

**Annual Report 2010**  
**Report on Activities and Finances**  
**(Approved by the Board of Directors)**  
**(April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011)**



Mekong Watch

NPO

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# Introduction

## About Mekong Watch

Mekong Watch envisions a Mekong Region in which its people enjoy the region's natural environments and sustain lifestyles that are rooted in the integrity of their environments, without falling victim to the harmful impacts of destructive development. Through dialogue, we seek to ascertain the problems faced by people impacted by development projects and work to make sure their concerns are reflected in policies and planning by reaching out to those responsible for formulating and implementing aid policies.

### Organization history

Mekong Watch was established in June 1993 to monitor the impact of development projects and development policy on the Mekong River basin countries (Burma/Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and China's Yunnan Province). At the time, Vietnam had recently ended its occupation of Cambodia after more than ten years, marking the end of Cambodia's civil war and the start of a more peaceful era. With peace came a dramatic expansion of development assistance to Cambodia along with the rest of the Mekong River region, including Laos and Vietnam. A group of Japanese Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) with experience backing grassroots movements in this region since the 1980s, concerned that the expansion of aid would destroy local ways of life and damage the environment, formed Mekong Watch as a network to monitor the negative aspects of development and advocate for policy improvements. Later, in 1998 this network was dissolved to form a membership-based volunteer group, and in October 2003 reorganized again as a certified Non-Profit Organization (NPO).

## Mekong Watch's Long-term and Medium-term Goals

### Vision

Our vision is for the people of the Mekong Region to benefit from the region's natural environments and sustain ways of life that are rooted in the integrity of their environments, without falling victim to the harmful impacts of destructive development.

### Long-term Goal

Our goal is to create a framework at all stages of development projects in the Mekong River basin in which the lessons of the past are reflected and the opinions of those affected by development respected.

### Medium-term Goals (2009-2012)

- 1) Increase the number of cases in which the lessons of past development are applied to projects in various stages of progress in the Mekong basin countries and surrounding areas and the views of those affected are respected.
- 2) Create cases in the Mekong basin countries in which environmental/social

policies and programs improve in a way that reflects past lessons of development, the natural environment, and ways of life rooted in the integrity of the environment.

- 3) Through Mekong Watch's outreach efforts, increase the number of people who know about the past lessons of development, the natural environment, and people's lifestyles rooted in the integrity of their environments in the Mekong basin countries.

# Activities

## Results and Overview of Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Activities

Project Monitoring: In multiple instances, our monitoring efforts led to local people's voices being heard in the planning stages of development projects, and enabled persons forced to relocate to make room for development to receive more equitable compensation. In the Cambodia Highway 1 project (portion funded by Asia Development Bank lending), Mekong Watch's initiatives contributed to the resolution of debt problems faced by displaced families that arose after compensation payments were delayed. In the Nam Theun 2 hydroelectric plant project, we made direct appeals to international institutions and the Japanese government following a site visit. As a result, we observed some improvement in compensation payments and the installation of irrigation facilities, which had been delayed. Our role in the international campaign against hydroelectric power plant construction in the Mekong mainstream and downstream—perhaps the most critical issue facing the Mekong region in recent years—helped delay planned construction.

Field Projects: In northern Laos, we continued to support the joint efforts of local residents and officials to preserve their forests. We also conducted a third-party evaluation, which marks the start of work to formulate a follow-up plan to ensure that the project's results are sustainable. Also in Laos, we continued our support of provincial television stations' production of environment-related programming. Specifically, we helped with the creation of new programs about rising tourism's harmful effects on water quality and local people's efforts at forest preservation. In Thailand, we created multi-language translations of video testimony by people impacted by the Pak Mun Dam, thus helping people share their experiences across the Mekong region. In addition to these ongoing projects, in Thailand we began supporting indigenous people's efforts to preserve biodiversity and culture. Additionally, we also launched a project to make proposals on natural resource management and habitat preservation from the local people's perspective.

Outreach: As in previous years, we provided information to the Japanese people, media institutions, and policymakers through seminars, video screenings, published materials, periodicals, our resource center, an e-mail newsletter, an updated website, and field study trips. These activities are aimed at fostering greater understanding of the abundant natural environment and thriving populations of the Mekong region and increase the number of people who believe in Mekong Watch's vision.

Advocacy: We have long demanded a fundamental reworking of official development assistance (ODA) policies based on our past reviews. Based on the information gathered and analyzed from our project monitoring efforts, we entreated upon the relevant institutions and the Japanese government to reform its ODA apparatus. As a result, both the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made changes to their ODA evaluation systems. We also made proposals to ensure the independence and proper role of a newly formed ODA streamlining body. This year marked the halfway point in the timeframe for our medium-term goals (final year: 2012). So far, we have coordinated with local NGOs and residents to resolve specific environmental and social problems, and ensured that the lessons of these experiences are reflected in the Japanese government's aid policies. We have also worked to communicate to Japanese society the traditional natural resource management techniques of people living in the Mekong region, as well

as the negative impacts of large-scale development. We have made significant progress on all these fronts as we work toward meeting our medium-term goals.

There remains no end in sight to the disaster at the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake. Yet, the Japanese government has remained determined to promote the export of Japan's nuclear power plant technology overseas. The people of Asia have raised their voices loudly in opposition. Mekong Watch will remain active in monitoring nuclear power projects in the Mekong region and step up outreach efforts in this area.

## A. Investigative Research

Mekong Watch is engaged in two types of investigative research. The first is monitoring of projects and programs for potential threats to people who rely on natural resources. The second is field research (not limited to specific development projects) conducted in cooperation with local residents to collect basic data and deepen overall understanding of the connection between the environment and people's lives. The information and knowledge gained from this research form the basis of our advocacy work.

### A-1. Project Monitoring

We focused our monitoring activities on bilateral aid institutions such as Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as well as multilateral development banks such as the World Bank and Asia Development Bank (ADB). Projects included hydroelectric and thermal power plants, aqueducts, highways, and railroads. We also paid close attention to electric power development projects with a focus on the Mekong region, particularly in emerging economies like China, Thailand, and Vietnam, where government and private-sector capital are funding hydroelectric and thermal power plant construction. Additionally, we began monitoring nuclear power plant projects in Thailand.

The projects we monitored in fiscal 2010 included the following (countries/organizations providing or considering providing funds are in parentheses):

#### Regionwide

- Mekong mainstream dam development (China)
- Lower mainstream Mekong dam on Thai-Laotian border (Thai/Malaysian private sector, others)
- Dam on Mekong tributaries (Sesan, Sekong, Srepok rivers) on Vietnam-Cambodia border (Vietnam)



*Lower mainstream dam: We visited the planned site of the Pak Chom Dam with another NGO*



*Development of Sesan, Sekong, Srepok rivers: Mian (coordinator of local organization 3SPN) gave us a tour of the Srepok River*

## Burma

- Salween River dam development (Thailand, China)
- Irrawaddy River dam development (Chinese private sector)
- Yetagun natural gas field development (50:50 joint project between Nisseki Myanmar Oil Development, Japanese government)

## Laos

- Nam Theun 2 Dam (World Bank, ADB, French private sector, others)
- Xe Katam Hydropower (Kansai Electric Power)
- Xayaburi Dam (Thai private sector)

## Thailand

- Northeast Thailand water diversion project (JICA)
- Map Ta Phut industrial park (JICA, JETRO, others)
- Natural gas thermal power plant (Electric Power Development, others)
- Nuclear power plant development
- Pak Mun Dam

## Cambodia

- Neak Loeung Mekong Bridge (JICA)
- Cambodia Highway 1 (ADB, MOFA, JICA)
- GMS Railway rehabilitation project (ADB)



*Cambodia Highway One project (Japan grant aid): We asked relocated residents about their experiences.*

## Vietnam

- Dai Ninh Hydropower Project

## A-2. Research

We conducted the following research in FY2010:

- Update on Mekong dam development
- Analysis of Vietnam's electric power sector
- Forest resource/timber distribution in Vietnam and Laos
- Issues surrounding Japanese ODA aimed at Mekong-region countries

## B. Field Projects

Mekong Watch's field projects are aimed at understanding the relationship between Mekong region residents and their natural resources, maintaining records of people as they live together with nature, and supporting the management of natural resources by residents of the region.

### ● Forest preservation in northern Laos

Starting in FY2005, we have been engaged in research in coordination with the National University of Laos (NUOL)'s Faculty of Forestry to investigate and offer constructive proposals regarding the country's land and forestry programs and issues faced by villagers who make use of the forests, focusing on Pakbeng district, Oudomxai province in northern Laos. So far, we have been engaged in four main activities. We helped establish and subsequently supported the undertakings of watershed forest management commissions composed of government officials from the villages and districts with land on watershed forests with small dams. We also



aided in redistricting of land and forests in concert with villages and districts in villages where there had been confusion over land and forest usage as a result of forest designations and the relocation or merger of villages. We performed an environmental study on watershed forests. And we played a role in the production of a documentary on the land and forest use practices of slash-and-burn farming communities.

In FY2010, we performed a project assessment that included a third-party expert evaluation and a survey of households. And we formulated a follow-up plan in response to proposals that there is a need to increase understanding of watershed forest management among villagers (particularly women). Based on this plan, in FY2011 we will follow up on our previous endeavors in this project.



Project evaluation workshop

- **Producing TV programs on ways of life and biodiversity in the Mekong region (Laos)**



In Laos, each province has a television station responsible for local broadcasting. However, due to a lack of funding and experience, the stations almost never run original programming and instead show only programs from the central TV network. This project was started in FY2004 by giving support to four provinces' local TV stations in south-central Laos to produce environment-themed programming for the region. In FY2007, we expanded this project to two more provinces in the north. So far around 60 programs have

been produced.

In the current period, we worked with a local coordinator to produce a new program to call attention to water pollution in the Mekong River as a result of increased tourism in Luang Phabang Province. To prepare for new programming, we are currently in the process of investigating the status of non-timber forest products in Luang Phabang Province as well as forest preservation among local residents in central and southern Laos. DVDs of a program we produced last year on the impact of dam construction on the harvesting of river algae on the Mekong have been distributed for use in Thailand and Laos.

- **Preventing ecosystem deterioration by residents sharing experiences (Thailand, region-wide)**

The construction of Pak Mun Dam in Mekong tributary Mun River has had a serious impact on the river environment. The dam construction has also fundamentally changed the way of life of the local residents who live off the river. We have researched the experience of the Mun River residents and produced a



Cover art for DVD, Voices of the Mekong River Basin

video record to give a broader range of information to residents of others areas where dam construction is being planned. With this we held seminars at Ubonratchathani University with local residents and students. The program has been provided to local residents' groups and distributed on DVD within Thailand. It is also available on the Web. We also produced a Thai language version with English subtitles for circulation to Mekong region NGOs. Versions in Cambodian, and Vietnamese and other languages are forthcoming.

- **Support of bio/cultural diversity action by ethnic minorities (Thailand)**

In Chanthaburi Province in eastern Thailand, we have a unique program aimed at the indigenous Chong people. It simultaneously works to strengthen the identity of ethnic minorities who live as Thai citizens and protect the environment by teaching the Chong language and knowledge of the forests at school and in outdoor activities. Mekong Watch, with the cooperation of researchers from Mahidol University among others, maintains records of these activities. To spread the message of this successful and pioneering program, we plan to set up a website and exchange experiences with local indigenous people and an NGO conducting a similar program in northeastern Cambodia.



The elementary school students shared their experience learning the Chong language.

- **Local citizens' statement calling for traditional natural resource management techniques to protect Mekong habitats**

Under its Green Mekong Initiative, the Japanese government purports to make proposals for aid policies in the Mekong basin. However, these proposals involve no local resident participation, nor do they reflect their opinions. In response, we have taken a number of actions. We conducted research on sustainable resource management and traditional resource exploitation practices in rural villages in Mekong countries. We then used videos taken during our research to hold seminars and international workshops as a means to make policy proposals as well as exchange experiences among social society groups and researchers in Japan and the Mekong region. The formation of this platform laid the foundation to create a statement on sustainable management of the region's resources. Among activities that we launched in the latter half of this fiscal year, we conducted a literature review of Mekong region traditional resource utilization practices. Also, to prepare for video production, we collected data and selected potential interview subjects.

## C. Outreach

In our outreach efforts, we seek to present the information collected and analyzed through our investigative research to civil society in Japan and elsewhere in the world, particularly the Mekong basin countries.

- **The Mekong Dialogue**

*The Mekong Dialogue* is Mekong Watch's series of public seminars to give Japanese

audiences a better understanding of the development and environmental issues facing Mekong countries. We have held 53 seminars so far. We held two Mekong Dialogue seminars in FY2010 featuring guest speakers (See Appendix 1 for a list of topics). The participants' backgrounds varied depending on themes and included students, researchers, government officials, those directly involved in administering assistance, company employees, and engineers.

- **Video screenings**

We regularly hold video screenings as part of our efforts to give easily digestible images of how the people of the Mekong region live and the impact of development. In FY2010, we held six such screenings at the Nature Info Plaza Marunouchi Saezuri Kan in central Tokyo. Also, at an event related to the COP10 summit held in Nagoya, we held a showing at a local Buddhist temple to exhibit a video we produced in Laos (see Appendix 2). Screenings of the videos made via our field projects took place at Thai universities and other venues.

- **Mekong Library**

At our office in Ueno, Tokyo, Mekong Watch maintains the Mekong Library, a collection of books on Mekong regional development and environment, JBIC and JICA, (organizations who implement Japan's large-scale aid programs to the region), the World Bank, and ADB policies. In FY2010, our collection shrank to 1,604 volumes after returning some individual donations. Following a large-scale reorganization, we have received an increasing number of inquiries from university students and others seeking to learn more about the region.

- **Official magazine, *Forum Mekong***

Starting in FY2009, we have reduced the publication of *Forum Mekong* from four issues a year to two. The decision came as a result of discussions on the appropriate direction for the magazine to maximize the quality of content, including reconfiguring the division of content distribution among online and paper media, and switching our emphasis to feature articles. Sales continued to struggle, and we are currently considering a change to the publishing format. We offer our back issues online in PDF form through 2004.

- **E-mail newsletter**

Mekong Watch disseminates news on development and environment issues in the Mekong region via an e-mail newsletter. We issued 27 newsletters in Japanese during FY2010. We also issued policy proposals and press releases Mekong mainstream dam development, the Japanese government's budget review, and ODA reform.

- **Website**

Our newly redesigned website features a new section for first-time visitors. We also added direct links to *Forum Mekong* articles to make it easier to access our existing content. Some sections of our website are updated much more frequently than others, so there continues to be a need to make updates. We also added some new information and video content to our English-language page.

- **Lecturers, research**

We sent our staff to give talks on Mekong River development, the environment, and government development assistance at lectures and seminars (see Appendix 3). In FY2010, we spoke at 22 events and presented our research results at two academic conferences.

- **Media outreach**

The goal of our media outreach is not to attract coverage of Mekong Watch's activities; it is to increase coverage of the development issues we are concerned about. We were involved in nine media stories in FY2010.

## D. Advocacy

Our advocacy has three objectives: (1) improve individual aid projects; (2) question development in the Mekong basin countries; and (3) encourage the Japanese government to reflect past experience in ODA and other policies and processes.

### ● Improving individual projects

We held meetings (detailed below) with JICA, MOFA, and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) on individual aid projects, with the aim of pushing for improvements to problems we identified through our project monitoring activities. The agendas for these meetings can be found in Appendix 7.

#### Dam construction on Mekong mainstream

Regarding the construction of dams on the Mekong upstream in China, we made progress in our research to gain understanding of current conditions. In August 2010, we held a joint information and opinion exchange meeting in Bangkok with regional and international NGOs on China's investments in the Mekong region. During the meeting, we presented on the historical experience and current situation of Japanese NGOs' activities lobbying the Japanese government, so that Chinese participants could make use of our experiences. We also engaged in various activities related to dam construction in the lower Mekong. We made records of how local residents are using their surrounding natural resources near the planned site of the Don Sahong Dam. And we made preparations such as setting up a website for advocacy activities for the Xayaburi Dam, a project that is among to furthest along toward construction; notably, the Mekong River Commission has begun preliminary talks on the matter.

#### Nam Theun 2 hydroelectric plant, Laos

Using information gathered on the region affected by the dam, we requested MOF, the World Bank, and ADB to make improvements and disclose information on the challenges to restoring the long-term livelihoods of the affected people as well as delays in paying compensation. In December 2010, we met with the World Bank's Laos country director. The same month, during the World Bank official responsible for the project's visit to Japan, we held discussions with this person and officials from MOF, during which we requested improvements to livelihood restoration programs and greater information disclosure. Also, when a senior MOF official made a site visit, we created an opportunity for the official to meet with regional NGOs. At the meeting, the official heard concerns over the project's potential environmental and societal impacts. Additionally, the official held discussions with NGOs critical of the energy policies of Thailand, which purchases power generated by the dam.

#### Aqueduct project in northeast Thailand

In coordination with local NGOs and civil society organizations, we brought in Sanyu Consultants and JICA, which are conducting water resource surveys in northeast Thailand, to hold a public seminar and site tour. This enabled us to communicate local residents' experiences and opinions, as well as the challenges facing the Thai government. The information from these activities was included in both the English- and Japanese-language versions of their final reports, and both are publicly available in JICA's online library.

### Pollution at Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate, Thailand

In the 1980s, Japanese ODA helped fund the construction of Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate, an industrial park for the petrochemical sector located in Rayong Province in northeast Thailand. However, the failure to make major improvements to air and water pollution caused by the estate has developed into a serious social problem, with local residents suing for damages. Mekong Watch has attempted to contribute to the problem's resolution by participating and cooperating in field research led by Kumamoto Gakuen University's Open Research Center for Minamata Studies, as well as a public seminar for local residents held in January 2011. Additionally, we communicated the local NGOs and residents' views to JETRO and MOFA with the intent of encouraging the officials to view this case as a lesson for future ODA policy.

### ● **Development in Mekong countries**

#### Forced relocation in Cambodia

We continued to work with local NGOs to help local residents, especially the poor, forced to relocate as a result of road improvements or bridge projects funded by the ADB or the Japanese government. Specifically, we sought to ensure fairer compensation, studies to support livelihood restoration, and information disclosure to encourage local resident participation. In the Cambodia Highway One project (funded with ADB loans), in June 2010 objections filed by 63 households finally results in the families' debt burdens. Septic systems at the new locations were also improved, in another example of residents' objectives leading to concrete results.

In a new endeavor, we made an effort to help resolve problems faced by households that were relocated as a result of a rail restoration approved by the ADB. Along with a local NGO, we visited affected residents in Battambang province in western Cambodia as well as Phnom Penh. Based on the meetings, we lobbied the Japanese Ministry of Finance to help solve the problems. Both the ADB and Ministry of Finance gave encouraging responses to the NGO's entreaties, but it may take time for the problems to actually be resolved.

### ● **Calling for fundamental changes in ODA policy**

Along with other NGOs, Mekong Watch has long called for MOFA to make fundamental changes in ODA policies based on reviews of past assistance. Part of our effort in this area has been to call on relevant institutions and the Japanese government to alter their approach to ODA based on the data gathered and analyzed in our project monitoring activities. As a result, both JICA and MOFA have instituted ODA review systems. In addition, we have made proposals to ensure the independence and proper role of a newly formed ODA streamlining body, and we hope to see them implemented.

As part of these efforts, on May 14, 2010 we released the following statement:

- Shift ODA funding from large-scale economic infrastructure to health care, education, eliminating economic disparity, and other areas of human security.
- Eschew economic infrastructure aid to countries that have reached a certain level of development, or at least countries in the middle stages of development.
- Rule out in advance projects that are high-risk or could be wasteful:
  - Projects in countries with extremely high defense budgets
  - Projects that would be impossible without military involvement
  - Large reservoir projects in tropical monsoon regions (plus six additional categories)
- Enhance the systems for inspection, preliminary assessment, and post-assessment. Set up an independent evaluation bureau.
- Clarify the purpose of grant aid. Grant aid should not be used for large-scale

economic infrastructure projects.

Following our statement, JICA established a monitoring department in the division responsible for environmental inspections, and MOFA created a department to ensure greater independence in the evaluation process.

Though we were not successful in convincing officials to create a list of projects to be excluded in advance for being too high-risk or could be wasteful, MOFA has begun work on reviewing past ODA projects to share past lessons.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1

### Mekong Dialogues

Dialogue #	Date	Topic	Speaker
52	June 1, 2010	Mekong Dialogue: Views on Mekong Development from Northeastern Thailand: Potash mine and river diversion projects	Bampen Chaiyarak (Nippon Foundation API Fellow, graduate student of Silapakorn University, Thailand)
53	August 19	To visit or not to visit? Recent images of Burma under the junta	Machiko Oka (freelancer, resident of US)

### Appendix 2

### Other Mekong Watch seminars/lectures

Date	Event title	Topic/agenda	Speakers
April 14, 2010	The Mekong's Abundance of Life (Part 1)	A video on "human biodiversity"	Yuka Kiguchi
May 24	The Mekong's Abundance of Life (Part 2)	Dam development and river habitats	Yuka Kiguchi
June 5	Symposium: Toward fundamental reforms of ODA	A report from Mekong region developments, highlighting how countries are replicating environmental problems along with economic models	Penchom Sae Tang (head of Ecological Alert and Recovery Thailand [EARTH]), Satomi Higashi, Kenji Fukuda (lawyer, Mekong Watch board member)
June 9	The Mekong's Abundance of Life (Part 3)	Forests and ways of life in Laos	Satomi Higashi
June 16	Ad hoc seminar	ODA reform: examining the past to guide the future	Yuka Kiguchi, Hozue Hatae (NGO, Friends of the Earth Japan), Noriko Shimizu (NGO, Friends of the Earth Japan, Mekong Watch board member)
July 7	The Mekong's Abundance of Life (Part 4)	"Edible" biodiversity	Yuka Kiguchi
July 14	Series: Citizens Revisit ODA policy	Part 1: Consideration of environmental/social impact and legal liability of ODA as seen in the Koto Panjang Dam case	Kenji Fukuda (lawyer, Mekong Watch board member)
September 21	Series: Citizens Revisit ODA policy	Part 2: Pitfalls of "enviro-business": sewage treatment plants in Thailand and large-scale aqueduct projects in Malaysia	Kenji Fukuda (lawyer, Mekong Watch board member), Eri Watanabe (NGO, Friends of the Earth Japan)

October 12	Open seminar	ODA-funded dam development: unresolved issues	Hozue Hatae (NGO, Friends of the Earth Japan), Satomi Higashi, Yuka Kiguchi, Noriko Shimizu (NGO, Friends of the Earth Japan, Mekong Watch board member)
October 14	The Mekong's Abundance of Life (5)	Dam development threatens people's way of life	Yuka Kiguchi, Satomi Higashi
October 28	Screening of "Seen and Heard at the Temple" in Nagoya	We live by eating other life: biodiversity close to home	Yuka Kiguchi
December 2	The Mekong's Abundance of Life (6)	Fish of the Mekong: connecting people with the river	Yuka Kiguchi
January 12, 2011	Event commemorating 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Commission on Dams	New debate on dams: International trends in river development and Japan	Michael Simon (OxFam Australia), others

### Appendix 3

## Talks by Mekong Watch staff

Date	Location/hosting organization	Topic/title
April 5-7, 2010	EarthRights International School of Burma	Roles of International Financial Institutions (IFIs), Toshiyuki Doi
April 15	Meiji Gakuin University lecture series on global environment	Conflict and resource development in Burma (Myanmar): Examining the case of natural gas development, Yuki Akimoto
May 10	Rikkyo University lecture: ethnic conflict and peace	Conflict and resource development in Burma (Myanmar), Yuki Akimoto
May 12	Lecture at Aoyama Gakuin University	Conflict and resource development in Burma (Myanmar), Yuki Akimoto
May 12	Aoyama Gakuin Women's Junior College lecture	Conflict and resource development in Burma (Myanmar), Yuki Akimoto
May 14	Tsuru University Regional Center, lecture at "Work & Life" division	Conflict and resource development in Burma (Myanmar): Examining the case of natural gas development, Yuki Akimoto
June 6	Ayus International Buddhist Cooperation Network, Kansai regional secretariat	Understanding international cooperating from the citizens' perspective: We're all connected!! Let's consider what true support means. What is happening in the Mekong River region?, Yuka Kiguchi
June 6	NGOs & Society	What should NGOs do about that status quo of ODA policy? Replicating the economic growth myth and ODA. Kanna Mitsuta
July 3	Fukuoka NGO Network (FUNN) / ADB Fukuoka NGO Forum (FNA)	Mining development in northeastern Thailand, Bampen Chaiyarak, Toshiyuki Doi
July 9	Kumamoto Gakuen University Open Research Center for Minamata Studies	Mining development and health impact assessment (HIA) in northeastern Thailand, Bampen Chaiyarak, Toshiyuki Doi
July 15	The 3rd International Conference on Lao Studies, Khon Kaen	Impacts of the Land Forest Allocation Program on Swidden Farmer's Livelihoods and Roles of "External" Actors: A Study on Community-based Watershed Management in Oudomxay Province, Satomi Higashi



July 19-20	EarthRights International (ERI) School of Mekong	Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Mekong Development, Toshiyuki Doi
August 7	Laos study session	Video on Laotian forests and people's way of life, Satomi Higashi
August 12	Addressing the Impacts of Chinese Overseas Investments in the Mekong Region	Lessons Learned from Campaigns in Japan, Toshiyuki Doi
September 6-10	Fukuoka Jo Gakuin University Faculty of Human Relations, intensive instruction	Introduction to NGO/NPO studies, Toshiyuki Doi
September 7	ADB Fukuoka NGO Forum (FNA)	Pollution problems at the Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate and Japan's involvement, Toshiyuki Doi
September 18	ECOLO Japan	Sustainability seminar: Conditions for a sustainable society—theory and clues to application; How to protect the world environment that exists now; the example of Mekong River development, Yuka Kiguchi
September 25	Co-hosted by Osaka University Global Collaboration Center, Huirights Osaka	Considering development assistance by examining Japanese ODA in the Mekong region, Yuka Kiguchi
October	Huirights Osaka	Reflecting on ODA based on projects in Thailand, Yuka Kiguchi
October 2 – November 28	Kanagawa International Center (photo exhibit)	Mother Mekong photo exhibit—the river's bounty and the diverse ways of life (provided information and photographs), Yuka Kiguchi
October 6	Ayus International Buddhist Cooperation Network	Brown Bottle Talk: Buddhist monks meet with NGOs—The Mekong; what does prosperity mean?, Yuka Kiguchi
October 26	Hitotsubashi University School of International & Public Policy lecture, "Global Environment & Development Assistance"	Natural resource exploitation and development in Laos: Rivers, forests, and dam construction, Satomi Higashi
November 11	International Conference on "Changing Ways of Life of Ethnicities in the Mekong Region" (at Ubonratchathani University)	The change in the usage of toum yai fishing gear in north eastern Thailand, Yuka Kiguchi The Impacts of Shifting Cultivation Stabilization Policy on Kmhmu' Land and Forest Use in Northern Laos, Satomi Higashi
November 30	Showa Women's University Faculty of Humanities & Culture lecture, "Development Assistance & Economics"	Economic growth models of development aid institutions and their environmental and social impacts: the case of hydroelectric projects in Laos, Satomi Higashi
January 29, 2011	People's Forum on Burma, regular meeting	Old, yet new problems: Environmental and social impacts of dam development in Thailand and Laos (Satomi Higashi), Burma (Myanmar): Large-scale dam construction on the Irrawady River and local residents' complaints, Yuki Akimoto

#### Appendix 4

### Mekong Watch media contributions

Date	Details	Topic/title
September 10, 2010	Fairwood E-mail Newsletter No. 39 <a href="http://www.fairwood.jp/news/mmbn/mmat/vol039_1.html">http://www.fairwood.jp/news/mmbn/mmat/vol039_1.html</a>	Laotian forests and swidden farmers way of life - the experience of Oudomxay Province in northern Laos, Satomi Higashi

October	“Environment & Pollution: Seeking Coexistence Between Nature and Humanity” Vol. 40, issue 2	The court decision on Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate and its aftermath—with a particular focus on citizen participation, Toshiyuki Doi
October	Hurights Osaka	Reflecting on ODA based on cases in Thailand, Yuka Kiguchi
November	Alta Nov-Dec 2010 issue, edited by Pacific Asia Resource Center	Development for “poverty reduction” creates new types of poverty - Nam Theun 2 hydroelectric plant project, Satomi Higashi
December	Japan Environment Council, Asia Environment White Paper 2010-11, published by Toyo Keizai, Inc.	Laos: Accelerating Hydroelectric Power Development and Resulting Environmental and Social Impacts, Satomi Higashi
December	Bank Watch: Critical Perspectives from the NGO Forum on ADB	On SPF’s Site Visit, Toshiyuki Doi

### Appendix 5

## Media articles/programs made with Mekong Watch involvement

Date	Publication	Topic/title
June 18, 2010	Hokkaido Shimbun	Mekong Region on Indochina Peninsula: Concerns Over Construction of Dam Upstream, [Residents] Unable to Voice Criticism of Environmental Changes, Large Amount of Assistance
August 15	Asahi Shimbun	Battle Over Water Resources in Asia
August 21	Kyodo News (printed in Kyoto Shimbun and other dailies)	“Large Fish of Mekong Threatened by Dams—Freshwater Dolphin Population Plummet”
August 31	Inter Press Service	Southeast Asian Highway Hits Roadblock in Burma
October 22	Asahi Shimbun	Poor River Algae Harvest Jeopardizes Local Cuisine
January 1, 2011	Nishi-Nippon Shimbun	Make Use of the Lessons of Minamata Disease in Thailand—Serious Pollution at the Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate
January 9	Tokyo Shimbun	Huge Dam Built in Laos: Residents Relocated for Construction; Uncertainty over Livelihoods Remains Even Now
January 21	Nishi-Nippon Shimbun	Experience of Minamata Disease Introduced in Thailand—200 Attend Pollution Symposium at Kumamoto Gakuen University

### Appendix 6

## Meetings with government institutions

Date	Meeting name	Topic/agenda
June 8, 2010	Regular Ministry of Finance-NGO meeting	Nam Theun 2 hydroelectric plant project: environmental/social impact and Japan’s response (IDA, IBRD, MIGA, ADB)
September 2	Regular Ministry of Finance-NGO meeting	Nam Theun 2 hydroelectric plant project: environmental/social impact and Japan’s response (IDA, IBRD, MIGA, ADB)
December 7	Regular Ministry of Finance-NGO meeting	Involuntary relocation of residents for ADB-funded maintenance of Cambodian rail infrastructure

## Board of Directors

Directors:

Doi, Toshiyuki	Representative Director
Fukuda, Kenji	Deputy Representative Director
Onizuka, Madoka Chase	
Kiguchi, Yuka	
Shine, Toshihiko	
Shimizu, Noriko	
Sakamoto, Yuki	
Nagase, Riei	
Higashi, Satomi	

Auditor:

Kawamura, Akio

Advisor:

Matsumoto, Satoru

## Staff

Doi, Toshiyuki	Representative Director (full-time)
Kiguchi, Yuka	Executive Director (full-time)
Higashi, Satomi	Laos Program Director (part-time)
Akimoto, Yuki	Burma Program Director (part-time)
Mitsuta, Kanna	Policy Manager (part-time)
Iida, Takako	Tokyo Office Manager (part-time)

## Interns

2 interns

(as of March 31, 2011)

# NPO Mekong Watch

## FY2010 Financial Statements

April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011

Unit: JPY

### Revenue

<b>Membership fee</b>	430,000
<b>Donations</b>	77,172
<b>Operating revenue</b>	760,508
Monitoring & research	0
Outreach	760,508
Advocacy	0
<b>Grants</b>	20,299,143
<b>Contract income</b>	5,430,885
<b>Interest income</b>	20,519
<b>Miscellaneous income</b>	39,429
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>27,057,656</b>

### Expenditure

<b>Monitoring and research</b>	7,350,904
Project monitoring	1,571,614
Research on problems with Japan's past ODA projects	126,924
Research on Vietnam forest resources, timber trade	398,349
Staff salary	5,254,017
<b>Field projects</b>	7,415,745
Watershed forest project, Laos	2,865,178
Video production on ways of life and biodiversity in Mekong region	301,892
Biodiversity protection by Thai ethnic minorities	110,204
Exchange experiences among local communities	537,686
"Green Mekong Initiative" for local residents	1,440,083
Staff salary	2,160,702
<b>Policy advocacy</b>	2,907,061
JBIC/NEXI nuclear power plant guidelines	66,020
Proposal on Cambodia national government's relocation policy	91,087
Staff salary	2,749,954
<b>Outreach</b>	4,700,212
Mekong Dialogues	15,400
Library/Resource center	480,000
Periodical <i>Forum Mekong</i>	287,010
Website management	39,060
E-mail newsletter/listserv	155,815
Staff salary	3,722,927
<b>Administration</b>	5,854,442
Tokyo office management	2,478,805
Overseas office management	407,476
Staff salary	2,968,161
<b>Exchange loss</b>	885,465
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>29,113,829</b>

<b>Balance</b>	<b>-2,056,173</b>
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<b>Beginning of year</b>	<b>29,518,091</b>
<b>End of year</b>	<b>27,461,918</b>

# NPO Mekong Watch FY2010 Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2011

Unit: JPY

Assets		Liabilities and surpluses	
<b>1. Current assets</b>		<b>1. Current liabilities</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	33,988,403	Accounts payable	8,453,561
Accounts receivable	1,777,468	Advance payments received	262,392
Guarantee deposit	412,000	<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>8,715,953</b>
		<b>2. Surpluses</b>	
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>36,177,871</b>	Surpluses carried over	<b>27,461,918</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>36,177,871</b>	<b>Total surpluses and liabilities</b>	<b>36,177,871</b>

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Website: [www.mekongwatch.org](http://www.mekongwatch.org)