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For sustainable development

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 Planer'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

Group Discussion: Issues with using MRC Tools

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

Group Discussion: Issues with using MRC Tools

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*

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Thank you!