

Weekly Flood Situation Report for the Mekong River Basin

Prepared on: 18/07/2011, covering the week from the 11th to the 17th July 2011

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

General weather patterns

During the week of the 11th to the 17th July 2011, three weather bulletins were issued by the Department of Meteorology (DOM) of Cambodia. The weather charts of the 12th July and the 17th July bulletins are presented in the figures below:

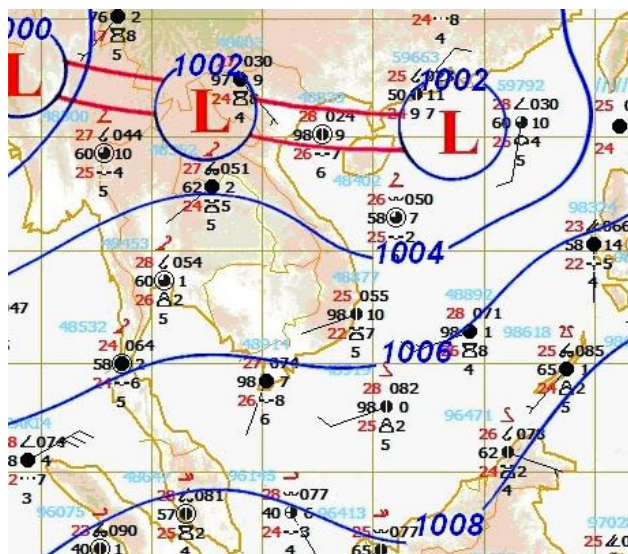


Figure 1: Weather map for 12th July 2011

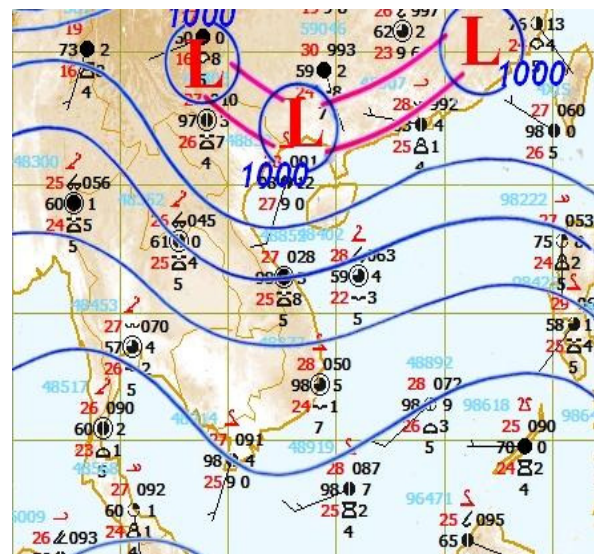


Figure 2: Weather map for 17th July 2011

Strong South-West (SW) Monsoon

Strong SW monsoon prevailed over Andaman Sea, Thailand, the Gulf of Thailand, Cambodia and was almost stationary during last week (Figure 1 and 2).

Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)

In the monitoring period, ITCZ laid across Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR and Viet Nam (Figure 1 and 2).

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

No TD, TS or TY have significant influenced to the LMB in this week.

Other weather phenomena that affect the discharge

No other weather phenomena affecting the discharge were observed.

Over weather situation

Strong SW and ITCZ were observed frequently in the reporting period. Therefore, thundershower and isolated heavy rain occurred in the North, the South and Central of Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Viet Nam and the South, Southeast and Central of Cambodia as the result of these phenomena especially the areas from Vientiane/Nong Khai to Thakhek/Nakon Phanom (Figure 3).

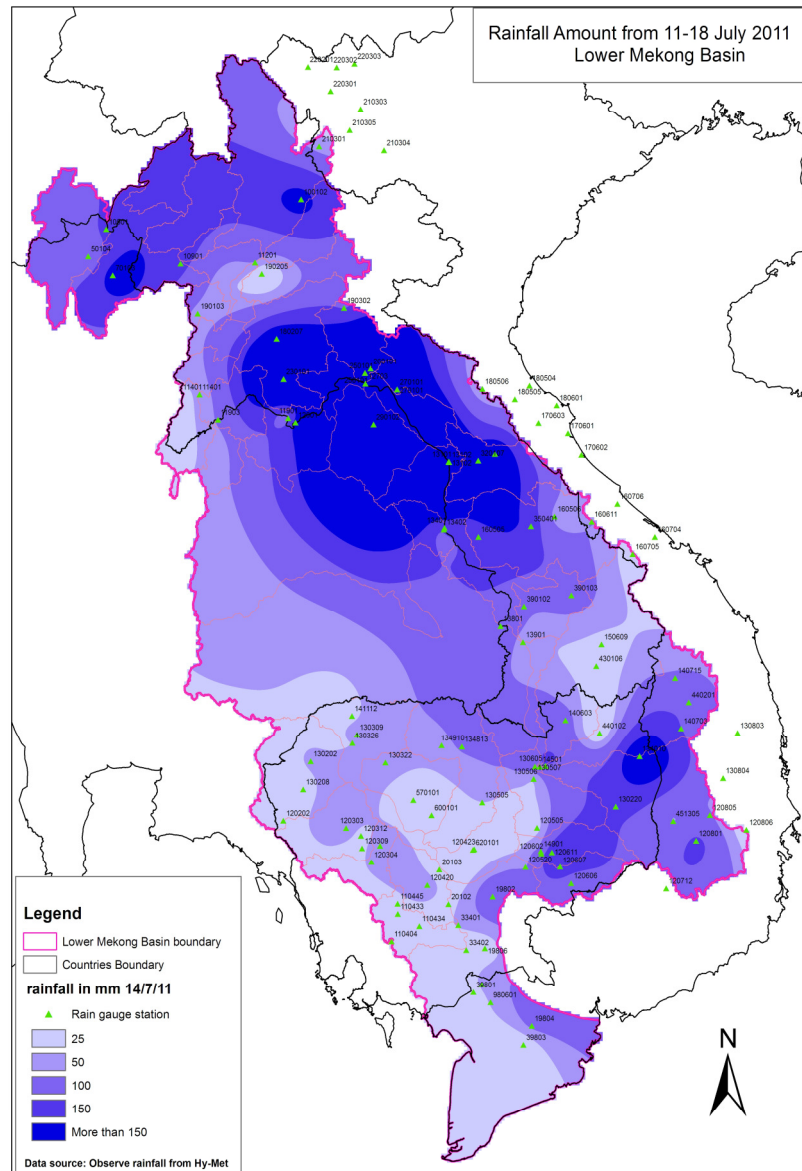


Figure 3: Rainfall distribution over the LMB, covering the week 11 – 18 July, 2011

General behaviour of the Mekong River

Water levels at stations in the upper part of Lower Mekong Basin were somewhat below the long-term average while most stations in the middle and lower parts were recording levels that are somewhat above the long-term average for this time of the year. Water levels at stations in the upper and middle reaches of LMB were more-or-less stable in the first half of the week and then rising rapidly at the end of the week. Water levels at stations in the lower reach from Strung Treng to Phnom Penh Port/ Phnom Penh Bassac showed a more-or-less stable trend during the monitoring period. Regarding to two stations in downstream at Tan Chau and Chau Doc, water levels at those two stations were slightly increasing in the beginning of the week and then falling toward the of the week. Water levels at both stations were significant influenced by tidal.

For stations from Chiang Saen to Paksane

Water levels were more-or-less stable in the first half of the week then increasing till the end of the week. Water levels of these stations were somewhat below the long-term average for this time of the year except Paksane where was recording level that is above the long-term average.

For stations Thakhek/Nakon Phanom to Pakse

Water levels at these stations were slightly falling in the beginning of the week and then rising rapidly toward the end of the week as the result of inter tropical convergence zone and strong Southwest monsoon influences. Most of these stations were recording levels that were above the long-term average for this time of the year.

Figure 4 shows rapidly rising of water levels at two mainstream stations: Thakhek and Nakon Phanom during last week.

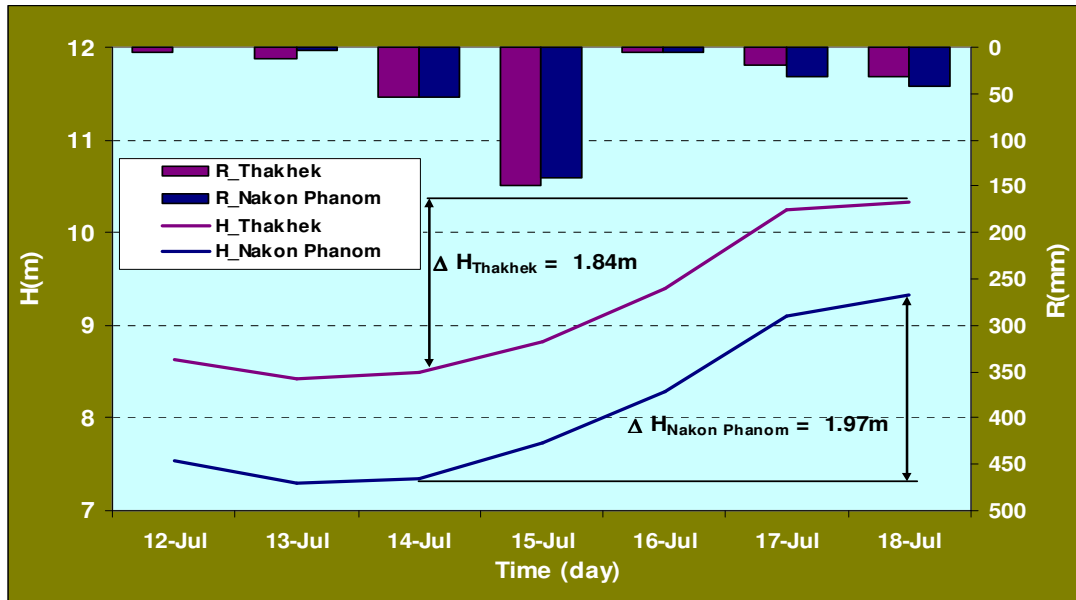


Figure 4: Rapidly rising of water levels at stations: Thakhek and Nakon Phanom

Water levels at stations on the tributaries such as Ban Tha Kok of Nam Song Khrum river and Ban Phone Si of Nam Ca Dinh river were increasing quickly with amplitudes of 2.9m and 3.08m, respectively from 14 to 18 July (Figure 5)

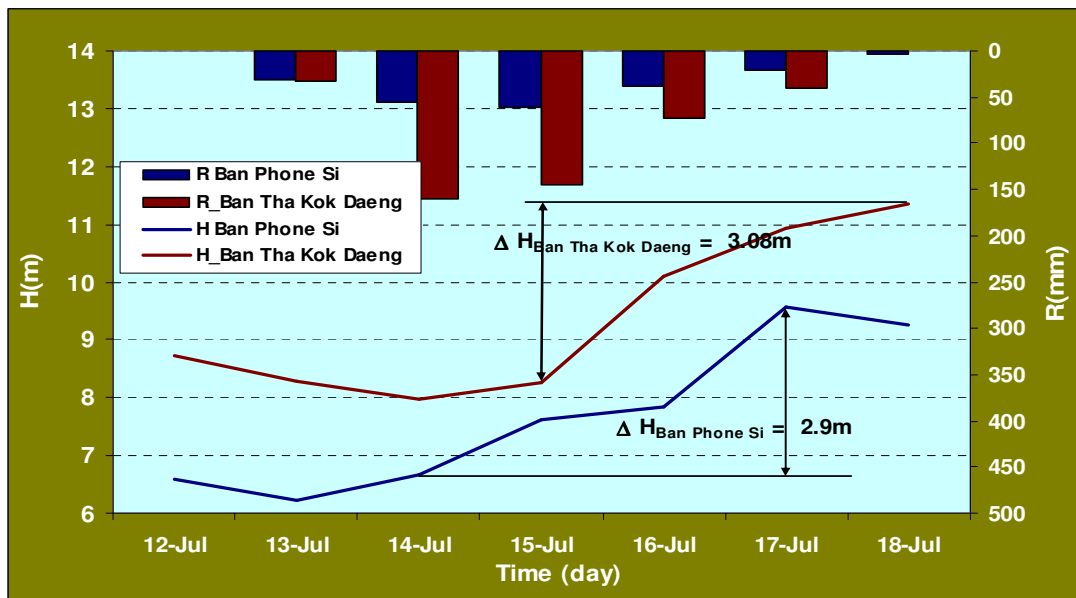


Figure 5: Quickly rising of water levels at stations on tributaries: Nam Song Khrum at Ban Tha Kok Daeng and Nam Ca Dinh at Ban Phone Si

Recorded rainfall amount in the monitoring period was 277mm at Thakhek; 274mm at Nakon Phanom; 237.4mm at Ban Phone Si; 300.5mm at Ban Pak Kanhong; 451.1mm at Ban Tha Kok Daeng.

Monday, 18th July 2011

For stations from Strung treng to Kompong Chiam

Water levels were falling in the first half of the week then slightly increasing till the end of the week. Water levels of these stations were somewhat above the long-term average for this time of the year.

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

Water levels were falling in the first half of the week then slightly rising toward the end of the week. These stations were recording levels that are somewhat above the long-term average for this time of the year.

Tan Chau and Chau Doc

Water levels were slightly rising from the beginning to the mid of the week, then falling till the end of the week. Both stations were recording levels that are somewhat around the long-term average for this time of the year and significantly affected by tidal.

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

Flood Situation

- Flood stage or alarm stage:

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

- Damage or victims:

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

For more details see the following annex:

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

Annex A: Graphs and Tables

Table A1: observed water levels

unit in m

2011	Jinghong	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Chiang Khan	Vientiane	Nongkhai	Paksane	Nakhon Phanom	Thakhek	Mukdahan	Savannakhet	Khong Chiam	Pakse	Stung Treng	Kratie	Kompong Cham	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Phnom Penh Port	Koh Khel	Neak Luong	Prek Kdam	Tan Chau	Chau Doc
11/07	537.29	4.01	8.88	9.10	5.84	7.09	9.38	7.77	8.85	7.60	6.80	8.25	6.78	6.52	15.71	10.41	6.23	5.35	5.51	4.22	5.14	1.81	1.42
12/07	537.48	3.48	8.84	9.12	5.86	6.96	9.14	7.53	8.64	7.30	6.49	7.97	6.47	6.33	15.40	10.14	6.08	5.20	5.40	4.11	5.04	1.87	1.59
13/07		4.05	8.52	9.02	5.85	6.99	9.12	7.29	8.43	7.14	6.37	7.76	6.28	6.28	15.10	9.87	5.97	4.98	5.29	4.00	4.95	1.85	1.65
14/07	536.00	4.37	8.48	8.88	5.72	6.85	9.23	7.35	8.49	7.06	6.24	7.55	6.14	6.59	15.25	9.80	5.92	4.94	5.22	3.93	4.89	1.74	1.55
15/07		4.06	8.72	8.82	5.63	6.84	9.14	7.73	8.83	7.50	6.67	7.64	6.13	6.75	15.82	10.10	5.99	5.00	5.26	4.06	4.95	1.64	1.32
16/07		4.11	9.32	9.03	5.76	6.86	9.43	8.29	9.40	8.03	7.26	8.24	6.30	6.84	16.17	10.47	6.19	5.23	5.42	4.13	5.11	1.62	1.18
17/07		4.53	9.48	9.34	5.93	7.09	10.15	9.10	10.24	8.76	7.98	8.92	7.14	6.84	16.11	10.59	6.32	5.38	5.52	4.24	5.21	1.61	1.12
18/07	536.83	5.05	9.73	9.67	6.33	7.49	10.08	9.32	10.33	9.20	8.41	9.68	7.74	6.90	15.91	10.48	6.30	5.37	5.52	4.26	5.22	1.62	1.12
Flood level		11.80	18.00	17.40	12.50	12.20	14.50	12.70	14.00	12.60	13.00	16.20	12.00	12.00	23.00	16.20	12.00	11.00	7.90	8.00	10.00	4.20	3.50

Table A2: observed rainfall

Unit in mm

2011	Jinghong	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Chiang Khan	Vientiane	Nongkhai	Paksane	Nakhon Phanom	Thakhek	Mukdahan	Savannakhet	Khong Chiam	Pakse	Stung Treng	Kratie	Kompong Cham	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Phnom Penh Port	Koh Khel	Neak Luong	Prek Kdam	Tan Chau	Chau Doc
11/07	2.0	0.30	11.0	4.3	2.5	61.8	96.2	nr	nr	nr	nr	4.9	nr	nr	16.0	5.7	1.6		nr	nr	nr	32.8	0.40
12/07	0.0	1.4	2.4	nr	nr	nr	9.1	nr	5.0	5.5	6.5	nr	nr	nr	nr	35.0	0.2		nr	nr	7.2	0.0	0.0
13/07	0.0	4.4	nr	5.1	nr	nr	8.3	3.4	11.4	24.6		25.8	12.6	6.0	11.0	11.4	13.2		1.8	3.0	9.3	2.6	5.0
14/07	2.0	55.5	nr	14.3	7.0	6.5	18.4	53.4	53.9	22.7	4.0	26.5	5.2	42.0	2.0	12.4	2.8		nr	0.3	nr	1.3	0.9
15/07	0.0	16.8	nr	4.5	60.0	90.8	45.4	140.6	149.8	13.2	16.5	13.5	15.2	44.0	3.4	17.8	10.0		0.5	0.4	nr	2.7	8.9
16/07	0.0	21.3	4.4	15.3	1.0	26.3	45.4	4.8	5.5	20.8	30.6	7.4	4.0	4.0	2.0	nr	nr		1.4	nr	nr	nr	0.0
17/07	0.0	12.5	nr	5.2	nr	0.5	11.7	30.8	19.5	3.5	4.8	8.8	0.5	nr	nr	nr	nr		0.3	nr	nr	nr	0.3
18/07	2.0	3.90	30.4	5.1	nr	4.0	5.9	41.1	31.9	1.3	81.2	2.6	nr	1.8	8.4	nr	nr		nr	0.0	nr	0.0	nr

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

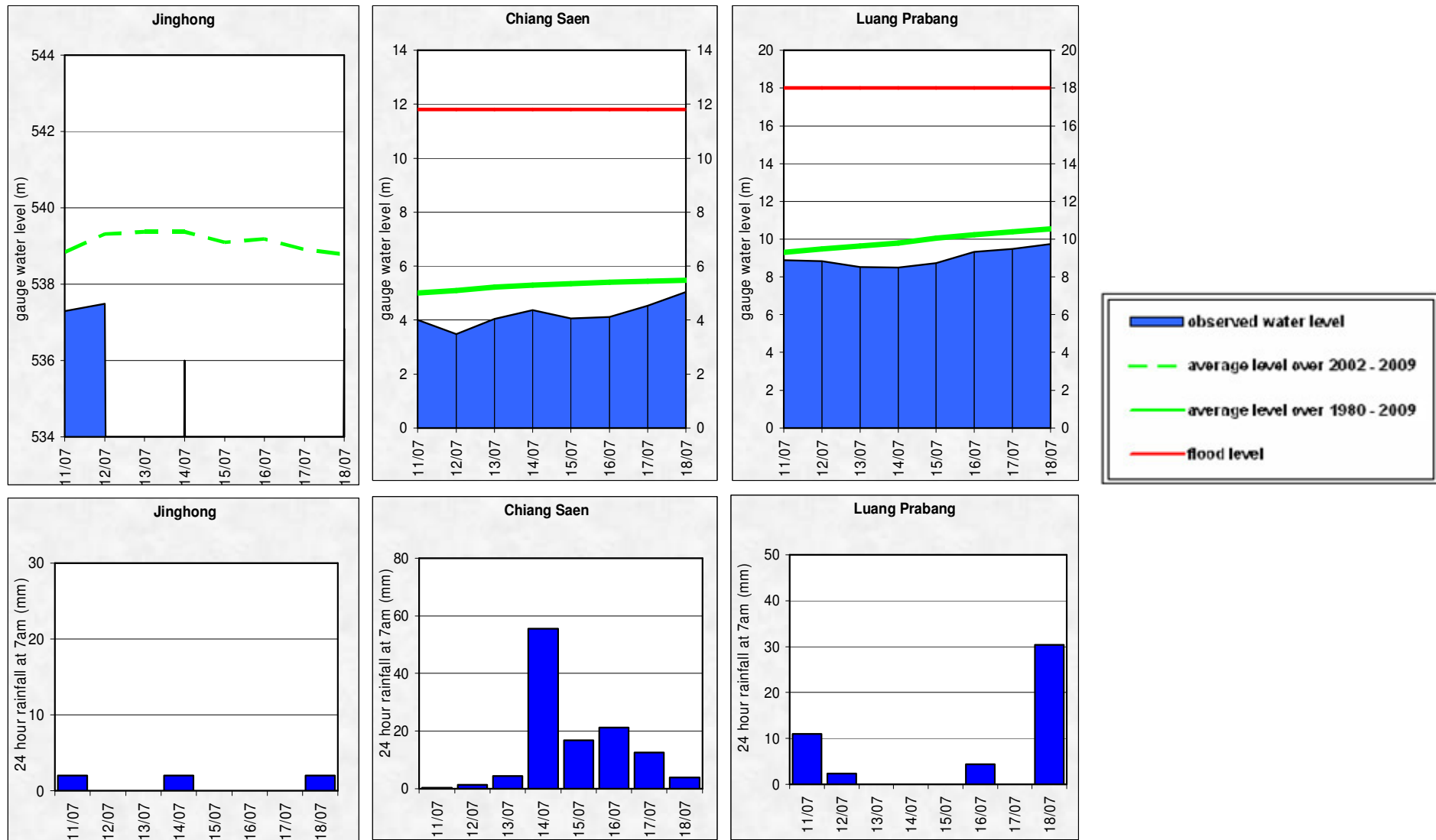


Figure A2: Water level and rainfall for Chiang Khan, Vientiane, Nongkhai, and Paksane

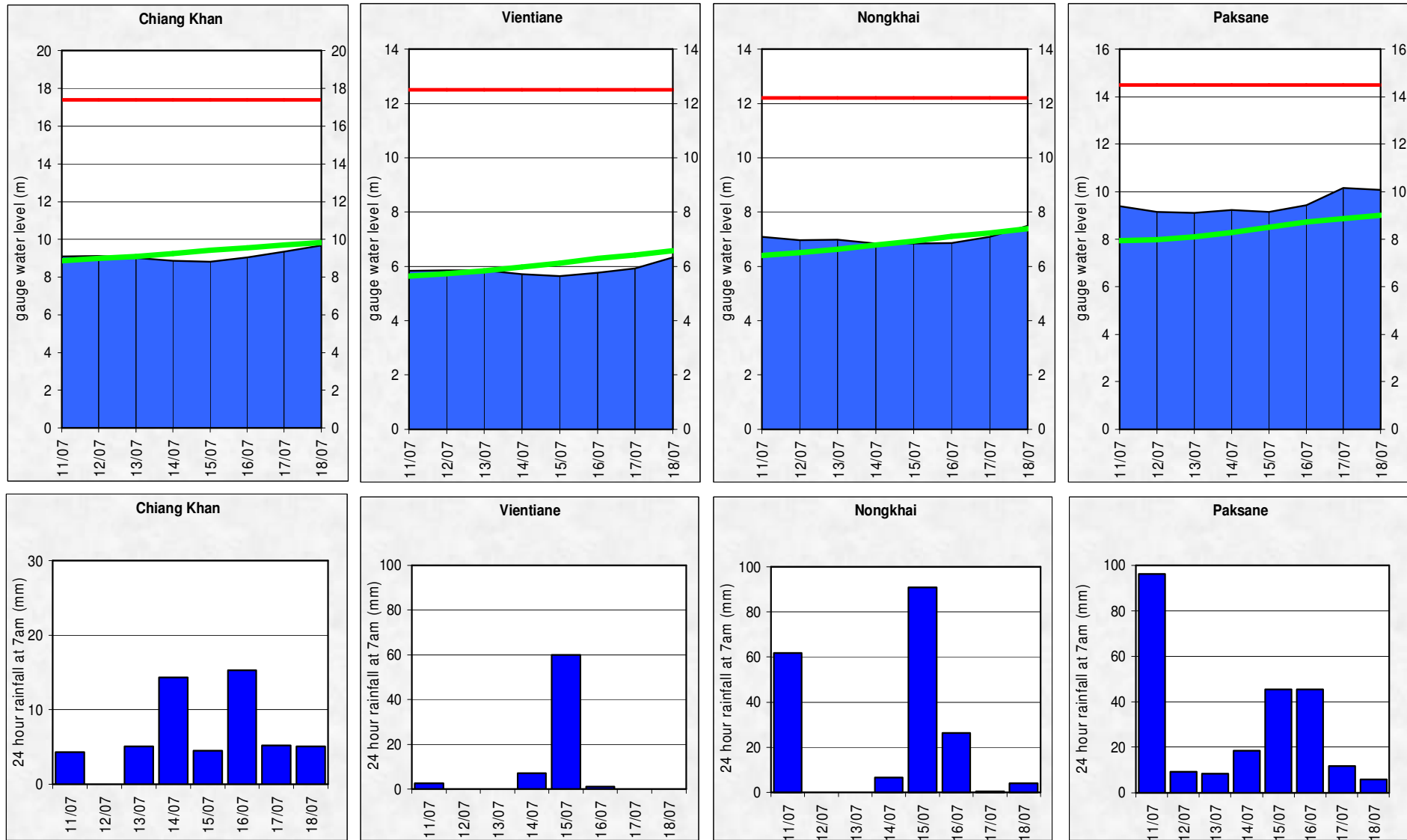


Figure A3: Water level and rainfall for Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Mukdahan and Savannakhet

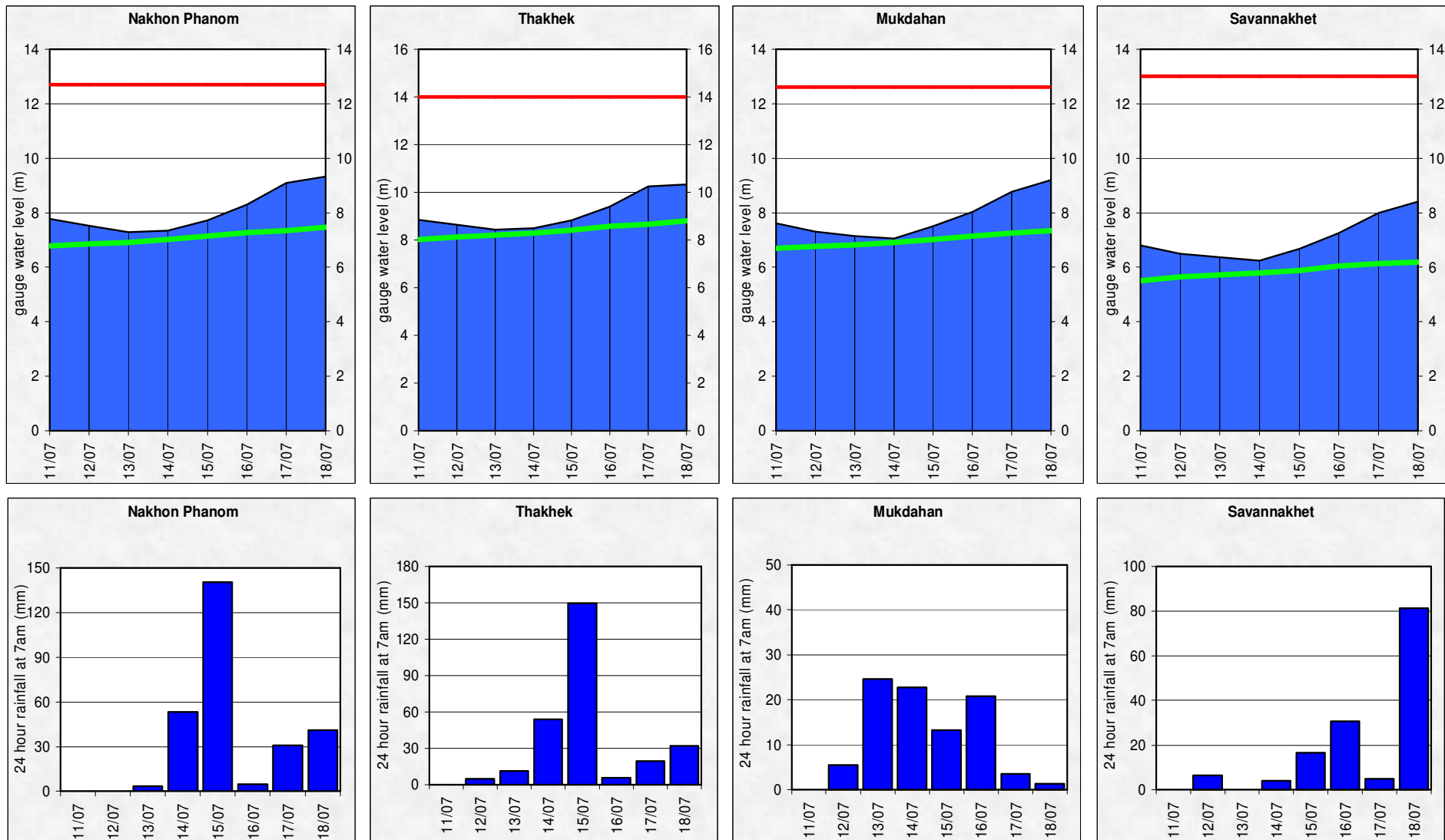


Figure A4: Water level and rainfall for Khong Chiam, Pakse, Stung Treng, and Kratie

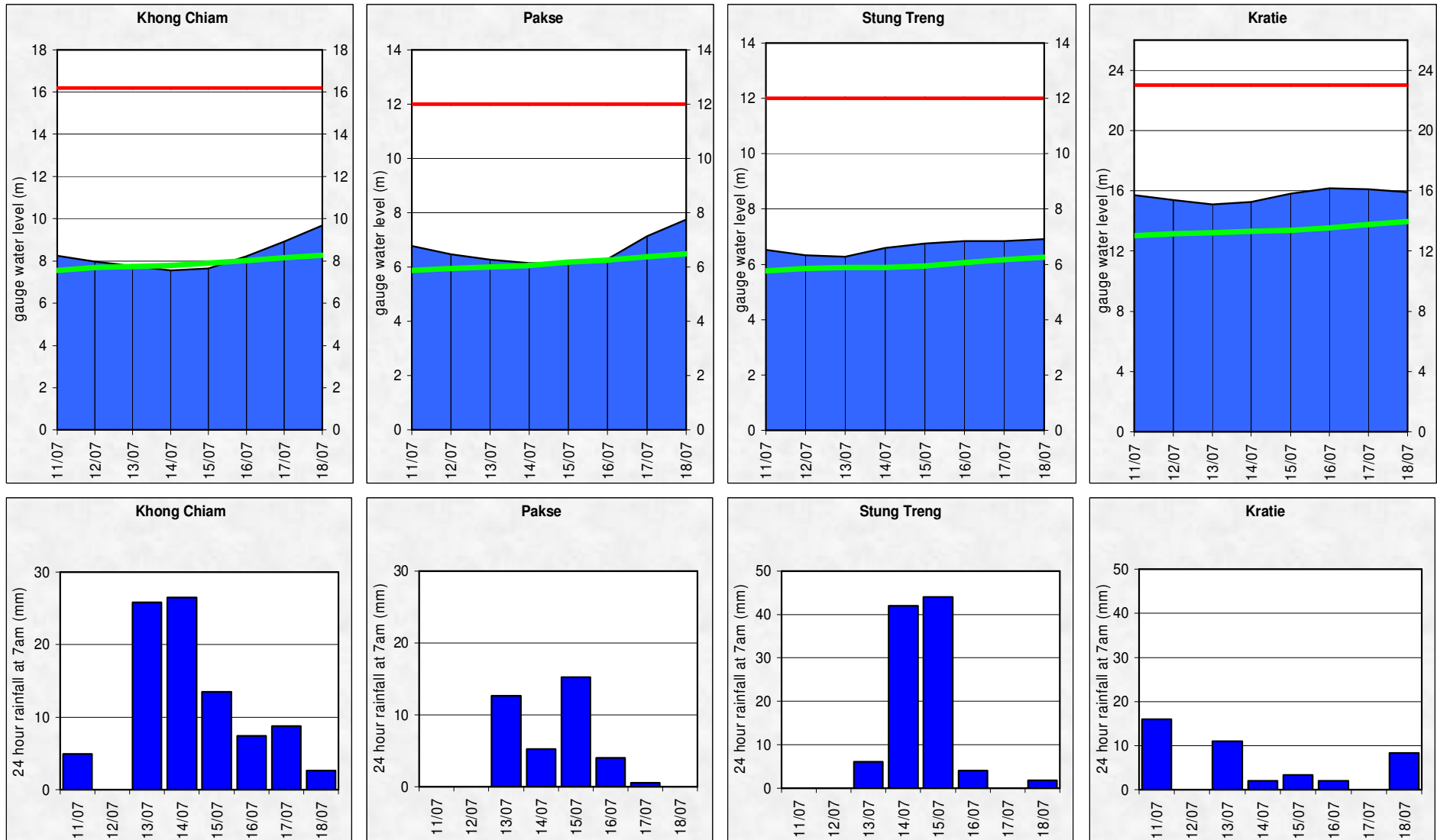


Figure A5: Water level and rainfall for Kompong Cham, Phnom Penh (Bassac and Port), and Koh Khel

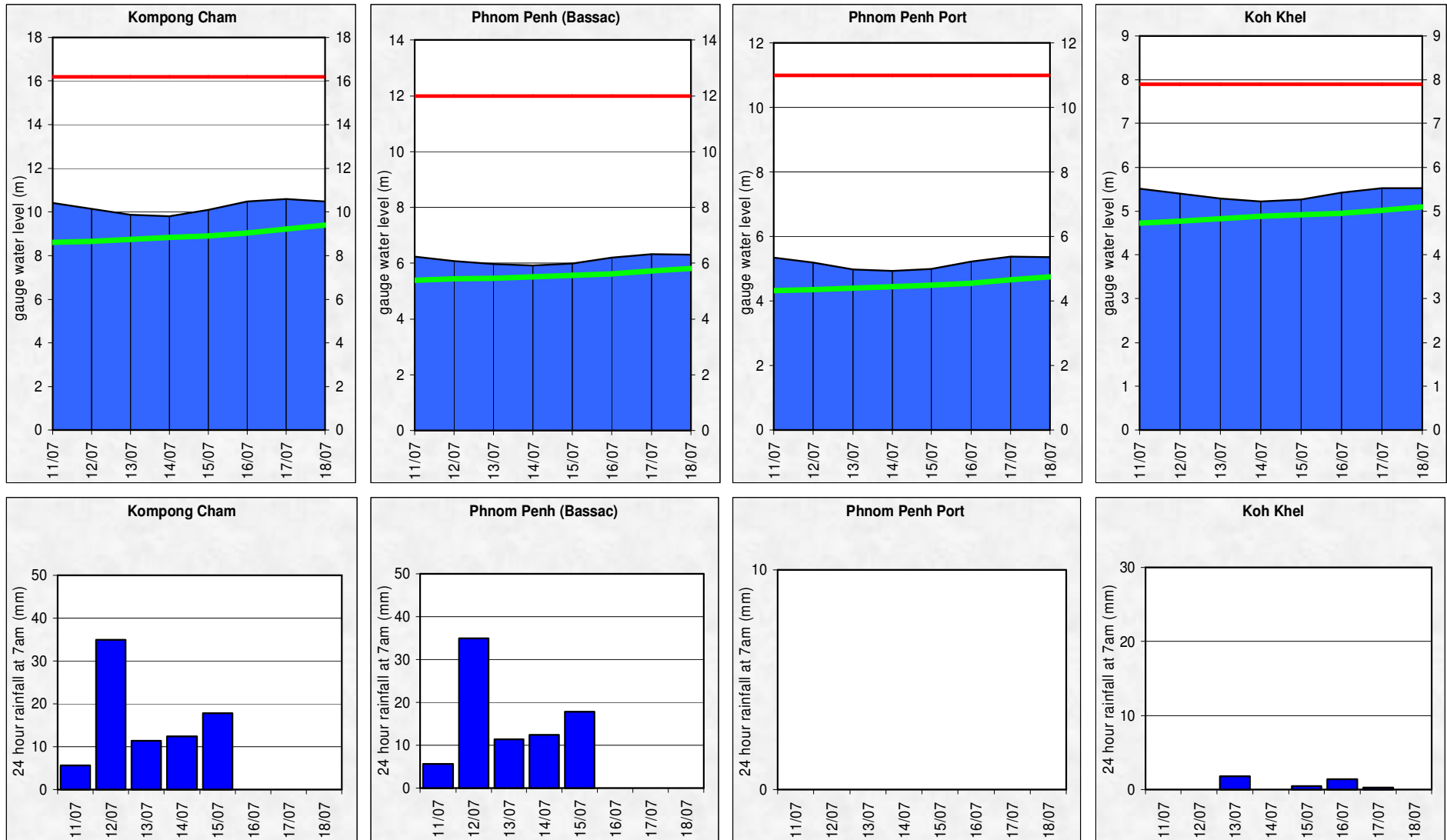
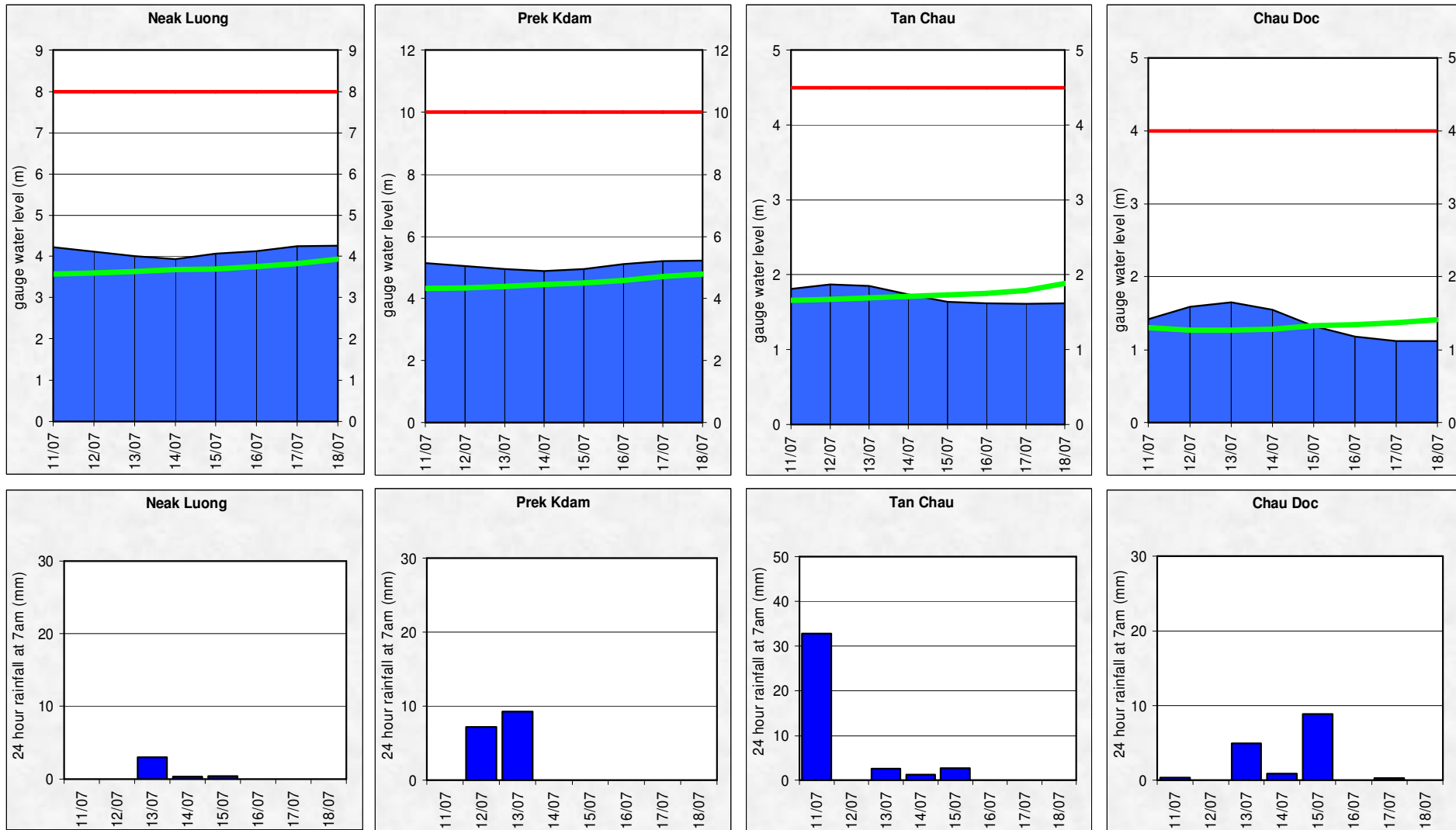


Figure A6: Water level and rainfall for Neak Luong, Prek Kdam, Tan Chau and Chau Doc



Annex B: Accuracy and performance

Accuracy

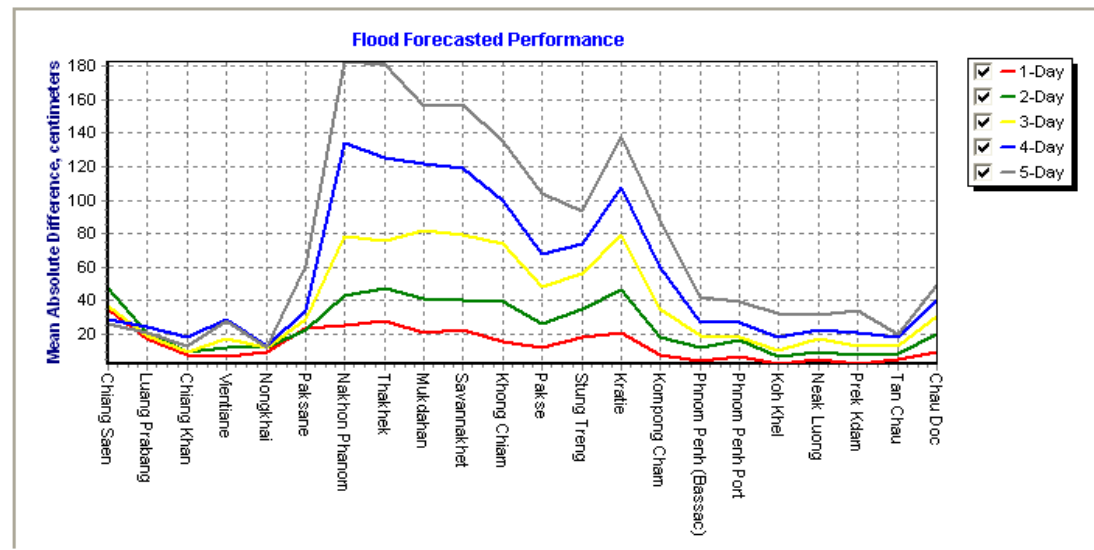
“Accuracy” describes the accuracy of the adjusted and published forecast, based on the results of the MRC Mekong Flood Forecasting System, which are then adjusted by the Flood Forecaster in Charge taking into consideration known biases in input data and his/her knowledge of the response of the model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

The graph of average difference between forecast and actual water levels for the past week shows the abnormal pattern, in which the accuracies at stations in the upper reach of LMB were much better than in middle reach.

In general, the overall accuracy is fairly good for 1-day to 3-day forecast lead time; however accuracies at stations from Nakhon Phanom/Thakhek to Khong Chiam and Kratie for 4-day and 5-day forecast were less than expected.

The above differences are due to two main factors: (1) by internal model functionality in forecasting for middle reach of the LMB because of high variability of both SRE and rainfall forecast from NWP (NOAA) for which the parameter adjustment is not possible for stations in the middle reach of LMB when critical weather condition appeared; (2) the knowledge and experience of forecaster-in-charge in adjusting forecast result taking into account the flow contribution of tributaries to stations in the middle reach of LMB.

Figure B1: Average flood forecast accuracy along the Mekong mainstream



Forecast Achievement

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

Table B1: Achievement of daily forecast against benchmarks

unit in %

	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Chiang Khan	Vientiane	Nongkhai	Paksane	Nakhon Phanom	Thakhek	Mukdahan	Savannakhet	Khong Chiam	Pakse	Stung Treng	Kratie	Kompong Cham	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Phnom Penh Port	Koh Khel	Neak Luong	Prek Kdam	Tan Chau	Chau Doc	Average
1-day	57.1	71.4	100.0	57.1	57.1	28.6	14.3	0.0	42.9	28.6	42.9	71.4	42.9	42.9	85.7	100.0	71.4	100.0	85.7	100.0	100.0	57.1	61.7
2-day	50.0	83.3	100.0	83.3	83.3	66.7	33.3	33.3	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	33.3	83.3	50.0	33.3	83.3	66.7	66.7	66.7	16.7	58.3
3-day	60.0	100.0	100.0	80.0	80.0	40.0	20.0	0.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	40.0	20.0	0.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	60.0	20.0	40.0	40.0	20.0	40.9
4-day	100.0	100.0	100.0	75.0	100.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	50.0	25.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	44.3
5-day	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	33.3	0.0	66.7	0.0	33.3

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

Unit in cm

	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Chiang Khan	Vientiane	Nongkhai	Paksane	Nakhon Phanom	Thakhek	Mukdahan	Savannakhet	Khong Chiam	Pakse	Stung Treng	Kratie	Kompong Cham	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Phnom Penh Port	Koh Khel	Neak Luong	Prek Kdam	Tan Chau	Chau Doc	
1-day	25	25	25	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2-day	50	50	50	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
3-day	50	50	50	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
4-day	75	75	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	10	25	10	25	25	10	10	10
5-day	75	75	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25

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

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

Performance

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

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

	Flood Forecast: time sent				Arrival time of input data (average)							Missing data (number)						
	FF completed and sent (time)	stations without forecast	FF2 completed and sent (time)	Weather information available (number)	NOAA data	China	Cambodia - DHRW	Cambodia - DOM	Lao PDR - DMH	Thailand - DWR	Viet Nam - NCHMF	NOAA data	China	Cambodia - DHRW	Cambodia - DOM	Lao PDR - DMH	Thailand - DWR	Viet Nam - NCHMF
2011																		
<i>week</i>	10:38	0	-	3	08:12	07:18	07:38	06:35	09:04	07:45	07:16	0	8	1	43	141	4	31
<i>month</i>	10:32	0	-	19	08:12	08:02	07:30	06:17	09:06	07:46	07:14	1	12	11	306	499	5	144
<i>season</i>	10:21	1	-	35	08:12	08:34	07:31	06:13	09:06	07:53	07:14	1	12	35	621	928	16	284

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

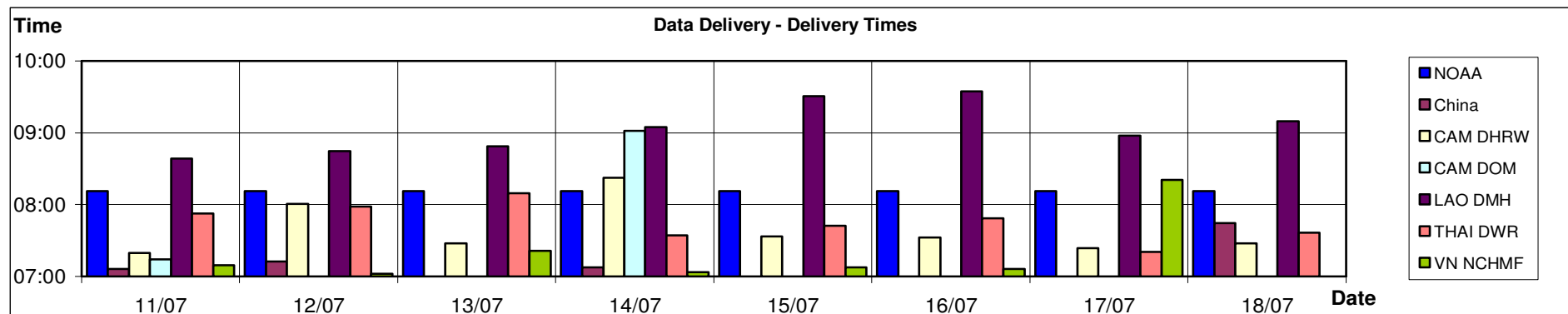


Figure B2: Data delivery times for the past 8 days including the current report date

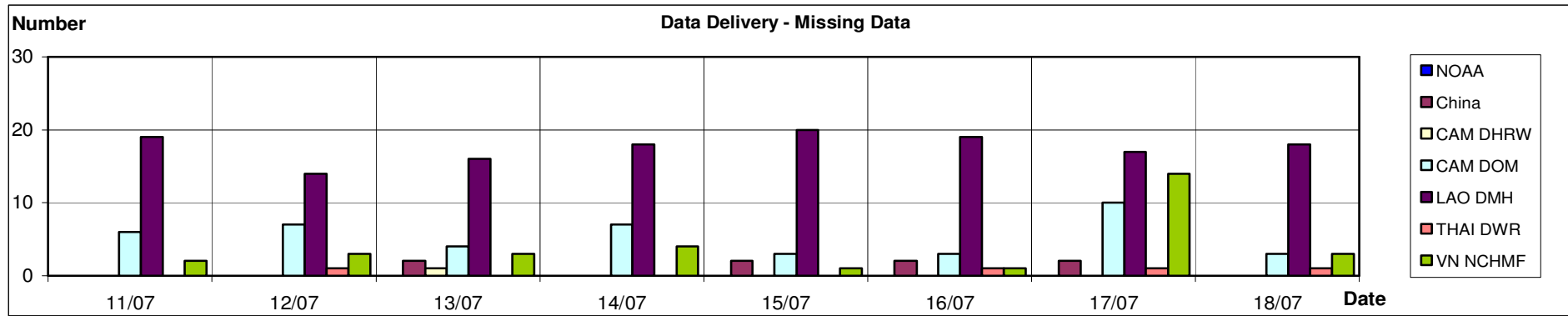


Figure B3: Missing data for the past 8 days including the current report date

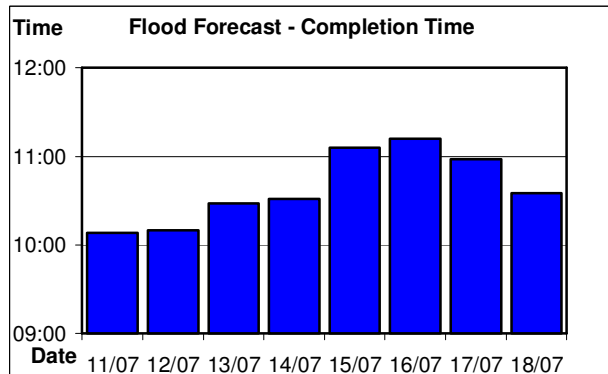


Figure B4: Flood forecast completion time

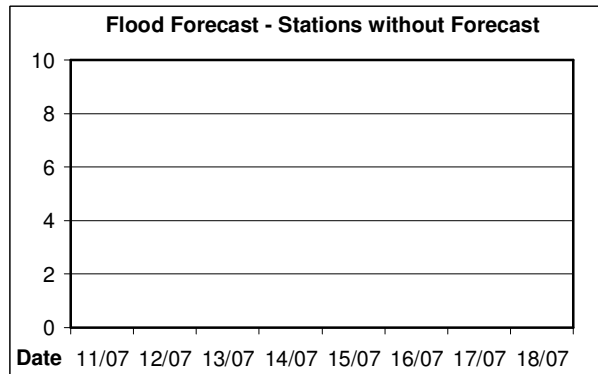


Figure B5: Flood forecast stations without forecast

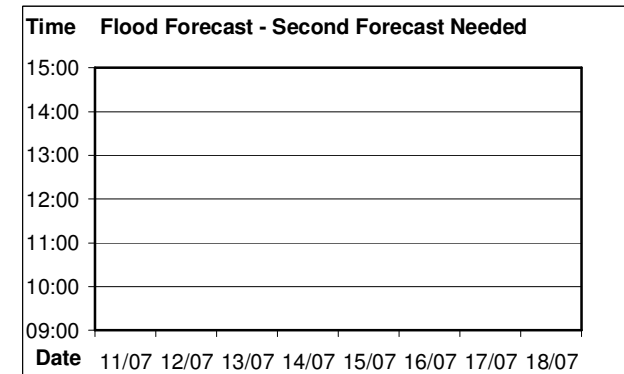


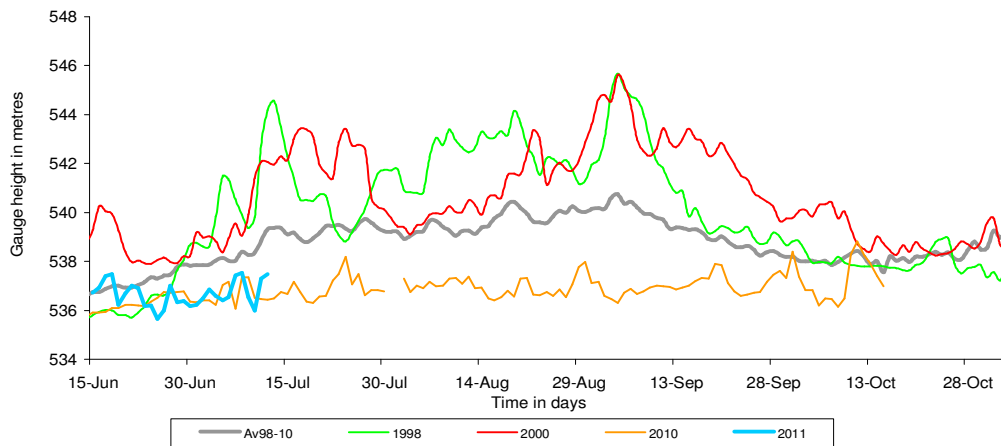
Figure B6: Second forecast needed

Annex C: Season Water Level Graphs

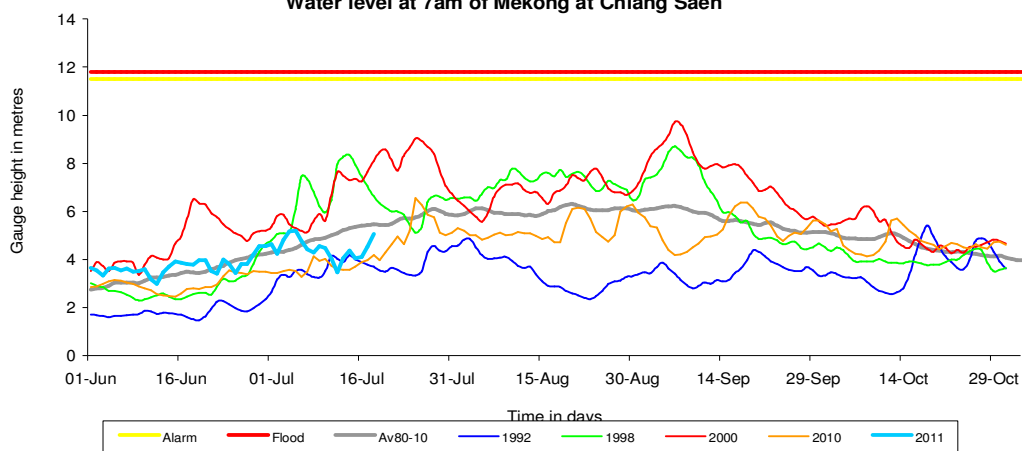
This Annex has the water level graphs of the report date. These graphs are distributed daily by email together with the Flood Bulletins.

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

Water level at 7am of Mekong at Jing Hong



Water level at 7am of Mekong at Chiang Saen



Water level at 7am of Mekong at Luang Prabang

