

## ***Call for papers***

### *Water-Food Security in Cambodia and the Vietnam Delta*

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### *Assessing risk and alternatives under an altered flow regime*

#### *Introduction*

Around 60 million people live in the Lower Mekong Basin, of which 40 per cent live in a 15 km-wide corridor along the Mekong mainstream. One third of the population has water related activities as their main occupation and approximately 20 per cent have no second or alternative occupation. The Lower Mekong countries are currently considering hydropower as a solution for their increasing energy needs. The hydropower development has triggered an increasing competition for water resources in the Mekong River Basin that inevitably will affect the food source/ production/ security of the local population.

The hydropower development in the Mekong presents a trade-off in terms of Water-Food-Energy. In a regional workshop in Chiang Rai in March 2013, the Shared Waters Partnership (SWP, a transboundary water programme of UNDP implemented by SIWI) the focus was to identify the risks and vulnerabilities on food security in the Lower Mekong Basin. Recent research was presented that emphasised the threat to food security, primarily through the barriers to fish migration, disturbed ecological flows, and the pressure on land and water resources that intensified usage of the Mekong's water resources will face. Two issues stand out and will be further scrutinised in these workshops: Firstly, the risk of major decline in fisheries in Cambodia as the Tonle Sap system may turn less productive. Secondly, Vietnam will face significant challenges to manage its delta sustainably in the case of alteration/reductions in water flow. In both workshops we will discuss what the challenges are and what can be done to manage them. (See concept note for further elaboration).

#### *Dates & Venue*

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2-3, 2013. Venue TBA.

Can Tho, Vietnam, December 5-6, 2013. Venue TBA.

#### *Organiser*

- SIWI/UNDP Shared Water Partnership
- CDRI, Cambodia's Independent Development Policy Research Institute, Phnom Penh
- The Mekong Delta Development Research Institute, Can Tho University, Can Tho

### Workshop format

SWP will organise two national workshops in Can Tho, Vietnam and Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The workshops are back-to-back, parallel in structure, and feature a similar group of keynote speakers. The national workshops will highlight the challenges that the two countries face in terms of food security. There will be two, one and a half day meetings with international experts in order to address critical and emerging issues. It offers opportunities to present, attend and discuss in high-quality and interactive sessions. If you are interested in presenting at the workshop please see the abstract guideline below. We welcome national and regional research and informed policy pieces. The respective workshops are primarily focusing on the country it is being held in, aiming to reach beyond the research community involving civil society, governments (local and central), donor community, media and others. It is assumed that most participants will chose one of the two workshops depending on their preferences.

### Abstract guideline

Authors may submit papers for oral presentation during the workshops under the following themes emanating from anticipated changes in the water regime:

1. Water access and available land resources, and its impact on food production.
2. Fish production decline and spawning impediments.
3. Health effects and forced changes in dietary patterns.
4. Impact on the irrigation and agricultural production livelihoods.
5. Regional food trade needs, incentives, capacity and/or potential.
6. Strategies and alternatives to contemporary food production.
7. Socio-economic effects and coping strategies.

For the interested authors, please send the abstract to [swp.abstract@siwi.org](mailto:swp.abstract@siwi.org) and indicate which workshop (either Cambodia or Vietnam) is the most relevant for your presentation (or both) by November 15. Please state your institutional base and primary interest in the topic. There is limited funding available for travelling and accommodation. You may submit the funding request no later than October 30, 2013. Please indicate the details of funding that you need.

### Registration

No registration fee is required, but pre-registering is required for all participants. Please register by sending an email to [swp.abstract@siwi.org](mailto:swp.abstract@siwi.org) including your name, affiliated institution, primary interest in the topic and contact information. Limited financial support is available for travelling and accommodation for participants. If you need financial support to travel for the workshop, please specify the necessary support (departure city/airport & whether you need support for accommodation) in your email. You may submit the funding request no later than October 30, 2013.