Hydropower Developers Dialogue” – Recap (Day 1)

The Fourth Hydropower Forum
10th – 11th August 2017
Vientiane, LAO PDR
Opening Session

- **Welcome remarks by GIZ Programme Director**
  - Germany-GIZ has been with MRC for nearly 15 years to promote sustainable development of water resources in MRB
  - Aside technical assistance, GIZ supports MRC to promote meaningful stakeholder engagement
  - This Forum is another step in a long-standing and fruitful dialogue process between MRC and hydropower developers

- **Opening remarks by MRC-CEO**
  - **Special forum** designed by MRC with particular focus on direct dialogue with hydropower developers
  - Need to improve the sustainability of the basin’s hydropower development
  - Inputs and feedbacks would help ensure MRC tools more effective, relevance and benefit all concerned users
Key Note #1: Status of HP Development in GMS

- MRC Member Countries and China

Representatives from Cambodia, Thailand, Viet Nam and China presented:

- Country’s current HP projects – *location, MW, etc.*, on *mainstream Mekong and her tributaries especially focusing on the cascades*

- Issues on operational coordination of HP projects focusing on environmental and social concerns
Keynote 2: Status and Benefit of Sustainable HP

- **Developers/Operators' Perspective**

Representatives from 2 developers/operators shared issues on difficulties and constraints for cascade operation:

- No binding guidelines or laws available in Laos
- Regular exchange between private developers and GoL (ministries) should take place
- Unlikely, different developers will coordinate and communicate since everyone has own business (contractual obligations)
- Develop binding rules & regulations for cascade operation – by the government
- Strengthen dialogue and communication on transboundary effects of hydropower projects on the Lancang River
3. Inputs from MRC and International Experts: Role of Standard and Guidelines (1)

- MRCS and IE presented a number of presentations on the roles of MRC and the need for updating of SHDS and PDG; challenges in up taking of MRC tools; and benefits of common standard & tool
- Other sources of renewable energy aside from hydropower should also considered in the new SHDS
- ISH protocols and international best practices should also be taken into account for regional guidelines development
- Stakeholder engagement, products dissemination and up taking by national implementing agencies of MRC member countries
4. MRC’s Tools and Guidelines: Overview

A number of presentations on MRC’s tools for sustainable hydropower planning and operating:

- **Mitigation Guidelines (ISH0306)** - overall approach, process and deliverables

- How developers could use “**Rapid Sustainability Assessment Tool**” (RSAT) to assess sustainability for hydropower projects in a basin-wide scale

- **PDG**: performance targets, design and operating principles for mitigation measures, implementation monitoring, and adaptive management

- Information necessary and important for hydropower planning, design, operation, and monitoring to ensure sustainability
5. Developer’s and Planner’s Experiences

Presentations from HP developers on experiences with multiple HP projects:

• Information gathering and basin/cascade scale sharing – maintaining information sharing during operations for coordinated operation

• Basin scale aspects of consultation and dialogue

• Multiple project cascades: optimisation and operational matters – sub-basin scale planning for minimal impact
Group Discussion: Issues with using MRC Tools

1. Mitigation Guidelines (ISH0306)

- Guidelines are **not mandatory** but using as guidance for mitigation of impacts and management of risks
- Guidelines prepare to **support PDG to be used for PNPCA** process since they are more details
- Guidelines identify risks and corresponding mitigation measures.
- Draft guidelines are available on the MRC’s website
- Guidelines designed for *basin-scale planning, catchment, cascade and single project planning*, and also for mitigation requirements for traditional ESIA
2. Environment and Socio-economic Baseline Info

• Developers’ role and requirements for baseline data
• Developers' role in collection of baseline data – site specific information
• Developers’ view on the gaps of existing Mekong baseline data – accuracy, standardization, uniformity, inter-sectoral data, etc
• Constraints to greater sharing of baseline – between developers, with MRC and other governments
• Role of MRC – QA & QC, a common and centralized database
3. **RSAT**

- Use of RSAT – teaching, role play, checklist, TB and internal dialogues for understanding and joint actions, use at EIA stage

- Suitable ways to use RSAT:
  - *Hydropower risk assessment*
  - *Informed strategic plan*
  - *Gender analysis (EIA)*

- Barrier of using RSAT:
  - *Understanding the strategy*
Thank you!

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