

URGENT.

No.0630/ **5195**



Thai National Mekong Committee Secretariat
Department of Water Resources
180/3 Rama 6 Road, Soi 34
Phayathai, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
Tel/Fax: +66 (0)2 298 6605

20 December B.E.2559 (2016)

Dear Mr. Pham,

Subject: Prior Consultation of the Pak Beng Hydropower Project

Reference is made to the MRCS letter No. MK OSV 514/16 dated 6 December 2016 forwarding the full set of documents for a six-month Prior Consultation Process of the Pak Beng Hydropower Project submitted by Lao PDR to the MRC Joint Committee Member for Thailand in accordance with the MRC Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNPCA). In this letter, the MRCS requested JC Member for Thailand to confirm the receipt of the official letter and submitted documents.

In this regard, we acknowledge the receipt of the official letter and submitted documents of the Prior Consultation of the Pak Beng Hydropower Project. It is our understanding that following this acknowledgment, the MRCS shall facilitate the prior consultation process in accordance with the MRC Procedures. In this connection, to assist the MRCS in preparing the proper document for the consultation on Pak Beng Hydropower Project, TNMC wishes to register in advance a strong concern over significant transboundary impacts of the proposed hydropower project on the following issues;

1. Fishery, especially its threat to block the main fish migration route of the flagship specie of the Mekong River, i.e. the Mekong giant catfish (*Pangasianodon Gigas*) which may have potential driving it to extinction,
2. Back water effects, which might cause significant flood in some areas of Thailand's Chiang Rai province, especially at Wiang Kaen and Chiang Khong districts which its impact is very likely to have great effects on daily livelihood of local people living alongside of Mekong river as well as damage on local seasonal crops and economy,

/3...

Mr. Pham Tuan Phan
Chief Executive Officer
MRC Secretariat
184 Fa Ngoum Road, Unit 18
Ban Sithane Neua, Sikhottabong District
Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR

3. Sediment accumulation and transportation to be retained at the Pak Beng hydropower, impacting the downstream river geomorphology and bank erosion and its associated damage,

4. Changes in Mekong's biophysical dimension and ecosystem due to the proposed hydropower development project might have significant impacts on local and regional food security in which a large number of Mekong people rely on, and

5. Mitigation measures which have not yet been sufficiently addressed to affected people and a change of ecological health of Mekong river; for example, compensation to local people and a restoration of the potentially changed river ecosystem.

We shall provide the justification on our concern over these issues as well as further comments and suggestions for the preparation and implementation of the Prior Consultation of the Pak Beng Hydropower Project at the first meeting of the PNPCA JCWG.

Thank you very much for your kind cooperation on this matter

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Worasart Apaipong
Director General
Department of Water Resources
Secretary General of Thai National Mekong Committee Secretariat
Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Thailand