MRC International Watershed Management Conference

INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE

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Conference Facilitator
The Mekong Basin
- from the thousands small watersheds to the 800,000 sq.km. trans-boundary basin

The Mekong River Basin

Characteristics:
- Area: 795,000 km² (21)
- Length of mainstream: 4,800 km (12)
- Average discharge: 15,000 m³/s (0)
The conference

International Conference on Watershed Management

"From Local Watershed Management to Integrated River Basin Management at National and Transboundary Levels"
Our co-conveners
The objective

- Increased awareness of the importance of watershed management in the Mekong Basin.
- Concepts and good practices on how to improve, coordinate and position watershed management as an integral part of river basin management in the Mekong Basin context.

Chiang Mai Summary

A Technical Paper by MRC/Co-conveners aiming at driving debate and promoting solutions for improved watershed and river basin management.
The overall context
- from watershed through sub-basins to the Mekong Basin
IWRM IN THE MEKONG BASIN
- vertical and horizontal coordination -

Trans-boundary basin

Nation

Tributary basin

Sub-basin

Watershed

Cross-sector dialogue
Stakeholder dialogue

Mekong IWRM-based BDP

IWRM at national level

River basin management

Sub-basin management

Integrated watershed management
The Topics

**TOPIC 1: GOOD PRACTICES**
The state of integrated watershed and river basin management: practical solutions and experiences

**TOPIC 2: GOVERNANCE**
Functional governance and institutional frameworks for integrated watershed and river basin management

**TOPIC 3: ECONOMICS AND FINANCE**
Economic and financing issues in sustainable watershed and river basin management
The structure and flow

1. Opening Plenary
   - Topic 1
   - Topic 2
   - Topic 3

2. Lunch

3. Poster Session
   - Topic 1
   - Topic 2
   - Topic 3

4. Good Morning Plenary
   - Topic 1
   - Topic 2
   - Topic 3

5. End-of-day Plenary
   - Topic 1
   - Topic 2
   - Topic 3

6. Dinner

7. Concluding and closing Plenary
Topic 1: Good Practices

- Biophysical and social issues influencing sustainable watershed management
- Assessing the impact of future change drivers (e.g. climate variability)
- Mechanisms required to overcome these challenges => sustainability, equity, efficiency
- Current knowledge and examples of best practices; on what works and does not
- Recent research findings

Topic Leads: Andrew Noble and Christoph Muziol
Topic 2: Governance

- Experiences with existing watershed governance arrangements,
- Identify and address the additional challenges that exist at the larger, basin scale that cannot be adequately addressed by simply expanding watershed governance mechanisms
- Move towards horizontally and vertically integrated “whole basin” governance

*Topic Leads: Kate Lazarus and Christoph Muziol*
Topic 3: Economics and finance

- Issues, experiences, best practices and needs for the Mekong Basin and elsewhere
- Setting in place the economic and financial conditions that will place watersheds at the centre of river basin management
- Foster more sustainable, equitable and efficient approaches to IWRM

*Topic Leads: Lucy Emerton and Petra Schill*
The design and process

- Brief presentations, all **max 15 min**

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- Focus on **interaction**
  - => brief Q&A in Plenary
  - => **Panel Discussions** in Topics

- Synthesis of conclusions and recommendations
  - => in Topics
  - => across Topics to Chiang Mai Summary
  - => Chiang Mai Technical Report

*All presentations available on the website!*
THANK YOU
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