SUMERNET Phase 3 Learning Forum

8-10 November, Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand
Version: 6th November 2017

Introduction

The Mekong Region has been undergoing a socio-economic and ecological transformation over the past three decades with rapid economic growth, increased regional economic integration, and a gradual shift towards more open political systems and the emergence of liberalized market economies. However, poverty and social inequality – including gender inequality – remain major concerns and impediments for the regional countries' governments in meeting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Environmental degradation is bringing into question the long-term sustainability of ecosystems and their services, as rapid economic growth with its emphasis on exploitation of natural resources for economic gain has led to degradation of ecosystems and loss of local livelihoods. Competition for limited natural resources are transboundary and regional.

The policy choices and decisions made today are thus crucial to ensure that the sustainable development goals (SDGs) are achieved towards achieving socially inclusive, equitable and sustainable development in the region.

The Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET), a regional research network, was launched in 2005 to provide scientifically robust and policy-relevant research to inform policy decisions. Over the past decade, SUMERNET has brought together nearly 70 partners across the region, to lead interdisciplinary, cross-national studies on major policy issues; engage with policy-makers, planners and stakeholders; and build capacity among both researchers and policy-makers.

In the current Phase 3 (2014-2017), SUMERNET has been directly supporting Mekong researchers and engaging with boundary partners (i.e. policy influencers and policy makers) under 7 multi-country policy research projects, 5 national case studies that are Mekong regional-wide to deliver credible scientific knowledge while informing relevant policies and dialogues at sub-national, national and regional levels.

In the upcoming phase, "SUMERNET 4 All" (2018 – 2022), the aim is to continue work as a regional research network to help improve policy and practices in reducing water insecurities for all, in particular for the poor, marginalized and socially vulnerable groups of women and men in the Mekong Region. Successful stories and lessons learnt during the past years by SUMERNET members and partners are valuable resources for SUMERNET to design future activities e.g. conducting collaborative research, engaging with the policy process, and promoting scientifically sound research and innovation, while taking gender and social equity, human rights, environmental integrity and poverty reduction into account.

Phase 3 Learning Forum

SUMERNET Phase 3 Learning Forum in 2017 is planned to occur over 3 days covering the following events:

- **Wed 8th November 2017: Knowledge Sharing and Lessons Learnt from SUMERNET Phase 3 (Members' and Partners' Meeting)**
The participants including SUMERNET members, advisors and boundary partners will share and exchange insights from different research projects and case studies in terms of new knowledge, success stories, lessons learnt and seeking possibility for future collaborations

- **Thu 9th November 2017: Policy-Research Interactions in SUMERNET 4 All (Policy Forum)**
Policy actors and researchers will undertake a series of open dialogues and discussions on the challenges and needs for scientific research and knowledge to support and fill gaps in the development of robust and inclusive policy and practices related to water insecurity. This will be based on recent findings from water policy reviews and gender assessment in the Mekong Region

under three research themes: (1) Water access, rights & allocation in times of scarcity, (2) Governance and management of flood disaster risk, and (3) Transboundary interactions with water systems.

- **Fri 10th November, SUMERNET Training on Robust Decision System (optional)**
  Participants including SUMERNET members and boundary partners will be exposed to the concepts, processes and practical applications of the Robust Decision System (RDS) framework in addressing uncertainties in water resources management in the Mekong Region. Example tools to be demonstrated and discussed include Water Evaluation and Planning System (WEAP), RDS Lite, and Tableau, that can be used in the RDS framework. Opportunities to apply the RDS framework for future regional assessment under SUMERNET 4 All will be explored.

Tentative Agenda

<u>Wednesday 8th November 2017</u>
Knowledge Sharing and Lessons Learnt from SUMERNET Phase 3
Participants: About 100 pax including SUMERNET research and regional assessment partners, research mentors, SUMERNET Regional Assessment Advisory Committee (SRAAC), SUMERNET Steering Committee (SSC), boundary partners, Secretariat, Sida and LMPPI
Dress codes: National dress (if not possible, smart casual)
MC: Mr. Agus Nugroho, SUMERNET Programme Coordinator
Rapporteurs: Vanessa Hongsathavij, Naditha Imbulana, Shakthi Gunawardana, Batsuren Sundui, and Chensheng Hong
Meeting venue: Surasak II and III & Foyer Area for Market Place (11th Floor)

Date	Activities	Chair, speakers, moderators	Remarks
8:00-8:30	Registration		
8:30-9:00 (30 min)	**Session 1: Welcoming and introduction** • Welcoming and opening remarks • Objectives, agenda and overview of SUMERNET members' and partners' meeting • Introduction to the participants	• Dr. Chu Thai Hoanh, SUMERNET SC Chair • Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, SUMERNET programme Manager, SEI • All	
09:00-10:20 (80 min)	**Session 2: Successful stories and lessons learnt from implementation of multi-country research projects** - Theme 1: Climate-compatible development (3 projects: REDD+, Adaptation Pathways, Rice Straw Co-benefits) - Theme 2: Ecosystem services and local development (2 projects: Small Wetlands, RECOVER) - Theme 3: Regional economic integration (2 projects: GIAI-Rubber, EWEC-FC)	Presenters: Representatives from 7 project teams. Moderators: Theme 1: Ms. Hap Navy, SSC member, IFReDI Theme 2: Dr. Kanokwan Manorom, SSC member, Ubon Ratchathani University Theme 3: Dr. Andrew Noble, SEI	Each of the 7 project teams will have 5 min to briefly describe their successful stories, lessons learnt and recommendations for SUMERNET after Phase 3 Q&A will be followed after all presentations are made for each theme <u>Note:</u> Guidelines will be provided to all teams. All teams to send the slides for Secretariat to review by 6th November 2017
10:20-10:50 (30 min)	**Group photo and coffee break**		

10:50-11:50 (60 min)	**Session 3: Successful stories and lessons learnt from regional assessment case studies** 1. Cambodia 2. Lao PDR 3. Myanmar ---Q&A--- 4. Thailand 5. Vietnam --- Q&A--	Moderator: Dr. Bernadette P. Resurrección, SEI Presenters: Representatives from 5 case studies	This session will be conducted similar to the previous session. Each team will have 5 min to briefly describe their successful stories, lessons learnt and recommendations for future applications of RDS for addressing the uncertainties and other activities of SUMERNET after Phase 3 Two rounds of Q&A are scheduled after the first three presentations and after the last presentation in this session
11:50-12:20 (30 min)	**Session 4: SUMERNET short film series**	Presenters: Mr. Rajesh Daniel/Pin Pravalprukskul, SEI	Short documentary films about selected SUMERNET research projects in Phase 3 will be screened
12:20-13:20	**Lunch**		
13:20-13:40	**Special session: Introduction to outcome harvesting exercise**	Presenter: Ms. Miaojie Sun, SEI	The outcome harvesting exercise for Monitoring and Evaluation of SUMERNET Phase 3 will be introduced to all participants. Some participants will be requested for follow-up interviews during and after the Learning Forum
13:40-15:10 (90 min)	**Session 5: Market Places: Learning on boundary collaboration and networking opportunities** • Plenary: Introduction to session (5 min) • Marketplace: participants are invited to inspect the 12 booths and give their stickers to the booth they have conversations with along the 5 categories (45 min) Plenary: • Participants are invited to tell the highlighted impact stories (not their own project stories) (20 min) • Results of the questionnaire (10 min) • Lessons from the impact stories and questionnaire results (10 min)	Moderators: Ms. May Thazin Aung, Dr. Clemens Grünbühel, and Mr. Manish Shrestha, SEI	This session will provide an opportunity for networking and learning on boundary collaboration. We will analyse collaboration between researchers and boundary partners (policy-maker/practitioners) in SUMERNET Phase 3 and accommodate reflections of participants on achievements, gaps and challenges in collaborating with boundary partners through various exercises The booths that receive highest numbers of stickers from the visitors in total will win. The partners that could visit at least 3 booths and convey the most powerful impact stories will receive prizes. Note: • SEI staff will fill the questionnaire for each project for further analysis in the morning • Prize winners will be announced before the closing
15:10-15:30	**Coffee break**		
15:30-16:10	**Session 6: Moving towards SUMERNET 4 All**	Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, SEI	Presentations and Q&A related to SUMERNET under SUMERNET 4 All which will also focus on the

			research and policy interactions. This session will lead to Policy-Research interactions on the following day
16:10-17:00	**Session 7: Reflections & Closing** • <mark>Awarding of storytelling prizes and popular booths</mark> • Reflections by SUMERNET members, boundary partners, Secretariat and Steering Committee, and other partners • Thank you and closing remarks	Moderator: Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, SEI Dr. Chu Thai Hoanh, SSC Chair	The winners of session 5 will be announced and prizes awarded. Representatives from SUMERNET members, boundary partners, Secretariat and Steering Committees will be invited to reflect for 2-3 min each about the past 4 years and what they hope for the next 5 years. Other partners who have an interest can reflect also.
17:00-17:30	Internal meeting of SUMERNET Secretariat, SSC and other resource persons to prepare for the next day	SSC, Secretariat and other supporters	
17:30-20:00	**Group dinner at Bussaracum Restaurant**		

SUMERNET Policy Forum – Filling knowledge and policy gaps in reducing water insecurity for all in the context of gender and social equity, human rights, environmental integrity and poverty reduction in the Mekong Region
Participants: About 100-120 pax including SUMERNET research and regional assessment partners, research mentors, SUMERNET Regional Assessment Advisory Committee (SRAAC), boundary partners, SUMERNET Steering Committee (SC), Secretariat, regional partners and donor agencies, relevant Thai government officials, media, and other stakeholders in the region
Dress code: Smart business
MC: Dr. Clemens Grünbühel, SEI
Rapporteurs: Vanessa, Naditha, Shakthi, Batsuren Sundui, and Chensheng Hong
Meeting Venues: Surasak I Room on 11th Floor (Plenary & Panel 1 on Drought), Saladaeng Room on 12th Floor (Panel 2 on Flood)

Date	Activities	Chair, speakers, moderators	Remarks
8:30-9:00	Registration		
9:00-9:20 (20 min)	**Session 1: Welcoming and opening** • Welcoming remarks • Opening speech	Dr. Chu Thai Hoanh, SUMERNET SC Chair Mr. Suphot Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand	
9:20-10:20 (60 min)	**Session 2: Introduction and setting the scene** • Introduction to SUMERNET network and SUMERNET Policy Forum 2017 • Opportunities and challenges for Thailand in reducing water insecurity in context of SDGs and Agenda 2030 • Gender assessment on water insecurity in the Mekong Region • Overview of SUMERNET water policy review and discourse on water insecurity in the Mekong Region • Q&A	Presenters: • Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, SUMERNET Programme Manager • Representative from MONRE, Thailand • Dr. Bernadette P. Resurrección, SEI • Dr. Louis Lebel/Ms. Vanessa, SUMERNET SC and USER	Facilitator: Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, SEI 10 min for each presentation (40 min in total) We will have 15-20 min Q&A session with all speakers after all presentations
10:20-10:50	**Group photos and coffee break**		
10:50-12:10 (80 min)	**Session 3: Panel discussion** **Panel 1 – Improving water access, rights & allocation in times of scarcity** Moderator: Dr. Andrew Noble, SEI Presenter: Ms. May Thazin Aung, SEI Panelists: 1. Ms. May Thazin Aung, SEI 2. Representative from RID, Thailand 3. Representative from PCD or agriculture department in Thailand 4. Ms. Hap Navy, IFReDi, Cambodia 5. Ms. Le Thi Quynh Tram, LMPPI, Vietnam	**Panel 2 – Enhancing governance and management of flood disaster risk** Moderator: Dr. Chu Thai Hoanh, SSC Chair Presenter: Mr. Michael Boyland, SEI Panelists: 1. Mr. Michael Boyland, SEI 2. ==Dr. Surajate Boonya-Aroonnet, HAII (TBC)==	Rapporteurs will take notes on key discussions to help improve the working papers of water policy review and design of the future research call for each theme

	6. Boundary partners of regional assessment case study from Thailand or Cambodia (TBC)	3. Dr. Bach Tan Sinh, SUMERNET SC & NISTPASS 4. Dr. Kanokwan Manorom, SSC member, Ubon Ratchathani University 5. U Khin Maung Soe, Myanmar Fisheries Federation 6. Boundary partner from regional assessment case study from Vietnam (TBC)	
12:10-13:10	**Group Lunch**		
13:10-14:30 (80 min)	**Panel 3 – Enabling transboundary interactions with water systems**	Moderator: Dr. John Dore, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Government of Australia Presenter: Dr. Louis Lebel, SUMERNET SC & Unit for Social and Environmental Research (USER) Panelists: 1. Dr. Louis Lebel, SUMERNET 2. Dr. Anoulak Kittikhoun, Mekong River Commission (MRC) 3. Prof. Dr. Lyu Xing, Yunnan University, China 4. Mr. Sumit Pokhrel (TBC) 5. Ms. Maureen Harris, International Rivers 6. Ms. Kaing Khim, Fisheries Administration (FiA), Cambodia Commenters: • Mr. LI Hong, Permanent Representative of China to UN ESCAP, Bangkok • Dr. Kanokwan Manorom, Ubon Ratchathani University & SUMERNET	Rapporteurs will take notes on key discussion to help improve the working papers of water policy review and design of future research call for each theme
14:30-15:00	**Coffee Break**		
15:00-16:00 (60 min)	**Session 4: Identifying topics/collaboration for the application of scientific knowledge and innovations in the Mekong Region** (Plenary and group discussion)	Moderator: Dr. Clemens Grünbühel, SEI Group facilitators: 1. Drought – Andrew/May 2. Flood – Chu Thai Hoanh/Michael 3. Transboundary – Louis/Vanessa	Moderator to explain the exercise in the plenary (5 min) Participants will be divided into 3 groups to participate in facilitated group discussions. (40 min) Reporting back (3 min/group)

			Rapporteurs will take notes to help improve the working papers of water policy review and design of joint action call
16:00-16:50 (50 min)	**Session 5: Identifying topics and collaboration for integrated regional assessment in the Mekong Region** - Introduction to session (3 min) - Presentation to guide the session (7 min) - Group discussion (30 min) - Reporting back (2 min/group) - Wrap up (2 min)	Moderator: Dr. Sangam Shrestha, AIT Presenter (to lead a discussion): Dr. Thanapon Piman	Rapporteurs will take notes to help design the topics for integrated regional assessment Participants will be divided into 4 groups. Two groups will focus on the topic identification. Another two groups will focus on the ways to design and implement the assessment, so the results can be used in practice. Group facilitators: Louis, Anoulak, Sangam, and Thanapon
16:50-17:00	**Wrap up and closing**	Dr. Chu Thai Hoanh, SUMERNET Steering Committee Chair	
Close of SUMERNET Policy Forum			

Friday 10th November 2017

Event: Training Workshop on Robust Decision Support (RDS). This is an optional event for SUMERNET members and partners

Objectives:
- To introduce Robust Decision Support (RDS) framework and increase basic understanding of RDS framework and its application to support water resources management and planning, with focus on water security
- To increase awareness in addressing uncertainties in planning
- To enhance networking among international, regional and national experts on water resources management

Participants: About 60-70 pax including SUMERNET research and regional assessment partners, research mentors, SRAAC, boundary partners, SSC, Secretariat

Dress code: Smart casual

MC: Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, SEI

Meeting venue: Chong Nonsi Room & Saladeng Room (12th Floor)

Time	Activity	Lead	Remarks
08:40 – 09:00 (20 mins)	Registration		
09:00 – 09:10 (10 mins)	**Session 1**: Agenda and objectives and self-introduction	Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, SEI	
09:10 – 09:40 (30 mins)	**Session 2**: Introduction to RDS (20 mins) • Stakeholder mapping • XLRM framework • Model and ensemble (climate analysis) – only concept, not detailed outputs • Performance assessment matrix • Trade-off analysis Q&A (10 mins)	Dr. Chusit Apirumanekul, SEI	Presentation with interactive Q&A (viz. Do you normally know who your stakeholders are in WRM? How do you normally address uncertainties in planning? And other questions that lead to understanding of the RDS framework)
09:40 – 10:00 (20 mins)	Coffee break		
10:00 – 11:00 (60 mins)	**Session 3**: Application of RDS in water resources management • Case studies from other parts of the world • Northeast Thailand (SUMERNET) case study • RDS lite application in AQUADAPT project	Dr. Marisa Escobar, SEI Dr. Chusit Apirumanekul, SEI Dr. Louis Lebel, SUMERNET SC & USER	Each presentation has 12 mins for ppt presentation and 8 mins for questions and answers
11:00 – 12:00 (60 mins)	**Session 4:** Group exercise on XLRM framework with reporting back (3 groups)	45 mins for group exercise and 15 mins for reporting back (5 mins for each group) Focus on water insecurity related to drought at different locations	Facilitators: - Andrew/May - Thanapon/Michael - Louis/ Vanessa Overall support by Chusit
12:00 – 13:00 (60 mins)	Lunch		
13:00 – 13:20 (20 mins)	**Session 5:** Introduction to gender and water modelling guidance notes	Presentation Dr. Marisa Escobar, SEI	10 min presentation and 10 min Q&A
13:20 – 14:20 (60 mins)	**Session 6:** Example of tools used in RDS (1/3)	Presentation with exercises	

	• Water Evaluation and Planning (WEAP)	Mr. Manish Shrestha, SEI	
14:20 – 15:20 (60 mins)	Example of tools used in RDS (2/3) • Strategy performance assessment	Presentation with exercises Dr. Thanapon Piman, SEI	
15:20 – 15:40 (20 mins)	Coffee break		
15:40 – 16:40 (60 mins)	Example of tools used in RDS (3/3) • Trade-off analysis	Presentation with exercises Dr. Marisa Escobar, SEI	
16:40 – 17:00 (20 mins)	**Session 7:** Conclusion and potential collaboration (to be linked with SUMERNET 4 All)	Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, SUMERNET Programme Manager	
Close of RDS Training Workshop			