

Weekly Flood Situation Report for the Mekong River Basin

Prepared on: 15/08/2011, covering the week from the 08th to the 14th August, 2011

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

General weather patterns

During the week of the 08th to the 14th August 2011, four weather bulletins were issued by the Department of Meteorology (DOM) of Cambodia. The weather charts of the 08th August and the 14th August bulletins are presented in the figures below:

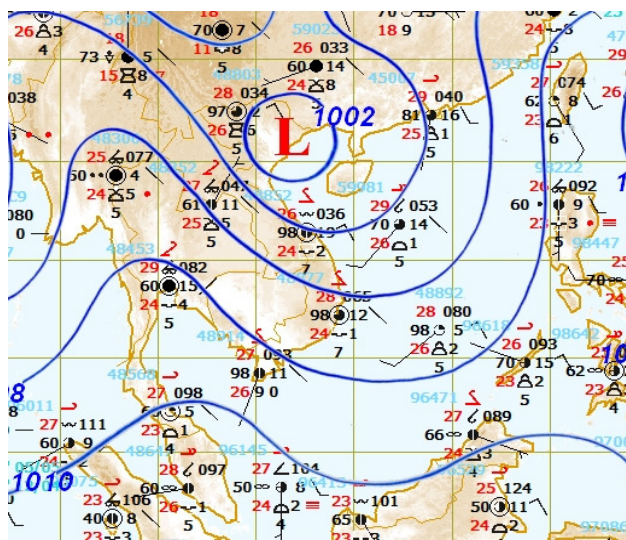


Figure 1: Weather map for 08th August 2011

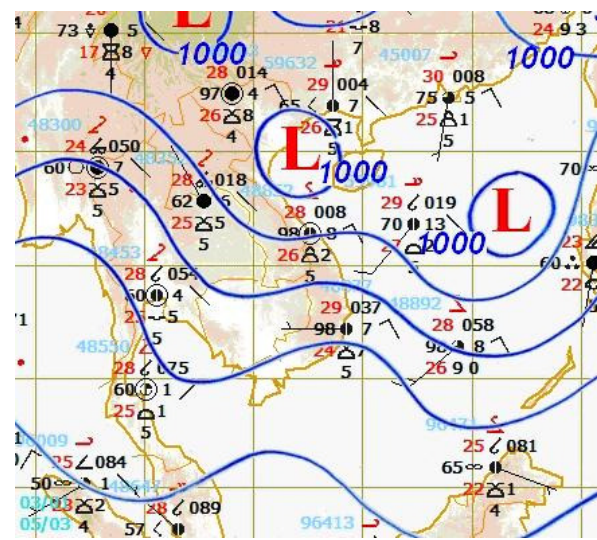


Figure 2: Weather map for 14th August 2011

Strong to moderate South-West (SW) Monsoon

Moderate SW monsoon during the beginning and the end of the week prevailed over Andaman Sea, Thailand, the Gulf of Thailand and Cambodia (Figure 1). In the middle of the week, strong SW monsoon prevailed over Andaman Sea at surface.

Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)

ITCZ laid across the upper part of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos PDR and Viet Nam from the middle to the end of the week.

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

No Tropical Depression, Tropical Storm or Typhoon has significant affected to the LMB in last week.

Other weather phenomena that affect the discharge

No other weather phenomena affecting the discharge were observed.

Over weather situation

A normal weather situation lasted during last week. As the result of appearances of moderate and strong SW monsoon, ITCZ in the middle of the week and low pressure trough laid across Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam during the week, isolated heavy rain occurred in the Northern part of Thailand, central part of Lao PDR and eastern part of Cambodia. Figure 3 illustrates rainfall amount distribution over the LMB, covering last week. During last week, heavy rain mostly occurred in the middle part of LMB particularly in the Mekong-right bank in Thailand and Mekong-left bank tributaries of Lao PDR. The amounts of rainfall were recorded at Khong Chiam (297.2 mm) and Thakhek (244.6 mm); at Mahaxai (250.3 mm).

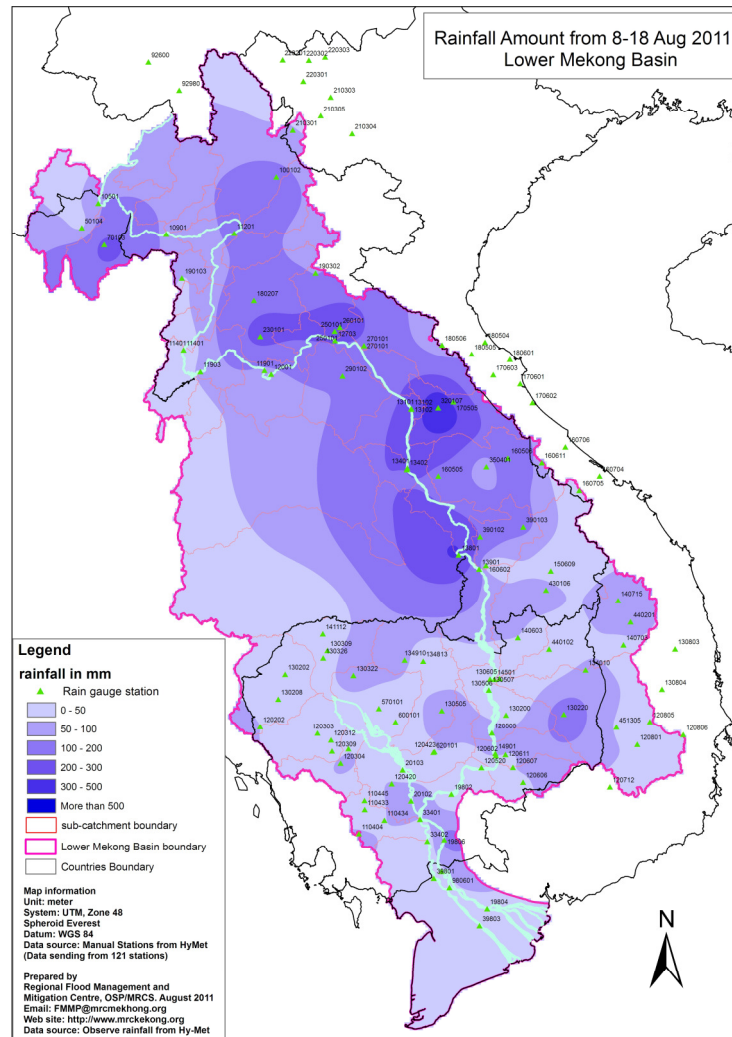


Figure 3: Rainfall distribution over the LMB, covering the week 08th – 14th August, 2011

General behaviour of the Mekong River

There is an inconsistency of water level along the Mekong River during the reporting period. In the middle reach of LMB, while water levels at stations from Paksane to Thakhek/Nakon Phanom show a rising and falling trend, water levels at station from Savannakhet/Mukdahan to Strung Treng were rising toward the end of the week. Water levels at stations in the lower reach from Kratie to Phnom Penh Port/Pnom Penh Bassac show a slightly rising trend by strong SW affect and water rising from upstream during last week. Regarding to two stations in downstream at Tan Chau and Chau Doc, water levels at those two stations were fluctuated by tidal with slightly increasing trend in the monitoring period.

For stations from Chiang Saen to Vientiane/Nong Khai

Water levels at Chiang Saen to Luang Prabang stations were continuously rising during last week but still below the long-term average. Water levels at stations Luang Prabang, Chiang Khan, Vientiane/Nong Khai were twice fluctuating on the rising trend at the beginning and middle of the week due to two local rainfalls. Water levels at Vientiane/Nong Khai stations were above the long-term average for this time of the year.

For stations Paksane to Thakhek/Nakon Phanom

Water levels at Paksane, Nakon Phanom and Thakhet raised up in the second half of the week due to high intensity rainfall (103.6 mm on 11th August 2011, 151.1 and 113.2 mm on 10th August 2011, respectively) and then recessed on 13th August to the end of the week. Water Levels at these stations are above the long-term average for this time of the year in which water level at Thakhek reached alarm situation during the 10th and 13th August 2011.

For stations Savannakhet/Mukdahan to Pakse

Water levels at these stations raised up in the first half of the week and recessed in the second half. All water levels were above the long-term average for this time of the year. Water levels at Mukdahan (Figure 4) and Pakse (Figure 5) had reached flood stage since 09 and 08 August 2011, respectively.

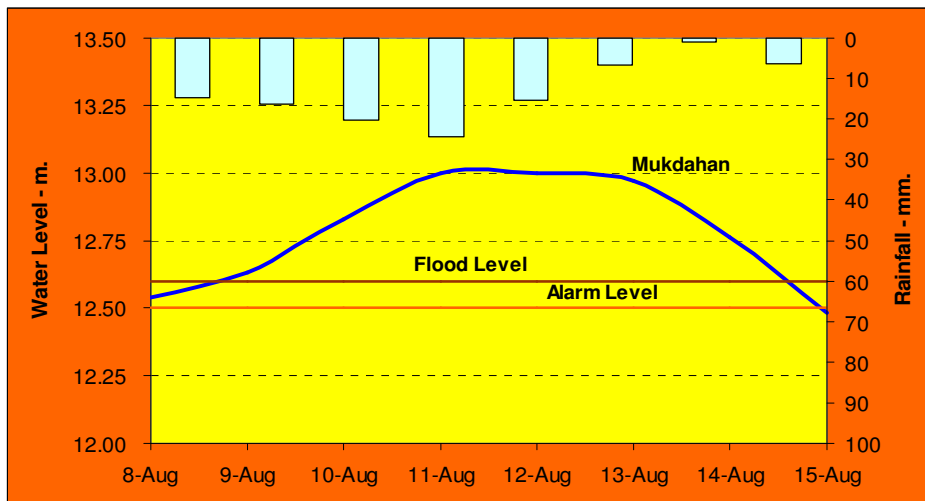


Figure 4: Water level at Mukdahan had reached flood stage since 09th August, 2011

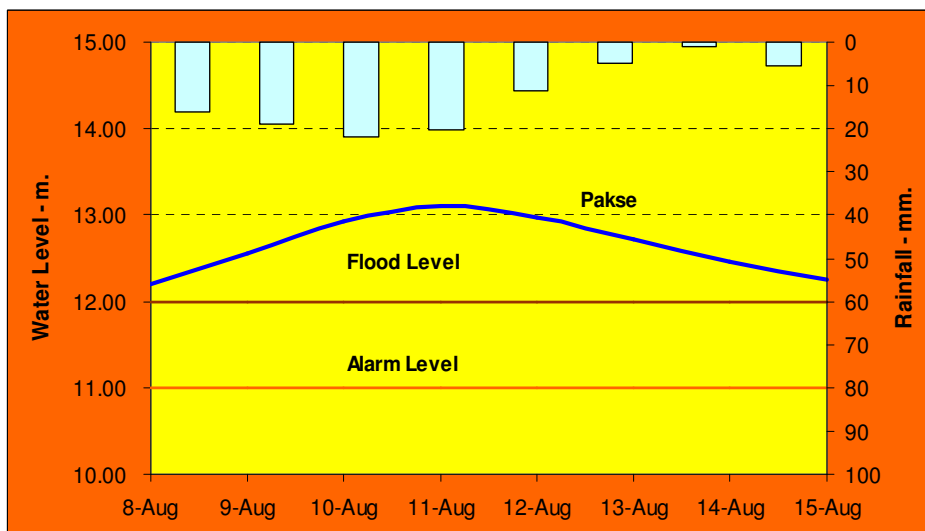


Figure 5: Water level at Pakse had reached flood stage since 08th August, 2011

For stations from Stung Treng to Phnom Penh Port/ Phnom Penh Bassac

Water levels at Stung Treng and Kratie raised up in the first half of the week and recessed in the second half of the week, while those of Kampong Cham, Phnom Penh Port/ Phnom Penh Bassac were rising during last week. These stations were recording levels that are above the long-term average for this time of the year. Water level at Kampong Cham had reached alarm stage since 14th August 2011.

Tan Chau and Chau Doc

Water level at Tan Chau raised up faster than at Chau Doc during last week. Water Level of both stations by the mid of the week were above 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:
 - The Mekong reached alarm situation at Thakhek from the 10th to the 14th August 2011 and at Strung Treng on the 11st to 13rd August, 2011.
 - The Mekong has reached flood stage at Mukdahan and Pakse since 09th August 2011 and 08th August 2011, respectively.
- 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
08/08	536.83	4.84	11.12	10.24	7.60	9.04	12.08	11.89	12.94	12.54	11.39	14.67	12.21	10.00	20.12	13.67	8.38	7.42	6.94	5.84	7.07	2.78	2.04
09/08	536.84	4.78	11.18	10.62	7.60	8.95	12.15	11.88	12.94	12.63	11.51	15.26	12.56	10.46	20.75	14.02	8.53	7.59	7.03	5.95	7.21	2.85	2.12
10/08	536.83	4.93	11.00	10.80	7.84	9.30	12.18	12.03	13.10	12.83	11.72	15.62	12.93	10.65	21.16	14.37	8.72	7.80	7.14	6.05	7.35	2.99	2.27
11/08	536.92	4.93	11.36	10.50	7.93	9.34	13.00	12.15	13.20	13.00	11.86	15.72	13.11	10.75	21.43	14.67	8.85	7.94	7.22	6.16	7.48	3.08	2.33
12/08	537.00	5.01	11.10	10.91	7.86	9.19	12.44	12.15	13.22	13.00	11.89	15.54	12.98	10.87	21.65	14.90	8.97	8.08	7.29	6.27	7.61	3.15	2.37
13/08	536.66	5.32	11.32	10.90	8.23	9.52	12.42	12.16	13.21	12.97	11.84	15.28	12.71	10.78	21.79	15.11	9.15	8.21	7.35	6.38	7.74	3.20	2.39
14/08	536.68	5.66	11.64	10.99	8.29	9.61	12.23	11.92	12.99	12.76	11.63	15.04	12.46	10.50	21.74	15.22	9.28	8.41	7.38	6.48	7.85	3.25	2.42
15/08	537.56	5.40	11.72	11.10	8.32	9.62	12.06	11.68	12.73	12.48	11.33	14.79	12.25	10.23	21.61	15.24	9.47	8.62	7.41	6.61	7.97	3.33	2.49
Flood level		11.80	18.00	17.40	12.50	12.20	14.50	12.70	14.00	12.60	13.00	16.20	12.00	12.00	23.00	16.20	12.00	11.00	7.90	8.00	10.00	4.20	3.50

Table A2: observed rainfall

Unit in mm

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
08/08	0.0	17.50	24.0	0.3	0.0	4.9	33.3	nr	17.5	54.7	73.7	9.5	15.3	5.5	1.2	1.3	2.2	nr	0.0	0.0	40.40	0.0	0.0
09/08	0.0	1.9	56.4	nr	0.0	nr	5.9	4.2	39.6	87.8	73.7	122.0	40.1	0.0	35.0	0.0	0.0	nr	0.0	0.0	10.5	0.0	0.0
10/08	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	113.2	151.1	33.3	44.0	70.1	38.4	11.5	36.0	3.7	0.0	nr	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0
11/08	0.0	nr	25.0	1.1	21.5	nr	103.6	47.6	51.9	6.1	nr	75.0	47.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	nr	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
12/08	12.0	39.0	2.4	30.8	52.5	15.5	11.6	2.6	2.0	3.6	5.9	14.3	5.3	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	nr	1.8	13.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
13/08	3.0	7.6	0.8	3.3	11.5	25.5	23.9	1.3	nr	nr	nr	12.1	0.3	nr	nr	nr	6.5	-	nr	nr	nr	nr	0.0
14/08	10.0	1.3	nr	nr	nr	nr	0.0	nr	nr	nr	nr	3.7	0.0	2.5	nr	0.7	nr	-	nr	0.0	nr	33.0	16.2
15/08	0.0	24.7	0.0	23.0	3.0	2.8	23.9	0.4	0.7	9.0	19.6	0.0	0.0	14.0	58.9	2.3	42.5	nr	16.5	102.2	44.3	5.2	0.0

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

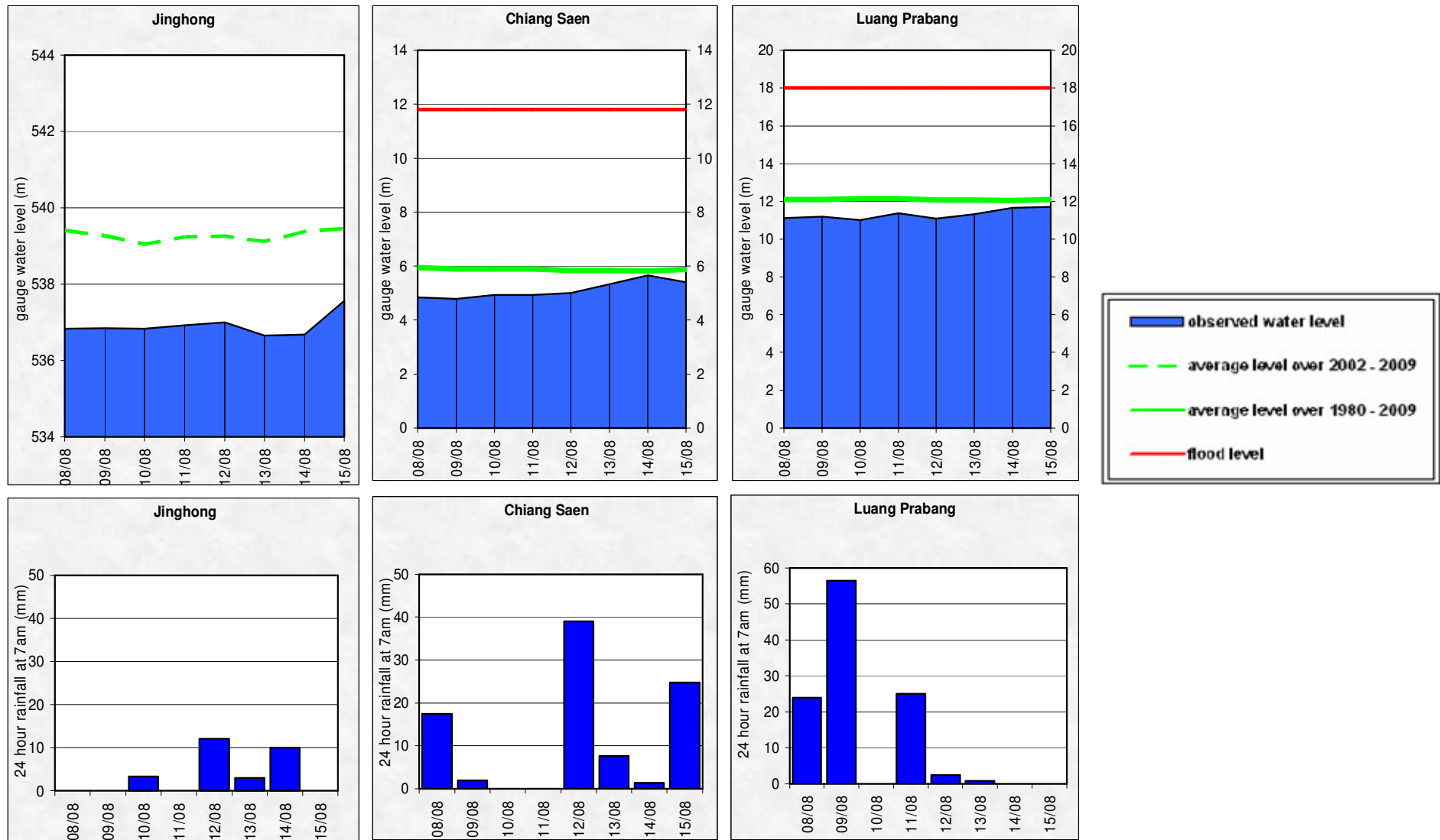


Figure A2: Water level and rainfall for Chiang Khan, Vientiane, Nongkhai, and Paksane

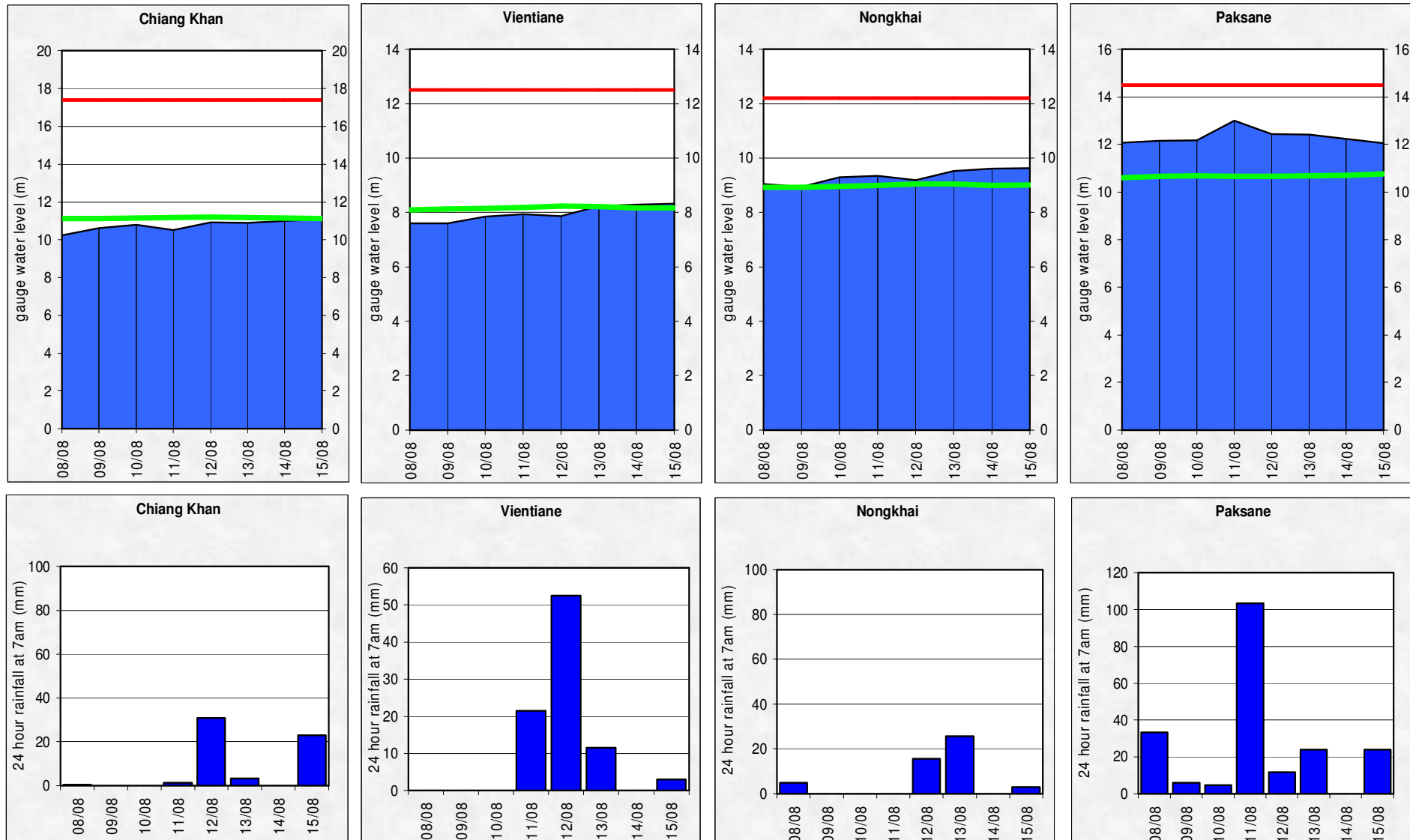


Figure A3: Water level and rainfall for Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Mukdahan and Savannakhet

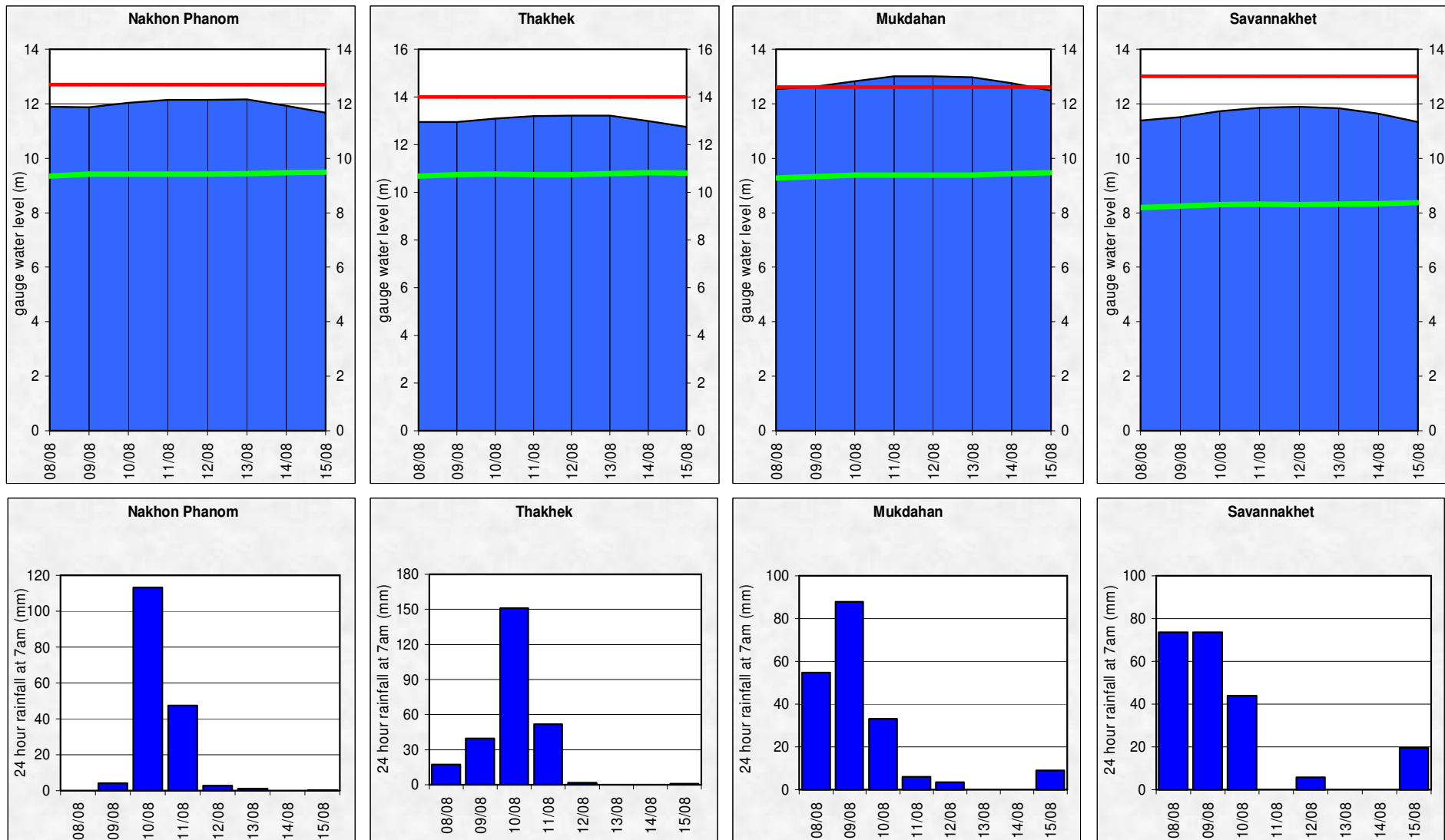


Figure A4: Water level and rainfall for Khong Chiam, Pakse, Stung Treng, and Kratie

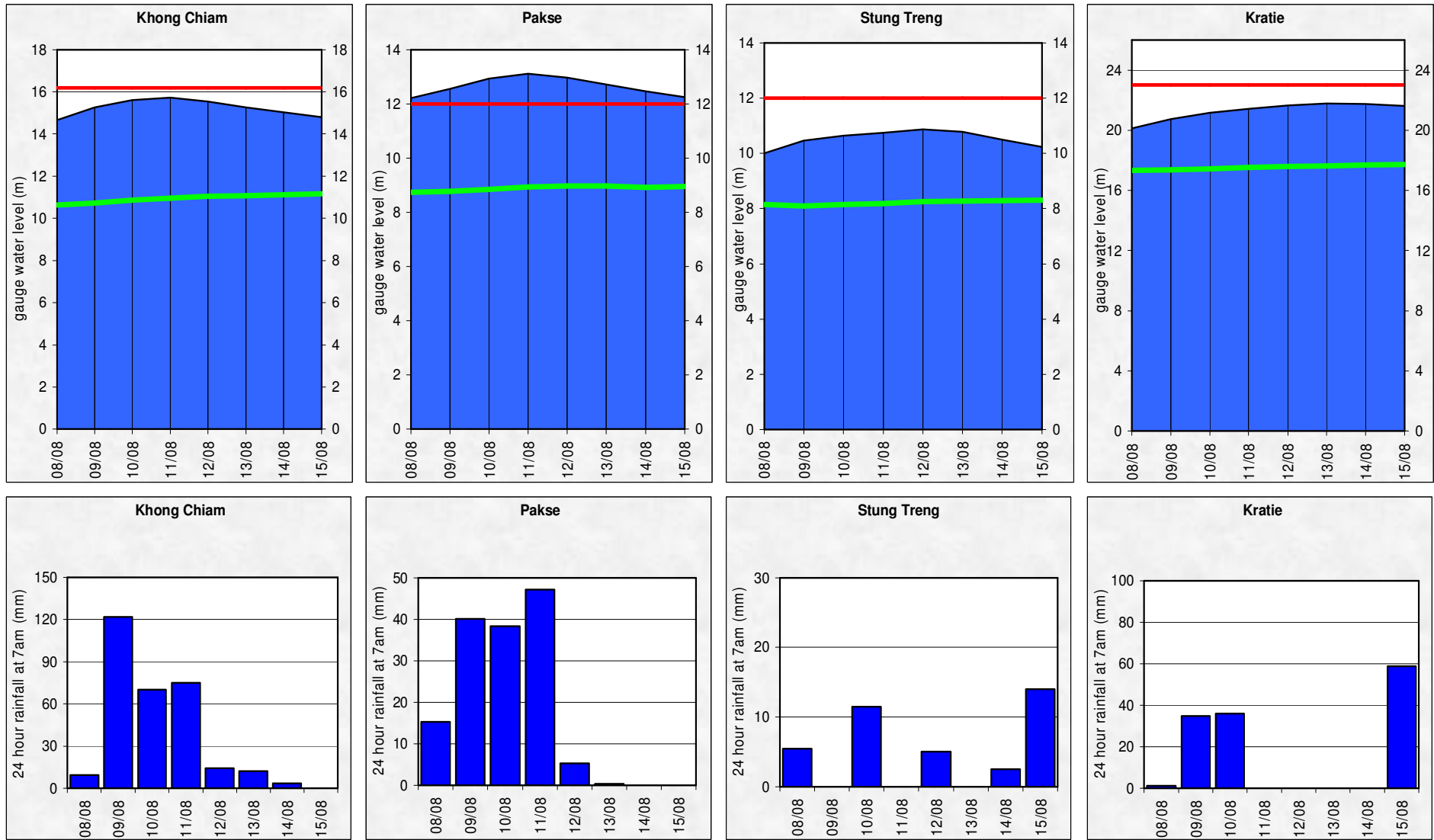


Figure A5: Water level and rainfall for Kompong Cham, Phnom Penh (Bassac and Port), and Koh Khel

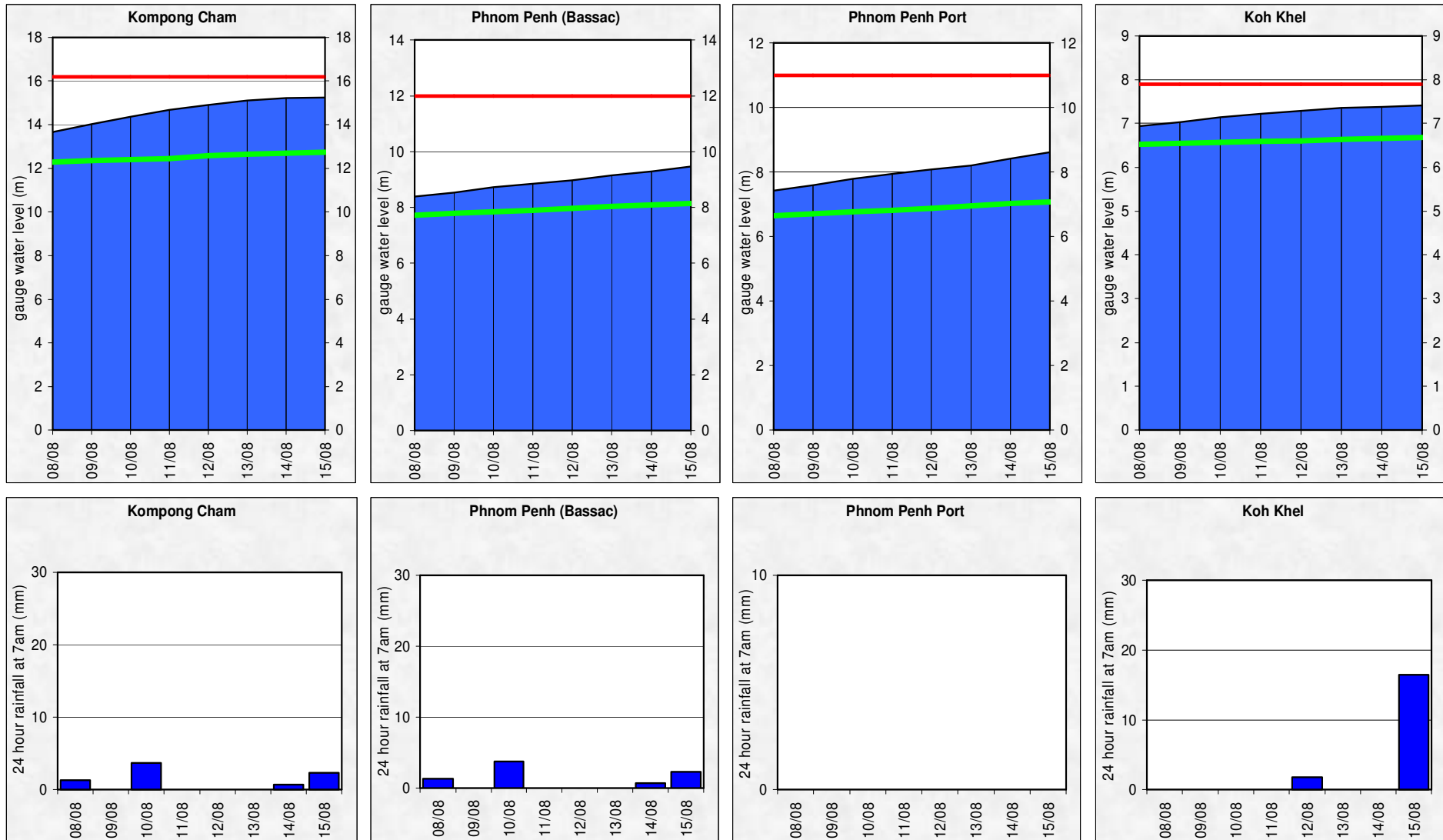
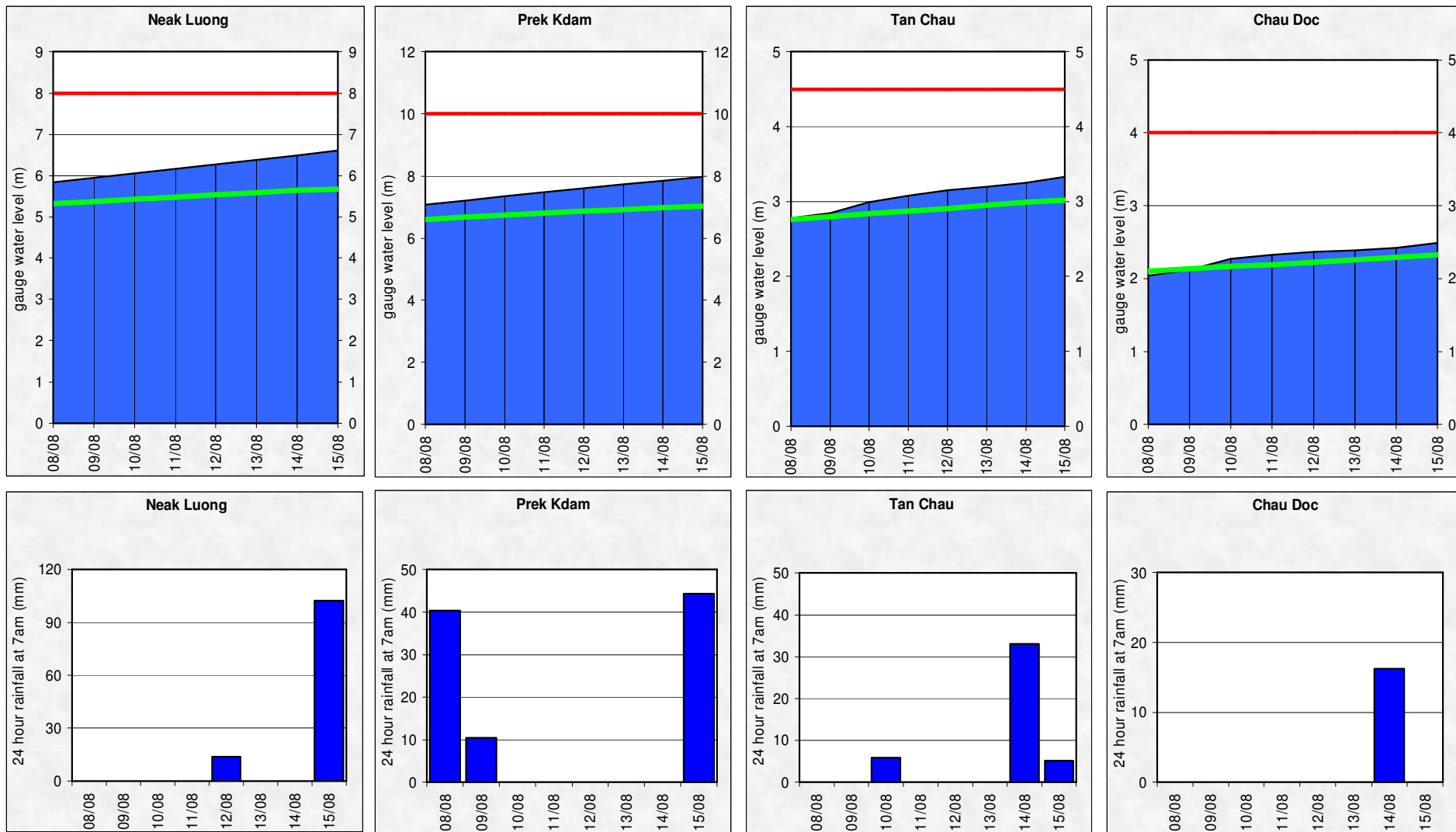


Figure A6: Water level and rainfall for Neak Luong, Prek Kdam, Tan Chau and Chau Doc



Annex B: Accuracy and performance

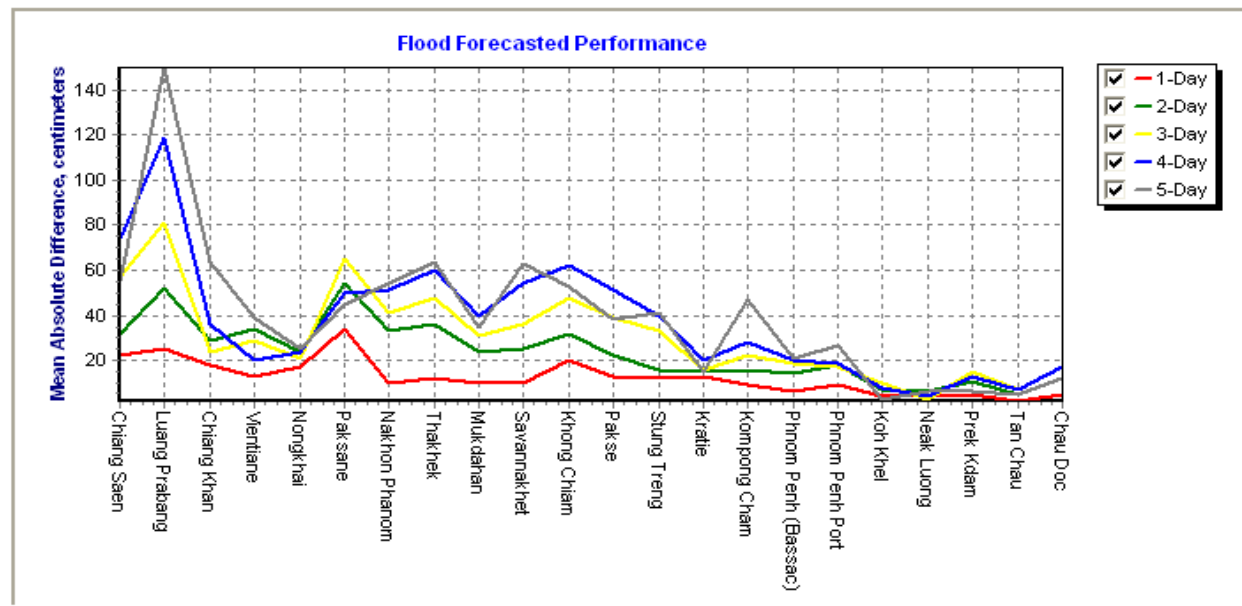
Accuracy

“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 normal pattern except those of Chiang Khan, Vientiane and Nongkhai which 3 to 5-day forecast lead time are better than in the middle reach of LMB. In general, the overall accuracy is quite good for 1-day, 4-day and 5-day forecast lead time at most stations; however the peaks at Luang Prabang 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 upper reach of the LMB in taking into account flow contribution from left bank tributaries of Lao PDR, for which the parameter adjustment in the model is not possible. ; (2) the adjustment by flood forecaster-in charge.

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	71.4	71.4	71.4	42.9	42.9	57.1	57.1	42.9	57.1	57.1	42.9	42.9	71.4	85.7	85.7	71.4	42.9	100.0	100.0	71.4	100.0	85.7	85.7	66.9
2-day	66.7	66.7	83.3	16.7	66.7	16.7	50.0	16.7	50.0	50.0	50.0	66.7	83.3	66.7	66.7	50.0	33.3	66.7	83.3	66.7	100.0	33.3	33.3	56.8
3-day	40.0	20.0	100.0	60.0	80.0	40.0	0.0	20.0	60.0	40.0	20.0	40.0	20.0	80.0	60.0	20.0	40.0	60.0	100.0	60.0	80.0	20.0	20.0	48.2
4-day	50.0	0.0	75.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	25.0	25.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	25.0	100.0	75.0	100.0	75.0	75.0	25.0	25.0	61.4
5-day	66.7	0.0	0.0	33.3	66.7	66.7	33.3	33.3	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7	100.0	66.7	33.3	33.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	62.1

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>	10:33	0	-	4	08:12	08:18	07:34	06:06	09:04	07:46	07:05	0	0	0	27	113	0	46
<i>month</i>	10:40	0	-	13	08:12	08:13	07:39	06:00	09:01	07:40	07:12	0	6	2	156	479	5	159
<i>season</i>	10:28	1	-	48	08:12	08:24	07:34	06:07	09:04	07:48	07:13	1	16	37	764	1372	19	426

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.

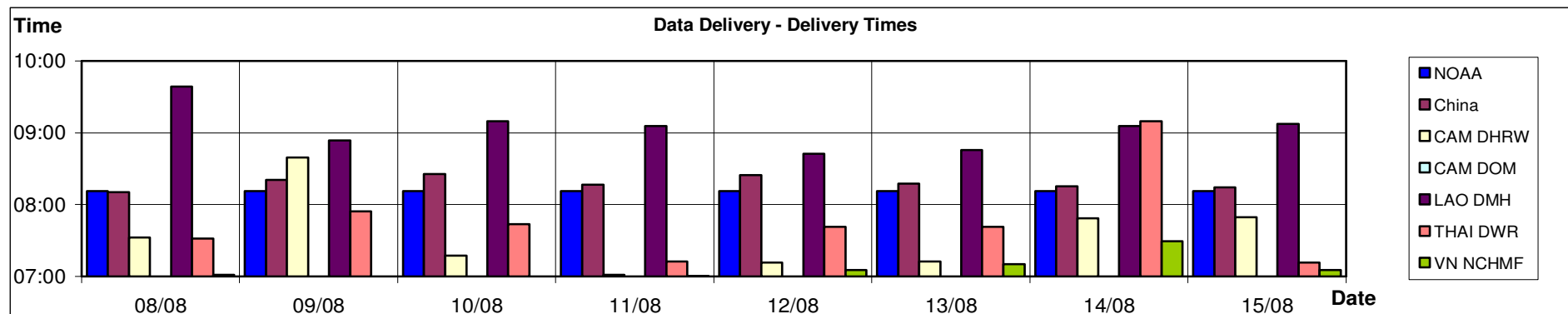


Figure B2: Data delivery times for the past 8 days including the current report date

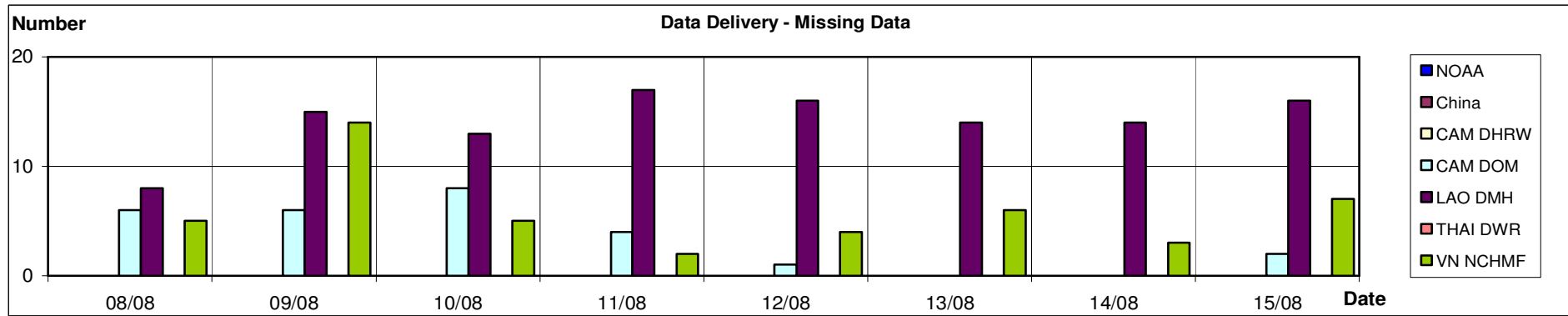


Figure B3: Missing data for the past 8 days including the current report date

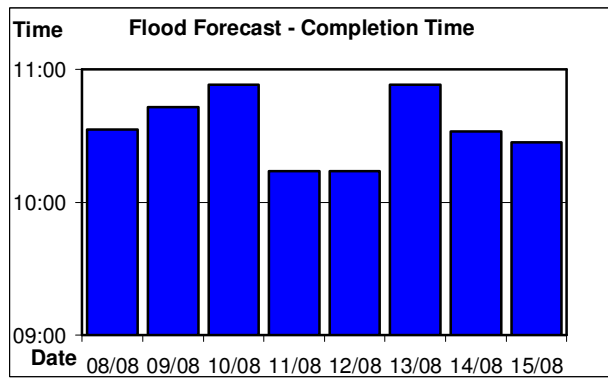


Figure B4: Flood forecast completion time

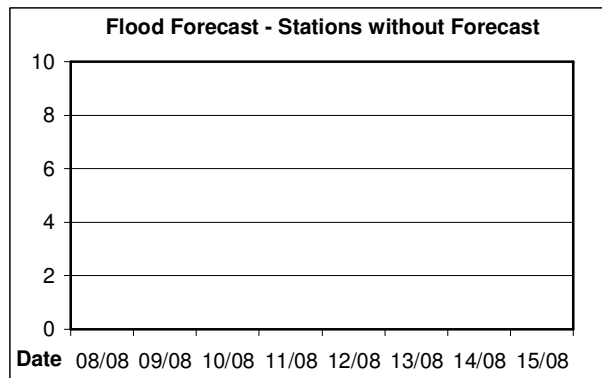


Figure B5: Flood forecast stations without forecast

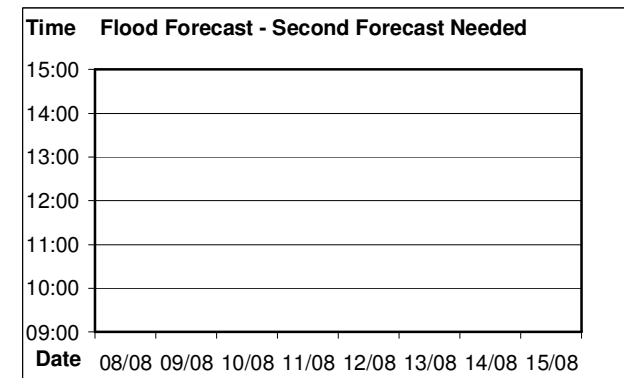


Figure B6: Second forecast needed

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

