



**Mekong River Commission**

# **Weekly Wet Season Situation Report in the Lower Mekong River Basin 24-30 October 2023**

Prepared by  
The Regional Flood and Drought Management Centre  
31 October 2023

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## Key Messages

Key messages for this weekly report are presented below:

### Rainfall and its forecast

- Rainfall focused in the areas from Chiang Saen in Thailand to Tan Chau and Chau Doc in Viet Nam, including the upper, middle and lower parts of the LMB covering Lao PDR and Cambodia, varying from 2.70 millimetres (mm) to 147.10 mm.
- There will be average to heavy rainfall for the next 5 days over the Mekong region from 31 October to 04 November 2023 since there will be an influencing by ITCZ band sifting southward and northeasterly wind from China with active tropical disturbance from western Pacific toward the Mekong region.

### Water level and its forecast

- According to MRC's observed water level at Jinghong, it showed fluctuating water levels between 536.06 m and 536.76 m during 24-30 October 2023. The current level is staying about 0.59 m higher than its LTA value. The outflow at Jinghong station varied between 1,410.00 m<sup>3</sup>/s and 1,950.00 m<sup>3</sup>/s between 24 and 30 October 2023.
- With the fluctuated outflow from Jinghong upstream and rainfall at catchment inflow, water levels of monitoring stations at Chiang Saen in Thailand increased about 0.31 m from 24 to 30 October 2023, staying about 1.51 m lower than its LTA level. Water level at Xieng Kok upstream of Chiang Saen increased about 0.55 m.
- Water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand from 24 to 30 October 2023 increased about 0.17 m and stayed about 0.30 m higher than its LTA value, while water level at Vientiane decreased about 0.32 m staying about 0.26 higher than its LTA level. Water levels at Nong Khai decreased 0.62 m and stayed about 1.21 m lower than its LTA, while at Paksane it decreased about 1.11 m, staying about 1.17 m lower than its LTA value. Water levels at these stations generally are considered normal.
- Water levels from Nakhon Phanom to Pakse decreased from 0.85 m to 1.24 m, due to the contribution of low rainfalls and inflows from upstream. The current water levels at Nakhon Phanom, Khong Chiam and Pakse stations are staying higher than their LTA value while at Thakhek, Mukdahan and Savannakhet the water levels are lower than their LTA values, considering normal.
- From the stretches of the river at Stung Treng, water levels decreased about 0.45 m and stayed 0.45 m higher than its LTA values, while at Kratie the water levels decreased about 1.24 m and stayed 0.92 m higher than their LTA values, which were considered normal. Water level at Kompong Cham is about 0.25 m lower than its LTA value.

- The water volume of the Tonle Sap Lake was lower than its LTA (about 79%) during the same period from 24 to 30 October 2023, which is considered low. Outflow of the Tonle Sap Lake was being started on 22<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- Water levels from downstream at Chaktomuk, Phnom Penh Port and Prek Kdam on the Tonle Sap River and Koh Khel on the Bassac River in Cambodia decreased between 0.28 m and 0.50 m, staying lower than their LTA level excepted at Kho Khel the water level is stayed higher than its LTA level.
- The current water levels for some stations are lower than their LTA value. WLs at the 2 tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc were fluctuating and lower than their LTA value, due to tidal effect during this monitoring period, considered critical.
- Over the next five days, the water levels at the upper part, the water levels will rise but at the middle and lower parts from Paksane to Stung Treng and Kratie will go down due to average rainfall and dam/reservoir operations upstream, while at downstream from Phnom Penh down to the Mekong floodplain area they are also going to fall.

#### ***Drought condition and its forecast***

- During **Oct 23 to 29**, the LMB was facing some moderate drought caused by dry soil moisture in the north of the region covering only Lao PDR. They took place in Phongsaly, Vientiane, Xaysomboun, Borikhamxay, and Khammuane. No threat was found for Viet Nam. No meteorological drought was found for the week. The conditions were better than the previous week from Oct 16 to 22.
- The monthly drought forecast shows that in October and November the LMB is likely wet in the north and east while normal in other areas. During December, normal and wet conditions are forecasted for the region with some moderate drought covering Thailand's Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Kalasin, and Sakon Nakhon in the north and centre and Cambodia's Otdar Meanchey, Siem Reap and Preah Vihear in the south.

# 1 Introduction

This Weekly Wet Season Situation Report presents a preliminary analysis of the weekly hydrological and drought situation in the Lower Mekong River Basin (LMB) for the period from **24 to 30 October 2023**. The trend and outlook for water levels are also presented.

This analysis is based on the daily hydro-meteorological data provided by the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Member Countries (MCs) – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam – and on satellite data. All the water levels indicated in this report refer to an above zero gauge of each station.

The report covers the following topics that are updated weekly:

- General weather patterns, including rainfall patterns over the LMB
- Water levels in the LMB, including in the Tonle Sap Lake
- Flash flood and drought situation in the LMB
- Weather, water level and flash flood forecast, and
- Possible implications.

Mekong River water levels are updated daily and can be accessed from:  
[http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin\\_wet.php](http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin_wet.php).

Drought monitoring and forecasting information is available at:  
<http://droughtforecast.mrcmekong.org>

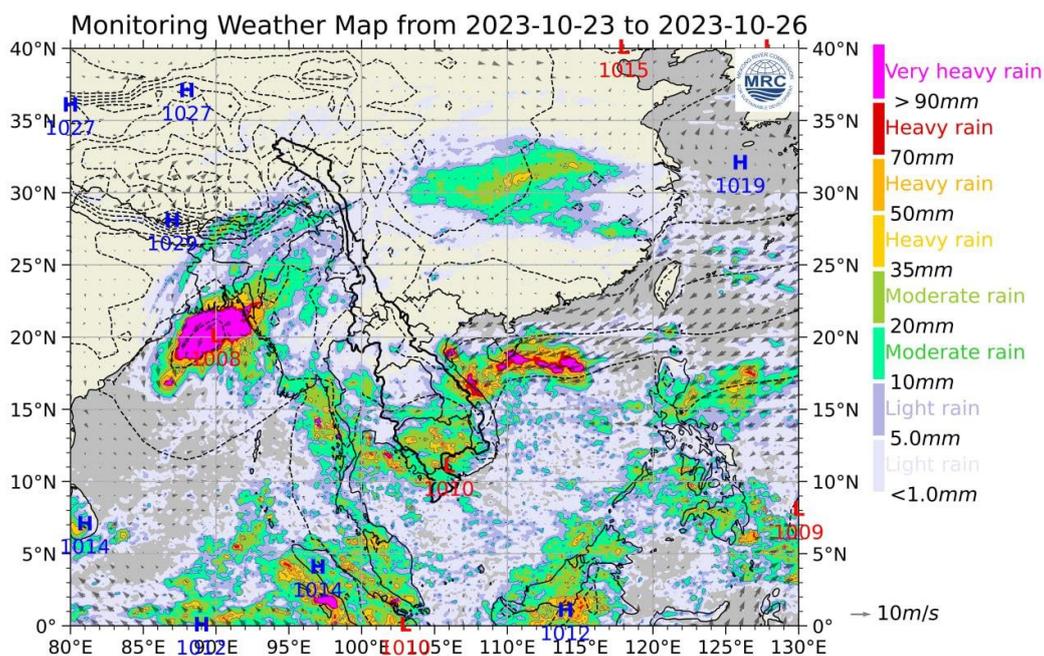
Flash flood information is accessible at: <http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/ffg.php>

## 2 General Weather Patterns

The weather outlook bulletins for three months (October, November, December) and the weather maps issued by the Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) were used to verify weather conditions in the LMB.

Since the beginning of October 2023, moderate to heavy rainfall has dropped over the LMB with increasing trend of water levels in both mainstream and tributaries. The data from the TMD predict that October and November 2023, moderate high-pressure system from China will extend to upper Thailand and the East-Sea of Viet Nam. Moderate to heavy rains, strong wind and increasing temperature are likely to take place in the upper part of LMB. Temperature will increase in the northeast and then move to other places of the region in August. The monsoon trough lies across the LMB throughout the period with rainfall and isolated heavy rains in the upper and middle parts from Chaing Saen to Pakse.

[Figure 1](#) presents the weather map during 23-26 October 2023, indicating that a high-pressure cell was active in the East-Sea of Viet Nam, having rainfall impact on the LMB area. Generally, the Mekong region was influenced by ITCZ band sifting southward and the high-pressure system pushed from China until central Viet Nam. Under this weather condition, moderate to heavy rainfall occurred from central to southern and eastern parts of LMB, especially over southern Lao PDR, 3S basin, most part of Cambodia, and central to southern parts of Viet Nam.



**Figure 1.** Summary of weather conditions over the LMB.

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), the highest probability of wet condition is predicted over the lower part of the Mekong region from 30 October to 12 November 2023. Therefore, the Mekong region is likely dominated by wet condition, which may bring moderate rainfall and warm temperatures in general to the upper and lower parts of the LMB. **Figure 2** shows the outlook of weather condition from 30 October to 12 November 2023 in Southeast Asia based on results from the NCEP model (National Centres for Environmental Prediction).

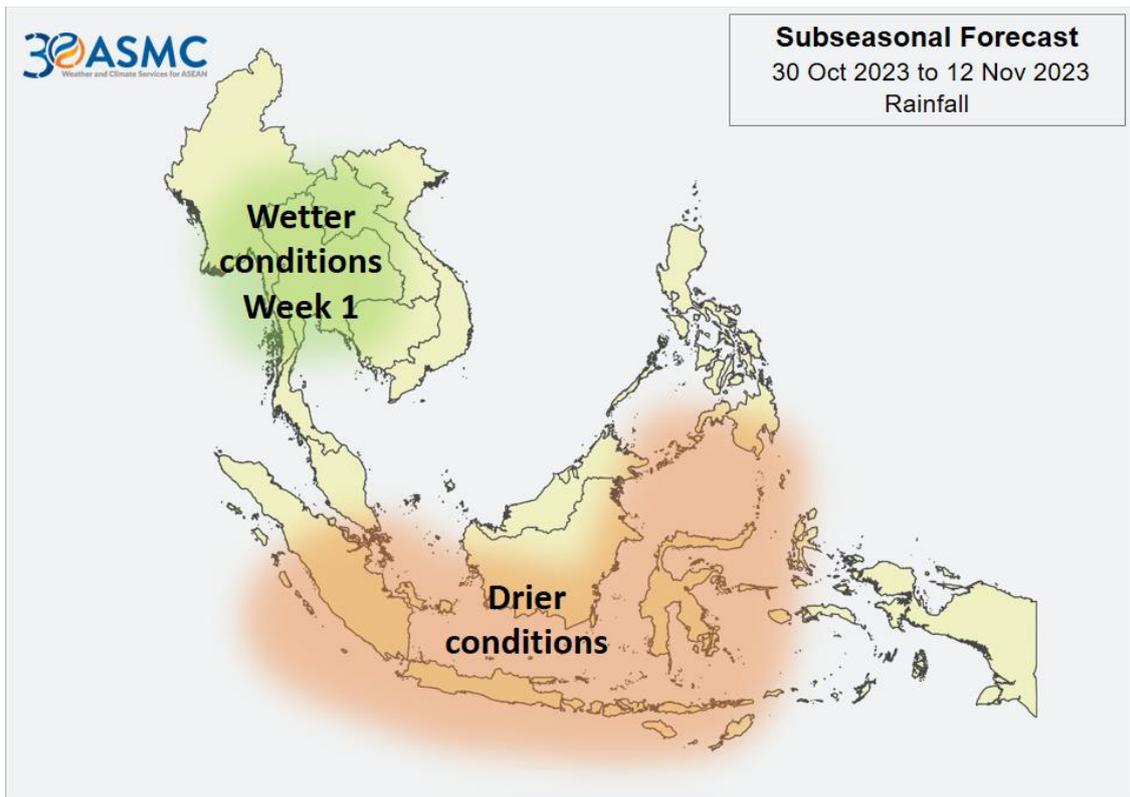


Figure 2. Outlook of wet and dry conditions over the Asian countries by ASMC.

### 2.1 Tropical depressions (TD), tropical storms (TS) and typhoons (TY)

There was not any movement of any storm from the sea to the LMB of a tropical storm in the LMB, during 24-30 Oct 2023. However, low-pressure influenced by ITCZ band sifting southward and northeasterly wind from China was observed over the Mekong region, as shown in [Figure 1](#). The active system for the LMB on October 30 is displayed in [Figure 3](#).

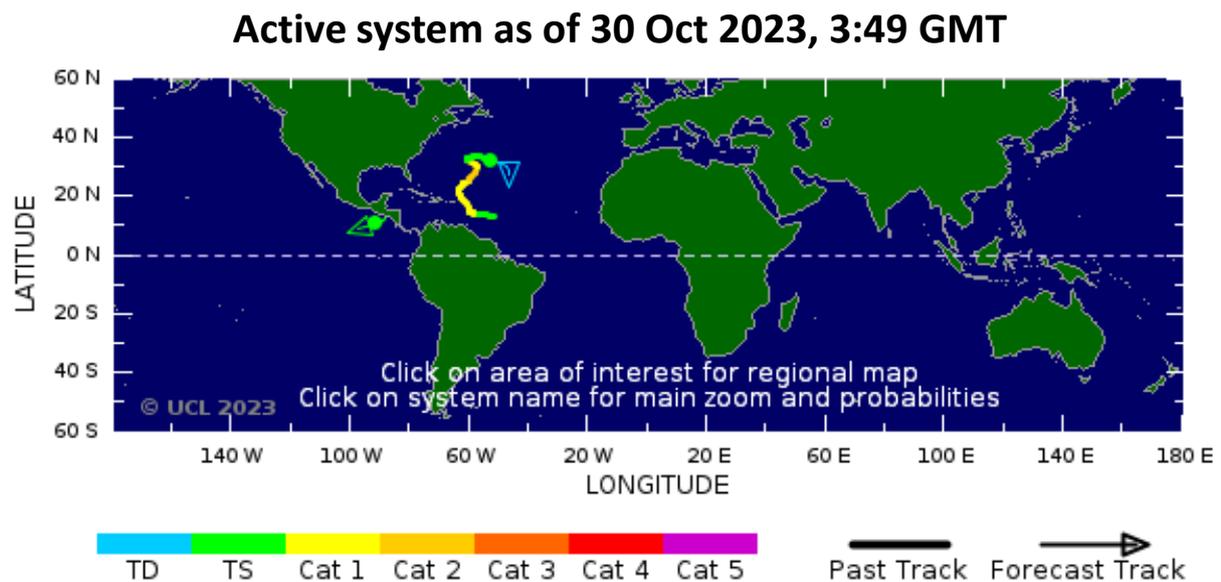
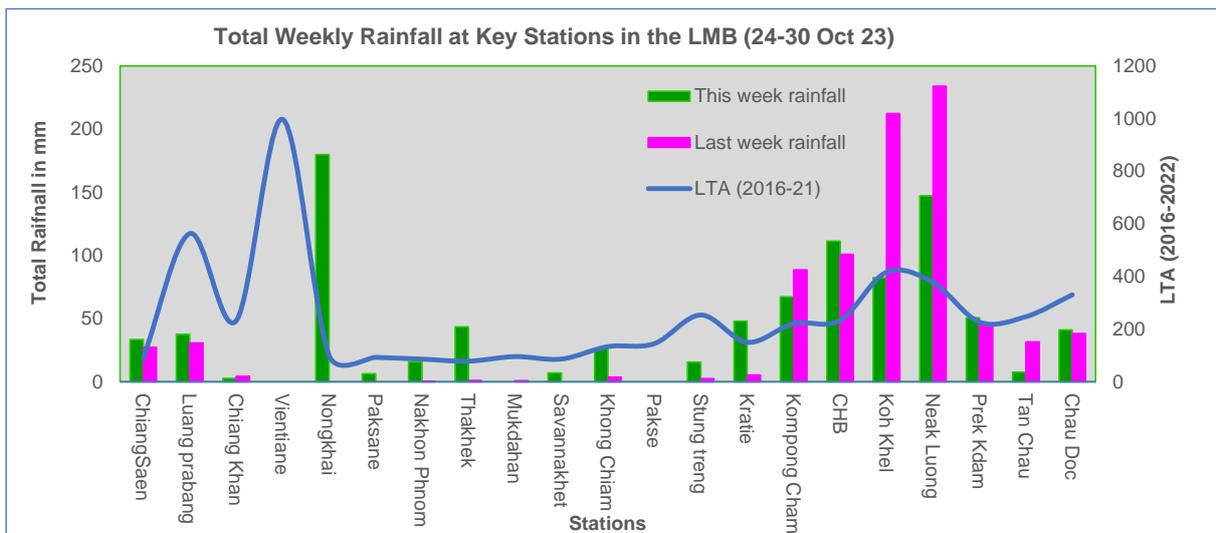


Figure 3. A tropical depression risk observed on 30 October 2023.

## 2.2 Rainfall patterns over the LMB

This week from 24 to 30 Oct 2023, rainfall was observed at the key stations along the mainstream from Chiang Saen in Thailand to the lower part stations in Cambodia and Tan Chau and Chau Doc in Viet Nam of the Lower Mekong Basin, varied from 2.70 mm to 147.10 mm. The highest rainfall of this week report was recorded at Nong Khai in Thailand reaching to 179.80 mm. The total rainfall of this week report in the Mekong region, compared with last week and its long-term-average (LTA) is shown in [Figure 4](#). The total rainfall of this week was considered low for the upper and middle parts but higher for lower part in the LMB, compared with its last week rainfall in most of the stations.



**Figure 4.** Weekly total rainfall at key stations in the LMB during 24-30 October 2023.

To verify area rainfall distribution, [Figure 5](#) shows a map of the weekly accumulated rainfall based on observed data provided by the MRC Member Countries – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam – from 24 to 30 Oct 2023.

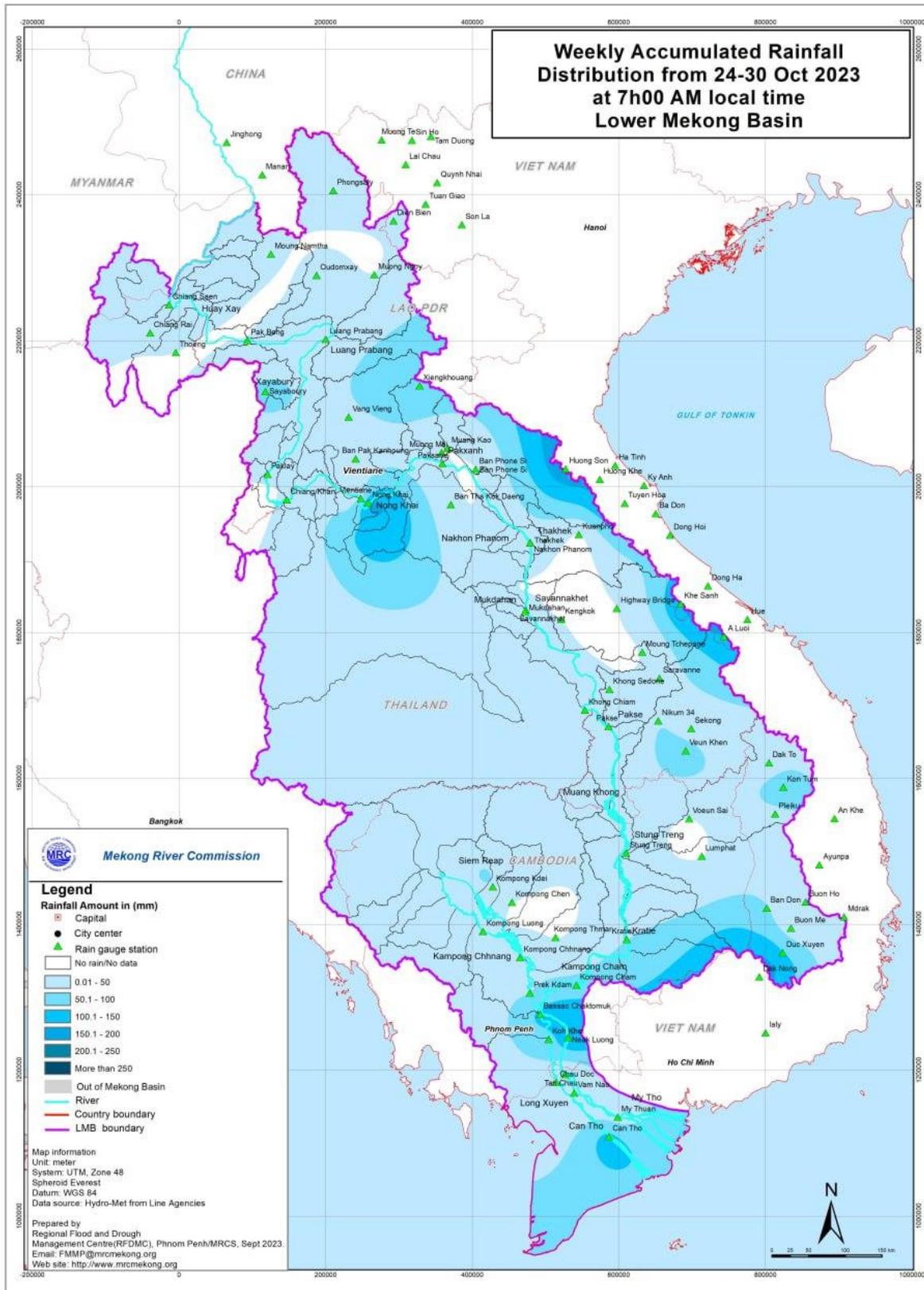
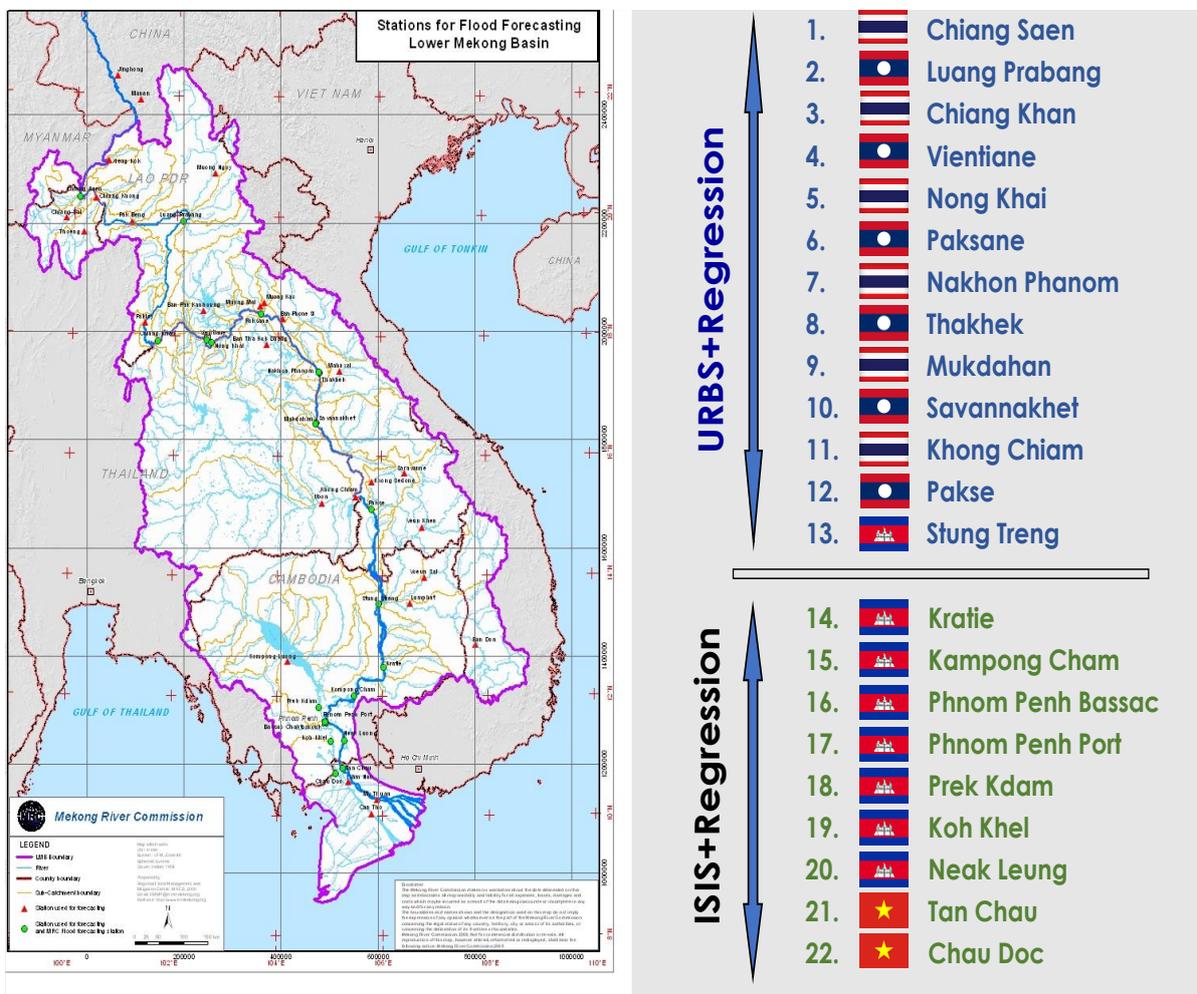


Figure 5. Weekly rainfall distribution over the LMB during 24-30 October 2023.

### 3 Water Levels in the Lower Mekong Basin

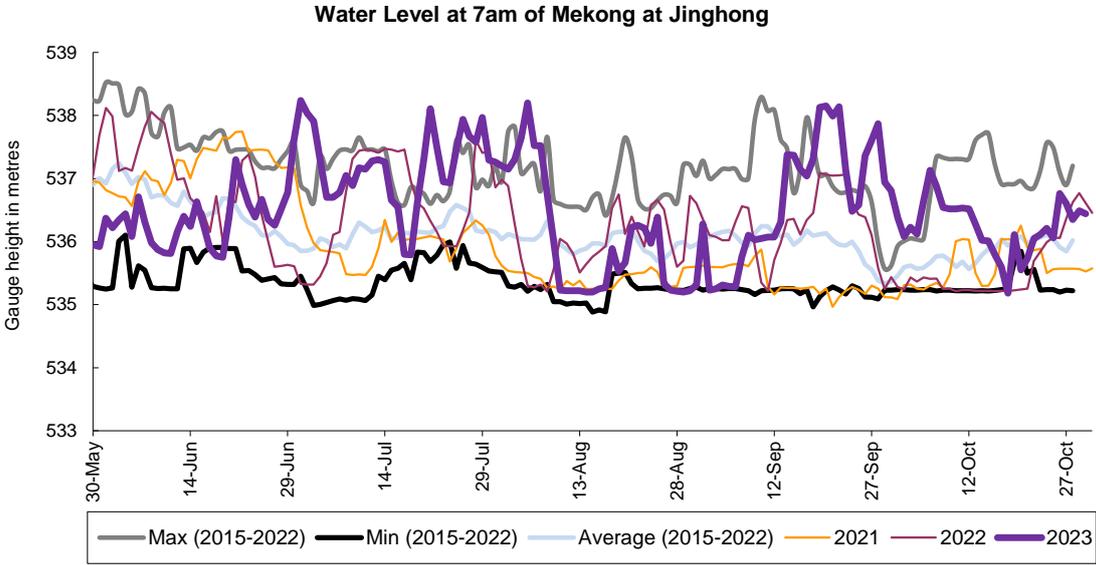
The hydrological regimes of the Mekong mainstream are illustrated by recorded water levels and flows at key mainstream stations: at Chiang Saen in Thailand to capture mainstream flows entering from the Upper Mekong Basin (UMB); at Vientiane in Lao PDR to present flows generated by climate conditions in the upper part of the LMB; at Pakse in Lao PDR to investigate flows influenced by inflows from the larger Mekong tributaries; at Kratie in Cambodia to capture overall flows of the Mekong Basin; and at Viet Nam’s Tan Chau and Chau Doc to monitor flows to the Delta.

The key stations along the LMB and their respective model application for River Flood Forecasting during the wet season from June to October and River Monitoring during the dry season from November to May are presented in [Figure 6](#). The hydrograph for each key station is available from the MRC’s River Flood Forecasting: <http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/overview.php>. The weekly water levels and rainfall at each key station are summarised in [Annex A](#).



**Figure 6.** Key stations and model application for River Monitoring and Flood Forecasting.

According to MRC’s observed water level at Jinghong, it showed fluctuated levels between **536.06 m** and **536.76 m** during 24-30 October 2023 (recorded on 7:00 am). The current level is staying about 0.59 m still higher than its LTA value (max: 2015-2022). The outflow at Jinghong station varied between 1,410.00 m<sup>3</sup>/s and 1,950.00 m<sup>3</sup>/s from 24 to 30 October 2023. [Figure 7](#) below presents water level that decreased at the Jinghong hydrological station<sup>1</sup>, indicating the trend of fluctuating water level up to 30 October 2023.



**Figure 7.** Water level at the Jinghong hydrological station up to 30 October 2023.

With the fluctuated outflow from Jinghong upstream, water levels of monitoring stations at Xieng Kok in Lao PDR, upper of Chiang Saen, showed an increased water level about 0.55 m; while at Chiang Saen in Thailand it showed an increase of about 0.31 m from 24 to 30 October 2023, staying about 2.01 m lower than its LTA level and **considered low**.

Water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand from 24 to 30 Oct 2023, moreover, increased about 0.17 m and stayed about 0.30 m higher than its LTA value; while water level at Vientiane station decreased about 0.32 m and still stayed about 0.26 higher than its LTA level, which was **considered normal**. Water levels at Nong Khai decreased about 0.62 m, staying 1.21 m lower than its LTA value. For Paksane it decreased about 1.11 m due to impacted rainfall and hydropower operation from upstream, staying about 1.17 m lower than their LTA value, **which was still considered low**.

Water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand to Pakse in Lao PDR decreased between 0.85 m and 1.17 m, but still water levels at Nakhon Phanom, Khong Chaim and Pakse were stayed higher than their LTA values, **considered normal**. From the stretches of the river at Stung Treng, water level decreased 0.45 m and stayed about 0.45 m higher than its LTA, while at Kratie water level was down about 1.24 m, staying 0.92 m higher than its LTA level, **considered normal**.

<sup>1</sup> Near-real time data of hydro-meteorological monitoring at the Jinghong hydrological station is available at <https://portal.mrcmekong.org/monitoring/river-monitoring-telemetry>.

Water level at Kompong Cham was down about 0.96 m and stayed 0.25 m lower than its LTA value. Water levels at Chaktomuk, Koh Khel, Phnom Penh Port and Prek Kdam in Cambodia down between 0.28 m and 0.49 m. Water levels at these stations were still lower than their LTA level, excepted at Koh Khel the water level is slightly higher than its LTA value **considering normal**.

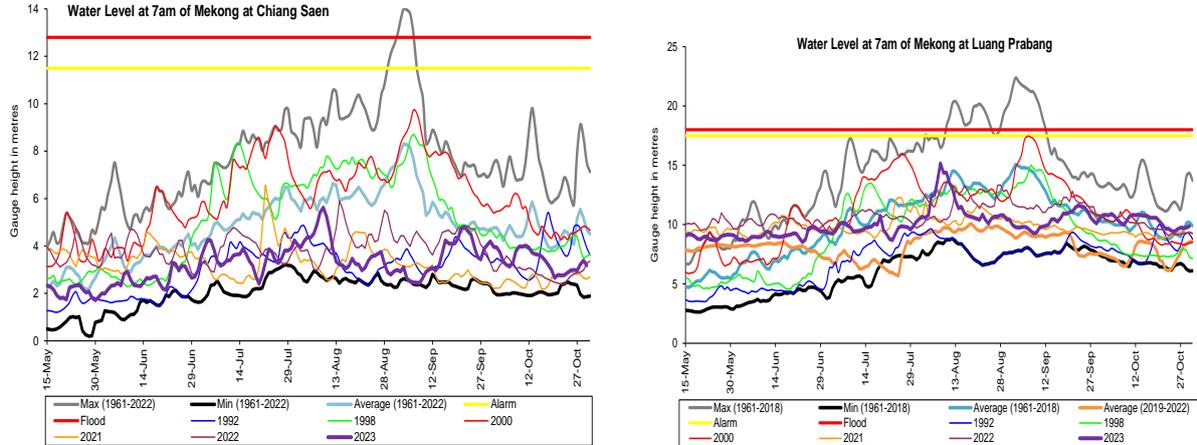
The current water levels at stations from Chiang Khan, Vientiane, Nakhon Phanom, Khong Chiam, Pakse, Stung Treng, Kratie and Koh Khel are staying higher than their LTA values, during this week report. The tidal stations at Tan Chua and Chau Doc had WLS lower than their LTA value, due to tidal effect during this monitoring period.

Based on hydrological phenomenon, the contribution of inflow water from the upstream of Lancang-Mekong in China to the Mekong mainstream is from 16% to 18% in total during the wet season from June to October. The whole inflow of water into the LMB is influenced by rainfall at the Mekong mainstream and its tributaries during the wet season.

**Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang**

The water level from 24 to 30 Oct 2023 at Thailand’s Chiang Saen station increased from 2.87 m to 3.18 m, showing 1.51 m lower than its Long-Term-Average (LTA) value, which considered low. The water level at Luang Prabang station in Lao PDR increased about 0.42 m during the reporting period. This level still shows 0.32 lower than its LTA. The trend – sometimes higher or lower to its historical maximum and LTA values – has been observed since early of 2022. The phenomenon was potentially caused by upstream dam operations, downstream Xayaburi dam, and heavy rainfall in the surrounding areas. The water levels at Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang are shown in [Figure 8](#) below.

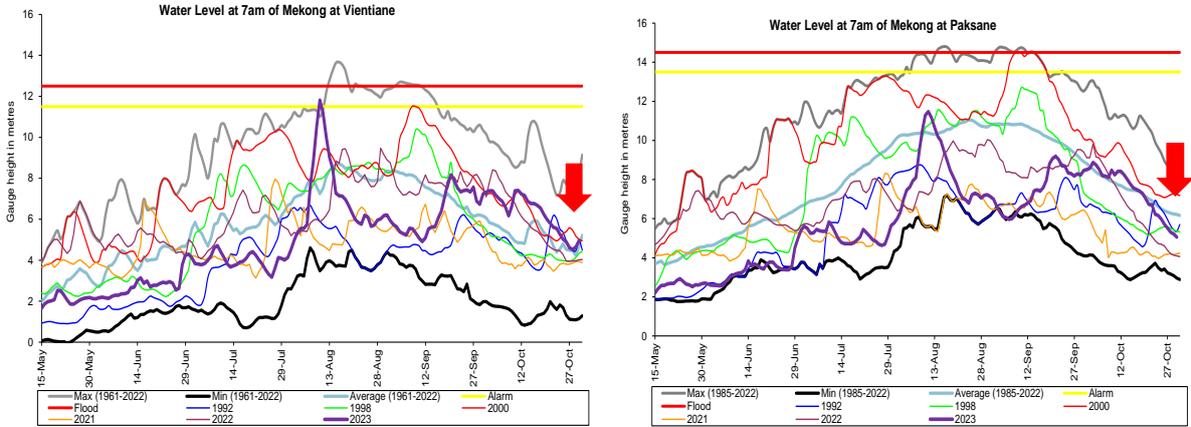
Being situated between the upstream (Nam Beng, Nam Ou, Nam Suong, and Nam Khan) and downstream (Xayaburi) hydropower dams, the Luang Prabang station has a unique characteristic as it is influenced by the operations of all its surrounding dams. **Thus, the water level at this station can possibly change very rapidly during the early of wet and dry season.**



**Figure 8.** Water levels at Chiang Saen in Thailand and Luang Prabang in Lao PDR.

**Chiang Khan, Vientiane-Nong Khai and Paksane**

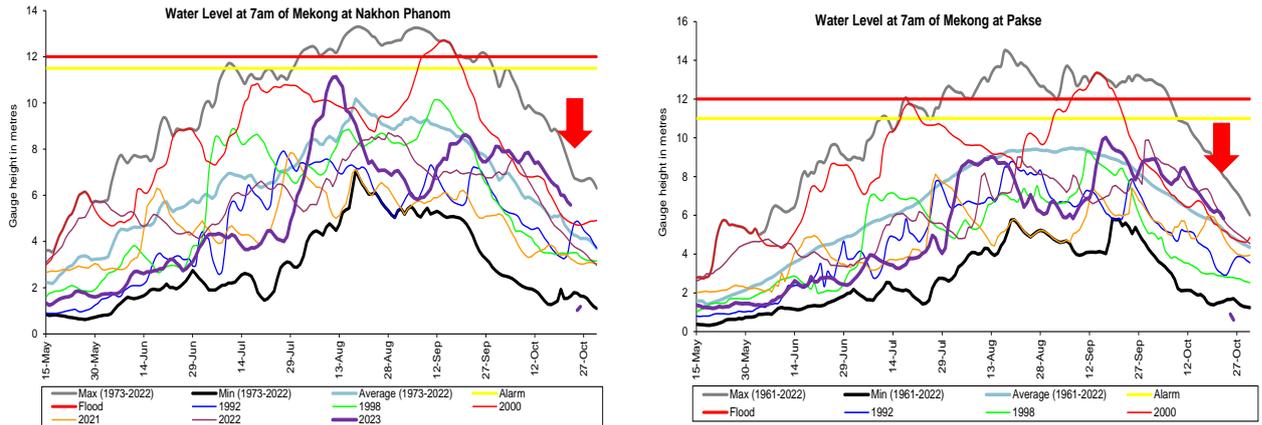
The water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand (downstream of the Xayaburi dam) increased about 0.17 m and still staying about 0.30 m higher than its LTA value. At Vientiane in Lao PDR, it decreased about 0.32 m and showed 0.26 m higher than its LTA during the reporting week of 24-30 Oct 2023. At Nong Khai station in Thailand, the water level was down about 0.62 m from 4.72 m to 4.10 m, staying about 1.21 m lower than its LTA value, during the reporting period. At Paksane in Lao PDR, water level decreased about 1.11 m on the same period of the report. The water level at this station was about 1.17 m lower than its LTA value. The recently decreased water levels at Paksane were obviously due to low rainfalls contributed from the sub-catchment area along with the inflows and reservoir operation in the upstream part. The water levels at Vientiane and Paksane are shown in [Figure 9](#) below.



**Figure 9.** Water levels Veintiane and Paksane in Lao PDR.

**Nakhon Phanom to Pakse**

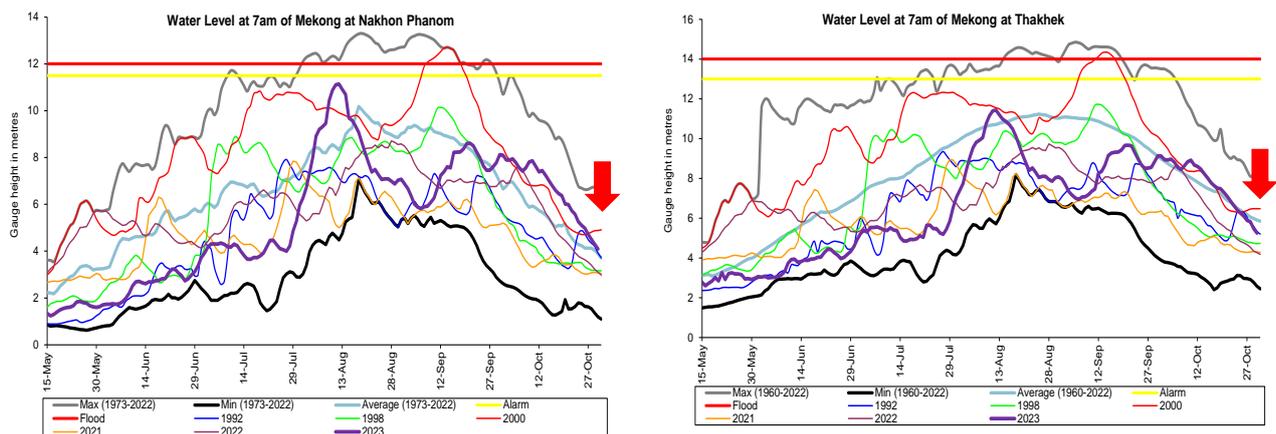
The water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand to Pakse in Lao PDR decreased between 0.85 m and 1.24 m, still showing water levels at Nakhon Phanom, Khong Chiam and Pakse were higher than their LTA values while at Thakhek, Mukdaha and Savannakhet the water levels were lower than their LTA value. The current water levels are considered as normal. [Figure 10](#) shows the water levels at Nakhon Phanom and Pakse stations.



**Figure 10.** Weekly water levels at Nakhon Phanom in Thailand and Pakse in Lao PDR

### Stung Treng to Kompong Cham/Phnom Penh to Koh Khel/Neak Luong/Prek Kdam

Following the same trend and rainfall from the upstream part of the Mekong River and the 3S river (Sekong, Se San, and Sre Pok), the water levels from Stung Treng to Kratie in Cambodia were decreasing during 24-30 Oct 2023. The water levels at Stung Treng decreased about 0.45 m and still stayed about 0.45 m higher than its LTA, while at Kratie it decreased about 1.24 m, staying about 0.92 m higher than its LTA (as showed in [Figure 11](#)). The water level at Kompong Cham station decreased about 0.96 m and was about 0.25 m lower than its LTA. The water levels at these stations were influenced by rainfall in their catchment areas, including Sekong, Se San and Srepok river basins.



**Figure 11.** Water levels at Stung Treng and Kratie on the Mekong River.

At Chaktomuk on the Bassac River, due to average rainfall and contributed flows from upstream catchment, the water level decreased by about 0.35 m and stayed 0.82 m lower than its LTA value; while at Koh Khel, water level decreased about 0.32 m, staying 0.13 m higher than its LTA value. The water level at Prek Kdam on the Tonle Sap Lake decreased about 0.28 m and was about 0.46 m lower than its LTA value. The water level at the Tonle Sap Lake (observed at Kampong Luong) was similar to Prek Kdam station's water level. The recently

decreased water level at Prek Kdam was due to low-average rainfall and inflow contributed from upstream of the Tonle Sap Lake area during the reporting period. The water level at the Tonle Sap Lake (observed at Kampong Luong) followed the same trend of Prek Kdam station's water level. From next week, **water levels at most of the stations will continue to fall, considered normal.**

### **Tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc**

Like last week, the water levels from 24 to 30 October 2023 at Viet Nam's Tan Chau and Chau Doc were increased due to daily tidal effects from the sea. The increased levels were between 2.71 m and 2.91 m; they were below the range of their LTA level but close to their Alarm levels which **considered normal**. Based on long time observation, WL at Tan Chau, there is a strong tidal influence up to 2.97 m gauge height but above this height, the influence of the tide decreases greatly. Similarly, at Tan Chau, the influence of the tide at Chau Doc starts to decrease rapidly when the water level is above 2.90 m.

### **The Tonle Sap Flow**

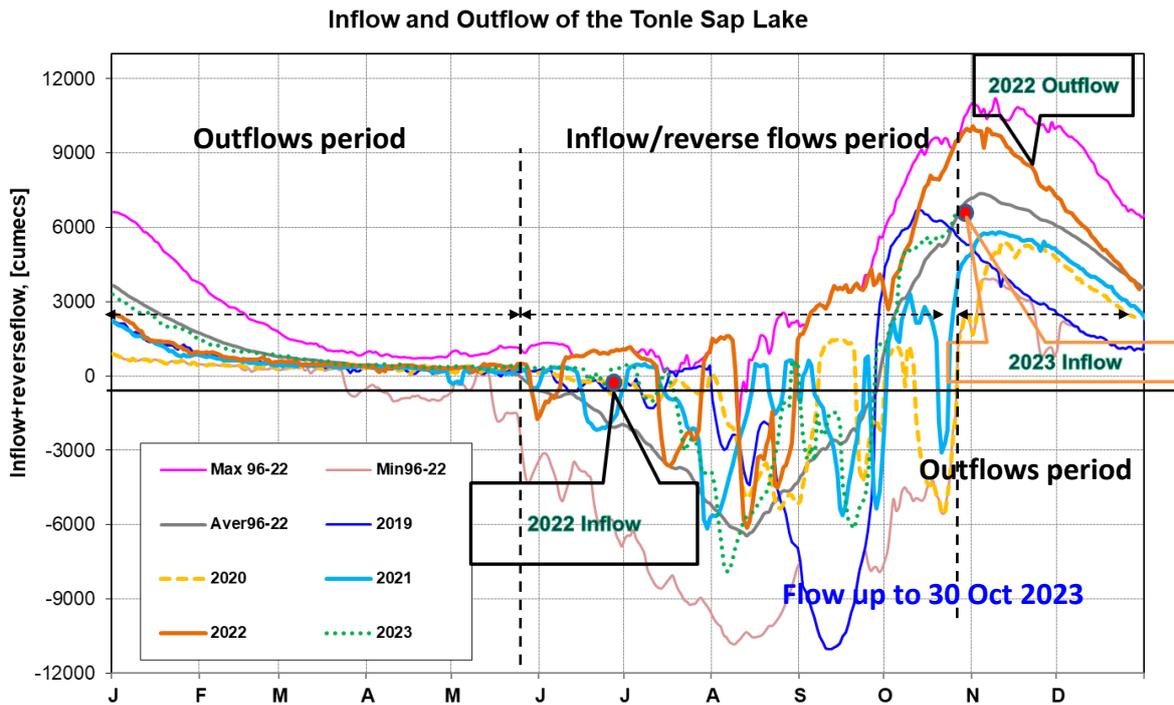
At the end of the dry season, when water levels along the Mekong River rise then the inflows of the Mekong River return to the Tonle Sap Lake. This phenomenon normally takes place from end of May to July. Based on flow observation at Prek Kdam, the outflow from the Tonle Sap Lake back into the Mekong River was began **since 22 October 2023.**

The flows of the Tonle Sap Lake were calculated based on a formula of rating-curves by different water levels at Kompong Luong and Phnom Penh Port for slop and Prek Kdam as cross-section of the Lake. The formula of flows at the Tonle Sap Lake is as follows:

$$\text{Flows} = (\text{WL at Prek Kdam})^{1.2} * \text{SQRT} (\text{WL difference between PP port and Kampong Luong})$$

Where, WL is water level in m (msl).

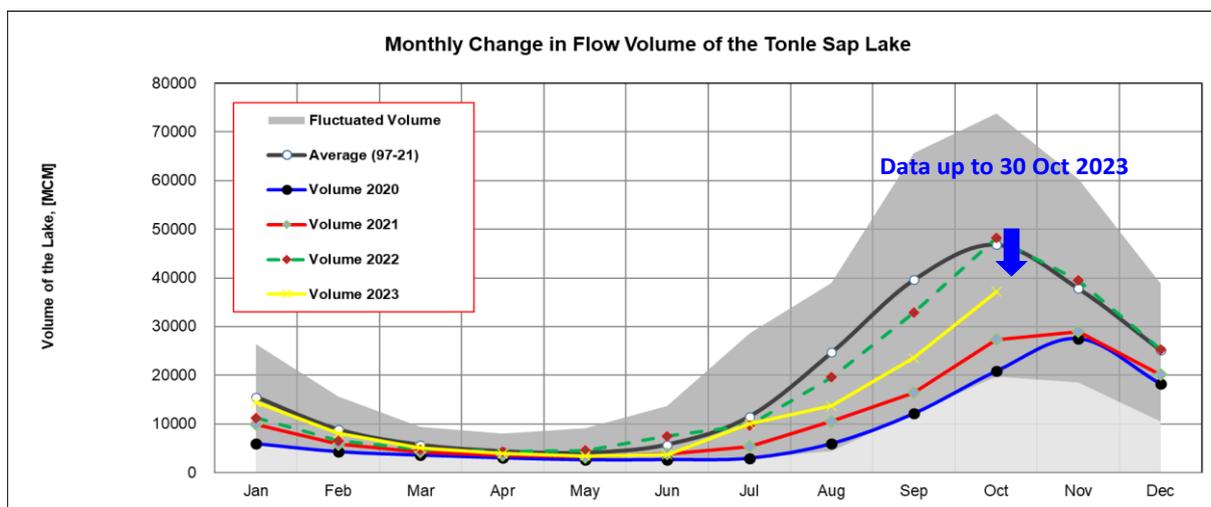
[Figure 12](#) shows the seasonal changes of the outflow and the inflow/reversed flow of the TSL at Prek Kdam in comparison with the flows of 2020, 2011, 2022 and their LTA level (1997-2022). Up to October 30 of this reporting period, it was observed that the main outflow from the Tonle Sap Lake increased due to moderate rainfall and inflows from upstream. This increased inflow into the Tonle Sap Lake was most likely caused by inflows and rainfall from the catchment area. Up to present, the inflow from the Tonle Sap Lake condition in 2023 is higher than 2020 and 2021 but lower than 2022 and its LTA (1997-2022) inflow conditions. For next week, moderate rainfall is forecasted for the Tonle Sap area; and the inflow into the Tonle Sap Lake is likely expected to go slightly up from the current level.



**Figure 12.** Seasonal change of inflows and outflows of Tonle Sap Lake

[Figure 13](#) shows seasonal changes in monthly flow volumes up to 30 October 2023 for the Lake compared with the volumes in 2020, 2021, 2022 and their LTA, and the fluctuation levels (1997–2022). It shows that up to October 30, **the water volume of the Tonle Sap Lake was higher than 2020, 2021 but lower than 2022 and its LTA (about 79%), during the same period.** The figure is displayed in [Table 1](#), which indicates that the Tonle Sap Lake has been affected by water levels from the tributaries and rainfall in the surrounding sub-catchments and **considered normal situation.**

This demonstrates the influence of the relationships of the reverse and out flows, water levels of the Mekong River, inflows from tributaries, and the flow direction in the complex hydraulic environment of the Tonle Sap Lake during the wet and dry seasons. The data show that about half of the annual inflow volume into the Tonle Sap Lake has originated from the Mekong mainstream. Thus, flow alterations in the mainstream could have direct impact on the Tonle Sap Lake water levels and on its hydrology.



**Figure 13.** The seasonal change in monthly flow volume of Tonle Sap Lake.

**Table 1.** The monthly change in the flow volume of Tonle Sap Lake.

Month	LTA (97-22) [MCM]	Max Volume [MCM]	Min Volume [MCM]	Volume 2019 [MCM]	Volume 2020 [MCM]	Volume 2021 [MCM]	Volume 2022 [MCM]	Volume 2023 [MCM]	Volume in 2023 [%], compared with its LTA
Jan	15523.23	26357.53	5906.80	10285.31	5906.80	9923.80	11214.32	14422.11	92.91
Feb	8837.89	15596.22	4198.60	6019.30	4264.19	5832.97	6558.79	8069.29	91.30
Mar	5654.18	9438.24	3347.07	4354.62	3553.99	4264.88	4736.52	5080.64	89.86
Apr	4346.65	8009.14	2866.91	3667.47	2992.61	3556.68	4288.31	3884.16	89.36
May	4030.23	9176.93	2417.81	3266.43	2594.92	3240.78	4556.83	3438.66	85.32
Jun	5708.30	13635.01	2468.70	3517.06	2641.88	3798.29	7489.04	3689.97	64.64
Jul	11493.25	28599.56	2925.86	4001.99	2925.86	5346.73	9703.79	9953.41	86.60
Aug	24666.69	39015.12	4433.46	7622.71	5941.07	10547.80	19554.70	13694.57	55.52
Sep	39634.03	65632.35	12105.31	24194.19	12105.31	16382.34	32860.34	23550.60	59.42
Oct	46873.44	73757.23	19705.50	30358.38	20799.13	27318.21	48199.12	37104.25	79.16
Nov	37823.16	60367.33	18534.61	19112.65	27546.80	28982.93	39452.53		
Dec	25126.11	38888.95	10563.49	10577.29	18251.65	20170.76	25346.65		
	Critical situation, compared with historical Min values								
	Normal condition, compared with LTA (Long term average)								
	Low volume situation, compared with LTA values								
Unit: Million Cubic Meter (1 MCM= 0.001 Km <sup>3</sup> )				LTA: Long-Term-Average					

## 4 Flash Flood in the Lower Mekong Basin

During the weekly monitoring period from 24 to 30 October 2023, the LMB received from small to heavy rain and isolated thundershowers in some areas.

According to the MRC-Flash Flood Guidance System (MRC-FFGS) and analysis, low to high risk of flash flood events were detected during the reporting period in some area of Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Viet Nam as shown in [Figure 14](#) and [Table 2](#).

**Table 2.** Detected low to high risk flash flood in the LMB during 24 to 30 October.

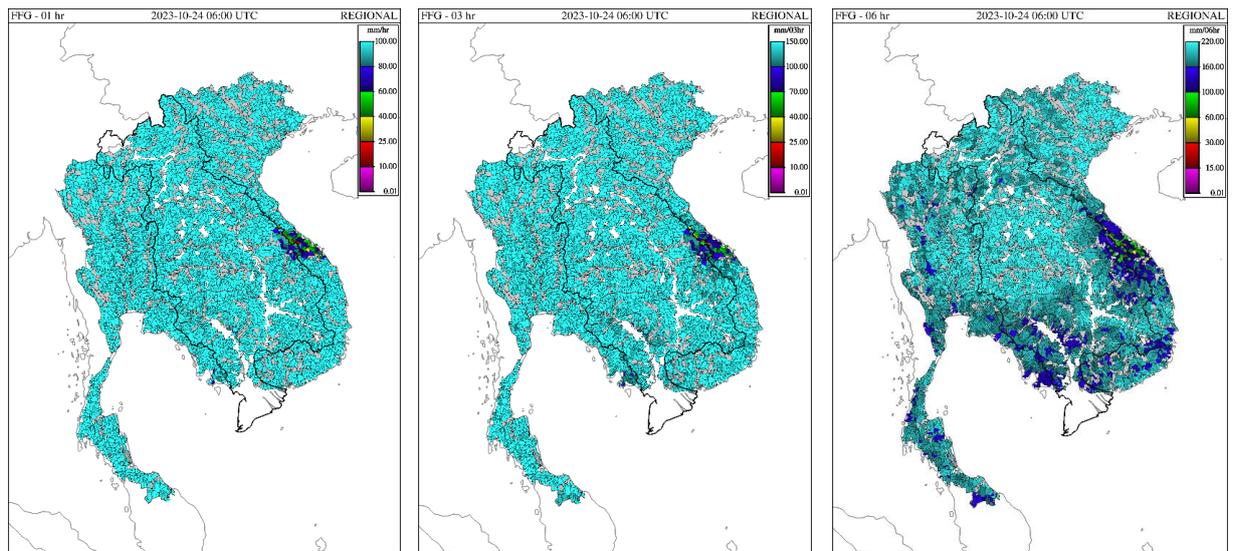
 <b>Rate-risk and location of the flash flood may occur in the next 1, 3, and 6 hours in Viet Nam</b>												
Date of FFG products: 24/10/2023 6:00 UTC time												
01-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location				3-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location in Vietnam				6-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location in Vietnam				
Provinces	Districts	Region	Level Risks	Provinces	Districts	Region	Level Risks	Provinces	Districts	Region	Level Risks	
Quang Tri	Da Krong	Northeast	Low-Risk	Quang Tri	Da Krong	Northeast	Low-Risk	Quang Tri	Huong Hoa	Northeast	Low-Risk	
Quang Tri	Huong Hoa	Northeast	Moderate-Risk	Quang Tri	Huong Hoa	Northeast	Moderate-Risk	Quang Binh	Le Thuy	Northeast	Low-Risk	
Thua Thien Hue	A Luoi	Northeast	Low-Risk	Thua Thien Hue	A Luoi	Northeast	Low-Risk	Quang Tri	Da Krong	Northeast	Low-Risk	
Thua Thien Hue	Phong Dien	Northeast	High-Risk	Thua Thien Hue	Phong Dien	Northeast	Moderate-Risk	Quang Tri	Huong Hoa	Northeast	Moderate-Risk	
Thua Thien Hue	Quang Dien	Northeast	Low-Risk	Thua Thien Hue	A Luoi	Northeast	Moderate-Risk	Thua Thien Hue	Phong Dien	Northeast	Moderate-Risk	
Thua Thien Hue	A Luoi	Northeast	High-Risk	Quang Nam	Hien	Northeast	Low-Risk	Thua Thien Hue	A Luoi	Northeast	Moderate-Risk	
Thua Thien Hue	Nam Dong	Northeast	Low-Risk	Thua Thien Hue	Nam Dong	Northeast	Low-Risk	Thua Thien Hue	Nam Dong	Northeast	Low-Risk	
Quang Nam	Hien	Northeast	Moderate-Risk	Da Nang	Hoa Vang	Northeast	Low-Risk	Quang Nam	Hien	Northeast	Moderate-Risk	
Thua Thien Hue	Nam Dong	Northeast	Low-Risk	Quang Nam	Hien	Northeast	Low-Risk	Thua Thien Hue	Nam Dong	Northeast	Low-Risk	
Da Nang	Hoa Vang	Northeast	Low-Risk	Quang Nam	Dai Loc	Northeast	Low-Risk	Da Nang	Hoa Vang	Northeast	Low-Risk	
Quang Nam	Hien	Northeast	Low-Risk	Quang Nam	Que Son	Northeast	Low-Risk	Quang Nam	Dai Loc	Northeast	Low-Risk	
Quang Nam	Dai Loc	Northeast	Low-Risk					Quang Nam	Que Son	Northeast	Moderate-Risk	
Quang Nam	Que Son	Northeast	Low-Risk									

 <b>Rate-risk and location of the flash flood may occur in the next 1, 3, and 6 hours in Lao PDR</b>														
Date of FFG products: 24/10/2023 6:00 UTC time														
01-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location					03-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location					06-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location				
Provinces	Districts	Villages	Region	Level Risk	Provinces	Districts	Villages	Region	Level Risk	Provinces	Districts	Villages	Region	Level Risk
Saravane	Samuoi		Northwest	Low-Risk	Sekong	Kaleum		Northwest	Low-Risk	Saravane	Samuoi		Northwest	Low-Risk
Sekong	Kaleum		Northwest	Low-Risk	Savannakhet	Sepone		Northwest	Moderate-Risk	Saravane	Ta oi		Northwest	Low-Risk
Saravane	Ta oi		Northwest	Low-Risk						Saravane	Ta oi	KAPE	Northwest	Low-Risk
Sekong	Kaleum		Northwest	Low-Risk						Sekong	Kaleum	TOUNG SANG	Northwest	Low-Risk
Sekong	Kaleum	AR-LANG	Northwest	Low-Risk						Sekong	Kaleum		Northwest	Low-Risk
Savannakhet	Sepone		Northwest	Moderate-Risk						Saravane	Ta oi		Northwest	Low-Risk
										Sekong	Kaleum	AR-LANG	Northwest	Low-Risk
										Sekong	Kaleum	TAHT	Northwest	Low-Risk
										Sekong	Kaleum	PUEBYAI	Northwest	Low-Risk
										Savannakhet	Sepone		Northwest	Moderate-Risk

 <b>Rate-risk and location of the flash flood may occur in the next 1, 3, and 6 hours in Cambodia</b>														
Date of FFG products: 30/10/2023 0:00 UTC time														
01-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location				03-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location					06-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location					
Provinces	Districts	Villages	Region	Level Risk	Provinces	Districts	Villages	Region	Level Risk	Provinces	Districts	Villages	Region	Level Risk
Kampong Thom	Stoung		North	Low-Risk	Kampong Thom	Stoung		North	Low-Risk	Kampong Thom	Stoung		North	Low-Risk
										Kratie	Preaek Prasab		North	Low-Risk
										Kampong Thom	Kampong Svay		North	Low-Risk
										Kampong Thom	Baray		North	Low-Risk



**Figure 14.** Flash Flood Guidance for the next 1-hr, 3-hr and 6-hr on October 24

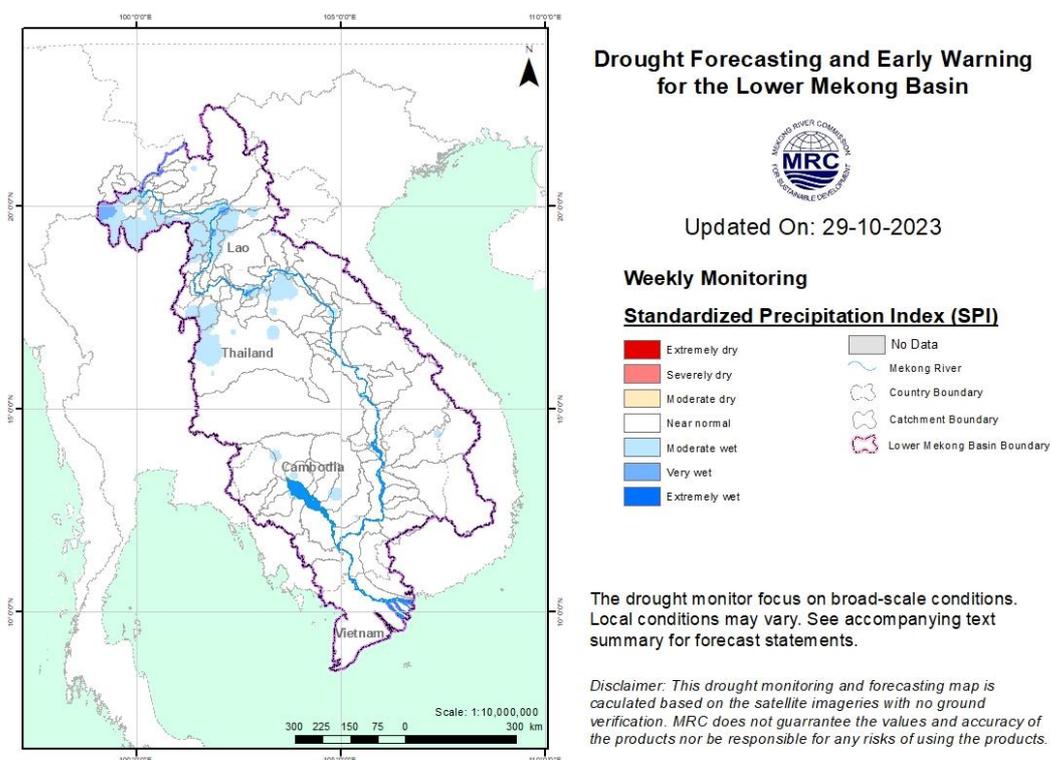
## 5 Drought Monitoring in the Lower Mekong Basin

### Weekly drought monitoring from 23 to 29 October 2023

Drought monitoring data in 2023 are available from Monday to Sunday every week; thus, the reporting period is normally delayed by two days compared to Flood and Flash Flood reports. We adopt the Index of Soil Water Fraction (ISWF) data obtained from FFGS to represent soil moisture of agricultural indicator for both dry and wet seasons.

- **Weekly Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI1)**

The meteorological drought indicator of SPI from Oct 23 to 29, as displayed in [Figure 15](#), shows that the LMB was mostly normal and wet in the north. No meteorological drought threat was found during the monitoring week.

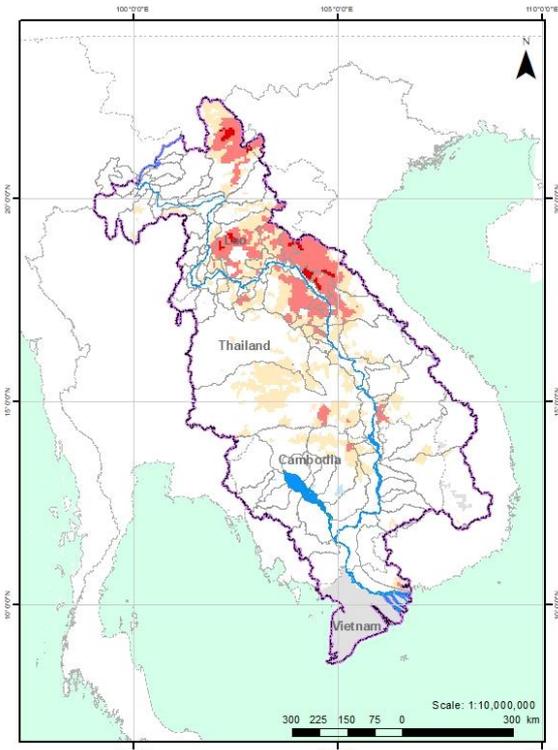


**Figure 15.** Weekly standardized precipitation index from 23 to 29 Oct 2023.

- **Weekly Index of Soil Water Fraction (ISWF)**

The agricultural indicator through ISWF, **Figure 16**, indicates that the LMB was facing some moderate and severe droughts in the northern and middle parts during the monitoring week from Oct 16 to 22. The risk is indicated in the list below:

Number	Country	Province	Mderate	Severe	Extreme
1	Cambodia	Otdar Meanchey	x		
2	Cambodia	Siem Reap	x		
3	Cambodia	Preah Vihear	x	x	
4	Cambodia	Kratie	x		
5	Cambodia	Stung Treng	x		
6	Cambodia	Ratana Kiri	x		
7	Cambodia	Pursat	x		
8	Laos	Phongsaly	x	x	x
9	Laos	Luang Prabang	x	x	
10	Laos	Xiengkhuang	x	x	
11	Laos	Xaysomboun	x	x	
12	Laos	Vientiane	x	x	x
13	Laos	Xayaburi	x		
14	Laos	Oudomxay	x	x	
15	Laos	Champasack	x	x	
16	Laos	Attapeu	x		
17	Laos	Khammuane	x	x	x
18	Laos	Saravanh	x		
19	Laos	Savannakhet	x	x	
20	Thailand	Chiang Rai	x		
21	Thailand	Phayo	x		
22	Thailand	Loei	x		
23	Thailand	Udon Thani	x	x	
24	Thailand	Sakon Nakhon	x	x	
25	Thailand	Nong Khai	x	x	
26	Thailand	Nakhon Phanom	x	x	
27	Thailand	Mukdahan	x	x	
28	Thailand	Kalasin	x		
29	Thailand	Roi Et	x		
30	Thailand	Maha Sarakham	x		
31	Thailand	Yasothon	x		
32	Thailand	Amnat Charoen	x		
33	Thailand	Ubon Ratchathani	x		
34	Thailand	Si Saket	x	x	
35	Thailand	Surin	x		
36	Thailand	Burirum	x		
37	Thailand	Khon Kaen	x		
38	Thailand	Nakhon Ratchasima	x		
39	Viet Nam	Gia Lai	x		
40	Viet Nam	Dak Lak	x		
41	Viet Nam	Tien Giang	x		
42	Viet Nam	Long An	x	x	
		Moderate		Extreme	
		Severe		No drought	



### Drought Forecasting and Early Warning for the Lower Mekong Basin



Updated On: 29-10-2023

#### Weekly Monitoring

#### Index of Soil Water Fraction (ISWF)

Extremely dry	No Data
Severely dry	Mekong River
Moderate dry	Country Boundary
Near normal	Catchment Boundary
Moderate wet	Lower Mekong Basin Boundary
Very wet	
Extremely wet	

The drought monitor focus on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

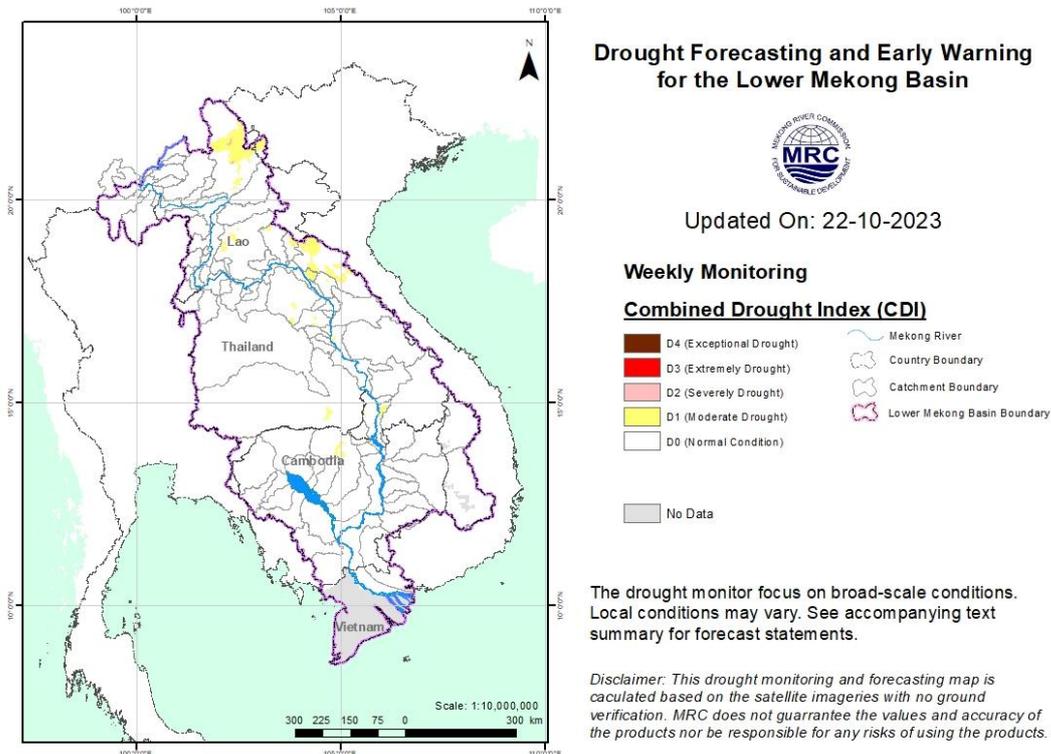
*Disclaimer: This drought monitoring and forecasting map is calculated based on the satellite imageries with no ground verification. MRC does not guarantee the values and accuracy of the products nor be responsible for any risks of using the products.*

**Figure 16.** Weekly Index of Soil Water Fraction (ISWF) from Oct 23 to 29

- Weekly Combined Drought Index (CDI)**

The overall drought indicator of CDI as displayed in **Figure 17** shows that the LMB was facing some moderate drought in the north and the south during the monitoring week from Oct 16 to 22.

Number	Country	Province	Mderate	Severe	Extreme	Exceptional
10	Laos	Phongsaly	x	x		
11	Laos	Vientiane	x			
12	Laos	Xaysomboun	x			
13	Laos	Borikhamxay	x			
14	Laos	Khammuane	x			
		Moderate		Severe		
		Severe		Exceptional		



**Figure 17.** Weekly Combined Drought Index (CDI) from Oct 23 to 29

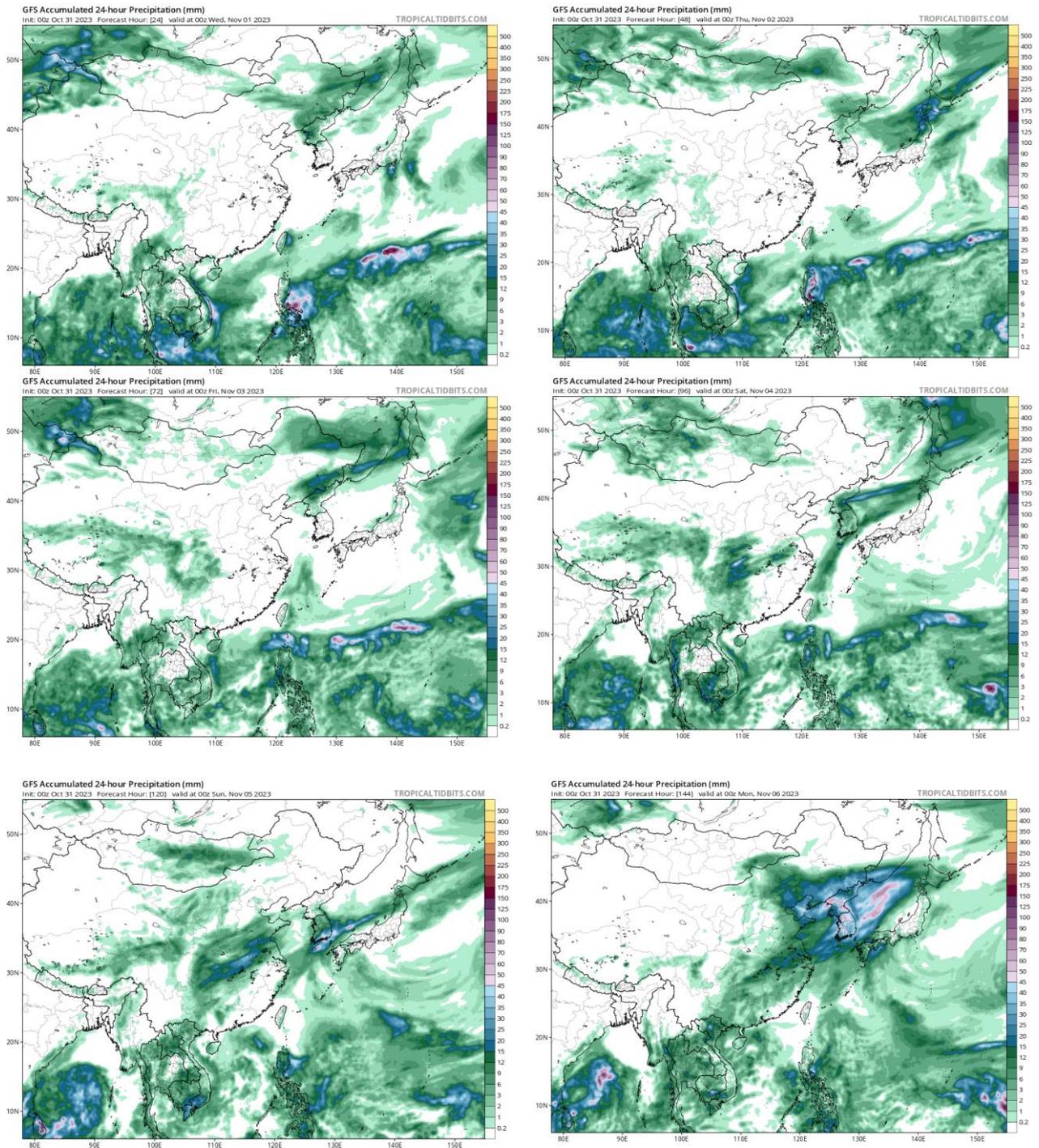
More information on Drought Forecasting and Early Warning (DFEW) as well as the explanation is available here: <http://droughtforecast.mrcmekong.org/templates/view/our-product>. DFEW provides not only weekly monitoring and forecasting information but also a three-month forecast of drought indicators with seasonal outlook which are updated every month based on international weather forecast models. Details on drought forecast are described in section [6.4](#) of this report.

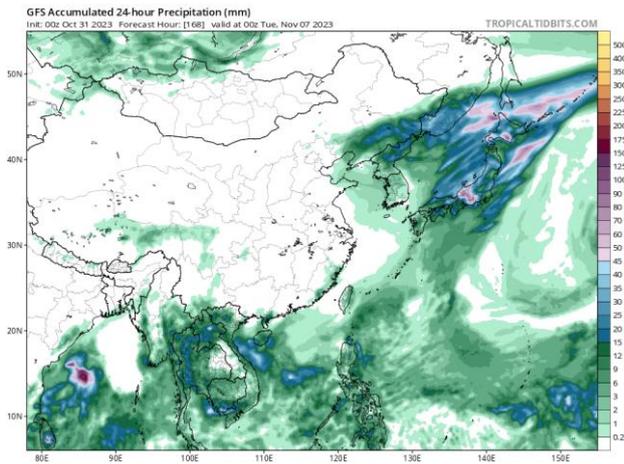
## 6 Weather and Water Level Forecast and Flash Flood Information

### 6.1 Weather and rainfall forecast

During November 01-07, based on the result of the Global Forecast System (GFS) model, small to heavy rain (5-50 mm/24h) is forecasted for the LMB area.

[Figure 18](#) shows accumulated rainfall forecast (24h) of the forecasting model using the Global Forecast System (GFS) from 01 to 07 November.





**Figure 16.** Accumulated rainfall forecast (24 h) based on the forecasting model using the Global Forecast System (GFS) model.

## 6.2 Water level forecast

### Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang

Based on October 30's daily flood forecasting bulletin, the daily forecasted water level at Chiang Saen in Thailand shows increase of water level from 3.18 m to 3.45 m over the next five days. The trend will keep the water level at this station lower than its LTA.

For Luang Prabang in Lao PDR, the water level will increase about 0.11 m during the next five days. The current water level is about 0.32 m lower than its LTA. Low precipitation is forecasted for the area between Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang next week.

### Chiang Khan, Vientiane-Nong Khai and Paksane

The water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand is forecasted to go up about 0.17 m, while water level at Vientiane in Lao PDR will increase about 0.35 m. Furthermore, in Nong Khai of Thailand the water level will increase about 0.31 m over the next five days; at Paksane in Lao PDR water level will increase about 0.30 m due to some rainfalls and dam operation in the upper catchments. Average rainfall is forecasted for the area of Paksane next week. Consequently, the water levels at these stations will stay lower than their LTA values.

### Nakhon Phanom to Pakse

The water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand and Thakhek in Lao PDR will go up about 0.25 m, while from Mukdahan in Thailand to Pakse in Lao PDR are forecasted to go down between 0.06 m and 0.35 m, due to low rainfall predicted and inflows from upstream into these areas. Water levels at these stations will stay close to their LTA values. Lower to average rainfall is forecasted for the area next week.

### Stung Treng to Kompong Cham/Phnom Penh to Koh Khel/Neak Luong

Water levels at Stung Treng and Kratie in Cambodia will go down between 0.32 m and 0.53 m respectively, while at Kompong Cham along the Mekong River the water level will go down

about 0.43 m over the next five days. Precipitation is forecasted for the area between Stung Treng and Kompong Cham during next week.

The water levels of the Tonle Sap Lake at Prek Kdam and Phnom Penh Port as well as at Phnom Penh's Chaktomuk on the Bassac River will go down between 0.20 m and 0.40 m over the next five days.

Water levels at most of the stations will go down during next week. Water levels at some stations will be still staying higher than their LTA value. From Chaing Saen to Thakhek will be up, but from Nong Khai to Pakse and from Stung Treng to Kompong Cham and downstream at Phnom Penh the water level will be down. Precipitation is forecasted for the low-lying area of Cambodia next week.

### **Tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc**

For Viet Nam's Tan Chau on the Mekong River and Chau Doc on the Bassac River, the water levels will be staying lower than their LTA level, following daily tidal effects from the sea. Rainfall is forecasted for the Mekong Delta area next week.

The performance of the weekly flood forecast, with an accuracy and data input evaluation from 24 to 30 October 2023, is presented in **Annex 1**.

[Table 2](#) shows the daily flood forecasting Bulletin issued on 30 October 2023. Results of the weekly river monitoring bulletin are also available at [http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin\\_wet.php](http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin_wet.php).

### **6.3 Flash Flood Information**

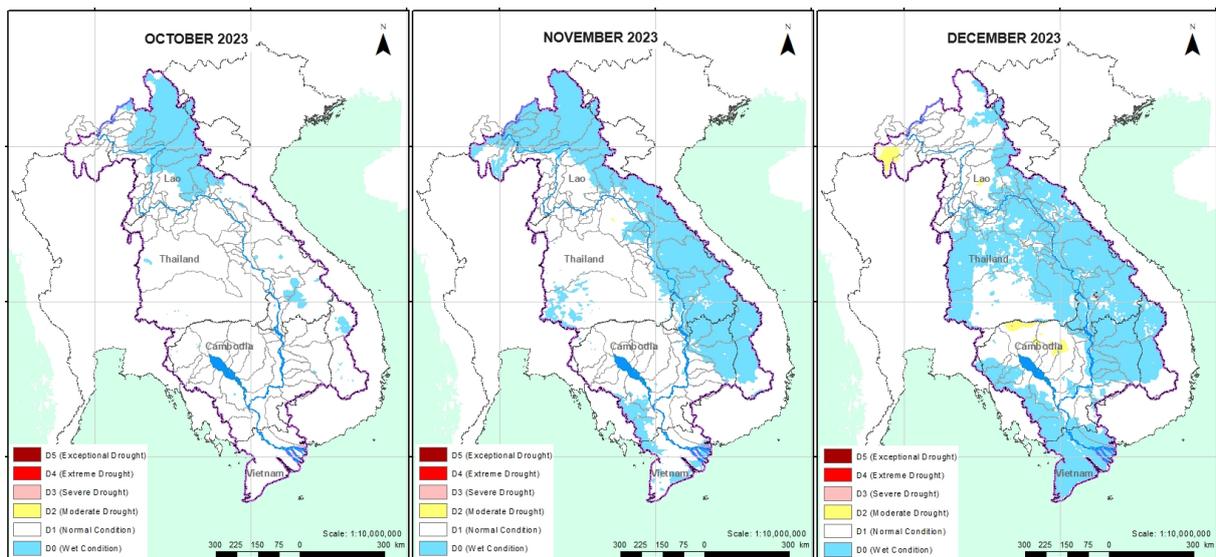
With small to heavy rainfall and isolated thunderstorms for next week, flash floods might be detected in some areas in the LMB. And local heavy rain in a short period of time is possible with unpredictable short flash floods.

Detailed information on Flash Flood Warning Information as well as its explanation is available for download [here](#).

### **6.4 Drought forecast**

There are several climate-prediction models with different scenarios in the upcoming months until November 2023. The MRC's DFEWS adopts an ensemble model called the North America Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME), which averages all scenarios, and downscales the forecasts to the regional level. The Variable Infiltration Capability (VIC) is then used to generate soil moisture and runoff for the whole basin.

[Figure 19](#) below shows the monthly forecasts of CDI for October, November, and December 2023.



**Figure 17.** Monthly forecasts of the combined drought index (CDI) for October and November 2023.

Figure 19 above shows that October and November the LMB is likely wet in the north and east while normal in other areas. During December, normal and wet conditions are forecasted for the region with some moderate drought covering Thailand’s Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Kalasin, and Sakon Nakhon in the north and centre and Cambodia’s Otdar Meanchey, Siem Reap and Preah Vihear in the south.



## 7 Summary and Possible Implications

### 7.1 Rainfall and its forecast

Rain was observed from Chiang Saen in Thailand to Tan Chau and Chau Doc in Viet Nam during October 24-30, including the lower part in Lao PDR and Cambodia, varying from 2.70 mm to 147.10 mm due to the low pressure covered the low-lying area during the report period. This week rainfall was considered high in the lower part of the LMB compared with last week rainfall.

Based on the forecasted satellite data, rainfall is forecasted for some areas of the LMB with the value range from 20.00 mm to 80.00 mm for the next seven days. The forecasting model using CHIRPS-GEFS data, moreover, shows low rainfall (>100 mm) is likely to take place in the Mekong region from 31 October to 4 November 2023.

### 7.2 Water level and its forecast

According to MRC's observed water level at Jinghong, it showed fluctuated water levels from 536.06 m to 536.76 m during 24-30 October 2023. The current level is staying about 0.59 m higher than its LTA value. The outflow at Jinghong station varied between 1,410.00 m<sup>3</sup>/s and 1,830.00 m<sup>3</sup>/s between 24 and 30 October 2023.

With the fluctuated outflow from Jinghong upstream, water levels of monitoring stations at Chiang Saen increased about 0.31 m from 24 to 30 Oct 2023. Moreover, at Chiang Khan the water level increased about 0.14 m, while at Valentine and Nong Khai they decreased between 0.32 m and 0.62 m due to the influence of dam operation upstream and low rainfall. Water levels from Nakhon Phanom to Pakse decreasing between 0.85 m and 1.24 m. From the stretches of the river at Stung Treng, water levels decreased 0.45 m and at Kratie water level down about 1.24 m, and stay higher than its LTA level, due to the contributed rainfall from upstream part including Pakse and reservoir operation of the 3S area in Viet Nam.

The current water levels at Luang Prabang, Chiang Khan, Vientiane, Nakhon Phanom, Khong Chiam, Pakse, Stung Treng, Kratie and Koh Khel stations are still staying higher than their LTA levels, considered normal.

The flow volume of the Tonle Sap Lake is lower than its LTA (about 79%) up to October 30 and the outflow of the Tonle Sap Lake was started on 22 October 2023. From next week, the flow is expected to decrease due to low-average rainfall forecasted in the inflow catchments of the Tonle Sap Lake.

Most of the station along the Mekong River at the lower part at Chaktomuk in Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh Port, Neak Luong, Koh Khel and Prek Kdam, the water levels are expected to decrease between 0.15 m and 0.35 m and will continue lower than their LTA values for the next 5 days. The situation in Tan Chau on the Mekong River and Chau Doc on the Bassac River is expected to remain unchanged.

Since the third week of September 2022, water levels across most monitoring stations in the LMB have increased due to the above-average rainfall but still staying lower than their LTA value (from middle to lower stretches within the LMB). The preliminary analysis of the hydrological conditions in the LMB over July–December 2020 and November 2020 to May 2021 was done as [Situation Report](#), which can be used as reference for the trend of water level and flows of the Mekong River Basin.

The contribution to the Mekong River’s flow from the UMB in China (Yunnan component) is about 16% by the time the river discharges through the Mekong Delta into the Sea. By far the major contribution comes from the two major ‘left-bank’ (Eastern) tributaries between Vientiane – Nakhon Phanom and Pakse – Stung Treng, which together contribute more than 40% of the flows.

### **7.3 Flash flood and its trends**

With the predicted amount of rainfall for the coming week as mentioned earlier in [section 6.1](#), flash floods are likely to be detected in some areas of the LMB during next week.

### **7.4 Drought condition and its forecast**

During **Oct 23-29**, the LMB was facing some moderate drought caused by dry soil moisture in the north of the region covering only Lao PDR. They took place in Phongsaly, Vientiane, Xaysomboun, Borikhamxay, and Khammuane. No threat was found for Viet Nam. No meteorological drought was found for the week. The conditions were better than the previous week from Oct 16 to 22.

The monthly drought forecast shows that in October and November the LMB is likely wet in the north and east while normal in other areas. During December, normal and wet conditions are forecasted for the region with some moderate drought covering Thailand’s Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Kalasin, and Sakon Nakhon in the north and centre and Cambodia’s Otdar Meanchey, Siem Reap and Preah Vihear in the south.

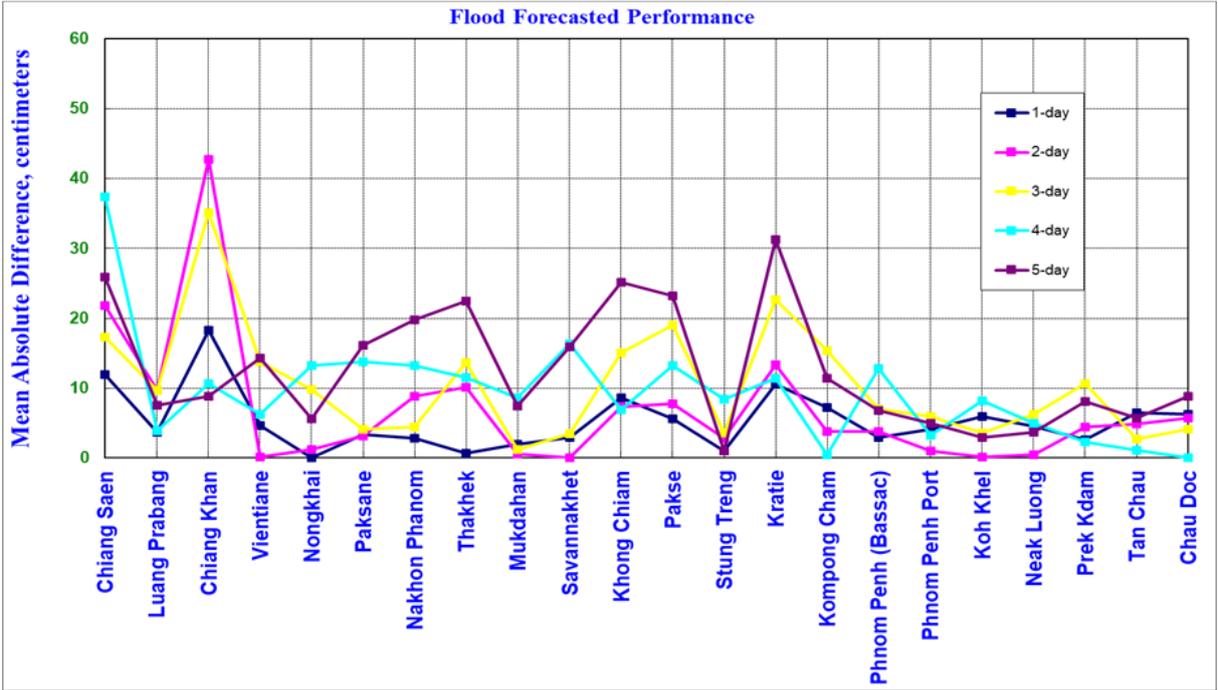
# Annex 1: Performance of the weekly flood forecasting

## Accuracy

“Accuracy” here refers to the state where data recorded in the MRC’s Mekong River Flood Forecasting System are cleaned and verified.

The adjustment of flood forecasting outcomes from the flood forecasting system requires flood forecasters to have extensive knowledge in hydrology and statistical modelling for estimating the relationships between stations upstream and downstream in the Mekong River Basin. Flood forecasting performance presented in the graph below shows the average flood forecasting accuracy at each key station along the Mekong mainstream from 24 to 30 October 2023.

The forecasting values from 24 to 30 October 2023 show that the overall accuracy is fair for a four-day to five-day forecast in lead time (less than 50 cm) for most of the stations from the upper to the middle parts of the Mekong River with combine information of rainfall and reservoirs' operation in this area during the report period.



**Note:** The higher percentage of flood forecasting accuracy is due to several key factors as follows:

- Missing rainfall in Cambodia (DOM) data and data input are not sufficient to be used for inputting into the flood forecasting model system.
- Chiang Saen station is influencing by hydropower upstream operation from China.
- Luang Prabang to Chiang Khan and Paksane to Stung Treng to Kratie have been influenced by hydropower operations upstream, tributaries inflows.
- The influence of heavy rainfall caused by storms and hydropower operations from

upstream, tributaries inflows and the lower part of the Mekong floodplain, including the 3S (Stung Treng and Kratie).

- Fluctuations of the water levels at Tan Chau and Chau Doc stations were due to daily tidal effects of the sea in the Mekong Delta.
- Satellite rainfall data were not representative of the actual rainfall at ground stations in some areas of the Mekong region.

### Performance based on data from the Member Countries

Flood forecasting performance is based on the hydro-met data received from the Member Countries. The flood forecasting achievement indicated in (%) and (cm) from 1 day to 5 days at each key station, against with Old Benchmark are presented in Table B1 and Table B2.

The evaluation of performance indicators, missing data and completion time for flood forecasting are presented in Table B3 and Figures B4, B5 and B6, respectively from 24 to 30 October 2023.

**Table B1:** The Mean Absolute Difference (Error) of Flood Forecasting base on old defined Benchmark from 24 to 30 October 2023 in cm

Lead-time Forecasted	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Chiang Khan	Vientiane	Nongkhai	Paksane	Nakhon Phanom	Thakhek	Mukdahan	Savannakhet	Khong Chiam	Pakse	Stung Treng	Kratie	Kompong Cham	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Phnom Penh Port	Koh Khel	Neak Luong	Prek Kdam	Tan Chau	Chau Doc
1-day	12	4	18	5	0	3	3	1	2	3	9	6	1	11	7	3	4	6	5	3	7	6
2-day	<u>22</u>	10	<u>43</u>	0	1	3	9	10	1	0	7	8	3	13	4	4	1	0	0	4	5	6
3-day	17	10	<u>35</u>	14	10	4	4	14	1	4	15	19	4	<u>23</u>	15	7	6	4	6	11	3	4
4-day	<u>37</u>	4	11	6	13	14	13	11	9	16	7	13	8	11	0	13	3	8	5	2	1	0
5-day	<u>26</u>	8	9	14	6	16	20	<u>22</u>	7	16	<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>	1	<u>31</u>	11	7	5	3	4	8	6	9

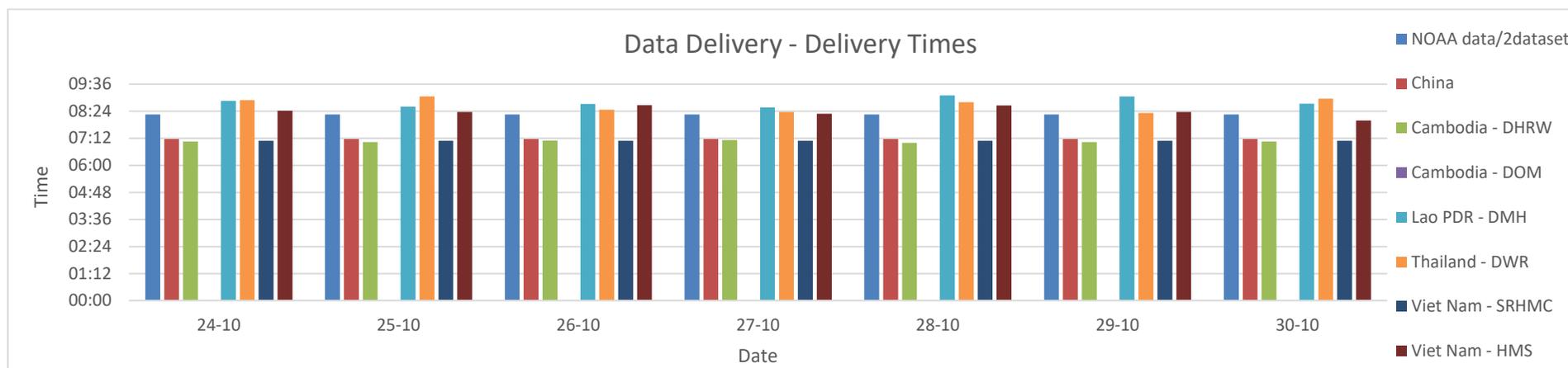
**Table B2:** The Mean Absolute Difference (Error) of Flood Forecasting base on old defined Benchmark from 24 to 30 October 2023 in %

Lead-time Forecasted	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Chiang Khan	Vientiane	Nongkhai	Paksane	Nakhon Phanom	Thakhek	Mukdahan	Savannakhet	Khong Chiam	Pakse	Stung Treng	Kratie	Kompong Cham	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Phnom Penh Port	Koh Khel	Neak Luong	Prek Kdam	Tan Chau	Chau Doc	Average
1-day	71.4	<u>28.6</u>	71.4	<u>28.6</u>	0.0	14.3	14.3	0.0	14.3	<u>42.9</u>	85.7	<u>28.6</u>	0.0	85.7	85.7	71.4	85.7	100.0	85.7	85.7	100.0	100.0	54.5
2-day	83.3	16.7	66.7	16.7	0.0	0.0	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	0.0	0.0	16.7	66.7	<u>50.0</u>	66.7	<u>33.3</u>	66.7	0.0	16.7	0.0	83.3	<u>33.3</u>	<u>50.0</u>	33.3
3-day	60.0	<u>40.0</u>	<u>40.0</u>	<u>40.0</u>	<u>20.0</u>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<u>20.0</u>	80.0	0.0	60.0	80.0	<u>20.0</u>	<u>20.0</u>	<u>40.0</u>	80.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	31.8
4-day	75.0	0.0	<u>25.0</u>	0.0	<u>25.0</u>	<u>25.0</u>	<u>25.0</u>	<u>25.0</u>	<u>25.0</u>	0.0	0.0	75.0	<u>25.0</u>	0.0	0.0	<u>50.0</u>	0.0	100.0	<u>50.0</u>	<u>25.0</u>	0.0	0.0	25.0
5-day	66.7	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	66.7	0.0	66.7	<u>33.3</u>	66.7	66.7	<u>33.3</u>	66.7	100.0	66.7	66.7	37.9

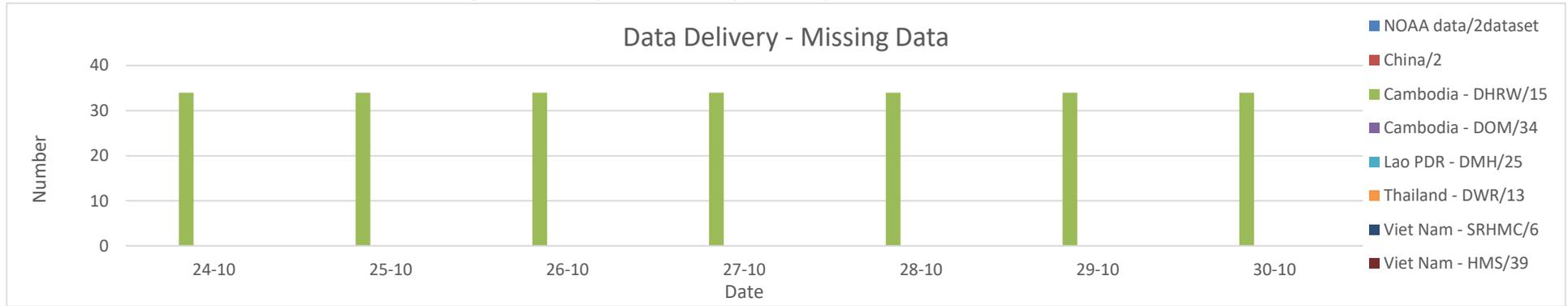
**Table B3: Overview of performance indicators for the past 7 days from 24 to 30 October 2023**

	FF time sent				Arrival time of input data								Missing data (number-mainstream and trib.st.)							
	FF completed and sent (time)	Stations without forecast	FF2 completed and sent (time)	Weather data available (time)	NOAA data	China	Cambodia - DHRW	Cambodia - DOM	Lao PDR - DMH	Thailand - DWR	Viet Nam - SRHMC	Viet Nam - HMS	NOAA data/2dataset	China/2	Cambodia - DHRW/15	Cambodia - DOM/34	Lao PDR - DMH/25	Thailand - DWR/13	Viet Nam - SRHMC/6	Viet Nam - HMS/39
<b>2023</b>																				
<i>week</i>	10:28	#DIV/0!	-	-	08:15	07:10	07:03	#DIV/0!	08:48	08:41	07:05	08:23	0	0	238	0	0	0	0	0
<i>month</i>	10:40	#DIV/0!	-	-	08:15	07:10	07:26	09:58	08:43	08:31	07:12	08:23	0	0	238	36	34	0	0	61

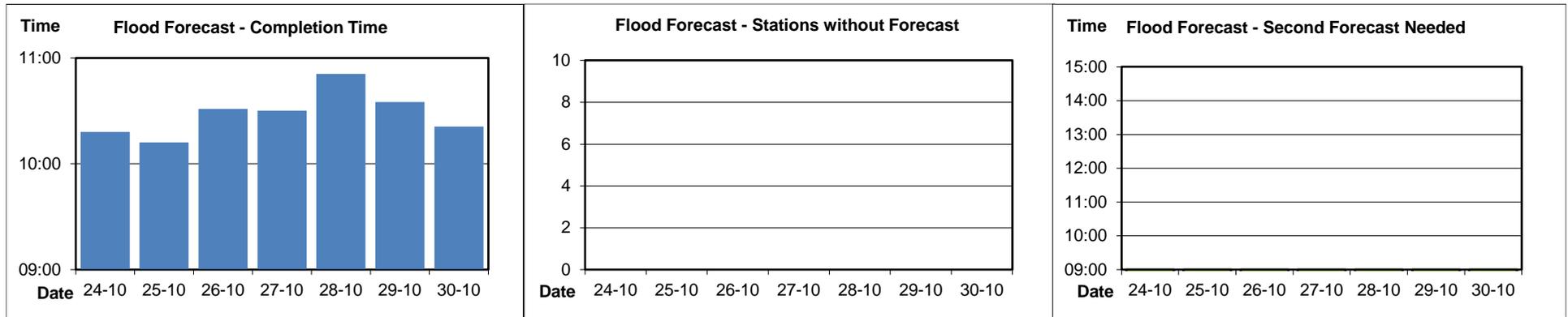
**Fig. B4: Data delivery times for the past 7 days from 24 to 30 October 2023**



**Fig. B5: Missing data for the past 7 days from 24 to 30 October 2023**



**Fig. B6: Flood forecast completion time, stations without forecasts, and second forecasts need from 24 to 30 October 2023**





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