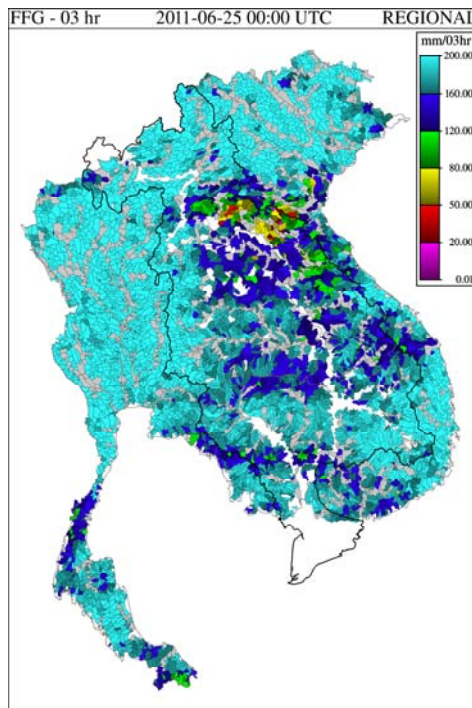




# Mekong River Commission Flood Management and Mitigation Programme

## Evaluation Report on Flash Flood Guidance System for Flood Season 2011 (June - November 2011) (Final)



Prepared by:  
Regional Flood Management and Mitigation Center

March 2012





## Certification of Approval of Internal FMMP Technical Document

No	Name of Person	Position	Date	Signature
1	Dr. Phung Katry	Hydrologist/ MRCFFG System Operator	21/03/2012	
2	Mr. Kien Tien Nguyen	Operational Meteorologist/ Flood Forecaster	21/03/2012	
3	Ir. Nicolaas Bakker	Chief Technical Advisor	21.03.2012	
4	Dr. Lam Hung Son	Programme Coordinator	23. Mar 12	
5	Mr. Tran Duc Cuong	TSD Director	23/3/12	





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## 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

To respond to regional and national needs and in order to address the problems of flash floods in each MRC Member Country of the Mekong River Commission (MRC), the MRC and the Hydrological Research Centre (HRC) in San Diego, California, USA, with the financial support from the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) have jointly implemented flash-flood mitigation in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam under the MRC Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (FMMP).

In late 2009 the computational and dissemination servers for the MRCFFG system were installed at MRC's Regional Flood Management and Mitigation Center (RFMMC) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, which allowed the line agencies of the MRC member countries and the RFMMC to get access to the FFG products for training as well as for operational purposes. A five-day MRCFFG system in-depth regional training course, combined with hands-on operation, and a three-day national training course were successfully organised in 2010. Presently the MRCFFG system is put in an operational testing mode in order to fine-tuning as well as to gain further experience.

During the 2010 flood season the flash flood guidance system (FFGS) has been operating successfully. Reference is made to the records of tropical storms and records of tropical depressions. The recent flash floods in the South of Thailand in March 2011 had been well identified and presented on the MRC website together with flash flood warning information.

During the 2011 flood season the flood forecasting team of RFMMC continued operating the flash flood guidance system; the information received from FFGS was processed, updated and posted in the MRC flood forecasting webpage in parallel with the river flood forecast. During the severe weather condition in the 2011 flood season, such as tropical storm Haima, Nok Ten, and the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), the MRCFFG system did detect very clearly the flash flood risk areas in some villages and districts of the four MRC Member Countries.

The present evaluation report is produced to evaluate the performance of FFGS for the detection of the risk areas of potential flash floods in villages and districts in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam during the flood season from June until December 2011.

## 2. METHODOLOGY TO EVALUATE FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE PRODUCT

The methodology for evaluation of flash flood guidance product used in the present report is based in two concepts. The first concept evaluates the feed-back of the FFGS from the users or from other sources of information such as the media or the press. As the link between the regional flood center and the local people (through the focal person at national line agencies) is not yet fully established, the feed-back information on flash flood areas was mainly collected from the national media, such as online newspapers.

The second concept evaluates the FFGS through the recorded water levels that are available in the operational database of RFMMC. If FFG occurred in the sub-areas where water level stations are available, the FFG product can be evaluated by studying the changing (rising)

water level records of stations located in the downstream part of sub-catchments ( see figures 3–5 and 8).

### 3. FLASH FLOOD IN MEKONG REGION

The Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) during the 2011 flood season was covered by several heavy weather situations such as tropical storms, tropical depressions and also the ITCZ, which lead to flash flood occurrences at some Mekong tributaries. The next paragraphs describe examples of flash floods, which occurred at some tributaries during the severe weather condition of the 2011 flood season.

#### 3.1 Flash flood caused by tropical storm HAIMA

During the third week of June (24-26) the Lower Mekong Basin was covered by the tropical storm Haima (see figure 1) that generated heavy rainfall in some catchments. Figure 2 presents the 24 Accumulated Mean Aerial Precipitation (MAP) of the Mekong Region on 24 June 2011. The heavy rainfall affected some tributaries of the Mekong basin especially tributaries which are located in the middle part of Lao PDR (such as the Nam Nhiep, Nam Cadinh, Nam Sane, Nam Ngum catchments) where water levels at those stations rapidly increased about 4 to 5 meters overnight (from 7 PM of 25 June to 7 AM of 26 June). Figures 3-5 present the hydrograph of water level monitoring stations, where its water level rapidly increased thereby crossing the flood level at some stations in the mainstream from Chiang Khan to Paksane. For example the water level at Chiang Khan station increased from 6.69m at 7:00 AM on 27 June to 10.76m at 7:00 AM on 28 June 2011.

On 25 June 2011 at 00:00 UTC (7:00 AM local time) the MRC Flash Flood Guidance system (MRCFFGS) also detected some areas in the Nam Cadinh catchment which showed high risk to flash flood occurrences. Figures 6 and 7 present the 1 hourly and 3 hourly FFG values for some areas of the Mekong catchments. The information regarding flash flood risk areas on 25 June 2011 at 00:00 UTC is also confirmed by the rapid change in water levels at stations located in the sub-catchment Nam Sane, Nam Nhiep, Nam Ngum and Nam Cadinh. Figure 8 presents the map which shows the flash flood risk areas and the locations of the water level monitoring stations at the downstream part of flash flood risk areas, which recorded rapidly changing flood levels. Information published in the newspaper “Vientiane Times” also confirmed that flash floods occurred in the identified flash flood risk areas. Annex 1 presents a report providing information collected from the Vientiane Times.

During tropical storm Haima the FFG system also detected flash flood risk areas in the central and northern part of Viet Nam, such as the Tuong Dong, Con Cuong and Son districts of Nghe An province. The flash flood risk information was confirmed by Vietnamese newspapers, which is presented in annex 1 of this report.



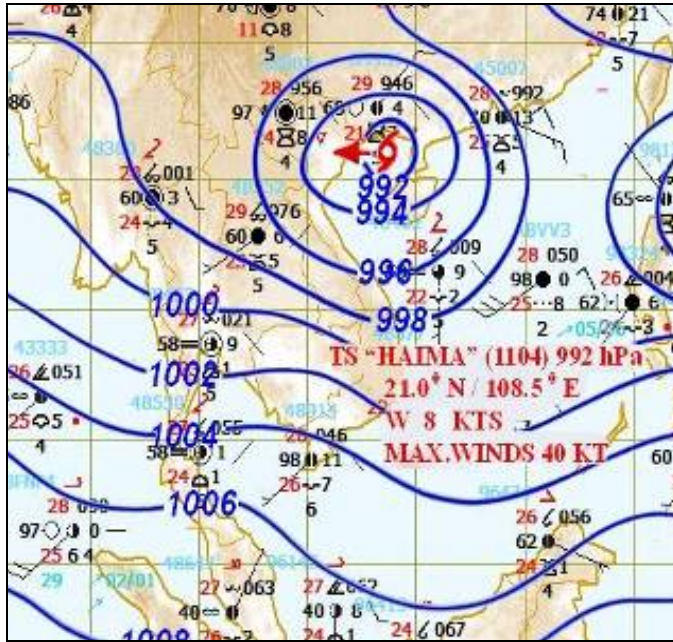


Figure 1: Weather situation in the LMB at 23 June 2011

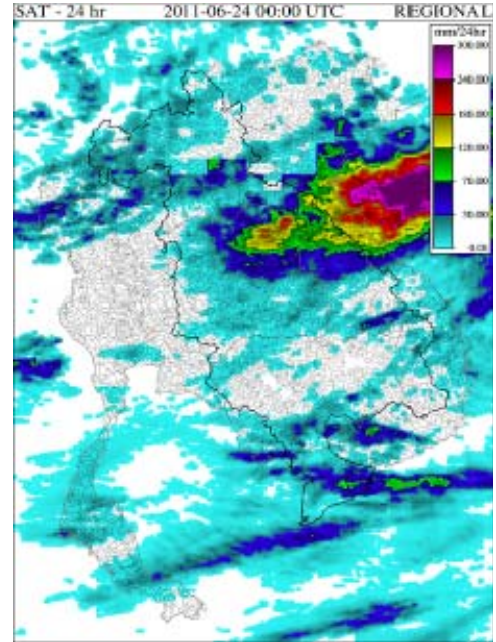


Figure 2: 24 hourly Mean Areal Precipitation (MAP) from 01:00 UTC on 23 June to 00:00 UTC on 24 June 2011

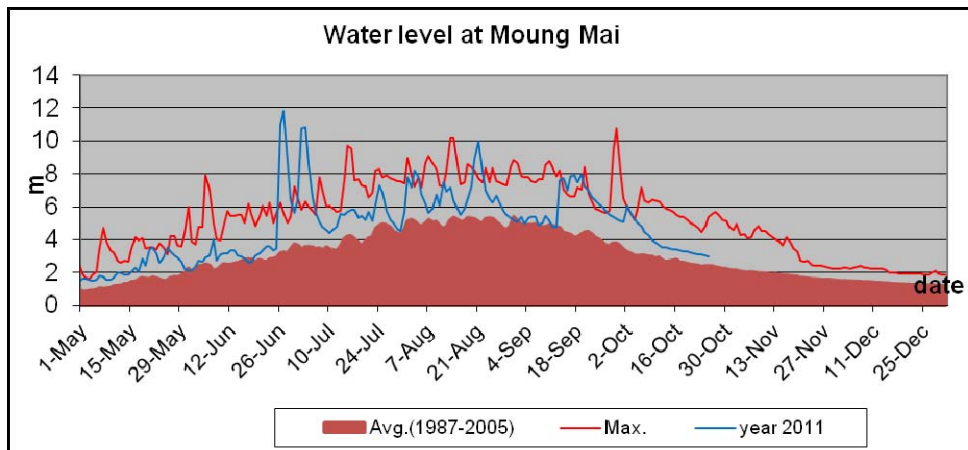


Figure 3: Hydrograph of Moug Mai station (Nam Nhiep catchments)

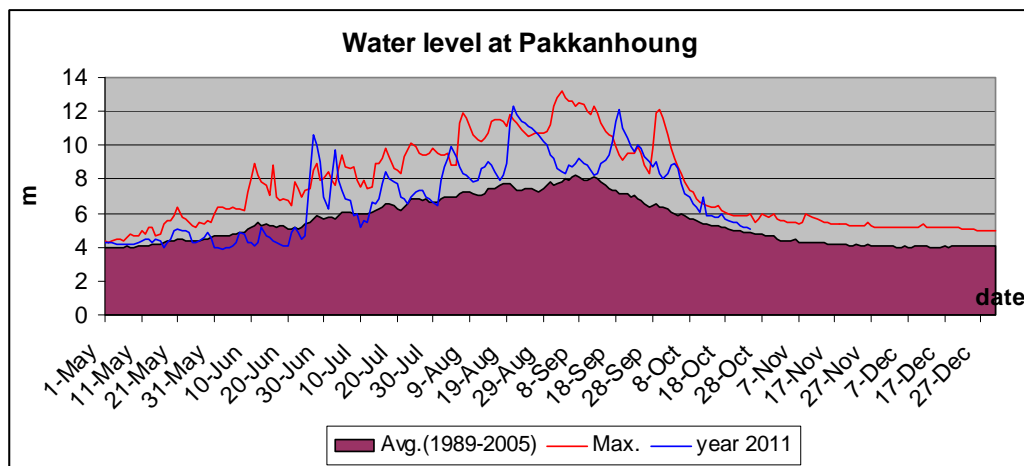


Figure 4: Hydrograph of Pakkanhoung station (Nam Ngum catchments)

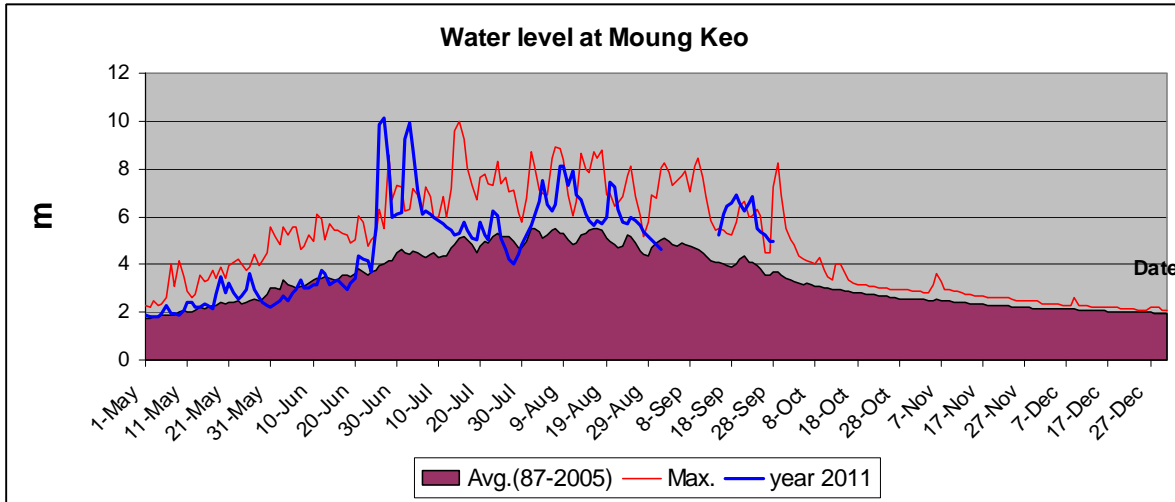


Figure 5: Hydrograph at Moung Keo station (Nam Sane catchments)

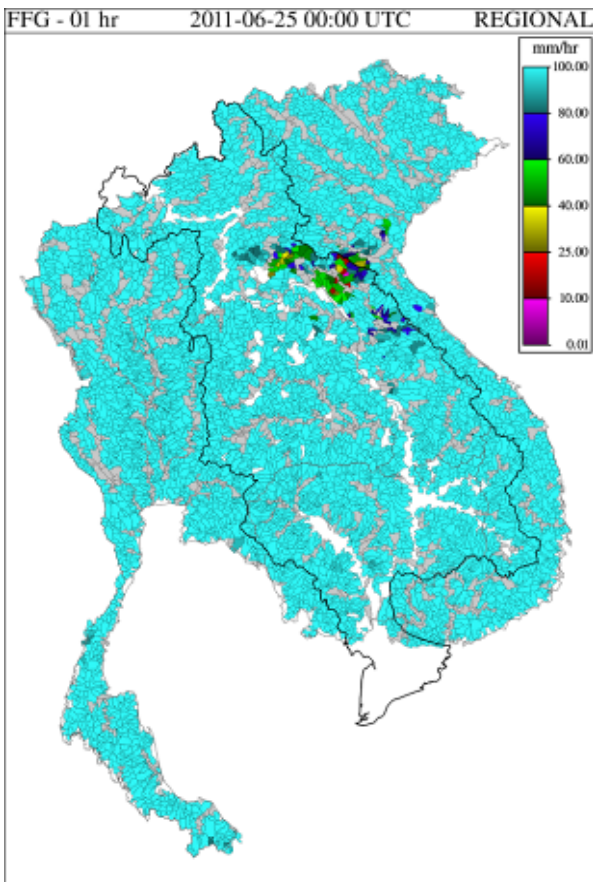


Figure 6: 1 Hourly Flash Flood Guidance (FFG) on 25 June 2011 at 00:00 UTC (7:00 AM local time) showed a number of high risk areas in Nam Nhiep catchments and its surrounding areas

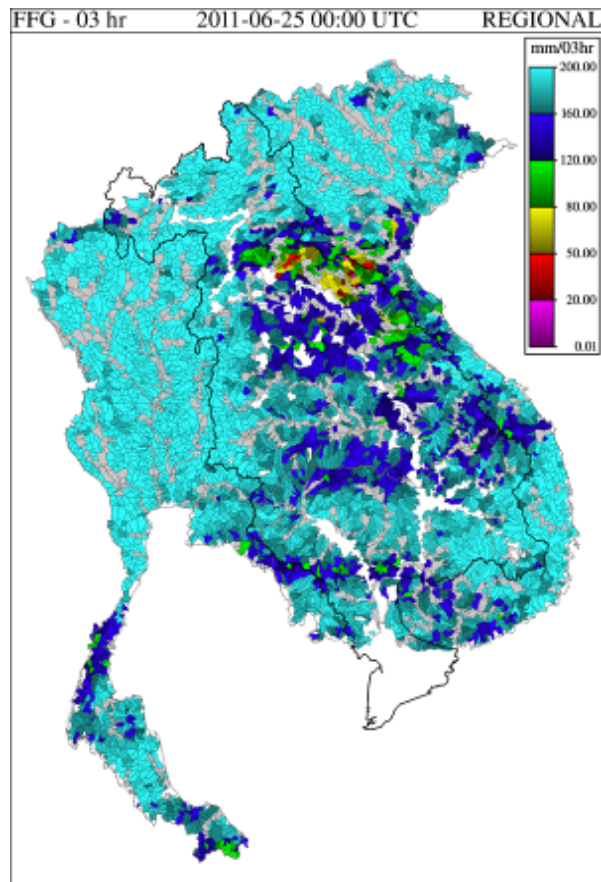


Figure 7: 3 Hourly Flash Flood Guidance (FFG) on 25 June 2011 at 00:00 UTC (7:00 AM local time) showed a number of high risk areas in Nam Nhiep catchments and its surrounding areas



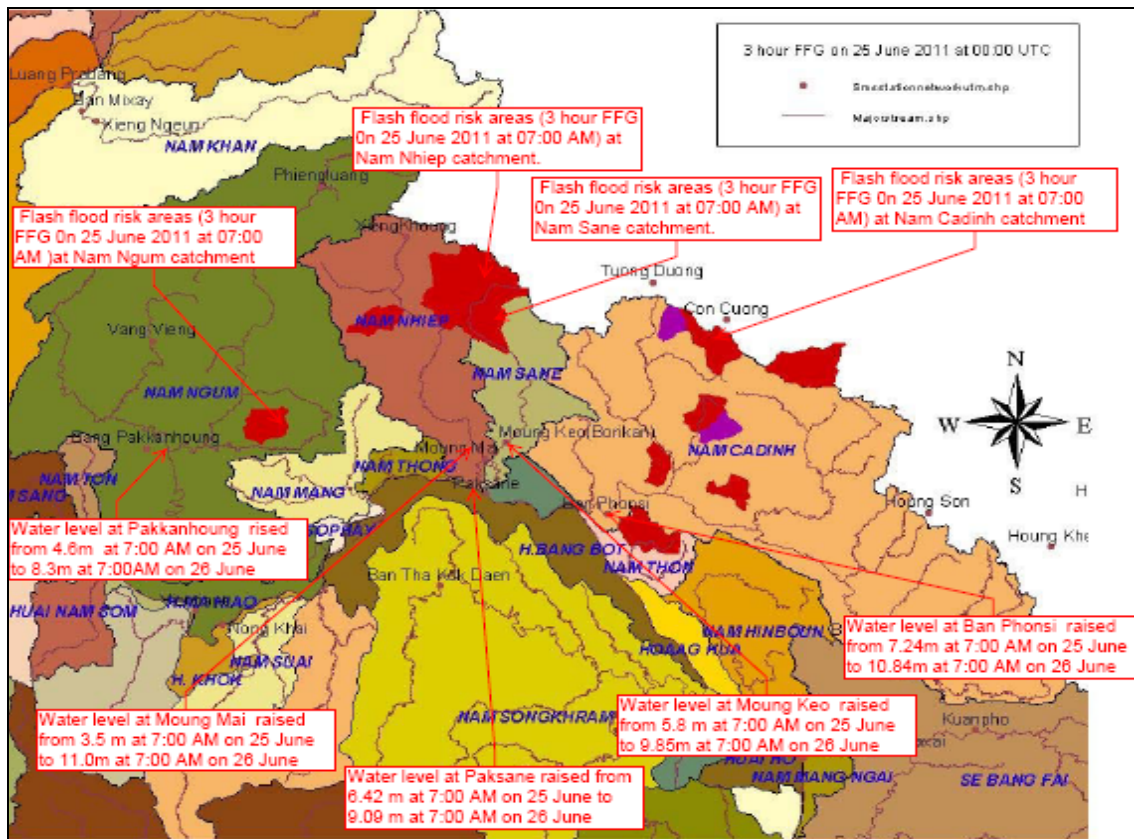


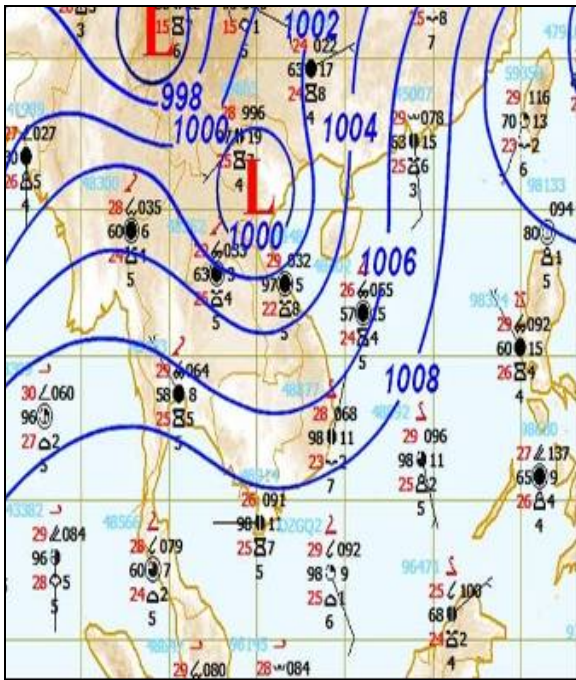
Figure 8: Map show the 3 hourly FFG on 25 June 2011 at 00:00 UTC with location of water level stations.

### 3.2 Flash flood caused by low pressure (01 July 2011)

Less than 1 week after tropical storm Haima passed the Lower Mekong Basin, especially the central part of Laos PDR, such as the Nam Nhiep, Nam Cadinh, Nam Sane, Nam Ngum catchments, was covered again by the low pressure, see figure 9. Heavy rainfall generated by the low pressure (figure 10 presents the 24 hourly accumulated Mean Aerial Precipitation (MAP) of the Mekong Region on 01 July 2011) caused flash floods in some tributaries. For example at Moug Mai station the water level rapidly increased about 4,50 meters overnight (from 7:00 PM on 01 July to 7:00 AM on 02 July 2011). Figures 3-5 present the hydrographs of stations Moug Mai, Pakkanhong and Moug Keo during the 2011 flood season.

On 01 July 2011 at 12:00 UTC (7:00 PM local time) the MRC Flash Flood Guidance System (MRCFFGS) detected that some areas of the Nam Cadinh catchment were faced with high risk to the flash flood occurrences. Figures 11 and 12 present the 1 hourly and 3 hourly FFG values at some areas of the Mekong catchments.

The information on flash flood risk areas on 01 July 2011 at 12:00 UTC was confirmed by the rapidly changing water levels at stations located in the Nam Sane, Nam Nhiep, Nam Ngum and Nam Cadinh sub-catchments. Figure 13 presents the map which shows the flash flood risk areas and locations of the water level monitoring stations at the downstream part of flash flood risk areas, where rapidly changing flood levels were recorded. Also according to information published in the newspaper Vientiane Times the flash flood risk areas detected by the MRCFFGS corresponded with the reported flash flood areas. Annex 1 provides the information collected from the “Vientiane Times”.



Source: Weather Chart issued at 12:00 UTC on June 30, 2011. Thai Meteorological Department  
 Figure 9: Weather situation in the LMB at 30 June 2011

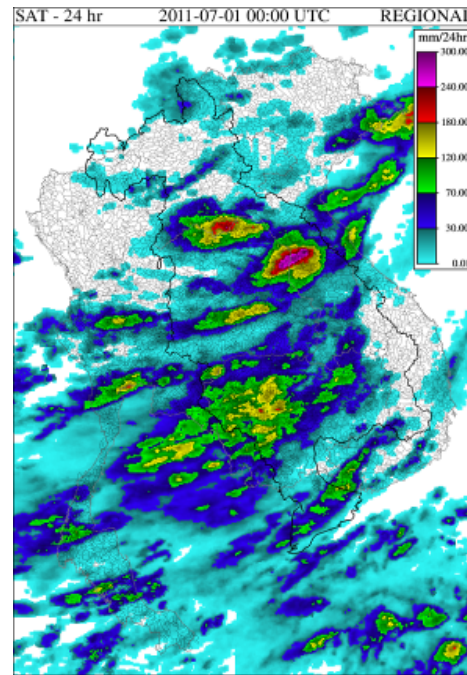


Figure 10: 24 Hours Mean Aerial Precipitation (MAP) from 01:00 UTC on 30 June to 00:00 UTC on 01 July 2011

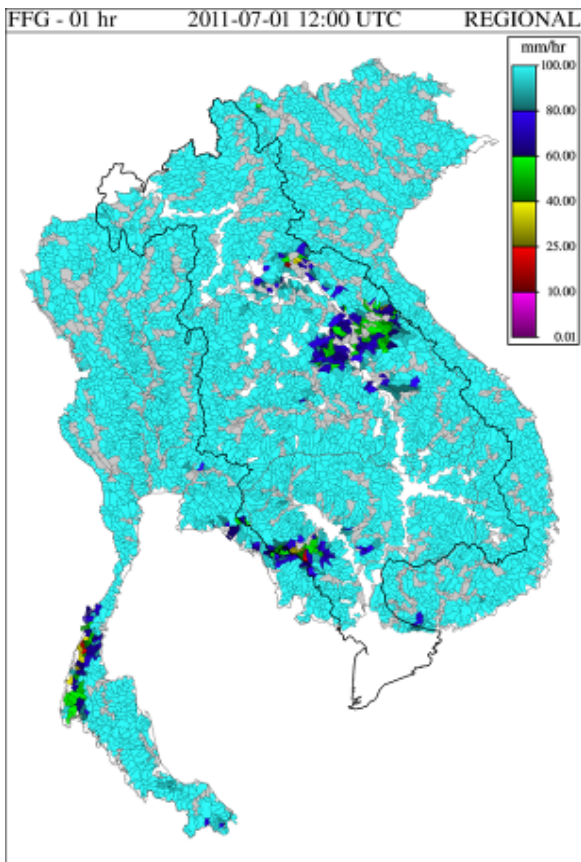


Figure 11: 1 Hourly Flash Flood Guidance (FFG) on 01 July 2011 at 12:00 UTC (7:00 PM local time) showed a number of high risk areas in Nam Nhiep catchments and its surrounding areas

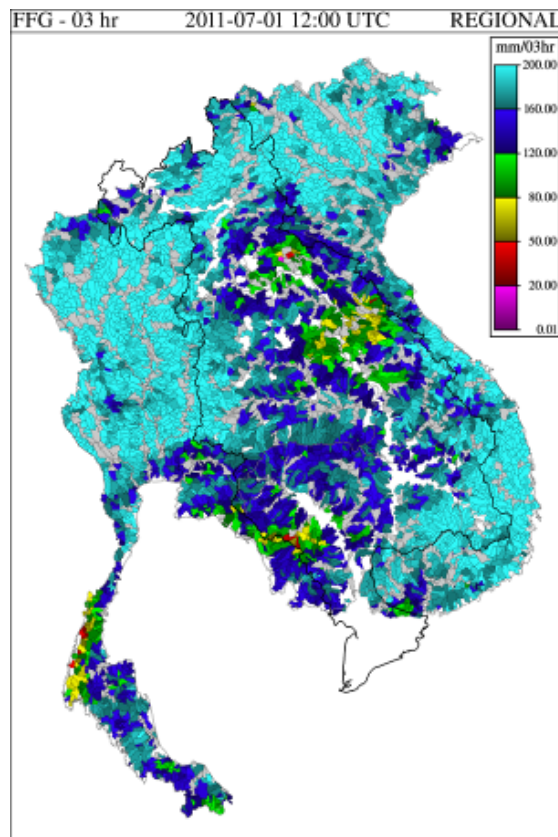


Figure 12: 3 Hourly Flash Flood Guidance (FFG) on 01 July 2011 at 12:00 UTC (7:00 PM local time) showed a number of high risk areas in Nam Nhiep catchments and its surrounding areas



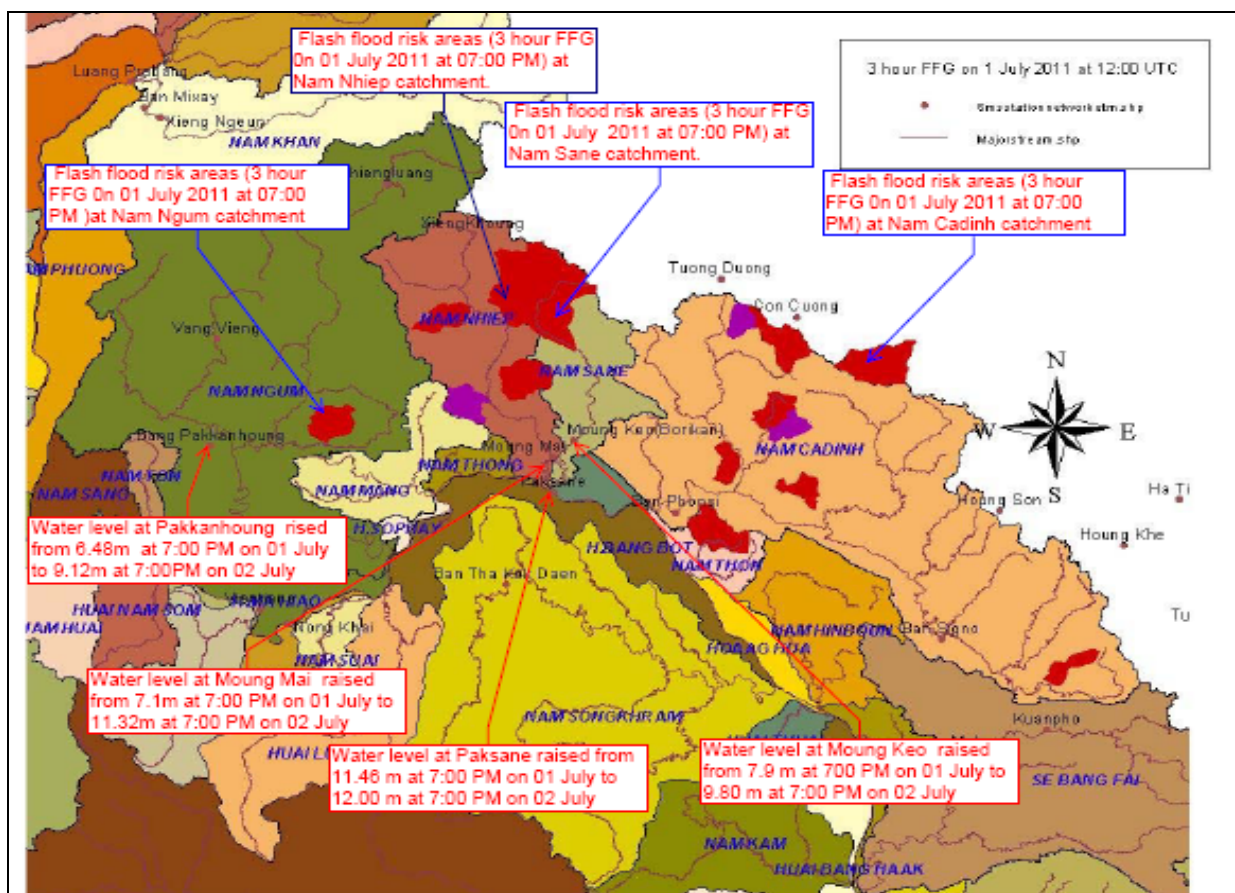


Figure 13: Map show the 3 hourly FFG on 01 July 2011 at 12:00 UTC with location of water level stations.

### 3.3 Flash food in central and southern part of Lao PDR caused by ITCZ (02 – 09 August 2011)

From the 01 August until 09 August 2011 the central part of LMB, such the central and southern part of Lao PDR, central Thailand (Mun and Chi catchments) was covered by severe meteorological conditions, such as the ITCZ and low pressure. Figures 14 and 15 present the weather chart of LMB during 02-09 August 2011.



Source: Thai Meteorological Department  
 Figure 14: Weather Chart issued at 18:00 UTC on 01 August 2011



Source: Thai Meteorological Department  
 Figure 15: Weather Chart issued at 18:00 UTC on 08 August 2011

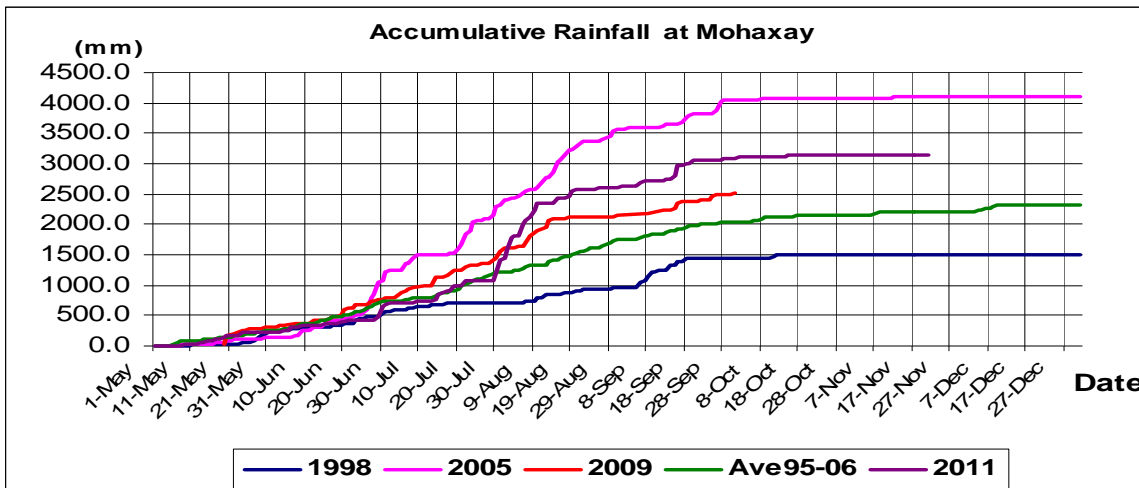


Figure 16: Accumulated rainfall in Se Bangfai Catchment at Mohaxai station

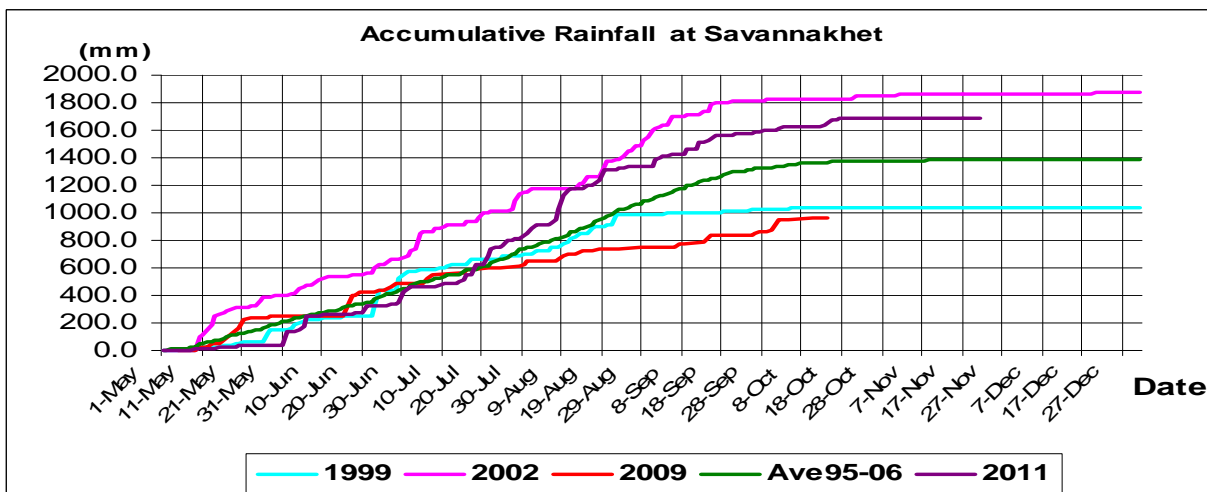


Figure 17: Accumulated rainfall at Savannakhet.

The ITCZ caused heavy rainfall at some sub-catchments of the LMB, which are located in the central and southern parts of Lao PDR. The accumulated rainfall from the ground base observation stations located in those areas show that heavy rainfall occurred from 01 August until the last week of August (see figures 16 and 17). Figures 18 and 19 present the Mean Aerial Precipitation (MAP) from the satellite rainfall estimate (hydro-estimator).

During this period the MRCFFGS on 02 August 2011 at 12:00 UTC detected 1 hourly and 3 hourly flash flood risk areas at some villages in the Bualapha, Vientthou and Pakkading districts of Bolikhamxay and Khammuane provinces in the central and southern parts of Lao PDR. Figures 20 and 21 present a map of 1 hourly and 3 hourly FFG on 02 August 2011 at 12:00 UTC. These were confirmed in the Vientiane Times published on 04 August 2011. This article can be found in annex 1 of this report.

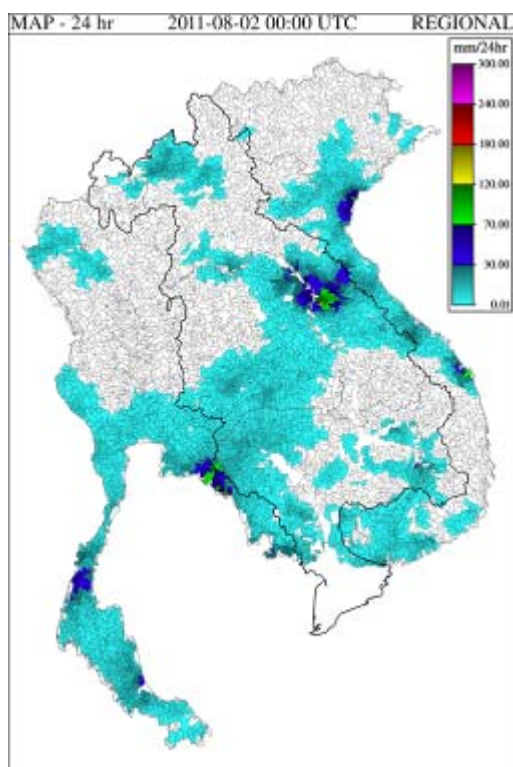


Figure 18: 24 Hours Mean Aerial Precipitation (MAP) from 01:00 UTC on 01 August to 00:00 UTC on 02 August 2011

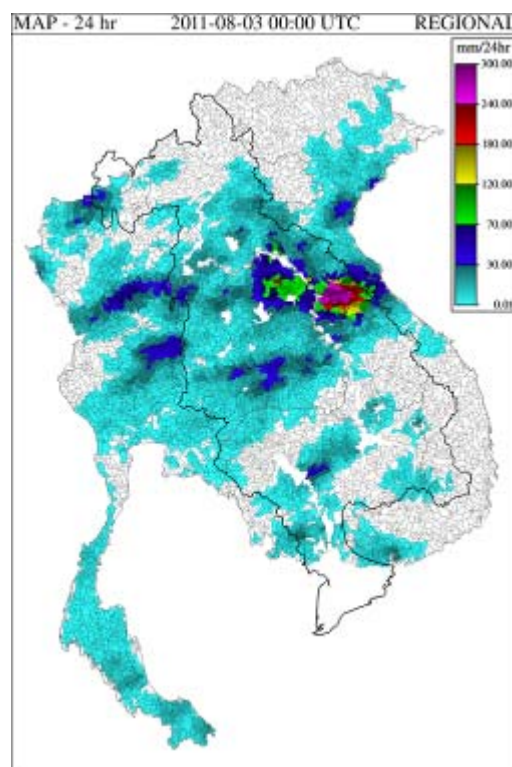


Figure 19: 24 Hours Mean Aerial Precipitation (MAP) from 01:00 UTC on 02 August to 00:00 UTC on 03 August 2011

**Hydrological condition in tributaries of central part of Lao PDR.**

Severe meteorological conditions occurred at the central and southern parts of Lao PDR during the first and second week of August and lead to quickly rising water levels at some tributaries of the Se Done, Sekong, Se Bangfai sub-catchments. On the 06 and 07 August, for example at the Khon Sedone station the water level increased from 5.72m at 7:00 AM on 06 August to 10.30m at 7:00 AM on 07 August 2011. Quickly rising water levels in tributaries of central and southern parts of Lao PDR also lead to increased water levels of Mekong mainstream in some monitoring stations such as at Takhek, Mukdahan, Savannakhet and Pakse. At the Mukdahan station the first flood level peak occurred on 11 August 2011 with a water level of 13.00m. A similar situation occurred at the Pakse monitoring station, where water levels rose to the flood peak level of 13.11m on 11 August 2011. Figures 22 and 23 present the hydrographs of the Mekong mainstream monitoring stations at Mukdahan and Pakse.



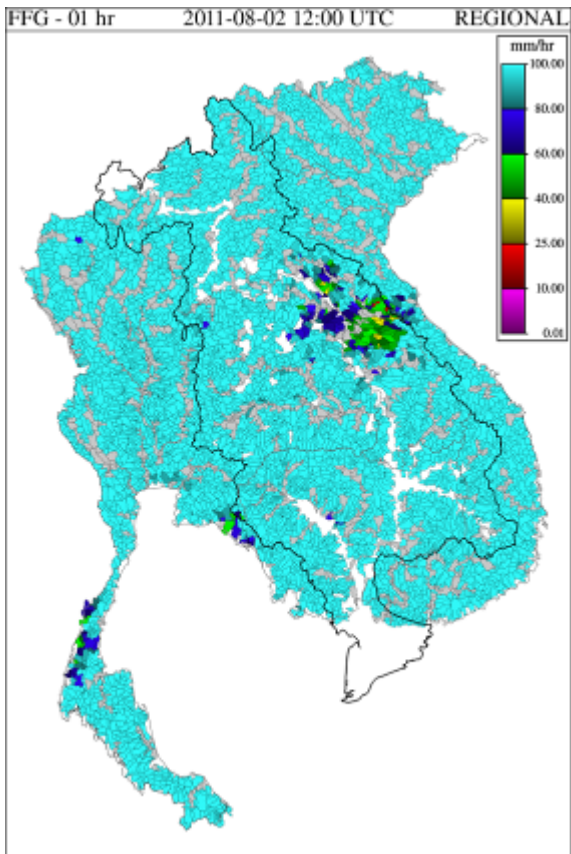


Figure 20: 1 Hourly Flash Flood Guidance (FFG) on 02 August 2011 at 12:00 UTC (7:00 PM local time) showed a number of high risk areas central part of Lao PDR

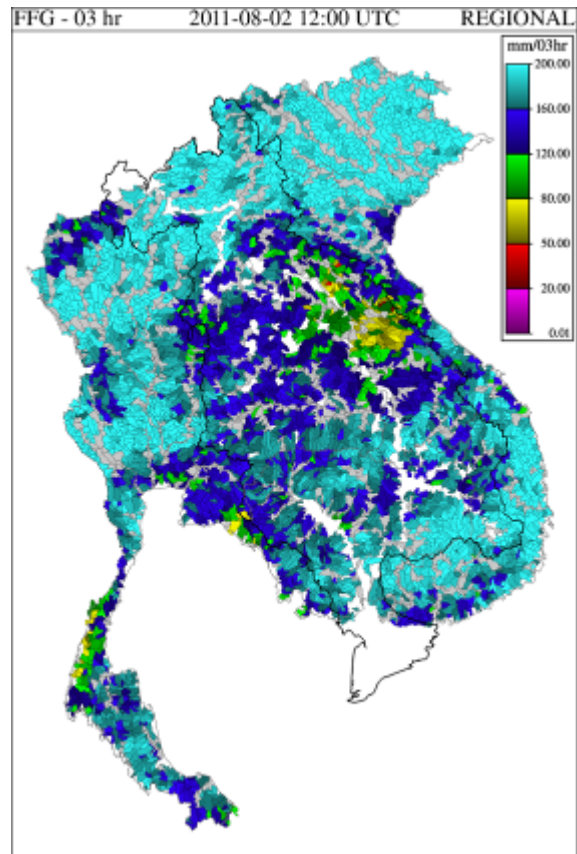


Figure 21: 3 Hourly Flash Flood Guidance (FFG) on 02 August 2011 at 12:00 UTC (7:00 PM local time) showed a number of high risk areas central part of Lao PDR

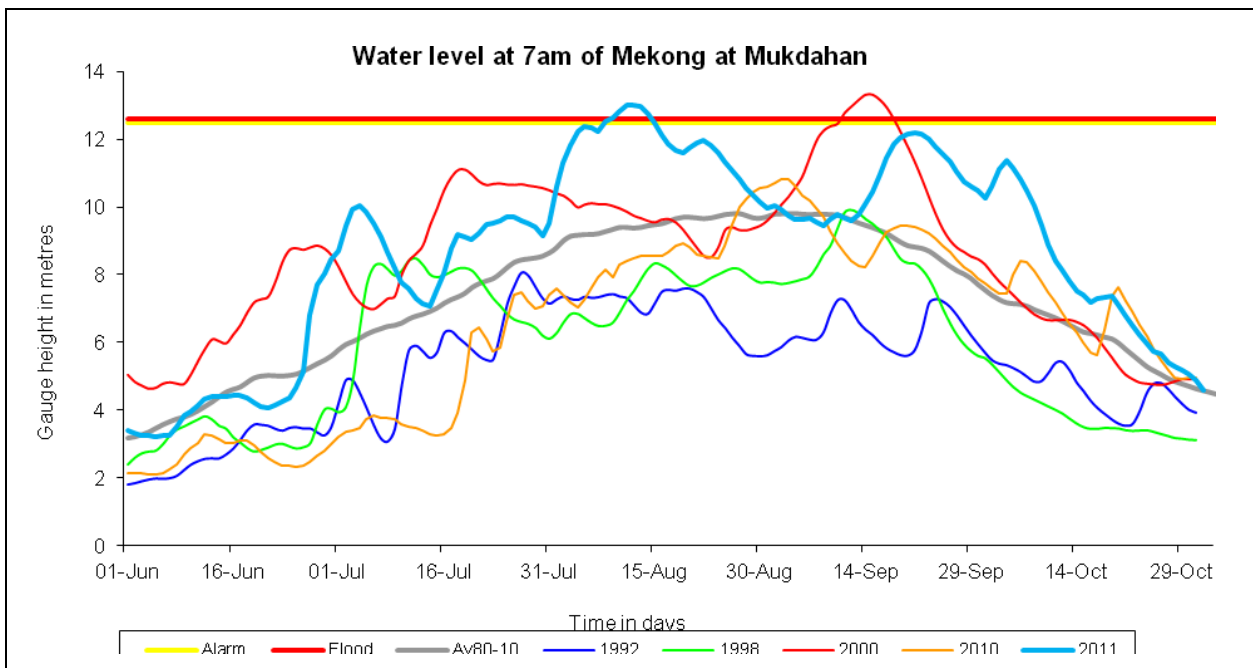


Figure 22: Hydrograph of Mekong mainstream at Mukdahan monitoring station

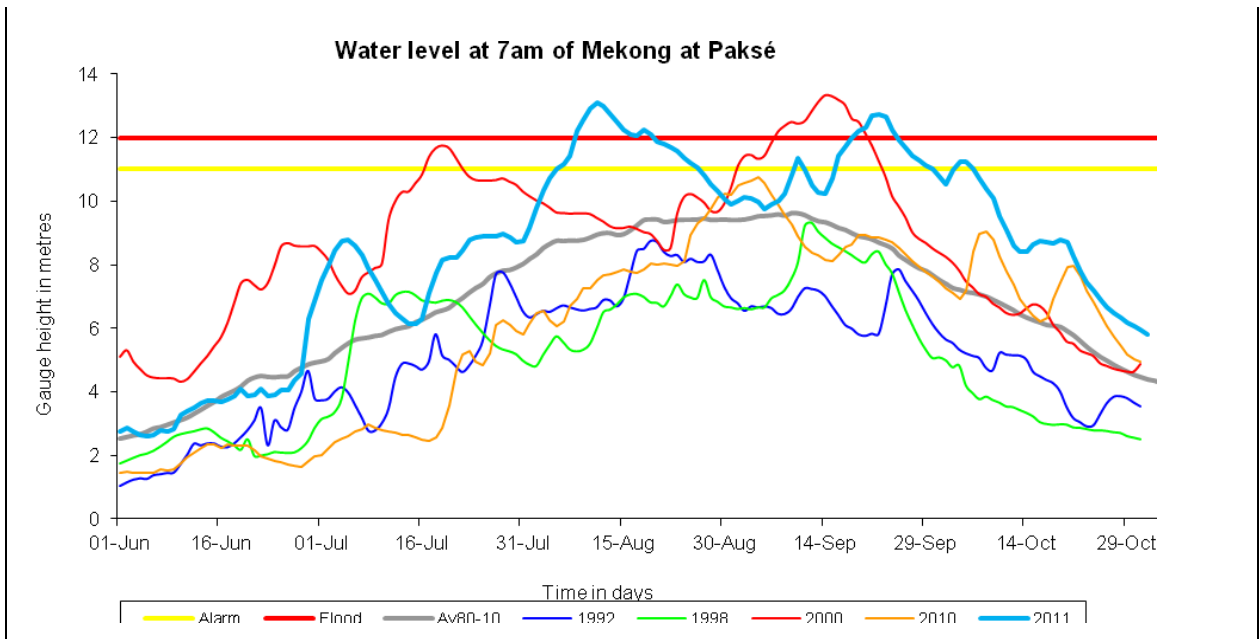


Figure 23: Hydrograph of Mekong mainstream at Pakse monitoring station.

### 3.4 Flash flood on 26 August 2011 occurred in southern part Thailand

On 26 August 2011 at 00:00 UTC, the FFG system detected potential flash flood risk areas in Phangnga province in the southern part of Thailand. Figure 24 presents 24 hours accumulated MAP on 26 August 2011 at 00:00 UTC and figure 23 presents the 3 hourly FFG on 26 August 2011 at 00:00 UTC ). On 27 August 2011 the Bangkok Post confirmed that 5 districts of Phangnga province had been declared disaster zones, as these were hit by flash floods. This article is provided in the annex 1 of this report.

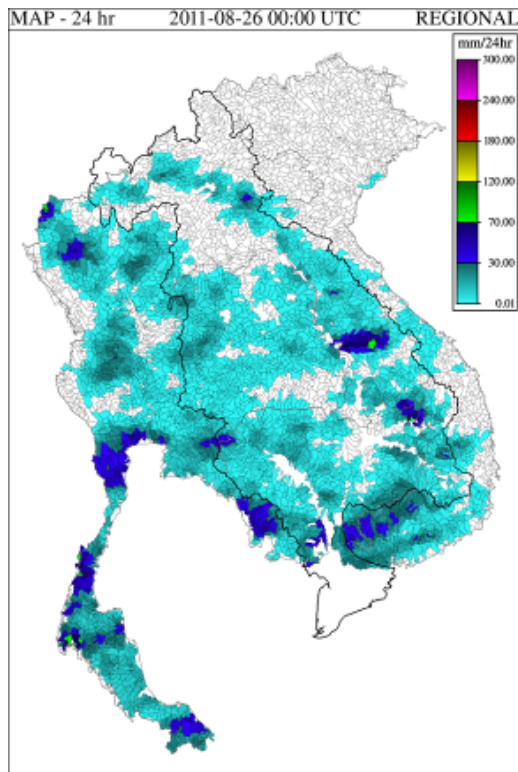


Figure 24: 24 Hours MAP on 26 August 2011 at 00:00 UTC

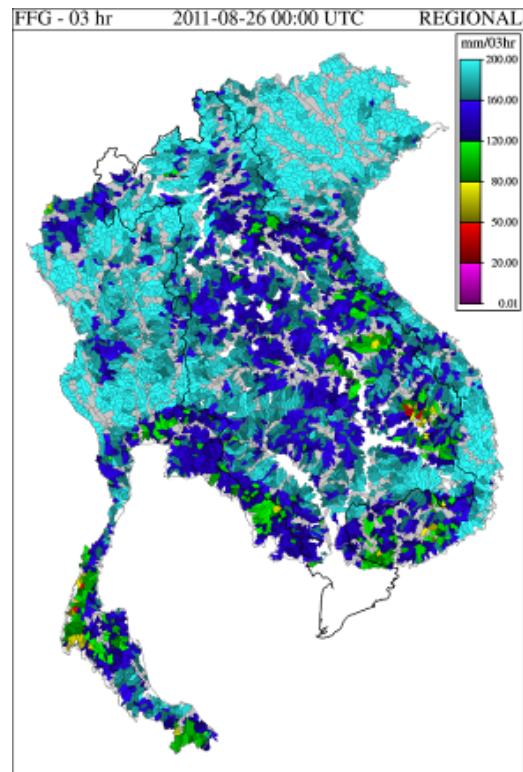


Figure 25: 3 Hourly FFG on 26 August 2011 at 00:00 UTC

### 3.5 Flash flood caused by ITCZ (16 – 24 September 2011)

The ITCZ covered the central part of Lao PDR down to the northern part of Cambodia, from the second week of September until the end of September (see figures 26-27). The amount of rainfall in some Mekong sub-catchments located in the central part of Lao PDR, Thailand and down to the Sekong, Srepok and Sesan sub-catchments, as well in some catchments of Tonle Sap Lake of Cambodia. Figures 28 and 29 present the 24 hours accumulated Mean Areal Precipitation (MAP) of the Mekong Region on 15 September and on 23 September 2011 respectively.

From the second week of September to the end of September the MRCFFGS detected several flash flood risk areas in the Lower Mekong Basin. At the beginning of the second week of September the MRCFFGS detected a number of high risk flash flood areas in the upper part of LMB, such as in the Nam Ou, Nam Sane, Nam Nhiep catchments. For example on 18 September 2011 at 00:00 UTC the FFGS detected flash flood risk areas in some villages of the provinces Luang Namtha, Oudomxay, Bokeo, Luang Prabang, Xiengkhuang and Vientiane. According to the newspaper Vientiane Times, published on 21 August, confirmed that some villages of Vientiane province were flooded. See in annex 1 the article of the Vientiane Times, dated 21 September 2011.

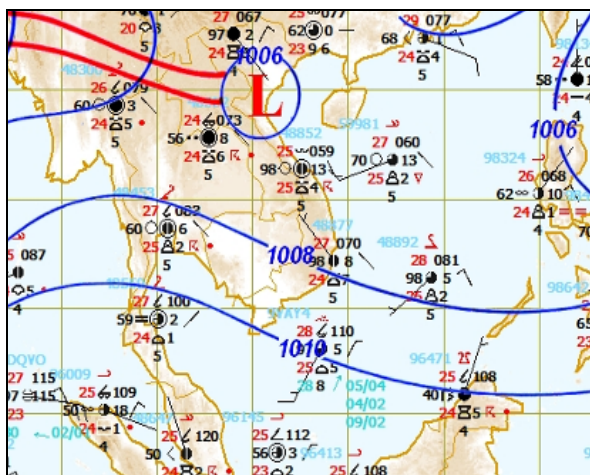
During the last week of September the MRCFFGS detected a number of high risk areas to flash flood occurrences in the middle and southern parts of Lao PDR, such as in the Se Banghieng, Sekong and Sesan catchments. The heavy rainfall generated by the ITCZ caused rapidly increasing water levels, which were recorded especially at the Sekong hydrological station in the upper part of the Sekong catchment in Lao PDR and some hydrological stations located in the southern part of Lao PDR, as well as in the Sekong Sreprok and Sesan catchments. The water levels rose from 3.30m at 7:00 AM on 23 September to 8.90m at 7:00 AM on 24 September 2011. Rapidly increasing water levels were also observed at the Khong Sedone hydrological station in the Sedone catchment where water levels increased from 5.21m at 7:00 AM on 15 September to 9.80m at 7:00 AM on 16 September 2011. Figures 30-33 present the hydrographs of hydrological stations located at tributaries in southern part of Lao PDR. The 3 hourly FFG detected flash flood risk areas in some provinces in southern part of Lao PDR, such as at Sekong and Champasak provinces.

Figures 34 and 35 present the 3 hourly FFG value for the upper part of LMB at 00:00 UTC (07:00 AM local time) on 16 September 2011 and for the middle part of LMB on 23 September 2011 at 00:00 UTC (07:00 AM local time).

This phenomena also lead to increasing water levels at some stations in the mainstream down from Savannakhet to Chaktomuk. For example at Pakse station, the second peak flood level occurred on 22 September 2011 with a flood level of 12.72m; for the Kratie station the peak flood level occurred at 24 September with a flood level 22.88m. The Kompong Cham station recorded the peak flood level on 25 September 2011 with a flood level of 16.02m.

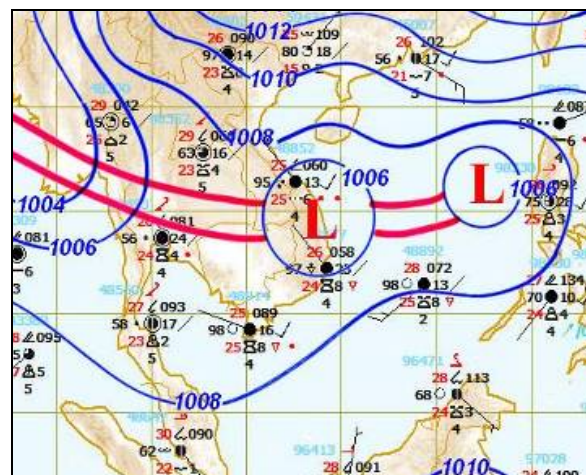
The information of flash flood risk areas identified by the FFGS was also confirmed by the Vientiane Times, dated 21-23 September 2011. See annex 1 of this report.





Source: Weather Chart issued at 12:00 UTC on September 14, 2011. Thai Meteorological Department

Figure 26: Weather situation in the LMB at 14 September 2011



Source: Weather Chart issued at 12:00 UTC on September 23, 2011. Thai Meteorological Department

Figure 27: Weather situation in the LMB at 23 September 2011

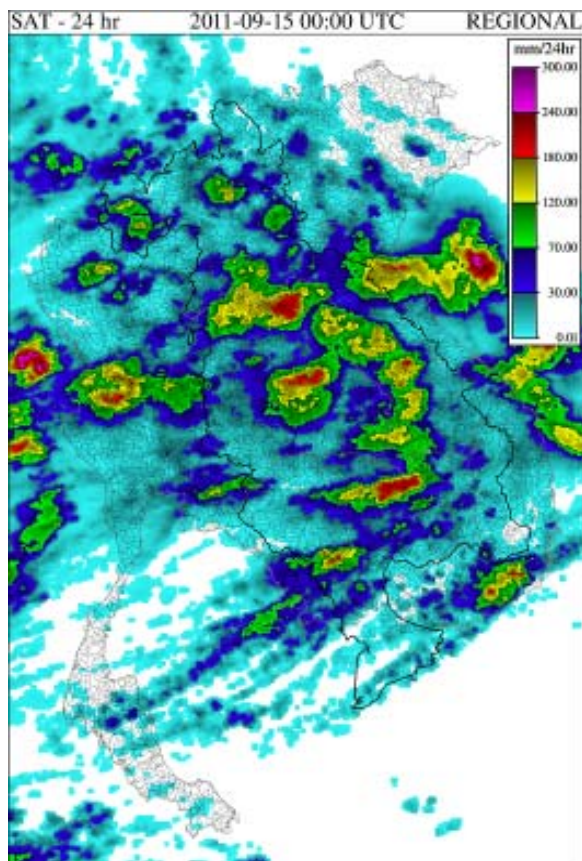


Figure 28: 24 Hours Mean Aerial Precipitation (MAP) from 01:00 UTC on 14 September to 00:00 UTC on 15 September 2011

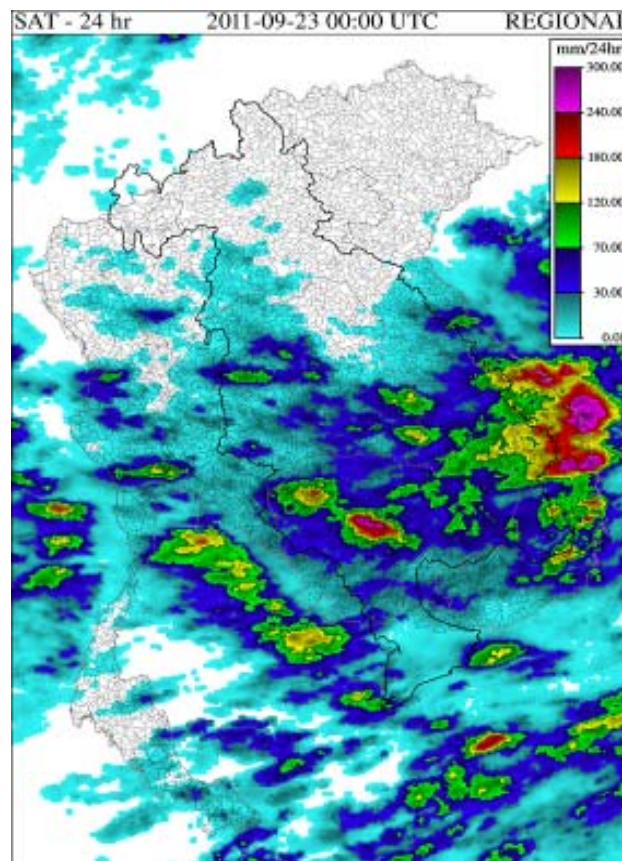


Figure 29: 24 Hours Mean Aerial Precipitation (MAP) from 01:00 UTC on 22 September to 00:00 UTC on 23 September 2011

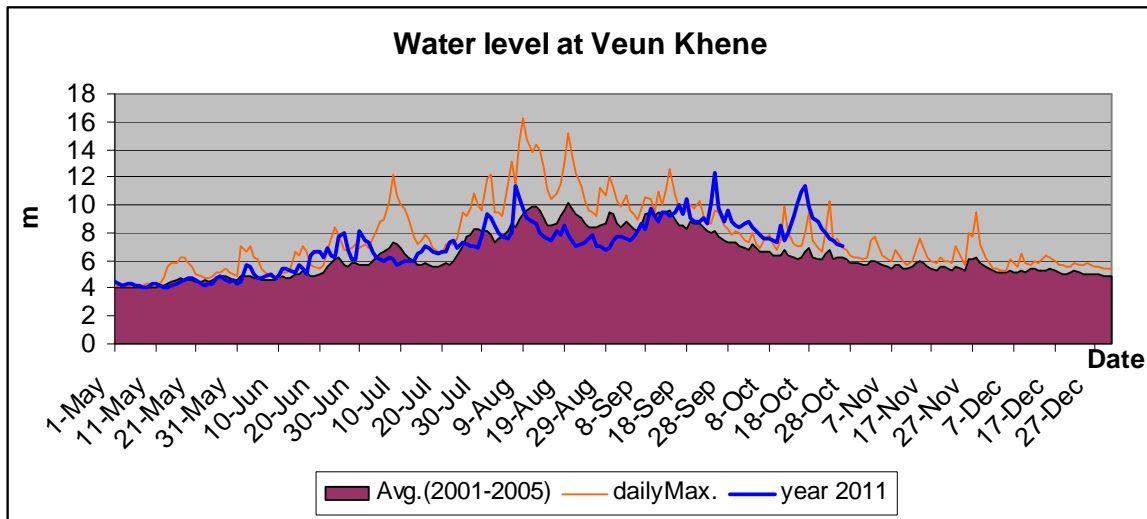


Figure 30: Hydrograph at Veun Khene station ( Sekong catchment)

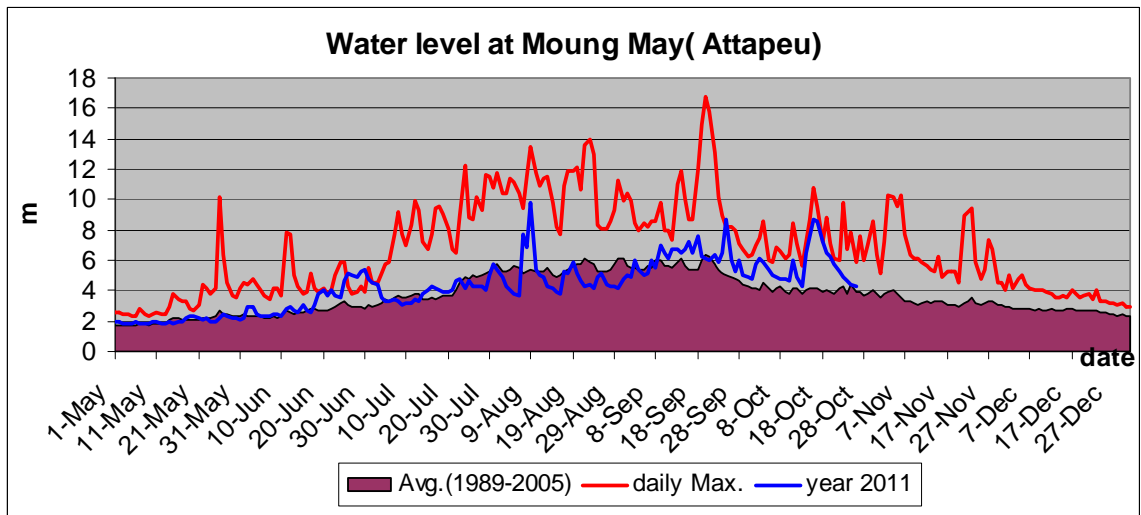


Figure 31: Hydrograph at Moung May (Attapeu) station (Sekong catchment)

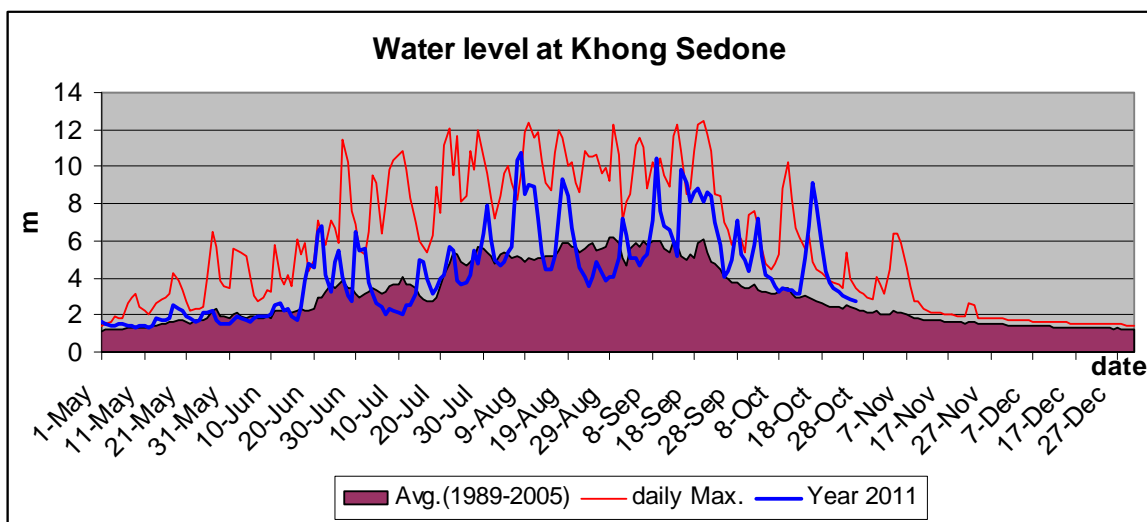


Figure 32: Hydrograph at Khong Sedone station (Sedone catchment)

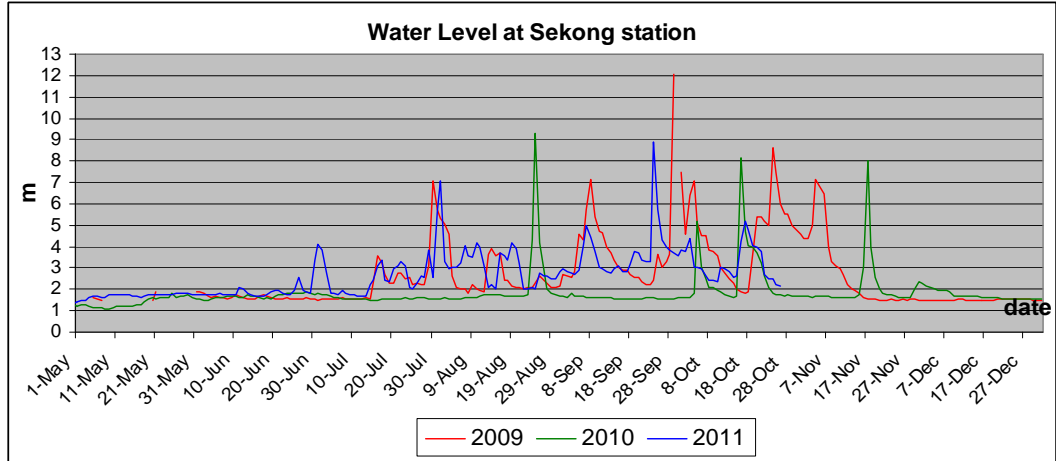


Figure 33: Hydrograph at Sekong station (Sekong catchment)

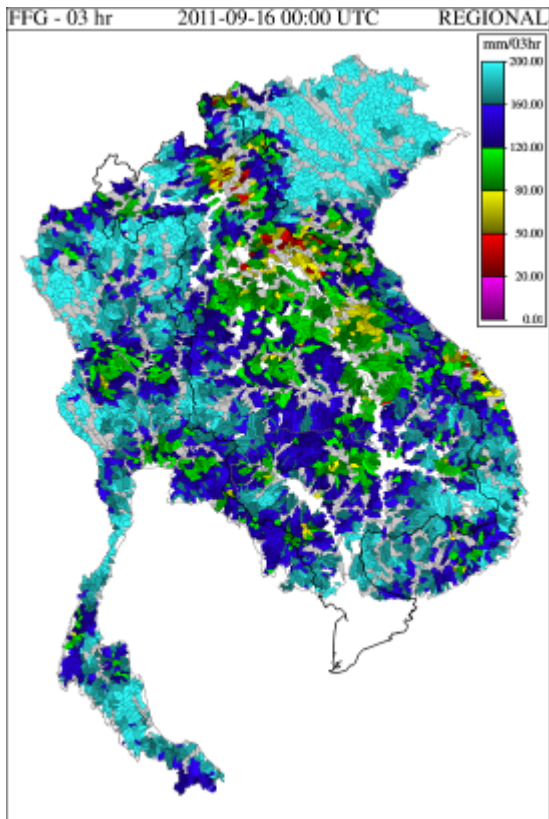


Figure 34: 3 Hourly Flash Flood Guidance (FFG) on 16 September 2011 at 00:00 UTC (7:00 AM local time) showed a number of high risk areas in Nam Ou, Nam Sane, Nam Nhiep catchments and its surrounding areas

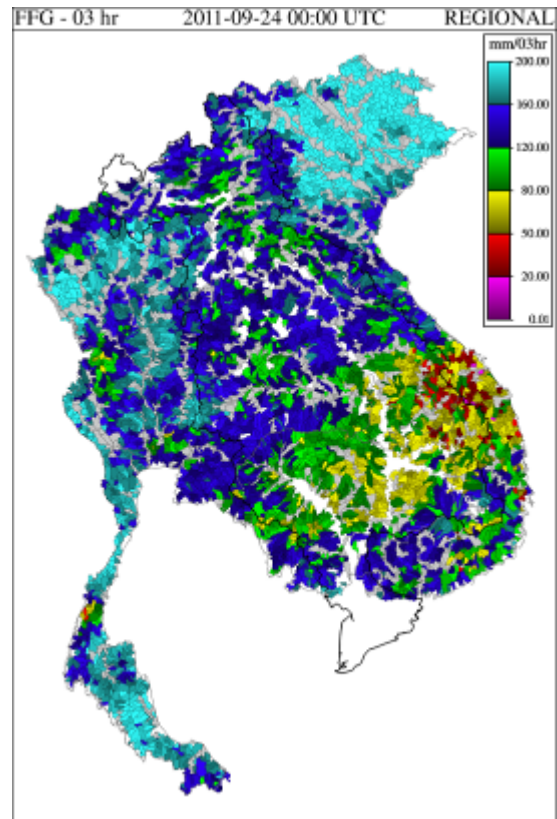


Figure 35: 3 Hourly Flash Flood Guidance (FFG) on 24 September 2011 at 00:00 UTC (7:00 AM local time) showed a number of high risk areas in Se bang hieng, Sekong, Sesan catchments and its surrounding areas



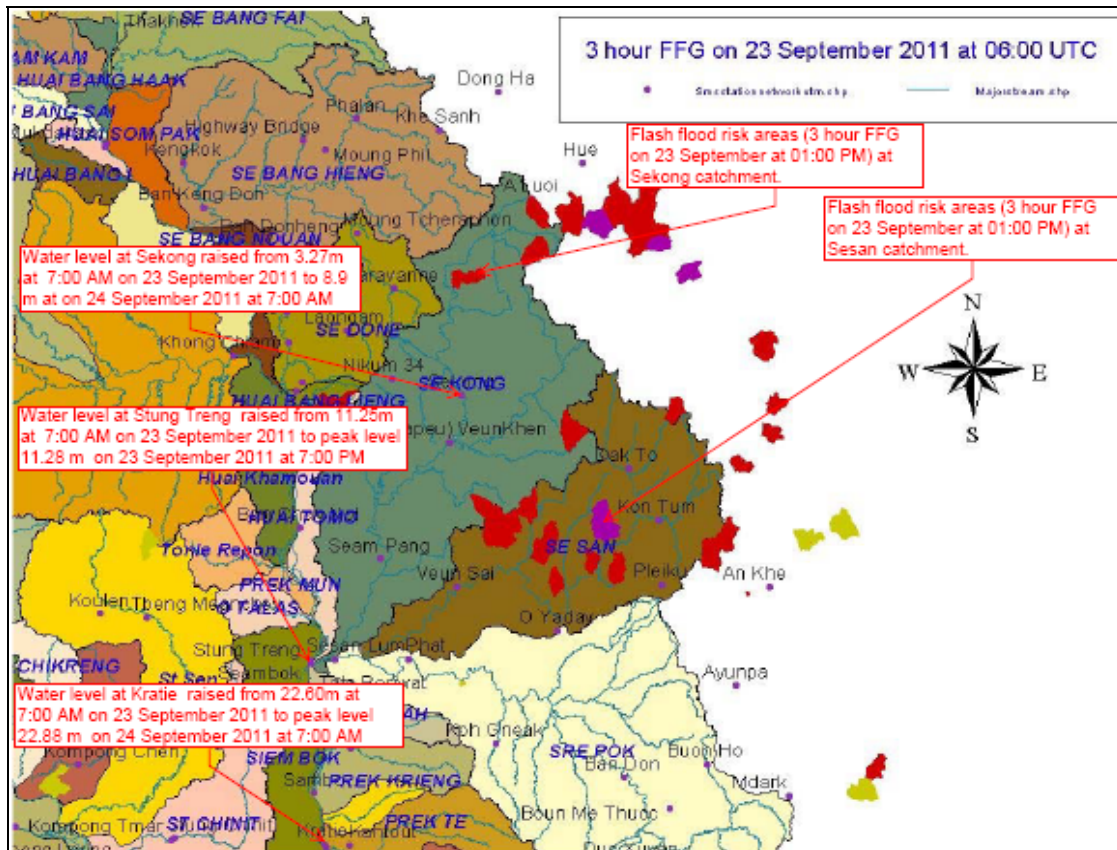


Figure 36: Map of 3 hourly FFG on 23 September 2011 at 06:00 UTC with location of water level stations.

### 3.6 Flash flood in Siem Reap Province on 22 September 2011

On 22 September 2011 at noon time, flash floods occurred at some areas in Siem Reap province, according to the rainfall observed at the Banteay Srey rainfall station. The accumulated rainfall for 24 hours from the 7:00 AM on 21 September 2011 to 7:00 AM on 22 September 2011 was 200mm. Figure 37 presents the daily rainfall at Banteay Srey rainfall station. The flash flood occurred in this area approximately at noon time. See the article in the “Cambodia Daily”, dated 24 September 2011, which is presented in annex 2. Figure 38 shows pictures of the flash flood situation at Banteay Srey areas of Siem Reap province.

Unfortunately the FFG system on 22 September 2011 did not detect the flash flood risk areas in Siem Reap province. Based on a primary investigation of this problem, it is concluded that the MAP underestimated the rainfall. It showed that 24 hours rainfall MAP at Siem Reap was approximately 70mm, but the satellite rainfall hydroestimator estimated that the 24 hours accumulated rainfall at the Banteay Srey area was approximately 180 mm. See figures 39 and 40. To improve the FFG product it is suggested revising the bias correction factor for satellite rainfall processing.

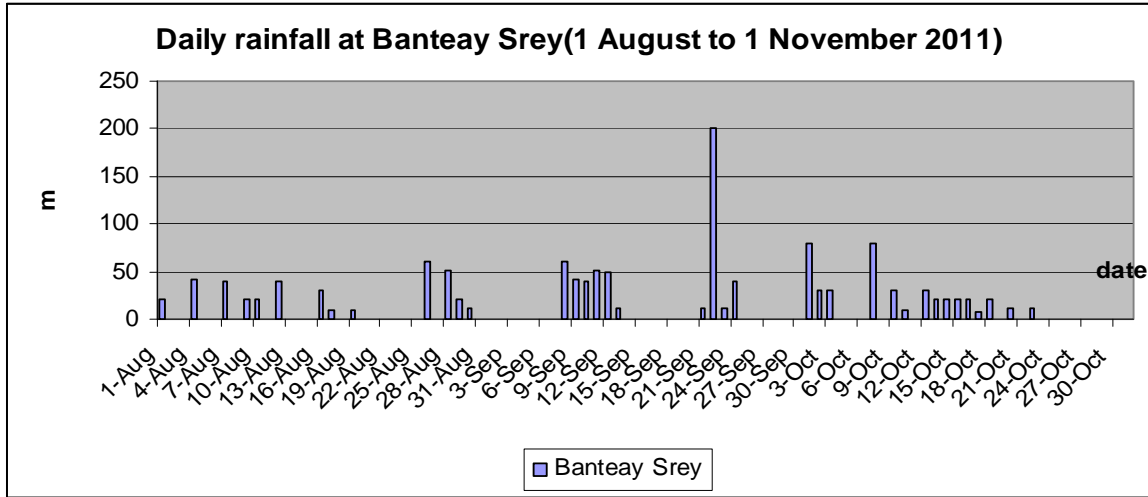


Figure 37: 24 Hours accumulated rainfall at Banteay Srey station for the period August to October 2011



Figure 38: Picture of flash flood at Banteay Srey commune of Siem Reap province on 22 September 2011

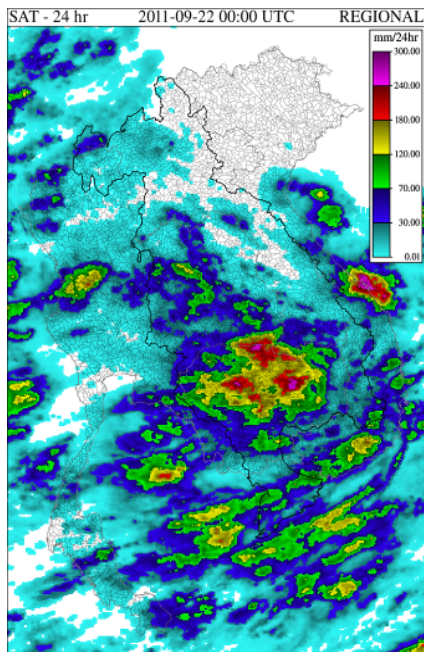


Figure 39: 24 Hours accumulated rainfall by hydroestimator

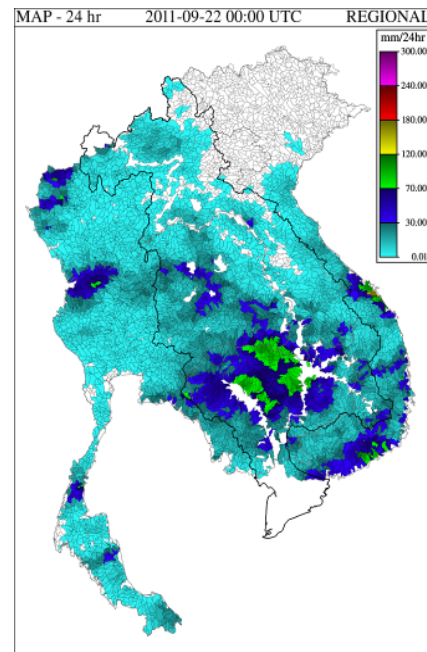


Figure 40: 24 Hours accumulated rainfall by MAP

### 3.7 Flash flood caused by depression of tropical storm NESAT

At beginning of October the tropical storm Nesat was downgraded to a tropical depression in the northern part of Viet Nam and Lao PDR. On 01 October 2011 at 00:00 UTC the MRCFFG system (Figures 41 and 42 show the 1 hourly and 3 hourly FFG) detected a number of flash flood risk areas in the central part of Lao PDR, such as at Pakkading district of Bolikhamxay province, and also in some districts of Quang Binh and Quang Nam provinces in Viet Nam. Flash floods were confirmed by the Vientiane Times, dated 04 October, and Viet Nam News, dated 05 October 2011. An article from both newspapers is presented in annex 1.

The flash flood at the Nam Cadinh catchment can also be validated through recordings of rapidly changing water levels at Ban Phonsi hydrological station. A water level was recorded of 12.54m at 07:00 AM on 01 October 2011. The water level rose to 15.45 m at 07.00 AM on 02 October 2011. Figure 43 presents the hydrograph of Ban Phonsi hydrological station, and figure 44 shows the map of the 3 hourly flash flood risk areas at Nam Cadinh catchment, and location of the Ban Phonsi water level station.

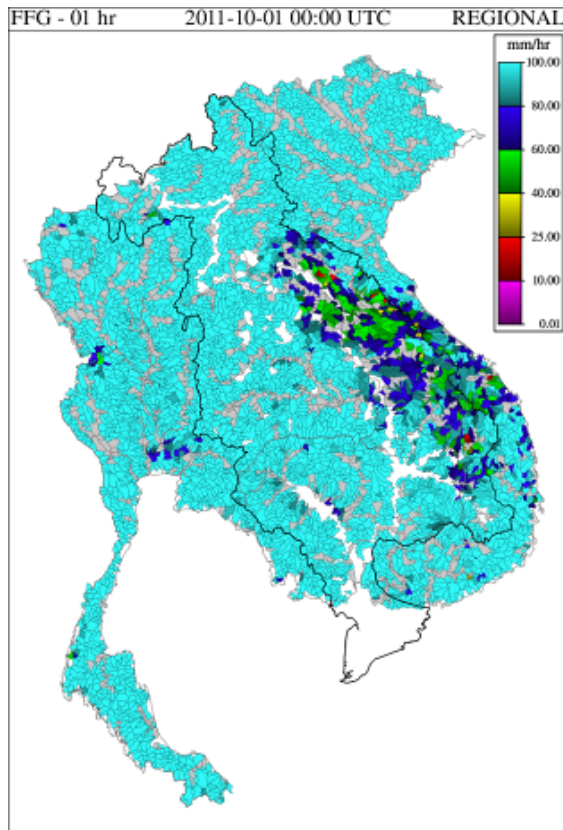


Figure 41: 1 Hourly FFG on 01 October 2011 at 00:00 UTC

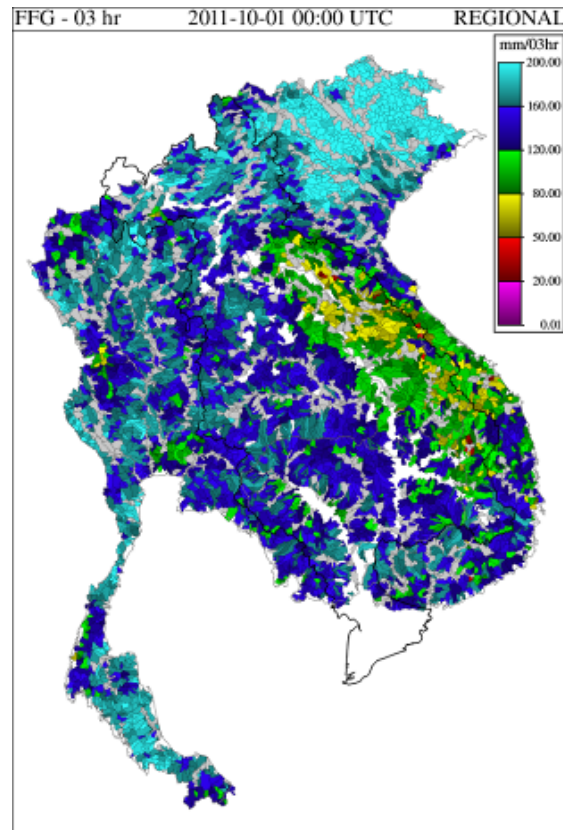


Figure 42: 3 Hourly FFG on 01 October 2011 at 00:00 UTC



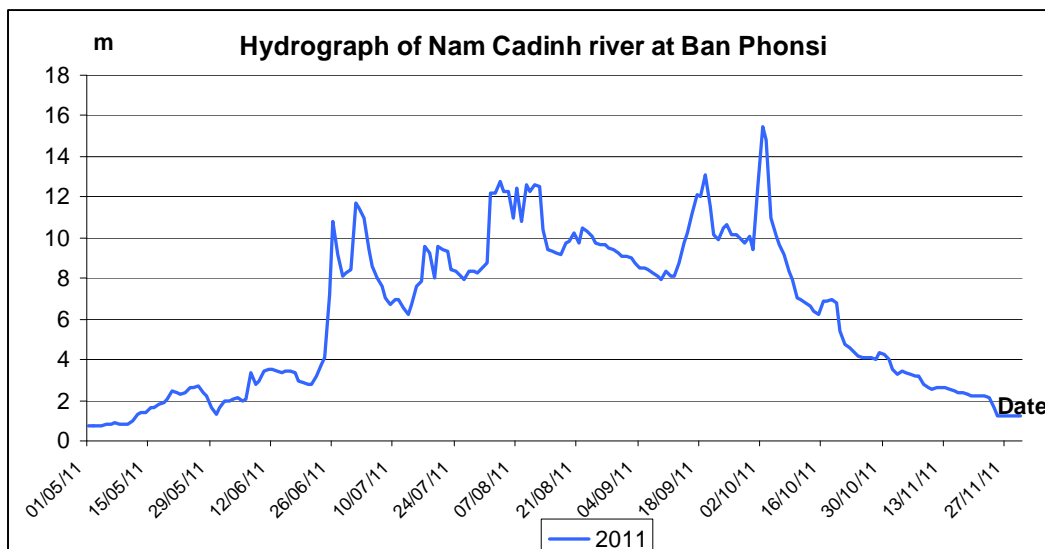


Figure 43: Hydrograph of Nam Cadinh river from May to November at Ban Phonsi hydrological station

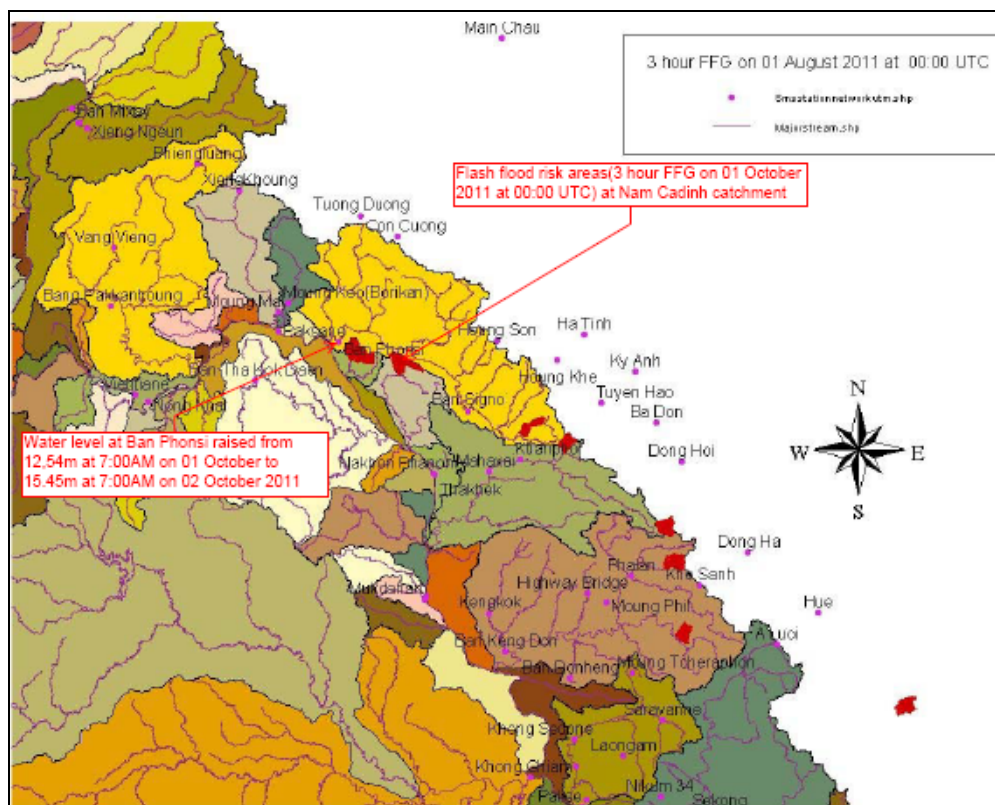


Figure 44: Map of flash flood risk areas (3 hourly FFG) on 01 October 2011 at 00:00 UTC at Nam Cadinh catchment with location of water level stations

### 3.8 Flash flood on 7 November 2011

On 07 November 2011 at 00:00 UTC (7:00AM local time) 3 hourly FFG detected risk of flash flood occurrences at some districts in the central provinces of Viet Nam, near the city of Hoi An. See figures 45 and 46. This information is confirmed by a Vietnamese newspaper, dated 08 November 2011. This newspaper reported the occurrence of flash floods in the central

provinces of Viet Nam, including the city of Hoi An. It reported also flash floods in Quang Nam province. This province is different than the provinces detected by the FFG. Perhaps this mistake is caused by updated provincial administration in some countries. It is therefore suggested updating the provincial administration database that is being used by the RFMMC.

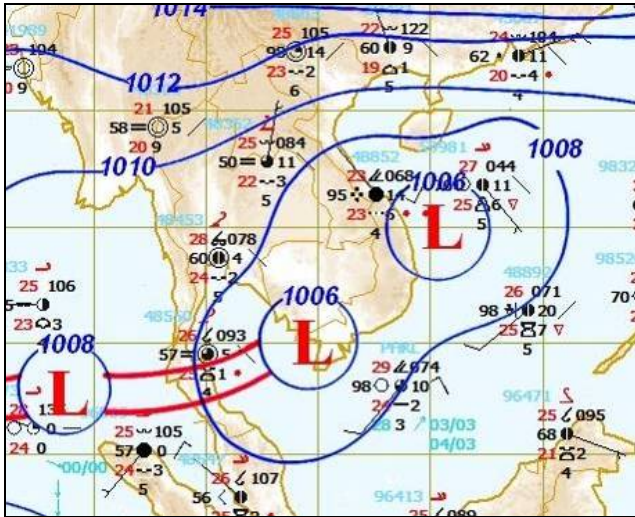


Figure 45: Weather chart on 07 November 2011 at 18:00 UTC

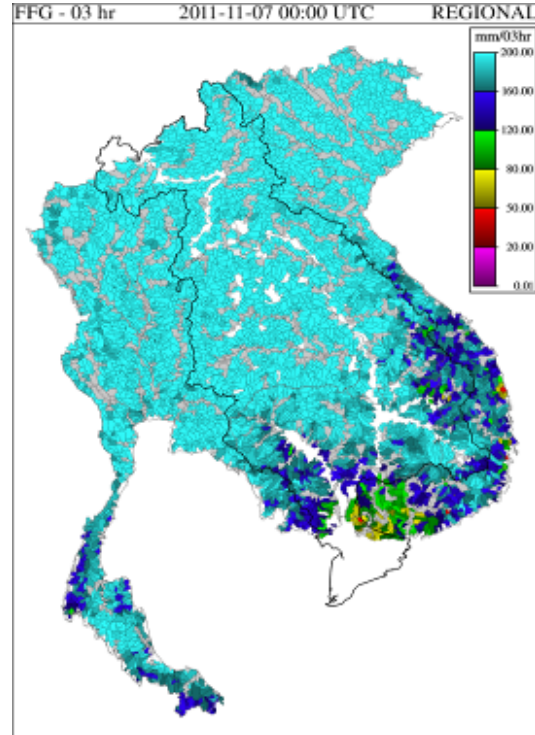


Figure 46: 3 Hourly FFG on 07 November 2011 at 00:00 UTC.

### 3.9 Flash flood on 26 November 2011 at Central Region of Viet Nam

According to an article in the Vietnamese newspaper “People’s Army Newspaper”, published on 26 and 28 November 2011, heavy rainfall (up to 300mm on 26 November 2011 in the Son Tay and Ba To districts of Quang Ngai province) caused flash floods, which occurred in some areas in the central region of Viet Nam, such as at some districts of the Quang Ngai and Thua Thien Hue provinces. The article is presented in annex 2. Unfortunately the MRCFFG system did not fully detect the flash floods which occurred in some districts in the mentioned provinces.

## 4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The current report is the first evaluation report of FFG system after 2 years of operation of the MRCFFG system during the 2009 and 2010 flood seasons. Although this evaluation report does not cover all of the flash flood that occurred in the 2011 flood season (from 01 June to 30 November 2011), it is based on the available flash flood information that was collected



from newspapers of the four riparian countries. The other evaluation method of comparing the flash flood risk areas detected by the MRCFFG with changing water levels downstream of these areas, which are being used in this report, do not fully reflect the flash flood characteristics, because the available water levels and rainfall data in the operational database of the RFMMC are recorded once daily, while the flash floods mostly occur within a 6 hourly period.

Notwithstanding this, it can be concluded that the MRCFFG system during the severe weather conditions in region, such as tropical storms, tropical depressions or ITCZ, detected almost all flash flood risk areas in the Mekong region. There were only few flash flood events that could not be detected by the system. Based on the experiences hitherto a number of recommendations are presented below which are considered useful for fine-tuning the MRCFFG products during the 2012 flood season's implementation:

1. Improvement of the Mean Aerial Precipitation (MAP) product by updating the bias correction factor for satellite rainfall (hydroestimator) processing.
2. After updating the bias correction factor for satellite rainfall processing, the RFMMC FFG operator should rerun the FFG system and check the results with the available flash flood information. This activity should be carried out in close consultation with staff of HRC in San Diego.
3. Updating the GIS (provincial administration database) the current GIS (provincial administrative database, villages, districts and provincial name) is collected from national line agencies in year 2003, it is likely not reflecting the real condition, as some country in the region recently revised provincial boundaries
4. Strengthening the connection between the RFMMC and the National FFG operations for the region in order to receive additional information on areas where flash floods occurred. Such information will improve this present FFG evaluation report.
5. Conducting Refreshment Training Courses of FFG system operation in combination with the Annual Flash Flood Gathering with the purpose to improve the knowledge on FFG operation, to introduce the new tool for FFG operation, and to exchange the experiences between National Center's and RFMMC operators.
6. The RFMMC FFG operator should develop, in close cooperation with the GIS expert of IKMP, an additional tool for the identification of Mekong sub-catchments, where flash floods occurred, as well as the location of hydrological stations in those sub-catchments, where rising water levels may have been recorded. If possible this tool should be connected "real time" with the FFG website.
7. Updating the FFG information in the MRC webpage three times during daytime with 6 hourly intervals, at 07:00 AM, 01:00 PM and at 07:00 PM. During severe weather conditions such as tropical storms, tropical depressions, ITCZ etc. flash floods can occur at any time in any area of the LMB.

Table 1: Recommend activities for flash flood guidance system operation.

Activities	2011							2012					Output	Remark
	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May		
Daily update flash flood guidance information in MRC web site													Daily update FFG information on MRC web page, in case of sever weather condition update 2 or 3 time per day	RFMMC ,FFG operators
Monitoring the situation of flash flood													Update the flash flood information on MRC web site, when FFG detected the flash flood risk areas.	RFMMC ,FFG operators
Collect information on flash flood from the media or other source to validate the FFG System, that was posted in MRC web site during the past flood season													A FFG evaluation report should be produced in order to validate the FFG produce and update FFG parameters or additional toll to assist for future FFG operation if necessary.	RFMMC ,FFG operators and national FFG operators should be cooperated to collect flash flood information
Annual FFG gathering and refreshment training course on FFG system operation													A annual meeting of national FFG operators should be organized in order to exchange experiences and information on flash flood	RFMMC ,FFG operators and national FFG operator, HRC
Update the FFG parameters , rerun the FFG system													With new available data (rainfall) and flash flood information, the FFG system should be study and update some FFG parameters if necessary.	RFMMC operators ,IT and staff of HRC
Rerun and test the FFG system after updated parameters , put the system ready for operation in coming flood season													A new updated FFG system should be ready for operation.	RFMMC operators ,IT and staff of HRC

# 5. Annexes

## Annex I



# Vientiane Times

The First National English Language Newspaper

TUESDAY JUNE 28, 2011 ISSUE 151

www.vientianetimes.la

4500 kip

### Inside



**EU helps ease poverty in Phongsaly**  
PAGE 2

**Malaysia protest backers accused of overthrow plot**  
PAGE 7



**Concert sings out against drugs**  
PAGE 14



**Trade zone to boost DPRK economy**  
PAGE 8

## Govt to impose new tax rates

**Ekaphone Phouthonesy**

The government will introduce new consumption and income tax rates within 90 days after getting the green light from the National Assembly.

After two days of debate, 105 assembly members of the 124 lawmakers present voted in support of the amended Taxation Law on Friday during the first session of the 7th legislature of the National Assembly.

Thirteen members voted against the amended law while a further six abstained.

The amendments will see local and foreign enterprises paying a single profit tax rate of 26 percent.

The government abolished the previous laws which imposed a 35 percent profit tax on domestic investors while foreign investors paid just 20 percent.

Cigarette makers face the highest tax hike, paying up to 30 percent, as the government attempts to reduce smoking in Laos.

The government first proposed a single profit tax of 28 percent but National Assembly members concluded this was too high compared to neighbouring countries and would place Laos at a disadvantage when trying to attract foreign investment.

The amended law lowers the consumption tax on fuel from 25 to

23 percent for premium regular and 24 to 22 percent for regular petrol, while the tax on diesel will remain at 10 percent in response to higher global fuel prices.

The new law will increase the consumption tax on cigarettes from 55 to 60 percent, while the tax on beer will stay the same at 50 percent.

The government asked for the consumption tax on beer to be raised from 50 to 60 percent but most National Assembly members opposed the idea, believing it would not curb drinking and would also likely lead to a reduction in revenue as more beer would be imported illegally.

The law also introduces a 10

percent tax on lottery wins of more than 1 million kip and a 10 percent tax on land sold. The law will also charge a 10 percent tax on people who sell shares in companies that are not listed on the Lao Securities Exchange.

The law also waives income tax for people who earn less than 1 million kip per month, in view of the rising cost of living. However, the existing tax rate of 5 to 28 percent will remain in place for higher income earners.

Lawmakers decided to drop a proposed tax on people who win court cases after deciding it would be difficult for tax officials to impose.

## Flash flooding kills 6 people in north

**Somsack Pongkhao**

Six people have been killed by flash flooding and landslides in the two northern provinces of Xieng Khuang and Xayaboury after tropical storm Hattma hit Laos over the weekend.

Two of the reported six deaths occurred in Phiang district of Xayaboury province as locals were returning from their farming activities.

The other four deaths were reported in Xieng Khuang province, including one in Nong-haet district, two in Khoun district and one in Khan district.

Two people died as they were washed away by floodwaters, one died while travelling to market and another died in a landslide.

The flooding will affect an estimated 100,000 people in Laos as much farmland is under water and rice barns, animals and houses along rivers have been washed away.

Many affected families have been evacuated to safe places, but communication networks in some districts are struggling as road access, telephone and electricity have been cut off.

Local authorities have assisted with some basic necessities for affected families but it is not enough to meet demand as some families have lost everything in the flooding.

Xayaboury province has experienced the worst flash flooding in 38 years as heavy rain caused the Houng River to burst its banks.

Office Head of Xayaboury province Mr Bounthan Khamkheuang said the flooding has affected several districts but the most severe damage has been reported in Xayaboury provincial capital, where 19 villages



A river in Paok district, Xieng Khuang province, after flash flooding hit the province.

have been affected. "People don't have electricity or water. Road access in some areas has been cut off so travelling and communicating in the province is very difficult," he said.

"We are collecting information to determine the cost of the damage."

In Xieng Khuang province, the flooding has affected an estimated more than 60,000 people, according to provincial Acting Office Head Mr Damduan Phummanithong.

He said the most severe flooding was reported in Tha-thom district, followed by Mok, Kham and Khoun

districts. "The flooding has put fields of sweetcorn and rice under water. Electricity and water have been cut off and hillside roads between districts eroded," he said.

Rain continues to fall in Xieng Khuang province but is not as heavy as on the weekend.

Meanwhile, flooding has also occurred in Borikhan district of Borikhamxay province, but no deaths or injuries have been reported.

Deputy Governor of Borikhan district Mr Thongsy Inthipaya said the flooding is expected to affect

about 30,000 people in the district.

Flooding was reported in four village groups after the Nam Xan and Nam Ngiep rivers burst their banks.

"There are 3,500 hectares of rice fields in the district and I estimate that some 3,000 hectares are under water," he said.

"The Ministry of National Defence sent two boats to move people to higher ground. Our urgent need is clean water and food. The flooding has washed away tractors as well as people's houses, rice barns and animals, while road access has also been cut off."

**Announcement**

Good news for ETL mobile phone subscribers. Vientiane Times and Ekaphone Telecommunications Lao (ETL) is now providing hot news in English on mobile phones through the ETL network. A pilot service will begin on June 1 and operate through the end of the month. During this period, ETL customers will have free short news message services from Vientiane Times.

Registration: type ON and send to 2246  
Interested people contact: 021 21 7593  
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## Haima death toll climbs to 19 in Vietnam

Last updated: 6/27/2011 10:15



Floods and heavy rains triggered by the Haima typhoon in the northern region of Vietnam have killed at least 19 people as of Sunday, according to the national floods and storms control agency.

The latest victim was a Chinese worker who was swept away by floods in Ha Giang province, said the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Prevention.

Two others of the victims were killed in a whirlwind that hit Hai Phong City Thursday and left 60 others injured.

Haima, which strengthened from a tropical depression in the East Sea earlier last week and entered Vietnam coastal waters Friday night, has also left seven others missing in Yen Bai, Quang Ninh and the central province of Nghe An.

### RELATED NEWS

**18 dead, 14 missing in typhoon Haima**

Meanwhile, thousands of houses, and tens of thousands of hectares of rice and crops have been damaged across the region.

The tropical storm weakened Friday after entering coastal waters off Hai Phong City and Ninh Binh Province.

Reported by Thanh Nien staff

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**'Haima' storm weakens, rains unabated**

The Central weather bureau stated on June 25 that the tropical storm 'Haima', which hit Vietnam for the second time this year, had weakened into a low pressure zone, causing heavy rains in the Northern and North Central regions.

Bach Long Vi Island in Hai Phong City and Van Ly commune in Hai Hau District of Nam Dinh Province experienced 320 mm of rainfall; Thanh Hoa City saw 270 mm rainfall and Quy Chau District in Nghe An Province saw 240 mm of rainfall within the last 48 hours.

Heavy rains caused the Hoang Long River in Hoa Binh Province and some rivers in Thanh Hoa Province to overflow resulting in flash floods and landslides in Thanh Hoa Province.

The mountainous provinces in the north were also threatened by severe landslides. 130 households from Lao Cai Province were relocated to safer grounds as they faced risk of landslides and 370 households in the province are still in the process of relocating.



Soldiers help residents to repair their homes after the storm attacked An Lu commune in Hai Phong. (Photo:SGGP)

During the last two days, heavy rains have caused river water levels to rise in Hong, Da and Thuong rivers. Floods are expected within the next two days.

Two days of heavy rainfall has submerged 2,000 hectares of rice crops in Nam Dinh Province, 770 hectares of rice crops in Hai Phong City and over 1,100 hectares of farm produce in Nghe An and Nam Dinh provinces.

As per the Central Steering Committee for Flood and Storm Prevention, by 8 pm of June 25, 27 people were reported dead in Yen Bai, Hai Phong, Nam Dinh, Nghe An and Thanh Hoa provinces with 60 injured, thousands of homes destroyed and tens of thousands of hectares of rice crop devastated.

Some sections of 7 and 48 highways leading to the mountainous districts of Que Phong, Ky Son, Tuong Duong and Nghia Dan of Nghe An Province were closed due to landslides as of 8:30pm on June 25.

On the same day, the tornado hit Long My District in Hau Giang Province in the early hours of the morning, destroying 40 houses, blowing up roofs of 58 houses and injuring two people.

The tornado also damaged a huge rice area as it went past speeds of 25 kilometres through Long My District and other communes like Vinh Vien, Vinh Thuan Dong and Long Binh.

Tornado damage is estimated at VND400 million. Province authorities will compensate VND7 million per destroyed house, VND3-5 million per roof destruction and VND1 million per injured person.

Related article:

15 dead, missing in 'Haima' typhoon

By staff writers – Translated by T. Huong

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Date of FFG products 25/06/2011 00:00 UTC time

1hour Flash Flood Guidance in Vietnam			3hours Flash Flood Guidance in Vietnam		
Provinces	Districts	FFG value	Provinces	Districts	FFG Value
Nghe An	Tuong Duong	14.535	Nghe An	Tuong Duong	21.765
Nghe An	Con Cuong	17.16	Nghe An	Con Cuong	33.145
			Nghe An	Anh Son	40.73



**Feature**

# Surviving the floods



A flooded house in Borikhan district, Borikhamxay province.

**Somsack Pongkhao**

Mr Chansamone's one-story house rapidly filled with chest-level muddy water, forcing him and four family members to flee to higher ground.

"The water came rushing in at about midnight on July 2. We weren't able to save a lot of our most important items like the refrigerator, rice and other household goods," he said.

"The electricity was cut off on that day and my wife woke me up so we could try to rescue some of our possessions from the house but I had a terrible headache and was unable to help. Unfortunately, my son had gone to his friend's house to stay overnight because of the flooding and wasn't around. All I could do was to leave the house as it was and hope for the best."

The fate of Mr Chansamone is

similar to thousands of people in Borikhan district, Borikhamxay province, many of whom have inundated farmland and houses that are identifiable only by their roofs visible above the water.

Some people continue to live on the second floor of partially submerged houses while others lamented that their tractors, pick-up trucks, animals and rice mills were damaged by the flooding.

Seventeen houses have been swept away but no deaths or injuries were reported because the governor of Tha-thom district in Xieng Khuang province telephoned the Borikhan district governor to alert him of the flooding. The Borikhan district governor then called all the village groups and alerted them to the approaching water.

Tha-thom district is located on the upper reaches of the Nam Xan River and Borikhan district is located on

the lower portion. Typically, as flood waters in the upper river recede, flooding occurs in the lower part.

Flooding is most common in September or October, but by early July this year Borikhan had already suffered two severe floods.

The first occurred on June 24-27, flooding 31 of the 46 villages in the district and the second on July 2. Only now is the water starting to recede.

This is the biggest disaster in the district in decades and has destroyed key infrastructure including roads, schools, hospitals, power networks and water delivery systems.

Villagers still fear the next flood, wondering when it will come and how high the water will be after the rumour of another storm spread through local communities.

This has forced authorities to provide information to ensure

villagers do not panic and prompted them to seek more funding so they can be in a position to help residents when the next deluge occurs.

Tropical storm Haima originated in the South China Sea and reached Laos on June 24 resulting in heavy rains in Borikhamxay, Xayaboury, Xieng Khuang and Vientiane provinces.

Flash flooding killed seven people in Xieng Khuang province and two others in Xayaboury province. An estimated 100,000 people have been affected by the flooding.

In Xieng Khuang alone, the cost of damage may reach 400 billion kip, and in Xayaboury the damage is estimated to be about 98 billion kip.

In Borikhan district, authorities are still unable to assess the total cost of damage because the district is still largely underwater. Although some areas remain submerged, farmers -

not discouraged by the devastation of farmland - continue to sow rice seeds in an attempt save their harvests.

Despite donations from the government, companies and individuals, it's still not enough to meet villagers' needs because some people have lost everything. Authorities welcome any donation to help relieve the suffering of flood victims.

One of the main challenges will be to resume full agricultural production because hectares of rice fields are covered in silt and sand.

Even though only part of the walls and the roof of Mr Chansamone's home are visible, most of the time he sits in front of his house and worries about what may be in store, because it's only July and rivers will rise further.

"What we need most now is clean water, food and medicine for flood related diseases that could spread throughout the community," he said.



A family uses a boat to retrieve possessions from their house.

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
(Announcement No. 11/05)  
(Re-advertise)

**OPEN TO:** All interested candidates  
**POSITION:** Audio-Visual Technician, FSN & FP-3  
**CLOSING DATE:** June 20, 2011  
**CLOSING DATE:** July 8, 2011  
**WORK HOURS:** Full-time: 40 hours/week  
**SALARY:** Actual grade and salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant.

**NOTE: THIS IS A LOCAL POSITION. THE SELECTED CANDIDATE WILL COME UNDER LOCAL LABOR LAW, AND BE PAID ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY'S LOCAL COMPENSATION PLAN. ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN LAOS AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCE PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.**

The U.S. Embassy in Vientiane is seeking an individual for the position of **Audio-Visual Technician** in the Public Diplomacy Section (PDS).

**BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION:**  
The Embassy is primarily in need of an applicant with a background in video, TV, or film production who is able to shoot, edit, and produce simple audio / video content for use on multiple media platforms, including internet, television, and radio. The applicant should be comfortable with new technology, especially social networking sites such as Facebook and file-sharing sites like YouTube. Some familiarity with graphic design and layout is also important. Duties include recording video of embassy events and producing videos related to various embassy activities; uploading content to the public website; downloading and distributing video clips drawn from various online and television sources; and managing the technical side of digital video conferencing. The position will also occasionally involve providing technical audio-visual support for embassy activities, such as setting up microphones, speakers, audio-levels, etc. A candidate with these skills is preferred. However, these skills are secondary, and training will be provided if necessary.

**QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED**  
**NOTE: All applicants must address each selection criterion detailed below with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item.**

- Education:** Completion of secondary school plus certificates of completion of courses in electronics, graphic design, or computers.
- Prior Work Experience:** Three years of experience in audio-visual systems and television/video production. Experience in installation and maintenance of a variety of audio-visual receivers and equipment. Note: Non-professional experience will be considered with documentation.
- Language Proficiency:** Good knowledge of spoken and written English and ability to read and understand technical instruction manuals for audio-visual equipment. Fluently speaking and reading Lao and Thai are required.
- Knowledge:** Excellent knowledge of video cameras and video production / editing software. Good knowledge of internet browsing and downloading. Broad knowledge of American and local media. Some knowledge of media marketing and public relations techniques, popular Lao cultural and entertainment styles and preferences, and local media and technical capabilities. Knowledge of digital photography and basic photo editing programs. Technical knowledge of audio-visual equipment; thorough understanding of tools and materials used in repairing audio-visual equipment; methods of installing, maintaining, and operating audio-visual equipment.
- Skills and Abilities:** Ability to use all levels of digital video cameras (from amateur flip cams to semi pro DV cams). Familiarity with FinalCut Pro or other video editing software. Able to use HTML and Microsoft Office. Ability to use both Mac and PC systems. Familiarity with basic graphic design programs. If not able to install and maintain telecommunications, audio-visual, reproduction, editing, and sound equipment, should be willing to learn.
- Attitude:** The most important characteristic being sought after in this position is creativity and vision. Applicant should have bold, innovative ideas about how to create audio-visual content that will capture the attention of new audiences.

**HOW TO APPLY**  
Interested applicants for this position must submit the following for the application to be considered:  
1. Universal Application for Employment (Form DS-174). Download the form at: [http://laos.usembassy.gov/job\\_opportunities.html](http://laos.usembassy.gov/job_opportunities.html)  
2. Candidates who claim U.S. Veterans preference must provide a copy of their Form DD-214 with their application.  
3. Any other documentation (e.g., essays, certificates, awards, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualification requirements of the position as listed above.

**SUBMIT APPLICATION TO**  
Human Resources Office  
American Embassy  
Rue Bartholome, That Dam  
PO Box 114, Vientiane, Laos  
(Hardcopy or e-mail attachments are accepted)  
**POINT OF CONTACT**  
Telephone: 856-21-267176  
Fax: 856-21-267140  
E-mail: [VientianeHR@state.gov](mailto:VientianeHR@state.gov)

Interested persons should contact Embassy Human Resources Office for more information. Blank application forms may be picked up from the cabinet inside the Embassy entrance.  
Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

**CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION: July 8, 2011**  
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**Announcement for Investment with Betagro Group**

The Betagro Group is recognised as being at the forefront of Thailand's agro-industry and food business, engaged in animal feed production, livestock, and animal health products, and most importantly, high-quality, safe food products. Distributed to local and overseas markets, these leading, branded products respond to the diverse needs of consumers across the globe, reflecting Betagro's guiding principle: "Let's Make Life Better." What is expending in Lao PDR. So it is announcing to investors constructing the farm and renting the company.

**Qualification**

- Should the land be appropriate in Vientiane Capital ( If the land exist in Naxaythong district will be specially considered)
- Investor shall be able to comply with company's farm construction standard

**Remuneration**

- High remuneration of investment cost
- Minimum contract within 20 years

Interested to contact : Mr. Sanphet KUBSOUNGNOEN

At : 020 23011282

Email : [sanphet@betagro.com](mailto:sanphet@betagro.com)

Betagro Group : [www.betagro.com](http://www.betagro.com)





# Vientiane Times

The First National English Language Newspaper

THURSDAY AUGUST 4, 2011

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## ADB supports development in northern Laos

Khonesavanh Latsaphao

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently approved grant funding of more than US\$23 million for development projects in four provinces in northern Laos.

The Northern Rural Infrastructure Development Sector Project (NRI) will commence shortly, following a project workshop held in Vientiane yesterday. The project will operate in the provinces of Bokeo, Luang Namtha, Rongkham and Oudomxay.

There will be 25 sub-projects carried out in the four provinces; which will focus largely on developing new irrigation areas and the associated infrastructure, repairing old irrigation equipment which has fallen into disrepair, and improving road access in rural and remote areas. The project will run from 2011 to 2015.

"We organised a workshop to make sure that our project workers are armed with the necessary skills and knowledge when they return to the provinces," NRI Head Mr Phaythoune Phommvibay said. The workshop will help project workers to prioritise the most needed infrastructure, which is not an easy task when there are so many worthwhile projects.

The Lao government contributed US\$1.2 million towards the project, but this figure does not include another US\$500,000 contributed in labour by local villagers, to gain an equity share in the project. They will form irrigation management groups and be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of equipment and systems.

There are estimated to be around 800,000 people living in the target areas, of which about 33 percent are living below the poverty line. In northern Laos, the majority of the poorest communities live in upland areas, estimated at around 40 percent of the total population. There are impoverished communities in the lowlands as well, lacking decent road access, safe drinking water, and access to services - especially health care.

In Laos, only half of the country's population has access to safe drinking water. Lack of access to clean water keeps entire communities impoverished and causes serious illnesses such as diarrhoea, which is the most prevalent cause of child deaths in the country today.

The project will have a particular focus on providing basic infrastructure to ethnic minority groups, who already face many barriers to development, with remoteness and the consequent lack of market access being the most debilitating.

ADB Mission Leader Mr Bui Minh Gaptold workshop participants at the project is quite large in scale and they cannot allow it to fail. "We believe that project workers in the provinces will do as much as they possibly can," he said.

## Japan funds airport, road link improvements

Times Reporters

The government of Japan has agreed to fund improvement projects for Wattay International Airport in Vientiane and National Road No.9, according to the Japanese Embassy to Laos.

The exchange of notes for grant assistance entitled "The Project for Expansion of Wattay International Airport and The Project for Improvement of National Road No.9 as East-West Economic Corridor of the Mekong Region" were signed on Tuesday.

Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Thongloun Sivilouh and Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Taro Aso signed the notes at the Ikura Guest House in Tokyo, Japan.

Ambassador of Japan to Laos Junko Yokota and senior officials from the Lao and Japanese governments also attended the signing ceremony.

The cost of the expansion project at Wattay airport is more than 19 billion yen (US\$234 million).

This project includes the expansion of the aircraft parking apron, the upgrading of security

equipment and other measures to prepare for increased demands on the airport in the future.

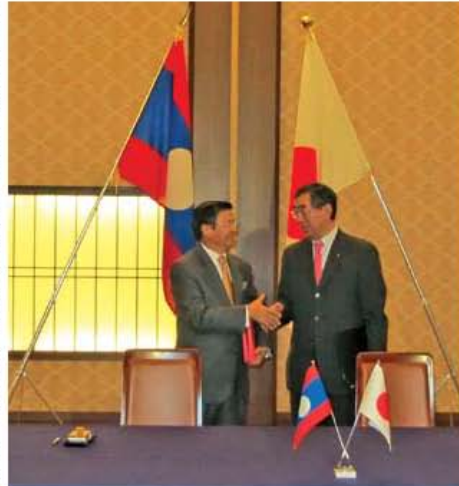
Improving the safety and security of the airport plays a significant role as a centre of the national economy.

In addition, the government and people of Japan strongly hope that the Lao government will succeed in hosting the 9th ASEM Summit to be held in Vientiane in 2012 by utilising the upgrade of a airport.

The project for improvement of National Road No.9 is worth more than 3.2 billion yen (US\$39.6 million). Road No.9 is an international road and forms a main part of the East-West Corridor that crosses Indochina.

The project aims to facilitate the exchange of people as well as ease the transportation of local commodities in the region by repairing damaged areas and overlaying certain sections of the road.

The project is expected to contribute greatly to boosting the economies of the Greater Mekong Sub-region countries, in particular, the economy of central and southern Laos.



Dr Thongloun Sivilouh (left) shakes hands with Mr Taro Aso after signing an exchange of notes for grants assistance for two projects at the Ikura Guest House in Tokyo, Japan.

## Central province residents on edge as Mekong threatens to overflow

Khamphone Syvongxay

The Mekong River has burst its banks and flooded some low-lying areas in Khammuan province, despite the fact the river is yet to reach its warning level.

The water level of the Mekong is expected to reach the warning level of 13 metres in Thakhek district, Khammuan province, today, rising from 12.95m yesterday.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has warned people living in low-lying areas of Khammuan and other central provinces to move valuable possessions and livestock to higher ground.

The level of the Mekong continues to rise following torrential rains in the wake of tropical storm Nock-Ten over the weekend.

The warning level in Pakxan district, Borikhamxay province, is 13.50m, and the river was at 13m and rising yesterday. Weather Forecasting and Aeronautical Division Deputy Head Mr Wandy Doungmalat told Vientiane Times yesterday.

Water levels in Mekong tributaries such as the Xebangxay, Hinboun and Pakxan rivers have



This section of Road No.12 South in Khammuan province was flooded yesterday; as it will levels continue to rise.

already reached danger levels in Khammuan province.

If the water level of the Mekong reaches the danger level

in Khammuan today, extensive and prolonged flooding is expected. More than 100 villages in Nhozmalath, Hinboun and Eualapha

districts have already experienced flooding and thousands of hectares of crops have been inundated but no

CONTINUED PAGE 3

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**Big C to open shopping complex in Vientiane** (PAGE 8)

Date of FFG products 02/08/2011 12:00 UTC time

1hour Flash Flood Guidance in Lao				3hour Flash Flood Guidance in Lao			
Provinces	Districts	Villages	FFG Value	Provinces	Districts	Villages	FFG Value
Khammuane	Bualapha	NA PHAO	19.12	Bolikhamsay	Pakkading	NAMKHOU	48.08
Khammuane	Bualapha	NONG BOUA	19.12	Bolikhamsay	Pakkading	THONGNAMI	48.08
				Bolikhamsay	Viengthon	SOBSOR	49.82
				Bolikhamsay	Viengthon	PHADAENG	49.82
				Bolikhamsay	Viengthon	NONGBUA(NONGL	49.82
				Bolikhamsay	Viengthon	VANGPENE	49.82
				Khammuane	Bualapha	NA PHAO	27.5
				Khammuane	Bualapha	NONG BOUA	27.5



## Cambodian PM expresses sympathies to Lao flood victims

Times Reporters

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen sent a message of sympathy to his Lao counterpart Mr Thongsing Thammavong on August 1 to express sympathy for Lao families affected by tropical storm Haima last June.

The storm resulted in flooding and landslides in several provinces of Laos, killing at least 17 people and causing extensive damage to property, infrastructure and agricultural land.

The Cambodian PM's message read: "I am very

saddened to hear that many people lost their lives when tropical storm Haima hit your country, causing immense property damage and great suffering to the population in the affected areas."

"On behalf of the royal government and people of Cambodia, may I convey through Your Excellency to the people of Laos - in particular the victims and those who have lost their loved ones - our heartfelt sympathies and condolences along with a very modest contribution of US\$50,000 for the relief of their hardship due to this natural disaster."

## Forest loss has long-term consequences: researcher

Somsack Pongkhao

Natural resource researchers have warned that Laos will lose more than it gains from development projects that cause forestry loss.

The researchers suggested that the government takes environmental preservation into account before approving development projects in order to ensure sustainable growth of the Lao economy.

Deputy Director General of the Land and Natural Resources Research Institute Dr Palikone Thalongseughanh told *Vientiane Times* that some development projects undertaken in past years have resulted in loss of the country's forests.

"The loss of forests will not affect us at the present time, but in the long run the country will have to spend large sums of money assisting people affected by natural disasters," he said.

Dr Palikone said forests play an important role in sustaining water supplies, protecting the soils of important watershed areas and in minimising the effects of catastrophic floods and landslides.

He observed that Laos is now experiencing more frequent severe flooding and landslides due to the continued decline of the country's forests, especially in and around protected and watershed areas. Flooding and landslides caused by tropical storm Haima in June alone killed 17 people and caused estimated damage of 700 billion kip.

The government has projected the agriculture and forestry sector will grow at around 3 percent in the 2011-12 fiscal year, accounting for 28 percent of total GDP, but

this figure may be unachievable after thousands of hectares of farmland were destroyed by floods in the central and northern provinces of Laos over the past month or so.

Agricultural specialists are also concerned about food security in Laos, as agricultural loss will affect the livelihoods of local people, particularly low-income farmers, at a time of rising inflation in Laos.

The agricultural losses could force the government to import more food from other countries and also compel more rural people to move into urban areas, adding to environmental and social problems in the cities.

Dr Palikone believes that the establishment of the new Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment will make it easier for the government to more effectively manage the use of natural resources, including forests. "The new ministry will centralise management of natural resources, but all departments need to establish a consensus and work harder to realise government policy," he said.

Forest coverage in Laos was around 70 percent of the country's total land mass in 1940, covering 17 million hectares. This figure dropped to 54 percent in 1973, 47 percent in 1982 and 41 percent in 2001. The present figure is unknown as the relevant sector is currently undertaking a survey on forest coverage.

Most forestry loss is due to slash and burn cultivation and illegal logging triggered by strong demand for timber in both Laos and abroad. The government has set a target to return the country's forest coverage to 65 percent by 2015 and 70 percent by 2020 to help address the future impacts of climate change.

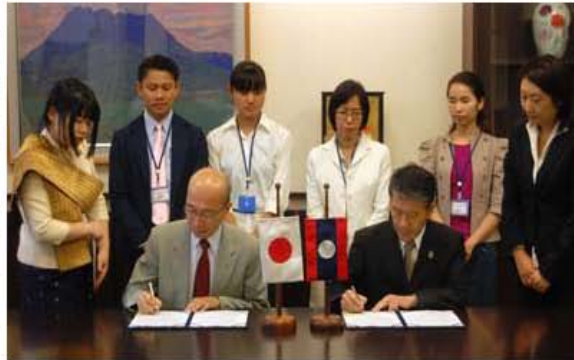
## Japan backs UXO clearance in Attapeu province

Times Reporters

On the first anniversary of the Convention on Cluster Munitions coming into force, the government of Japan has agreed to provide grant assistance worth US\$434,239 to the Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS), according to the Embassy of Japan to Laos.

JMAS, a Japanese NGO working in Laos primarily in the area of UXO, will implement the "Support to Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao) in Attapeu province (The First Stage)" project under the Grant Assistance Scheme for Japanese NGO Projects.

The grant contract for the project was signed on Tuesday at the Embassy of Japan in Vientiane between the Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the embassy, Mr Shigeru Omori, and a representative of the JMAS Lao office, Mr Junichi Kurokawa.



Mr Shigeru Omori (left) signs an agreement with Mr Junichi Kurokawa at the Japanese Embassy in Vientiane.

This project will be carried out in Attapeu province in cooperation with UXO Lao from August 2011-2012. JMAS specialists will educate people on the proper techniques for

UXO clearance and conduct community awareness activities in the province to ensure safer livelihoods for residents of the province. JMAS has already

completed a five-year UXO clearance project in Xieng Khuang province (2006-2011) and a one-year project in Attapeu province (2010-2011), the embassy reported.

## Food incentive attracts pregnant mothers to health facilities

Times Reporters

Health facilities in Nalae district of Luang Namtha province have had a busy two months, with more than twice as many pregnant and breastfeeding women than usual requesting a medical check-up in June and July.

Since the beginning of June, a new Mother and Child Health and Nutrition project, implemented by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and other UN agencies, ensures that women receive a food ration when they visit the district hospital or health centres for a medical examination, the WFP said yesterday.

"In Luang Namtha province the WFP has followed the Lao government's strategy to reduce malnutrition and gradually improve the health of mothers and children," head of the Provincial Health Office Dr Inkeo Phouthavong said.

"We are looking forward to continuing our cooperation with WFP in an effort to reduce malnutrition in the province." A 10 kg ration of rice is given each time a woman gets a health examination before and after giving birth, and when she delivers her child in a health facility.

In more than 70 villages throughout the district, the WFP also supplies children

aged between 6 and 23 months with specialised nutrition products, which help to ensure they receive all the vitamins and minerals they need on a daily basis.

The WFP also trains villagers about what constitutes a healthy diet. Taken together, these measures help ensure children receive all the nutrients they need during the critical first 1,000 days of their lives - from conception to two years of age - so they can grow up strong and healthy.

Ms Nengkhom Thongsavanh, eight months pregnant and one of the first women to participate in the project, received her first medical check-up in June. "I have come to the health centre because of the rice. Before this, I have never been for a check-up during my pregnancy. I am happy to have WFP support," she told WFP staff in Luang Namtha. "The food rations WFP provides are proving to be a powerful incentive for women to visit health centres," WFP Representative in Laos Eri Kudo said. "I'm very happy to note that our food is providing a jump-start to the lives of many children who, without this assistance, risk real damage to their physical and intellectual development."

WFP's food distribution initiative is part of a joint Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health and Nutrition programme operated by the

Lao government and four UN agencies: the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, WFP and the World Health Organisation.

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea and other donors support the programme, whose aim is to reduce malnutrition and improve the health of women and children living in remote areas of the country.

Despite a decline over the last few decades, the maternal mortality rate in Laos remains one of the highest in the region - estimates of the number of women dying while giving birth range from 405 out of

100,000 (Ministry of Health, 2005) to 508 out of 100,000 (United Nations, 2008).

Encouraging women to deliver their babies with the help of a qualified midwife or other health providers with midwifery skills is one of the most successful strategies to prevent these deaths. In developing countries, the most common cause of maternal death is obstetrical hemorrhage followed by deep vein thrombosis.

Appropriate pre- and postnatal care, in addition to basic health checks and nutritional guidance, is an extremely effective tool for improving the health of mothers and their children.

### 3 day weather forecast

Xieng Khuang			
Date	Temperature (C)		Weather
	Min	Max	
04/08/2011	19	26	Light rain
05/08/2011	20	27	Isolated showers
06/08/2011	21	28	Heavy rain
Luang Namtha			
Date	Temperature (C)		Weather
	Min	Max	
04/08/2011	22	29	Light rain
05/08/2011	22	30	Isolated showers
06/08/2011	22	31	Thunder showers
Luang Prabang			
Date	Temperature (C)		Weather
	Min	Max	
04/08/2011	24	31	Isolated showers
05/08/2011	24	32	Isolated showers
06/08/2011	24	32	Thunder showers
Vientiane			
Date	Temperature (C)		Weather
	Min	Max	
04/08/2011	24	28	Isolated showers
05/08/2011	24	29	Isolated showers
06/08/2011	24	30	Thunder showers
Savannakhet			
Date	Temperature (C)		Weather
	Min	Max	
04/08/2011	25	28	Scattered showers
05/08/2011	25	28	Scattered showers
06/08/2011	24	28	Thunder showers
Champassak			
Date	Temperature (C)		Weather
	Min	Max	
04/08/2011	25	28	Scattered showers
05/08/2011	25	28	Scattered showers
06/08/2011	24	28	Scattered showers

## Central province... FROM PAGE 1

report has been issued by local authorities, said provincial disaster management office staff member Mr Touy Vongkeo.

Thousands of households in the province are facing the risk of flooding as the levels of several different rivers continue to rise, he said.

The provincial governor yesterday joined representatives of various sectors to visit flood-affected

areas to seek assistance and ascertain the extent of damage for reporting to the government.

Rice fields and other crops in Vientiane have also been flooded but agricultural officials are yet to provide an estimate of the damage.

Farmers in almost every district of the city have been affected, with Xaythany and Xaysetha districts the hardest hit, according to a report from

the Vientiane agriculture section.

The flooding is the worst in more than 30 years, a farmer in Donghamuang village, Xaysetha district, Mrs Bouahong Sengriset, told *Vientiane Times* reporters during a visit to the area yesterday.

The floodwaters continue to rise as rain has continued to fall after tropical storm Nock-Ten passed through last weekend, she said.

Mrs Bouahong has had about one hectare of rice damaged by the flooding and

several of her poultry birds died, she explained.

Her foremost concern is being able to produce enough rice to feed her family in the next few months, while she also fears the price of vegetables will increase following the floods.

Many hectares of other crops, especially melons and beans, were also damaged by the flooding.

Mrs Keo, a farmer in the same village, said that she lost more than 5 million kip due to floodwaters destroying her melon, bean and rice crops.

# Bangkok Post

The world's window to Thailand

STORMAFTERMATH

## Phangnga struggles with flood disaster

0

Published: 27/09/2011 at 12:00 AM

Newspaper section: News

Share

Five districts in Phangnga have been declared disaster zones after flash floods and forest runoff, triggered by heavy downpours, ravaged the province.

The flooding has inundated houses and farmland in Thai Muang, Takua Pa, Kapong, Khura Buri and Takua Thung districts affecting more than 24,000 people, said disaster and prevention chief Somkiart Inthachan.

The districts were declared disaster areas and a clean-up is underway.

The rain, which started on Thursday night, continues to batter most parts of the province, but the situation is improving and some residents are now moving back to their homes.

Some residents began cleaning mud out of their homes and moved back their belongings as flood water receded. However, riverside residents remained on higher ground wary of floods rising again.

Many sections of key roads such as Phetkasem Road which were closed due to floods have now reopened.

In Phuket, the floods receded in several areas including Patong in Kathu district.

However, parts of Patong Hospital were still under water. Workers began pumping out the water.

The hospital yesterday resumed medical services to outpatients and emergency cases. A total of 38 inpatients were earlier transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Mueang district.

Meanwhile, the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department yesterday reported that the death toll from the Nock Ten storm-triggered floods had risen to 48 with 10 missing.

Fourteen provinces remain flooded. Of these, eight provinces - Sa Kaeo, Chanthaburi, Trat, Ubon Ratchathani, Surin, Si Sa Ket, Nakhon Ratchasima and Surin - have been warned about the risk of water run-off and river overflows.

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Date of FFG products 26/08/2011 00:00 UTC time

1hour Flash Flood Guidance in Thailand			3hour Flash Flood Guidance in Thailand		
Provinces	Districts	FFG Value	Provinces	Districts	FFG Value
No Risk Areas	to Flash Flood	Occurence	Chumphon	Phato	47.47
			Phangnga	Khura Buri	49.07
			Ranong	Muang Ranong	47.47
			Ranong	La-un	47.47
			Ranong	Kapoe	49.07
			Ranong	Suk Samran	49.07
			Surat Thani	Ban Takhun	49.07





# Vientiane Times

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**Pakistanis will submit UN membership letter**  
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**Bokeo students drawn to school by better conditions**  
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## Laos, China ink cooperation agreements

Times Reporters

China and Laos have signed nine cooperation agreements during an official goodwill visit to China by the President of Laos.

The agreements were signed in Beijing yesterday and witnessed by Lao President Choummaly Saisone and Chinese President Hu Jintao.

The agreements comprise a cooperation agreement plan between the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the Communist Party of China for 2011-15; a master economic-technical cooperation plan for the Mekong irrigation project in Thupanghong district, Savannakhet province; a special loan agreement for improving Wattay International Airport in Vientiane; a memorandum of understanding on financial cooperation for a satellite project; a commercial agreement for the construction of a new international airport in Xeno, Savannakhet province; a commercial agreement on the construction of Road No. 13 South from Thupanghong district in Savannakhet province to Tomlane district in Saravan province; and a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in stock market and forward



Lao President Choummaly Saisone (standing, second left) and Chinese President Hu Jintao (third left) witness the signing of cooperation agreements at a ceremony in Beijing, China.

trading management.

Mr Choummaly, who is also Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, is on an official goodwill visit to China from September 18-21 in response to an invitation from Mr Hu, who is also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China.

According to the Xinhua news agency website, President Hu said at an official meeting on Monday that China will enhance strategic communication, substantial

cooperation, Party-to-Party exchanges and coordination on international and regional issues with Laos.

China appreciates the Lao government's adherence to the one-China policy and will firmly support Laos as it advances on a road that fits its domestic situation.

Mr Hu also pledged to strengthen cooperation with Laos in the areas of economics, trade, mining, agriculture, infrastructure, tourism and education and promote exchanges between

the legislative bodies, political organisations and social management networks of both nations. Mr Hu said China supports Laos in hosting the ninth Asia-Europe Meeting next year and expressed confidence in the country's national development.

President Choummaly visited China in 2009, when the two countries decided to lift their bilateral relations to a cooperative partnership.

Mr Choummaly, his wife and delegation are scheduled to return to Vientiane today.

## Govt seeks changes in workforce distribution

Ekaphone Phouthonesy

Agriculture must be modernised if the government is to achieve its goal to move the majority of the workforce from farming and into the industrial and services sectors, a government leader has said.

Deputy Prime Minister Somsavat Lengsavad made the comment at a joint meeting of planning and finance officials held at the Lao-ITECC in Vientiane on Saturday.

"I want you to include measures to modernise agricultural machinery in the 2012-13 National Socio-economic Development Plan," he told officials.

The 2011-12 plan calls for a reduction in the ratio of the nation's workforce employed in agriculture from 74.1 percent to 73.1 percent, an increase in the number of workers in the industry and construction sectors from 5.8 to 6.1 percent, and in the services sector from 20 to 20.6 percent.

Although the government has announced plans to make changes to the composition of the nation's workforce, it has yet to come up with concrete measures on how to put the policy into practice.

Mr Somsavat said the government's policy to modernise and industrialise the nation calls for a shift of manpower from agriculture into industry and services.

He said the use of modern technology and equipment in agriculture would enable agribusinesses to employ fewer workers and free up people to work in the industry and services sectors, which have been growing rapidly in recent years.

He also said the use of more modern technology will help to boost output in the agriculture sector, which economists say will secure the supply of food and of raw materials for the agricultural processing industry.

According to the UN-funded National Human Development Report 2009, about 75 percent

CONTINUED PAGE 3

## Floods force closure of 18 schools in Vientiane province



Tanpiew residents hitch a ride home through their flooded village. —Photo Souvanna

Khamphone Syvongkay

Almost 3,000 students in Thoulakhom district, Vientiane province, are unable to go to school after floods swept through the district over the weekend.

The inundation resulted from the release of water from the Nam Ngum Dam following

torrential rain which filled the reservoir to danger levels.

A total of 18 primary and secondary schools in 12 villages of the district, including Choum, Boumphao, Hadsuan, Tanpiew, Souksara, Hadsuan, Rongpheng and Lingnan, have closed due to the flooding, according to a report from the district

education office.

education office.

Meanwhile, some children cannot get to school because of flooded roads, office Head Mr Somwang Sibounheuang told *Vientiane Times* yesterday.

Lessons cannot resume until the floodwaters have receded as there are no other suitable facilities, he said.

This is the fourth round of flooding since tropical storm Haima hit Laos in late June triggering heavy rains, Mr Somwang said.

If there is no further rainfall over the next few days, some schools in the main town will be able to open next week, he said, such as the primary and secondary schools in Keun Neua and Ky villages.

However, schools in Hadsuan, Hadsiew, Tanpiew and Lingnan villages may have to wait until next month before the floodwaters recede.

Schools in Thoulakhom district, just like others nationwide, opened for the new

academic year on September 1, only to be disrupted by more flooding.

According to Mr Somwang, about 30 percent of school-age children in the district are not in school, while more will be put off by the flooding, which has affected more than 1,000 households.

Provincial authorities joined with district officials yesterday to present 5 tonnes of rice, 20,000 bottles of clean water, 10,000 bags of dried noodles and 5,000 cans of fish to families in need.

The public health sector had been directed to provide appropriate healthcare, said district Governor Mr Kongsy Oudom.

Thousands of hectares of rice and other crops along the Nam Ngum River downstream from the plant were ruined, racking up a damage bill of about 10 billion kip.

Families living along the river in Xaythany and Pakigum

districts have also been affected, according to a report from district authorities.

Many rice crops in low-lying areas were flooded in central areas of the province following torrential rain last week, mainly in Naxaithong district.

Heavy rain will continue this week in Xaythany, Luang Prabang and Borikhamxay provinces and in the capital because of a low pressure system dominating the region, according to the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

Laos has endured its heaviest rains for 10 years this rainy season, with thousands of hectares of rice and other crops destroyed throughout the country.

Tropical storm Haima killed 17 people in the country's northern provinces, while six people were killed by tropical storm Nock-Ten, which hit the central and southern provinces in late July.

**Announcement**

Good news, ETL mobile phone subscribers. Vientiane Times and Enterprises & Communications Lao (ETL) is now providing the new English phone mobile phone through the ETL as two in one. A phone number will be given to you 1 and operate through the end of the month. During this period, ETL customers will have free short text message services from Vientiane Times.

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## US agency provides assistance to Khammuan flood victims

Times Reporters

US Ambassador to Laos Ms Karen Stewart and Representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Laos Ms Eri Kudo visited flood-stricken Khammuan province on Tuesday.

They met with provincial officials and observed the distribution of US-funded food assistance to families affected by recent severe flooding.

According to a statement from the WFP, the visit was joined by the Head of the National Disaster Management Office and Director General of the Social Welfare Department at the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, and the Chairman of the provincial Assembly in Khammuan province Mr Sengthong Phakhouthong.

The mission travelled by boat to Phanang village as roads to the community remain cut off by recent floods. In the community they observed the distribution of three month rations of rice and vegetable oil to villagers who lost their harvest to recent floods.

"The people of the United States are together with you in this difficult time and we are honoured to offer this assistance so that people in Khammuan can continue to provide food for their families every day," Ms Stewart said in

her remarks to the villagers.

Ms Kudo said the people in Phanang village, like in many communities across the province, were struck by disaster not once but twice. Many lost their 2010 harvest in flash floods and are now facing the same loss this year.

"The food rations we give today will ensure they can take care of the immediate food and nutrition needs of their families while they rebuild their lives," Ms Kudo said.

Through the US Embassy, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided 1,460 metric tonnes of rice and 100 metric tonnes of vegetable oil – a contribution with a total value of US\$1.5 million – to the WFP to assist families affected by adverse weather conditions in 2010 and 2011.

This contribution enables the WFP to assist close to 60,000 people in provinces affected by adverse weather conditions in 2010 and in some areas also affected by floods in 2011.

In total, the WFP is assisting over 200,000 people in five provinces to ensure their food and nutrition security until the next harvest in November this year.

In late July, wide areas in central and southern Laos were hit by extensive rainfall caused by tropical storm Nock-Ten. In Khammuan

province, 409 out of a total of 588 villages were affected by flooding. Throughout the province, 37,000 hectares of paddy fields – equivalent to 63 percent of the overall paddy area – were damaged or completely destroyed.

This loss in crops was accompanied by a widespread loss of productive assets including farm implements, livestock and seeds. Many communities were already facing food shortages as they had also been affected by flash floods in 2010, the WFP reported.

The WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Each year, on average, the WFP feeds more than 90 million people in more than 70 countries. In 2010, the WFP to Laos provided close to 17,500 metric tonnes of food to 665,900 people throughout the country.

USAID has been the principal US agency providing assistance to promote peace and prosperity worldwide since 1961. In Asia, USAID supports programmes addressing problems that cross national boundaries, such as human and wildlife trafficking, infectious diseases, disaster management, natural resources conservation, trade, and political and economic conflict.



Ms Kongkeo Toumalom (second right) and invited guests co-chair the General Assembly.

## Blind people voice hopes for better education

Somxay Sengdara

The Lao Association of the Blind (LAB) wants to have at least five blind students enrolled in university in the next five years.

The LAB plans to work with the government to carry out this plan.

"We expect that by 2016 about 100 blind students and 10 specialist teachers will receive all the necessary teaching and learning equipment, Braille textbooks, and teacher manuals from the Ministry of Education and Sport," said the leader of LAB's Development Group of Blind Women, Ms Heng Vilaythong.

Ms Heng was speaking yesterday at the association's first General Assembly in Vientiane.

The meeting reviewed the association's work over the last four years and drew up plans for the period through 2016. The organisation wants to create enrollment opportunities for blind

children in primary, lower and upper secondary school through collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sport and set up a committee for the inclusive education of blind children.

LAB was established in September 2007 and currently has around 440 members who are mainly employed as traditional masseurs.

The association runs 30 massage clinics in Vientiane, one each in Luang Prabang, Savannakhet and Xiang Khuang provinces, and two clinics in Xayaboury province.

According to a report from the LAB, traditional professions have created employment for the blind, which has allowed some to earn enough money to buy land, build their own houses, pay for their family's education, and help build houses for their parents.

LAB President Ms Kongkeo Toumalom said that through the support of the

Danish Association of the Blind and the Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted in capacity building and professional training, LAB has made significant achievements, especially in professional skills training for its members.

The number of blind and partially sighted people across the country has been assessed at 15,000. However, that number is out of date and LAB plans to conduct a new survey and locate blind people, especially in remote areas, who need their assistance.

To achieve this, the association plans to open branches in Xiang Khuang and Champassak provinces.

However, LAB still lacks good locations and training areas to carry out its work.

To help with the expansion, LAB has called on the government to help by building an office that includes professional training rooms and to allocate a budget to support their work.



US Ambassador to Laos Ms Karen Stewart (left) shares hands with Mr Sengthong Phakhouthong at a ceremony to hand over food in Khammuan province. —Photo Credit: WFP-Mik A Pryor

## Champassak hit by third floods of the season

Khamphone Syvongxay

Champassak residents are facing up to a third bout of flooding this rainy season after the Mekong and Xedon rivers rose to dangerous levels following last weekend's torrential rain.

In Pakse district the Mekong rose to 12.68 metres yesterday, well above the 12m danger level, and is expected to continue rising over the next few days, according to a report from the provincial meteorology and hydro-power section.

More than 77,000 people in nine districts have been affected by damaged infrastructure and lost livelihoods, the provincial Vice President of the Disaster Management Committee, Mr Khamheng Bangvoravong, told *Vientiane Times* yesterday.

Many of the farmers who lost crops during the first floods of the season were affected again, losing rice and vegetables they had only just finished replanting.

"As a result, many farmers have lost the will and energy to plant more crops until the

rainy season is over," Mr Khamtaeng said.

Meanwhile, thousands of people are in urgent need of emergency supplies including medicines, drinking water and

Mr Khamtaeng estimates that around 42,000 people in the province will be without sufficient rice supplies for the next seven months and the damage caused to infrastructure and crops will cost over 200 billion kip to repair and replace.

The flooding has destroyed more than 13,200 hectares of rice and other crops in low-lying areas worth over 54 billion kip.

The provincial authority has already bought 50 tonnes of rice seeds and 50 tonnes of rice to distribute to the worst affected households in Khong, Champassak, Phonthong, Sanasomboun and Pakse districts.

Meanwhile, World Vision has also donated over 70 tonnes of rice for flood-affected families in Moumpannok, Soukhouma and Pathoumphon districts.

"It wasn't just the weekend's rainfall we had here that caused the Mekong to rise so high," said provincial meteorology and hydro-power section Head Mr Sengthanh Sondara.

"Much of the rain fell further north, so the river was swollen by the time it reached Champassak."

The level of the Mekong in Savannakhet province reached 10.98m yesterday and is expected to hit 11.02m today.

In Thakhek district, Khammuan province, the river rose to the 13.00m warning level yesterday and is expected to touch 13.04m today.

In Pakxan district, Borikhamxay province, the Mekong rose to 13.30m and is expected to top 13.55m today, while in Vientiane it's expected to rise from 9.89m to 10.14m later today.

The low pressure system responsible for the heavy rainfall continues to cover most of the country, bringing isolated showers and heavy rain to north western and southern provinces.

## New measure...

FROM PAGE 1

For hydro-electric projects, prospective investors will have to deposit a minimum guarantee of US\$10,000 to get permission from the government to develop a project with an installed capacity of less than 5MW. Projects with an installed capacity of 5MW to 100MW will require a deposit of US\$30,000, while US\$50,000 will be required for projects with an installed capacity in excess of 100MW.

Investors proposing mining projects will be required to deposit US\$50,000 to develop an area of between 1 and 300 square metres, while larger projects will require a deposit of US\$100,000 to develop an area of between 301 and 500 square metres.

As far as land concessions are concerned, proposed projects covering an area of 2 to 150 hectares will require investors to deposit a guarantee of US\$30,000, while projects with a land concession area of 151 to 1,000 hectares will require a guarantee of US\$50,000. A deposit of US\$70,000 will be required to develop any land concession project in excess of 1,000 hectares.

Any other type of investment or infrastructure project involving government concession will also be subject to a deposit guarantee, the amount of which will be the subject of negotiations between the government and prospective investors, in accordance with the decree.

Investment policy makers said they expect to see sincerity on the part of investors when they commit to a project in Laos. Project delays are expected to cease after the new measure comes into force. In the past,

some investors never had any intention of proceeding with a project but wanted to use their memorandum of understanding with the government to seek investment partners or on-sell the concession to other investors.

Policy makers said government leaders have recognised that there have been issues with some of the

investment concessions granted, and have a strong commitment to address the problems and ensure development projects begin and end in a timely fashion as is normal business practice.

The government approved more than US\$1 billion in investment projects in 2009 but the actual inflow of investment was calculated at around US\$400 million that year.

### 3 day weather forecast

Kiang Khuang				Temperature (C)		Weather	
Date	Min	Max					
18/09/2011	19	28					Isolated showers
19/09/2011	20	25					Rain showers
20/09/2011	20	26					Light rain
Luang Namtha				Temperature (C)		Weather	
18/09/2011	20	27					Rain showers
19/09/2011	20	28					Rain showers
20/09/2011	20	27					Rain showers
Luang Prabang				Temperature (C)		Weather	
18/09/2011	23	26					Rain showers
19/09/2011	22	27					Light rain
20/09/2011	23	29					Light rain
Vientiane				Temperature (C)		Weather	
18/09/2011	25	28					Rain showers
19/09/2011	24	29					Light rain
20/09/2011	24	30					Light rain
Savannakhet				Temperature (C)		Weather	
18/09/2011	25	31					Light rain
19/09/2011	25	31					Light rain
20/09/2011	25	31					Light rain
Champassak				Temperature (C)		Weather	
18/09/2011	24	31					Rain showers
19/09/2011	24	31					Light rain
20/09/2011	24	30					Light rain





# Vientiane Times

The First National English Language Newspaper

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2011 ISSUE 226

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vow to expand  
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Japan, nuclear plant  
intact**  
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**Lao engineer receives  
international acclaim**  
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## Japan paves way for Road No. 9 upgrade

Times Reporters

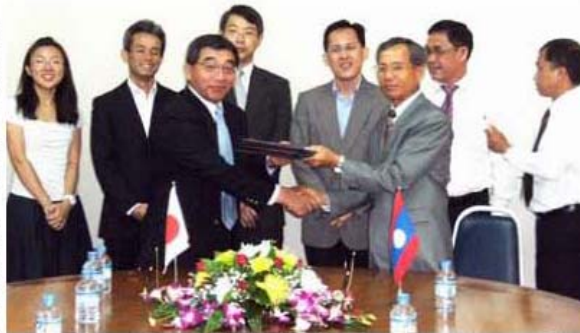
The government of Japan has granted more than 340 billion kip through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to improve a 38km stretch of National Road No. 9.

The section to be repaired runs from the Xeno area in Outhoumphone district to Xepon district in Savannakhet province.

An agreement for the project was signed at a ceremony in Vientiane yesterday between Director General of the Road and Bridge Department Mr Laokham Sompheth and a representative from Oriental Consultants Company Mr Keigo Konno.

Head of the Savannakhet provincial Public Works and Transport Department Dr Sengthong Vangkeonary said National Road No. 9 has suffered serious damage from heavy vehicles and overuse.

"We have tried repairing this road but could not stop the damage recurring so it needs an extensive renovation,"



Mr Laokham Sompheth (right) shakes hands with Mr Keigo Konno after signing the agreement.

he explained. The road runs for 242km from Kayson Phomvihane district to Xepon district in Savannakhet province, and provides an important economic link between Laos, Vietnam and Thailand, Dr Sengthong said.

From October 2010 to February 2011, JICA sent

a team of experts from the Oriental Consultants Company and International Development Centre of Japan to survey and collect information for the road upgrade.

After the study was completed, plans were submitted to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport

for approval in June this year.

Work will begin in April 2012 and be completed in June 2015.

Road improvements are part of the government's plan to develop basic infrastructure nationwide and remove Laos from the UN's list of least developed countries by 2020.

## Fixed import tariffs to continue until 2013

Times Reporters

The government will continue to set a fixed price as a reference for import tariffs on some commodities until 2013, despite calls from international companies to abolish the trade barriers, the Ministry of Finance announced.

The Customs Department made the announcement at a finance sector meeting held in Vientiane last week. The government will continue to use the fixed price system to levy duties on some imported goods for the remainder of this year and the next.

Customs officials will begin to apply levies based on the actual price of most imported goods leading up to 2013, as this is one of the main requirements for Laos to become a member of World Trade Organisation, the department said in its announcement.

However, the government will maintain the fixed price system on some commodities, in particular on imported fuel.

The decision to keep the fixed price duty on imported fuel until 2013 was made after careful study by financial policymakers. They concluded that the abolishment of a fixed levy on strategic commodities such as fuel would not only lead to fluctuating fuel prices but also unpredictable revenue from fuel imports.

Fuel import tariffs account for more than 30 percent of the total revenue, the government collects from imported commodities, according to finance officials.

In 2009 the government maintained the price setting for duties levied despite a drop in oil prices on the world market due to the global financial crisis.

The move was aimed to ensure the government could achieve its revenue collection targets for that year. However, when the price of fuel rose after the world economy recovered, the government kept the fixed price low to minimise the impact that higher oil prices would have.

COM/TIM/LED PAGE 3

## Further flood risk in Borikhamxay

Khonesavanh Latsaphao

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday warned that the level of the Mekong River in Borikhamxay province is expected to rise over the weekend, with the river already close to overflowing.

Head of the department's hydrology sector in Vientiane Mr Bounseuk Intapha told *Vientiane Times* the Mekong had risen to 13.42 metres at the provincial flood gauge.

"The level of the water is already approaching the top of the bank in many places, especially in low lying areas," he said.

At current levels people's houses and livestock are not threatened and roads, schools and health clinics remain open. However, the river is not far off the warning level of 13.50 metres, while the danger level is a little over a metre away at 14.50 metres, hydrology officials reported.

If the river approaches the danger level over the weekend, there will be major flooding in the province, which is still recovering from previous flooding after the Haina and Nock-ten storms.

According to the Borikhamxay Administration Office, 46 villages in seven districts suffered extensive damage during tropical storm Haina. Fortunately, losses sustained from Nock-ten were much less severe. The latest reports indicate that the cost of rebuilding and repair will be almost 100 billion kip, after extensive damage to infrastructure, housing, irrigation schemes and cropland.

The Mekong was only just beginning to subside in Borikhamxay after waters from the recent heavy rains made their way down stream. Exactly how much the river will rise remains uncertain, and will depend on how much

rain falls over the weekend.

After heavy rain further north, the Nam Ngum 1 dam is now releasing more water from the reservoir. Many low lying areas in Palangum district of Vientiane are already underwater due to heavy rain, and the water releases are expected to compound the flooding.

The water from the Nam Ngum catchment will make its way into the Mekong as well, increasing water volumes upstream from Borikhamxay.

Mr Bounseuk said that even if Borikhamxay escapes major inundation, the flood risk will not have passed because the same water will make its way down to Champasak province and more heavy rain is expected there over the weekend.

Road No. 13 South, the main transport artery from Vientiane to Pakse and the southern provinces, runs parallel to the Mekong in many stretches and will be

inundated in places if the Mekong breaches its banks, which will complicate any relief effort.

Parts of Road No. 135 south in Borikhamxay province were also inundated, and while vehicles could travel on the road, transportation was difficult due to traffic congestion.

According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, funding is available to assist victims of natural disasters and will be issued immediately upon submission of a damage assessment by the province concerned.

In the wake of tropical storm Haina, the government provided more than 1.7 billion kip in assistance to Xiang Khuang, Xaysaboury, Borikhamxay and Vientiane provinces.

Thousands of people suffer food shortages due to flooding or inclement weather in Borikhamxay and other provinces every year.

**Announcement**

Good news for ETL mobile phone subscribers. Vientiane Times and *Vientiane Times* in Lao (ETL) is now available for use in English on mobile phones through the ETL network. A pilot service will go on June 1 and 2 next through the end of the month. During this period, ETL customers will have free short message service (SMS) from Vientiane Times.

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## Death toll reaches 13 in floods

05/10/2011 | 15:39:41

Two more people were killed on Oct. 4 in the wake of ongoing storms and flooding, raising the recent death toll due to weather to 13, the National Steering Committee for Flood and Storm Prevention and Control announced.

The victims were swept away in flood waters caused by Typhoon Nesat in central Quang Binh province. Five others were injured, while 14 schools and 2,830 houses were submerged in the province.

Storm Nalgae, the sixth storm of the year and the second in a week, is forecast to weaken into a low pressure system before making landfall in the central region on Oct. 5. Winds are expected to reach 74kph from Nghe An to Quang Tri provinces while central provinces from Thanh Hoa to Quang Nam will experience heavy rainfalls, according to the Central Centre for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting.

About 36,000 vessels have been informed of the storm's progress. None have been reported to be operating in the storm-hit areas around Hoang Sa Islands and the northern East Sea.

Deputy Prime Minister Hoang Trung Hai on Oct. 4 visited Dong Thap province in the Cuu Long ( Mekong ) Delta, where five deaths and six injuries were recorded during the ongoing floods.

An initial report from local authorities showed that the total losses have reached more than 496 billion VND. Damage to traffic infrastructure made up 178 billion VND (8.5 million USD) of that figure while the loss of rice crops accounted for 57.5 billion VND (2.7 million USD).

The Deputy PM said that local authorities and residents should continue to strengthen the dyke systems to protect the province's remaining 5,000ha of rice and to quickly harvest as much of the crop as possible to minimise losses. About 2,000ha of rice were destroyed by previous flooding.

Hai said the Mekong Delta localities need to redesign their infrastructure to protect lives and production in the coming years, especially rice production.

Floodwaters in the Mekong Delta region are expected to continue to rise to alarming levels, said experts.

**Other websites:** [Vietnam News](#)[Vietnam Law & Legal Forum](#);[Le Courier du Vietnam](#);[Vietnam Pictorial](#); [VNA](#)[Audio-Video Center](#);

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## PEOPLE'S ARMY NEWSPAPER ONLINE

ORGAN OF THE MILITARY CENTRAL COMMISSION AND VIETNAMESE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE  
THE VOICE OF THE ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE

### 10,000 flee floods in central province

QDND - Tuesday, November 08, 2011, 20:55 (GMT+7)

 Print



Photo: Tuoitre

More than 10,000 people in the central province of Quang Nam on Nov. 7 were evacuated from flood-stricken low-lying areas, and the number was predicted to rise.

They were resettled in safe places such as People's Committee offices and schools and were equipped with basic necessities such as food, drink and clothing.

Continual heavy rain over the last few days, brought about by the northeast monsoon coupled with the southern tropical circulation, had caused heavy flooding and landslides which had completely blocked several roads in some mountainous districts in the province, leaving many areas isolated.

Nguyen Minh Tuan, from Quang Nam Flood Prevention and Control Committee, said massive landslides, triggered by heavy downpours, had blocked all traffic routes in the southern part of the province.

A six-year-old boy drowned on Nov. 7, raising the total number of deaths due to flooding in the province to five.

Meanwhile, the level of the Hoai River in Hoi An, was reported to have risen significantly since yesterday afternoon. All the major roads in the Old Town were submerged in water.

If the water continued to rise, exceeding the third warning level, evacuation orders would be issued for all over the city, particularly in highly flood-prone areas.

Heavy rain and flooding were also reported in neighbouring Da Nang City and Thua Thien Hue Province.

**Source: VNA**

1442/GP - BT/TTT 15-10-2009

Editor-in-Chief: Major General LE PHUC NGUYEN

Deputies Editor-in-Chief: Colonel PHAM VAN HUAN, Colonel HA MANH TUONG

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Date of FFG products 01/10/2011 00:00 UTC time

1hour Flash Flood Guidance in Vietnam			3hours Flash Flood Guidance in Vietnam		
Provinces	Districts	FFG value	Provinces	Districts	FFG Value
Quang Binh	Minh Hoa	22.5	Quang Binh	Minh Hoa	30.96
Quang Nam	Dien Ban	17.62	Quang Binh	Le Thuy	40.66
Quang Nam	Duy Xuyen	17.62	Quang Tri	Huong Hoa	44.1
Quang Nam	Que Son	17.62	Quang Nam	Dien Ban	23.84
Kon Tum	Sa Thay	18.315	Quang Nam	Duy Xuyen	23.84
Gia Lai	Chu Pah	13.97	Quang Nam	Que Son	23.84
			Kon Tum	Sa Thay	30.0367
			Gia Lai	Chu Pah	27.53
			Gia Lai	Ia Grai	36.645
			Binh Thuan	Ham Thuan Nam	37.54
			Binh Thuan	Tanh Linh	37.54



Annex II

All the News Without Fear or Favor  
**The CAMBODIA DAILY**

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## Wrinkle Added To Palestinian Statehood Bid

*Ahmadinejad says Iran won't recognize Israel regardless of voting result*

By JAY SOLOMON  
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

UNITED NATIONS - Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Tehran will not recognize Israel's right to exist even if the UN were to accept a Palestinian state into its ranks.

The Iranian leader's comments Thursday underscored the difficulty the international community would face in establishing a two-state solution to end the Arab-Israeli conflict should Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas succeed in his campaign to win UN Security Council support for a sovereign state.

Tehran is the main arms supplier to the militant groups Hamas in the Palestinian territories and Hezbollah in Lebanon, both of whom have joined Iran in opposing Abbas' initiative. Ahmadinejad in the past has called for Israel to be "wiped off the map."

"Recognizing the legitimacy of a Palestinian government has nothing to do with the Zionist regime," Ahmadinejad told a group of reporters gathered at a downtown New York hotel. "The regime is an excuse for the prevention of progress...in the region."

He said the Palestinians should be able to hold a referendum on whether they wanted a two-state solution. "You will see that most of the people will be against the Zionist regime."

Ahmadinejad's news briefing  
*Continued on page 4*



Two women waded through a flooded road in Kompong Thom province's Kompong Svay district on Friday. Kompong Thom is one of the worst-affected of the 13 provinces that have been hit by severe flooding. *Sok Kheng*

## Flooding Has Killed 62, Displaced Thousands

*One-third of flooding deaths so far have been children*

By CHHORN CHANSY AND PAUL VRIEZE  
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Continuing flooding along the Mekong River and around the Tonle Sap lake is taking a severe toll on local communities, government officials said Friday, as they released preliminary figures showing that 62 people had been killed in the floods, 5,000 families had been displaced, and 20,000 homes flooded.

With severe flooding expected to worsen along the Mekong

River in coming days, officials held an emergency meeting with aid organizations in Phnom Penh to plan for a large-scale relief effort to help the evacuated families, most of which are stranded on higher grounds with little or no shelter, food or water.

"We need the support and donation from all NGO partners because flooding this year is on a big scale," said Ly Thuch, second vice president of the National Committee for Disaster Management, adding that the Mekong River is

expected to rise further to levels not seen in a decade.

"This flooding will be serious, similar to the flooding to 2000 and 2001," he said, referring to the last major Mekong flooding that destroyed almost one-fifth of Cambodia's harvest.

Evacuated families, Mr Thuch said, "need rapid response of food supplies and shelter. After the water subsides, they also need support because their crops are damaged."

*Continued on page 2*

## Pakistan's ISI Accused of Aiding Kabul Strikes

By DAVID CLOUD AND KEN DILANIAN  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's powerful intelligence agency communicated with Afghan insurgents who attacked the US Embassy and NATO headquarters in central Kabul last week and appear to have provided them with equipment, according to US military officers and former officials.

Communications gear used by the insurgents "implicated" the

directorate for Inter-Services Intelligence, or ISI, Pakistan's spy service, a senior US military official said Thursday. The equipment was found in a 14-story building under construction that the attackers used to lay siege to the embassy compound for 19 hours on Sept 13, according to the official, who would not describe the equipment recovered.

Bruce Riedel, a former White House adviser on Pakistan and a retired senior official at the US Central Intelligence Agency, said

administration officials told him that "very firm intelligence" linked the Pakistani spy agency to the embassy attack, which killed at least nine Afghans.

"There are [communications] intercepts and the attackers were in cellphone contact back to Pakistan," he said.

In a dramatic appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Admiral Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, charged that the insurgents

*Continued on page 4*

### About Cambodia

- Thousands of 'Red-Shirt' Supporters Expected
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  - Relocation, Cash Offered to Make Way for Bridge
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## AND ALSO PETA Hopes XXX Hits the Spot

**REUTERS**  
NEW YORK - People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, no stranger to attention-grabbing campaigns featuring nude women, plans to launch a pornography website in the name of animal rights.

The nonprofit said it hopes to raise awareness of veganism via a mix of pornography and graphic footage of animal suffering.

"We're hoping to reach a whole

new audience of people, some of whom will be shocked by graphic images," said Lindsay Rajt, PETA's associate director of campaigns.

PETA has previously been accused of exploiting women. A Facebook group, Real Women Against PETA, was launched after the organization paid for a billboard showing an obese woman with the message: "Save the Whales. Lose the Blubber. Go Vegetarian."

## NEWSMAKERS

■ LOS ANGELES - Disgraced pastor TED HAGGARD and actor GARY BUSEY will trade partners in an upcoming episode of the ABC reality show "Celebrity Wife Swap," a spokeswoman for the show said Thursday. Haggard's participation in the episode comes five years after a stunning fall from grace for the former president of the National Association of Evangelicals. He was exiled from the Colorado-based New Life mega-church he founded after admitting "sexual immorality" and buying methamphetamines from a male masseuse. The air date for the episode on ABC starring Haggard and Busey has not been determined, but the two men will swap partners, said the spokeswoman. Haggard's wife, Gayle, has written a book about her husband's gay sex scandal titled "Why I Stayed." Busey's longtime girlfriend is actress Stefanie Sampson, and while the two are not married they have a son together who was born last year. (Reuters)

## Flooding...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At the meeting, aid groups urged the disaster management committee to coordinate relief operations, share information on affected communities and help address the needs of evacuated families.

"My request is to work on health and sanitation because the health situation is at risk recently," said Manish Mehta, humanitarian program manager at Oxfam Great Britain.

"There is a big gap in water, sanitation and health. No NGOs are working on this," he said, adding that recent reports were showing an increase in the number of evacuated people who are suffering from diseases such as diarrhea.

Flooding in provinces around the Tonle Sap lake and in Preah Vihear province began earlier this month but have worsened with continuing rains, while a rapidly rising Mekong has flooded dis-

tricts in provinces along the river.

According to disaster committee information released late Friday, 62 people had died in 10 provinces due to flooding, 4,974 families—or about 20,000 people—were evacuated from their homes, while 21,425 families had their homes flooded.

The committee also said that 83 homes had been destroyed, 78,206 hectares of crops were inundated, along with 216 km of roads under water, while hundreds of schools and pagodas were submerged.

Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Kratie and Kompong Thom provinces are among the worst hit, according to officials, who said the overall number of affected and displaced people would rise, as they were still waiting on reports from Kandal, Kompong Chhnang and Pursat provinces.

Pon Narith, the committee's secretary-general, said officials were concerned over Mekong River water levels, which are forecast to rise further during the next few days.

"We worry about more flooding along the Mekong River in provinces like Stung Treng, Kratie, Kompong Cham, Kandal and Prey Veng," Mr Narith said. He added, however, that the impact from the flooding would probably be less severe than in 2001 due to

improved water management infrastructure.

Mr Mehta, from Oxfam, said the longer the floods continued, the more crops and evacuees would suffer.

"When people are gathered in one place, the public health is at threat. Food is always a problem, because this hunger season... they don't have enough food," Mr Metha said, adding that if paddy fields stay inundated with water longer than 10 days, the crops will be damaged.

Oxfam had so far provided 3,000 families in Kompong Thom province with emergency supplies, such as shelter, blankets and food, and the organization has supplies for 4,000 more families, he said.

Mr Metha added that the floods' impact might be slightly less severe than during Typhoon Ketsana in 2009, as flooding had been less sudden and people had managed to salvage their remaining food supplies and belongings. During Typhoon Ketsana, 40,000 families were forced to evacuate almost immediately leading them to lose their food supplies.

Uy Sam Ath, director of disaster management at the Cambodian Red Cross, said the organization had been handing out emergency aid to 1,818 families in Kompong Thom province and to

700 families in Kompong Chhnang province.

Mr Sam Ath said he had received reports that a 47-year-old man and 27-year-old man had drowned in Kompong Thom's Prasat Sambo and Sandan districts on Thursday, while he also had been informed of two separate cases of snakebite in the same districts.


The venomous snakes had sought refuge from flooding in boats and had bitten fishermen who had boarded their vessels, according to Mr Sam Ath. "When the water rises like this, all the snakes get up in the trees, roofs and boats," he said, adding that the two men were recovering in the hospital.

Mr Sam Ath said he expected the number of displaced people to increase, as flooding along both the Mekong River and Tonle Sap lake would worsen.

On Thursday, flash floods in areas around Siem Reap City forced the evacuation of more than 200 tourists and 100 families by helicopters and boats from the locations surrounding the Angkor Archaeological Park's Banteay Srei temple.

Siem Reap governor Sou Phirin said Friday that water levels had subsided, adding that visitors to the temples at Angkor Wat were no longer affected.


**CORRECTION:** Friday's story "ADB Can't Confirm Authenticity of Letter" (page 27) should have stated that thousands of people, not thousands of families, face relocation to make way for a railway renovation project.



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Central region braces for widespread flooding - People's Army Newspap...

<http://www.qdnd.vn/qdndsite/en-US/75/168031/print/Default.aspx>

## PEOPLE'S ARMY NEWSPAPER ONLINE

ORGAN OF THE MILITARY CENTRAL COMMISSION AND VIETNAMESE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE  
THE VOICE OF THE ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE

### Central region braces for widespread flooding

QDND - Saturday, November 26, 2011, 20:19 (GMT+7)

 Print

Over the past two days, heavy rains have caused water levels in major regional rivers to rise quickly, flooding many parts of provinces from Thua Thien-Hue to Quang Ngai.

Water levels of the Ve River in Quang Ngai province surpassed the third alert level on November 26, leaving thousands of households in Mo Duc and Tu Nghia district deep under water.

Rainfall of up to 300mm was recorded in Son Tay and Ba To districts, disrupting traffic on district and provincial roads. Mountainous communes were completely isolated.

Quang Ngai province mobilised forces to stand by in flooded areas to help local people with evacuation and travel.

Floods caused by torrential rains also completely cut off highland communes in Nam Tra My, Bac Tra My and Tay Giang districts of Quang Nam province. Que Ninh, Phuoc Ninh, Que Trung and Que Lam communes of Nong Son district were between 0.5-1m under water.

Widespread flooding is expected to threaten low-lying areas when Song Tranh II hydro-electric power plant is opening its floodgates to ensure safety of the reservoir.

Local residents were told to leave the low-lying and flash flood-prone areas, and areas along rivers and streams. Policemen, soldiers and volunteers were dispatched to flooded communes to maintain order and help local residents move to higher ground.

In Thua Thien-Hue province, heavy downpours caused water levels of the Huong River to climb to the third alert level on November 26, threatening households living along the two banks of the river.

Binh Dien reservoir discharged floodwater into the Huong River, submerging Phu Hau and Xuan Phu wards in Hue city. Floodwaters inundated many sections of provincial road 14b, preventing local people and vehicle from travelling.

Provincial authorities asked reservoir management boards to strictly observe dam regulations to reduce the volume of floodwaters discharged into the Huong and Bo rivers.

The provincial military command, border guard command and police force were asked to be on duty round the clock to provide assistance if required.

Source: VOV

1442/GP - BTTTT 15-10-2009

Editor-in-Chief: Major General LE PHUC NGUYEN

Deputies Editor-in-Chief: Colonel PHAM VAN HUAN, Colonel HA MANH TUONG

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### Floods ravage central region

QĐND - Monday, November 28, 2011, 21:5 (GMT+7)



Floods caused by torrential rain since November 24 have ravaged the central region, leaving three dead including 2 in Quang Ngai province and one in Binh Dinh province, according to the local Centre for Storm and Flood Control.

Flood waters have submerged more than 9,500 houses and damaged 574ha of rice and subsidiary crops as well as many irrigation works and road links.

Landslides have disrupted traffic in some part of Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh. The flood waters began receding on November 28, and the discharge of water from some reservoirs have been under control.

Source: VOV

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