Mekong River Commission

Regional Flood Management and Mitigation Centre

Weekly Flood Situation Report for the Mekong River Basin

Prepared on: 18/10/2010, covering the week from the 11th to the 17th October 2010

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

General weather patterns

During the week of the 11th to the 17th October 2010, seven weather bulletins were issued by the Department of Meteorology (DOM) of Cambodia and made available to the MRC-RFMMC. The weather patterns of the 11th to the 17th October bulletins are shown below:

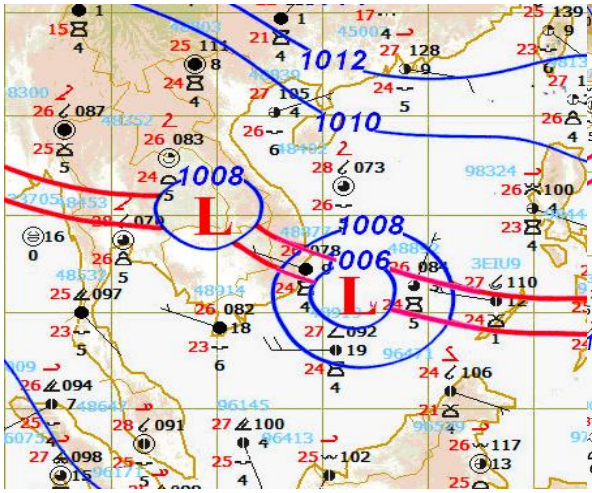


Figure 1: Weather map of 11 October 2010

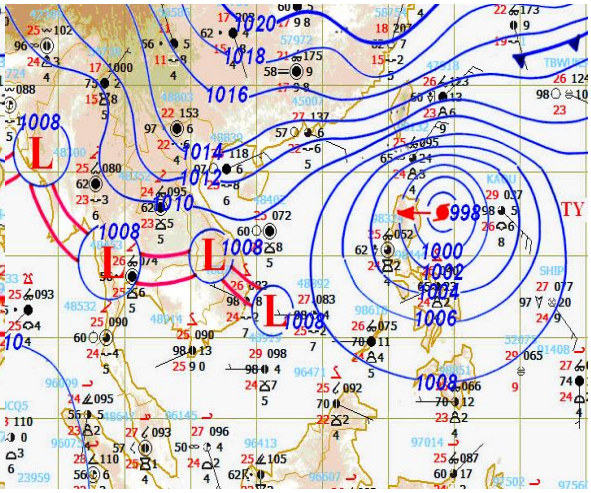


Figure 2: Weather map of 17 October 2010

Strong South-West (SW) Monsoon

During last week, the strong SW monsoon trough with the active SW monsoon wind laid across and prevailed over the Amanda Sea, the Gulf of Thailand and the middle and lower parts of Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and South China Sea (figures 1 and 2).

Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)

ITCZ was observed during last week and laid across the middle parts of Thailand and Viet Nam, upper part of Cambodia, lower part of Lao PDR (figures 1 and 2) in most of the monitoring period.

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

A Typhoon (TY) named MEGI (1013), which was formed in Maiana Island, located at latitude 17.6^0 N and longtitude 124.2^0 E on 17th October. It was moving westward with the speed of 18.5 km/h (figure 2).

Other weather phenomena that affect the discharge

No other weather phenomena affecting the discharge were observed.

Overall weather situation

Severe weather situation prevailed during last week. The strong SW monsoon trough occurred at surface, the active trough of low pressure lied across the whole of Cambodia, middle and lower parts of Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. As the result of these phenomena, moderate thundershower to heavy shower occurred in Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Viet Nam, and the Gulf of Thailand particularly in the Gulf of Thailand, the middle and lower parts of Cambodia, lower parts of Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

General behaviour of the Mekong River

Water levels at most stations along the Mekong River were somewhat around or below the long-term average for this time of the year. Water level at most stations in the upper and middle reaches of the LMB show rising and dropping trends while water levels at stations in the lower reach were more-or-less stable during last week. Water levels at Tan Chau and Chau Doc were affected by tide and more-or-less stable during reporting period.

For stations from Chiang Saen to Vientiane/Nong Khai

Water levels at almost those stations were rising from the beginning to the mid of the week and then slightly falling to the end of the week. The stations were recording levels that were somewhat below the long-term average except Chiang Saen, where its water level was over the long-term average for this time of the year.

For stations from Paksane to Pakse

Water levels were falling from the beginning to the mid of the week and then rising to the end of the week. The stations Paksane, Nakon Phanom and Thakhet were recording levels that were somewhat below the long-term average while water levels at stations from Mukdahan/Savannakhet to Pakse were around the long-term average for this time of the year.

For stations Strung Treng to Kampong Cham

Water levels were falling from the beginning to the mid of the week and more-or-less stable to the end of the week. Water levels at those stations were somewhat around the long-term average for this time of the year.

For stations from Phnom Penh Bassac/ Phnom Penh Port to Neak Luong/Koh Khel

Water levels were more-or-less stable during last week. All stations were recording levels that are below the long-term average for this time of the year.

Stations Tan Chau and Chau Doc

Water levels at these stations, which have been significantly affected by sea tide, were more-or-less stable during the monitoring period. These stations were recording levels that are below the long-term average for this time of the year.

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 past week. Water levels are still significanlyt 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 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

2010	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
11/10	538.82	4.75	8.34	8.32	5.16	6.12	7.70	6.61	7.73	7.18	6.38	9.42	7.78	7.28	17.02	11.77	8.02	7.13	6.66	5.70	7.11	2.88	2.46
12/10	538.24	5.62	8.54	8.20	5.08	5.84	7.46	6.27	7.42	6.87	5.95	8.92	7.35	7.19	16.97	11.72	8.10	7.19	6.78	5.82	7.25	2.96	2.43
13/10	537.92	5.70	8.90	8.23	4.92	5.70	7.30	5.99	7.16	6.56	5.71	8.52	6.93	6.71	16.60	11.64	8.18	7.34	6.78	5.84	7.31	2.95	2.43
14/10	537.41	5.44	9.65	8.50	5.02	5.70	7.11	5.73	6.90	6.29	5.39	8.13	6.64	6.35	16.00	11.33	8.13	7.28	6.75	5.80	7.28	2.95	2.46
15/10	536.98	5.20	9.74	9.15	5.35	5.98	7.01	5.47	6.65	6.00	5.10	7.89	6.41	6.29	15.50	10.97	8.13	7.30	6.76	5.80	7.29	2.95	2.44
16/10		5.00	9.41	9.48	6.02	6.66	7.27	5.34	6.54	5.70	4.78	7.62	6.20	6.39	15.65	10.90	8.16	7.32	6.75	5.79	7.36	2.93	2.33
17/10		4.78	9.12	9.34	6.26	7.02	7.91	5.73	6.94	5.64	4.70	7.88	6.31	6.25	15.58	10.92	8.16	7.32	6.76	5.78	7.33	2.94	2.45
18/10		4.69	8.90	9.11	6.06	6.88	8.56	6.57	7.80	6.36	5.22	8.66	6.94	6.47	15.43	10.79	8.13	7.28	6.76	5.77	7.34	2.97	2.49
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

2010	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
11/10	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	67.8	7.0	15.5	9.0	42.0	55.5		44.3	26.8	23.4	14.0	0.0
12/10	4.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	4.2	0.0	14.2	42.4	44.5	8.6	15.4	1.0	2.2	0.0	10.8	75.8	99.1		268.4	188.2	173.5	80.0	50.0
13/10	1.0	18.0	0.0	27.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	12.5	3.3	23.6	5.0	1.8	6.5	6.9		8.3	8.6	17.4	0.0	0.0
14/10	0.0	9.0	0.0	5.8	0.0	4.2	5.0	0.0	0.0	11.4	8.1	4.8	3.0	0.0	32.8	32.2	3.8		0.4	27.3	7.4	12.0	107.0
15/10	0.0	3.9	0.0	1.3	0.4	1.2	6.0	4.8	5.1	7.5	2.7	25.5	27.0	28.5	21.2	13.7	50.1		2.3	4.2	12.5	0.0	0.0
16/10		0.0		4.2	0.0	3.0	5.3	29.1	28.9	15.5	17.2	5.5	47.8	9.7	16.8	2.0	1.4		0.0	0.0	32.5	0.0	0.0
17/10		0.0	0.0	3.0	8.6	11.1	16.3	13.8	13.4	14.3	15.7	4.5	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		6.8	9.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
18/10		3.7	0.0	0.0	3.2	1.0	5.0	4.2	3.1	13.6	20.1	13.0	2.0	3.6	3.4	3.5	5.4		13.0	0.0	18.4	1.8	2.0

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

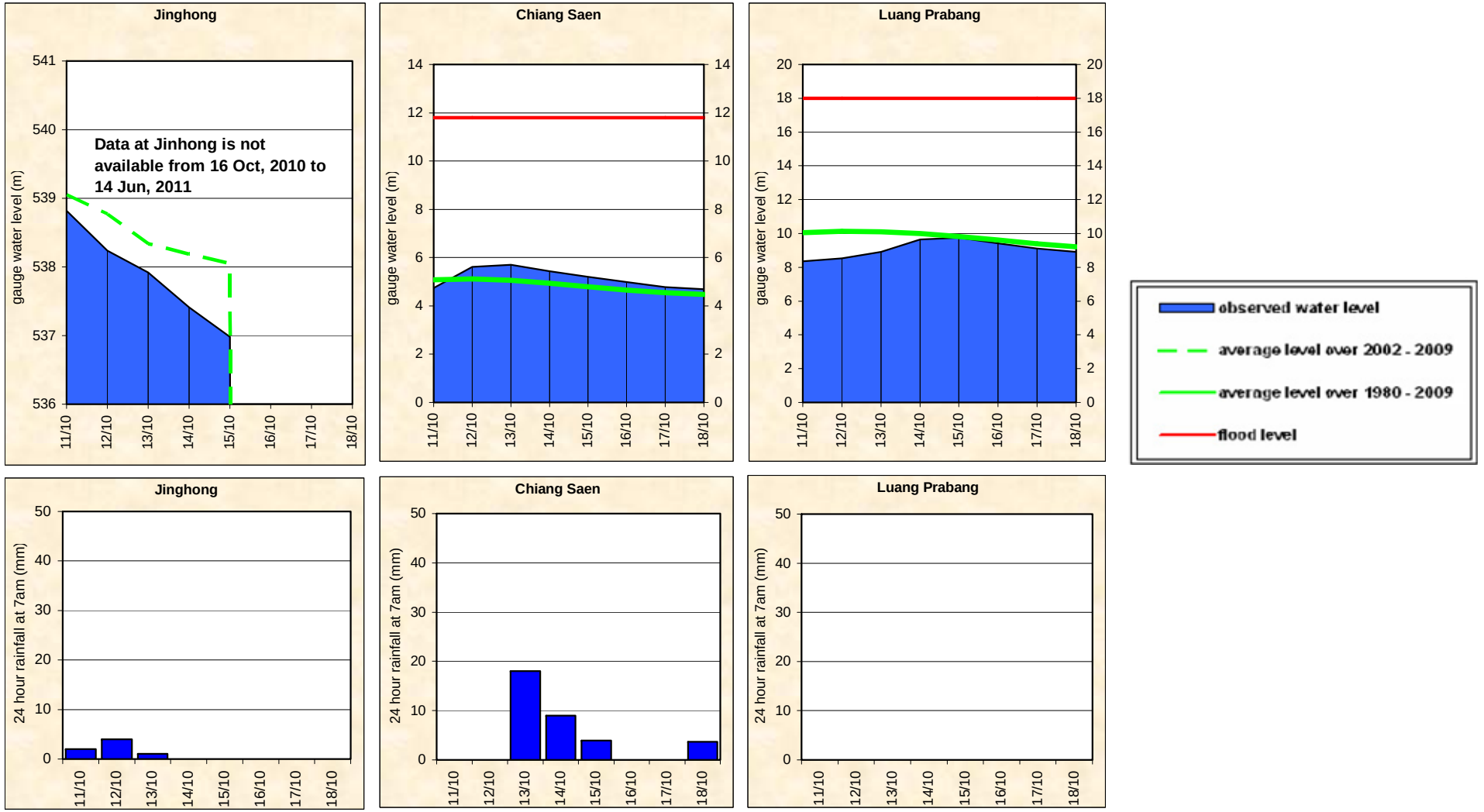


Figure A2: Water level and rainfall for Chiang Khan, Vientiane, Nongkhai, and Paksane

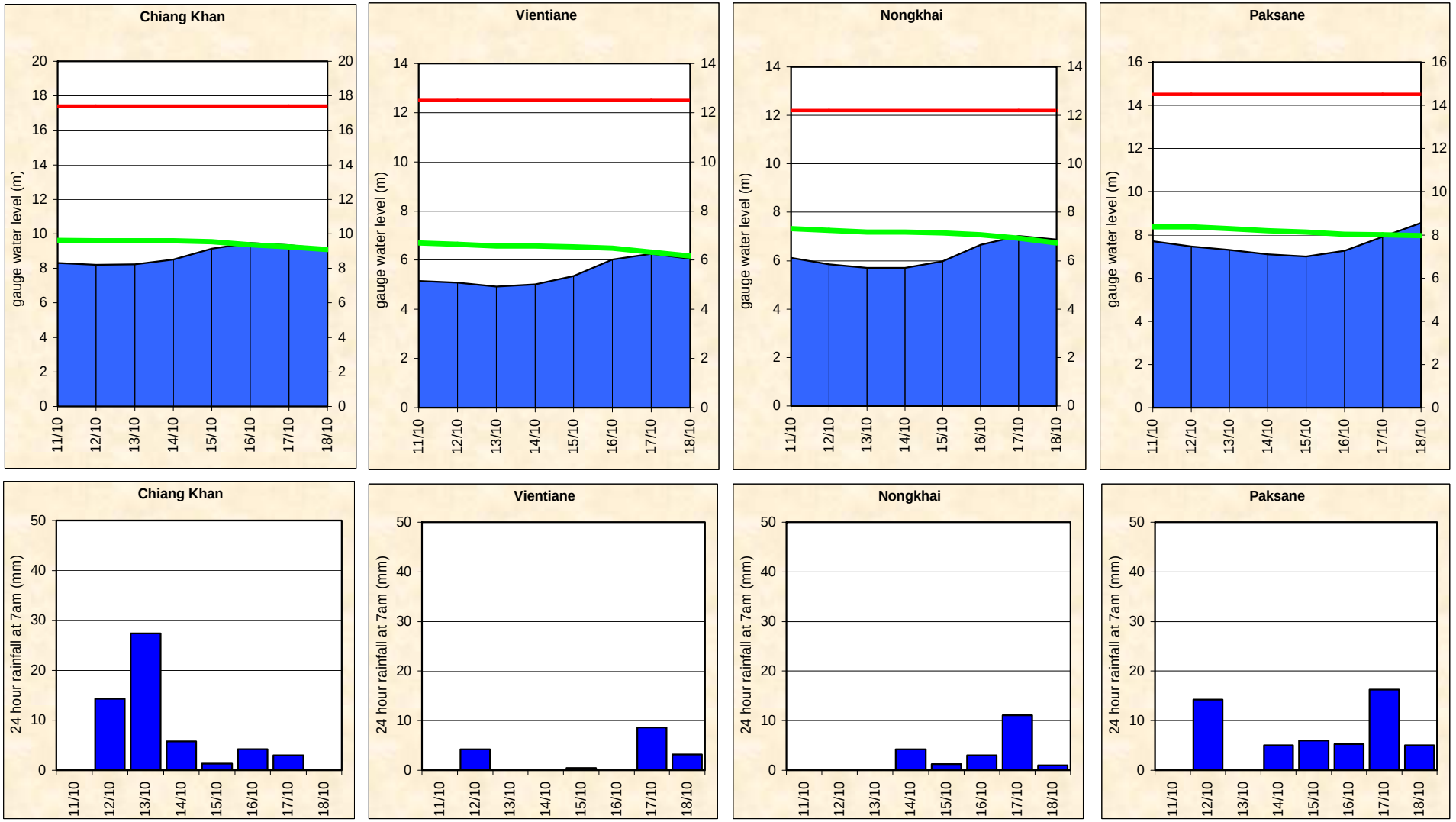


Figure A3: Water level and rainfall for Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Mukdahan and Savannakhet

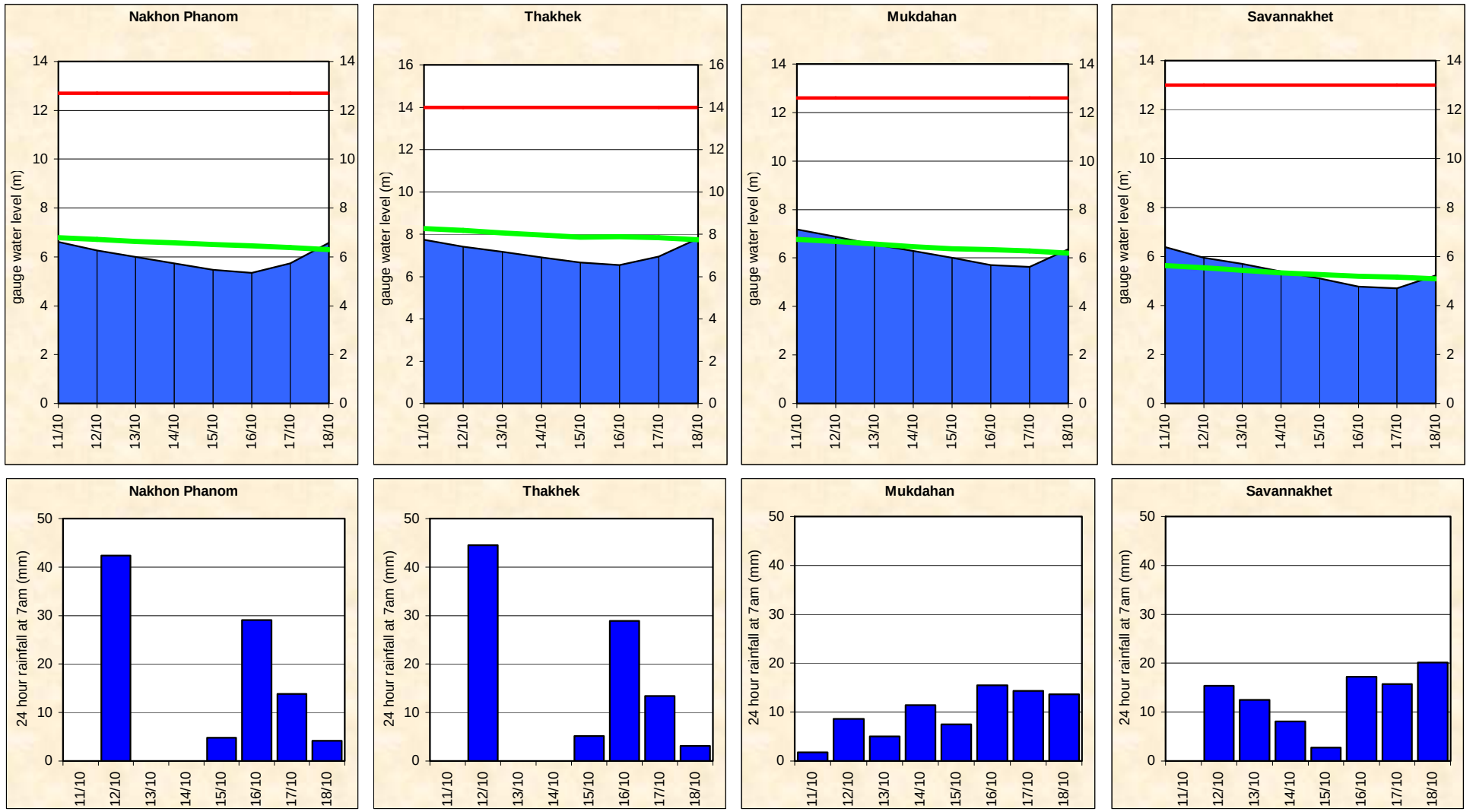


Figure A4: Water level and rainfall for Khong Chiam, Pakse, Stung Treng, and Kratie

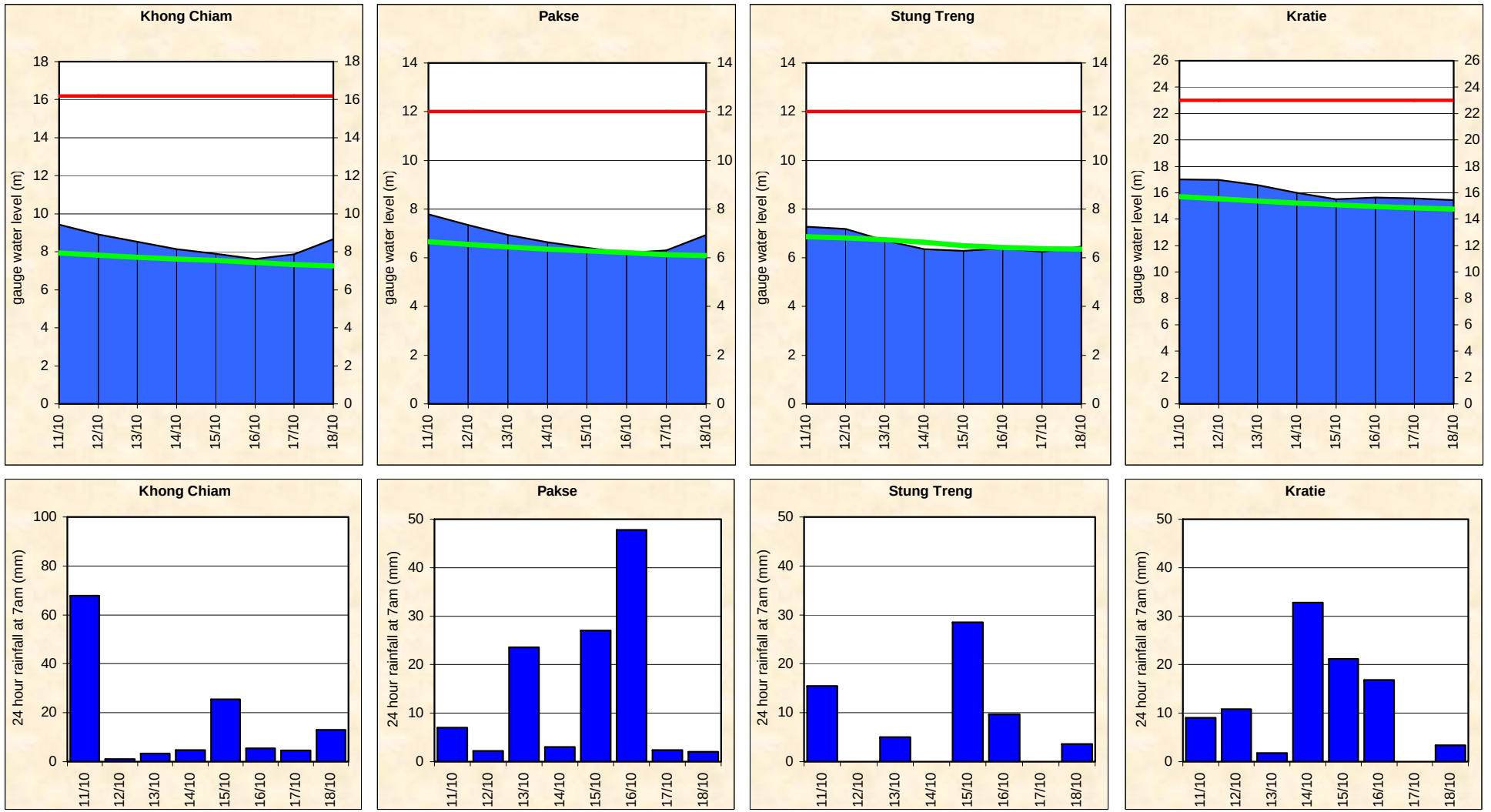


Figure A5: Water level and rainfall for Kampong Cham, Phnom Penh (Bassac and Port), and Koh Khel

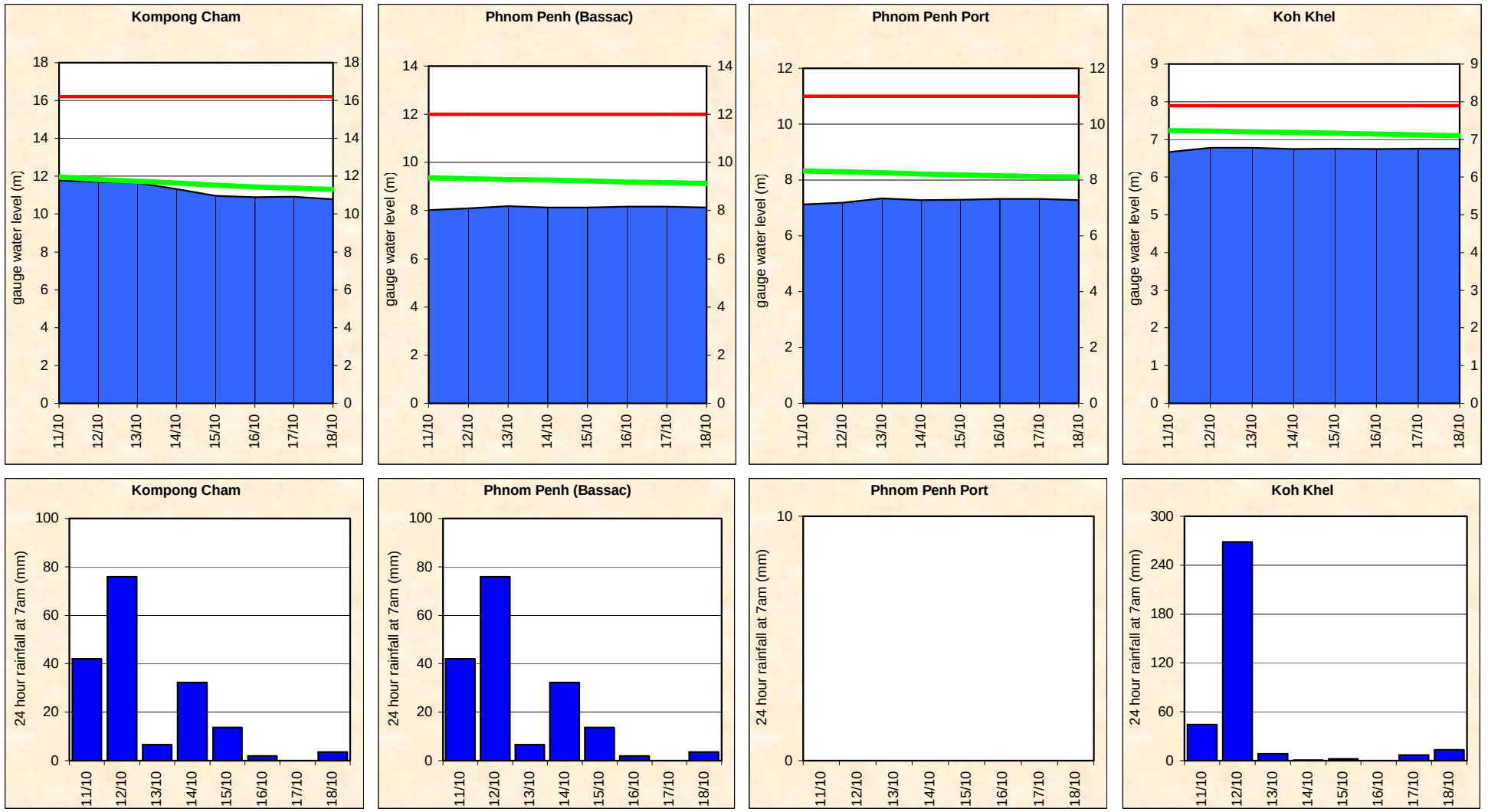
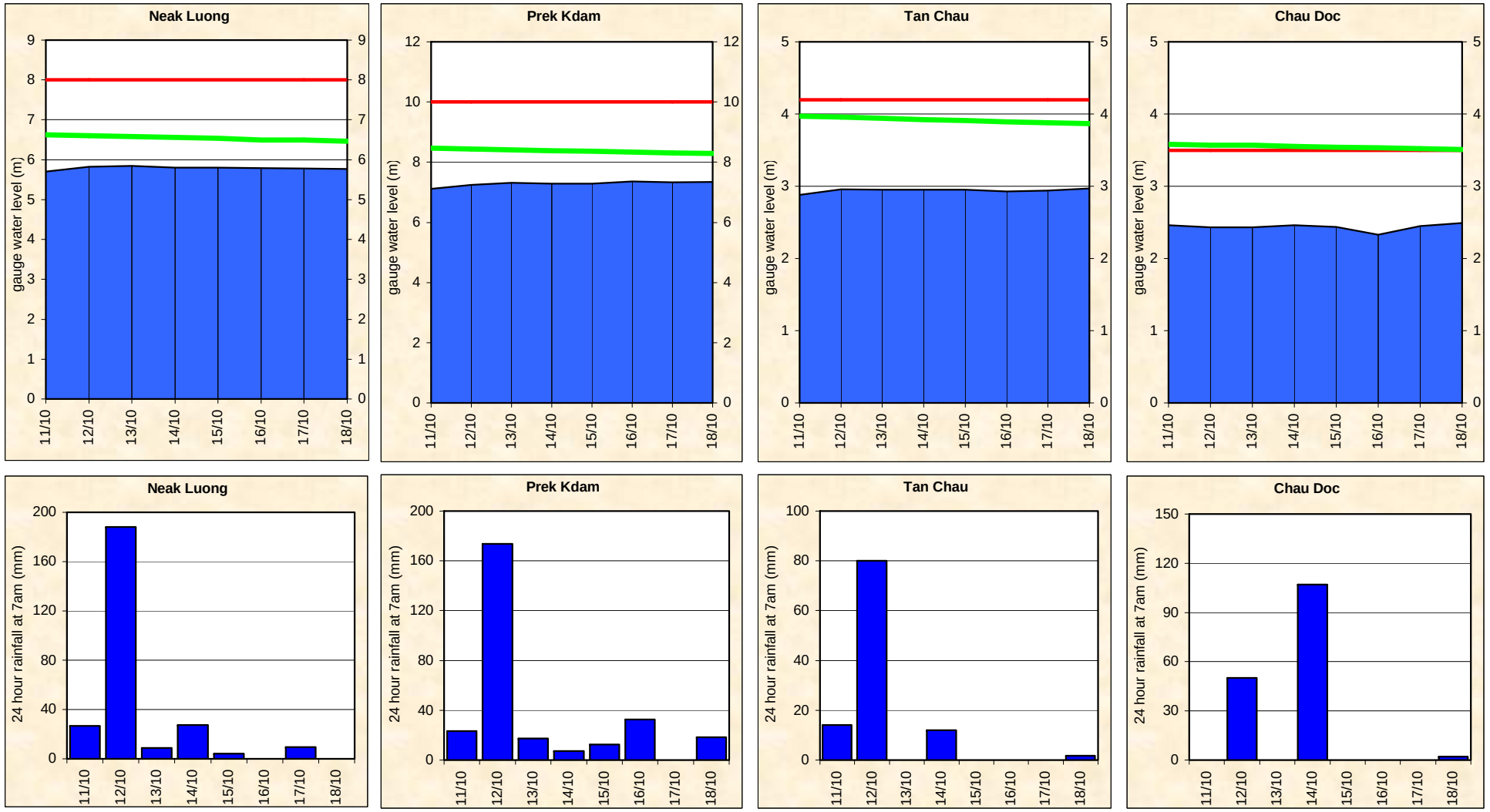


Figure A6: Water level and rainfall for Neak Luong, Prek Kdam, Tan Chau and Chau Doc



Annex B: Accuracy and performance

Accuracy

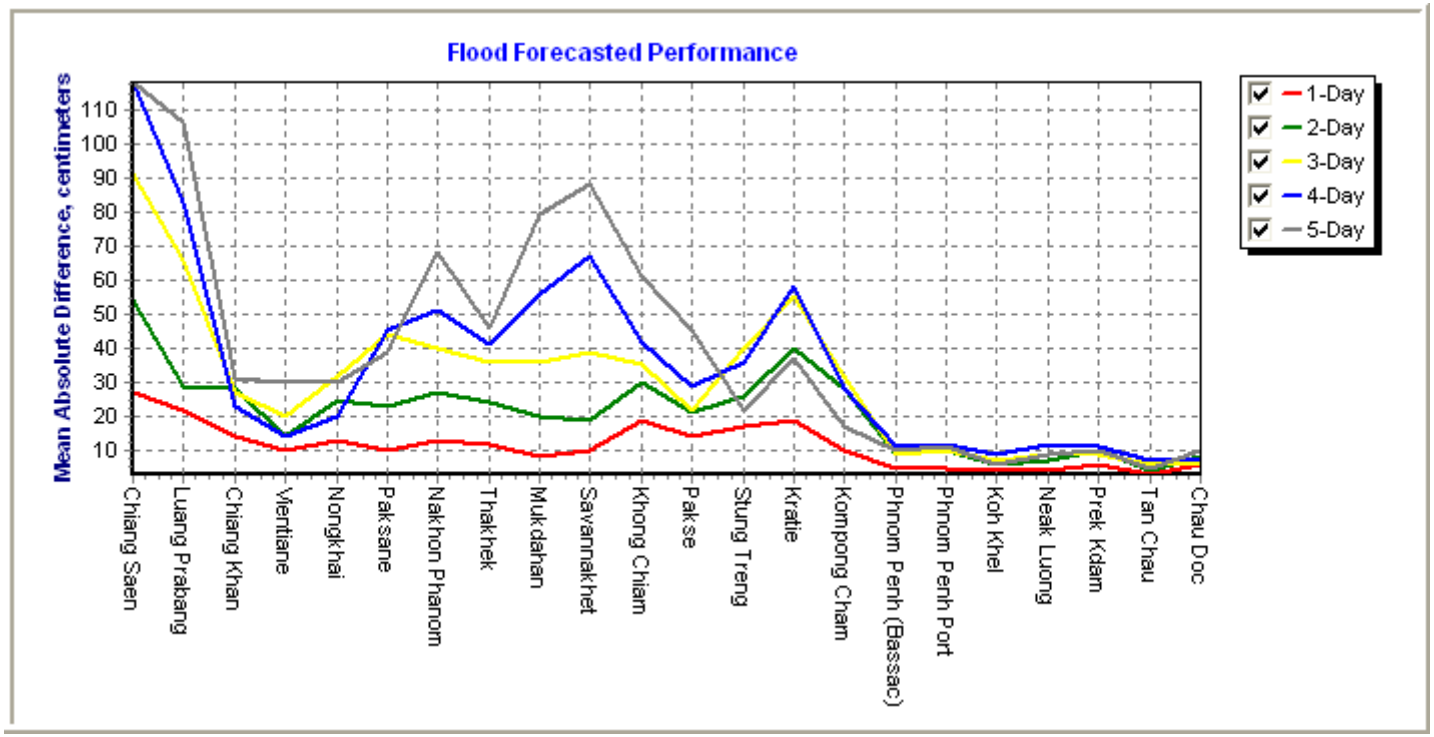
"Accuracy" describes the accuracy of the adjusted and published forecast, based on the results of the MRC Mekong Flood Forecasting System, which are then adjusted by the Flood Forecaster-In-Charge taking into consideration the known biases in input data, the knowledge of model response and the experience with hydrometeorological conditions of the Mekong River Basin. The information presented as a graph below shows the average flood forecasting accuracy along the Mekong mainstream.

The graph of average difference between forecast and actual water levels for the past week shows the normal pattern in which the accuracy is better if the forecast lead time is shorter.

In overall, the accuracy is fairly good for 1-day to 4-day forecasts lead-time at stations in the middle and lower reaches of the LMB; however, the accuracies for 5-day forecast at Chiang Saen, Luang Prabang and Savannakhet were less than expected.

The above differences perharp caused by high variability of Satellite Rainfall Estimates (SRE) and rainfall forecast of Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) as well as internal model functionality in forecasting for those stations for which the parameter adjustment is impossible.

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	83.3	100.0	83.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	83.3	83.3	100.0	100.0	83.3	100.0	33.3	16.7	50.0	100.0	83.3	100.0	100.0	83.3	100.0	66.7	*84.1*
2-day	60.0	100.0	40.0	80.0	40.0	60.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	60.0	60.0	100.0	80.0	60.0	100.0	80.0	*74.5*
3-day	25.0	100.0	75.0	100.0	75.0	75.0	100.0	100.0	75.0	75.0	100.0	100.0	75.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	100.0	50.0	50.0	100.0	75.0	*75.0*
4-day	33.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	33.3	66.7	100.0	33.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	100.0	66.7	66.7	*80.3*
5-day	50.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	50.0	100.0	50.0	*81.8*

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

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)						
2010	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	*10:34*	*0*	*-*	*8*	*08:12*	*08:15*	*07:48*	*06:01*	*08:34*	*07:53*	*07:32*	*0*	*8*	*6*	*103*	*165*	*4*	*38*
month	*10:20*	*0*	*-*	*31*	*08:12*	*08:20*	*07:55*	*05:51*	*08:32*	*08:08*	*07:37*	*0*	*12*	*12*	*238*	*584*	*11*	*240*
season	*10:37*	*2*	*-*	*123*	*18:49*	*08:57*	*08:01*	*06:33*	*08:37*	*08:18*	*07:28*	*0*	*26*	*62*	*2113*	*2367*	*65*	*916*

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.

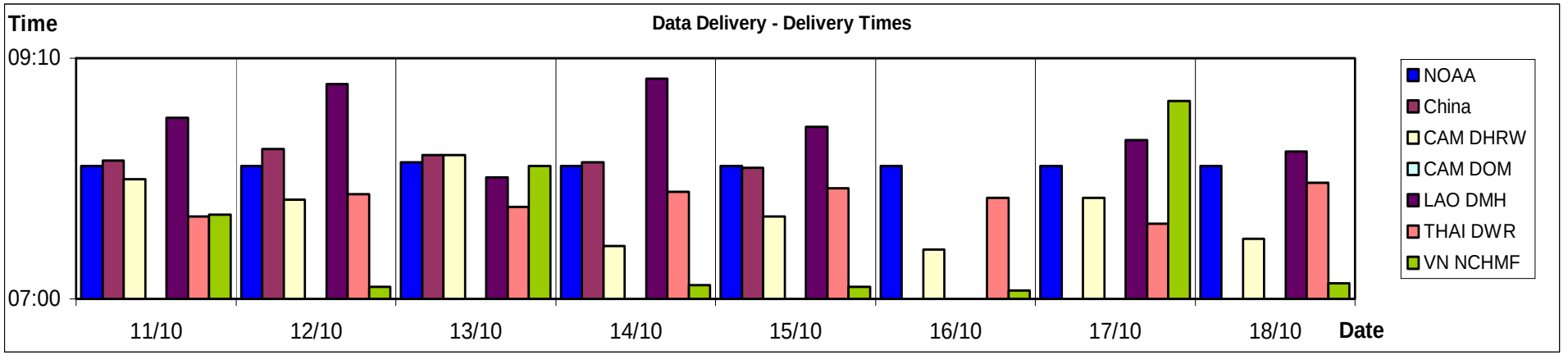


Figure B2: Data delivery times for the past 8 days including the current report date

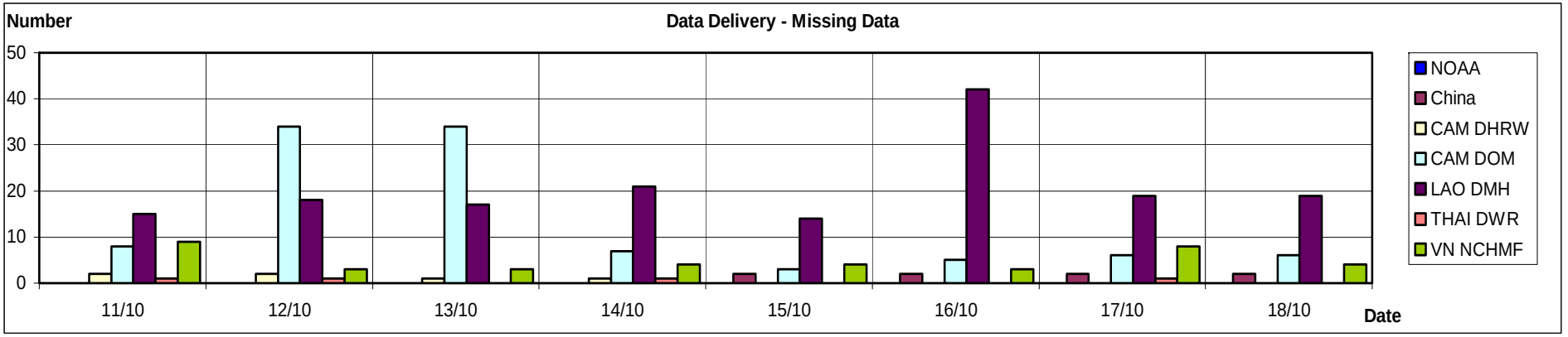


Figure B3: Missing data for the past 8 days including the current report date

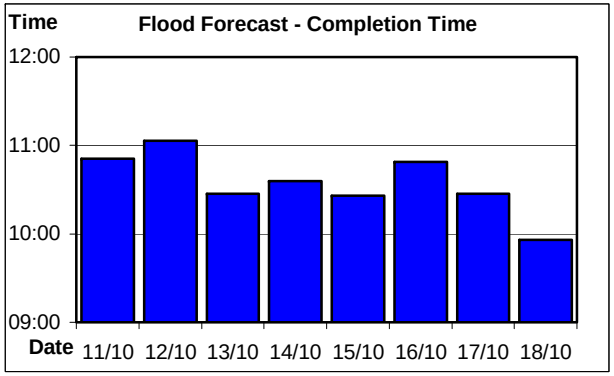


Figure B4: Flood forecast completion time

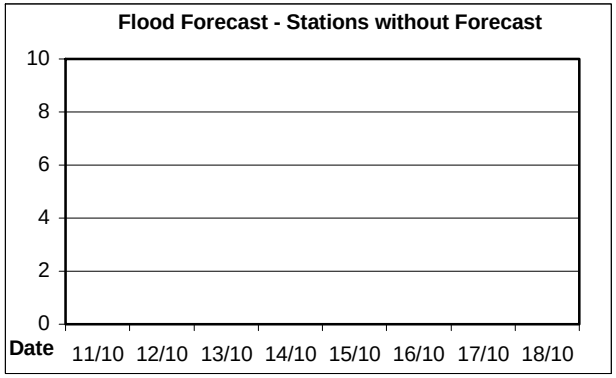


Figure B5: Flood forecast stations without forecast

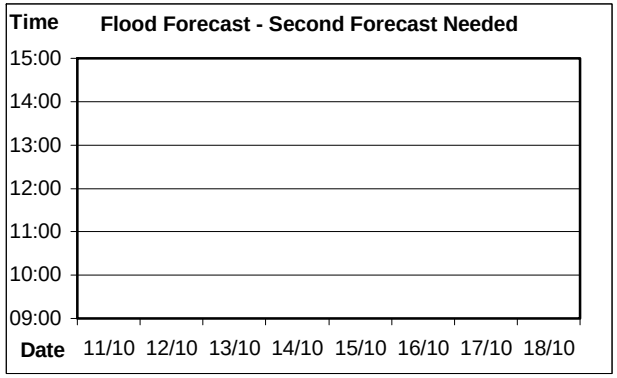


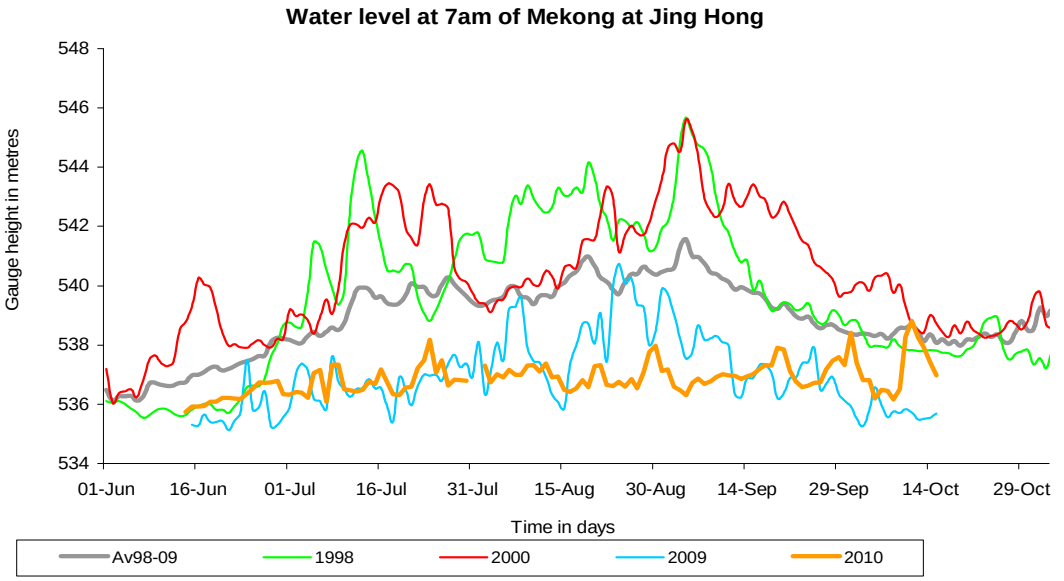
Figure B6: Second forecast needed

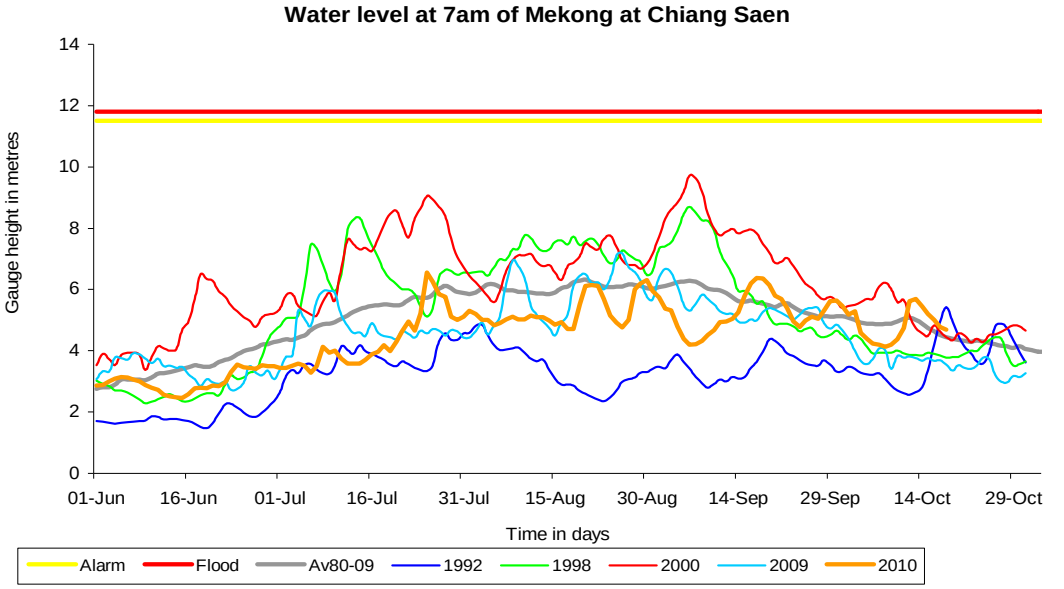
Annex C: Season Water Level Graphs

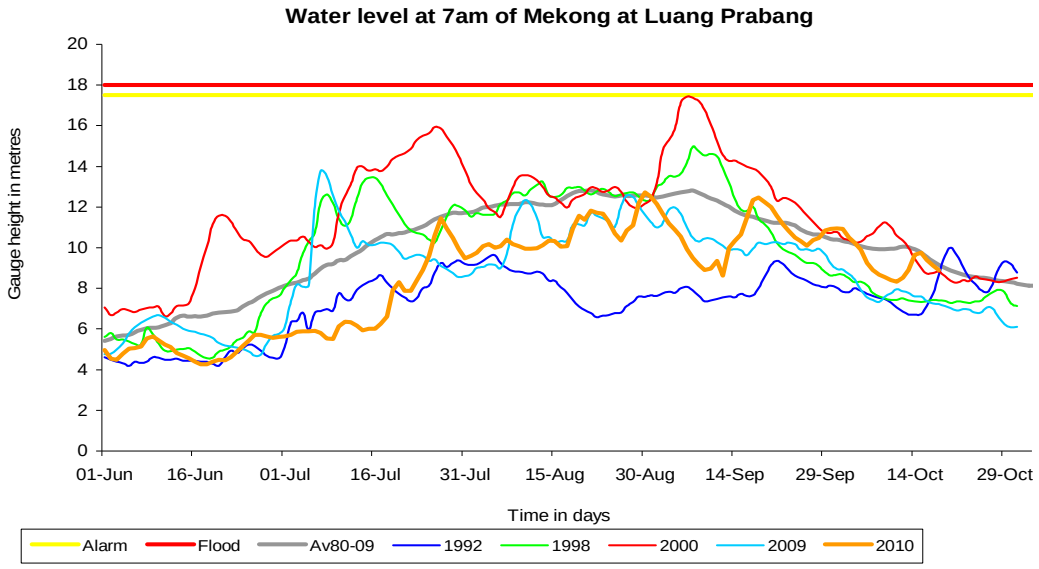
This Annex has the water level graphs of the report date. These graphs are distributed daily by email together with the Flood Bulletins.

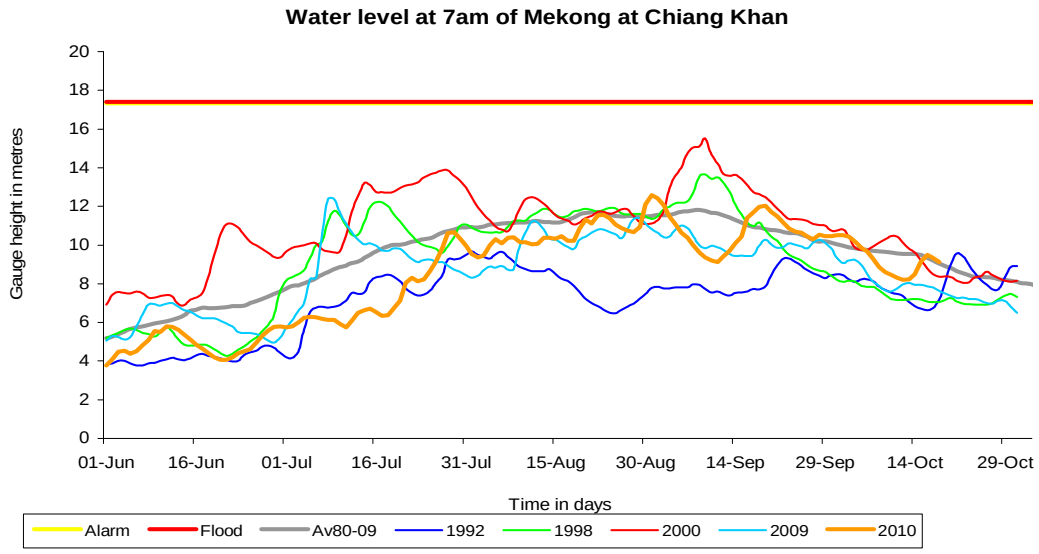
HYDROGRAPHS OF THE MEKONG AT MAINSTREAM STATIONS

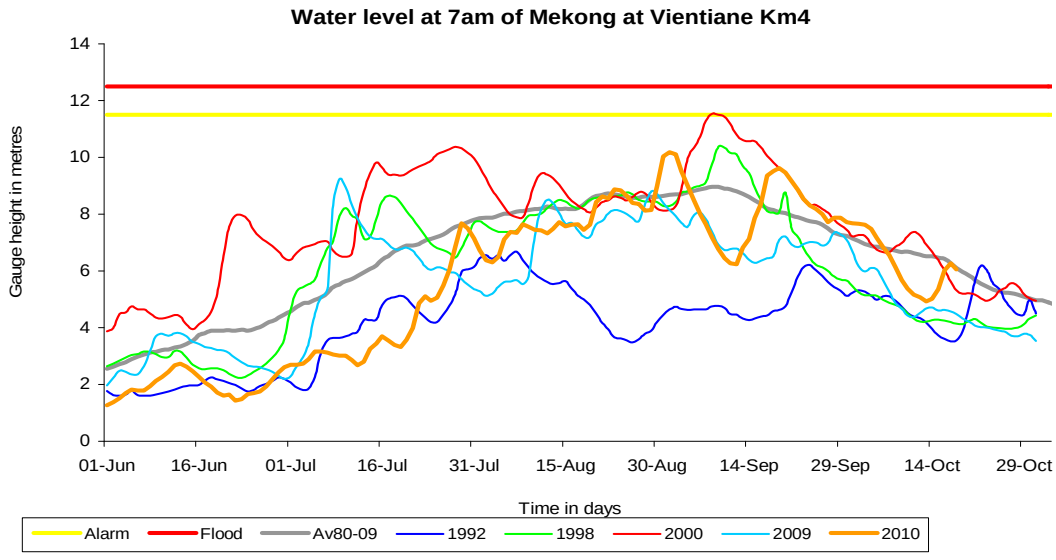
IN WET SEASON FROM 1 JUNE TO 31 OCTOBER

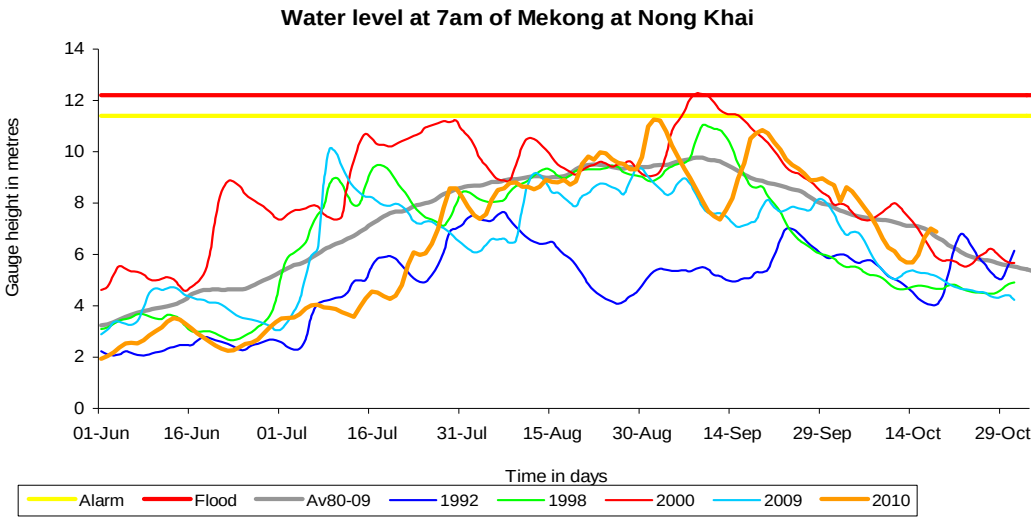


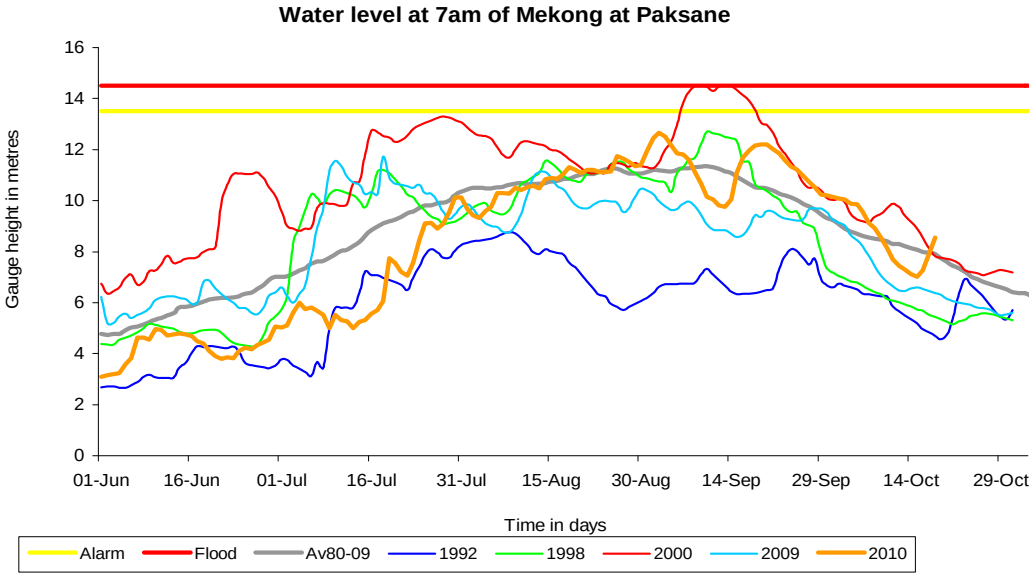


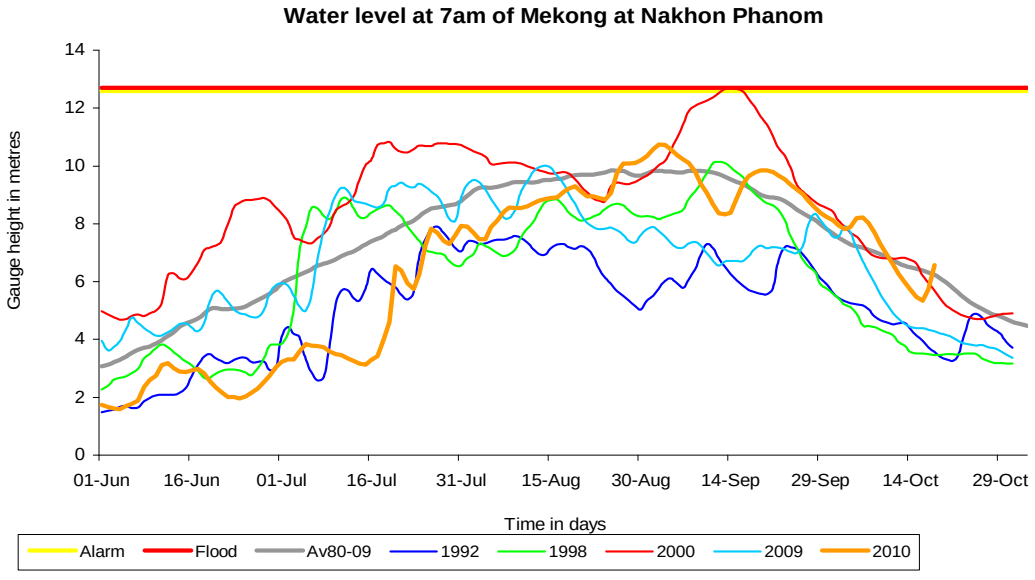

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Luang Prabang
Gauge height in metres
20
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010

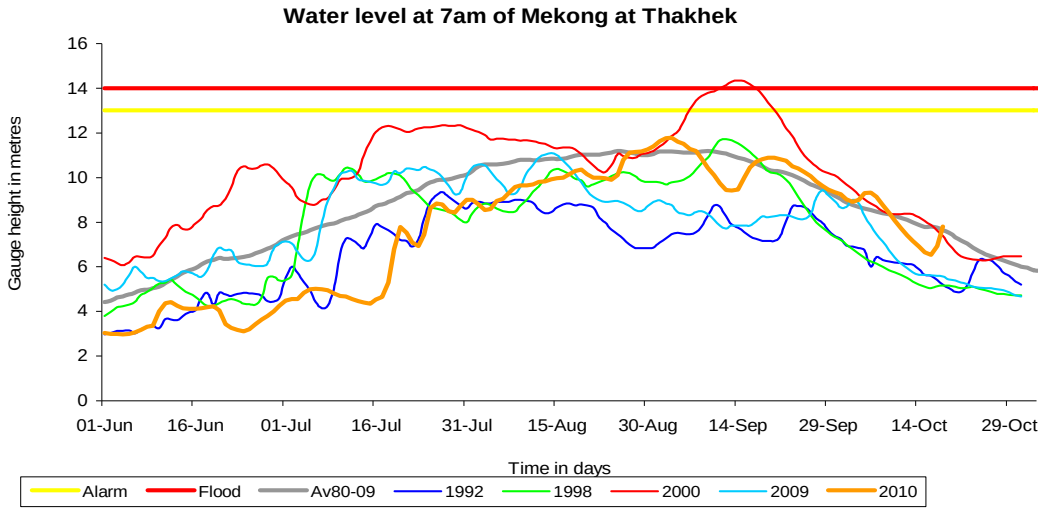

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Chiang Khan
Gauge height in metres
20
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010

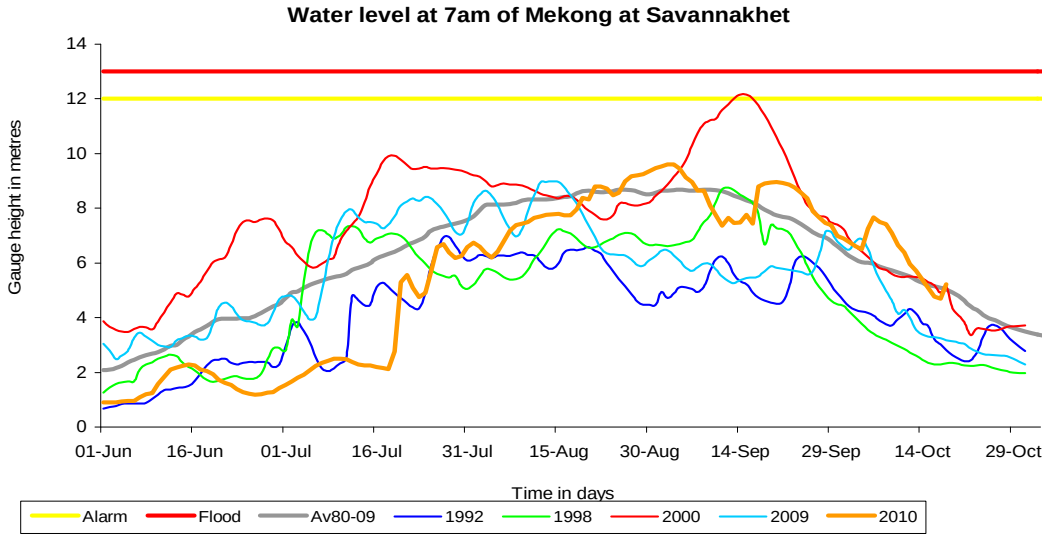

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Vientiane Km4
Gauge height in metres
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010

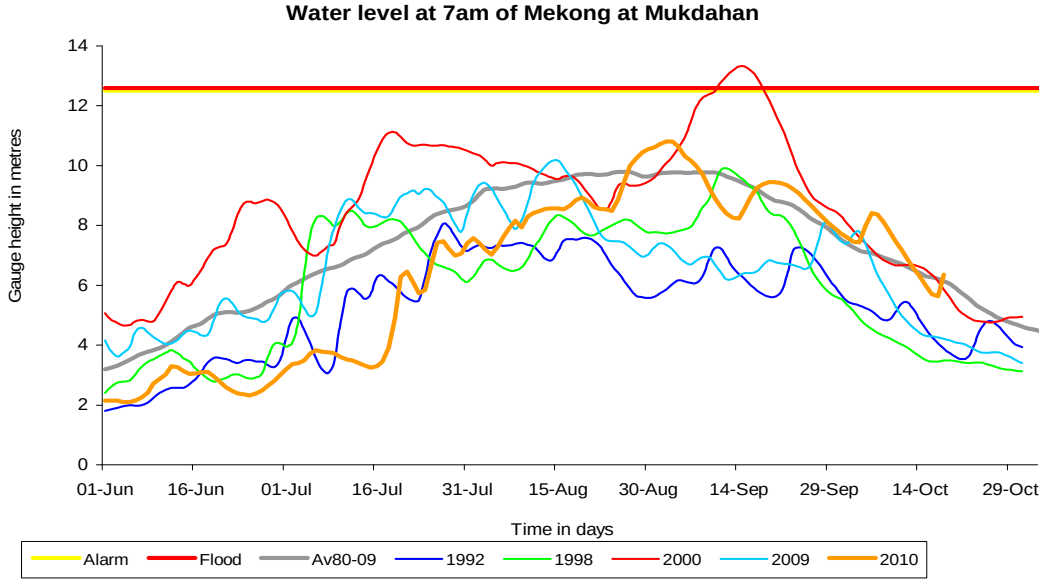

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Nong Khai
Gauge height in metres
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010

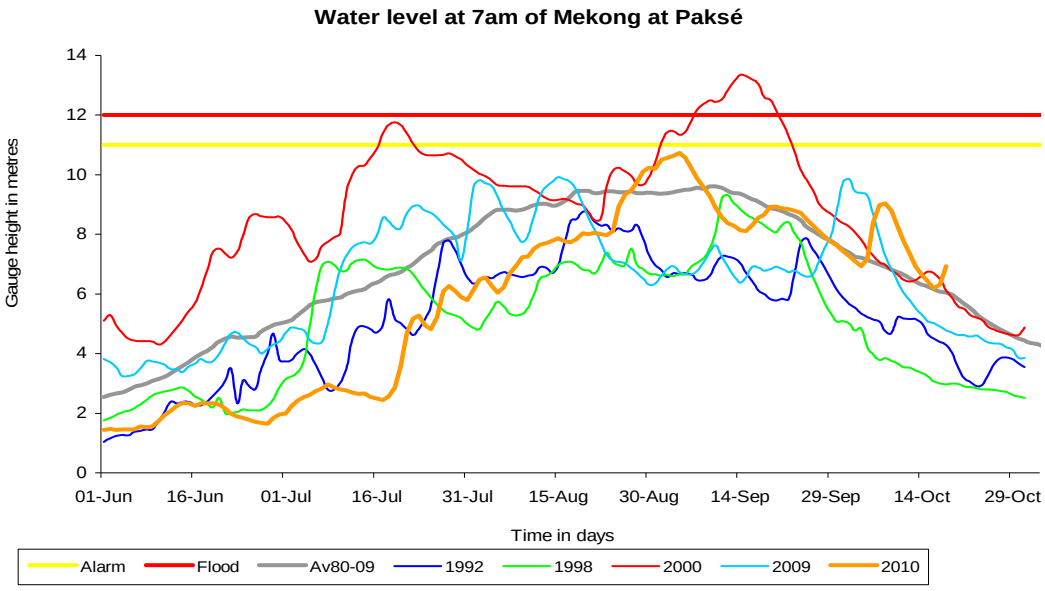

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Paksane
Gauge height in metres
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010

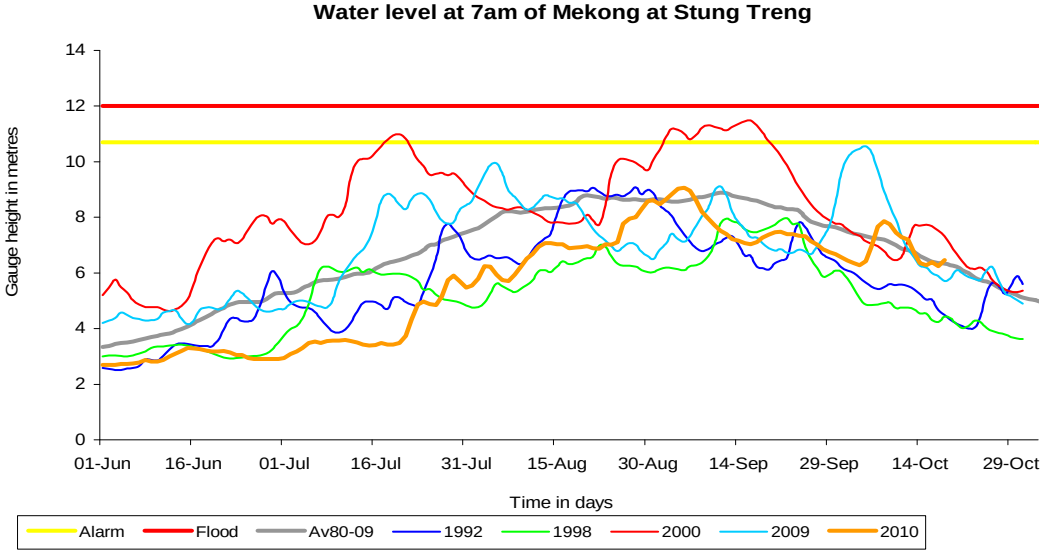

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Nakhon Phanom
Gauge height in metres
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010

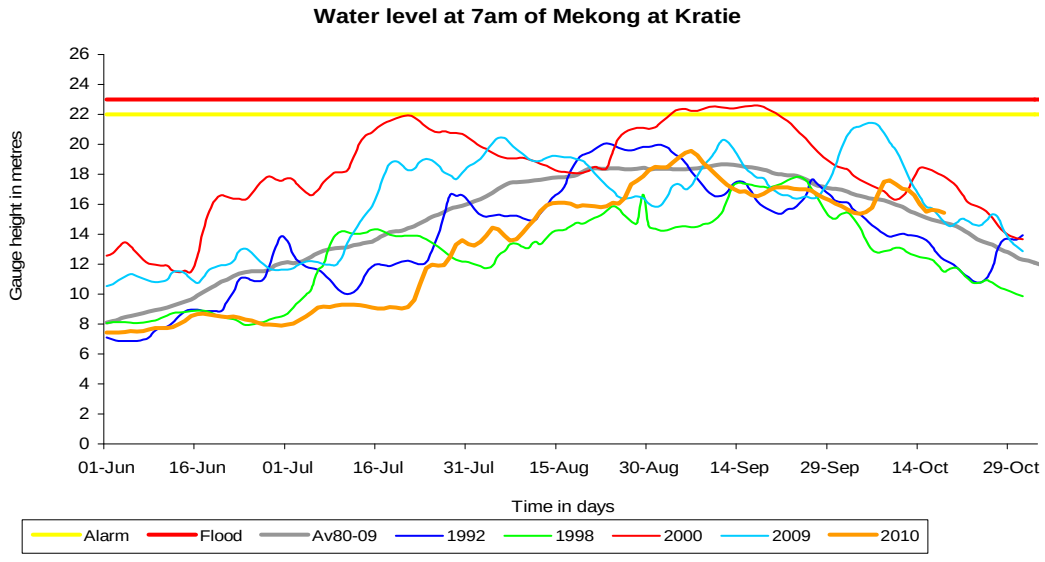

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Thakhek
Gauge height in metres
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010

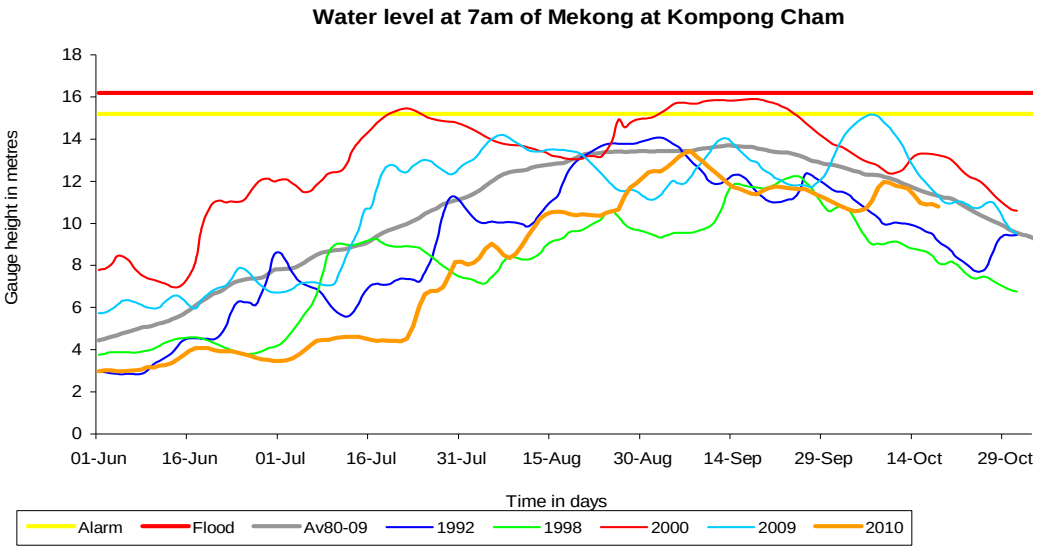

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Savannakhet
Gauge height in metres
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010

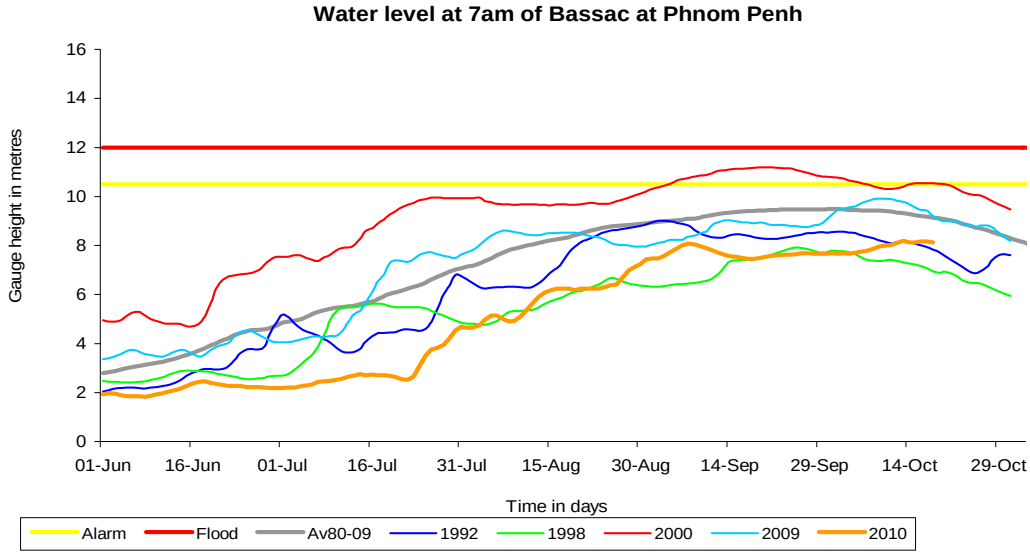

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Mukdahan
Gauge height in metres
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010

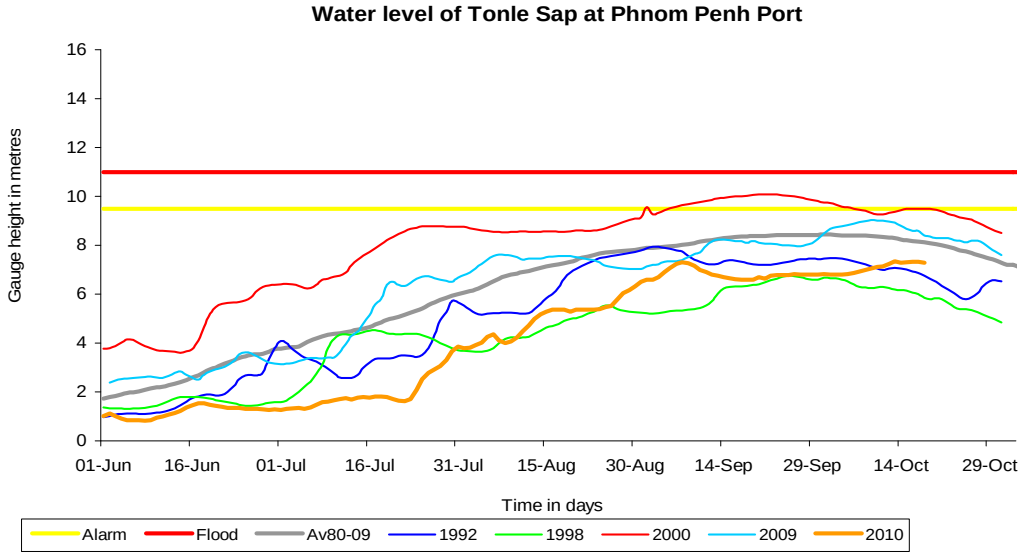

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Paksé
Gauge height in metres
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010

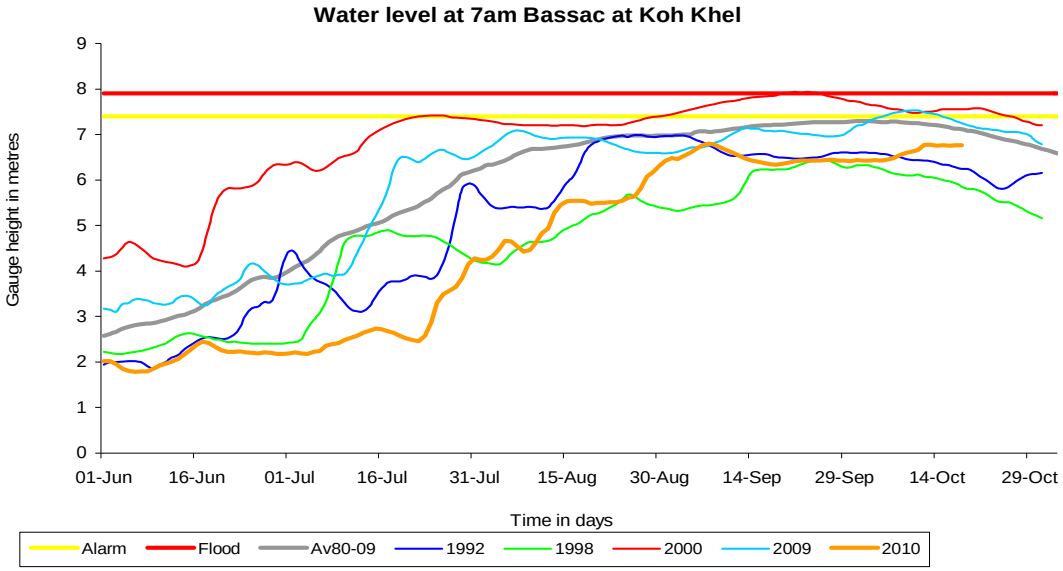

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Stung Treng
Gauge height in metres
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010

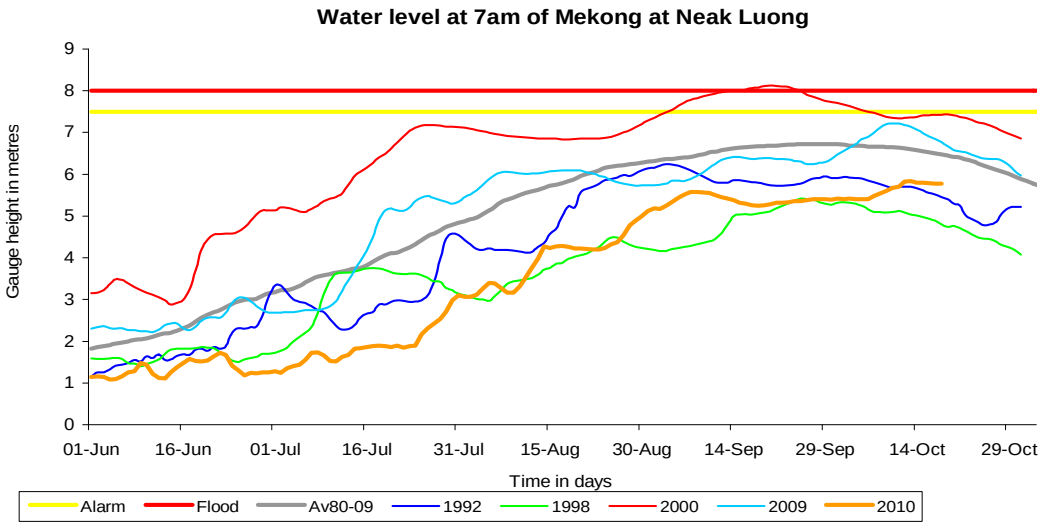

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Kratie
Gauge height in metres
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
20
22
24
26
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010

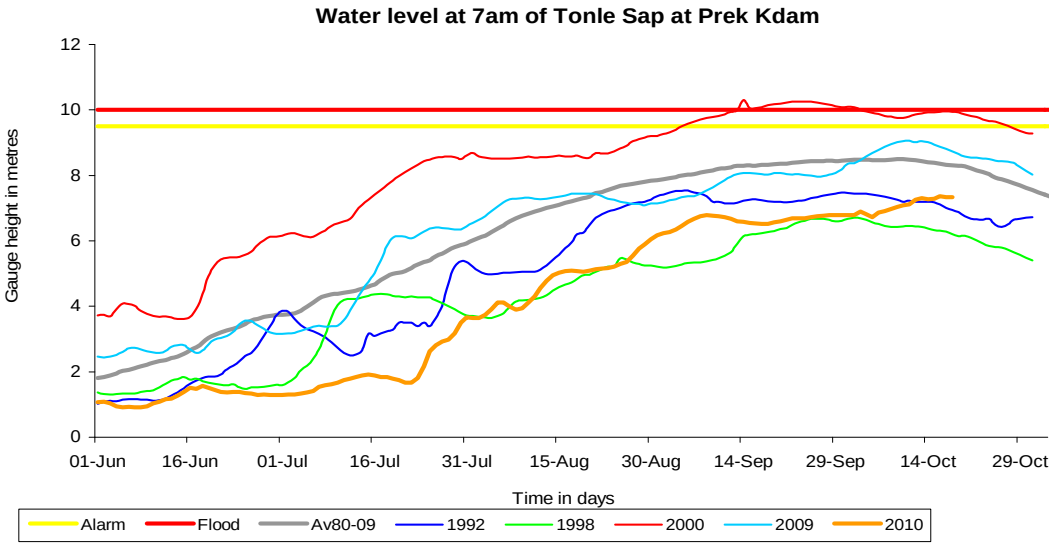

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Kompong Cham
Gauge height in metres
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010

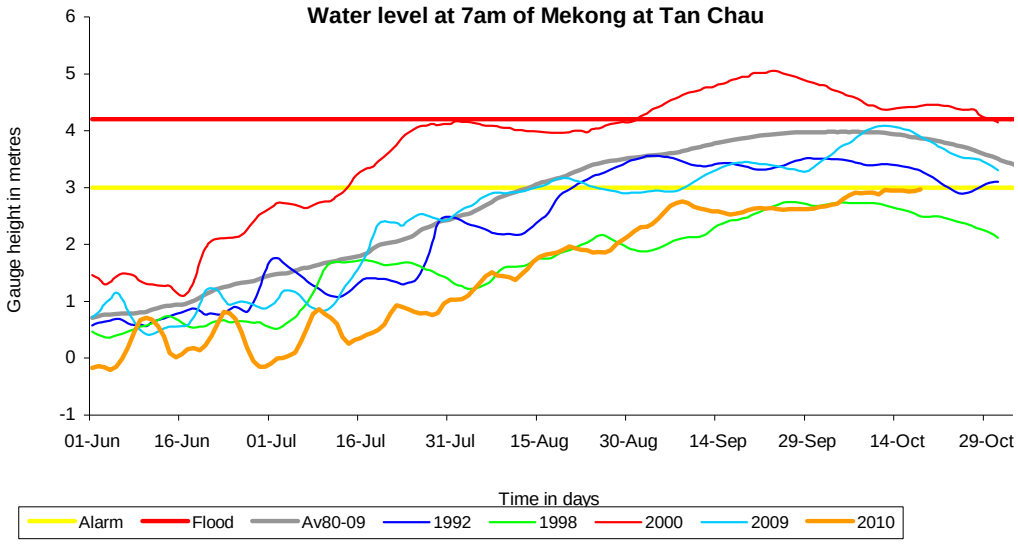

Water level at 7am of Bassac at Phnom Penh
Gauge height in metres
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010

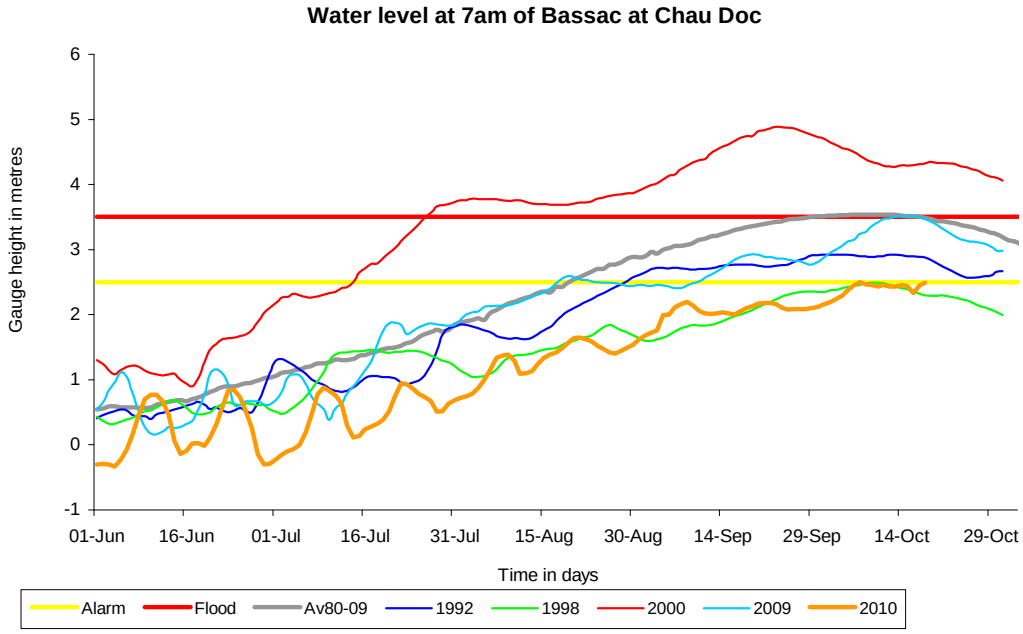

Water level of Tonle Sap at Phnom Penh Port
Gauge height in metres
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
01-Jun
16-Jun
01-Jul
16-Jul
31-Jul
15-Aug
30-Aug
14-Sep
29-Sep
14-Oct
29-Oct
Time in days
Alarm
Flood
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010


Water level at 7am Bassac at Koh Khel
Gauge height in metres
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
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
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010


Water level at 7am of Mekong at Neak Luong
Gauge height in metres
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
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
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010


Water level at 7am of Tonle Sap at Prek Kdam
Gauge height in metres
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
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
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010


Water level at 7am of Mekong at Tan Chau
Gauge height in metres
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
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
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010


Water level at 7am of Bassac at Chau Doc
Gauge height in metres
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
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
Av80-09
1992
1998
2000
2009
2010