

Home » News & Events » Events » Second Mekong Climate Change Forum - Adaptation to Climate Change in the Transboundary Context

Second Mekong Climate Change Forum - Adaptation to Climate Change in the Transboundary Context

Siem Reap, Cambodia , 6th Oct 2014

Home to about 60 million people, the Lower Mekong River Basin has experienced rapid development, urbanisation and population growth which have adverse effects on the Mekong resources and populations who depend on them. Climate change has increasingly placed burdens on the environment and the people. For example rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall are bringing drought to some areas and flooding to others. The Mekong Delta is experiencing sea level rise and increasing saltwater intrusion to its ecosystems and farmland. Extreme weather events such as typhoons are increasing in frequency and severity, destroying homes, infrastructure, livestock and crops.

Adaptation measures can help vulnerable communities and governments to better deal with such changing climate conditions and thus reduce consequences on people's livelihoods, ecosystems and the economy.

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) will hold a three-day forum for government officials, academics, experts as well as representatives from river basin organisations, the Development Partners of the MRC, development agencies, civil society and the private sector to share and exchange their knowledge, experience and progress in undertaking measures to adapt to changing climate. As particular attention will be given to efforts to deal with transboundary effects of climate change, the forum will be a good opportunity for stakeholders to exchange ideas on how to scale down regional adaptation strategies and apply them to the national context.

This is the second MRC regional platform on climate change following the first forum held in February 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. In recent years, the MRC has also facilitated a number of gatherings amongst climate change practitioners and stakeholders to exchange knowledge and share lessons learnt.

Key Topics: The Forum will explore the following topics:

- State of knowledge on climate change and climate change impacts and vulnerability in the Lower Mekong Basin
- Climate change adaptation in the Lower Mekong Basin: policies, strategies and actions on the ground
- Transboundary adaptation needs and approaches in the Lower Mekong Basin
- A synergy between the national and transboundary adaptation

Expected Outcomes: The Forum aims to achieve the following results:

1. Enhanced understanding on up-to-date approaches and actions to address transboundary impacts of climate change in the Lower Mekong Basin;
2. Increased dialogue, exchange of knowledge and experience within the Mekong and with other transboundary river basins;
3. Input to the preparation of the 1st Report on Status of Climate Change and Adaptation in the Lower Mekong Basin;
4. Input to the preparation of the Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan; and,
5. A forum proceeding which summarises knowledge and experiences discussed and shared during the Forum.

Exhibition: The Forum will feature a poster exhibition, including a selected number of examples to demonstrate various aspects of the Forum's themes related to climate change adaptation in the transboundary context of the Mekong region. If you are interested in having your poster displayed at the exhibition, please contact Ms Tatirose Vijitpan, Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative Programme Officer, at tatirose@mrcmekong.org.

Open Participation: Participation in the Forum is open to those working on climate change in the Mekong region who have a professional interest in the theme(s) of the Forum. As the Forum does not provide any financial support, participants who would like to join the event will have to bear the full cost of travel, accommodation and meals themselves. Lunch will be provided throughout the event and a reception dinner will also be served on the evening of 6 October 2014.

Working Language: The working language for the Forum is English.

Programme and Documentation: The forum provisional agenda can be found [here](#). Background documents will be made available soon on this page.

Accommodation: A list of suggested hotels in Siem Reap that offer special rates to delegates attending the Forum is now available [here](#). Please be reminded that delegates are kindly advised to make their own reservation and arrangement directly with their preferred hotel.

Date and Venue: The Forum will be held from 6th – 8th October 2014 at Apsara Angkor Resort and Conference Center, in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Registration and Contact Details: Registration to the Forum is **NOW CLOSE**. We have received a large number of applications and are now making a selection. We will confirm all the delegates who sent us their registration form very soon on the selection result. The MRC Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your interest in the forum.

For further information please contact:

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