

Annual Report 2012
Report on Activities and Finances
(Approved by the Board of Directors)
(April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013)



Mekong Watch
NPO

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Introduction

About Mekong Watch



Mekong Watch envisions a Mekong Region where its people enjoy the region's natural environments and sustain lifestyles that are rooted in the integrity of those 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).

Primary Activities

1. Information gathering and analysis on development policies, projects, and organizations that carry out development (development institutions, recipient country governments, private companies).
2. Fostering understanding, developing resources on the environment and society
3. Gathering information, conducting analysis, developing resources on development, including historical case studies
4. Secure means to communicate with the countries (including Japan) that conduct development project in the Mekong region.
5. Targeting our advocacy activities at development entities using the policies and programs of those same development entities
6. Advocating for improvement in environment consideration policies in Mekong countries via aid-providing countries and aid organizations.

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 (2013-2016)

- 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) Increase the number of 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 that environment.
- 3) 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.

Results and Overview of Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 activities

Fiscal 2012 was a year of momentous change in Burma (Myanmar). Following the “democratization” that began in FY2011, Japan and other countries expanded ODA to the country, providing a major catalyst for international financial institutions to resume aid to the Burmese government. In Japan, Burma has been frequently described as “Asia’s last frontier,” prompting companies in a variety of industries to plan to enter the market. However, given the absence of policy frameworks to prevent adverse impacts on the environment and society, these recent events raise concern of forced relocation of local residents in connection with ODA projects that the Japanese government is involved in. In addition, in some regions where ethnic minorities reside, conflicts have arisen between the Burmese military and minority groups’ armed forces, apparently regarding resource development. Indeed, the development situation in Burma remains a cause for great concern.

In Laos, government authorities are tightening restrictions on civil society. In December 2012, the representative of a Swiss NGO that called for development partners to respect human rights and freedom of speech received a deportation order. Sombath Somphone, Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership, was abducted, and his whereabouts remain unknown. Somphone was stopped by police on his way home, and he was then taken away by an unknown person as the police looked on. The Laotian government has approved the Thai company-funded construction of the Xayaburi Dam on the Mekong River mainstream, despite not having gained consensus among Mekong region countries. Throughout the country, citizens are increasingly upset over intensified land grabs by foreign corporations.

All in all, 2012 was a year in which Mekong region countries increasingly prioritized economic development, leading to the clear emergence of the many problems that result from that decision. The Japanese government continues to focus its efforts on infrastructure-related exports, most notably nuclear power plants, and has adopted a decidedly unhelpful stance toward the environmental and social problems facing the Mekong region.

Amid these challenging circumstances, we continued our efforts at dialogue and were able to foster direct discussions between the Japanese government and the people of the region. In December, we held a meeting at the Upper House of Japan’s parliament in which Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff assigned to Mekong region development and representatives of civil society organizations in Mekong countries shared knowledge and discussed the region’s issues and the Japanese government’s activities regarding the Mekong environment. East Asian NGOs also attended to explain their activities along with ours. We also held an international workshop, bringing together NGOs active in Mekong region countries as well as China and South Korea along with researchers, local residents’ representatives, and Japanese journalists to explain current developments in the region and discuss potential solutions. In March 2013, we conducted a joint study with South Korean and Chinese NGOs as well as members of the news media, for which we visited residents of northeastern Thailand that have been affected by past Japanese ODA projects, as well as residents in Northeastern Cambodia who are suffering from poverty brought on by Vietnamese and Chinese dam developments. The results of the study will be reported in South Korea and China in addition to Japan.

In our project monitoring activities, we worked to communicate to Thai civil society the current state of damage in Fukushima Japan. We also continued our support of local NGOs' advocacy work related to Cambodia Highway One (portion funded with ADB lending). In field projects, we continued to support the joint efforts of with local residents and government officials to preserve their forests since 2005. In our video projects, we held showings of our previously produced visuals in southern Laos in an effort to share information with the local communities where the content originated. In Thailand, we worked together with a citizens group in the Mun River, a tributary of the Mekong, to set up a preservation area, and we continue to cooperate in its operation. In our outreach efforts, we provided information to Japanese civil society, media, and policymakers with seminars, our e-mail newsletter, website, and Facebook page to let them know the abundance of the Mekong region and the problems occurring there. In October, we moved to a new office and are currently operating from there.

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. In recent years, we have begun monitoring corporate activity amid the rise of private sector-led development projects. 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 continued 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, thermal, and nuclear power plants, as well as highway and railway projects.

In response to the full-fledged resumption of aid to Burma, we began monitoring the Baluchaung Hydropower Plant No. 2 and the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Our monitoring activities in FY2012 included the following (countries/organizations providing or considering providing funds are in parentheses):

Regionwide

- Xayaburi Dam (Thai private sector) in Vietnam
- Dam on Mekong tributaries (Sesan, Sekong, Srepok rivers) on Vietnam-Cambodia border (Vietnam)

Burma

- Salween River dam development (Thailand, China)
- Irrawady River dam development (China)
- Baluchaung Hydropower Plant No. 2
- Thilawa Special Economic Zone
- Dawei Special Economic Zone

Laos

- Nam Theun 2 Dam (World Bank, ADB, French private sector, others)
- Xe Katam Dam (Kansai Electric Power)
- Nam Ngum 1 Dam (Kansai Electric Power)

Thailand

- Nuclear power plant development
- Pak Mun Dam

Cambodia

- Cambodia Highway 1 (ADB, MOFA/JICA)
- GMS Railway rehabilitation project (ADB)
- Sesan River Hydropower Plant No. 2

Vietnam

- Ninh Thuan 2 Nuclear Power Plant development
- Srepok 4A Hydropower Plant

A-2. Research

We conducted the following research in FY2012:

- Status of traditional forest exploitation and impact of plantation development

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

Since FY2005, we have been researching 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. FY2012 marked the final year of the project, and to wrap up we held the following activities: (1) Efforts to improve understanding of local residents' watershed forest management activities, (2) follow-up of land use plans that we had conducted previously, and (3) aimed to spread the word about the experience and lessons of Pakbeng district. We held workshops on the theme of Gender & the Environment in three villages, and these, along with our follow-up of land use projects, confirmed that the local residents' interest and understanding of watershed forest preservation has improved. We also made significant progress in spreading the word of the Pakbeng district project's experience and lessons by holding study tours for other NGOs to Pakbeng, meetings with government officials and aid organizations in Laos's capital Vientiane, and by releasing our previously produced documentaries on YouTube. We also assisted study tours requested by district officials on biodiversity and participatory land use planning. Following a concluding meeting, our forest preservation activities in the district ended in FY2012, but we will continue our outreach efforts to communicate the challenges of Laos's forestry policy and spread the message about the project's experience and lessons both within Laos and abroad.



Left: Gender & the Environment Workshop; Upper Right: Report on Case Studies at Land Use Project Workshop (held by Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment); Lower Right: Study Tour on Preserving Biodiversity.

The impact of external development and strengthening community advocacy capabilities by encouraging local residents' renewed recognition of traditional resource exploitation techniques

Mekong Watch has for some time supported local TV stations in central southern and northern Laos in their production of environment-themed programming for local populations. We have expanded these efforts to use the production and programs produced to conduct research and video production training in south central Laos and northeastern Cambodia to improve the information awareness and outreach capabilities of local residents, NGOs, and the local staff of public institutions.

In 2012 we focused our efforts on Attapeu province in southern Laos and conducted research on resource usage and corporate tree plantations. Also, we held showings for villages of videos on local residents' resource usage and the experience of pollution in Japan, and cooperated in creating a foundation for discussion of current resource management problems faced by local residents between the villagers and government officials.



Video showing at a village in Attapeu province

In Cambodia, we worked with local NGOs and local residents' organizations in Ratanakiri province, an area of northeastern Cambodia where a Mekong tributary flows, to cooperate in their efforts to demand the restoration of the river basin environment that has been destroyed by river development and call for changes in development plans. To ensure that the local residents' advocacy work is documented in video, we held video production training sessions with local NGO staff and representatives of local residents and filmed interviews with local residents and images of resource usage.



Video production training



Filming an interview with local residents

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

In Chanthaburi province, eastern Thailand, we have a program aimed at indigenous Chong people. It works to support efforts to strengthen the identity of this ethnic minority,

whose members live as Thai citizens, and protect the environment by teaching children the Chong language and knowledge of traditions. In FY2012, we compiled the activities and results of our work with the Chong people and held meetings in several locations to report to people in Japan and Southeast Asia. We also made progress in editing a video showcasing the activities of the Chong people.

◆ **Research on spawning locations of fish on Mun River and information sharing by making local residents' wisdom (Thailand)**

The Mun River is a Mekong tributary that is one of the most important to the natural habitats of the Mekong. Once, it was known for being full of many varieties of fish. However, dam development, mainly the Pakmun Dam, has caused unchecked deterioration of the environment over the last 20 years. Meanwhile, the local residents still appreciate the importance of the river and have made repeated attempts to use it on a sustainable basis. This project aimed to collect local residents' knowledge of Mekong region fish spawning locations and behavior and compile them into a pamphlet. We also supported the residents as they set up a freshwater biology preserve (no-fishing zone).

C. Outreach



Meeting for establishment of protected area



Signs denoting the protected area

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.

◆ **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 region. 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 and build a network among civil society groups and researchers in Japan and the Mekong region as well as China and South Korea. In addition, we worked with

workshop participants to hold a public debate with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where we communicated with participants' desire to be actively involved in environmental activities in the Mekong region.

We also repackaged our video on forest utilization in Laos titled *Transition Laos, The Forest's Transformation and Ways of Life* for the Japanese audience. We plan to eventually create English- and Laotian-language versions as well.

◆ **Seminars and Lectures**

Our seminars and lectures communicate the problems of development and the environment in Mekong basin countries to the general public.

In FY2012, we held 13 events, including the above-mentioned international symposium and seminars, as well as seminars held in collaboration with our partner organizations. We held a seminar inside the Upper House of the Japanese parliament to report on the problems of residents inside the Thilawa Special Economic Zone who have been ordered to leave by the government. In Thailand we shared information with local residents on the state of damage in Fukushima after the nuclear disaster. See Appendix 1 for a list of our seminars and lectures.

◆ **2nd International Water Film Festival (Sept. 1, 2012 at United Nations University)**

To spread the word about issues facing various regions, we jointly held our second water-themed international film festival, where Mekong Watch staff provided analysis of films on dam issues in Asia.

◆ **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 that implement Japan's large-scale aid programs to the region), the World Bank, and ADB policies. The library is currently closed amid the transition to our new office location.

◆ **Official magazine, *Forum Mekong***

To increase the reach of *Forum Mekong*, this year we transitioned to digital-only distribution. However, publication has been somewhat delayed. We are in the process of making all of our back issues available online in PDF format.

◆ **E-mail Newsletter on Mekong River Development**

Mekong Watch disseminates news on development and environment issues in the Mekong region via an e-mail newsletter. In FY2012, we issued 33 newsletters in Japanese. We also issued petitions to the Japanese government calling on them to play an active role in resolving issues related to Mekong mainstream development at meetings of the Mekong River Commission, as well as a petition calling on the Burmese government to act in line with international standards toward residents in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone facing relocation.

◆ Website

We opened a new section of our website on the Thilawa Special Economic Zone. We have not been able to update our English-language site as we could not keep up with the numerous and fast-developing problems in the Mekong region. We have started new initiatives to spread information via Facebook and Twitter, and at the moment our page views and follower counts are on the way up.

◆ 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 2). In FY2012, we spoke at 18 events.

◆ 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 the creation of six media stories in FY2012. Our staff was quoted in English-language media reports on Burmese development issues, and our efforts for fishery preservation in Thailand were broadcast nationwide on a Thai TV news program.

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 project, 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 5.

Dam construction on Mekong mainstream

The Laotian government began construction of the Xayaburi Dam in the northern part of the country without the consent of the Mekong River Commission. Even so, Mekong Watch continued its monitoring of this issue along with NGOs and residents' groups both inside and outside of the Mekong region. In particular, given the potential for the Japanese government to fund additional studies of mainstream damming's impact, we communicated to the Japanese foreign ministry (in documents and other means) the various nefarious impact of dam construction and the opinion that a study will be meaningless if it does not sufficiently reflect the views of the affected residents.

◆ Development in Mekong countries

Forced relocation in Cambodia

We continued to work closely with local NGOs to help local residents forced to relocate and unable to carry on with their lives as a result of a railway rehabilitation project funded with ADB lending. We pleaded with the Japanese finance ministry, ADB's largest donor, to help improve the situation. As a result, there has been some

improvement to the living conditions where the residents were located, information availability, expanded assistance for livelihood restoration programs, and additional cash compensation for some residents. However, core problems that the residents fervently demand have not been resolved, such as revision of the compensation criteria and reprieve from debts accrued post-relocation. In August 2012, relocated residents filed an objection with the ADB's Compliance Review Panel. In support, we made a proposal to the Japanese Ministry of Finance to monitor the situation so that the CRP will visit the relocated residents and conduct a satisfactory investigation. The CRP field investigation is expected to take place in mid-2013.

For the Highway 1 project (portion funded by JICA), we interviewed local residents to confirm whether the proposals we made to JICA for its support of the fourth and final phase of the project are being implemented (improvements to living conditions in the relocation destination, reassessing compensation amounts, a socio-economic study for the sake of a livelihood restoration program).

◆ **Application of JICA's environmental consideration guidelines**

Mekong Watch has long played a contributing role in the development of JICA's environmental guidelines. Currently, we participate as a member of the Environmental and Social Consideration Advisory Committee, which provides advice on the implementation of JICA's Environmental and Social Consideration Guidelines.

At the committee, we tapped into our experience with development issues in the Mekong countries to provide advice on JICA-supported road construction, geothermal development, and hydropower development.

In the Cambodia Highway 1 project, we continued to request that JICA perform a livelihood restoration study and to public the results of its market price study.

◆ **Nuclear power plant exports**

In the aftermath of the crisis at Tokyo Electric Power's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, we reached out to Mekong region countries, particularly Thailand, to communicate the sheer devastation of the disaster. In March 2013, we invited residents of Iitate-mura to Thailand to hold a seminar.

◆ **IMF and World Bank annual meetings**

We participated in a civil society policy forum held to coincide with the IMF and World Bank annual meetings held in October 2012. To discuss Burma-related issues, we jointly held a panel discussion with three organizations including Burma Partnership, and discussed how to best support Burma along with panelists from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. At a panel on World Bank safeguard policies held by a U.S. NGO, we made proposals for safeguard policies using the Laos Nam Theun 2 dam project as an example.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Mekong Watch Seminars/Lectures April 2012 – March 2013

Date	Event	Theme/title	Presenter(s)
April 12, 2012	Seminar Series: Lifestyles Among Abundant Nature: Report from the Mekong Basin Countries (1)	Part 1: Lifestyles to Protect the Forest: Laotian Forests and the People	Yuka Kiguchi (Mekong Watch)
May 15	Seminar Series: Lifestyles Among Abundant Nature: Report from the Mekong Basin Countries (2)	Part 2: Life on the Wetland: Northeastern Thailand	Yuka Kiguchi (Mekong Watch)
June 1	Seminar Series: Lifestyles Among Abundant Nature: Report from the Mekong Basin Countries (3)	Part 3: Protecting Seeds Across Generations; The Efforts of the Muong People of Vietnam	Mayu Ino (Chief Representative, NPO Seed to Table)
June 19	General Meeting Report Session: Development Issues in Mekong Countries; Key Topics: Japan's involvement in development in Burma, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam	Cambodia: Resident Relocation and the Role of International Donors Burma (Myanmar) Democratization and the Resumption of ODA: The Case of Baluchaung Hydropower Plant Maintenance Project What Effect Does Exporting Nuclear Power Plants Have? The Situation in Vietnam and Thailand Visualizing the Value of Edible Biodiversity: A Look at the People, the Forests, and the River	Mekong Watch Staff
September 1	International Water Film Festival	A film festival to reconsider privatization and commercialization of water <i>Analysis of Dams and Water: the People's Way of Life</i>	Yuka Kiguchi (Mekong Watch)
October 16	54 th Mekong Dialogue	Mekong River Development as Seen from Northeastern Cambodia	Yuka Kiguchi (Mekong Watch)
November 14	Report on visit to Burma (Myanmar) development project sites	Baluchaung Hydropower Plant No. 2 Thilawa Special Economic Zone Dawei Special Economic Zone	Minari Tsuchikawa (Mekong Watch)
December 14	Present and Future of Mekong Region Development: The role of Japan and Asian citizen networks in the Mekong	Used case of Mekong River development, particularly the Xayaburi Dam planned to be constructed on the Mekong mainstream, to discuss with region NGOs and residents representatives who presented on various problems, and also held discussions on the Japanese government's Mekong country aid	Takahiro Shiota (First Southeast Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Niwat Roykaew (Network of Thai People in 8 Mekong Provinces), Meach Mean, Nen Souket (3S Rivers)

		policies. Through this dialogue, participants considered the role that Japan should play in Mekong region development.	Protection Network), Kanokwan Manorom (Ubon Ratchathani University), LE ANH TUAN(Can Tho University)
December 15	International symposium: Mekong Way of Life, Our Way of Life: Considering the Future of Mekong River Development	We invited guest speakers from among resident representatives in Cambodia and Thailand whose ways of life are being threatened by river development, as well as field researchers from Kumamoto Prefecture monitoring the teardown of Arase Dam. Discussed how to ensure that river development respects the region's people's longstanding ways of life and wisdom, and what can be done to avoid the experience of failed development and environmental destruction in Japan.	Niwat Roykaew (Network of Thai People in 8 Mekong Provinces), Channarong WONGLA (Network of the Councils of Mekong Tambon Community Organisation in Thailand's 7 North Eastern Provinces), Meach Mean, Nen Souket (3S Rivers Protection Network), Shoko Tsuru (NACS-J Kumamoto)
March 1, 2013	Tropical Forests and Palm Plantations: Sustainable Resource Exploitation Goals of Corporation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RSPO latest developments and issues for corporations 2. Aiming for sustainable resource exploitation with selection and changes in value chains 3. Development of coconut oil plantations and tropical forests 4. Report on Malay peninsula: Conditions and challenges of plantation workers 5. Report on Sumatra, Indonesia: RSPO as seen at the production site 6. Report on Sarawak, Malaysia: Land disputes and the efforts of indigenous people 7. Summary and proposal 	Katsuhisa Takesue (Response Ability Inc.), Nobuyuki Sugimoto (Associate General Manager, Environment & Safety Dept. & CSR Dept., Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Sayoko Iinuma (Global Environmental Forum), Junichi Mishiba (FoE Japan), Takayuki Nakatsuka (JATAN), Tom Edwardson (Sarawak Campaign Committee), Kanna Mitsuta (Mekong Watch)
March 8	Seminar: Nuclear Power and Ways of Life—Considering the Lessons of Fukushima (1)	At Ubon Ratchathani University in Thailand, reported on current status of damage at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, in particular the status of Iitate-mura, which was forced to evacuate, for an audience of Thai residents living on the site of a planned nuclear power plant.	Nobuyoshi Ito (Manager, Iitate Farm) Pornsiri Cheevapattananuwong (Lecturer, Mahasarakham University), Yuka Kiguchi (Mekong Watch)
March 11	Seminar: Nuclear Power and Ways of Life—Considering the Lessons of Fukushima (2)	Gave the above report at Chulalongkorn University to an audience of researchers, NGOs, media, and local Japanese residents.	Nobuyoshi Ito (Manager, Iitate Farm) Pornsiri Cheevapattananuwong (Lecturer, Mahasarakham University), Yuka Kiguchi (Mekong Watch)
March 26	Japanese Support Projects for Burma (Myanmar): What is Happening at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone?!"	Local residents protest large-scale relocation for Thilawa Special Economic Zone development project. Report on the latest on the ground	Minari Tsuchikawa (Mekong Watch), Satoru Matsumoto (Associate Professor, Hosei University)

Mekong Watch Lectures April 2012 – March 2013

Date	Location/Organizer	Topic
April 10, 2012	Graduate School of Social Science, National University of Laos	Social and Environmental Impacts of the Nam Theun 2 Hydroelectric Project
June 13	Atomi University	Mekong River Development and Japan: Limits and Challenges of Assessments
July 23-24	Earth Rights International School of Mekong	NGO Campaign towards Asian Development Bank and Other Financial Institutions
September 28	Policy Formation and Policy Advocacy Skill Building Workshop (2 nd session), Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)	Research, advocacy to avoid environmental and societal impact from development project
October 5	Rural Land Use Planning Experience Sharing -Lessons Learned-Workshop	Community-based Watershed Management Project in Pakbeng District, Oudomxay Province
October 10	Chuo University	Past and Future of Japanese Aid as Seen From Southeast Asia
October 12	WB-IMF Civil Society Policy Forum	Lessons from the Nam Theun 2 Hydroelectric Project in Laos
October 13	Action with Lao Children	People of the Forest: Lifestyles and Stories of the Kmhmu
October 16	Hitotsubashi University Graduate School	Development and “Measuring” Part 1: When “Measuring” Divides the Forest and Farmland; The Lives of Laotian Swidden Farmers and Land and Forest Policy
October 23	Hitotsubashi University Graduate School	Development and “Measuring” Part 2: What Development “Measures” and What it Doesn’t: Nam Theun 2 Hydropower Project, a Dam to Reduce Poverty
October 24	Showa Women’s University	What Development “Measures” and What it Doesn’t: Nam Theun 2 Hydropower Project, a Dam to Reduce Poverty
October 29	Meeting of Japanese NGOs in Laos (JANM)	Aiming for Activities with Regional Residents Taking the Lead: Learning from the Case of Local Resident-led Watershed Forest Preservation Project in Northern Laos
November 25-26	11 th Asian Public Intellectuals Regional Workshop	Conserving Linguistic, Cultural, and Biological Diversities in Globalized Asia: Lessons Learned from Ethnic Minorities’ Endeavors
January 8, 2013	Hitotsubashi University Graduate School	Lifestyles Along the Mekong River Region and Development: The Case of Thailand as an Example of Problems with Hydroelectric Dams
January 9	Showa Women’s University	Cross-border Lifestyles and Cultures as Seen from Rivers
January 10	Meiji Gakuin University	Mekong River Development and People’s Lifestyles
January 10	Rikkyo University	Public Lecture: “Cultivating International Cooperation Talent Post-3-11: Considering the Historical Lessons of Asia, South America, and Africa”
March 3	Asian Public Intellectuals (API) domestic workshop	Revitalizing Forests, Revitalizing Language: Lessons from the API Study in Thailand

Publications by Mekong Watch Staff April 2012 – March 2013

Date	Publication	Topic/title
June 2012	Taste of Laos	The Kmhmu: People of the Forest, a Story of Nature and a Way of Life The Kmhmu and Swidden Farming
August	Nature Info Plaza Marunouchi Saezurikan website	Fish, People, and the Mekong: Diversity as Seen from Fishing Implements
September	Taste of Laos	The Kmhmu: People of the Forest, a Story of Nature and a Way of Life: The Kmhmu and the Legend of Cheuang
December	Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center Japan official newsletter (Issue 67, December 2012; Feature on Environmental Cooperation in Myanmar)	Resource Development in Conflict Areas
January 2013	Taste of Laos	The Forest and the Kmhmu People: Stories of A Way of Life and Nature The Kmhmu and Spirit Worship
March	Taste of Laos	The Forest and the Kmhmu People: Stories of A Way of Life and Nature Kmhmu villages and migrant labor
March	Shukan Kinyobi	Thilawa Special Economic Zone Being Developed by METI and JICA: Japanese Responsibility for Forced Relocation
May (planned)	The World Bank from the NGO's Perspective: Gaps Between Development Organizations and Civil Society (Minerva Shobo)	Poverty Reduction Programs that Cause Poverty: The Laos Nam Theung 2 Hydropower Project

Media Articles/Programs Made with Mekong Watch Involvement April 2012 – March 2013

Date	Publication	Topic/title
October 2, 2012	Inter Press Service	Donors Urged to Tread Carefully in Myanmar
October 14	J-WAVE JAM The World	Meeting of Countries Providing Aid to Myanmar
November 9	Shukan Kinyobi	Global Capital Lying in Wait to Pounce on Burma Reported on the panel discussion that Mekong Watch co-hosted at the World Bank and IMF Civil Society Forum (October 12)
February 4, 2013	Thai PBS (Thai-language broadcast network) Citizen Reporter News	The Way of Those Who Catch Fish Program depicting training session in Northern Thailand on the depletion of fish stocks and preservation efforts in the Mun River in Northeast by Mekong Watch along with local NGOs; includes interview with Mekong Watch staff.
February 11	Mizzima News	Japanese NGO voices concern over Thilawa evictions
March 12	Prachatai (Thai-language online news site)	Two Years Since the Fukushima Disaster: Asking Japanese People about this Unresolved Disaster

		Article reporting on seminar at Chulalongkorn University to communicate the state of damage from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station disaster
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Appendix 5

**Meetings with Government Institutions
April 2012 – March 2013**

Date	Meeting title	Topics
June 8, 2012	51 st Regular Ministry of Finance-NGO Meeting	Treatment of formal objections in the accountability mechanisms of the ADB. Topic: resident relocation problems in the Cambodia railway rehabilitation project
September 19	53 rd Regular Ministry of Finance-NGO Meeting	Objection filed with ADB Office of Compliance Review Panel by residents affected by relocation issues in Cambodia GMS railway rehabilitation project
September 19	Meeting with JICA officials JICA	Baluchaung Hydropower Plant No. 2 Thilawa Special Economic Zone development
March 21, 2013	Meeting with MOFA officials	Thilawa Special Economic Zone development

Board of Directors

Directors:

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

Auditor:

Kawamura, Akio

Advisor:

Matsumoto, Satoru

Staff

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

Interns

One intern

(Board, staff, interns as of March 31, 2013)

Donor institutions

The McKnight Foundation
Open Society Foundation
Oxfam Australia
JANIC
Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency
The Japan Trust for Global Environment
The Toyota Foundation
Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund
Mitsui & Co. Environment Fund

NPO Mekong Watch

FY2012 Financial Statements

April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013

Unit: USD

1 USD = 94.253 JPY (as of 31 March 2013, source: OANDA)

Revenue

Membership fee	5,010
Donation	1,043
Operating revenue	3,952
Monitoring & research	0
Outreach	3,952
Advocacy	0
Grant	284,215
Contract income	0
Interest income	272
Miscellaneous income	5,638
Exchange gain	7,440
Total revenue	307,570

Expenditure

Monitoring and research	109,518
Project monitoring	25,520
Research on traditional use of forests and impacts from plantation development	46,845
Staff salary	37,153
Field project	82,829
Watershed forest project, Laos	16,699
CSO's initiatives on Green Mekong	29,982
Biodiversity protection by Thai ethnic minorities	1,095
Pilot research on effects of the opening of the Pak Mun Dam's sluice gates	8,565
Staff salary	26,488
Policy advocacy	10,616
Making recommendations to reverse Japan's nuclear technology export policy	29
Staff salary	10,586
Outreach	68,742
Green Mekong workshop & seminars	41,522
Website management	493
Staff salary	26,727
Administration	58,615
Tokyo office management	28,553
Overseas office management	562
Tokyo office relocation expense	2,977
Staff salary	26,523
Total expenditure	330,320

Balance	-22,750
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Beginning of year	307,253
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End of year	284,504
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NPO Mekong Watch FY2012 Balance Sheet

April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013

Unit: USD

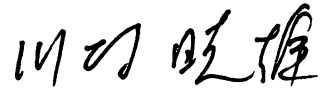
1 USD = 94.253 JPY (as of 31 March 2013, source: OANDA)

Assets		Liabilities and surpluses	
1.Current assets		1.Current liabilities	
Cash and cash equivalents	331,045	Accounts payable	704
Accounts receivable	21,434	Advance payments received	69,972
		Deposits	2,604
Total current assets	352,479	Total current liabilities	73,280
2.Fixed assets		2. Surpluses	
Guarantee deposit	5,305	Surpluses carried over	284,504
Total fixed assets	5,305		
Total assets	357,784	Total surpluses and liabilities	357,784

Audit Report

I have audited the FY2012 financial reports of Mekong Watch, a specified non-profit corporation, and hereby acknowledge that Mekong Watch's activities were conducted in appropriate ways and that its financial statements and balance sheet were prepared according to standards that are generally accepted as fair and sufficient.

May 22, 2013



Akio Kawamura
Auditor

Mekong Watch
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