Mekong River Commission

Regional Flood Management and Mitigation Centre

Weekly Flood Situation Report for the Mekong River Basin

Prepared on: Monday, 03/08/2009, covering the week from 27th July to 3rd August 2009

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

General weather patterns

During the week of Monday 27th July – Monday 3rd August 2009, six weather bulletins have been issued by the Department of Meteorology (DOM) of Cambodia. The weather charts of the July 31st and August 2nd bulletins are presented in the figures below.

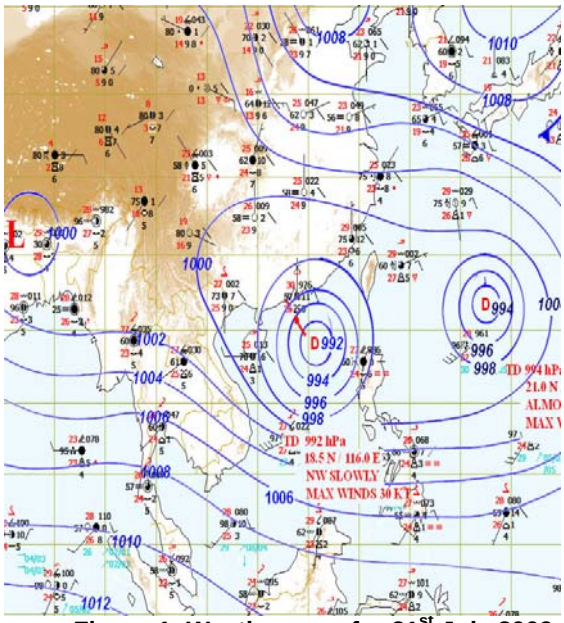


Figure 1: Weather map for 31st July 2009

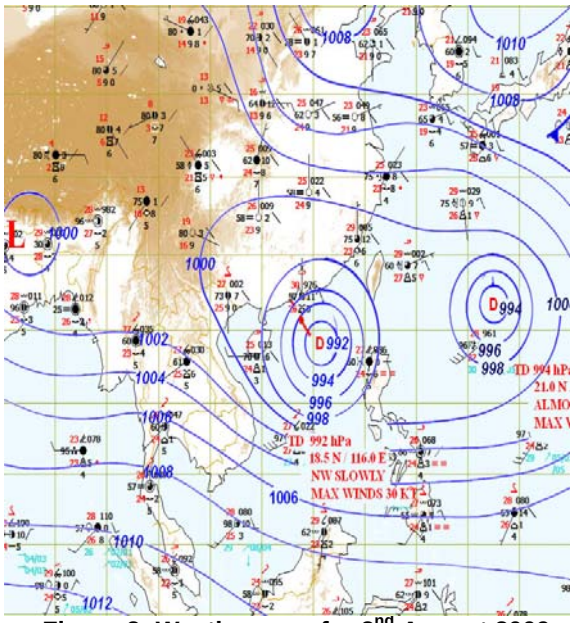


Figure 2: Weather map for 2nd August 2009

Moderate monsoon developed to strong South-West (SW) monsoon

During July 27th – August 1st, 2009, the moderate SW monsoon prevailed (Figure 1) and starting from 2nd August it developed into strong SW monsoon (Figure 2).

ITCZ (Inter Tropical Convergence Zone)

During August 2, 2009, the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) lied across Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Northern Viet Nam, Hainan Island and Northern Philippine, connected with the Tropical Depression (Figure 2).

Tropical depressions, tropical storms or typhoons

The TD with central pressure 992 hPa located at latitude 18°5 N, longitude 116°0 E, over South China Sea, between Hainan Island and NW of the Philippines, is moving slowly to NW, maximum wind speed in the central of TD is 56 km/hr (Figure 2).

Other weather phenomena that affect the discharge

No other weather phenomena affecting the discharge were observed

Overall weather situation

Normal weather situation lasted from July 27th until 2nd August 2009. Big thunderstorm and heavy rain was observed in Thailand and Northern Viet Nam. The thunderstorm and light rain was observed over Cambodia, Lao PDR and Southern Viet Nam.

General behavior of the Mekong River

- There is some inconsistency of water levels along the Mekong River. While water levels in the upper reach of Lower Mekong River are below the long-term average, water levels in the middle reach are about average and in the lower reach water levels are above the long-term average. Water levels at Tan Chau and Chu Doc are rising towards the warning levels which are a common situation for this time of the year.

For stations from Chiang Saen to Chiang Khan

Water levels were more or less stable and are below the long-term average for this time of the year.

For stations from Vientiane / Nongkhai to Paksane

Water levels were slightly decreasing towards the end of the week and are below the long-term average for this time of the year.

For stations from Nakhon Phanom to Pakse

Water levels were dropped at the mid of the week and then rose up towards the end of the week. Most are somewhat moving around the long-term average for this time of the year.

For stations from Stung Treng to Phnom Penh

Water levels were rising steadily towards the end of the week and are above the long-term average for this time of the year.

Downstream of Phnom Penh

Water levels were rising steadily towards the end of the week. Most are somewhat above the long-term average for this time of the year except at Tan Chau and Chau Doc where the water levels are at the long-term average for this time of the year.

Note: For areas between forecast stations please refer to the nearest 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 in the Mekong River Basin during the past week. Water levels at some stations in the Cambodian floodplains and delta are just 1-2 metres below the flood levels (as defined by the national agencies).

- Damage or victims:

No damage and no loss of life due to river flooding was recorded anywhere in the Mekong River Basin during the past week

For more details see the following annex:

- 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

2009	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
27/07	537.38	4.65	9.09	9.11	5.97	7.11	9.96	8.95	10.01	8.77	7.87	10.12	8.33	7.90	18.15	12.71	7.65	6.66	6.60	5.43	6.39	2.51	1.87
28/07	537.66	4.50	8.96	8.93	5.92	7.03	9.56	8.58	9.64	8.44	7.55	9.88	8.16	7.77	17.92	12.51	7.58	6.59	6.54	5.38	6.37	2.48	1.85
29/07	537.25	4.68	8.76	8.72	5.71	6.84	9.28	8.18	9.25	8.04	7.15	9.46	7.88	7.83	17.66	12.33	7.53	6.54	6.47	5.34	6.34	2.45	1.84
30/07	537.38	4.64	8.56	8.62	5.51	6.60	9.47	8.10	9.34	7.80	7.04	9.14	7.12	8.30	18.11	12.40	7.49	6.51	6.46	5.29	6.35	2.42	1.83
31/07	536.90	4.42	8.60	8.44	5.35	6.43	9.75	8.92	10.04	8.39	7.45	9.59	8.15	8.44	18.55	12.70	7.65	6.68	6.52	5.34	6.44	2.46	1.84
01/08	538.10	4.43	8.70	8.32	5.28	6.22	9.85	9.35	10.45	9.03	8.19	10.71	9.62	8.60	18.75	12.89	7.73	6.77	6.61	5.45	6.55	2.53	1.92
02/08	536.34	4.64	9.00	8.41	5.12	6.08	9.67	9.51	10.59	9.36	8.50	11.46	9.82	9.10	19.05	13.05	7.84	6.89	6.68	5.52	6.65	2.61	2.00
03/08	537.08	4.92	9.05	8.69	5.20	6.12	9.36	9.45	10.54	9.42	8.65	11.44	9.71	9.55	19.54	13.34	8.02	7.06	6.75	5.61	6.76	2.66	2.04
Flood level		11.80	18.00	17.40	12.50	12.20	14.50	12.70	14.00	12.60	13.00	16.20	12.00	12.00	23.00	16.20	12.00	11.00	7.90	8.00	10.00	4.20	3.50

Table A2: observed rainfall.

Unit in mm

2009	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
27/07	4.8	1.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	9.8	17.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
28/07	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	45.1	18.0	0.0	0.0	20.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
29/07	5.4	0.5	1.2	0.7	6.5	0.0	9.2	49.9	49.2	7.0	18.8	0.4	11.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1
30/07	0.0	31.7	0.0	0.0	12.4	11.5	72.7	42.7	36.4	12.5	5.7	30.4	11.3	0.0	42.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.4	0.0	0.0
31/07	0.0	24.2	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	41.0	41.9	47.4	17.0	21.4	68.0	41.5	0.0	3.8	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
01/08	1.5	27.1	32.0	3.1	2.6	0.0	13.6	47.6	49.2	3.4	2.1	76.6	36.5	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0
02/08	0.8	9.8	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	13.2	14.6	3.5	5.7	15.8	30.8	0.0	9.8	28.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	2.0	0.6
03/08	3.2	0.5	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5	11.3	0.0	4.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.9	0.0	5.3	0.0	0.2

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

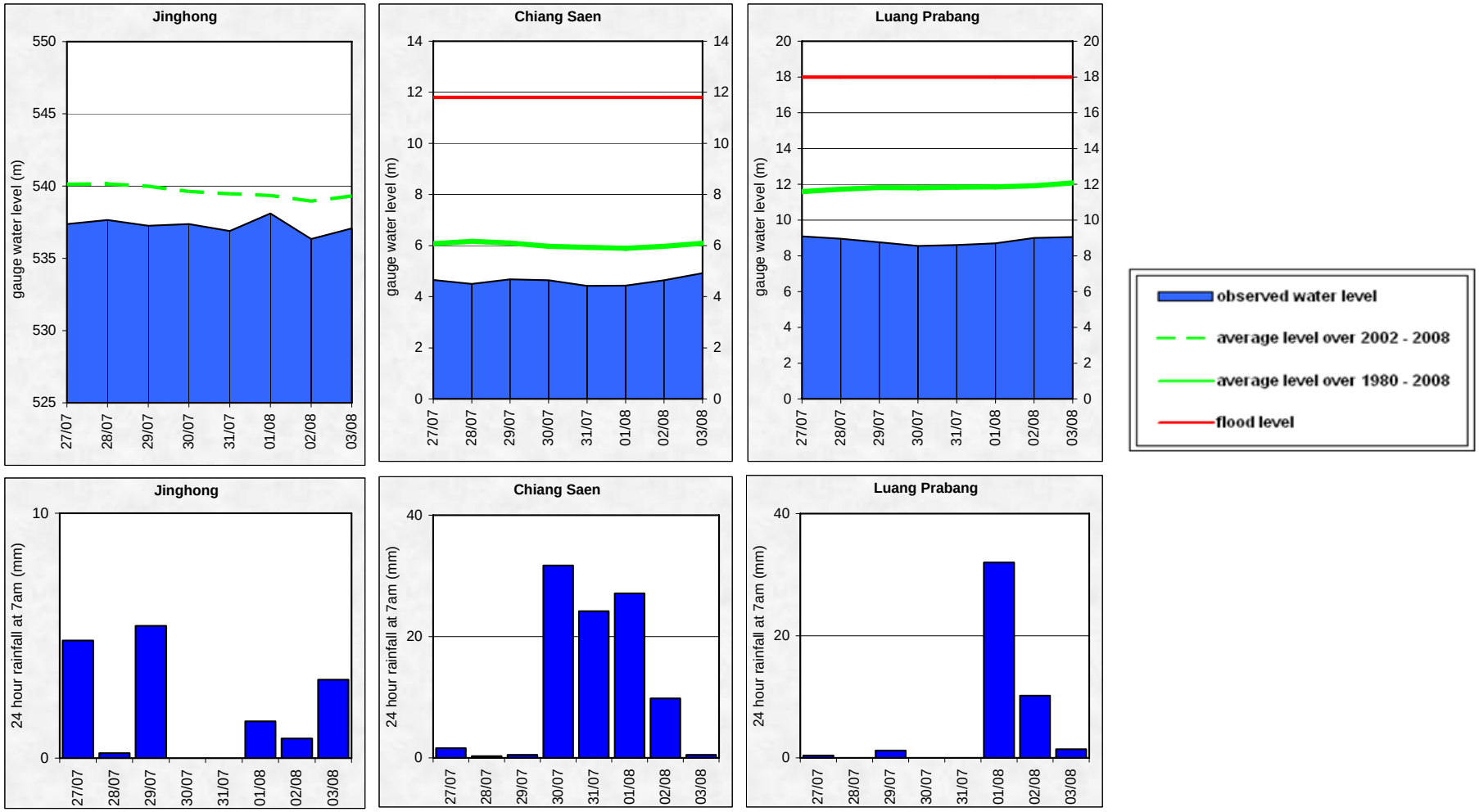


Figure A2: Water level and rainfall for Chiang Khan, Vientiane, Nongkhai, and Paksane

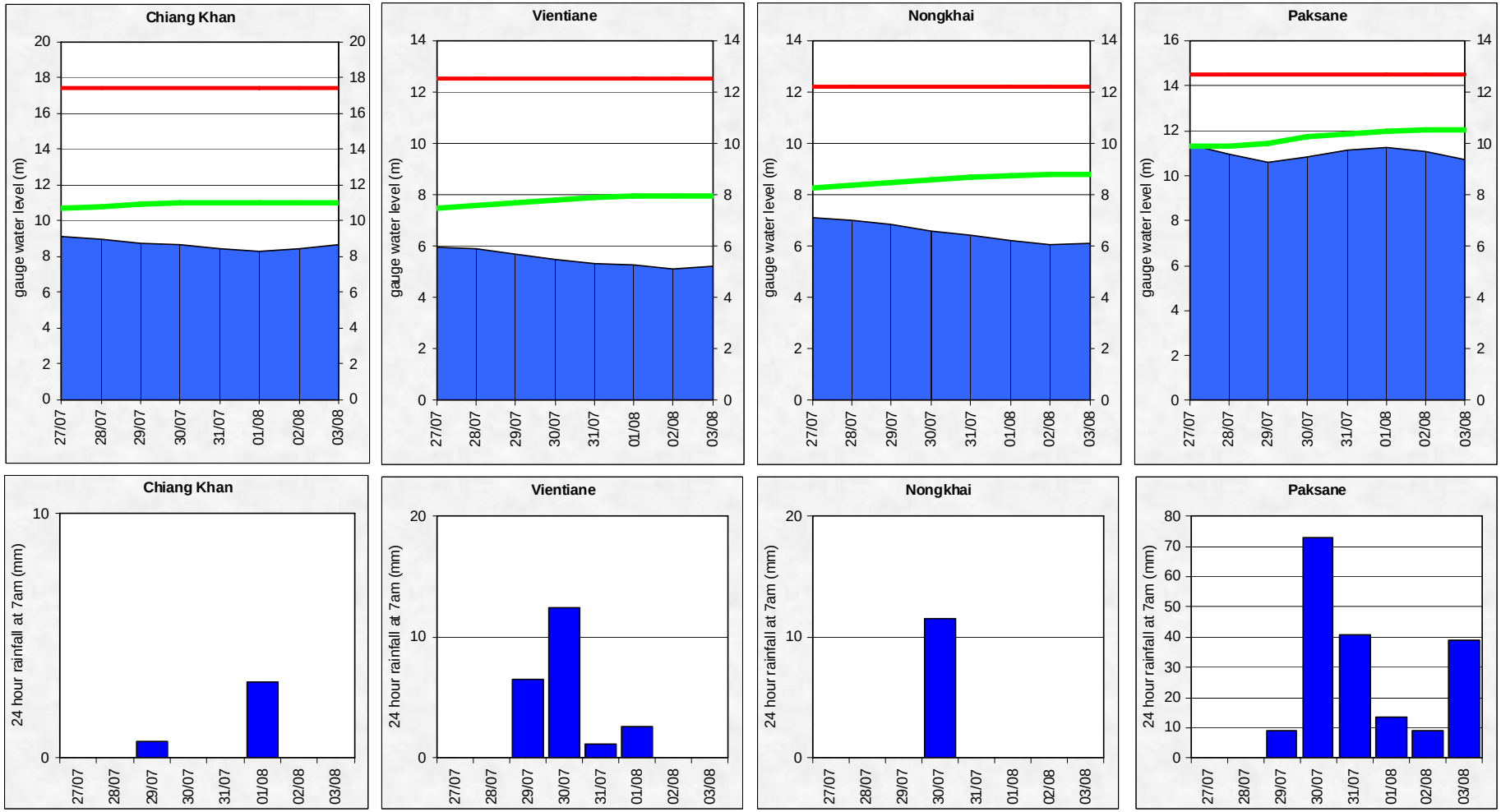


Figure A3: Water level and rainfall for Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Mukdahan and Savannakhet

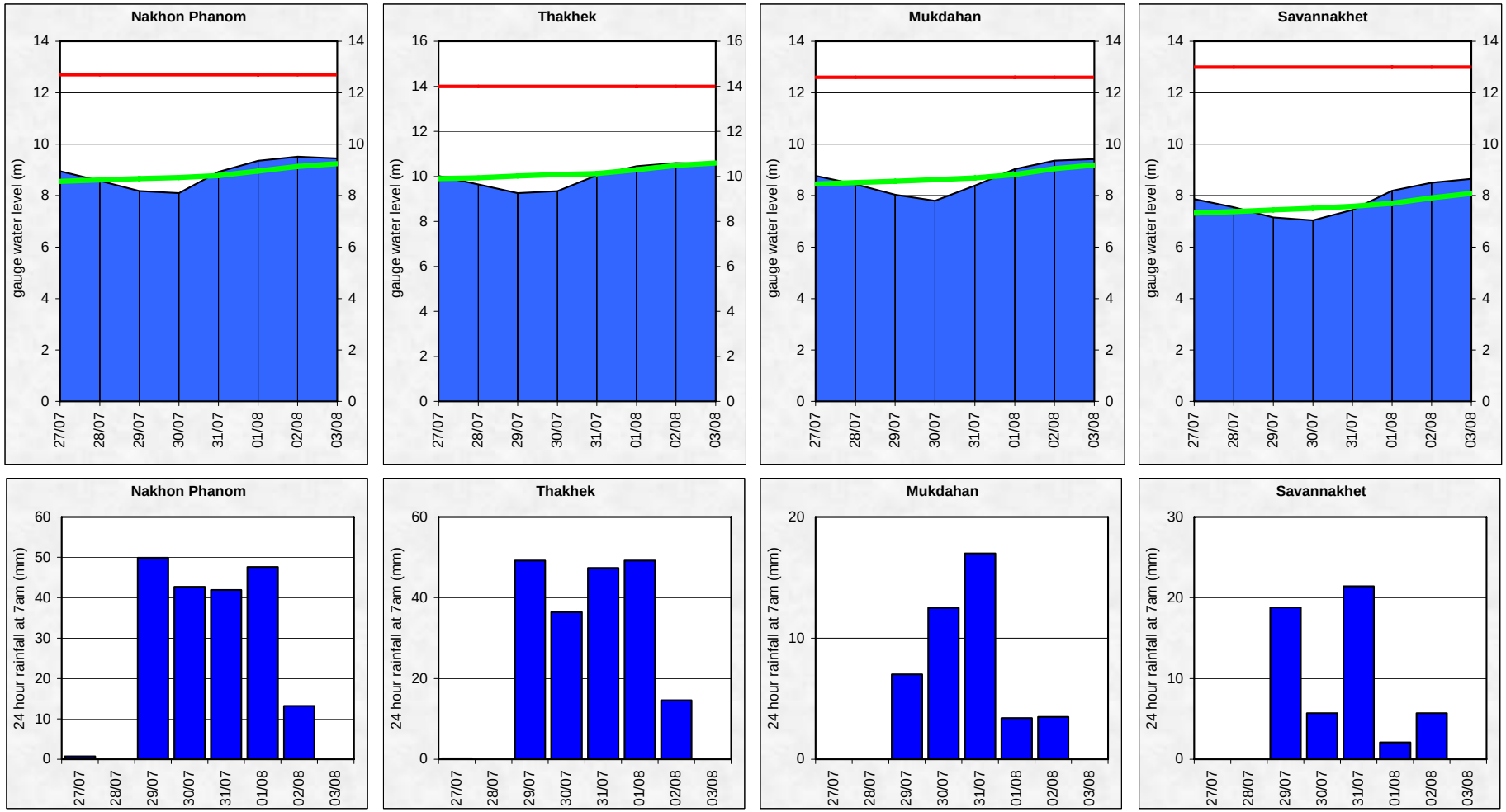


Figure A4: Water level and rainfall for Khong Chiam, Pakse, Stung Treng, and Kratie

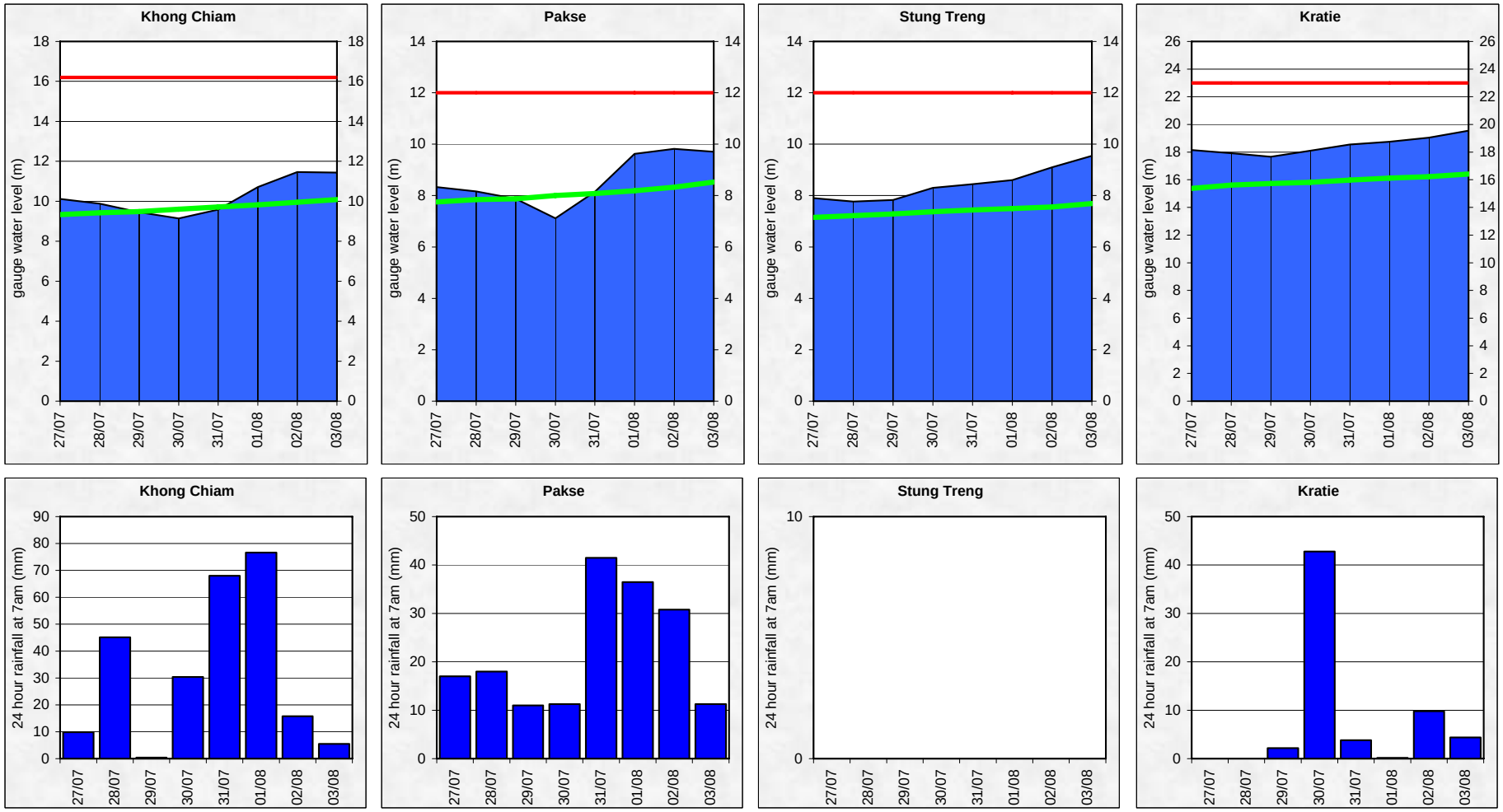


Figure A5: Water level and rainfall for Kampong Cham, Phnom Penh (Bassac and Port), and Koh Khel

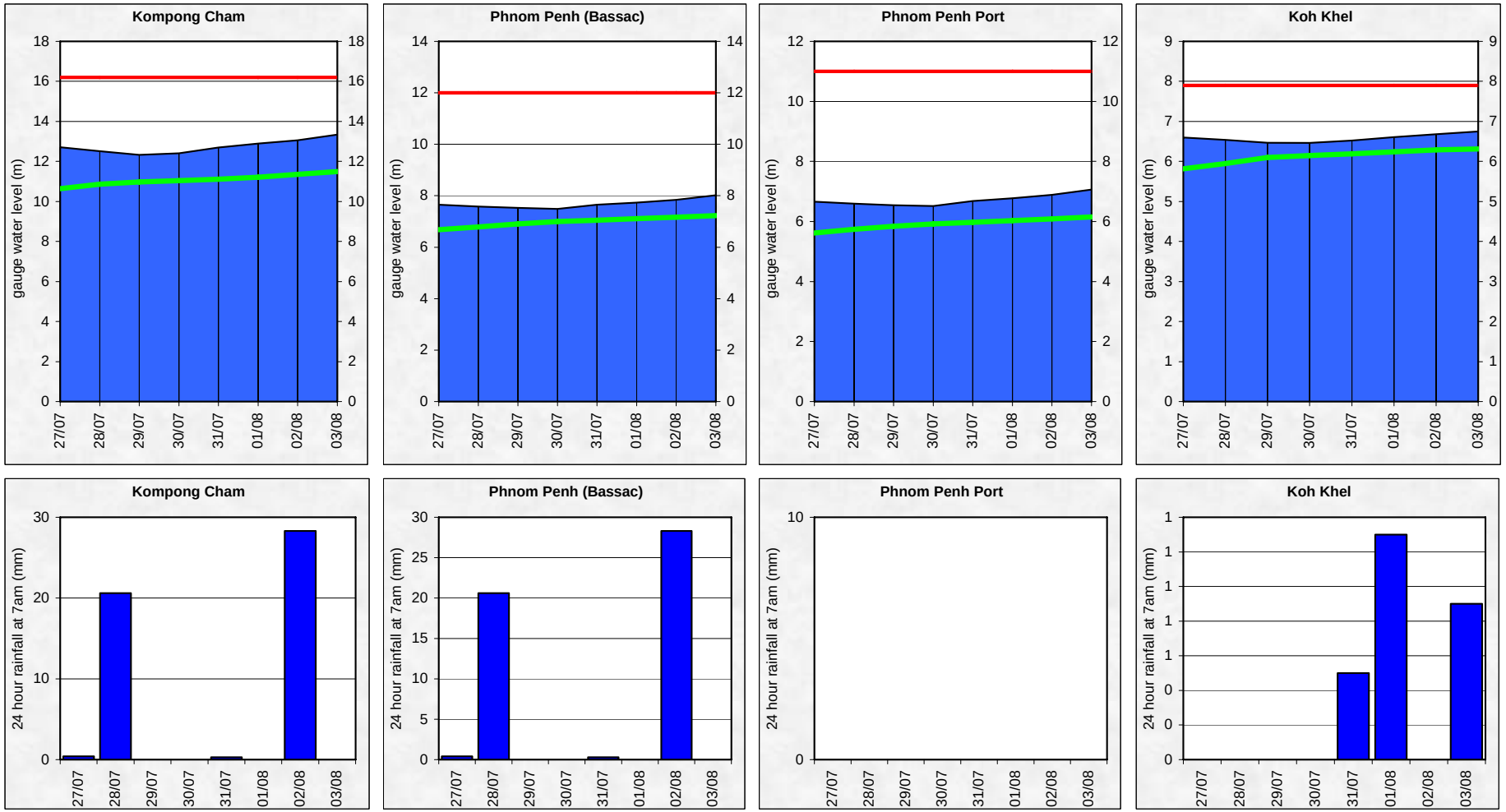
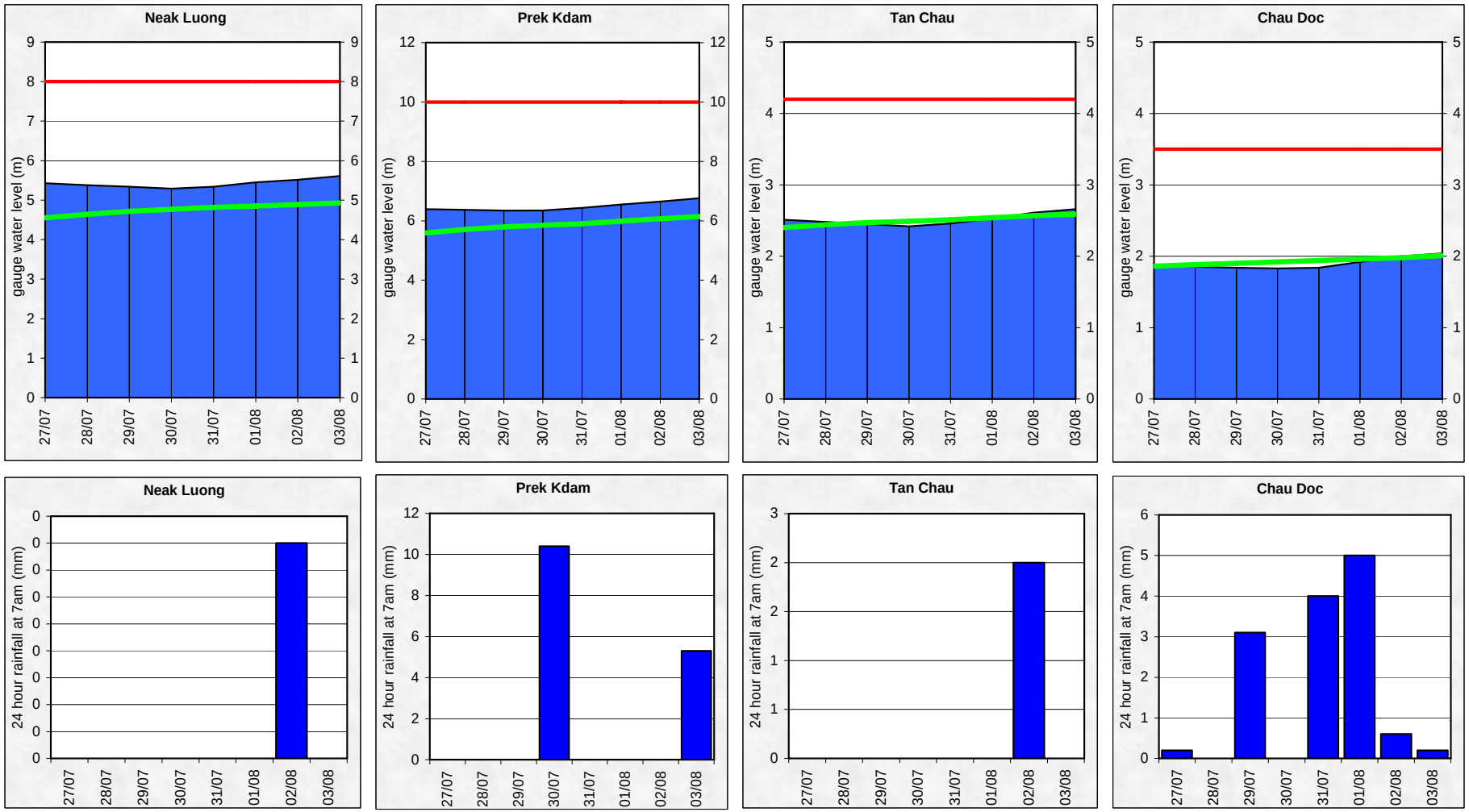


Figure A6: Water level and rainfall for Neak Luong, Prek Kdam, Tan Chau and Chau Doc



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.

The graph of average difference between forecast and actual levels for the past week deviates from the normal pattern, in which the accuracy is better in the upper reach of Mekong River where it is usually less accurate.

Significantly high differences were seen at stations from Nakhon Phanom to Kratie due to continuous rainfall over the past week since 29 July on the left bank tributaries of Lao PDR as those could not be estimated well by the Satellite Rainfall Estimates (SRE). For example, during 29 July to 1 August SRE underestimated rainfall at Mahaxai (upstream tributary of Mukdahan/Savannakhet) and Khong Sedone (upstream tributary of Pakse) by nearly 50% thereby reducing accuracy at stations downstream of Mukdahan/Savannakhet.

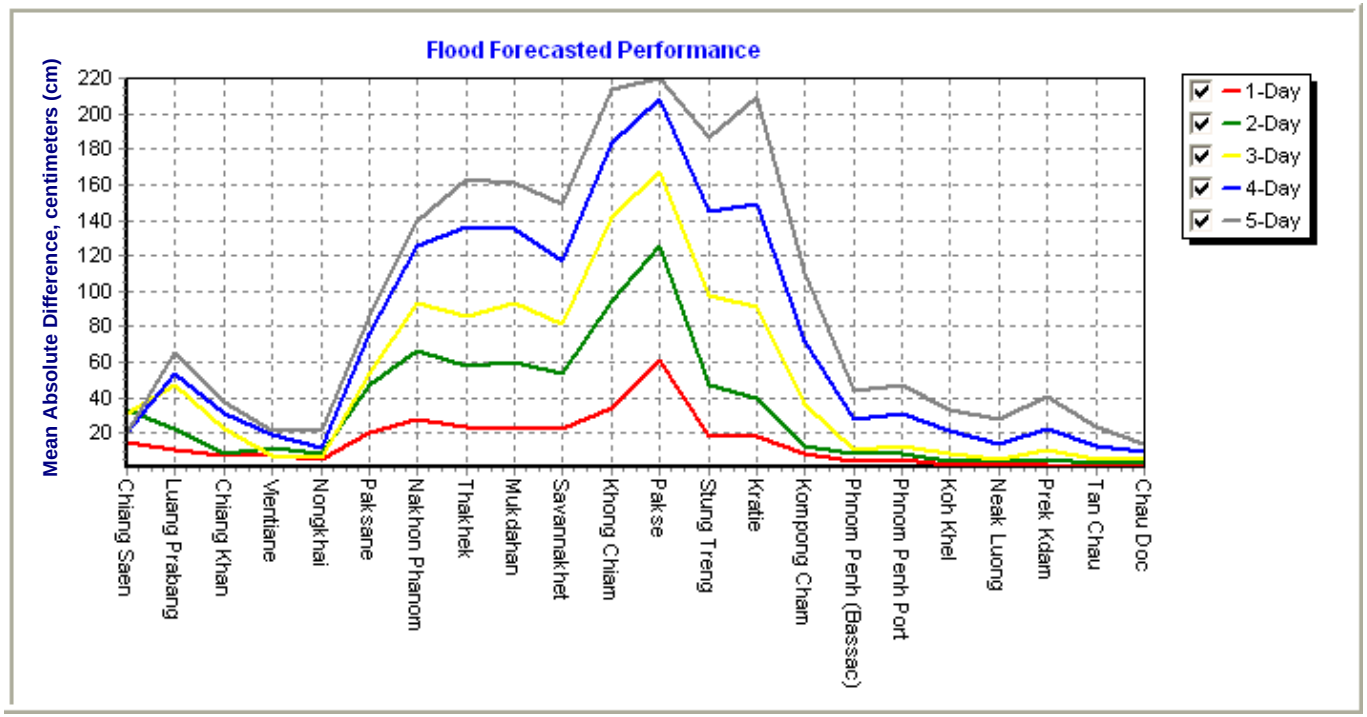


Figure B1: Average flood forecast accuracy along the Mekong mainstream.

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	100.0	100.0	100.0	85.7	100.0	71.4	57.1	71.4	85.7	57.1	57.1	28.6	42.9	28.6	71.4	85.7	85.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	*78.6*
2-day	100.0	100.0	100.0	83.3	83.3	33.3	33.3	50.0	50.0	33.3	33.3	16.7	16.7	66.7	83.3	50.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	83.3	100.0	100.0	*66.7*
3-day	100.0	100.0	80.0	100.0	100.0	60.0	20.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	60.0	40.0	80.0	80.0	60.0	80.0	100.0	*58.2*
4-day	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	75.0	25.0	50.0	25.0	50.0	*43.2*
5-day	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	*25.8*

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	50	50	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2-day	75	75	25	25	25	25	50	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	25	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
3-day	75	100	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	75	75	50	50	25	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
4-day	100	*125*	75	50	50	50	50	50	75	75	75	75	50	50	50	25	25	25	10	25	10	10
5-day	100	*150*	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	50	50	50	25	25	25	10	25	10	10

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).*

In the future these indicators will be adjusted against a set of performance indicators that is established by combining international standards and the specific circumstances in the Mekong River Basin. An expert mission to establish these performance indicators is planned for the fourth quarter of 2009.

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 8 days including the current report date

	Flood Forecast: time sent				Arrival time of input data (average)							Missing data (number)						
2009	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
week	*10:00*	*1*	*11:38*	*7*	*08:41*	*08:44*	*08:18*	*09:21*	*08:52*	*08:13*	*08:03*	*0*	*2*	*7*	*130*	*69*	*10*	*60*
month	*10:37*	*13*	*12:39*	*20*	*08:27*	*08:28*	*08:12*	*08:30*	*08:41*	*08:30*	*08:10*	*0*	*2*	*88*	*390*	*309*	*54*	*270*
season	*10:41*	*26*	*12:39*	*44*	*08:23*	*08:25*	*08:09*	*08:20*	*08:44*	*08:25*	*07:50*	*0*	*2*	*228*	*1049*	*667*	*83*	*464*

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.

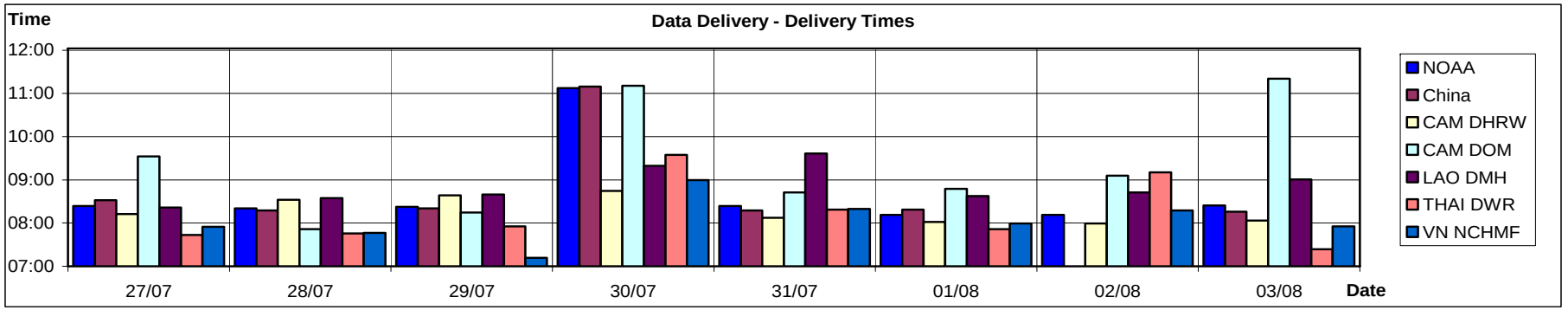


Figure B2: Data delivery times for the past 8 days including the current report date

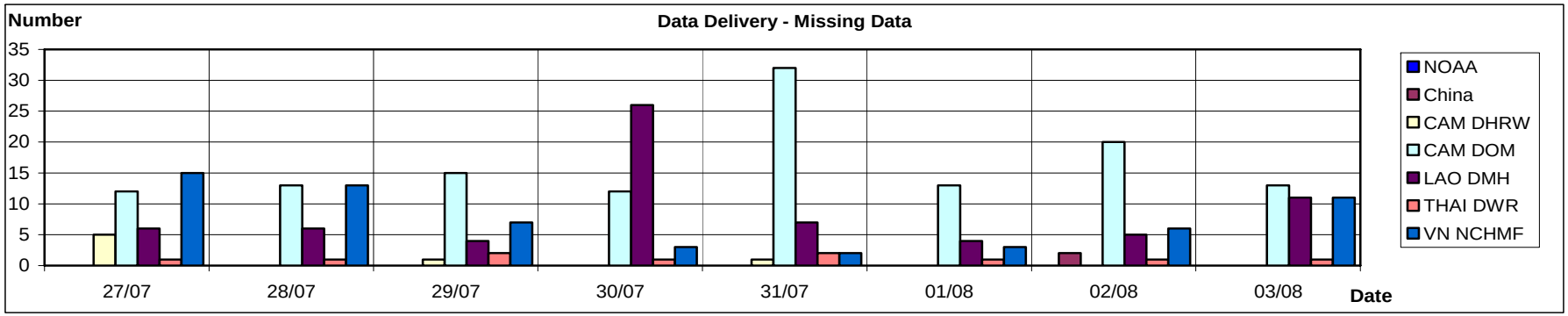


Figure B3: Missing data for the past 8 days including the current report date

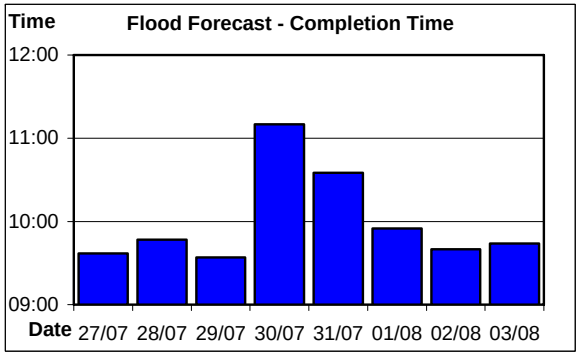


Figure B4: Flood forecast completion time

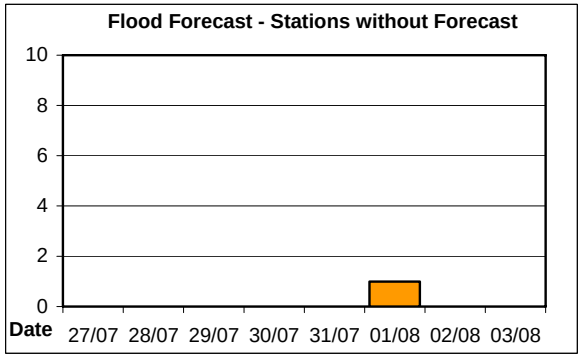


Figure B5: Flood forecast stations without forecast

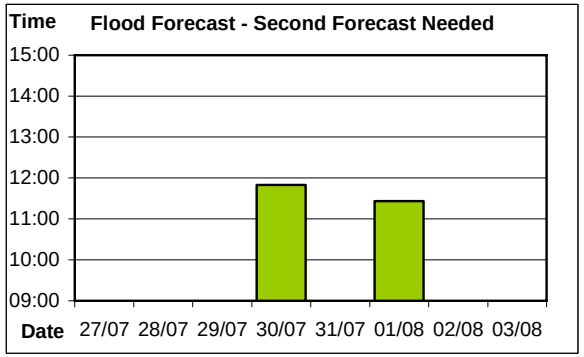


Figure B6: Second forecast needed

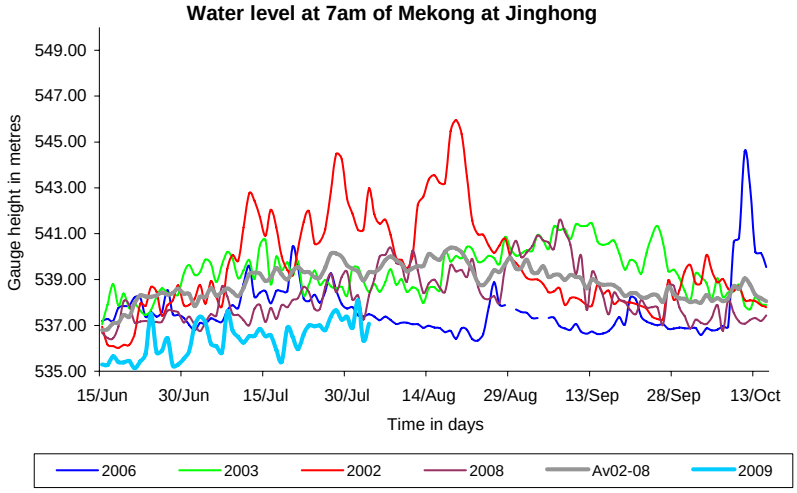
Note: On 30 July 2009 the forecasting team could not access to the Hydromet data due to an internal problem with the internet gateway router device and as a result the forecast completion time was later than usual. On 31 July 2009 there was another internal trouble with the forecasting server that caused the late forecast completion time. The first forecast on 30/07 was made without rainfall input from NOAA and later on after the data could be accessed the second forecast was made. The second forecast on 01/08 was made to update the forecast at Nakhon Phanom after the data was arrived.

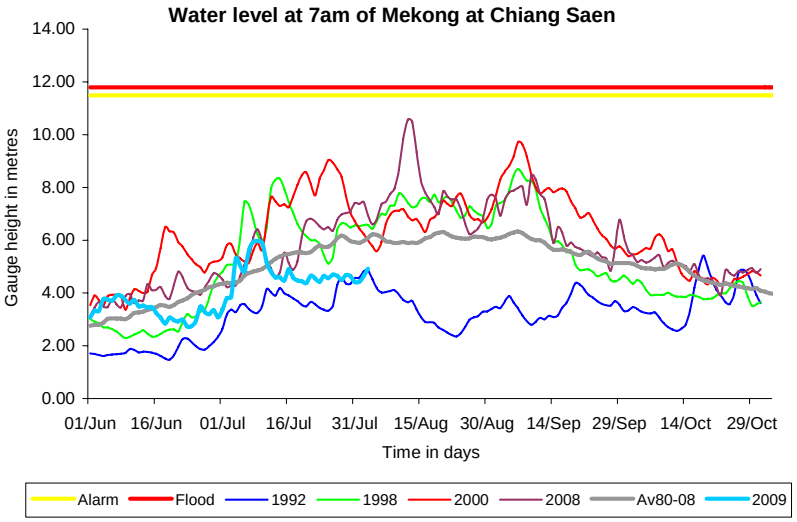
Annex C: Season Water Level Graphs

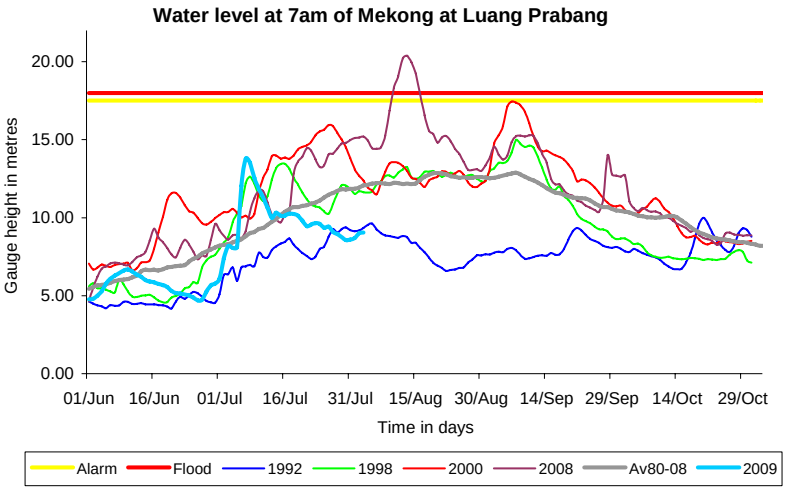
This Annex has the water level graphs of the report date. These graphs are distributed daily by email together with the Flood Bulletins.

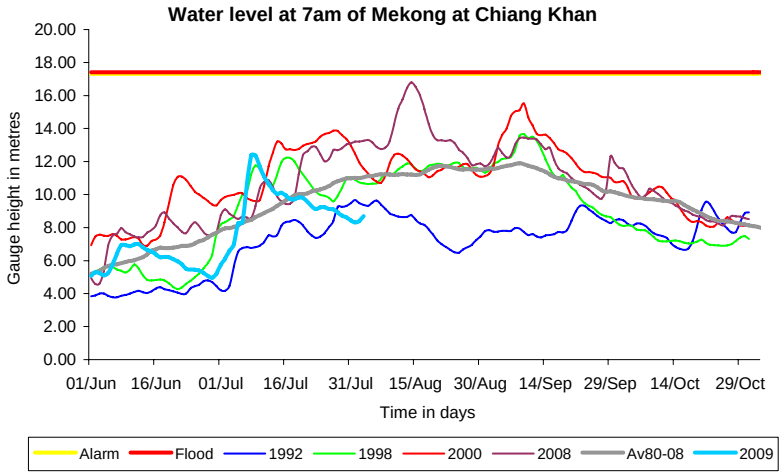
HYDROGRAPHS OF THE MEKONG AT MAINSTREAM STATIONS

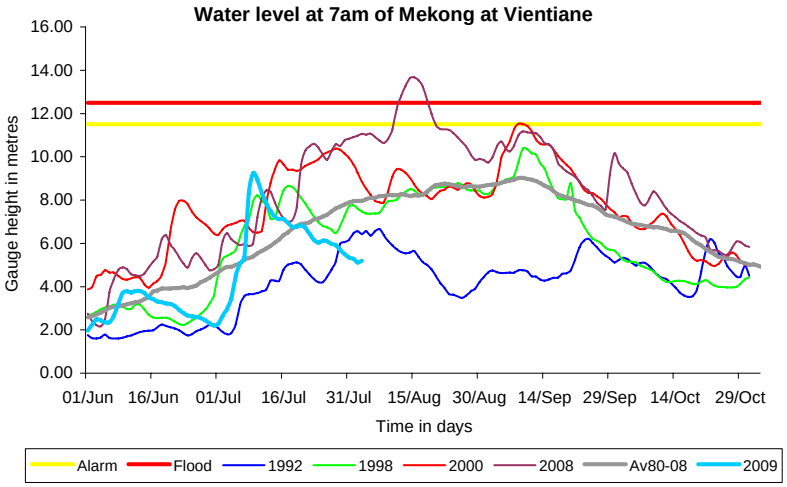
IN WET SEASON FROM 1 JUNE TO 31 OCTOBER

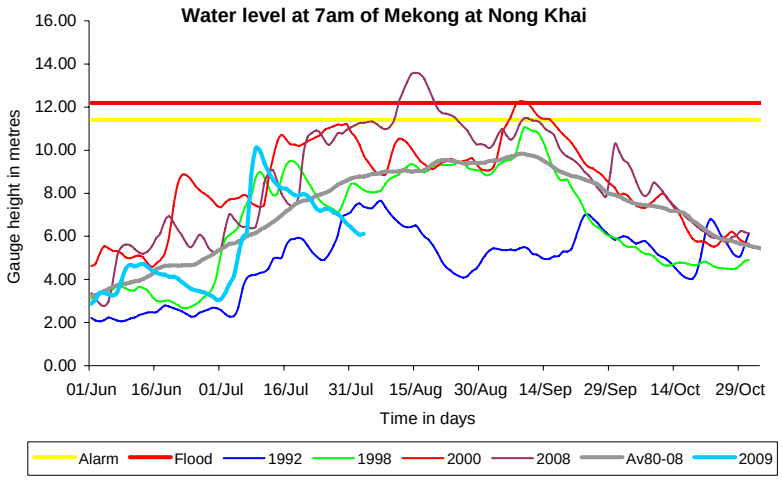


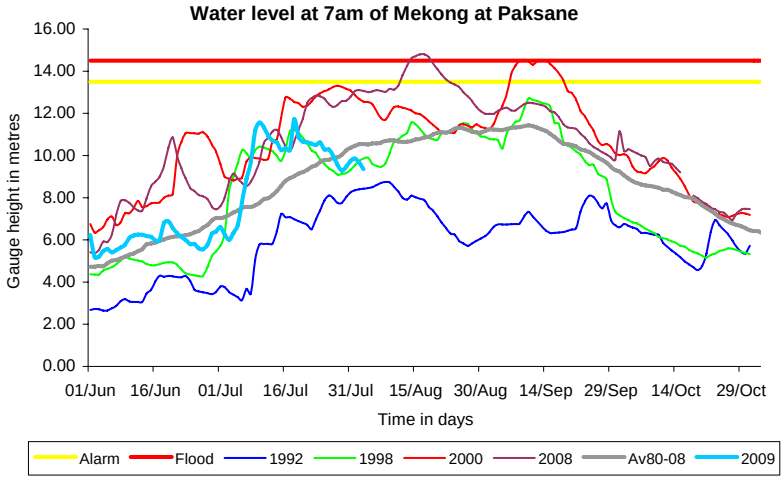


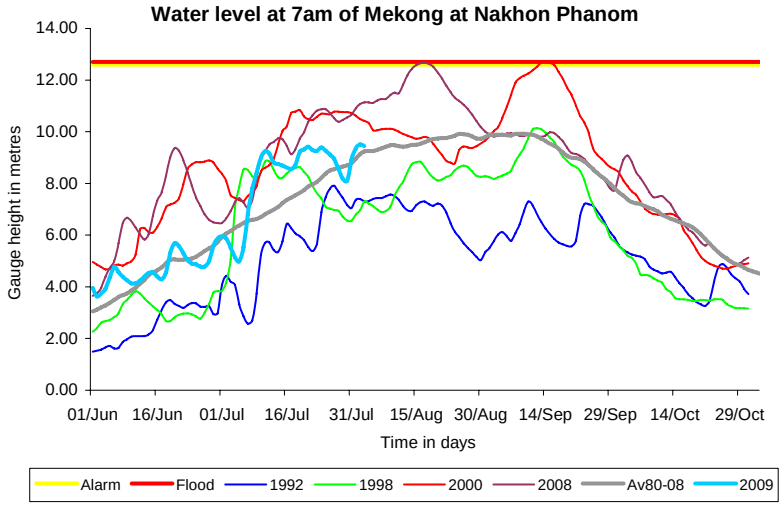

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Luang Prabang
Gauge height in metres
20.00
15.00
10.00
5.00
0.00
01/Jun
16/Jun
01/Jul
16/Jul
31/Jul
15/Aug
30/Aug
14/Sep
29/Sep
14/Oct
29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
1992
1998
2000
2008
Av80-08
2009

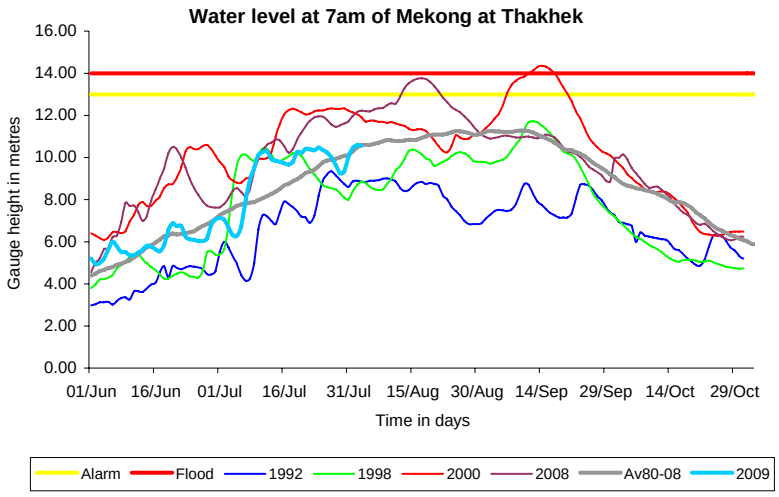

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Chiang Khan
Gauge height in metres
20.00
18.00
16.00
14.00
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun
16/Jun
01/Jul
16/Jul
31/Jul
15/Aug
30/Aug
14/Sep
29/Sep
14/Oct
29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
1992
1998
2000
2008
Av80-08
2009

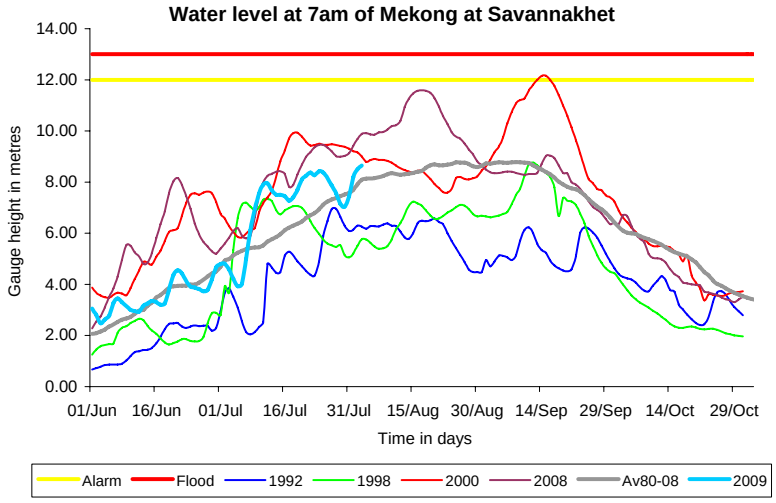

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Vientiane
Gauge height in metres
16.00
14.00
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun
16/Jun
01/Jul
16/Jul
31/Jul
15/Aug
30/Aug
14/Sep
29/Sep
14/Oct
29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
1992
1998
2000
2008
Av80-08
2009

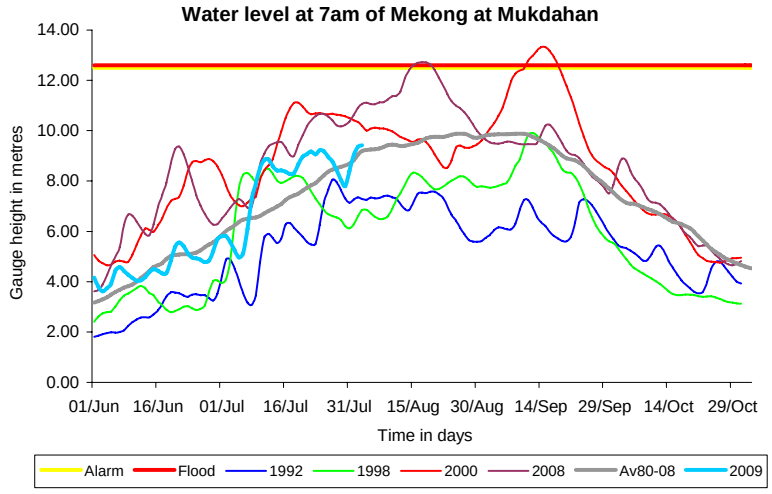

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Nong Khai
Gauge height in metres
16.00
14.00
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun 16/Jun 01/Jul 16/Jul 31/Jul 15/Aug 30/Aug 14/Sep 29/Sep 14/Oct 29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm Flood 1992 1998 2000 2008 Av80-08 2009

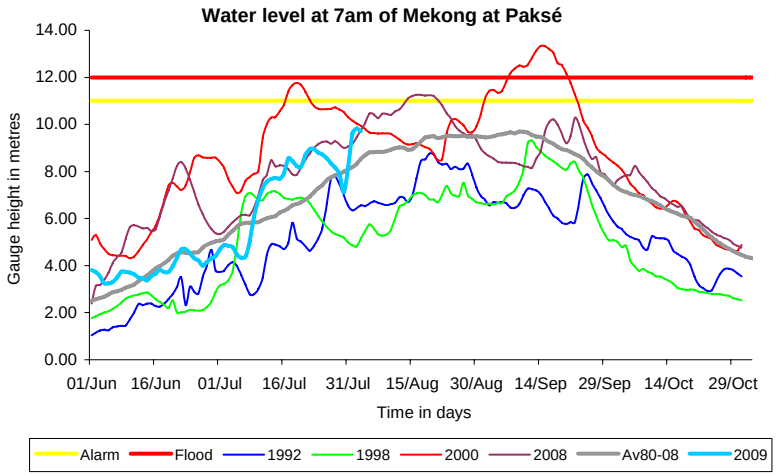

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Paksane
Gauge height in metres
16.00
14.00
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun 16/Jun 01/Jul 16/Jul 31/Jul 15/Aug 30/Aug 14/Sep 29/Sep 14/Oct 29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm Flood 1992 1998 2000 2008 Av80-08 2009

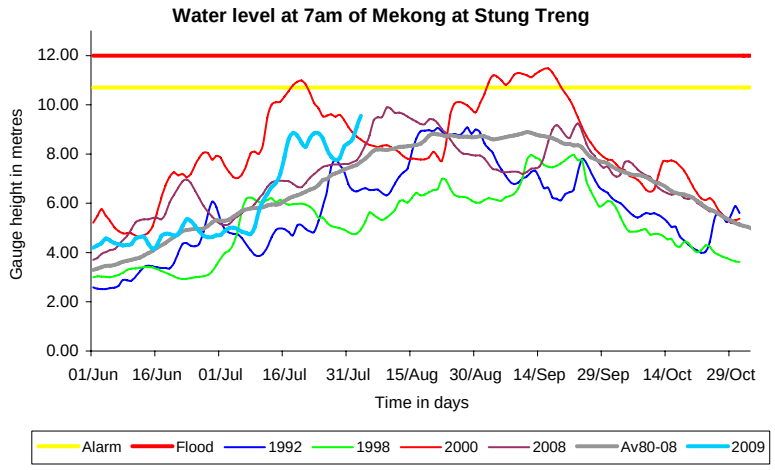

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Nakhon Phanom
Gauge height in metres
14.00
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun 16/Jun 01/Jul 16/Jul 31/Jul 15/Aug 30/Aug 14/Sep 29/Sep 14/Oct 29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm Flood 1992 1998 2000 2008 Av80-08 2009

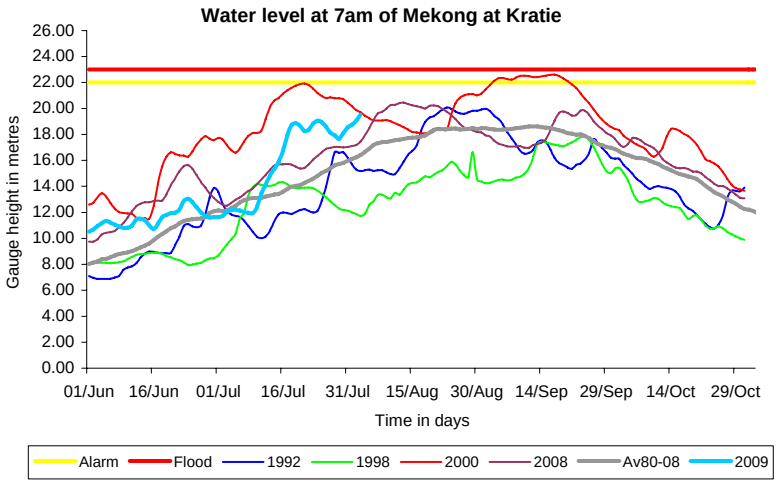

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Thakhek
Gauge height in metres
16.00
14.00
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun
16/Jun
01/Jul
16/Jul
31/Jul
15/Aug
30/Aug
14/Sep
29/Sep
14/Oct
29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
1992
1998
2000
2008
Av80-08
2009

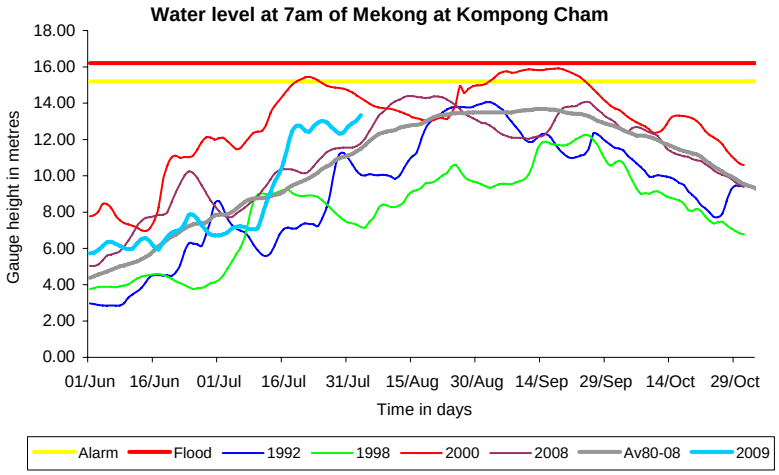

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Savannakhet
Gauge height in metres
14.00
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun
16/Jun
01/Jul
16/Jul
31/Jul
15/Aug
30/Aug
14/Sep
29/Sep
14/Oct
29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
1992
1998
2000
2008
Av80-08
2009

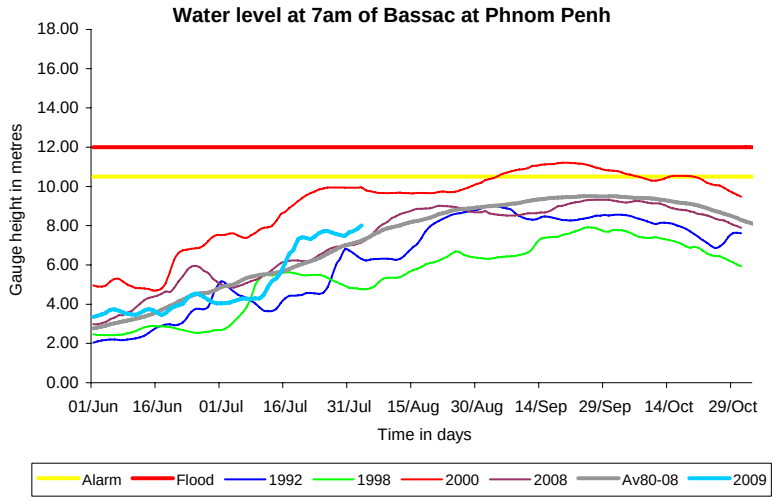

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Mukdahan
Gauge height in metres
14.00
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun
16/Jun
01/Jul
16/Jul
31/Jul
15/Aug
30/Aug
14/Sep
29/Sep
14/Oct
29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
1992
1998
2000
2008
Av80-08
2009

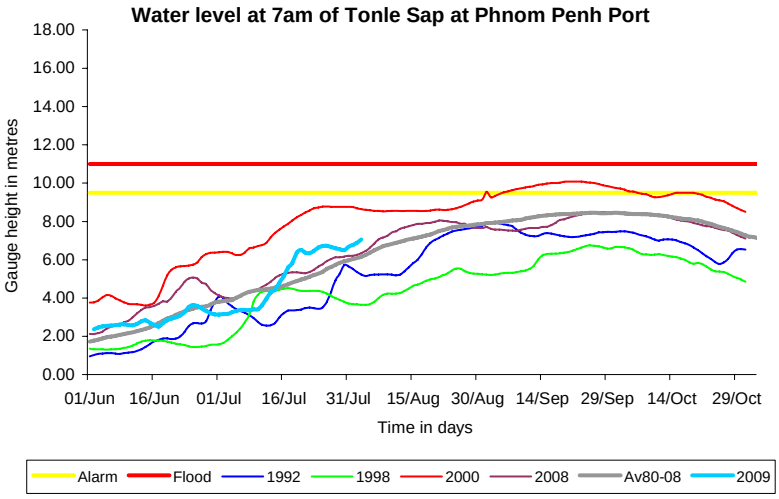

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Paksé
Gauge height in metres
14.00
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun
16/Jun
01/Jul
16/Jul
31/Jul
15/Aug
30/Aug
14/Sep
29/Sep
14/Oct
29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
1992
1998
2000
2008
Av80-08
2009

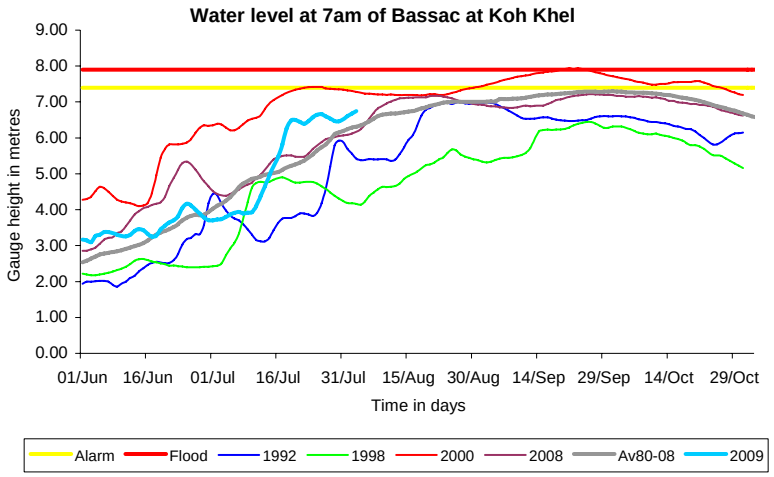

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Stung Treng
Gauge height in metres
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun
16/Jun
01/Jul
16/Jul
31/Jul
15/Aug
30/Aug
14/Sep
29/Sep
14/Oct
29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
1992
1998
2000
2008
Av80-08
2009

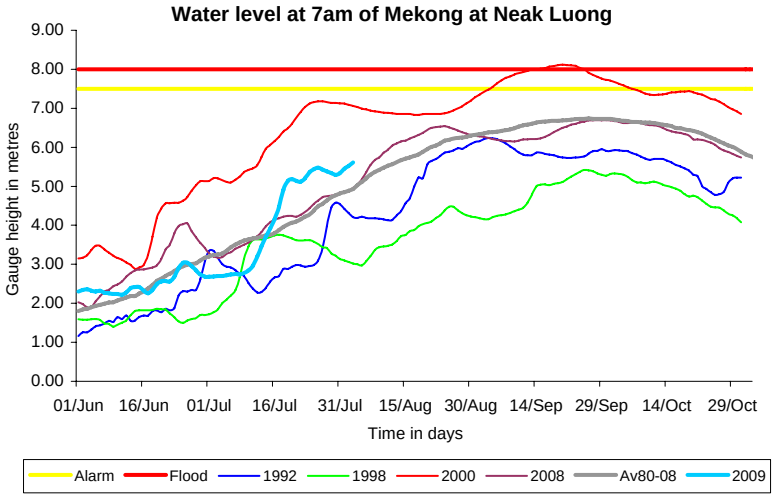

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Kratie
Gauge height in metres
26.00
24.00
22.00
20.00
18.00
16.00
14.00
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun
16/Jun
01/Jul
16/Jul
31/Jul
15/Aug
30/Aug
14/Sep
29/Sep
14/Oct
29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
1992
1998
2000
2008
Av80-08
2009

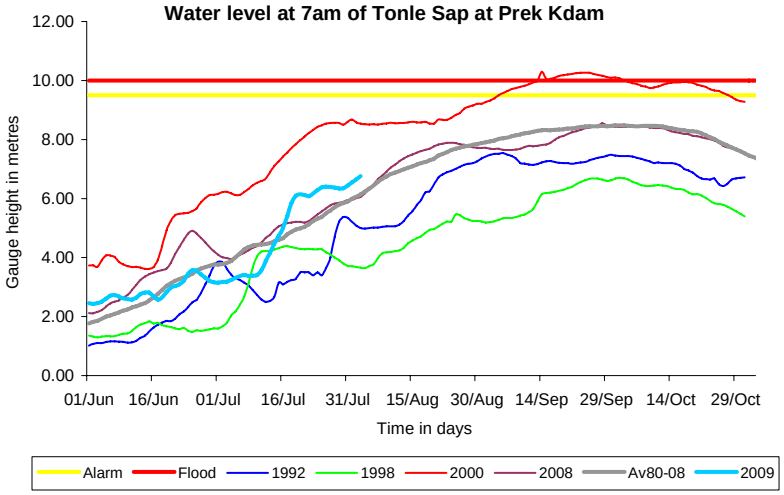

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Kompong Cham
Gauge height in metres
18.00
16.00
14.00
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun 16/Jun 01/Jul 16/Jul 31/Jul 15/Aug 30/Aug 14/Sep 29/Sep 14/Oct 29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm Flood 1992 1998 2000 2008 Av80-08 2009

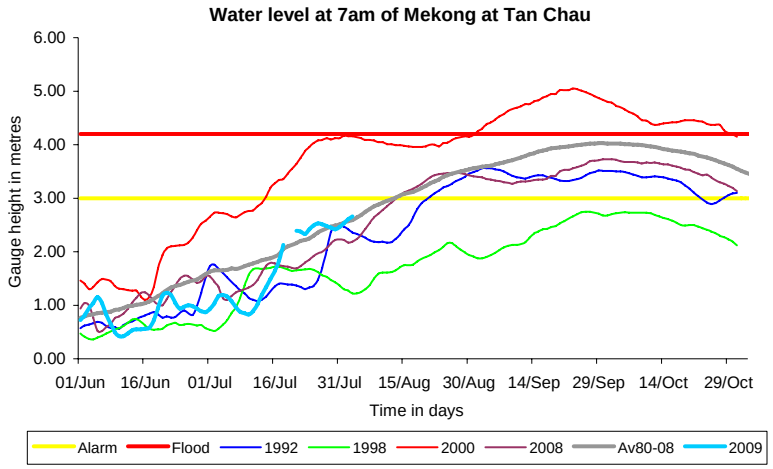

Water level at 7am of Bassac at Phnom Penh
Gauge height in metres
18.00
16.00
14.00
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun 16/Jun 01/Jul 16/Jul 31/Jul 15/Aug 30/Aug 14/Sep 29/Sep 14/Oct 29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm Flood 1992 1998 2000 2008 Av80-08 2009

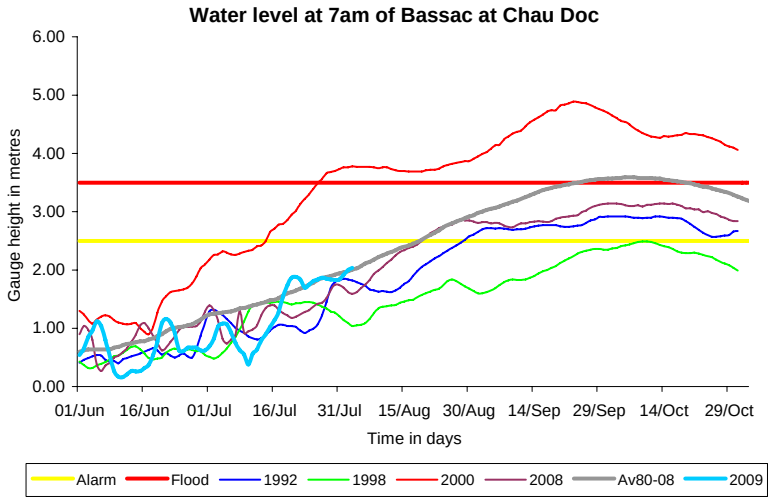

Water level at 7am of Tonle Sap at Phnom Penh Port
Gauge height in metres
18.00
16.00
14.00
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun 16/Jun 01/Jul 16/Jul 31/Jul 15/Aug 30/Aug 14/Sep 29/Sep 14/Oct 29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm Flood 1992 1998 2000 2008 Av80-08 2009


Water level at 7am of Bassac at Koh Khel
Gauge height in metres
9.00
8.00
7.00
6.00
5.00
4.00
3.00
2.00
1.00
0.00
01/Jun 16/Jun 01/Jul 16/Jul 31/Jul 15/Aug 30/Aug 14/Sep 29/Sep 14/Oct 29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm Flood 1992 1998 2000 2008 Av80-08 2009


Water level at 7am of Mekong at Neak Luong
Gauge height in metres
9.00
8.00
7.00
6.00
5.00
4.00
3.00
2.00
1.00
0.00
01/Jun 16/Jun 01/Jul 16/Jul 31/Jul 15/Aug 30/Aug 14/Sep 29/Sep 14/Oct 29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm Flood 1992 1998 2000 2008 Av80-08 2009


Water level at 7am of Tonle Sap at Prek Kdam
Gauge height in metres
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
01/Jun 16/Jun 01/Jul 16/Jul 31/Jul 15/Aug 30/Aug 14/Sep 29/Sep 14/Oct 29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm Flood 1992 1998 2000 2008 Av80-08 2009


Water level at 7am of Mekong at Tan Chau
Gauge height in metres
6.00
5.00
4.00
3.00
2.00
1.00
0.00
01/Jun
16/Jun
01/Jul
16/Jul
31/Jul
15/Aug
30/Aug
14/Sep
29/Sep
14/Oct
29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
1992
1998
2000
2008
Av80-08
2009


Water level at 7am of Bassac at Chau Doc
Gauge height in metres
6.00
5.00
4.00
3.00
2.00
1.00
0.00
01/Jun
16/Jun
01/Jul
16/Jul
31/Jul
15/Aug
30/Aug
14/Sep
29/Sep
14/Oct
29/Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
1992
1998
2000
2008
Av80-08
2009