



Annual Report 2013
Report on Activities and Finances
(April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014)

(Approved by the Board of Directors)



Mekong Watch
NPO

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(Cover Photo: Khone Phapheng Falls on the Mekong River in Laos)

About Mekong Watch

Mekong Watch is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that monitors the impact of development projects and policies in the Mekong Region (southern China, Burma/Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam). The Mekong Region has abundant biodiversity with rich forests, and is second ranked worldwide in terms of diversity of fish species. One special feature is the sustainable lifestyles led by its many people, who utilize the natural environment. The environment of the Mekong basin is not an untouched wilderness, but coexists with human livelihoods. To the socially vulnerable, in particular, the existence of a natural environment in which they can obtain food is critically important.

From the start of the 21st century, many development projects have been proposed, purportedly to eliminate poverty. The changes in society and the environment that accompany these development projects, however, can easily lead to environmental destruction and removal of the inhabitants, resulting in the loss of means of livelihood and places for the people to live. Development does not always benefit people financially, but runs the risk of depriving people of independence and forcing them into poverty. Through direct dialogue with the people being harmed by development, on the one hand, we ascertain the problems they face locally, and by reaching out to those responsible for formulating and implementing policies, on the other hand, we can continue our efforts to improve development projects and policies so as to prevent or ameliorate the negative impacts of development.

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 September 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 analyses, and developing resources on development, including historical case studies.
4. Communicating and networking with NGOs, citizens and others concerned in the Mekong Region or in countries involved with aid and investment (including Japan).
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 Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Activities

FY2013 was a year in which a number of projects got underway that will have extremely large impacts on the environment and communities of the Mekong River.

Laos began construction of the Xayaburi Dam on the Mekong River without obtaining a consensus from the other countries in the Mekong Region. The start of construction of the Don Sahong Dam in Champasak Province in the south has also been announced. The Xayaburi Dam project is being funded by Thailand's private sector, and the Don Sahong Dam by Malaysia's. Furthermore, for the past several years, land grabs by foreign companies have been intensifying in Laos. There has been a sharp increase in complaints from citizens deprived of their farmland and the forests they use. Moreover, the whereabouts of Sombath Somphone, recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership, who was abducted in December 2012, are still unknown, and these circumstances make it all the more difficult to have critical discussion on the government-led development projects in this country. In the midst of this, we have continued our efforts to document the intrinsic richness of Laos's environment and to share problems with trustworthy officials so as to mitigate the impact of development on that country. We have also been requesting the Japanese government as an important development partner to Laos to bring up human rights issues affecting Laotian citizens at the ASEAN-Japan Summit, including the forced disappearance of Sombath Somphone.

In Cambodia, the Lower Sesan 2 Dam, a huge project that threatens the country's food security, is proceeding. Countries supporting the Mekong River Commission, an intergovernmental body that coordinates development of the basin, have proposed treating this project, which is being promoted with Cambodian and Chinese funding, as equivalent to a dam on the main stream of the Mekong. Far from discussing this project with communities, however, the Cambodian government has announced conditions for relocation and compensation and initiated forest clearing without sharing sufficient information about the project. Rural residents of Cambodia are said to rely on fresh-water fish for 80% of their protein intake. Reliance on natural resources is higher for those with economically impoverished. The Lower Sesan 2 Dam threatens not only the residents being forced to relocate, but also all of Cambodia's underclasses. Mekong Watch is cooperating with local NGOs on this issue to provide information. We also strive to empower Cambodian citizens by translating the environmental guidelines of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and providing them to the citizens, pointing out policies that require consideration of the environment and society.

Following the democratization of Burma (Myanmar) that began in 2011, the country has faced a rush to develop. While there is still no policy framework to prevent adverse impacts on the environment and society, Japan has expanded its ODA to Burma, and is actively providing aid toward projects such as development of special economic zones. Particularly in the case of the Thilawa special economic zone, there are concerns that residents may be forcibly relocated before adequate relocation and compensation measures can be created. The residents have appealed to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which is considering investing in projects, about the necessity of appropriate measures, but the issues continue to remain as unresolved as before.



Mekong Watch continues to cooperate with local residents and NGOs, urging JICA to urge Burma's government to give appropriate consideration on the environment and social impact. Also, JICA has already initiated a planning of general development plans for the southeastern part of the country where ethnic minorities reside, but the process of reconciliation between the government and these ethnic minorities remains as mired as ever, so concerns are being voiced by minority environmental groups about JICA's hasty maneuvers.

2013 was a year in which Mekong River development led by the private sector became increasingly conspicuous. Also, while Japan's government has appealed to its consideration of human rights and the environment, it has shown an increased tendency, on the other hand, to resort to infrastructure-related exports, most notably nuclear power plants.

Mekong Watch's 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.

As environmental and social problems in the Mekong Region become ever more serious, cooperation is becoming increasingly important, not only within the region, but also with civil society in South Korea and China. In 2012, we held an international seminar, to which we invited guests from South Korea and China in addition to citizens groups active in the Mekong Region, and in 2013, we continued along the same lines, gaining a chance for Mekong Watch and local NGO staff from Cambodia to speak in South Korea about environmental problems facing the Mekong River.

Furthermore, in order to strengthen our ability to share information, we established a Web platform for sustainable resource use in the Mekong Region, through which we provide information including those on local conditions in four languages.

On the local level, we began activities for documenting conditions on film, with a focus on utilization of fish in southern Laos and also on how lifestyles of people living near rivers

have been changing in Thailand. In Cambodia, we held video screenings in villages, using footage produced by Mekong Watch to convey images of harm to residents from dam development.

Through our outreach efforts, we provide information to Japanese civil society, media, and policymakers with seminars, our e-mail newsletter, website, and Facebook page to inform them of the abundance of the Mekong Region and the problems occurring there. In addition, during this fiscal year we held a number of seminars jointly with other organizations to study forced disappearances and issues with plantations, which are new fields for us.

A. Investigative Research



Mekong Watch engages 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 that involved in 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 the 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 rehabilitation and special economic zone development projects.

Monitoring activities of FY2013 are listed below. Countries/organizations providing or considering providing funds are in parentheses. For further details on any of the projects, see Mekong Watch's website.

Burma

- Salween River dam development (Thailand, China)
- Irrawady River dam development (China)
- Baluchaung Hydropower Plant No. 2 (JICA)
- Thilawa Special Economic Zone (JICA)
- Dawei Special Economic Zone (Thai and Japanese private sectors, others)
- Comprehensive development aid to the southeast region for ethnic minorities (JICA)

Laos

- Xayaburi Dam on the Mekong (Thai private sector)
- Xe Katam Dam (Kansai Electric Power, JICA)
- Don Sahong Dam on the Mekong Mainstream (Malaysian private sector)

- Nam Theun 2 Dam (World Bank, ADB, French private sector, others)
- Nam Ngiep 1 Dam (Kansai Electric Power, JBIC, ADB)

Thailand

- Nuclear power plant development (Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand)
- Pak Mun Dam (World Bank, Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand)

Cambodia

- Cambodia Highway 1 (ADB, MOFA/JICA)
- GMS Railway rehabilitation project (ADB)
- Sesan, Srepok and Sekong river basins development (Chinese private sector, others)
- Sesan River Hydropower Plant No. 2 (Chinese and Cambodian private sector, others)



Site slated for construction of the Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower Plant

Vietnam

- Ninh Thuan 2 Nuclear Power Plant development (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan)
- Srepok 4A Hydropower Plant (Japanese private sector, Nippon Export and Investment Insurance)

A-2. Research

We conducted the following research in FY2013:

◆ **Status of traditional forest use and impact of plantation development**

We have been conducting joint research into the problems of monocrop plantations spreading throughout Southeast Asia, particularly oil palm plantations and wood pulp tree plantations with five other Japanese NGOs. In our local surveys of Burma, we were able to ascertain conditions at oil palm plantations that are spreading out, especially in the south. As democratization proceeds, these plantations are expected to grow rapidly, so we foresee a need for careful monitoring for signs of illegal logging, negative impacts on biodiversity, infringements on the rights of indigenous peoples, illegalities in



supply chains and other problems occurring similarly in other countries. In addition to surveys, we held an international seminar to wrap up a three-year project that concluded in this fiscal year, and called for promotion of efforts by companies and provision of information to the general public.

◆ **Survey on sustainable land use in Laos**

In Laos, unsustainable forms of land use are increasing due to the haphazard spread of cash-crop cultivation and plantations, and there are many reported cases in which the food security of communities has come under threat. As well as land grabs by large corporations, cash crop cultivation under contracts between communities and corporations sometimes causes serious problems. With the cooperation of a local forestry and agricultural bureau, we have conducted an investigation into the effects of banana cultivation by a Chinese company in northern Laos. In the south, we have turned our attention to coffee cultivation and initiated a survey into the effects of large-scale coffee plantations run by large corporations and local residents' wisdom regarding coffee cultivation techniques from the distant past.

◆ **Rivers in livelihoods: changes in the relationship between people and rivers in Thailand**

Near water sources such as the Mun River in northeastern Thailand, known for its abundant fish, or in Bangkok or Ayutthaya, known formerly as the "Venice of the East," have livelihoods changed? We are documenting on video the relationship between current lifestyles and water among people in the midst of development.

B. Field Projects



Our local projects are activities aimed at assessing the natural resources available to local residents in countries of the Mekong region, documenting people's ways of coexisting with nature, and supporting local resource management by the local residents.

◆ **Forest preservation in northern Laos**

From FY2005 to FY2012, we conducted research in cooperation 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. In FY 2013, we conducted monitoring follow-up of the project, and spread information on forestry policy issues that were uncovered by this project, along with experience and lessons gained thereby, sharing them with international institutions and NGOs active in Laos.

◆ **Strengthening community advocacy through renewed recognition of traditional resource use and the impact of external development (Laos and Cambodia)**

We have supported the production of environmental-themed programming for local TV stations serving the central southern and northern parts of Laos and are conducting 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 through our video production and filming activities.



In Laos, we shifted the location of our activities to Champasak province in the south, where we began investigating fishery resource usage. We also shared the video we produced in the previous fiscal year on pollution problems in the rivers of Attapeu province with local government officials, giving them an incentive to discuss stronger measures against companies that fail to consider the environment.

In Cambodia, our activities focused on the Lower Sesan 2 Dam. We cooperated with local NGOs and local residents' organizations in Ratanakiri and Stung Treng province, an area of northeastern Cambodia where a Mekong tributary flows, 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. As an outreach effort to the affected villagers, we created and distributed a fact sheet on the project, and to show the actual hydropower dam and give a sense of its impact, we held video screenings in villages and filmed interviews with local residents and images of resource usage.

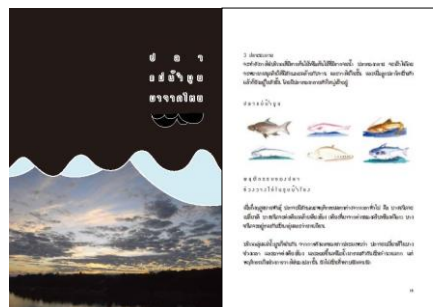
◆ **Support of bio/cultural diversity action by ethnic minorities (Thailand)**

The indigenous Chong people living in Chanthaburi province, eastern Thailand, are passing along traditional wisdom on ways of using forest resources to their children and teaching Chong language at elementary schools, thereby continuing their efforts to protect the region's natural environment and, at the same time, their identity as an ethnic minority. To promote broad recognition in Thai society of their unique activities, we established a Thai language website in FY2013. We also completed a report in English summarizing the results of the Chong people's activities, issues raised, and future course. In the future, we plan to use it in discussions with researchers in Thailand and abroad. In addition, we began production of video programming, aiming for completion in June 2014.



◆ **Mun River conservation project (Thailand)**

Dam development has been causing major changes to the environment and ecosystems of the Mun River, a Mekong tributary, so our activities include summarizing and conveying the local residents' knowledge regarding fish, an important resource in this region, and providing support for the residents to establish a freshwater biology preserve. In FY2013, we have published a Thai language booklet titled "Where do Mun River fish come from?" and are providing the information locally in return for their help.



C. Outreach in Japan and Abroad

◆ Exchanging experiences among civil societies of Southeast Asia and Mekong countries

One of Mekong Watch's activities thus far has been to accumulate information on the state of natural resource utilization in rural areas of Mekong basin countries. In this fiscal year, we have summarized this and published it in the form of a tool kit. We have translated part of the information into English, Chinese and Thai languages, to share with civil society and researchers in Mekong and East Asian countries. They are released on the Internet also.



In FY2012, we held an international workshop in Tokyo where researchers and NGOs active in the Mekong basin and East Asia could meet, and conducted field surveys together with Chinese and South Korean NGOs, journalists and legal experts, visiting residents harmed by development in Thailand and Cambodia. Through these activities, we reflected on our activities to date, and compiled the results in "A View to the Future: Possibilities and Directionality of Policy Proposal Activities by Mekong Watch."

◆ Seminars and Lectures

Our seminars and lectures communicate the problems of development and the environment in Mekong basin countries to the general public. In FY2013, we held seven international symposiums and seminars, including seminars held in collaboration with our partner organizations. For example, we promoted efforts by companies toward the resolution of problems by providing information at a seminar, reporting about our research activity "Conditions of Traditional Forest Usage and the Impact of Plantation Development," on problems occurring at production sites and in the course of procurement of products consumed in Japan, such as palm oil and wood. (See Appendix 1 for a list of our seminars and lectures.)

◆ Mekong Library

At our office, Mekong Watch maintains the Mekong Library, a collection of literature 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 while we organize materials.

◆ Official magazine, Forum Mekong

To increase the reach of Forum Mekong, we transitioned to digital-only distribution. We are in the process of making our back issues available online in PDF format.

◆ E-mail Newsletter on Mekong River Development

Mekong Watch disseminates news on development and environmental issues in the Mekong region via an e-mail newsletter. In FY2013, we issued 40 newsletters in Japanese. We also issued petitions to the Japanese government calling on them to urge Laotian government leaders at the ASEAN Japan Summit to consult adequately with all of the countries involved regarding Mekong mainstream development. We also issued a petition, following up on last year's, from residents in the Thilawa Special

Economic Zone calling on the Japanese and Burmese governments to act in line with international standards.

◆ **Website**

We continue to have trouble keeping up with the numerous and fast-developing problems in the Mekong Region. In particular, the English-language website is in need of thorough updating. We are continuing our effort to spread information via Facebook and Twitter.

◆ **Providing lecturers and publishing 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 FY2013, our staff spoke at 20 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. Mekong Watch was involved in the creation of 15 media stories in this fiscal year. Our staff was frequently quoted in English-language media reports on Burmese development issues.

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, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (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 our regularly held meetings with MOF can be found in Appendix 5.

Dam construction on Mekong mainstream

The Laotian government began full-scale construction of dams in two places without the consent of the governments or civil society of Mekong basin countries. Thus the weakness of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) as a mechanism for managing natural resources in the basin and controlling threats to the Mekong River's ecosystems has become obvious.

As a member of the Save-the-Mekong Coalition, Mekong Watch has participated actively in assessing the situation and sharing information for solving problems. We

have presented proposals, both oral and written, to the Japanese government and Foreign Affairs Ministry, which avidly fund surveys that MRC conducts on the impact of the mainstream dams, requesting that they demand the Laotian government to suspend construction. And also to fund such surveys only after mechanisms that reflect input from civil society adequately is created.

◆ Development in Mekong countries

Relocation Issue in Cambodia

Residents that had been evicted from their homes on account of a railway improvement project funded by the ADB, but had not been adequately compensated, had been unable to resume their livelihoods and had fallen into poverty filed an objection with the ADB's Compliance Review Panel (CRP) in August 2012. At length, the CRP compiled a report at the end of 2013, the results of which accepted the residents' claims nearly in their entirety, recognized compliance violations by the ADB, and recommended that the ADB management provide the residents additional compensation plus a program to help them recover their livelihoods. During the past three years, Mekong Watch has requested resolution of this problem, raising the issue seven times at regular meetings of the Ministry of Finance. In January 2014, we, with the representatives of the residents and local NGOs held separate meetings at the ADB headquarters in Manila with the director from Japan and various other countries. In Tokyo, we urged the Ministry of Finance to accept the CRP's recommendations and take quick steps to improve the situation. After that, the ADB Board of Directors acknowledged the CRP's recommendations, so from FY 2014, we are continuing to press for the proper implementation of these recommendations.

◆ Application of JICA's Guidelines for Environmental and Social Consideration

Mekong Watch has contributed to the creation of JICA's Guidelines for Environmental and Social Consideration. Currently, we are participating as members in the Advisory Committee for Environmental and Social Consideration, which counsels JICA in its implementation of these guidelines.

As committee members, we make use of our experience with development issues in the various countries of the Mekong basin, and we provide advice with regard to development projects supported by JICA.

◆ Nuclear power plant exports

In collaboration with Waseda University's Institute of Asian Studies, we held a joint symposium in Tokyo. Japanese researchers on Vietnam and concerned NGOs communicated the problems with nuclear power plant exports to Vietnam.



Appendices

Appendix 1

Mekong Watch Seminars/Lectures April 2013 - March 2014

Date	Event	Theme/Title	Presenter(s)
May 25, 2013	Seminar: What is 'Politically Enforced Disappearance?' Considering Development and Human Rights Issues through Abduction Cases in Thailand and Laos	Reported about enforced disappearance and human rights issue in Thailand and Laos	Angkhana Neelapaijit (President, Justice for Peace Foundation), Satoru Matsumoto (Hosei University)
June 2	Seminar: Perceiving Mekong's 20 Years from Development Sites – what has changed and what has not	Reported about activities of Mekong Watch in Burma and Cambodia, and showed documentary video Mekong Watch filmed in Laos	Toshiyuki Doi and Minari Tsuchikawa (Mekong Watch)
June 8	Seminar: Borneo's Forest Now: Our Life is Supported by Rainforest	Reported about timber and palm oil markets in Japan and what is happening at the origin of procurement; erosion of forests and impacts on ethnic minorities in Sarawak, Malaysia	Junichi Mishiba (FoEJapan), Wong Meng Chuo (Director, IDEAL)
Sept. 7	Symposium: Export of Nuclear Power Plant: What is Not Good - Vietnam Version	Reported and had panel discussions on Japan's policy on nuclear power plant export and condition in Vietnam regarding import	Masako Ito (Kyoto University), Satoshi Endo (Kyoritsu Women's University and others), Ari Nakano (Daito Bunka University), Kanna Mitsuta (FoE Japan/ Mekong Watch), Miwako Yoshii (Mie University)
Oct. 28	Seminar: Plantation Development that Erodes Borneo's Rainforest – Cases in Indonesia and Sarawak, Malaysia	Reported about illegal operation of plantation in Indonesian national park and its impacts on orangutans. Also about ethnic minorities in Malaysia standing up against palm oil plantation business by lawsuit.	Yuichiro Ishizaki (HUTAN), Tom Edwardson (Sarawak Campaign), Takayuki Nakatsuka (JATAN)
Feb. 21, 2014	Seminar: Rainforest and CSR: From the Perspective of Biodiversity and Human Rights – Palm Oil, Timber and Paper Products	Reported on problems about expanding mono-crop plantations in Southeast Asia; Malaysia's vested-interest structure and what ethnic minorities confront, Indonesia's palm oil plantation and impacted orangutans, Japanese banks' investment into plantation business, procurement policies and their violation by paper related companies.	See Chee How (Lawyer, Sarawak State Vice Chairman for PKR People Justice Party), Hardi Baktiantoro (Principal, Center for Orangutan Protection), Toyoyuki Kawakami (Rainforest Action Network Japan Representative), Takayuki Nakatsuka (JATAN), Akira Harada(JATAN), Junichi Mishiba (FoE Japan)
March 19	Report Session: Human Rights and ODA to Japanese Business Sector – Eviction Problem at Thiawa SEZ	Current situation and Japan's correspondence on eviction of residents at Burma(Myanmar)'s Thilawa Special Economic Zone	Minari Tsuchikawa (Mekong Watch)

Mekong Watch Lectures Organized by Others April 2013 – March 2014

Date	Location/Organizer	Topic
April 7, 2013	Hitomachi Koryu Kan/ ODA Reform Network Kansai	Japan's Development Aid Projects in Burma and their Problems
June 4	Yokohama City/ Interested members of API Tokyo	Conservation of Biological Diversity by Thailand Ethnic Minorities
June 28	Vientiane, Laos / JICA Laos • FSCAP "Study Meeting of Land Issues in Laos"	Mekong Watch's Activities in Laos and Difficulty we Face regarding Land Issues
June 20	Faculty of Letters, Kyoto University / ODA Reform Network Kansai	Burma(Myanmar):Resume of Yen Loan but Environmental and Social Consideration Neglected – Present Condition and Issues about Thilawa SEZ Infrastructure Project
June 21	Biotope Hakata / FUNN	Burma(Myanmar):Resume of Yen Loan for Whom? Life of Locals Neglected
July 17-19	Chiang Mai, Thailand / ERI Mekong School	ADB and NGO campaign (in English)
July 24	Bangkok, Thailand / API Thai	Looking for Sombath: A report from Mekong and Japan on the 220 th day after his abduction (in English)
August 14	Seoul, South Korea / KRN	Japan in Mekong: NGOs' Experiences and Responses (in English)
August 17	Vientiane, Laos / Laos Inter-business type Study Meeting	Viewing Forest and People's Life in Laos through Documentary Video, Land Issues becoming more serious
August 19	Department of Japanese, Thammasat University	Nuclear Power Plant Accident in Japan(in Thai)
August 28	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mahasarakham University	Nuclear Power Plant Accident in Japan(in Thai)
August 26-30	Fukuoka Jogakuin University	NPO and NGO
August 31	Kitakyushu City/ Kitakyushu Sustainable Kenkyu-kai and Higashida Eco Club	Natural Resources of Mekong River Basin and their Conservation
September 27	Vientiane, Laos / JICA Laos Office "Study Meeting on Agriculture and Fishing Industry in Laos"	Seeking Forest Management by Locals as Main Player : Locals Participatory Project to Manage Water Source Forest in Pakbeng District, Oudomxay Province
October 8	Freedom Zone, Faculty of Political Science, Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand	Rich River Mun: Viewing Mun River and Problems of Pak Mun Dam through Video Documentary (in Thai)
October 24	Mekong Sub-region Social Research Center, Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand	Development of River and Removal of Dam in Japan (Presentation at Seminar "Water Management and Political Ecology") (in Thai)
November 5	Hitotsubashi University	The Role of Foreigner 1: NGO's Challenge for Improvement of Land and Forest Management System in Laos
November 6	Showa Women's University	NGO's role in Preventing Disaster from Development; looking at Laos Nam Theun 2 Water Power Project as a case
November 12	Hitotsubashi University	The Role of Foreigner 2: NGO's Role and Limitation on Monitoring of International Monetary Institutions
November 20	Institute of Developing Economics (IDE-JETRO)	Present Condition and Issues regarding Relocation of Residents at Thilawa SEZ site
January 14, 2014	Land Issues Working Group (LIWG) Workshop "Towards	Experience of the Community-based Watershed Management Project in Pakbeng District,

	communal land registration and titling”(Vientiane, Laos)	Oudomxay Province (in English)
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Appendix 3

Publications by Mekong Watch Staff April 2013 – March 2014

Date	Publication	Topic/Title
June, 2013	Taste of Laos (Journal on Laos)	The Forest and the Kmhmu People: Stories of A Way of Life and Nature Uncle Seum's Recipe: The Kmhmu's Dining Table and Gifts from Forest (in Japanese)
June 4	The Democratic Voice of Burma	Reinventing Japan-Burma relations
June	Development Education Association and Resource Center(DEAR) News 162	To Put an End to the Faded Blueprint: Dam and the Mekong, and Japan (in Japanese)
October	Taste of Laos (Journal on Laos)	The Forest and the Kmhmu People: Stories of A Way of Life and Nature Grandma Toop's First Love: The Kmhmu and Civil War (in Japanese)
November 24	<i>Nihon Nogyo Shinbun</i> (Japan Agricultural Newspaper)	Development in Myanmar: Land confiscated for Corporate Investment, no compensation for farmers (in Japanese)
December	Chantavanich, S., C. Middleton and M. Ito (eds.). <i>On the Move: Critical Migration Themes in ASEAN</i> . Bangkok, International Organization for Migration and Chulalongkorn University-Asian Research Center for Migration, 2013.	The impacts of village relocation and the shifting 123 cultivation eradication policy on swidden farmers in northern Lao People's Democratic Republic
December	Taste of Laos (Journal on Laos)	The Forest and the Kmhmu People: Stories of A Way of Life and Nature Uncle Sone Goes to Vientiane (in Japanese)
March, 2014	Taste of Laos (Journal on Laos)	The Forest and the Kmhmu People: Stories of A Way of Life and Nature Grandma Toop's Old Story; Lifestyle of The Kmhmu Changing (in Japanese)
March	<i>Material for Development and Environmental Education: Japan and the World's Water Situation; Learning from Water, Activity 20</i> . Tokyo, Development Education Association and Resource Center (DEAR), 2014.	Issues regarding dams at Mekong River (explanations and photos) (in Japanese)
March	<i>Shukan Kinyobi</i>	Difficulty Recovering Livelihood at the Thilawa SEZ in Burma (in Japanese)

Appendix 4

Media Articles/Programs Made with Mekong Watch Involvement April 2013 – March 2014

Date	Publication	Topic/Title
May 23, 2013	NNA	Future of Thilawa, Myanmar 1; Expectations on Development Concerns on Rising Land Price (in Japanese)

May 24	NNA	Future of Thilawa, Myanmar 2; Would it be a Touchstone for Democratic Development? (in Japanese)
May 27	The Irrawaddy	Japan 'Making Up for Lost Time' in Burma
June	Global Net	Interview with Ms. Angkhana Neelapaijit; Supporting Victims of Human Rights Violation in Thailand (in Japanese)
June 5	The Irrawaddy	Thailand's Dawei Port Project in Burma Not Dead Yet
August 11	JiJi Press	Residents at Thilawa SEZ, Myanmar, Claim for "Appropriate Compensation" (in Japanese)
August	The Kyunghyang Shinmun	Mekong Watch: Japan's Experience and Increasing Development Investments into the Mekong Basin from South Korea and China (in Korean)
October 12	The Irrawaddy	Thilawa Farmers Say Govt Pressured Them to Accept Compensation Offer
October 18	The Irrawaddy	JICA Meets with Thilawa Villagers Over Relocation
October 15	NNA	Local Report Says = Thilawa, Relocating Farmers Complain; Compensation of 6-Year Income Not Enough (in Japanese)
October 28	NNA	Thilawa SEZ, Residents to be Relocated Complain; Agreement without Compensation Detail Announced (in Japanese)
December 5	The Financial Times	Memories of Myanmar's past cloud land deals
December 6	The Nikkei	The Financial Times Article (Translation into Japanese) Memories of Myanmar's past cloud land deals
December 6	The Irrawaddy	Improve Compensation for Thilawa Farmers: Japan NGO
January 30, 2014	The Irrawaddy	Families Relocated for Thilawa SEZ Seek Meeting With 'Unresponsive' JICA

Appendix 5

Meetings with Government Institutions April 2013 – March 2014

Date	Meeting Title	Topic
April 1, 2013	35 th JICA Advisory Committee for Environmental and Social Consideration	Thilawa SEZ related infrastructure project (Environmental review, etc)
May 10	36 th JICA Advisory Committee for Environmental and Social Consideration	Thilawa SEZ related infrastructure project (Environmental review, etc)
May 23	54 th Regular Ministry of Finance-NGO Meeting	ADB's Cambodia GMS Railway Rehabilitation Project: disclosure of ADB research report on resident relocation
June 13	Meeting of MOFA and NGOs	Government of Japan's funding assistance to MRC
June 18	Meeting with MOFA and JICA (attended by MP secretary)	Thilawa SEZ project and related infrastructure project (Resident relocation, etc)
June 28	Meeting with MOFA and JICA	Thilawa SEZ project and related infrastructure project (Resident relocation, etc)
August 23	Meeting with MOFA and JICA	Thilawa SEZ (Resident relocation and compensation, etc)
November 1	41 st JICA Advisory Committee for Environmental and Social Consideration	Thilawa SEZ (Resident relocation and compensation, environmental review, etc)
November 21	Meeting with MOFA and JICA	Thilawa SEZ (Resident relocation and compensation, etc)
November 25	JICA Advisory Committee for Environmental and Social	Thilawa SEZ (Resident relocation and compensation, environmental review, etc)

	Consideration WORKING GROUP	
December 2	42 nd JICA Advisory Committee for Environmental and Social Consideration	Thilawa SEZ (Resident relocation and compensation, environmental review, etc)
January 28-29, 2014	Meeting with ADB Directors from Germany/UK/Canada, US, Indonesia, Japan, and Australia	Cambodia GMS Railway Rehabilitation Project: correspondence to CRP's draft report
February 5	Meeting of MOFA and NGOs	Government of Japan's correspondence on recent situation of Laos and the issue of disappearance of a social activist
February 6	56 th Regular Ministry of Finance-NGO Meeting	ADB's Cambodia GMS Railway Rehabilitation Project: Correspondence of director from Japan to CRP's draft report
March 19	Meeting with MOFA and JICA	Thilawa SEZ (Resident relocation and compensation, etc)

Board of Directors

[Directors:]

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

[Auditor:]

Kawamura, Akio

[Advisor:]

Matsumoto, Satoru

Staff

Akimoto, Yuki	Burma Program Director (part-time)
Asai, Akiko	Vientiane Office Manager/Research Assistant (part-time)
Endo, Satoko	Tokyo Office Manager (part-time)
Onizuka, Madoka Chase	Burma Program Coordinator (part-time)
Kiguchi, Yuka	Executive Director (full-time)
Takahashi, Fumiko	Cambodia Program Director (full-time)
Tsuchikawa, Minari	Burma Program Coordinator (part-time)
Doi, Toshiyuki	Senior Advisor (full-time)
Higashi, Satomi	Laos Program Director (part-time)
Mitsuta, Kanna	Policy Manager (part-time)

Intern, Volunteer

One Intern
One Volunteer

(Board, staff, interns, volunteers as of March 31, 2014)

Donor Institutions

The McKnight Foundation
Foundation Open Society Institute
Oxfam Australia
Ayus: Network of Buddhists Volunteers on International Cooperation
KDDI Foundation
The Takagi Fund for Citizen Science
Japan Fund for Global Environment
The Japan Trust for Global Environment
Toyota Foundation
Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund
Mitsui & Co. Environment Fund

NPO Mekong Watch

FY2013 Financial Statements

April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014

Unit: USD

1 USD = 102.821 JPY (as of 31 March 2014, source: OANDA)

Revenue

Membership fee	3,007
Donation	1,304
Operating revenue	4,618
Monitoring & research	0
Outreach	4,618
Advocacy	0
Grant	228,551
Contract income	1,459
Interest income	331
Miscellaneous income	5,263
Exchange gain	1,941
TOTAL REVENUE	246,474

Expenditure

Monitoring and research	108,593
Project monitoring	25,019
Research on traditional use of forests and impacts from plantation development	40,533
Research on sustainable use of land in Laos	12,468
Recording of resource utilization in Laos	0
Staff salary	30,573
Field project	63,448
Strengthening of advocacy capacities of communities through re-recognition of traditional ways of resource utilization and effects from foreign development projects	27,448
Biodiversity protection by Thai ethnic minorities	8,709
Protection of Mun River	5,572
Laos Forest Project	688
Staff salary	21,031
Policy advocacy	9,453
Making recommendations to reverse Japan's nuclear technology export policy	0
Follow-up on JICA Guideline implementation	0
Effort for better ODA Policies	642
Staff salary	8,811
Outreach	69,915
Exchange of Experience among CSOs in East Asia and Mekong Region	35,716
Providing information on nuclear power plants to Vietnam	1,945
Mekong seminar	0
"Forum Mekong" publishing	205
Website management	602
E-mail news management	0
Staff salary	31,447
Administration	56,998
Tokyo office management	22,186
Overseas office management	1,850
Staff salary	32,962
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	308,407

Balance	-61,933
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Beginning of year	260,796
End of year	198,863

NPO Mekong Watch FY2013 Balance Sheet

April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014

Unit: USD

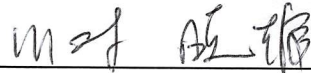
1 USD = 102.821 JPY (as of 31 March 2014, source: OANDA)

Assets		Liabilities and surpluses	
1.Current assets		1.Current liabilities	
Cash and cash equivalents	229,540	Accounts payable	0
Accounts receivable	18,724	Advance payments received	52,270
		Deposits	1,994
Total current assets	248,264	Total current liabilities	54,264
2.Fixed assets		2. Surpluses	
Guarantee deposit	4,863	Surpluses carried over	198,863
Total fixed assets	4,863		
Total assets	253,127	Total surpluses and liabilities	253,127

Audit Report

I have audited the FY2013 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 23, 2014



Akio Kawamura
Auditor

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