

THAILAND WORKING GROUP – DISCUSSION POINTS

MRC SEA of hydropower of the mainstream Mekong River Regional
Avoidance, Mitigation and Enhancement Workshop: 28-29 June 2010.

Strategic option 1 – Not to proceed with the mainstream projects

National Undertaking:

- The government should have clear policy not approving power purchase from mainstream HP
- To conduct study and research on natural resources and environmental impact of HP for baseline information including compilation of past experiences
- The government set national development policy shifting revenue from non-energy dependence activities
- PDP should clearly exclude power generate from the mainstream dam

Strategic option 1 – Not to proceed with the mainstream projects

Regional Undertaking :

- LMB countries formulate plan for alternative energy sources
- LMB countries to have alternative plan for income generation from the other activities besides energy
- Create regional organization for integrated water resources management of Mekong river involving all 6 countries and concerned stakeholders by enlarging the role of MRC or creating a new agency
- LMB countries set policy not to pursue mainstream HP development projects
- Seek cooperation with China government in minimizing impact due to dam operation in China

Strategic Options 2 – Defer a decision on whether or not to proceed and in what form and circumstances

National undertaking :

- PDP should clearly exclude power generate from the mainstream dam
- To conduct study and research on natural resources and environmental impact of HP for baseline information including compilation of past experiences
- The government adopt position for 10 years deferment period

Strategic Options 2 – Defer a decision on whether or not to proceed and in what form and circumstances

Regional undertaking :

- LMB countries formulate plan for alternative energy sources
- Additional study and in depth research on the environmental issues identified in the SEA report
- Create regional organization for integrated water resources management of Mekong river involving all 6 countries and concerned stakeholders by enlarging the role of MRC or creating a new agency
- Support programme for non-energy revenue generation of the Mekong River

Strategic option 3 phasing basis – Proceed with mainstream development on a gradual phase basis.

Regional Undertaking

- Establish committee to formulate criteria for pilot project selection
- The key selection criteria should be project with minimum negative impact on environment
- The study procedure and information collection of candidate project should based on same international standard
- All candidate projects seek public opinion through public participation process prior to the selection
- Establish benefit sharing fund for improving quality of life and livelihood of the affected stakeholders

Strategic option 3 phasing basis – Proceed with mainstream development on a gradual phase basis.(Continue)

Regional Undertaking

- Create regional organization for integrated water resources management of Mekong river involving all 6 countries and concerned stakeholders by enlarging the role of MRC or creating a new agency with the responsibility to safeguard dam operation impact on neighboring countries
- Utilization of the pilot project to study additional information on impact as guideline for future projects selection
- The pilot project should not affect the sovereign boundary between Thailand and Lao PDR

4. Proceed with rapid development of all 12 mainstream projects

Regional Undertaking

- All projects feasibility and EIA study should based on same international standard
- All projects should provide mitigation and enhancement measures to minimize all impacts
- Dam operation of all the proposed dam should follow same standard procedure to avoid impact with each other
- Create regional organization for integrated water resources management of Mekong river involving all 6 countries and concerned stakeholders by enlarging the role of MRC or creating a new agency with the responsibility to safeguard dam operation impact on neighboring countries

4. Proceed with rapid development of all 12 mainstream projects (Continue)

Regional Undertaking

- The pilot project should not affect the sovereign boundary between Thailand and Lao PDR
- Establish benefit sharing fund for improving quality of life and livelihood of the affected stakeholders

Conclusion – Preferred strategic option?

- **Thailand prefer strategic option 1 and 2**
- Do not oppose option 3 if other LMB members choose this option
- Oppose option 4

Inclusion of Scenarios of the various impact

- Of the opinion that the SEA report should include a chapter on the impact scenarios with respect to environment, social and economic of the various clusters but not individual ranking

RECOMMENDATION TO MRCS

- 1) MRCS to submit the final SEA report to Joint Council for endorsement and reaction
- 2) MRCS to submit the report to National Mekong Committees for discussion and action (through the Chairman of the National Mekong Committee ie the Minister for MONRE)
- 3) Translations:
 - ❑ the full final report into national languages,
 - ❑ summary form with non technical language key sections and recommendations of the SEA report

RECOMMENDATION TO MRCS (Continue)

- 4) NMCs to undertake a series of workshops and public meetings with various stakeholders to present and discuss the report, including with river basin committees.
- 5) NMCs submit to the highest decision making level – e.g. the Cabinet, for adoption and to inform cabinet resolution so that all line ministries would implement)
- 6) MRCs should provide financial support to NMCs to carry out the activities