & Nam Ngum 5 dam.
V. Feedback – *Standardized procedures & others*

**Consideration of operation rules of other dams for Pak Lay** ➔ For the dam site at Pak Lay HPP, the effect of regulation by the HPPs at the upper cascades like Xiaowan HPP and Nuozhadu HPP has been taken into consideration.

**Chinese standard and ICOLD as performance standards** ➔ if Chinese standards are equal or better than the standards applied by MRC, then they can be used

**Real time data from Xayaburi project into consideration of Pak Lay design** ➔ According to the data-sharing plan, the real-time data of Xayaburi HPP will be adopted.

**Strategy or plan to update information and data** ➔ All the data will be checked and updated in the detailed design

Thank you