



**DEVELOPMENT, CONFLICTS, AND PEACE IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA: NATIONAL INTERESTS VS.
REGIONAL IMPACTS**

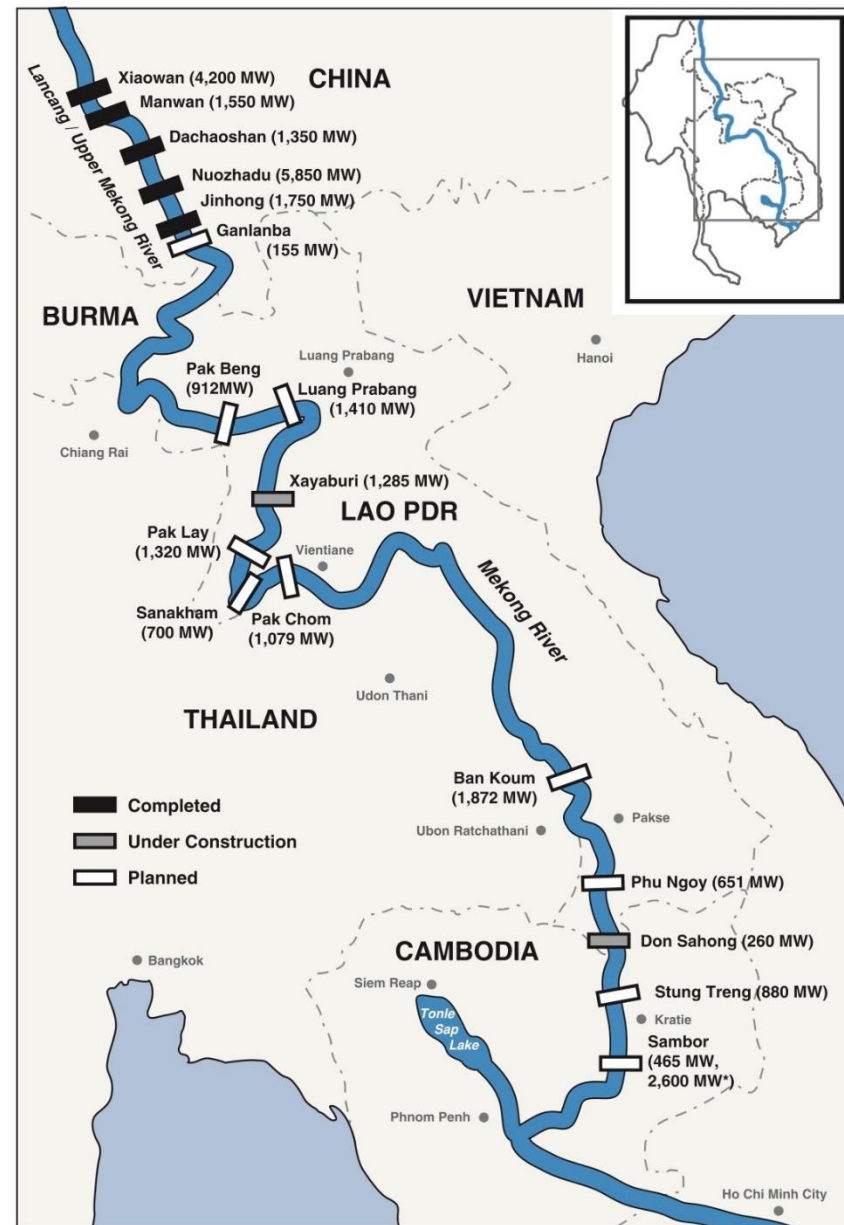
Conflict and Peace related Issues

With regional or transboundary impacts

- 1. Transboundary natural resource and environmental conflicts**
- 2. Cross-border Movements of People and Human Trafficking**
- 3. Security, Ethnicity, Religions, Violent and Armed Conflicts**

An aerial photograph showing a wide river system. On the left, a town with various buildings and a school-like structure is visible. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom right. To the right of the river, a large area of land is flooded, with water reaching the edges of some buildings and fields. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The text 'TRANSBOUNDARY WATER CONFLICTS' is overlaid in the center in white, bold, sans-serif font.

TRANSBOUNDARY WATER CONFLICTS



Source: MRC Strategic Environmental Assessment: ICEM, 2010

*Initially proposed as a 3,300 MW project, 465 MW and 2,600 MW options have also been studied.





The primary problem of large dams is that

- they interfere with the river's hydrology,
- block the spawning migration of highly important catch fisheries.
- Dams also trap nutrient rich sediment needed to replenish farm fields and sustain the Mekong Delta, already one of the world's most threatened coastal zones due to climate change and sea level rise

Lao's position is to be battery of Southeast Asia.

Thailand is the principle source of financing for the Lao projects, and the Electrical Generating Authority of Thailand is the main purchaser of Lao hydropower.

Numerous dams on major tributaries of the river in **Vietnam's Central Highlands** have resulted in destructive impacts in Cambodia as well as in Vietnam's own Mekong Delta.

Cambodia has engaged China's Hydrolancang International Energy Company Ltd., to build the massive Lower Sesan II dam near The confluence of the Sesan and Srepok rivers—two of the Mekong's largest tributaries—and is considering two dams, each 10 to 12 kilometers long, on the mainstream that together could decimate the Fisheries that supply as much 80 percent of the protein and minerals in the diets of millions of people in Cambodia and the Mekong Delta.



The **conflicting national interest perceptions** of the four governments of the MRC countries have already raised tensions and potential conflicts in the region.

Mekong River Commission Governance Structure



Our Dialogue Partners



Government of China



Government of Myanmar




Stop Mekong Dam
หยุดเขื่อนแม่ น้ำโขง





The **Mekong**
River is **not for sale**





The MRC's inability to coordinate development or address serious concerns over the environmental and social impacts of dam projects—as evidenced through its inability to enforce the PNPCA procedures — **has forced civil society groups and other stakeholders to protest, seek legal redress against groups involved in the projects, and find alternative methods of postponing dam construction.**

Cross-border Movements of People and Human Trafficking

Migrants in fishing industry
and EU /IUU Regulation



IUU = Illegal, Unreported and
Unregulated Fishing

What is IUU fishing?

IUU fishing stands for illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing.

The European IUU legislation applies to all fishing vessels, under any flag, in all maritime waters. A fishing vessel is notably presumed to be engaged **in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities** if it is shown to carry out activities in contravention with the conservation and management measures applicable in the area concerned.

This includes, inter alia, fishing without a valid licence, in a closed area, beyond a closed depth or during a closed season, or by using prohibited gear, as well as the failure to fulfil reporting obligations, falsifying its identity, or obstructing the work of inspectors.



21 April 2015, EU gave Thailand yellow card

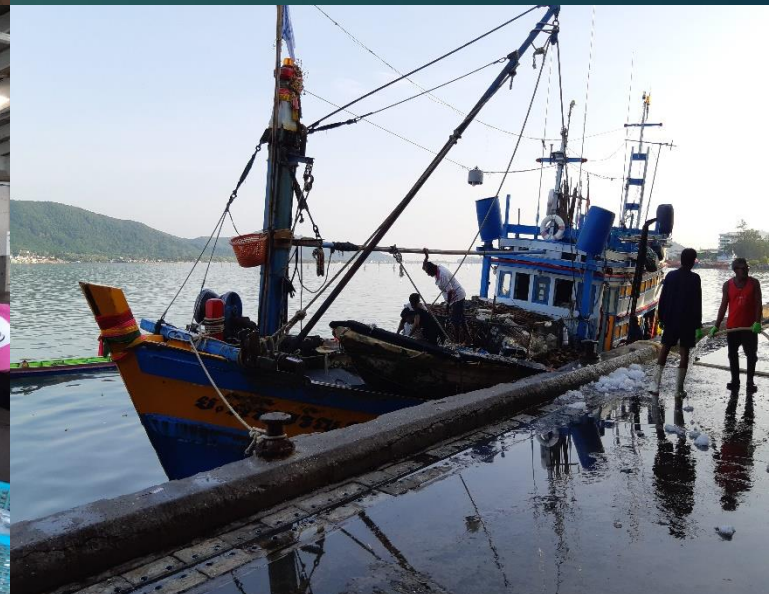
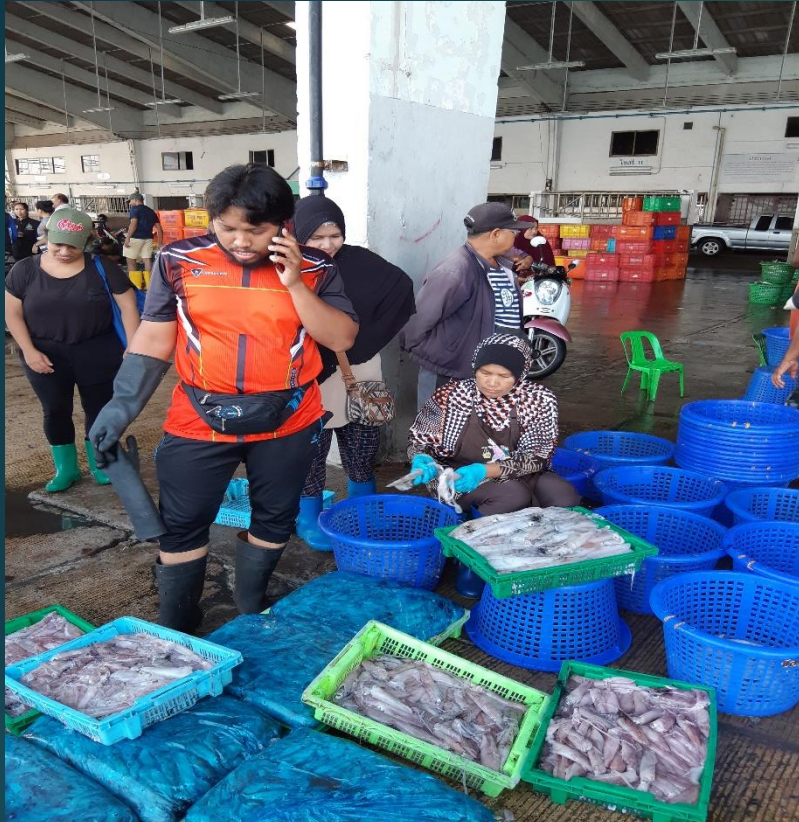
- no concrete action plan**
- human trafficking issues**

- 1. exploitation and not follow labor law (low pay, delay pay, no overtime pay, no holiday, child labor)**
- 2. forced labor (physical and verbal coercion, deceit, no freedom, no access to personal document, debt bondage)**



The exact number of migrant workers and their dependents residing in Thailand from Burma, Cambodia, and Laos is unknown.

The World Bank reported that Thailand has the highest number of migrant workers in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations_ (ASEAN), with 3.76 million in 2015—53 percent from Burma, 26 percent from Laos, and 21 percent from Cambodia.





Wage lower than legal minimum wage, wage cheated and debt bondage by brokers



What are the concrete achievements that led the EU to lift the yellow card of Thailand?

the EU formally announced the lifting of a yellow card for Thailand on 8 January 2019.

The decision to lift the IUU yellow card of Thailand follows the constructive cooperation of Thai authorities with the Commission resulting in a **comprehensive and structural reform of their fisheries legal and policy systems in order to curb illegal fishing.**

Measures taken include:

Comprehensive review of the fisheries legal framework in line with the International Law of the Sea, including a deterrent sanctions schemes;

Full reform of the management of the fleet policy, with sound systems of registration and control of the fishing vessels;

Strengthening of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance tools, including the full coverage with Vessels Monitoring System (VMS) of the industrial fleet and a robust system of inspections at port;

Full implementation of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Port States Measures agreement on foreign-flagged vessels that land their catches in Thai ports to supply the processing industry;

Comprehensive traceability system covering the whole supply chain and all modes of transportation, in line with international standards;



Improved administrative procedures as well as training and political support, leading to proper enforcement of legislation;

Significant reinforcement of the financial and human resources for the fight against IUU fishing.

What is the EU doing to address human trafficking and forced labour in the Thai fisheries sector?

The EU IUU Regulation does not specifically address working conditions on-board fishing vessels, neither human trafficking.

Nonetheless, improvements in the fisheries control and enforcement system on IUU fishing may have a positive impact in the control of labour conditions in the fisheries sector.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

In their relations with one another, the ASEAN Member States have adopted the following fundamental principles, as contained in the [Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia \(TAC\)](#) of 1976:

- Mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, and national identity of all nations;
- The right of every State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion or coercion;
- **Non-interference in the internal affairs of one another;**
- **Settlement of differences or disputes by peaceful manner;**
- Renunciation of the threat or use of force; and
- Effective cooperation among themselves.

Development of ASEAN Mechanism

2003-2004: ASEAN Senior Official Meeting

- Indonesia presented a concept paper entitled “Towards an **ASEAN Security Community**” with strong emphasis on democracy and human rights agenda.
- ASC ensure that ASEAN members live in peace in a just, democratic and harmonious environment.
- Draft ASEAN Security Community Plan of action (ASC POA) explicitly positions democracy and human rights as a “common socio-political values and principles”.

**Jan. 2007: The 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu leaders adopted:
The ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and
Promotion of Rights of Migrant Workers**

**July 2007: The ASEAN Foreign Ministers agreed to set up: The
ASEAN Committee on the Protection and
Promotion of MW**

**Nov. 2007: ASEAN Charter Confirmed ASEAN commitment to
promoting and protecting human rights
and fundamental freedoms**

Feb. 2009: ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint stated to establish ASEAN Human Rights Body by 2009.

Oct. 2009: ASEAN Inter-government Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)

Apr. 2010: ASEAN Commission on Women and Children (ACWC)

Nov. 2012: ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights

July 2015: ASEAN Declaration on Human Trafficking

March 2017: The 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila adopted The ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of MW

THANK YOU