#4 ON SUSTAINABLE HYDROPOWER PRACTICE
“Dialogue with Hydropower Developers”

Date: 10-11 August 2017
Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Samsenthai Road, Vientiane, Lao PDR

XAYABURI HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECT
Keynote: Status and Benefit of Sustainable Hydropower Practice

“Developers and Operators perspective on the emerging difficulties and constraints of sustainable cascade operation with multiple owners”

Current State

• No binding guidelines or laws available in Laos
• Not existing yet on the mainstem Mekong, but how is management done on the tributaries?
• Obvious impacts due to:
  • Power generation,
  • Fulfilment of environmental needs, e.g. sediment flushing or fishpassing operation
  • Flood mitigation (example Xayaburi)
• Unlikely that different developers will coordinate and communicate since everyone has own business goals and sometimes operation is governed by other contractual obligations e.g. from Power Purchase Agreements.....
“Developers and Operators perspective on the emerging difficulties and constraints of sustainable cascade operation with multiple owners”

Conclusions

• For issues affecting Lao sovereignty e.g. flood control or sediment management, the GOL should develop binding rules & regulations for cascade operation
• Also off-takers, for example EGAT as non-Lao major off-taker, need to consider cascade operation in their PPA’s
• Regular exchange between private developers and the GOL (ministries) should take place. This should be moderated by the GOL in order to maintain the countries interest.
• MRC as consulting body and stakeholder to the Mekong could contribute with technical advise and know-how. The “last” project downstream also has a potential cross-border impact, for example to Cambodia in the case of Laos
• Private developers should have a firm basis on which to plan on for the operation of Run-of-River HPP within a cascade and different operators