

Weekly Flood Situation Report for the Mekong River Basin

Prepared at: 20/07/2015, covering the week from the 13th to 20th July 2015

Weather Patterns, General Behaviour of the Mekong River and Flood Situation

General weather patterns

During the week of 13th to 20th July 2015 four weather bulletins were issued by the Department of Meteorology (DOM) of Cambodia. The weather maps of the 13th July and 19th July are presented in the Figures 1 & 2 below:

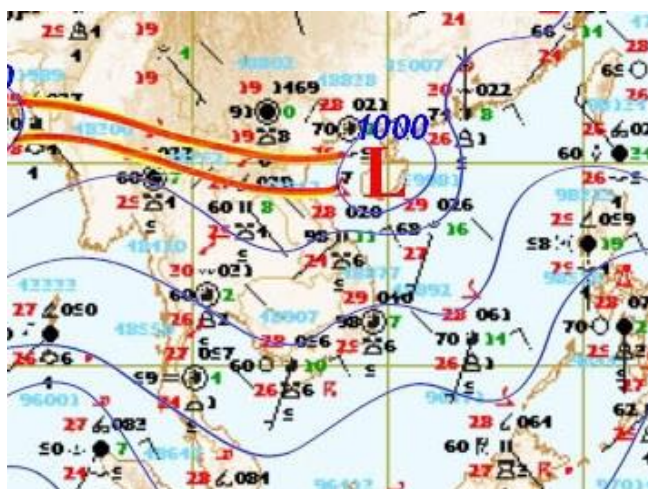


Figure 1: Weather map for 13th July 2015

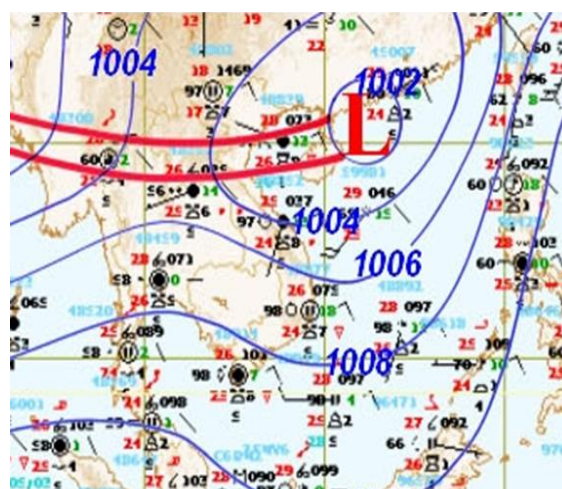


Figure 2: Weather map for 19th July 2015

Moderate South-West (SW) Monsoon

The strong Southwest monsoon prevailed over Andaman Sea, the Gulf of Thailand, Thailand and Indochina Peninsular at the surface (Figure 1 & 2).

Tropical depressions (TD), tropical storms (TS) or typhoons (TY)

No TD, TS or TY was presented in LMB during last week.

Other weather phenomena that affect the discharge

During the last week, the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) moved from middle of Myanmar, to across the upper North of Thailand, the North of Lao PDR and Viet Nam while the strong Southwest monsoon prevails over Andaman Sea, the Gulf of Thailand, Thailand and Indochina Peninsular at the surface.

Over weather situation

During the last week, the weather was influenced by ITCZ, trough of low pressure and strong Southwest monsoon. Therefore, moderate and heavy rain occurred for all stations of middle and lower reaches of the Mekong River Basin during last week. Especially, the record of daily precipitation at Mahaxai (LAOS) from 7:00 am on 19th to 7:00 am on 20th of July was 401.1 mm, see Figure 3 and Table A2 for more detail.

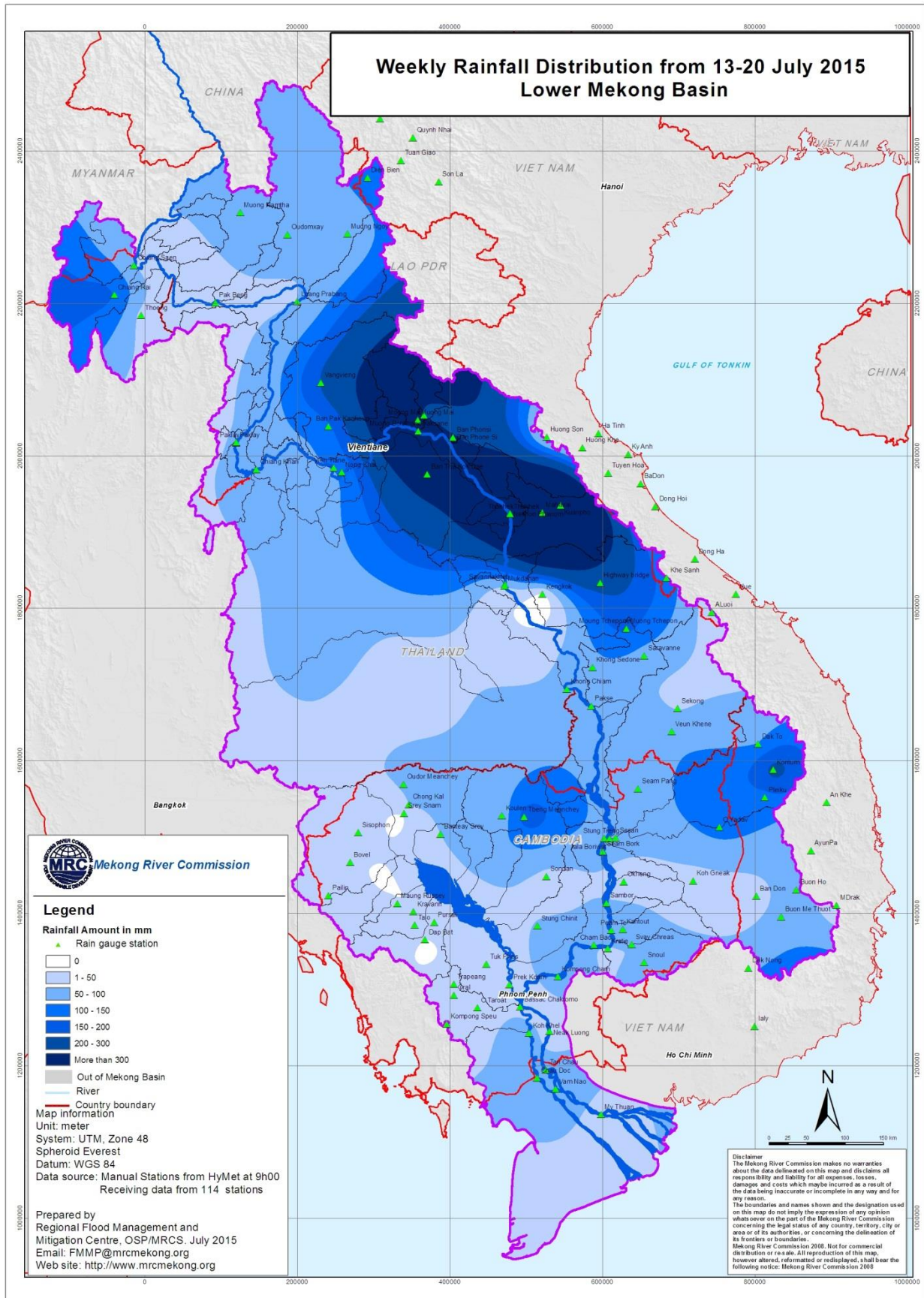


Figure 3: Weekly Rainfall Distribution over the LMB from 13th – 20th July 2015

General behaviour of the Mekong River

During the last week, the water levels at all stations of LMB were fluctuated, rising up but still below the Long Term Average (LTA).

For stations from Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang

Compared to the long term average (LTA), during last week the water levels at these stations were increased below the LTA.

For stations from Chiang Khan, Vientiane and Nong Khai and Paksane

Compared to the long term average (LTA), during last week the water levels at these stations were below the LTA.

For stations from Thakhet/Nakon Phanom to Pakse

Compared to the long term average (LTA), during last week the water levels were increased below the LTA.

For stations from Stung Treng to Kompong Cham

Compared to the long term average (LTA), during last week the water levels were fluctuated below the LTA.

For stations from Phnom Penh to Koh Khel/Neak Luong

Compared to the long term average (LTA), during last week the water levels were slightly increased still below the LTA.

Tan Chau and Chau Doc

Compared to the long term average (LTA), during last week, the water levels at both stations decreased below the LTA.

Note: For areas between forecast stations, please refer to the nearest forecast station.

Flood Situation

- Flood stage or alarm stage:

No alarm stage (where the forecast is expected to reach flood level within three days) was reported anywhere on the mainstream of the Mekong River during the last week. Water levels were still significantly below flood levels (as defined by the national agency) at all forecast stations.

- Damage or victims:

No damage or loss of life due to river flooding was recorded anywhere along the Mekong River during the last week.

For more details see the following annexes:

- tables and graphs for water level and rainfall for the last week in Annex A
- a graph for accuracy in Annex B
- a table of forecast achievement in Annex B
- tables and graphs for performance in Annex B
- the water level graphs showing the observed water level for the season in Annex C

Annex A: Graphs and Tables

Table A1: observed water levels

Unit in m

2015	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
13/07	537.46	2.31	5.68	6.41	2.80	3.46	4.57	2.40	3.63	2.70	1.95	3.90	3.22	4.27	10.56	5.20	2.59	1.63	2.45	1.76	1.72	0.96	1.03
14/07	537.56	2.51	4.98	6.46	2.90	3.46	4.98	2.56	3.81	2.74	2.01	3.70	3.10	4.41	10.95	5.58	2.88	1.96	2.70	1.82	2.01	1.04	1.12
15/07	537.27	3.19	4.74	6.16	2.97	3.58	5.10	2.64	3.91	2.82	2.04	3.51	2.75	4.63	11.25	5.86	3.04	2.10	2.86	1.94	2.18	0.98	1.04
16/07	537.19	3.59	4.71	5.68	2.80	3.50	5.60	2.86	4.13	2.93	2.08	3.46	2.60	4.58	11.42	6.20	3.29	2.47	3.05	2.12	2.41	0.80	0.90
17/07	536.97	3.55	5.38	5.26	2.34	3.20	5.66	3.30	4.55	3.24	2.13	3.45	2.54	4.58	11.31	6.24	3.39	2.51	3.17	2.20	2.53	0.58	0.68
18/07	536.19	3.67	6.20	5.00	2.16	2.80	5.70	3.80	5.09	3.78	2.77	3.54	2.56	4.43	11.33	6.21	3.41	2.53	3.19	2.30	2.55	0.41	0.27
19/07	536.21	4.06	7.06	5.51	1.82	2.50	5.35	4.40	5.67	4.41	3.12	3.93	2.84	4.23	11.18	6.18	3.45	2.56	3.29	2.34	2.53	0.35	0.16
20/07	536.58	3.98	7.82	5.98	1.85	2.38	5.43	5.30	6.46	5.41	4.70	4.59	3.38	4.29	11.00	6.05	3.38	2.48	3.17	2.30	2.51	0.35	0.18

Table A2: observed rainfall

Unit in mm

2015	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
13/07	0.0	1.0	nr	15.4	3.5	24.2	60.3	3.6	2.3	1.0	1.8	34.8	35.8	nr	nr	12.2	2.3	-	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
14/07	0.0	9.0	nr	2.7	nr	3.7	0.5	0.0	1.0	0.0	5.6	3.2	2.6	11.5	12.5	18.8	nr	-	0.0	2.4	nr	6.7	12.0
15/07	0.0	2.4	8.4	0.0	nr	0.0	6.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	nr	6.0	7.2	11.0	nr	nr	nr	-	nr	0.0	nr	8.8	13.0
16/07	19.5	0.8	6.8	6.7	30.4	22.8	56.1	29.6	33.7	3.4	nr	3.4	2.0	6.5	nr	1.9	22.3	-	45.0	2.2	nr	16.6	7.0
17/07	10.0	34.8	3.0	38.5	3.6	8.6	41.1	0.0	17.2	0.0	nr	0.0	3.1	27.0	0.5	nr	nr	-	10.0	nr	nr	0.0	nr
18/07	21.5	2.2	9.6	1.2	2.1	1.5	45.9	68.8	55.3	2.7	20.2	0.0	10.0	1.0	nr	nr	nr	-	0.0	0.0	nr	nr	nr
19/07	24.0	0.6	3.8	0.0	36.2	26.7	46.2	149.9	145.6	25.0	19.0	12.7	7.7	7.5	27.0	10.4	1.6	-	0.6	9.4	6.3	12.0	11.3
20/07	4.1	2.0	20.1	13.9	28.5	21.2	185.0	166.8	164.1	21.0	18.9	5.9	nr	9.5	7.0	40.1	7.5	-	15.7	7.4	4.2	20.5	10.1

Figure A1: Observed water level and rainfall for Jinghong, Chiang Saen, and Luang Prabang

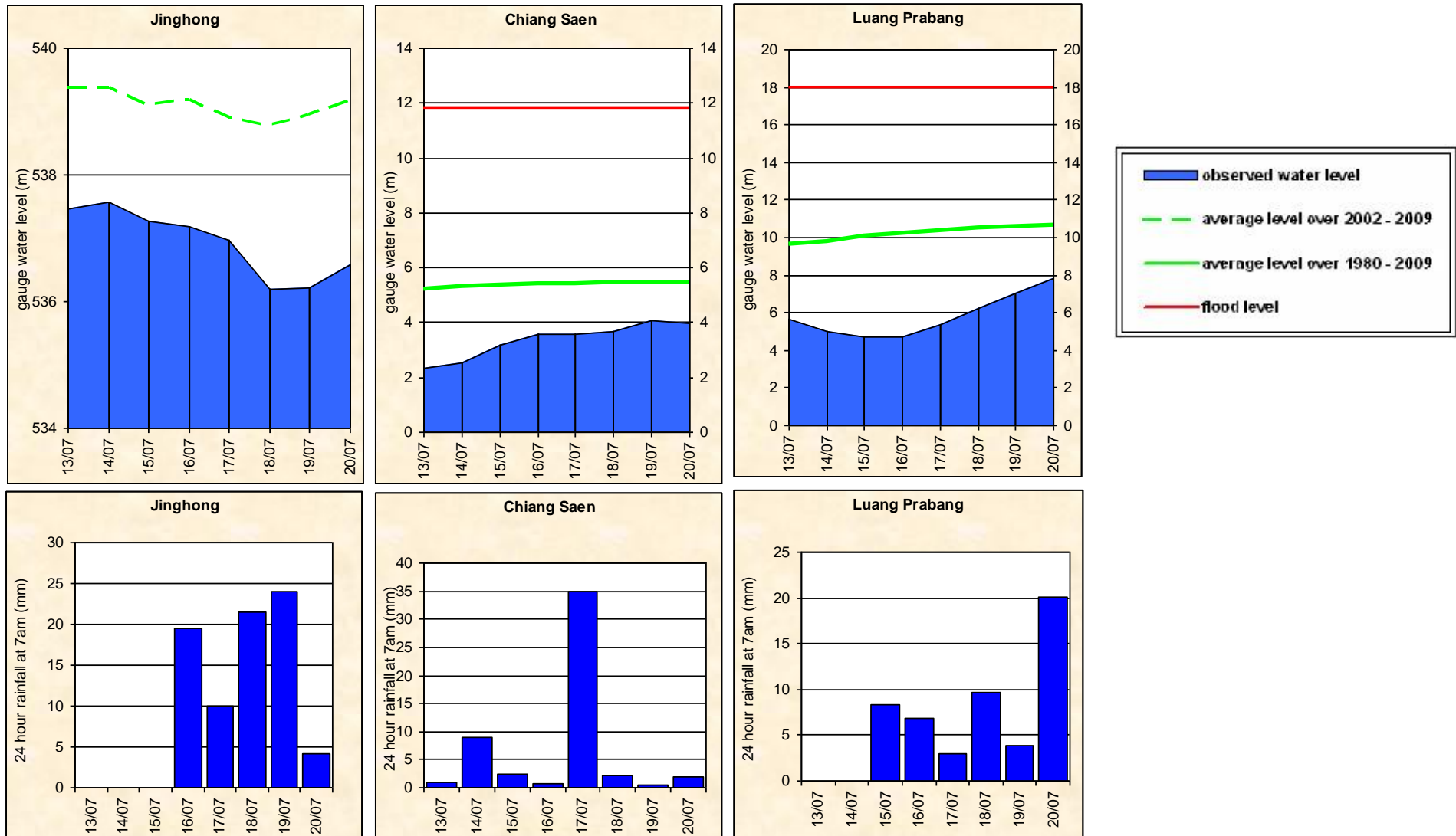


Figure A2: Observed water level and rainfall for Chiang Khan, Vientiane, Nongkhai, and Paksane

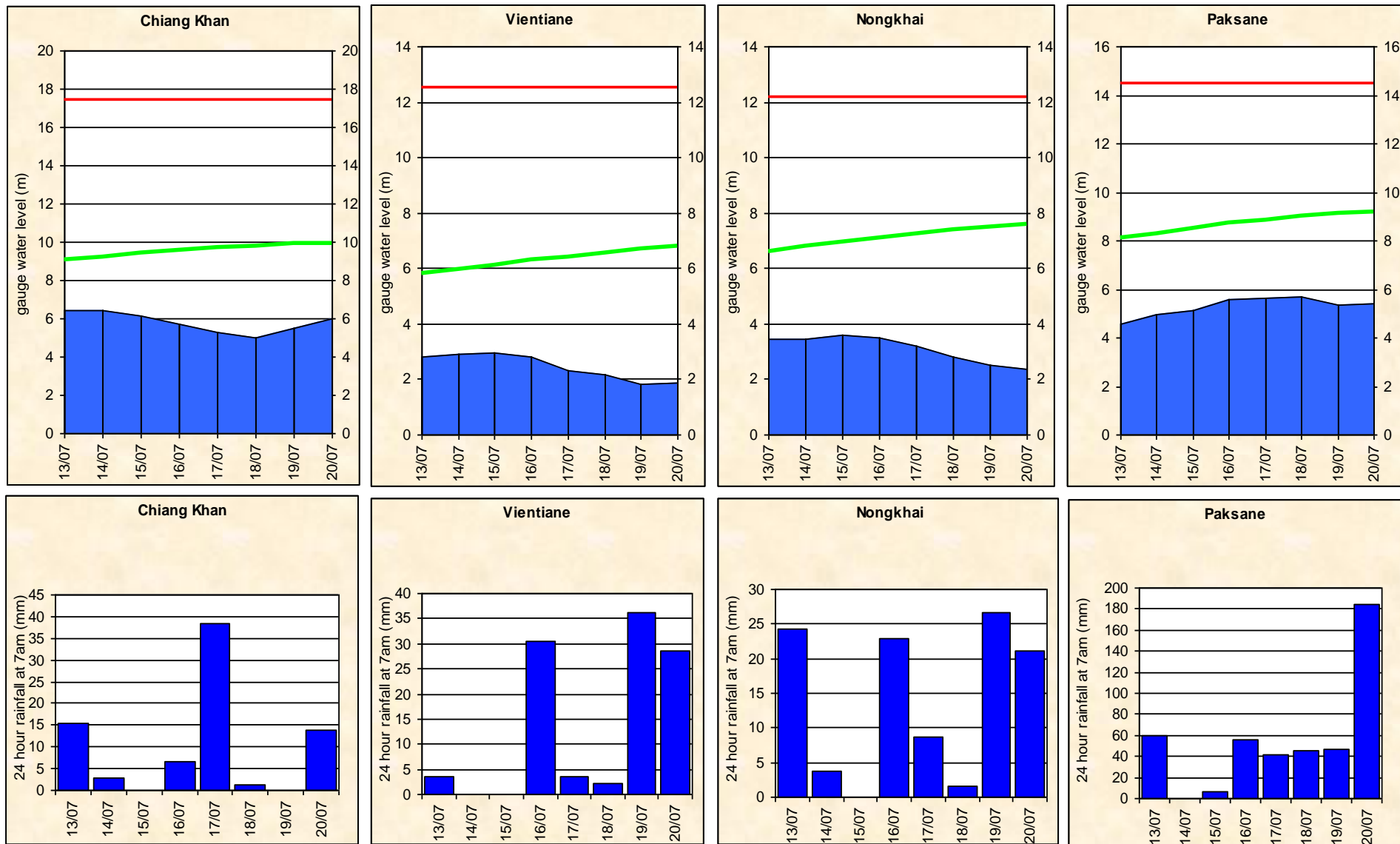


Figure A3: Observed water level and rainfall for Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Mukdahan and Savannakhet

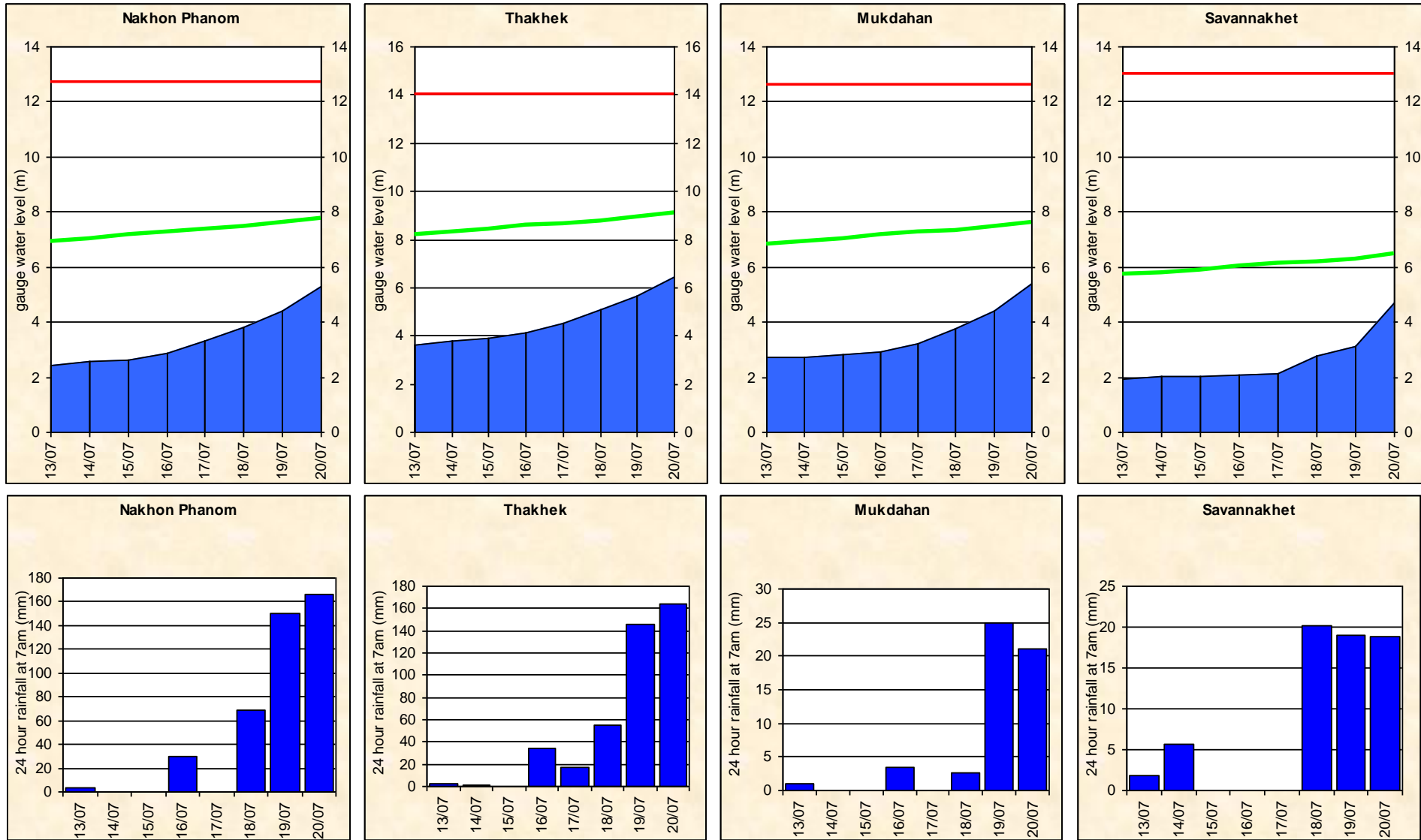


Figure A4: Observed water level and rainfall for Khong Chiam, Pakse, Stung Treng, and Kratie

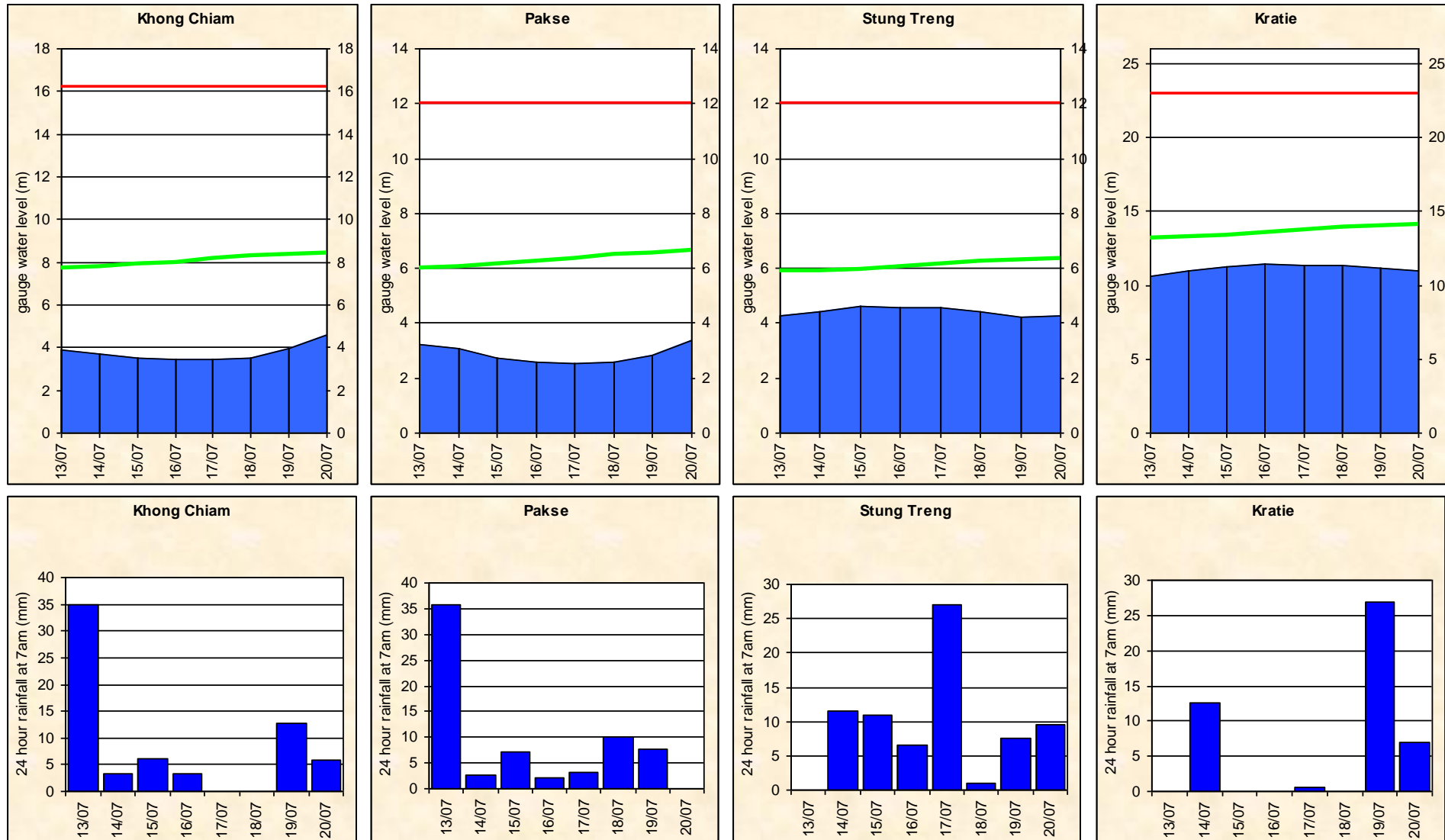


Figure A5: Water level and rainfall for Kompong Cham, Phnom Penh (Bassac and Port), and Koh Khel

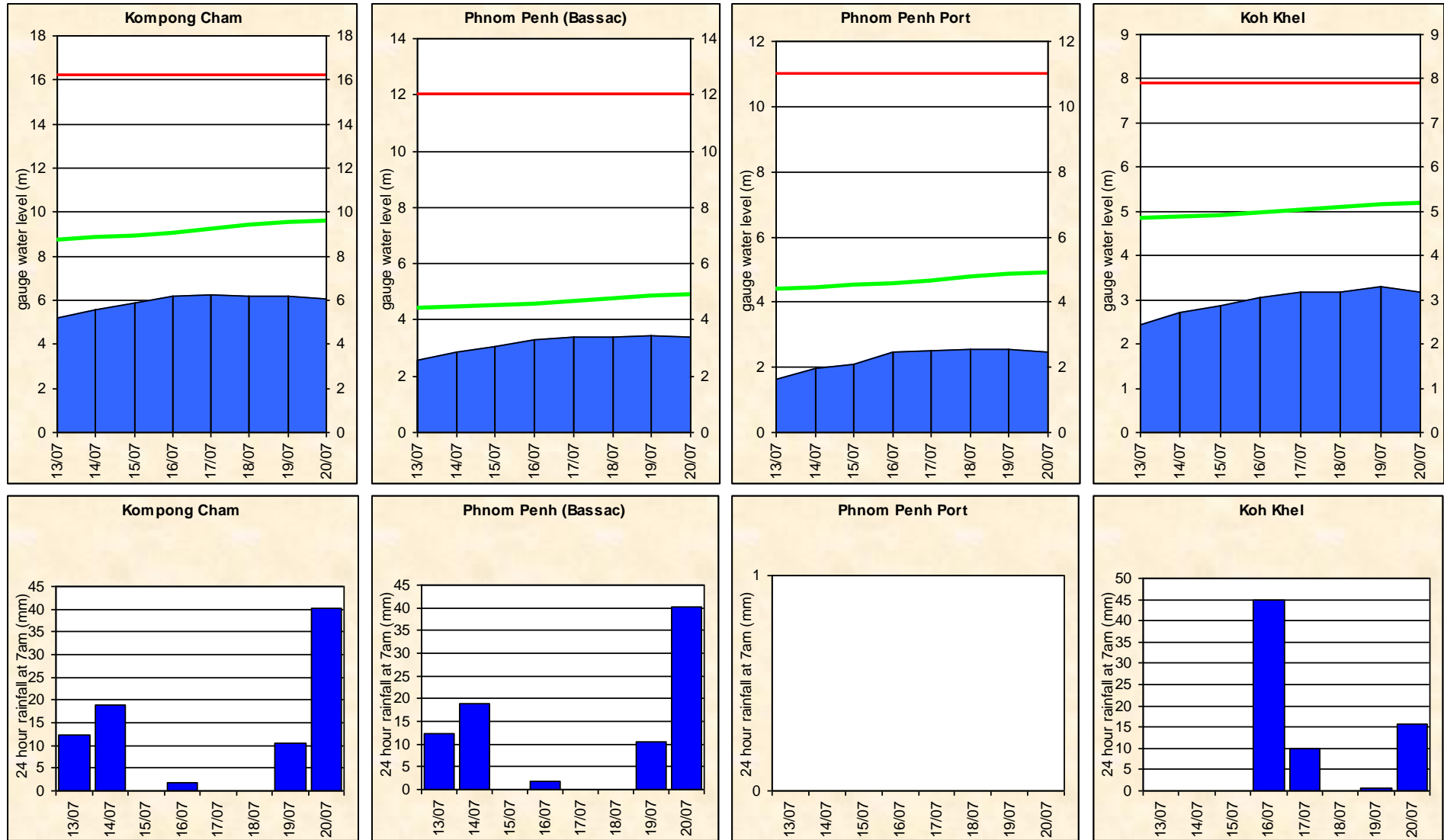
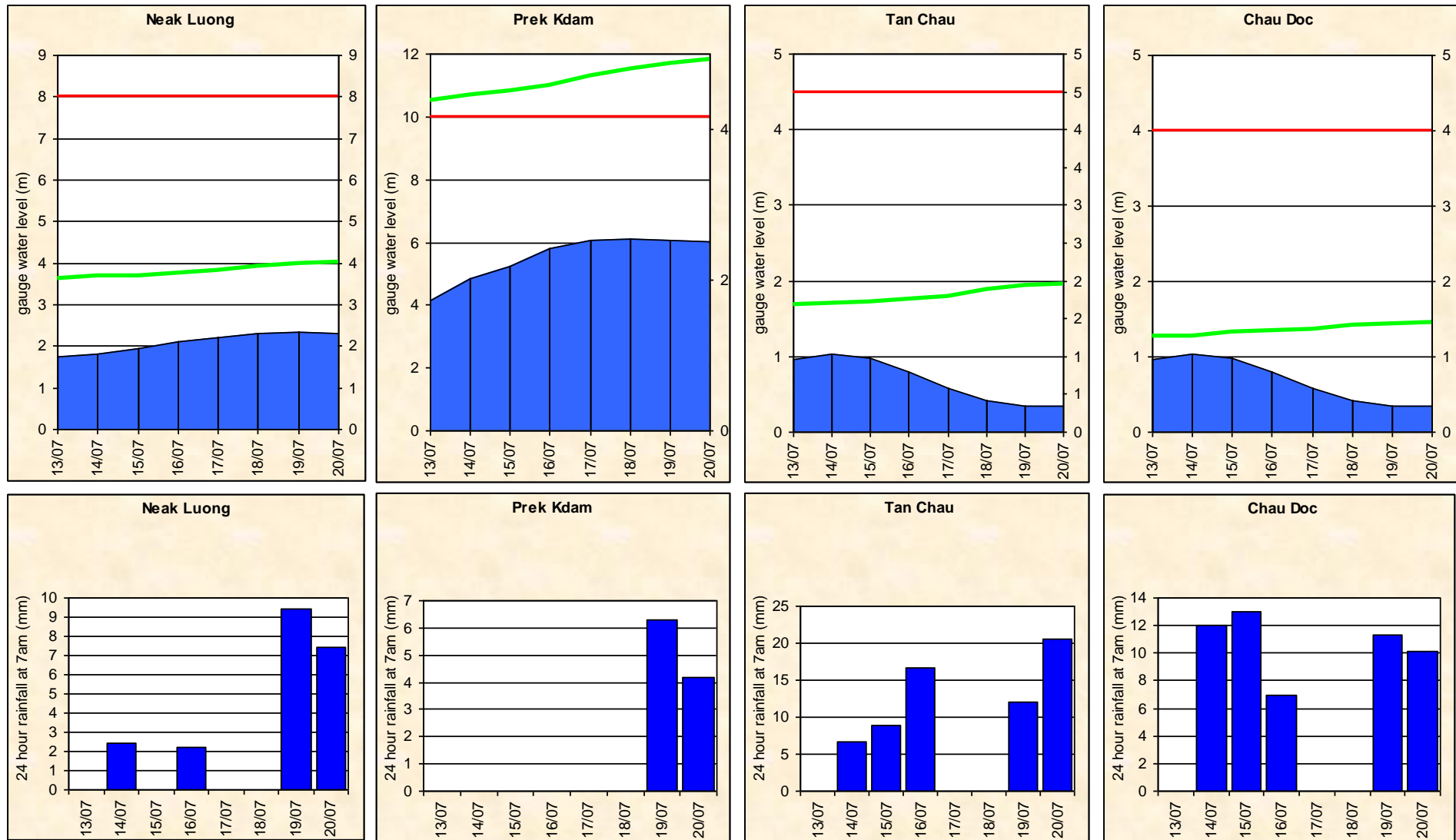


Figure A6: Water level and rainfall for Neak Luong, Prek Kdam, Tan Chau and Chau Doc



Annex B: Accuracy and performance

Accuracy

“Accuracy” describes the accuracy of the adjusted and published forecast, based on the results of the MRC Mekong Flood Forecasting System, which are then adjusted by the Flood Forecaster in Charge taking into consideration known biases in input data and his/her knowledge of the response of the model system and the hydrology of the Mekong River Basin. The information is presented as a graph below, showing the average flood forecasting accuracy along the Mekong mainstream.

During the last week, all most main stations the overall accuracy was fair for 1-day to 5-day forecast lead time.

However, the accuracies at middle reaches of the LMB stations from Paksane to Stung Treng for 2-day to 5-day forecast lead time were less than expected.

The above differences due to two main factors: (1) internal model functionality in forecasting; for which the parameter adjustment in the model is not possible especially at stations in the upper part and in the Mekong delta where are affected by tidal; (2) the adjustment by utilizing the practical knowledge and experience of flood forecaster-in-charge and (3) unwell predicted rainfall estimate in the middle reach of the LMB due to heavy rainfall.

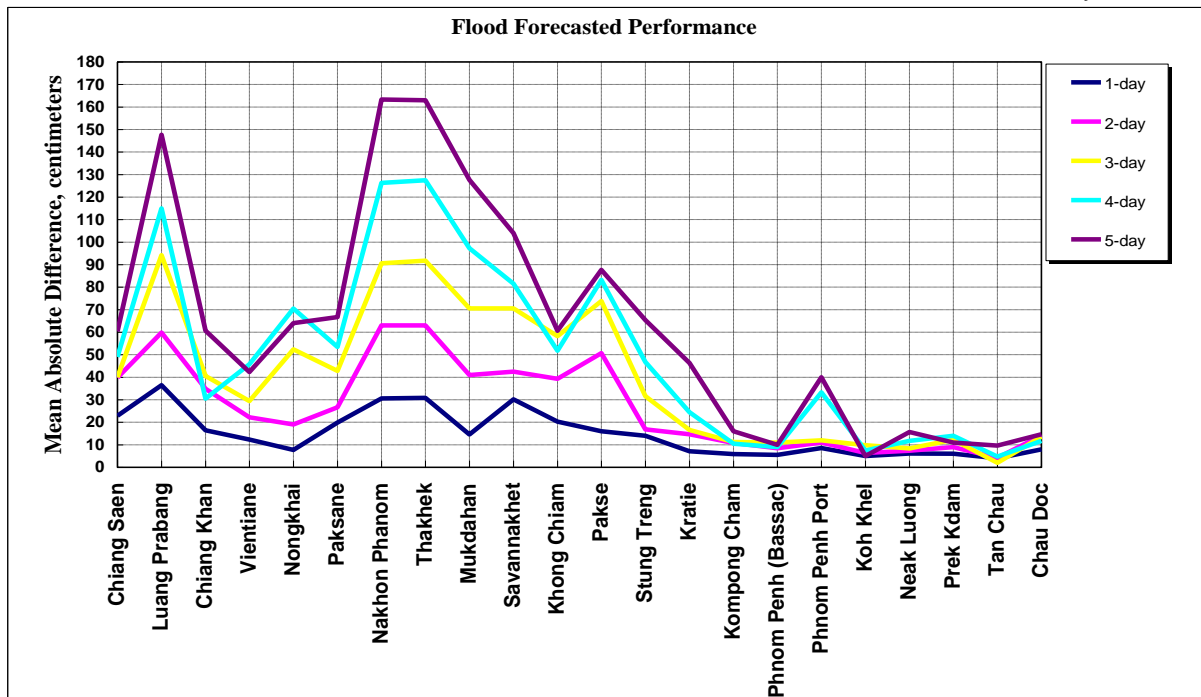


Figure B1: Average flood forecast accuracy along the Mekong mainstream

Forecast Achievement

The forecast achievement indicates the % of days that the forecast at a particular station for a lead-time is successful against a respective benchmark (Table B2).

Table B1: Achievement of daily forecast against benchmarks

Unit in %

	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	57.1	42.9	71.4	42.9	85.7	28.6	28.6	28.6	42.9	28.6	14.3	57.1	42.9	85.7	100.0	71.4	71.4	85.7	85.7	85.7	100.0	85.7	61.0
2-day	66.7	66.7	83.3	66.7	66.7	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.3	50.0	33.3	33.3	66.7	83.3	83.3	66.7	50.0	83.3	66.7	66.7	100.0	50.0	59.8
3-day	60.0	40.0	60.0	40.0	20.0	40.0	20.0	20.0	40.0	20.0	0.0	40.0	20.0	80.0	100.0	60.0	60.0	40.0	80.0	60.0	100.0	40.0	47.3
4-day	75.0	50.0	100.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	25.0	50.0	75.0	100.0	75.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	75.0	100.0	25.0	59.1
5-day	66.7	33.3	66.7	33.3	33.3	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	66.7	33.3	0.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	57.6

Table B2: Benchmarks of success (Indicator of accuracy in mean absolute error)

Unit in cm

	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	25	25	25	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2-day	50	50	50	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
3-day	50	50	50	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
4-day	75	75	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	10	25	10	25	25	25	10	10
5-day	75	75	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25

Note: An indication of the accuracy given in the Table B2 is based on the performance of the forecast made in 2008 from the new flood forecasting system and the configuration for the 2009 flood season and is published on the website of MRC (<http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/accuracy.htm>).

A new set of performance indicators that is established by combining international standards and the specific circumstances in the Mekong River Basin, is applied officially for the flood season of 2011 onward.

Performance

Performance is assessed by evaluating a number of performance indicators, see table and graphs below:

Table B3: Overview of performance indicators for the past 5 days including the current report date

2015	FF completed and sent (time)	stations without forecast	FF2 completed and sent (time)	Weather information available (Number)	NOAA data	China	Cambodia - DHRW	Cambodia - DOM	Lao PDR - DMH	Thailand - DWR	Viet Nam - NCHMF	NOAA data	China	Cambodia - DHRW	Cambodia - DOM	Lao PDR - DMH	Thailand - DWR	Viet Nam - NCHMF
<i>week</i>	10:29	00:00	-	4	08:16	07:48	07:07	07:07	08:50	07:33	07:02	1	0	0	0	179	0	0
<i>month</i>	10:16	00:00	-	10	08:15	07:43	07:28	07:10	08:36	07:44	07:10	1	0	0	0	455	3	0
<i>season</i>	10:16	00:00	-	27	08:15	07:43	07:27	07:10	08:36	07:44	07:10	4	0	3	0	1189	20	0

Week is the week for which this report is made; *Month* is actually the last 30 days (or less if the flood season has just begun); *Season* is the current flood season up to the date of this report.

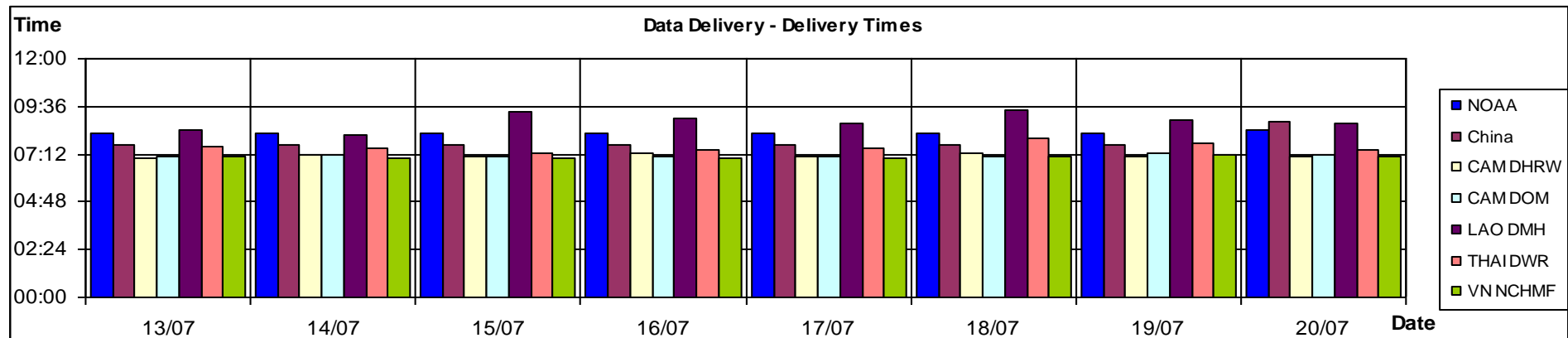


Figure B2: Data delivery times for the past 8 days including the current report date

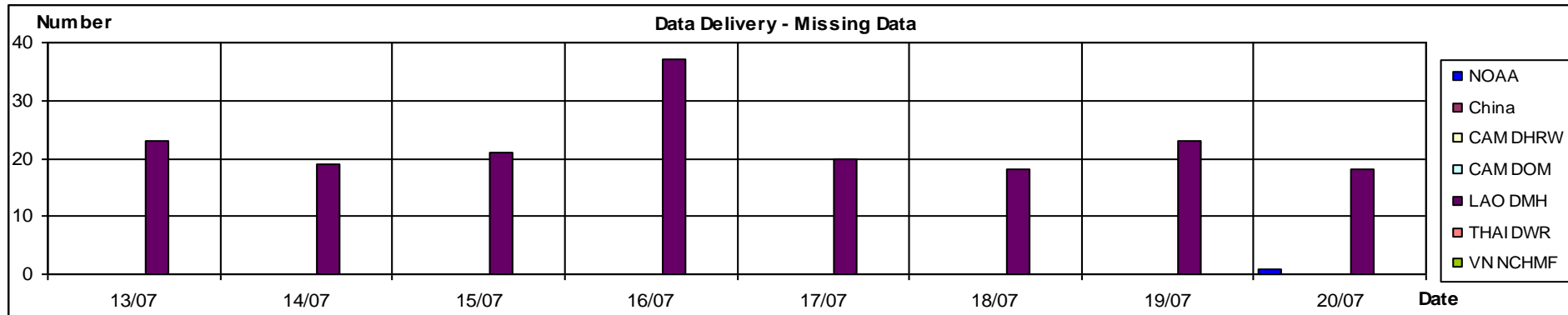


Figure B3: Missing data for the past 8 days including the current report date

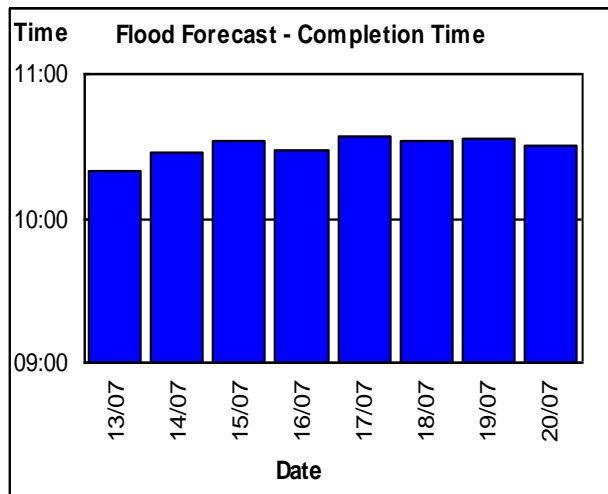


Figure B4: Flood forecast completion time

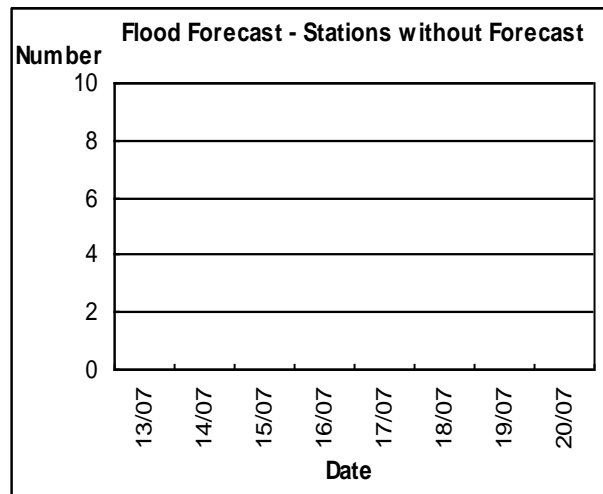


Figure B5: Flood forecast stations without forecast

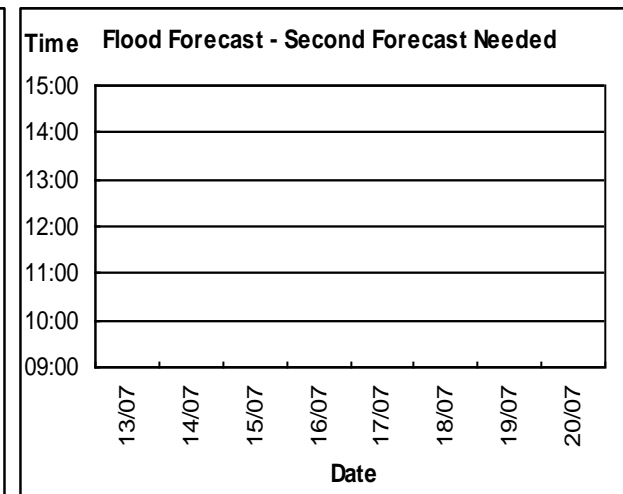


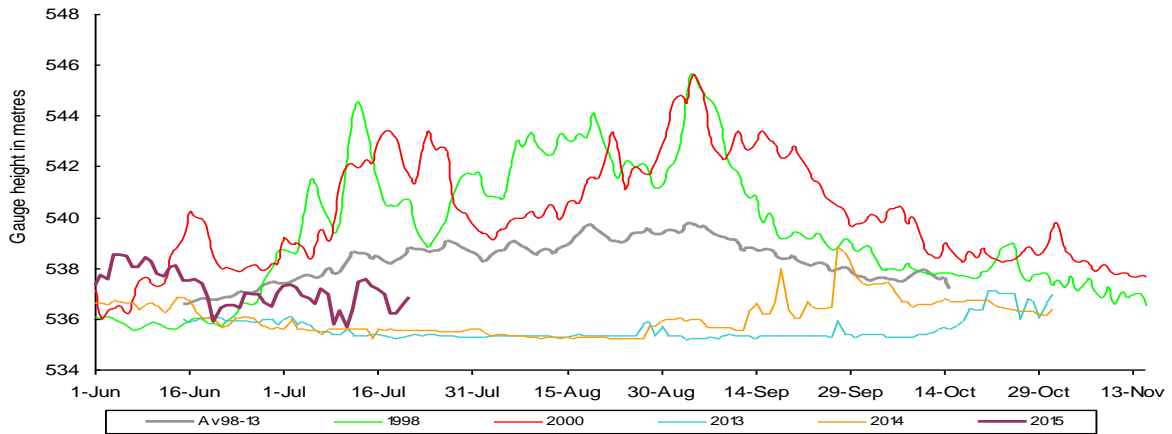
Figure B6: Second forecast needed

Annex C: Season Water Level Graphs

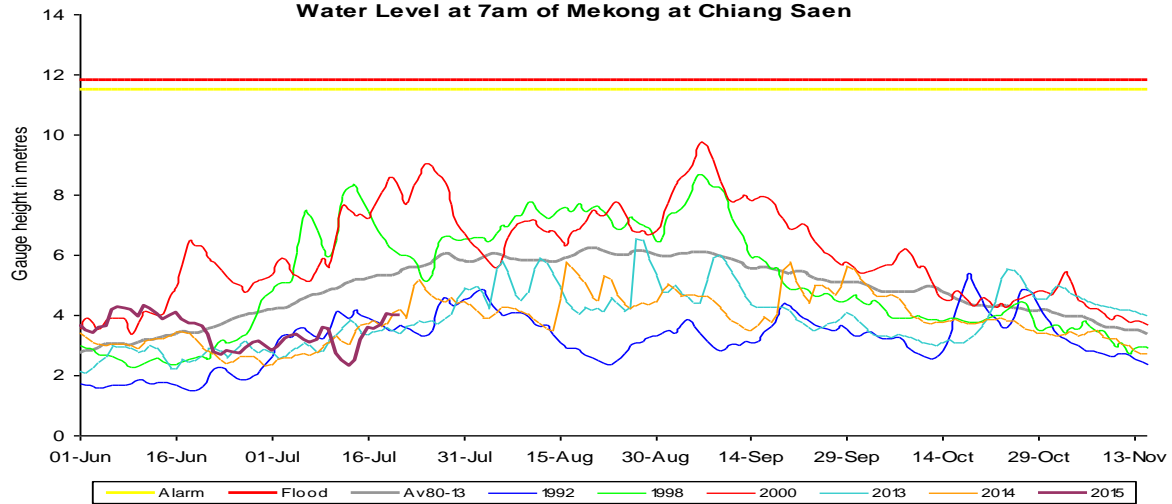
This Annex has the water level graphs of the report date. These graphs are distributed daily by email together with the Flood Bulletins.

HYDROGRAPHS OF THE MEKONG AT MAINSTREAM STATIONS IN FLOOD SEASON FROM 1 JUNE TO 31 OCTOBER

Water Level at 7am of Mekong at Jing Hong



Water Level at 7am of Mekong at Chiang Saen



Water Level at 7am of Mekong at Luang Prabang

