Mekong River Commission

Weekly Dry Season Situation Report in the Lower Mekong River Basin

10 – 16 March 2026

Prepared by
The Regional Flood and Drought Management Centre
17 March 2026

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Key Messages

Key messages for this weekly report are presented below.

Rainfall monitoring and forecast

- In the period of 10 – 16 March 2026, light to moderate rainfall that is expected to occur in some areas in the LMB, including the northern part of Lao PDR, Cambodia, and the Mekong delta.
- During 17 – 23 March 2026, light rainfall that is expected to occur in some areas in the LMB, including the northern and central part of Lao PDR, the northeastern part of Thailand, and Cambodia.

Water level monitoring and forecast

- At 22 key monitoring stations along the Mekong mainstream from 10 – 16 March 2026, at most of stations, most of stations, water levels are above LTAs except for Paksane, & Phnom Penh Port stations. However, the 6 monitoring stations remain in normal condition with respect to the flow threshold (PMFM Thresholds). It is also the same condition for Tan Chau and Chau Doc monitoring stations, which are significantly influenced by sea tidal fluctuation.
- In the period of 17 – 23 March 2026, water levels at most of stations are expected to be above LTAs except for Phnom Penh (Bassac) & Phnom Penh Port. At Tan Chau and Chau Doc stations, the water levels are predicted to be also fluctuated, resulting from the influence of sea tidal patterns. At most of stations, water levels are above LTAs except for Phnom Penh (Bassac) and Phnom Penh Port stations.

Drought condition and forecast

- During 10 - 16 March 2026, the combined drought indicator (CDI), that no drought in the LMB, except some areas in the central part of Lao PDR, the northeastern part of Thailand, and Cambodia.
- The weekly forecast from 17 – 23 March 2026 indicates that the LMB is likely to experience moderate to severe drought condition in some areas in the central part of Lao PDR, northeastern part of Thailand and Cambodia based on the Combined Drought Index.

1 Introduction

This Weekly Dry Season Situation Report presents a preliminary analysis of the weekly hydrological situation in the Lower Mekong River Basin (LMB) for **10** – **16 March 2026**. 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 – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam – and on satellite data. The water level indicated in this report refers 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.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

From 17 - 23 March 2026, it is forecasted that the low-pressure system affected the Lower Mekong Basin. Under this circumstance, light rain occurred in some areas in the Lower Mekong Basin including in the upper and central part of Lao PDR, and Cambodia.

Figure 1 presents mean sea level pressure over the region in the next 7 days.

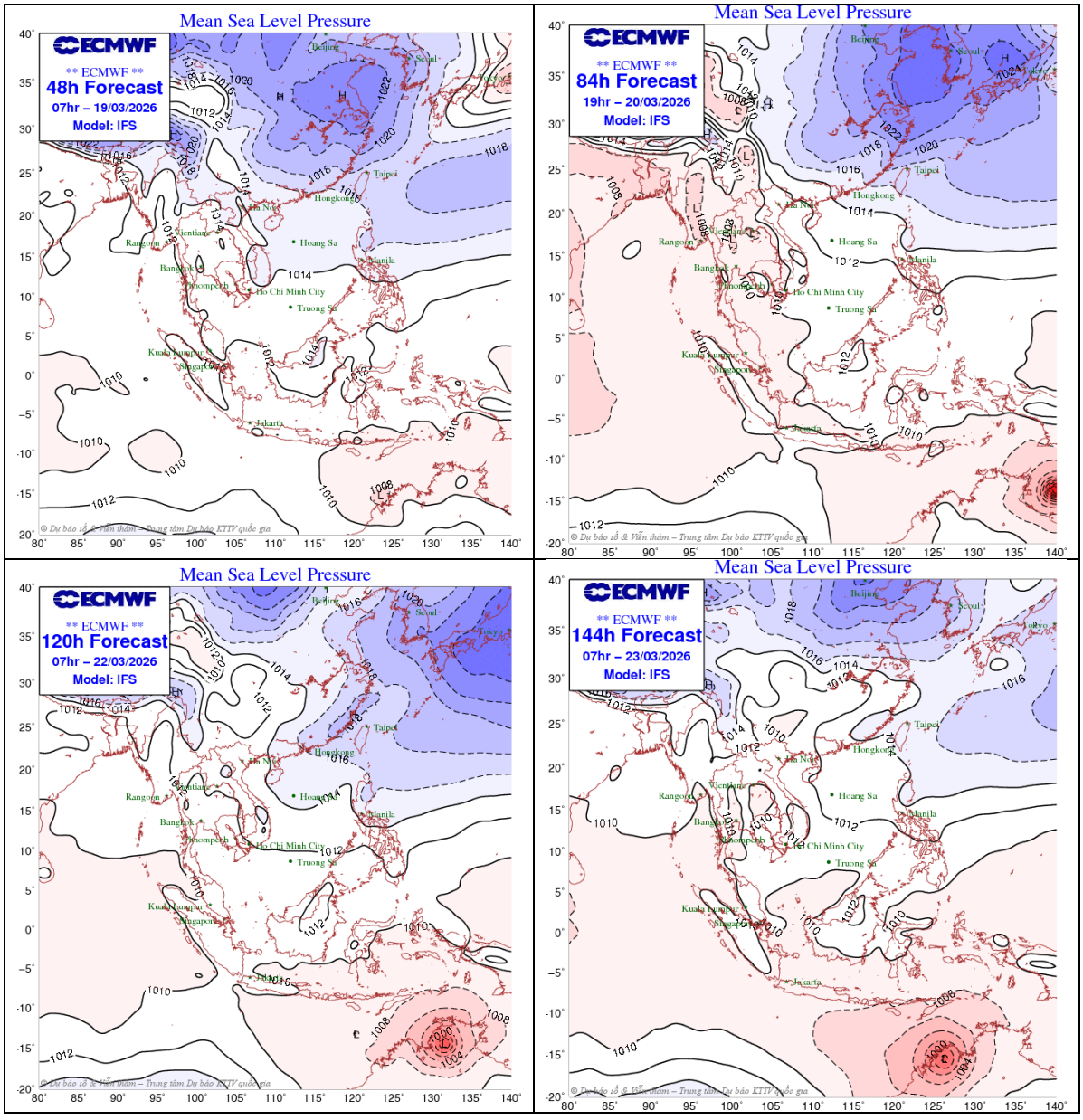


Figure 1: Weather conditions over the LMB

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC, http://asmc.asean.org/home/), drier and wetter conditions are not predicted over parts of LMB during the next fortnight (22 January – 4 February). However, cooler than usual temperatures are predicted to develop. These cooler conditions are likely to persist in Week 2 (18 – 29 March). **Figure 2**

shows the outlook of weather condition from 16 to 29 March 2026 in Southeast Asia based on results from the NCEP model (National Centres for Environmental Prediction).

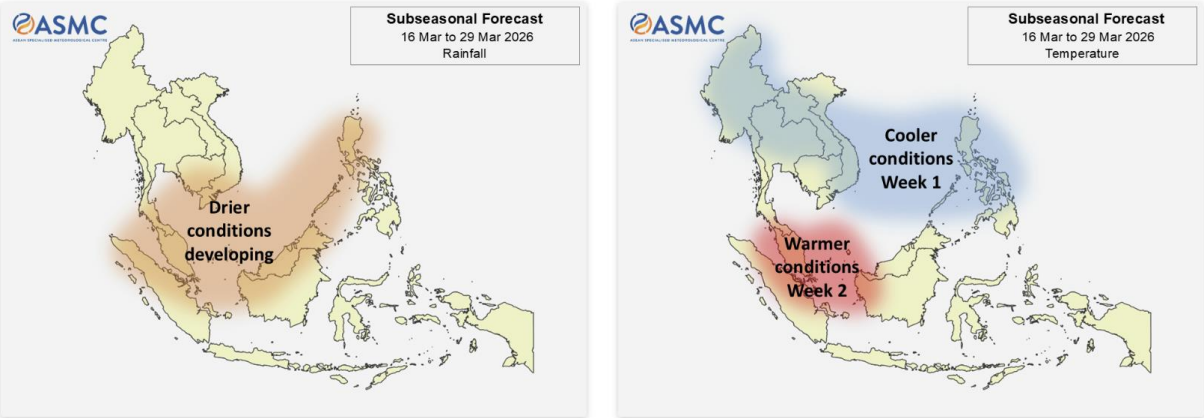


Figure 2: Outlook of wet and dry conditions over the Asian countries by ASMC.

Based on the JMA tropical storm (TS) information (https://www.jma.go.jp/bosai/weather_map/#lang=en), there is no active NW pacific system as of 16 March 2026 as displayed in **Figure 3.**

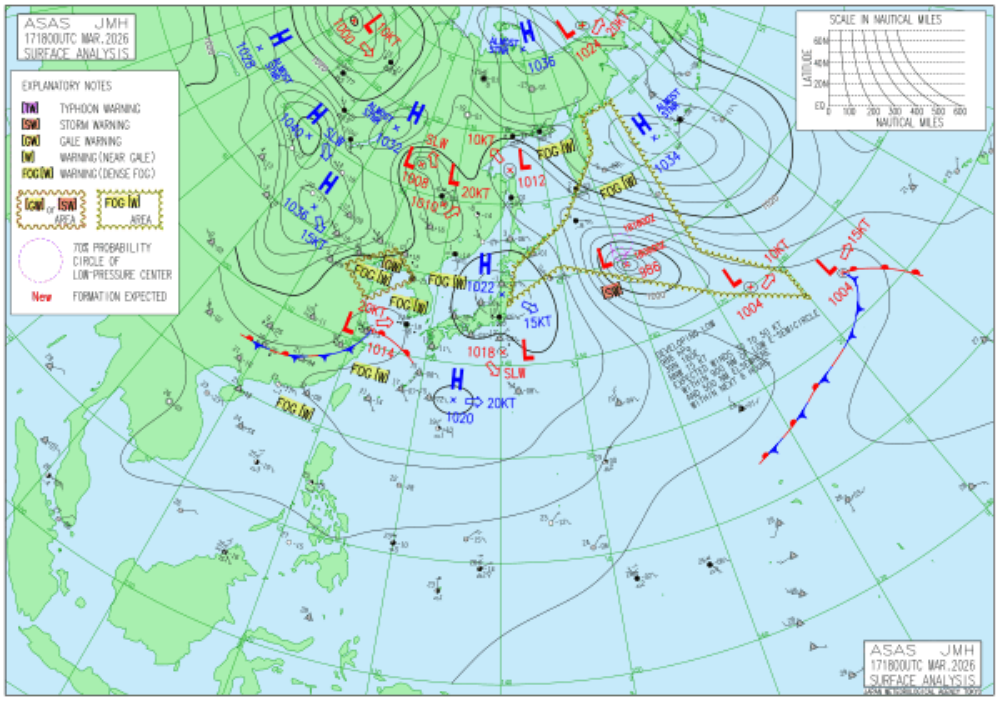


Figure 3: One tropical storm risk observed on 16 March 2026

3. Rainfall and Water Level Monitoring

3.1. Rainfall monitoring

The weekly accumulated rainfall based on the observed data provided by the MRC Member Countries – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam – from 10 – 16 March 2026 (**Figure 4**). Light to moderate rainfall that is expected to occur in some areas in the LMB, including the northern part of Lao PDR, Cambodia, and the Mekong delta.

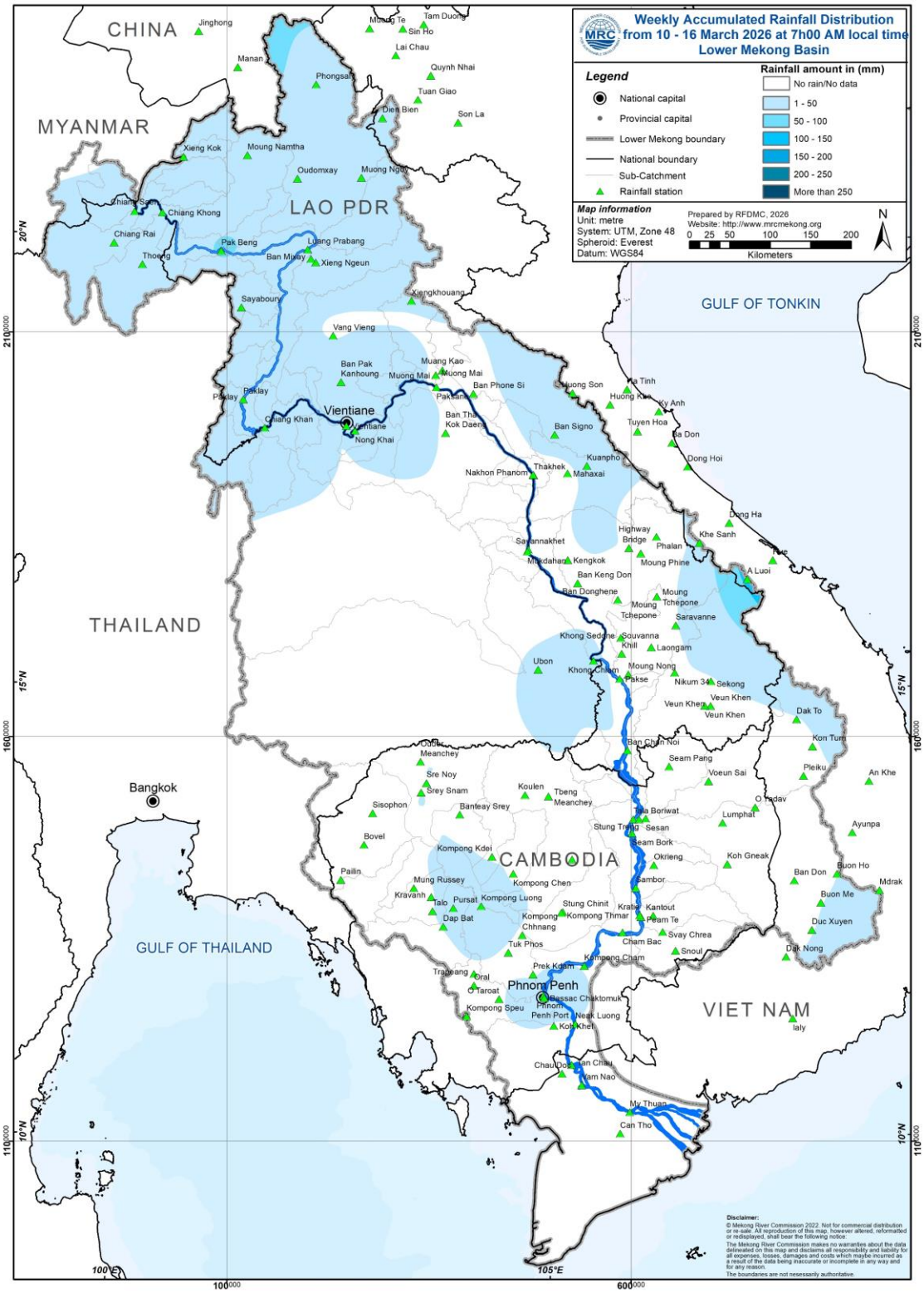


Figure 4: Weekly rainfall distribution over the LMB during 10 – 16 March 2026

3.2. Water level monitoring

The hydrological regimes of the Mekong mainstream are illustrated by recorded water levels and flows at key mainstream stations: at Chiang Saen to capture mainstream flows entering from the Upper Mekong Basin (UMB); at Vientiane to present flows generated by climate conditions in the upper part of the LMB; at Pakse 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 5**. The hydrograph for each key station is available from the MRC's River Flood Forecasting: http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/overview.php.

During 10 – 16 March 2026, the observed water level (WL) at Jinghong hydrological station[1], was almost constant and ranges between 537.43 m and 536.74 m, which are corresponding to the outflow between 2,520.00 m^3/s to 1,940.00 m^3/s (recorded on 7:00 am), respectively (**Figure 6**). The water level in Chiang Saen Station also indicated a slight fluctuation ranging from 3.19 m to 3.50 m. At the same period, the water level in Luang Prabang station has slightly increased from 9.44 m to 9.74 m compared to the previous week. The water level at Chiang Khan Station also increased from 5.32 m to 6.00 m. During the same period, the water levels observed at Vientiane, Nongkhai, and Paksane have increased from 3.04 m to 3.81 m, 1.92 m to 2.75 m, and 2.62 m to 2.98 m, respectively. At Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Mukdahan, Savannakhet, Khong Chiam, and Pakse stations, the water levels have also increased from 1.86 m to 2.36 m, 2.52 m to 4.01 m, 2.21 m to 2.62 m, 0.71 m to 1.12 m, 2.68 m to 2.87 m, and 1.64 m to 1.72m, respectively, as compared to the previous week.

Moving down to the floodplain area at Stung Treng, Kratie, and Kampong Cham, water levels have decreased from 3.03 m to 2.96 m, 8.11 m to 7.92 m, and 3.38 m to 3.12 m, respectively. However, water levels at Phnom Penh (Bassac), Phnom Penh Port, Prek Kdam, the water level have decreased from 2.34 m to 2.27 m, 1.33 m to 1.26 m, and 1.58 m to 1.35 m, respectively. The water levels at Koh Khel and Neak Luong have increased from 2.36 m to 2.50 m, and 1.63 m to 1.90 m, respectively.

Similar to the previous week, the water levels from 10 to 16 March 2026 at Viet Nam's Tan Chau and Chau Doc fluctuated between their LTA values due to daily tidal effects from the sea. At the Tan Chau station, the water levels varied between 0.21 m and 0.87 m, while at the Chau Doc station, they ranged from 0.24 m and 0.99 m.

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

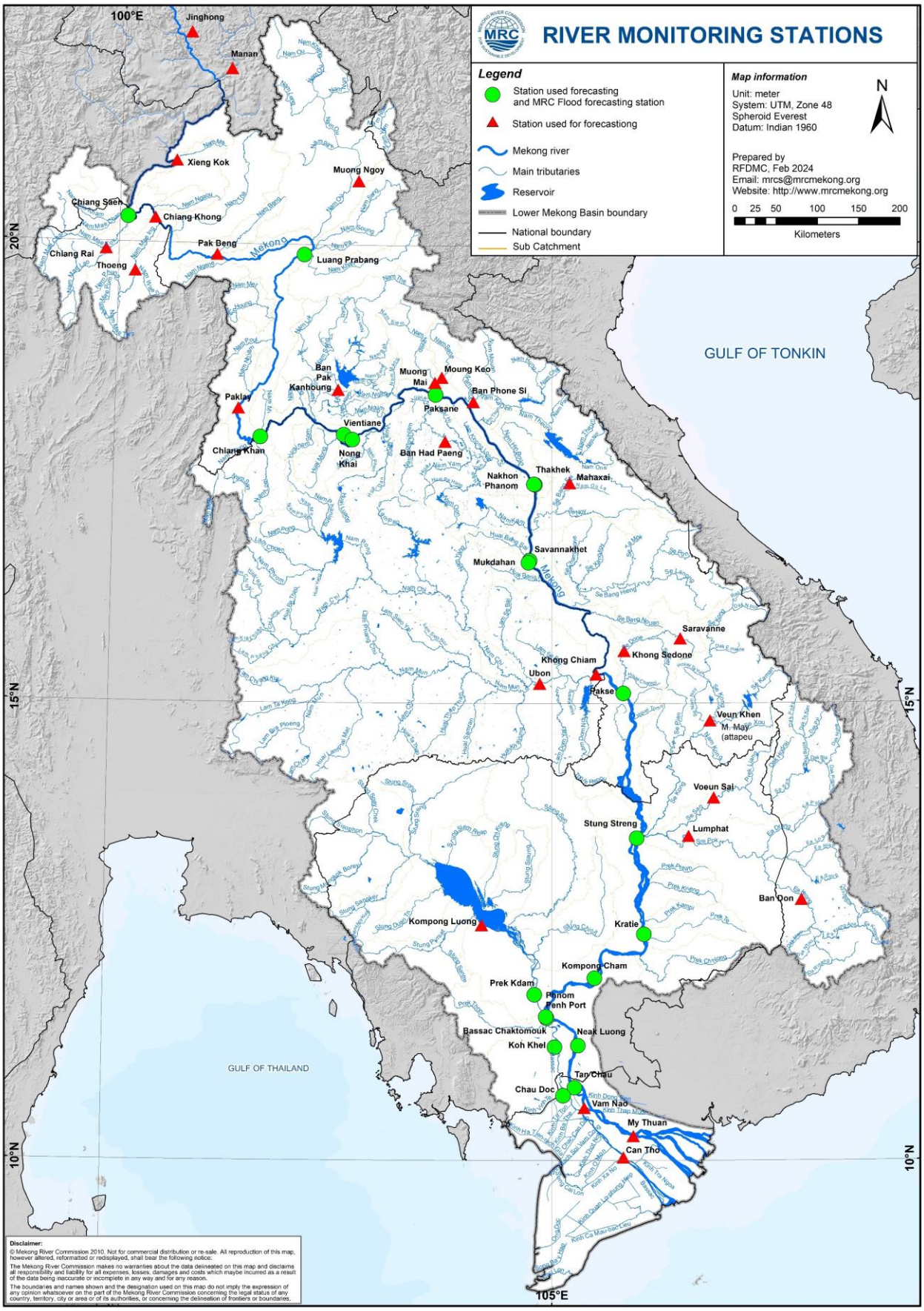


Figure 5: The key stations along LMB for river flood forecasting

The water levels in key monitoring stations on 16 March 2026 are in normal conditions. At most of stations, water levels are above LTAs except for Paksane, & Phnom Penh Port stations. Moreover, all stations with available PMFM thresholds are in normal conditions. The graphics of water level monitoring in all key stations are presented in **Annex A** and the weekly water levels and rainfall at each key station are summarised in **Annex B**.

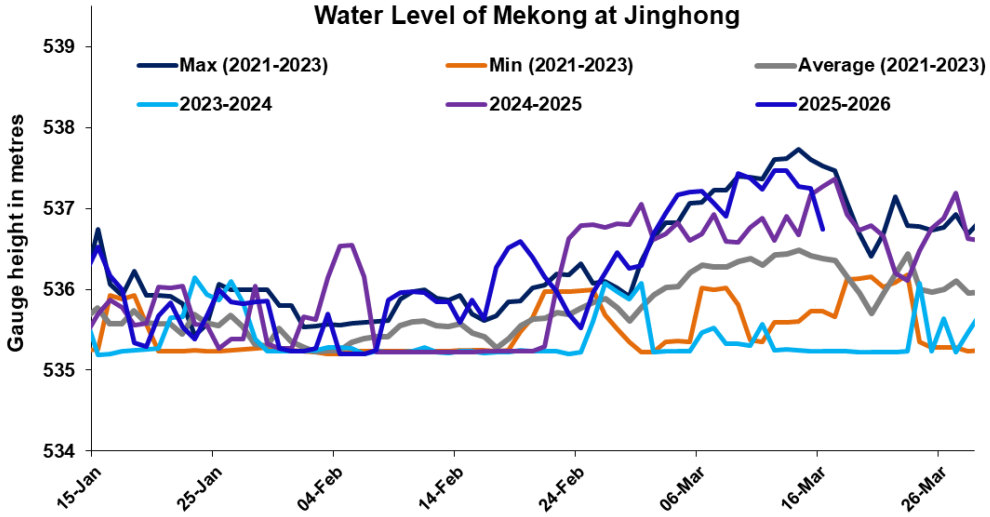


Figure 6. Water level at the Jinghong hydrological station up to 16 March 2026

At the end of the wet season, when water levels along the Mekong River subside, the outflow of the Tonle Sap Lake (TSL) returns to the Mekong River and then to the Delta. This phenomenon normally takes place between September and October. Based on flow observation at Prek Kdam monitoring station, the outflow of the Tonle Sap Lake took place since 14 September 2025.

The outflow flow is calculated based on a formula of rating-curves using by difference of water levels at Kompong Luong and Phnom Penh Port stations for slop and Prek Kdam as cross-section of the Lake. The formula of flow is as follows:

$$Flow = WL_{Prek\ Kdam}^{1.2} \times \sqrt{|WL_{Phnom\ Penh\ Port} - WL_{Kampong\ Luong}|}$$

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

The seasonal changes of the inflow/reverse flow and the outflow of the TSL at Prek Kdam in comparison with the flows of 2020, 2021 and 2022, 2023, 2024 and their LTA level (1997–2024) are illustrated in **Figure 8**. Up to 16 March 2026, it was observed that the main outflow from Tonle Sap Lake has recessing **(Figure 8)**. This decreased outflow of Tonle Sap Lake was most likely caused by low inflows from its tributaries.

The seasonal changes in monthly flow volumes up to 16 March 2026 for the TSL compared with that in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and their LTAs, and the fluctuation levels (1997–2024) are presented in **Table 1**. The mean monthly water volume of the Tonle Sap Lake

in January 2026 is higher than its LTA (about 98.87 %), and all recent years (2020 to 2025) during the same period **(Figure 8 and Table 1)**.

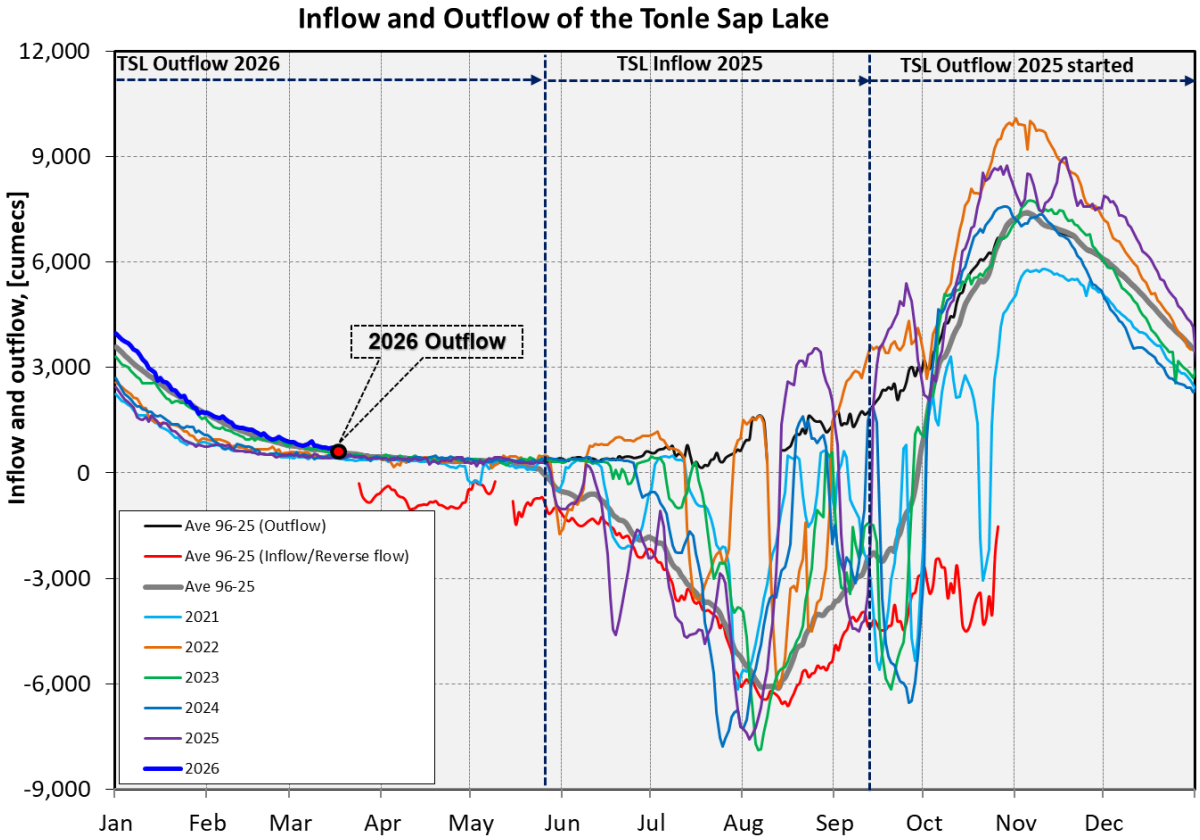


Figure 7: Seasonal change of inflows and outflows of Tonle Sap Lake.

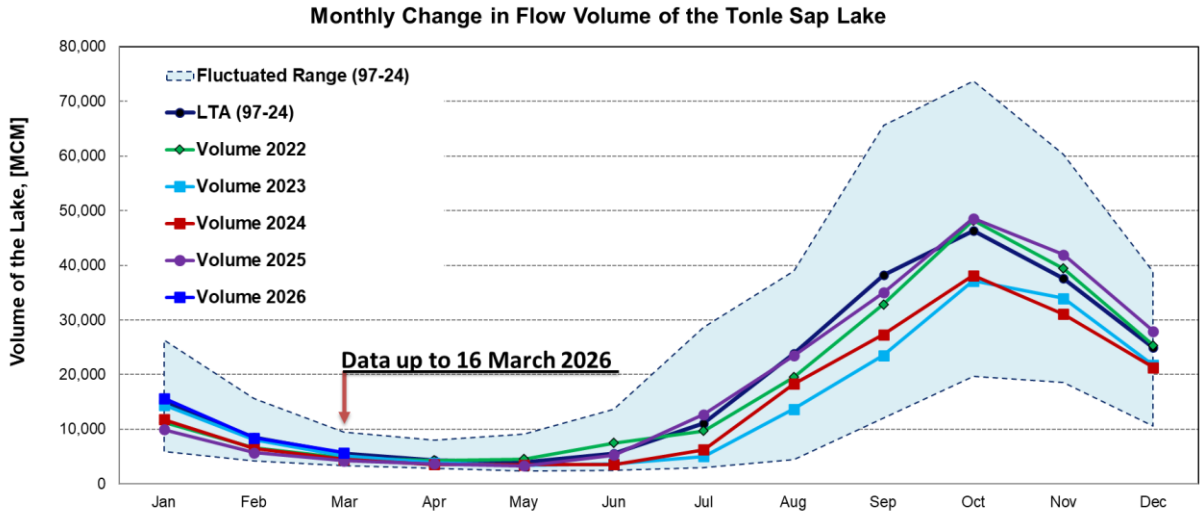


Figure 8. The seasonal change in monthly flow volume of Tonle Sap Lake.

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

Month	LTA (97-24) [MCM]	Max Volume [MCM]	Min Volume [MCM]	Volume 2020 [MCM]	Volume 2021 [MCM]	Volume 2022 [MCM]	Volume 2023 [MCM]	Volume 2024 [MCM]	Volume 2025 [MCM]	Volume 2026 [MCM]	Volume in 2026 [%], compared with its LTA
Jan	15016.17	26357.53	5906.80	5906.80	9923.80	11214.32	14422.11	11824.86	9927.00	15639.19	104.15
Feb	8543.47	15596.22	4198.60	4264.19	5832.97	6558.79	8069.29	6505.88	5690.52	8447.12	98.87
Mar	5522.42	9438.24	3347.07	3553.99	4264.88	4736.52	5080.64	4488.23	4256.33	5691.50	103.06
Apr	4279.51	8009.14	2866.91	2992.61	3556.68	4288.31	3884.16	3569.01	3697.92		
May	3985.91	9176.93	2417.81	2594.92	3240.78	4556.83	3438.66	3517.79	3322.45		
Jun	5612.10	13635.01	2468.70	2641.88	3798.29	7489.04	3689.97	3586.07	5278.20		
Jul	11070.72	28599.56	2925.86	2925.86	5346.73	9703.79	5062.21	6247.29	12706.40		
Aug	23851.22	39015.12	4433.46	5941.07	10547.80	19554.70	13694.57	18304.81	23464.06		
Sep	38261.48	65632.35	12105.31	12105.31	16382.34	32860.34	23550.60	27310.26	35010.86		
Oct	46341.38	73757.23	19705.50	20799.13	27318.21	48199.12	37141.40	38139.87	48583.60		
Nov	37653.83	60367.33	18534.61	27546.80	28982.93	39452.53	33929.52	31056.48	41943.59		
Dec	24911.64	38888.95	10563.49	18251.65	20170.76	25346.65	21757.70	21328.51	27941.36		
	Critical situation: lower than long-term minimum values (LTMIN)										
	Normal condition: within the range of long-term average (LTA) and max (LTMAX) values										
	Low volume situation: lower than long-term average (LTA)										
Unit: Million Cubic Meter (1 MCM= 0.001 Km^3)											

Remarks: the volume of Tonle Sap Lake in 2026 is updated untill 16 March 2026.

4. Flash Flood in the Lower Mekong Basin

During the weekly monitoring period from 10 - 16 March 2026, the LMB received light to moderate rain in some areas.
According to the Southeast Asia Flash Flood Guidance System (SEAFFGS) and analysis, no flash flood risk over the LMB.

5. Drought Monitoring in the Lower Mekong Basin

5.2. Weekly drought monitoring

Drought monitoring data for 2026 are available from Monday to Sunday every week; thus, the reporting period is normally delayed by one day 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)**

Meteorological indicator shows that from 10 – 16 March 2026, as shown in **Figure 9**, the LMB were facing normal conditions.

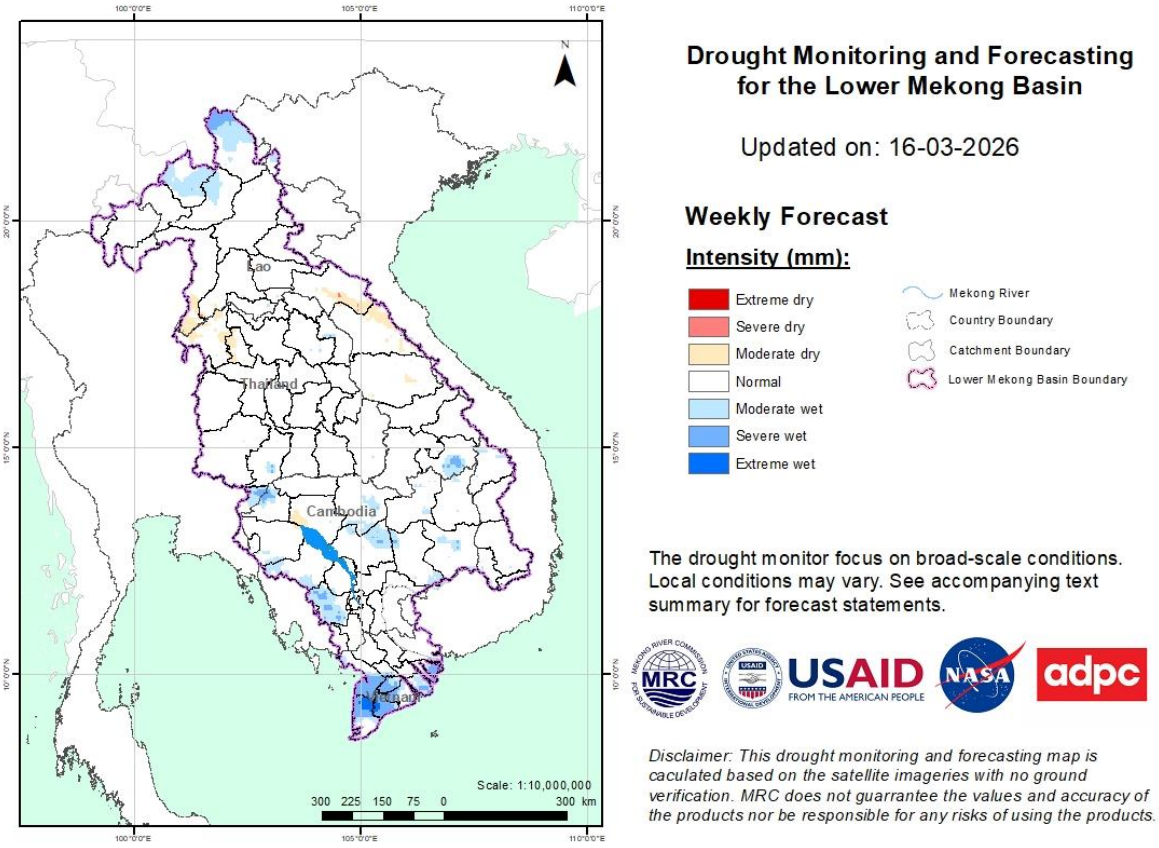


Figure 9: Weekly standardized precipitation index

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

Soil moisture conditions from 10 - 16 March 2026, as displayed in **Figure 10**, the LMB was facing moderate to severe drought conditions.

Note: *The index of soil water fraction presents the current soil water fraction conditions compared with normal month; therefore, it normally shows extremely dry during dry season which is completely different from SPI that is standardized to its specific month of the years. However, this does not mean that the areas are threatened by agricultural drought as generally during transition period of wet and dry seasons and dry season only the irrigated areas are used for agricultural plantation.*

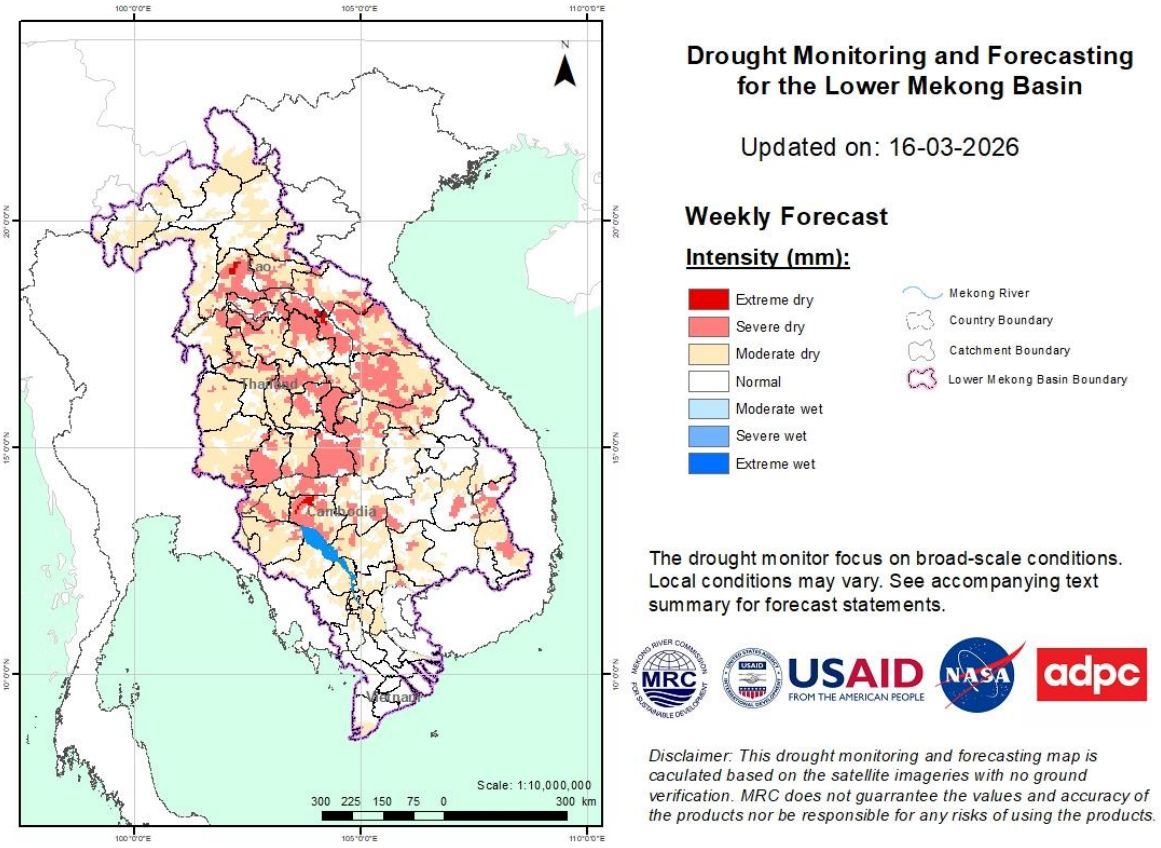


Figure 10: Weekly Index of Soil Water Fraction

- **Weekly Combined Drought Index (CDI)**

The combined drought indicator, **Figure 11**, shows that no drought in the LMB, except some areas in the central part of Lao PDR, the northeastern part of Thailand, and Cambodia (the detailed areas in the table below).

Number	Country	Province	Moderate	Severe	Extreme	Exceptional	Number	Country	Province	Moderate	Severe	Extreme	Exceptional	Number	Country	Province	Moderate	Severe	Extreme	Exceptional
1	Cambodia	Banteay Meanchey					15	Lao PDR	Vientiane Capital					29	Thailand	Nong Bua Lam Phu				
2	Cambodia	Battambang					16	Lao PDR	Xaignabouli					30	Thailand	Phitsanulok				
3	Cambodia	Otdar Meanchey					17	Lao PDR	Xaisomboun					31	Thailand	Roi Et				
4	Cambodia	Preah Vihear					18	Lao PDR	Xiangkhouang					32	Thailand	Sakon Nakhon				
5	Cambodia	Pursat					19	Thailand	Amnat Charoen					33	Thailand	Si Sa Ket				
6	Cambodia	Ratanakiri					20	Thailand	Bueng Kan					34	Thailand	Surin				
7	Cambodia	Siem Reap					21	Thailand	Buri Ram					35	Thailand	Ubon Ratchathani				
8	Lao PDR	Bolikhamxai					22	Thailand	Kalasin					36	Thailand	Udon Thani				
9	Lao PDR	Champasak					23	Thailand	Khon Kaen					37	Thailand	Yasothon				
10	Lao PDR	Khammouan					24	Thailand	Loei					38	Viet Nam	Dak lak				
11	Lao PDR	Louangphabang					25	Thailand	Maha Sarakham					39	Viet Nam	Gia Lai				
12	Lao PDR	Salavan					26	Thailand	Mukdahan					40	Viet Nam	Kon Tum				
13	Lao PDR	Savannakhet					27	Thailand	Nakhon Phanom											
14	Lao PDR	Vientiane					28	Thailand	Nakhon Ratchasima											
														Other provinces of the Mekong Delta of Viet Nam have no data						
															Moderate		Severe			
															Extreme		Exceptional			

Risk areas for overall drought, combined drought indicator (CDI) - *S: Short-term drought (less than 4 weeks); L: Long-term drought (more than 4 weeks)*

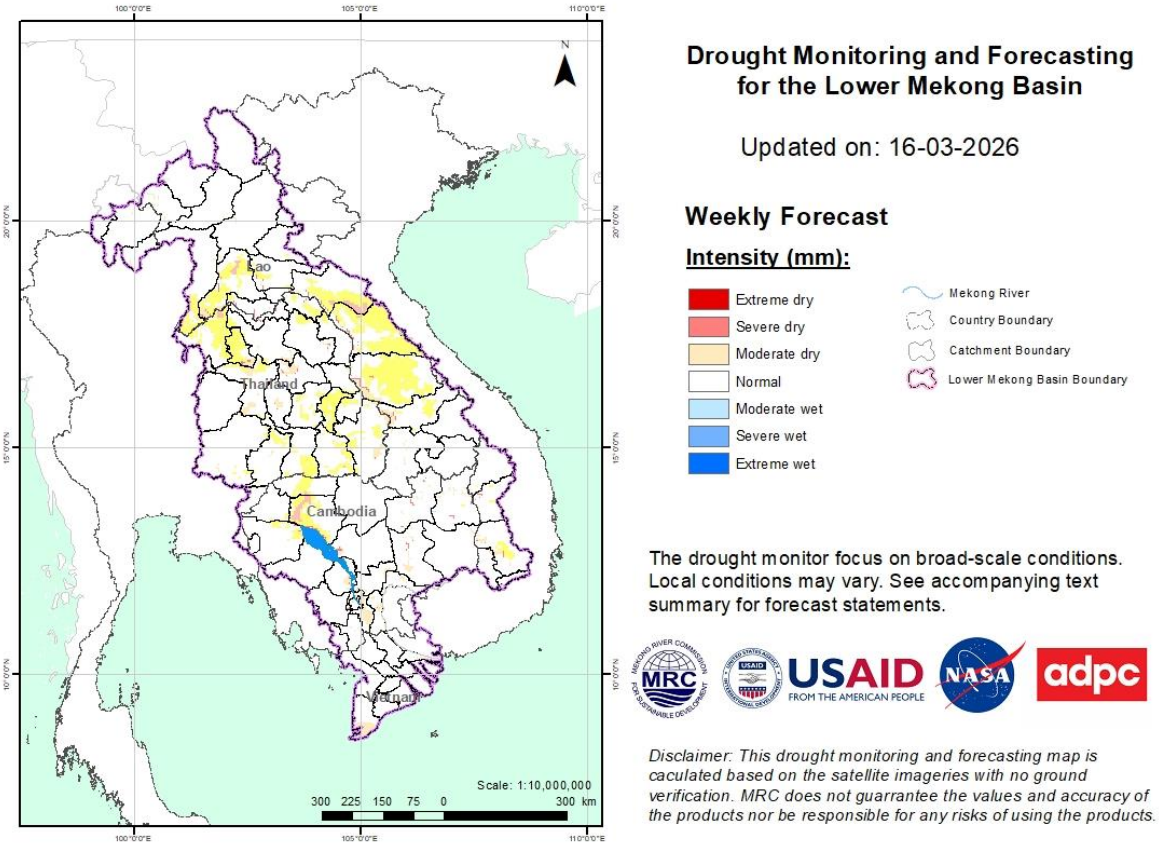


Figure 11: Weekly Combined Drought Index

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 Rainfall forecast

During 17 - 23 March 2026, the accumulated rainfall over the entire Lower Mekong Basin is distributed with the light rainfall is expected to occur in some areas in the LMB, including the northern and central part of Lao PDR, northeastern part of Thailand, and Cambodia based on CHIRPS-GFS (**Figure 12**).

Figure 12: Accumulated rainfall forecast from CHIRP-GFS (16 – 23 March 2026)

6.2 Water level forecast

From 17 to 23 March 2026, water levels at most of stations are expected to be in normal conditions. Water levels at most of stations are expected to be above LTAs except for Phnom Penh (Bassac) & Phnom Penh Port. The water levels at all stations are expected to drop at upper and downstream parts, while rising at the central part for the next week.

In Chiang Saen monitoring station, the water level is expected to be fluctuated with stable trend over the forecasting period of 17 – 23 March 2026. The water level in Luang Prabang stations affected by backwater is likely slightly fluctuating from 9.44 m to 9.33 m with decreasing trend. Moreover, at Chiang Khan, the water level is expected to decrease from 6.00 m to 5.55 m. At Vientiane and Nongkhai, the water levels are also expected to drop approximately -26 m and -17 m, respectively.

Along the Mekong mainstream, the water levels at Paksane, Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Mukdahan, Savannakhet, Khong Chiam, and Pakse, water levels are expected to increase next week approximately 0.28 m, 0.25 m, 0.23 m, 0.30 m, 0.29 m, 0.27 m, and 0.33 m, respectively.

Moving down at Stung Treng, Kratie, and Kompong Cham stations, water levels will slightly rise of approximately, 0.10 m, 0.23 m, and 0.04 m, respectively. However, at Phnom Penh (Bassac), Phnom Penh Port, Koh Khel, Neak Luong and Prek Kdam stations, the water levels have dropped approximately -0.22 m, -0.22 m, -0.13 m, -0.28 m, and -0.31 m, respectively.

For the Tan Chau station on the Mekong River and Chau Doc station on the Bassac River, water levels will be fluctuating approximately ranging between 0.87 m & 0.28 m and 0.99 m & 0.36 m, respectively, following daily tidal effects from the sea.

The water levels at key stations are forecasted to be above their LTAs from 17 to 23 March 2026 except for Phnom Penh (Bassac), and Phnom Penh Port.

The weekly River Monitoring Bulletin and forecasting issued on 16 March 2026 can be found in **Table 2.** Results of the weekly river monitoring and forecasting bulletin are also available at http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin.php

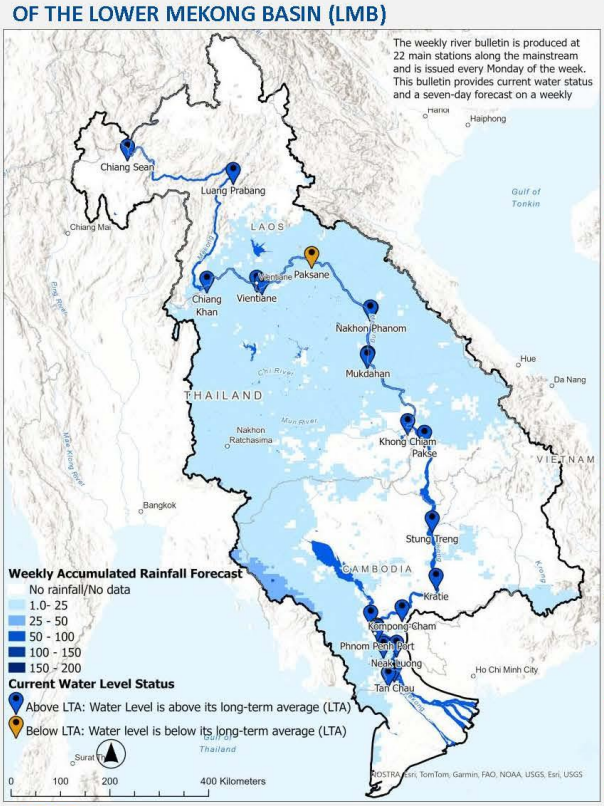
Table 2. Weekly River Monitoring Bulletin.

MEKONG RIVER MONITORING AND FORECASTING BULLETIN

Monitoring on 16 March 2026 and weekly forecasting from 17 to 23 March 2026

Highlights: *Today's water levels at all stations are **in normal conditions**. In the next 7 days, most of water levels are expected to be **above LTAs** except for **Phnom Penh (Bassac)** and **Phnom Penh Port stations**.*

THE FORECASTING HYDROLOGICAL STATION MAP OF THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN (LMB)



CURRENT WATER LEVEL STATUS

Monitoring Station	Rainfall (mm)	Zero gauge amsl (m)	Water level against zero gauge (m)		Current Status	Flow Threshold (PMFM*SA)
	15-Mar		15-Mar	16-Mar		
Jinghong	0.5	-	537.25	536.74		
Chiang Saen	0.0	357.110	3.64	3.50	Above LTA	Normal
Luang Prabang**	0.0	267.195	9.67	9.74	Above LTA	-
Chiang Khan	0.0	194.118	5.95	6.00	Above LTA	-
Vientiane	nr	158.040	3.78	3.81	Above LTA	Normal
Nongkhai	0.0	153.648	2.68	2.75	Above LTA	-
Paksane	0.0	142.125	3.00	2.98	Below LTA	-
Nakhon Phanom	0.0	130.961	2.28	2.36	Above LTA	-
Thakhek	0.0	129.629	3.93	4.01	Above LTA	-
Mukdahan	0.0	124.219	2.54	2.62	Above LTA	-
Savannakhet	0.0	125.410	1.04	1.12	Above LTA	-
Khong Chiam	0.0	89.030	2.79	2.87	Above LTA	Normal
Pakse	0.0	86.490	1.64	1.72	Above LTA	Normal
Stung Treng	0.0	36.790	2.98	2.96	Above LTA	Normal
Kratie	0.0	-1.080	7.91	7.92	Above LTA	Normal
Kompong Cham	0.0	-0.930	3.12	3.12	Above LTA	-
Phnom Penh (Bassac)	0.0	-1.020	2.30	2.27	Above LTA	-
Phnom Penh Port	nr	0.000	1.30	1.26	Below LTA	-
Koh Khel	0.0	-1.000	2.46	2.50	Above LTA	-
Neak Luong	0.0	-0.330	1.92	1.90	Above LTA	-
Prek Kdam	0.0	0.080	1.47	1.45	Above LTA	-
Tan Chau	0.0	0.000	0.66	0.87	Above LTA	-
Chau Doc	nr	0.000	0.78	0.99	Above LTA	-

** Procedures for Maintenance of Flows on the Mainstream*

*** Luang Prabang station is influenced by hydropowers at its upstream and downstream*

WEEKLY WATER LEVEL FORECAST

Forecasting Station	Forecasted Water Levels (m)							Status	Trend
	17-Mar	18-Mar	19-Mar	20-Mar	21-Mar	22-Mar	23-Mar		
Jinghong	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chiang Saen	3.33	3.23	3.18	3.17	3.17	3.19	3.20	Above LTA	Decreasing
Luang Prabang	9.77	9.65	9.50	9.40	9.35	9.33	9.33	Above LTA	Decreasing
Chiang Khan	6.08	6.17	6.16	5.95	5.74	5.61	5.55	Above LTA	Decreasing
Vientiane	3.91	3.99	4.04	3.99	3.79	3.63	3.55	Above LTA	Decreasing
Nongkhai	2.89	2.97	3.08	2.97	2.81	2.65	2.58	Above LTA	Decreasing
Paksane	3.15	3.47	3.67	3.77	3.73	3.49	3.26	Above LTA	Increasing
Nakhon Phanom	2.41	2.53	2.67	2.74	2.77	2.73	2.61	Above LTA	Increasing
Thakhek	4.07	4.24	4.33	4.37	4.37	4.32	4.24	Above LTA	Increasing
Mukdahan	2.67	2.74	2.88	2.97	3.02	3.01	2.92	Above LTA	Increasing
Savannakhet	1.17	1.25	1.38	1.48	1.52	1.51	1.41	Above LTA	Increasing
Khong Chiam	2.87	2.86	2.91	3.04	3.12	3.16	3.14	Above LTA	Increasing
Pakse	1.76	1.77	1.81	1.92	2.01	2.05	2.05	Above LTA	Increasing
Stung Treng	2.98	2.99	3.00	3.02	3.04	3.05	3.06	Above LTA	Increasing
Kratie	7.90	7.93	7.98	8.00	8.09	8.12	8.15	Above LTA	Increasing
Kompong Cham	3.12	3.05	3.08	3.10	3.13	3.15	3.16	Above LTA	Stable
Phnom Penh (Bassac)	2.26	2.25	2.21	2.17	2.14	2.11	2.05	Below LTA	Decreasing
Phnom Penh Port	1.25	1.24	1.20	1.16	1.13	1.10	1.04	Below LTA	Decreasing
Koh Khel	2.49	2.49	2.48	2.45	2.42	2.40	2.37	Above LTA	Decreasing
Neak Luong	1.89	1.84	1.80	1.76	1.72	1.69	1.62	Above LTA	Decreasing
Prek Kdam	1.44	1.42	1.37	1.32	1.28	1.24	1.14	Above LTA	Decreasing
Tan Chau	1.12	1.26	1.22	1.02	0.78	0.53	0.28	Above LTA	-
Chau Doc	1.20	1.34	1.30	1.10	0.86	0.61	0.36	Above LTA	-

NOTES

- Today's water levels are in **normal conditions**. At most of stations, water levels are **above LTAs** except for **Paksane, & Phnom Penh Port stations**.
- In the next 7 days, the **light rainfall** is expected to occur in some areas in the LMB including the **northern and central part of Lao PDR, the northeastern part of Thailand, and Cambodia**.
- In the next 7 days, water levels at most of stations are expected to be above LTAs except for **Phnom Penh (Bassac) & Phnom Penh Port.** The water levels at all stations are expected to **drop** at upper and downstream parts, while **rising** at the central part.

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http://www.mrcmekong.org/
http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin_dry.php
http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/report_dry.php
https://pmfm.mrcmekong.org/

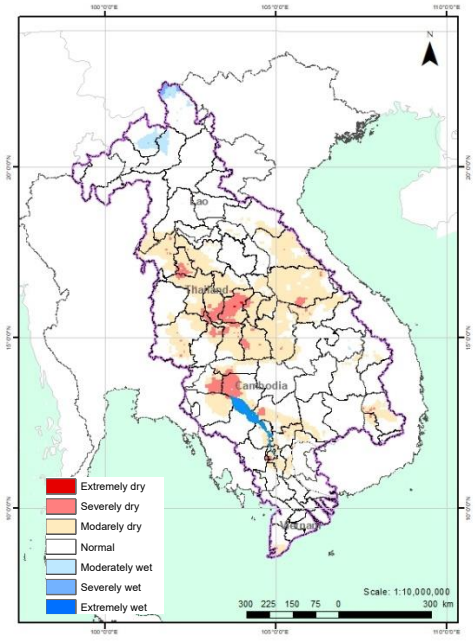
6.3 Flash Flood Information

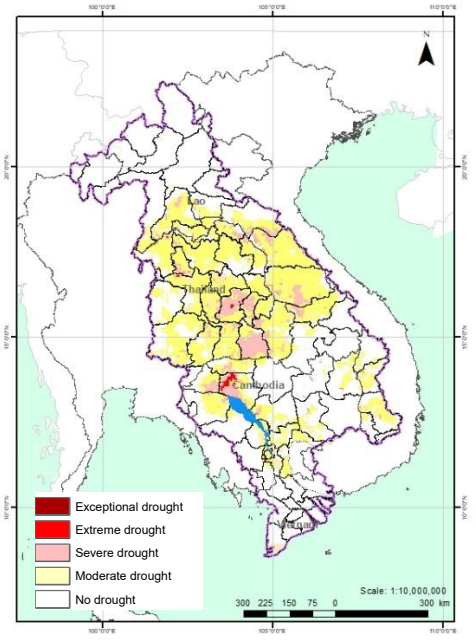
Flash flood events are not likely to happen in the LMB next week. However, local heavy rain in a short period of time might still be possible with unexpected short flash floods. During the dry season if extreme weather occurs, the information on flash flood guidance for the next one, three, and six hours is updated at http://119.15.81.22:8000/bulletin/

Further detailed information on Flash Flood Information Warning, as well as on its explanation, is available for download here.

6.4 Drought forecast

The weekly forecast from 17 - 23 March 2026 indicates that the LMB is likely to experience moderate to severe drought condition in some areas in the upper and central part of Lao PDR, northeastern part of Thailand and Cambodia based on the Combined Drought Index (the detailed areas in the table below). **Figure 13** below shows the weekly forecasts for SPI and CDI.





The Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) Forecast

Number	Country	Province	Moderate	Severe	Extreme	Exceptional
1	Cambodia	Banteay Meanchey				
2	Cambodia	Battambang				
3	Cambodia	Kampong Cham				
4	Cambodia	Kampong Chhnang				
5	Cambodia	Kampong Speu				
6	Cambodia	Kampong Thom				
7	Cambodia	Kandal				
8	Cambodia	Kratie				
9	Cambodia	Mondulkiri				
10	Cambodia	Otdar Meanchey				
11	Cambodia	Phnom Penh				
12	Cambodia	Preah Vihear				
13	Cambodia	Prey Veng				
14	Cambodia	Pursat				
15	Cambodia	Ratanakiri				
16	Cambodia	Siem Reap				
17	Cambodia	Stung Treng				
18	Cambodia	Takeo				
19	Cambodia	Tboung Khmum				
20	Lao PDR	Attapu				
21	Lao PDR	Bolikhamxai				
22	Lao PDR	Champasak				
23	Lao PDR	Khammouan				
24	Lao PDR	Louangphabang				
25	Lao PDR	Salavan				
26	Lao PDR	Savannakhet				
27	Lao PDR	Vientiane				
28	Lao PDR	Vientiane Capital				
29	Lao PDR	Xaignabouli				
30	Lao PDR	Xaisomboun				
31	Lao PDR	Xekong				
32	Lao PDR	Xiangkhouang				
33	Thailand	Amnat Charoen				
34	Thailand	Bueng Kan				
35	Thailand	Buri Ram				
36	Thailand	Chaiyaphum				
37	Thailand	Chiang Rai				
38	Thailand	Kalasin				
39	Thailand	Khon Kaen				
40	Thailand	Loei				
41	Thailand	Maha Sarakham				
42	Thailand	Mukdahan				
43	Thailand	Nakhon Nayok				
44	Thailand	Nakhon Phanom				
45	Thailand	Nakhon Ratchasima				
46	Thailand	Nong Bua Lam Phu				
47	Thailand	Nong Khai				
48	Thailand	Phetchabun				
49	Thailand	Phitsanulok				
50	Thailand	Roi Et				

The Combined Drought Index (CDI) Forecast

Number	Country	Province	Moderate	Severe	Extreme	Exceptional
51	Thailand	Sakon Nakhon				
52	Thailand	Si Sa Ket				
53	Thailand	Sa Kaeo				
54	Thailand	Surin				
55	Thailand	Ubon Ratchathani				
56	Thailand	Udon Thani				
57	Thailand	Yasothon				
59	Viet Nam	Dak lak				
62	Viet Nam	Gia Lai				
63	Viet Nam	Kon Tum				
Other provinces of the Mekong Delta of Viet Nam have no data						
	Moderate		Severe			
	Extreme		Exceptional			

Figure 13. Weekly forecasts for SPI and CDI

7 Summary and Possible Implications

7.1. Rainfall and its forecast

In the period of 10 - 16 March 2026, light to moderate rain occurred in some areas in the Lower Mekong Basin including in the centre and southern part of Lao PDR, Cambodia, and the Mekong delta

During 17 - 23 March 2026, light rainfall that is expected to occur in some areas in the LMB, including the upper and central part of Lao PDR, the northeast of Thailand and Cambodia.

Water level and its forecast

At 22 key monitoring stations along the Mekong mainstream from 10 – 16 March 2026, at most of stations, most of stations, water levels are above LTAs except for Paksane, & Phnom Penh Port stations. However, the 6 monitoring stations remain in normal condition with respect to the flow threshold (PMFM Thresholds). It is also the same condition for Tan Chau and Chau Doc monitoring stations, which are significantly influenced by sea tidal fluctuation.

In the period of 17 – 23 March 2026, water levels at most of stations are expected to be above LTAs except for Phnom Penh (Bassac) & Phnom Penh Port. At Tan Chau and Chau Doc stations, the water levels are predicted to be also fluctuated, resulting from the influence of sea tidal patterns. At most of stations, water levels are above LTAs except for Phnom Penh (Bassac) and Phnom Penh Port stations.

7.2. Flash flood and its trends

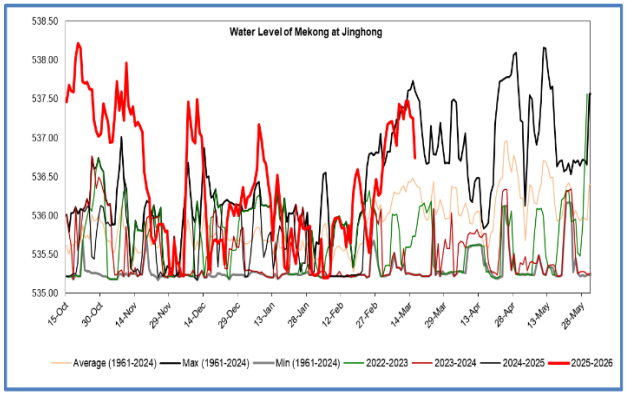
With the predicted of rainfall for the coming week as mentioned earlier in section 6.1, major flash floods are not likely to happen in the LMB.

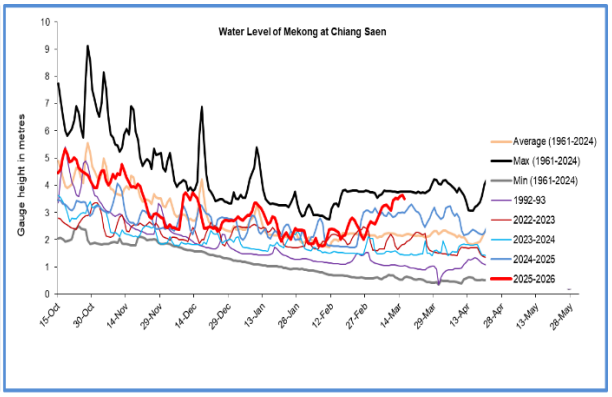
7.3. Drought condition and its forecast

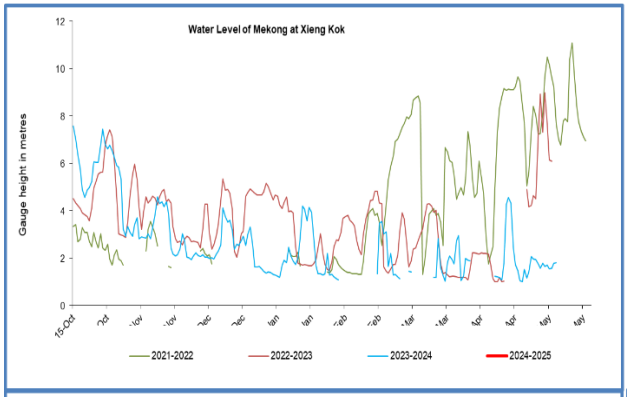
During 10 - 16 March 2026, the combined drought indicator (CDI), that no drought in the LMB, except some areas in the central part of Lao PDR, the northeastern part of Thailand, and Cambodia.

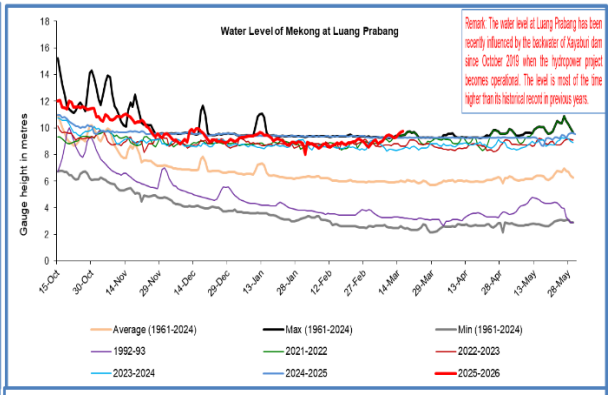
The weekly forecast from 17 - 23 March 2026 indicates that the LMB is likely to experience moderate to severe drought condition in some areas in the central part of Lao PDR, northeastern part of Thailand and Cambodia based on the Combined Drought Index.

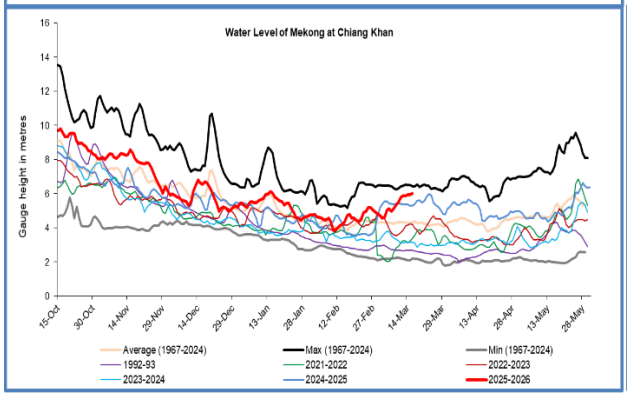
Annex A: Weekly water level monitoring at 22 key stations

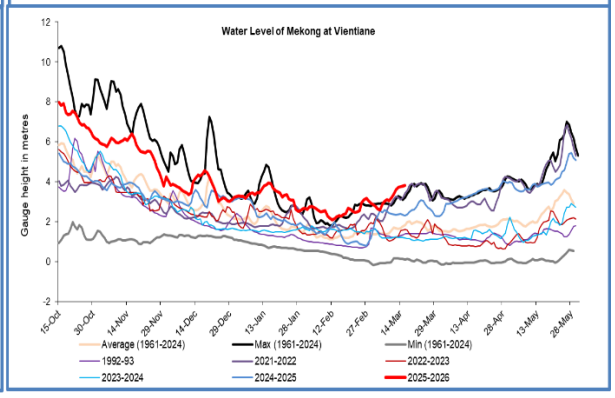


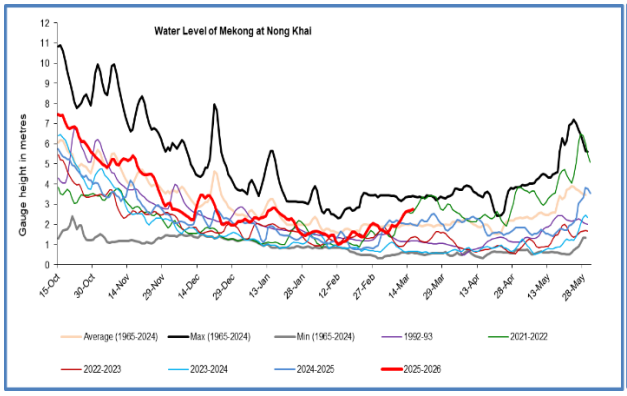


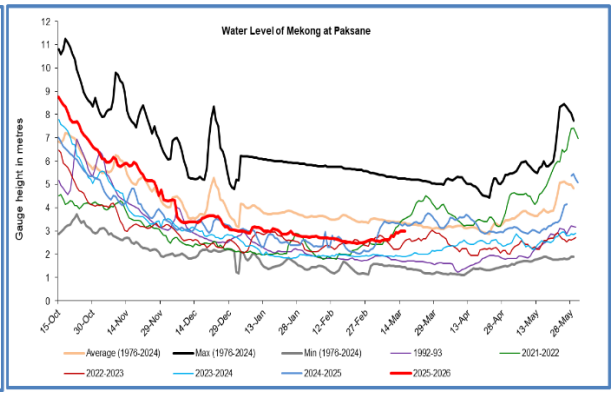


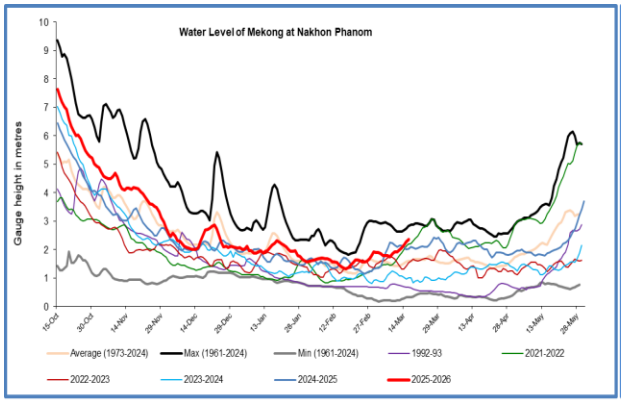


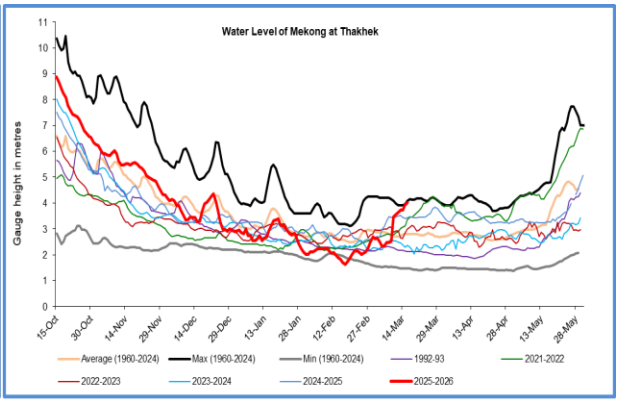


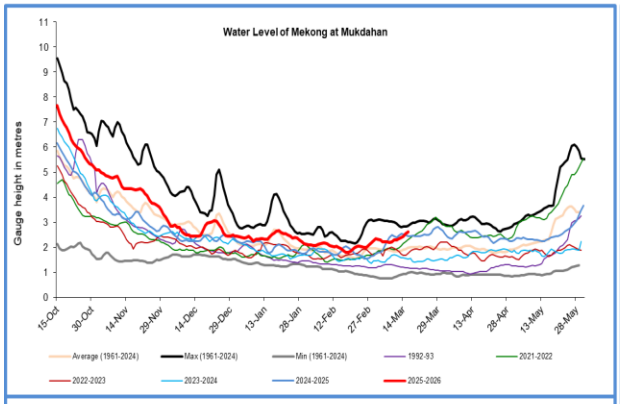


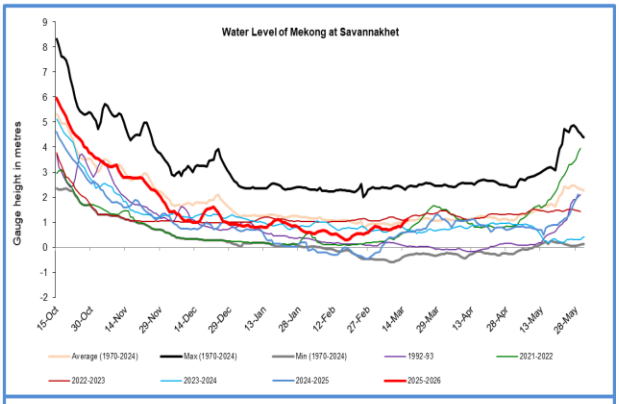


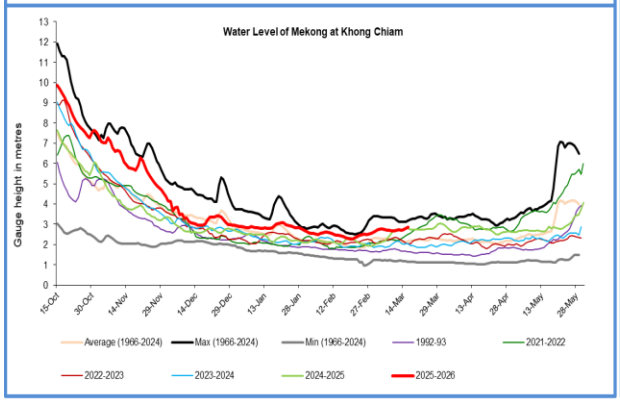


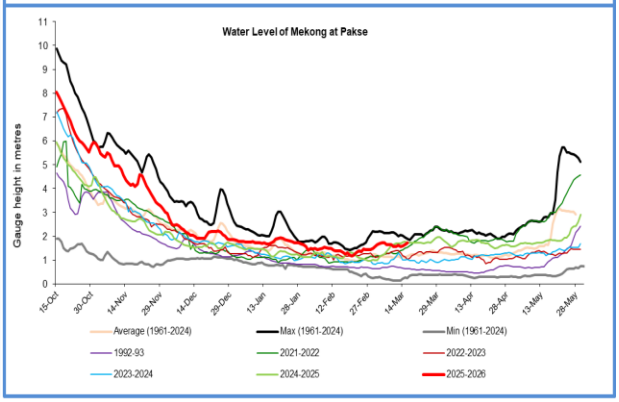

Water Level of Mekong at Nakhon Phanom
Gauge height in metres
Average (1973-2024)
Max (1961-2024)
Min (1961-2024)
1992-93
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026

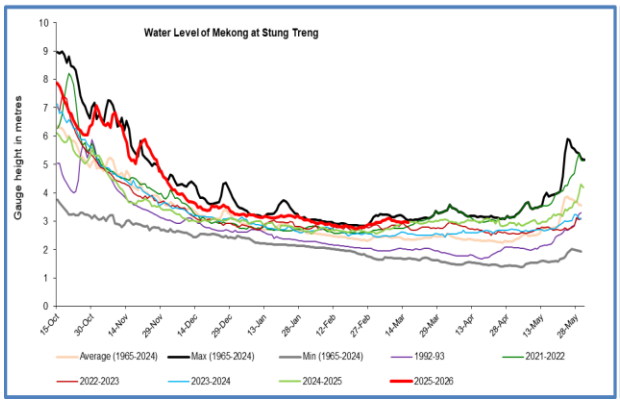

Water Level of Mekong at Thakhek
Gauge height in metres
Average (1960-2024)
Max (1960-2024)
Min (1960-2024)
1992-93
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026

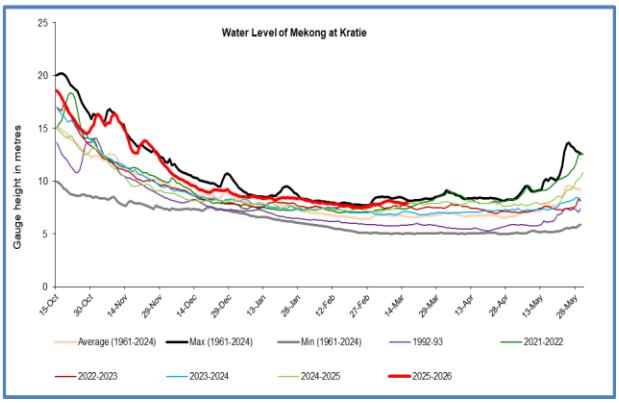

Water Level of Mekong at Mukdahan
Gauge height in metres
Average (1961-2024)
Max (1961-2024)
Min (1961-2024)
1992-93
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026

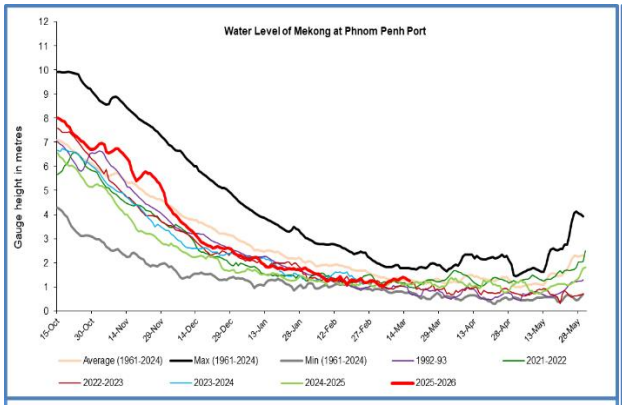

Water Level of Mekong at Savannakhet
Gauge height in metres
Average (1970-2024)
Max (1970-2024)
Min (1970-2024)
1992-93
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026

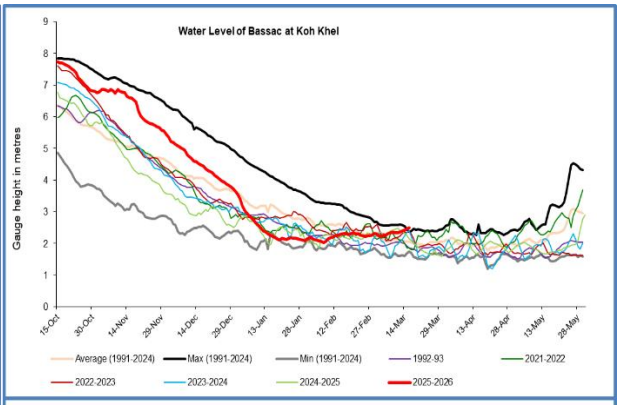

Water Level of Mekong at Khong Chiam
Gauge height in metres
Average (1966-2024)
Max (1966-2024)
Min (1966-2024)
1992-93
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026

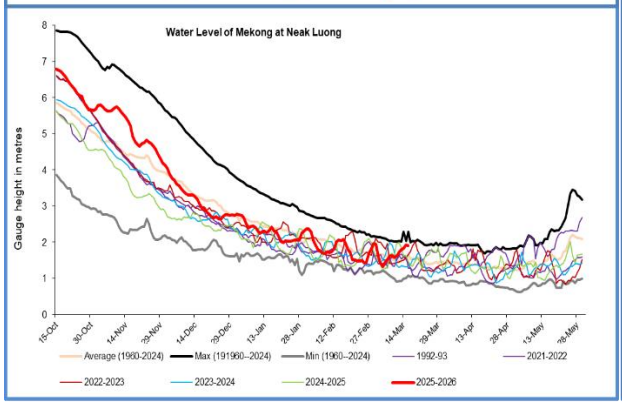

Water Level of Mekong at Pakse
Gauge height in metres
Average (1961-2024)
Max (1961-2024)
Min (1961-2024)
1992-93
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026

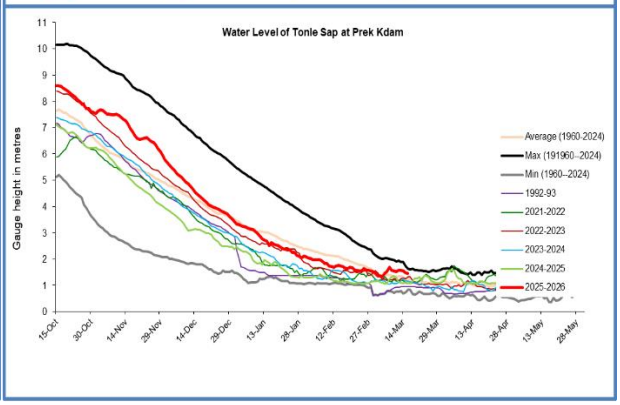

Water Level of Mekong at Stung Treng
Gauge height in metres
Average (1965-2024)
Max (1965-2024)
Min (1965-2024)
1992-93
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026

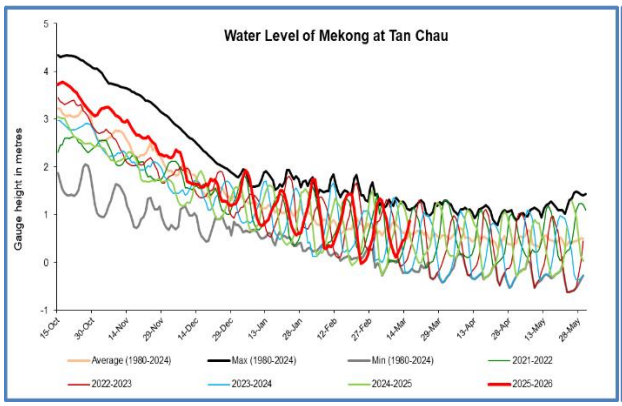

Water Level of Mekong at Kratie
Gauge height in metres
Average (1961-2024)
Max (1961-2024)
Min (1961-2024)
1992-93
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026

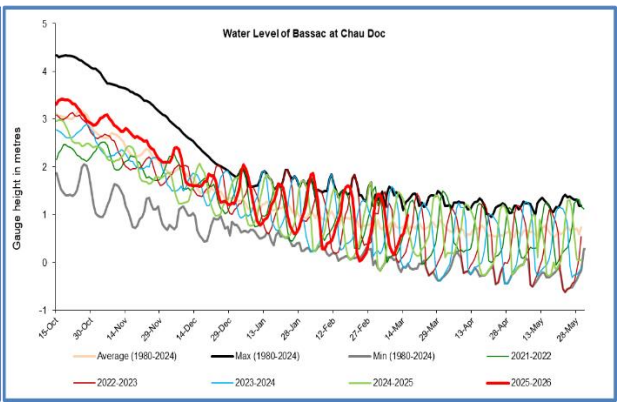

Water Level of Mekong at Phnom Penh Port
Gauge height in metres
Average (1961-2024)
Max (1961-2024)
Min (1961-2024)
1992-93
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026


Water Level of Bassac at Koh Khel
Gauge height in metres
Average (1991-2024)
Max (1991-2024)
Min (1991-2024)
1992-93
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026


Water Level of Mekong at Neak Luong
Gauge height in metres
Average (1960-2024)
Max (191960--2024)
Min (1960--2024)
1992-93
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026


Water Level of Tonle Sap at Prek Kdam
Gauge height in metres
Average (1960-2024)
Max (191960--2024)
Min (1960--2024)
1992-93
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026


Water Level of Mekong at Tan Chau
Gauge height in metres
Average (1980-2024)
Max (1980-2024)
Min (1980-2024)
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026


Water Level of Bassac at Chau Doc
Gauge height in metres
Average (1980-2024)
Max (1980-2024)
Min (1980-2024)
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026

Annex B: Tables for weekly updated water levels and rainfall at the Key Stations

Table A1: Weekly observed water levels

2026	Jinghong	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
10-03-2026	537.38	3.07	9.46	5.52	3.20	2.08	2.80	1.93	2.46	2.28	0.77	2.66	1.58	3.01	8.02	3.26	2.30	1.29	2.34	1.58	1.54	0.11	0.16
11-03-2026	537.24	3.43	9.36	5.78	3.35	2.22	2.76	1.93	2.57	2.29	0.79	2.69	1.58	2.98	7.98	3.16	2.29	1.28	2.33	1.62	1.52	0.19	0.29
12-03-2026	537.47	3.53	9.26	5.85	3.61	2.48	2.93	1.99	2.64	2.33	0.83	2.72	1.62	2.97	7.95	3.18	2.34	1.35	2.36	1.71	1.56	0.32	0.40
13-03-2026	537.47	3.49	9.30	5.86	3.71	2.62	2.92	2.06	2.73	2.39	0.82	2.71	1.58	2.95	7.91	3.18	2.38	1.39	2.39	1.79	1.57	0.45	0.55
14-03-2026	537.27	3.60	9.50	5.94	3.76	2.65	3.00	2.16	2.73	2.45	0.95	2.75	1.60	2.97	7.85	3.16	2.36	1.37	2.42	1.84	1.55	0.48	0.60
15-03-2026	537.25	3.64	9.67	5.95	3.78	2.68	3.00	2.28	2.93	2.54	1.04	2.79	1.64	2.98	7.91	3.12	2.30	1.30	2.46	1.92	1.47	0.66	0.78
16-03-2026	536.74	3.50	9.74	6.00	3.81	2.75	2.98	2.36	3.01	2.62	1.12	2.87	1.72	2.96	7.92	3.12	2.27	1.26	2.50	1.90	1.45	0.87	0.99
Flood level		12.80	18.00	16.00	12.50	12.00	14.50	12.50	14.00	12.50	13.00	14.50	12.00	12.00	23.00	16.20	12.00	11.00	7.90	8.00	10.00	4.50	4.00

Table A2: Weekly observed rainfall

2026	Jinghong	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
10-03-2026	3.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
11-03-2026	8.5	7.7	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
12-03-2026	0	0	0.4	5.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
13-03-2026	2	1.1	26.7	35.6	2.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
14-03-2026	0	0	0	0	0	18.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
15-03-2026	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	15.5	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
16-03-2026	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Sum	16.0	8.8	27.5	41.3	2.6	18.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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