

SUMERNET First Regional Workshop on Robust Decision Support (RDS) Framework for Regional Assessment on Water Scarcity Management in the Mekong Region

Venue: Mode Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand

Date: 14-16 July 2015

Background

Frequent and widespread drought, along with extended dry spells, are now an annual phenomenon causing hardship and anxieties for the people in the Mekong Region. At the same time, many concerned agencies have dedicated a lot of resources to address the problem of drought. The drought in 2015 has been the worst in the last two decades. As rivers run dry and water levels in dams fall rapidly, water shortages have already affected farming in many rural areas and serious drinking water shortages are expected in cities including Bangkok.

How can the Mekong Region countries address the water scarcity problem considering the many uncertainties including climate change? The Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET, www.sumernet.org) in collaboration with the national, regional and international experts is conducting a “**Regional Assessment**” focusing on water scarcity management in the Mekong Region. Five case studies at sub-national level will be undertaken in Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Vietnam.

This assessment will help answer the key policy question: “What strategic water allocation and watershed management policy options exist at subnational basin, national and international levels in the Mekong Region to deal with water shortages arising from seasonal drought, inter-annual climate variability and climate change?”

SUMERNET will organise a series of workshops aimed to share and exchange knowledge on the Robust Decision Support (RDS) and XLRM framework to help decision makers and related stakeholders in identifying robust water resource management strategies or planning under various scenarios. The first workshop from 14-16 July 2015 in Bangkok is designed to introduce the concept of RDS with the focus on XLRM framework to support the regional assessment focusing on water scarcity management in the Mekong Region.

Objectives of the first workshop

1. To understand existing policies, strategies, plans and institutions to manage water scarcity in the Mekong Region;
2. To discuss and share ideas about the challenges and gaps in water scarcity management;

3. To have a better understanding of the Robust Decision Support (RDS) with the focus on XLRM framework for water resources management (including also water scarcity) and the implementation of the case studies in five countries;
4. To build and expand the network of partners to seek potential collaboration on issues of drought, water scarcity and effective water management in the future.

Expected outputs and outcomes

1. Improved understanding of existing policies, strategies, plans and institutions to manage water scarcity in the Mekong countries;
2. Identified the key challenges and policy gaps particularly in water scarcity management in the Mekong countries;
3. Improved understanding of the workshop participants of the RDS and XLRM framework for water resources management. The case study teams will have improved their capacity to conduct the national workshop on RDS and XLRM for sub-national assessment;
4. Strengthened network of partners.

Workshop Agenda

Date: 14 July 2015 (Tuesday)

Time	Program	Remark
08:00 – 08:30	Registration	
Session 1 : Opening and introduction to SUMERNET regional assessment		
08:30 – 09:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome speech (5 mins) • Opening remark (5 mins) • Objectives, expectations and agenda (10 mins) • Introduction to participants (20 mins) 	Dr. Eric Kemp-Benedict Dr. Chu Thai Hoanh Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa
09:10 – 09:30	Presentation on SUMERNET Regional Assessment: – methodology and work plan	Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa
Session 2 : Introduction to Robust Decision Support (RDS) and XLRM framework and examples		
09:30 – 10:20	Introduction to Robust Decision Support (RDS) and XLRM framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of RDM and RDS • RDS processes • Short introduction to XLRM framework as a part of RDS 	Dr. David Purkey
10:20 – 10:50	Group photo and coffee break	
10:50 – 11:40	Case study from Colombia: RDS and XLRM framework in the Andes region	Dr. Marisa Escobar
11:40 – 12:30	Case study from Vietnam: RDS and XLRM framework in Ho Chi Minh City	Dr. Bach Tan Sinh
12:30 – 13:40	Lunch	
Session 3 : Current efforts on drought management in Mekong region		
13:40 – 14:10	Preliminary findings on drought management	Ms. Francesca Franzetti,

	strategies in Mekong Region	Ms. Somsanith Mounphoxay Mr. Vorrieth Chem
14:10 – 15:10	Group exercise by country: Assessment of the status of the water scarcity in the Mekong Region	Dr. Chusit Apirumanekul
Session 4 : Protocol for SUMERNET regional assessment on the application of RDS framework in Mekong region		
15:10 – 15:30	Practical steps for application of RDS and XLRM framework	Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break	
15:45 – 16:45	Actor mapping to identify the boundary partners to be engaged for future assessment on water scarcity management	Dr. Albert Salamanca
16:45 – 17:00	Conclusion and briefing for 15th July 2015	Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa
17:00 – 1800	Time for relaxation, networking or internal meetings	Internal meetings among case study teams & internal meeting among resource persons
18:00 onward	Reception dinner at Busarakham restaurant	All participants

Date: 15 July 2015 (Wednesday)

Time	Program	Remark
08:20 – 08:40	Registration	
08:40 – 09:00	Recap	
Session 5 : Introduction to XLRM framework		
09:00 – 09:30	Introduction to XLRM framework X - Exogenous uncertainties L – Policy Levers R – Relationships M – Measures	Dr. David Purkey / Dr. Marisa Escobar
09:30 – 10:30	Group exercise 1 : Uncertainties discussion (X)	All
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
Session 6 : Uncertainties discussion (x)		
10:45 – 11:15	Group exercise 1 : Uncertainties discussion (X) Continued	
11:15 – 12:00	Feedbacks on the steps and contents on uncertainties (x)	Plenary session
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
Session 7 : Adaptation strategy or policy discussion (L)		
13:00 – 14:20	Group exercise 2 : Adaptation strategy or policy discussion (L) *Policy with implications for water scarcity (not only policies to manage drought)	All
14:20 – 15:00	Feedbacks on the steps and contents on policies(L)	Plenary session
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break	
Session 8 : Metrics of performance or Indicators discussion (M)		
15:15 – 16:30	Group exercise 3: Metrics of performance or Indicators discussion (M)	All

16:30 – 17:00	Feedbacks on the steps and contents on indicators (M)	Plenary session
17:00 – 17:10	Conclusion and briefing for 16th July	Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa
17:10 – 18:00	Internal meetings	Internal meeting of case study teams & Internal meeting of resource persons

Date : 16 July 2015 (Thursday)

Time	Program	Materials
08:20 – 08:40	Registration	
08:40 – 09:00	Recap	
Session 9 : Relationship or Model discussion (R)		
09:00 – 10:00	Group exercise 4 : Relationships/Models discussion (R)	All
10:00 – 10:30	Feedbacks on the steps and contents on relationship (R)	Plenary session
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
Session 10 : Towards RDS framework and demonstration of comprehensive and simplified RDS applications		
10:45 – 11:00	Review of practical steps of RDS/XLRM framework for SUMERNET regional assessment in Mekong region	Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa
Demonstration of comprehensive RDS		
11:00 – 11:10	Process of running the basin simulation game	Dr. Marisa Escobar
11:10 – 12:30	Basin simulation game – group work	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:10	Basin simulation game (continued)	
14:10 – 14:40	Vulnerability mapping and vulnerability assessment	Dr. Marisa Escobar
Demonstration of simplified qualitative RDS		
14:40 – 15:10	Qualitative approach to RDS on XLRM framework : Case study in aquaculture in northern Thailand	Dr. Louis Lebel
15:10 – 15:25	Coffee break	
Session 11 : Implementing RDS framework in practice (Plenary session)		
15:25 – 16:10	Using the XLRM framework for RDS in practice – Initial reaction and reflection by the case study teams, advisory committee, and other participants (Plenary discussion)	Dr. Chusit Apirumanekul
16:10 – 16:20	Conclusion and next steps	Dr. Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa
16:20 – 16:25	Closing of the first regional assessment workshop on RDS	Dr. Chu Thai Hoanh