

Weekly Flood Situation Report for the Mekong River Basin

Prepared on: 19/09/2011, covering the week from the 12th to the 18th September, 2011

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

General weather patterns

During the week of the 12th to the 18th September 2011, four weather bulletins were issued by the Department of Meteorology (DOM) of Cambodia. The weather charts of the 12th and the 19th August bulletins are presented in the figures below:

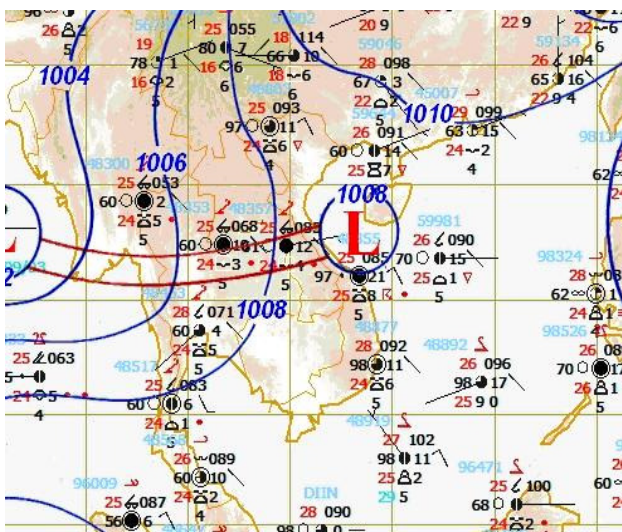


Figure 1: Weather map for 12th September 2011

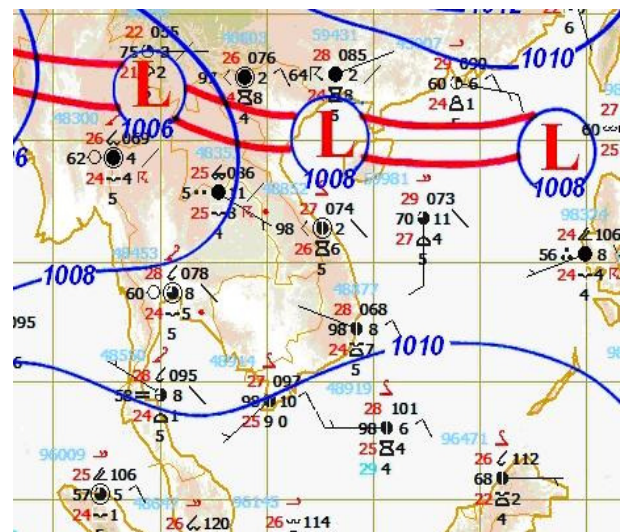


Figure 2: Weather map for 18th September 2011

Strong to week South-West (SW) Monsoon

Strong SW monsoon prevailed over Andaman Sea, the Gulf of Thailand, Thailand and Cambodia the beginning to the mid of the week and became weakening in the rest of the week (Figure 1 and 2).

Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)

ITCZ laid across the Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR and Viet Nam during last week (Figure 1 and 2).

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 severe weather situation was occurred during the first half of the week. As the result of strong SW monsoon activity, appearances of ITCZ in the whole week and low pressure trough laid across Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam at the height 1.5 km (850 hPa), heavy rain occurred in the North and central of Myanmar, Thailand, the North of Lao PDR and Viet Nam during the mid of the week. Figure 3 illustrates rainfall amount distribution over the LMB, covering last week. During

last week, heavy rain occurred in the upper and middle parts of LMB from Luang Prabang to Savannkhet/Mukdahan and the amounts of rainfall covering last week, which is over 300 mm, were recorded at Paksane (360mm); at Nong Khai (352.7mm); at Thakhek (304mm); at Nakon Phanom (357.8mm); at Ban Tha Kok Daeng (429.5mm); at Ban Phone Si (370.1 mm); at Muong Mai (583.4 mm).

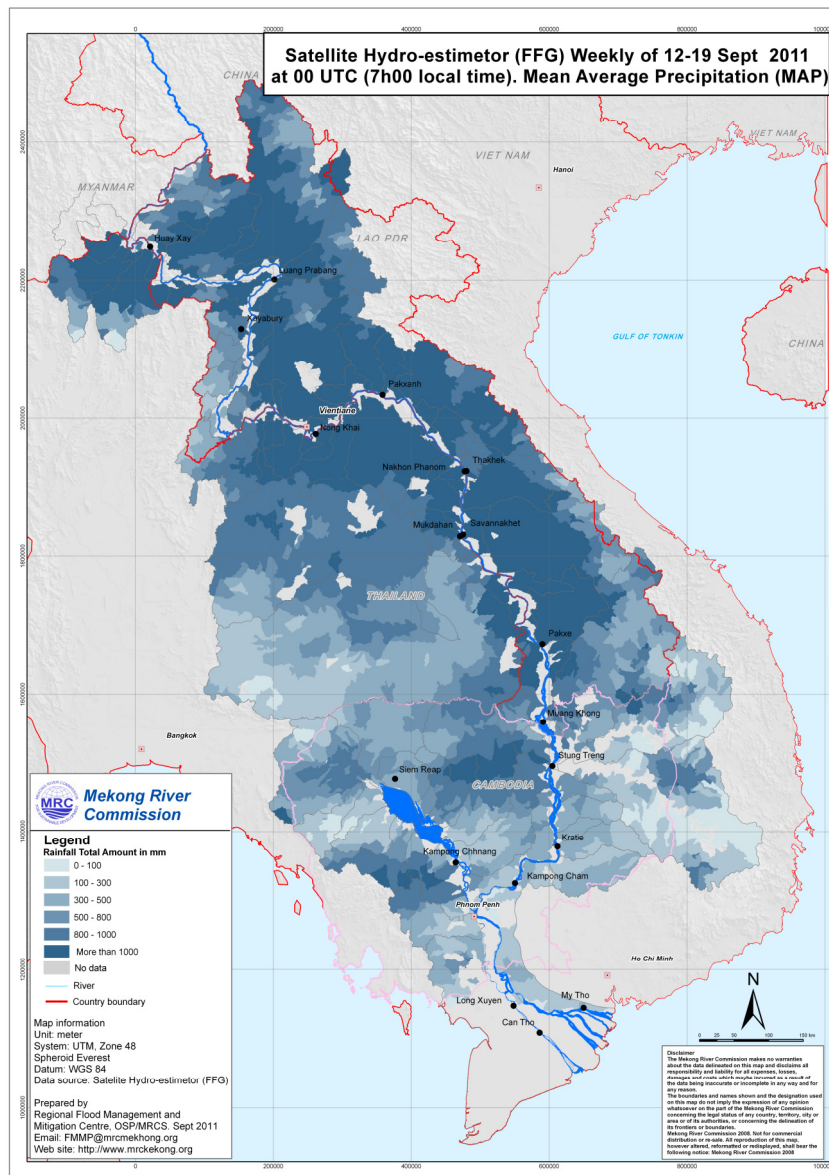


Figure 3: Rainfall distribution over the LMB, covering the week 12 – 18 September, 2011

General behaviour of the Mekong River

Water levels at most stations along the Mekong river were above the long-term average except Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang. While water level in the Mekong showed a falling and rising trend at stations in the upper reach, water levels at stations in the middle and lower reaches were rising during reporting period. Regarding to two stations in downstream at Tan Chau and Chau Doc, water levels at those two stations were fluctuated by tidal with increasing trend in the monitoring period.

For stations from Chiang Saen to Vientiane/ Nong Khai

Water level showed a decreasing trend in the first half of the week then was increasing till the end of the week and these stations were recording levels that are somewhat over the long-term average except Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang where were recording levels that somewhat are below and around the long-term average for this time of the year.

For stations Paksane to Pakse

Water levels were rapidly rising with average intensity of 0.3 – 0.4 m/day as the result of inter tropical convergence zone and strong Southwest monsoon influences during last week. These stations were recording levels that are above the long-term average for this time of the year.

Figure 4 and 5 show rapidly rising of water levels at stations from Nakhon Phanom/Thakhek to Khong Chiam in last week.

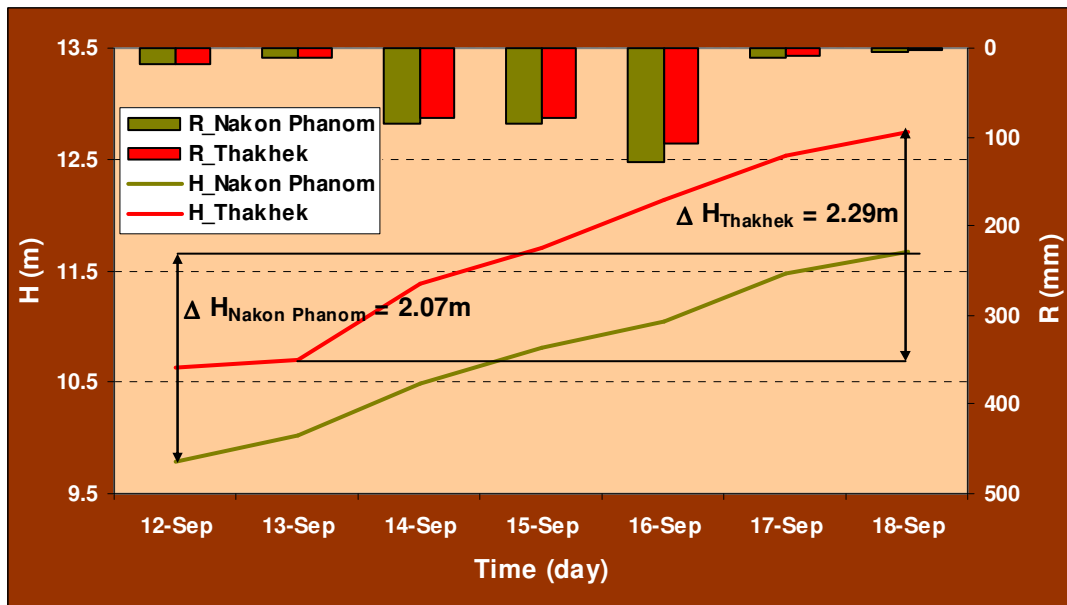


Figure 4: Rapidly increasing of water level on mainstream at stations Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek

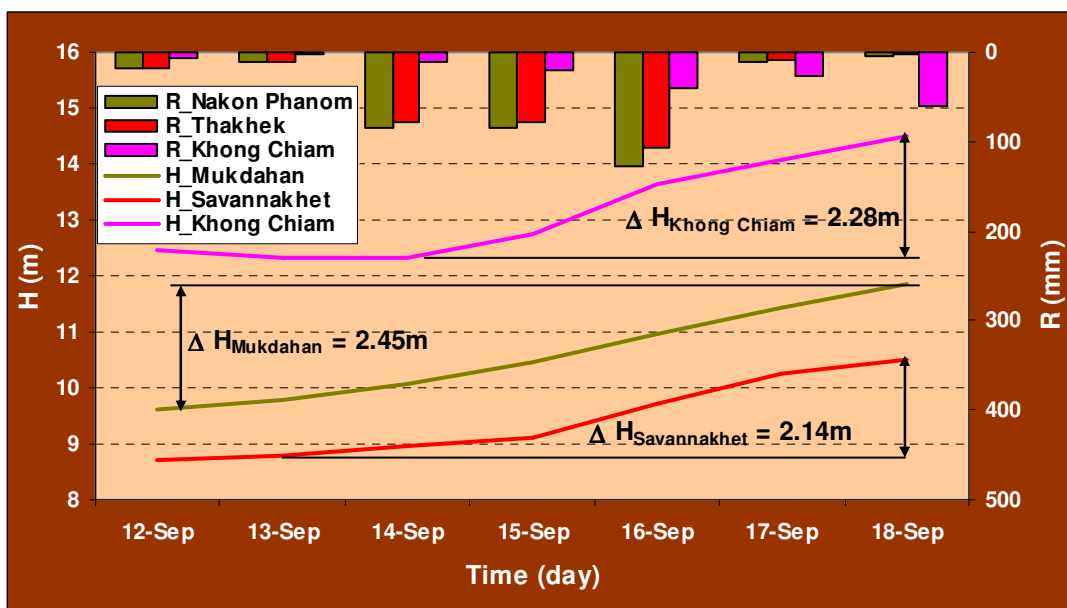


Figure 5: Rapidly increasing of water level on mainstream at stations Savannakhet, Mukdahan and Khong Chiam

Water levels at stations on the left bank tributaries of Lao PDR such as at Ban Phone Si of Nam Ca Dinh river, at Mahaxai of Se Bang Fai and at Ban Pak Kanhoung of Nam Ngun river rose up quickly in last week (Figure 6).

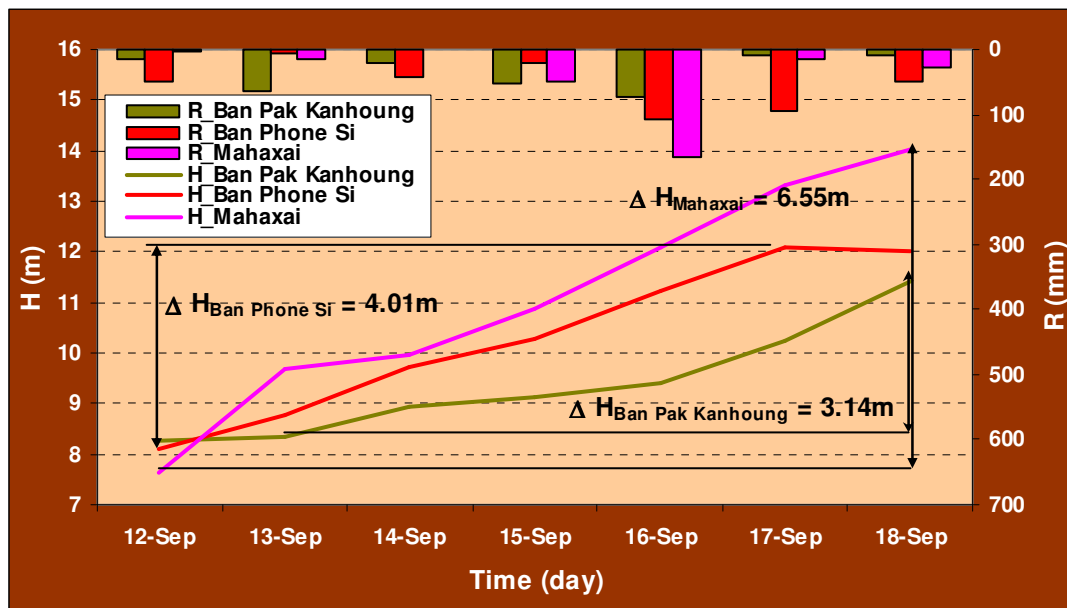


Figure 6: Rapidly increasing of water levels at stations on tributaries: Nam Ca Dinh river at Ban Phone Si, Se Bang Fai river at Mahaxai and Nam Ngun river at Ban Pak Kanhoung

For stations Strung Treng to Kompong Cham

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

For stations from Phnom Penh Port/ Phnom Penh Bassac to Prek Dam

Water levels at these stations showed a slightly rising trend during last week and were above the long-term average for this time of the year.

Tan Chau and Chau Doc

Water levels were rising till the end of the week. Both stations were recording levels that are 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 has reached flood stage at Pakse since 18th September, 2011.
 - The Mekong has reached alarm situation at Tan Chau and Chau Doc monitoring stations.

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
12/09	536.25	5.03	11.42	11.40	8.78	10.00	11.52	9.78	10.63	9.59	8.73	12.46	10.51	10.44	21.80	14.97	9.67	8.88	7.43	6.97	8.73	3.85	3.29
13/09	537.01	4.77	11.04	11.46	9.09	10.30	12.06	10.02	10.70	9.79	8.79	12.31	10.28	9.99	21.69	15.19	9.79	8.95	7.48	7.06	8.84	3.90	3.32
14/09	536.67	4.58	10.90	11.42	9.18	10.48	12.50	10.49	11.38	10.07	8.96	12.33	10.22	9.63	21.30	15.21	9.91	9.06	7.52	7.16	8.97	3.95	3.35
15/09	536.76	5.03	10.66	11.33	9.15	10.52	12.56	10.81	11.70	10.46	9.11	12.75	10.72	9.45	20.95	15.09	9.95	9.09	7.53	7.24	9.05	3.99	3.39
16/09	537.28	5.03	11.08	11.10	9.00	10.42	12.87	11.05	12.13	10.95	9.72	13.65	11.43	9.84	20.98	14.92	10.00	9.14	7.55	7.29	9.08	4.03	3.41
17/09	537.28	5.13	12.34	11.04	8.72	10.21	13.05	11.47	12.54	11.43	10.25	14.08	11.71	10.17	21.29	14.97	10.02	9.15	7.56	7.32	9.11	4.06	3.45
18/09	536.48	5.26	12.64	11.56	8.86	10.25	13.02	11.67	12.75	11.84	10.50	14.50	12.00	10.34	21.50	15.08	10.04	9.16	7.58	7.35	9.16	4.09	3.48
19/09	537.05	5.26	12.88	12.21	9.33	10.72	13.23	11.85	12.92	12.04	10.87	14.74	12.11	10.45	21.61	15.19	10.11	9.20	7.60	7.40	9.22	4.12	3.51
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
12/09	7.0	0.3	nr	4.2	6.0	4.3	40.0	17.7	18.0	25.5	40.5	5.8	6.3	3.0	3.6	nr	0.3	-	13.2	16.2	nr	10.0	-
13/09	18.0	5.4	23.6	61.0	96.3	121.3	55.0	11.7	11.1	7.1	7.0	2.0	nr	15.0	12.6	8.6	1.3	-	5.3	2.2	nr	nr	-
14/09	0.0	26.0	13.4	16.8	16.0	23.3	6.6	85.4	78.1	13.3	10.5	11.0	18.8	17.5	nr	13.0	nr	-	0.7	nr	5.3	nr	-
15/09	3.0	1.6	6.4	9.4	25.5	42.4	72.2	84.5	78.4	13.2	16.6	19.7	69.0	52.0	12.8	nr	nr	-	0.0	nr	nr	0.5	-
16/09	5.0	0.5	11.4	0.5	19.4	18.7	38.0	128.0	107.1	12.8	14.9	40.5	38.7	38.5	38.8	nr	1.1	-	2.5	7.2	4.2	6.2	16.0
17/09	4.0	25.4	31.4	1.8	nr	3.9	14.6	10.2	9.2	nr	nr	26.2	21.8	10.0	6.4	nr	22.8	-	31.0	0.0	7.5	20.8	8.5
18/09	2.0	0.7	52.0	0.5	9.5	2.0	133.6	4.6	2.3	5.0	1.3	61.2	5.8	25.0	nr	0.0	nr	-	nr	nr	37.2	nr	-
19/09	13.0	7.1	-	16.0	-	137.1	-	15.7	-	0.2	-	19.5	-	1.5	29.2	nr	nr	-	nr	nr	nr	nr	5.0

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

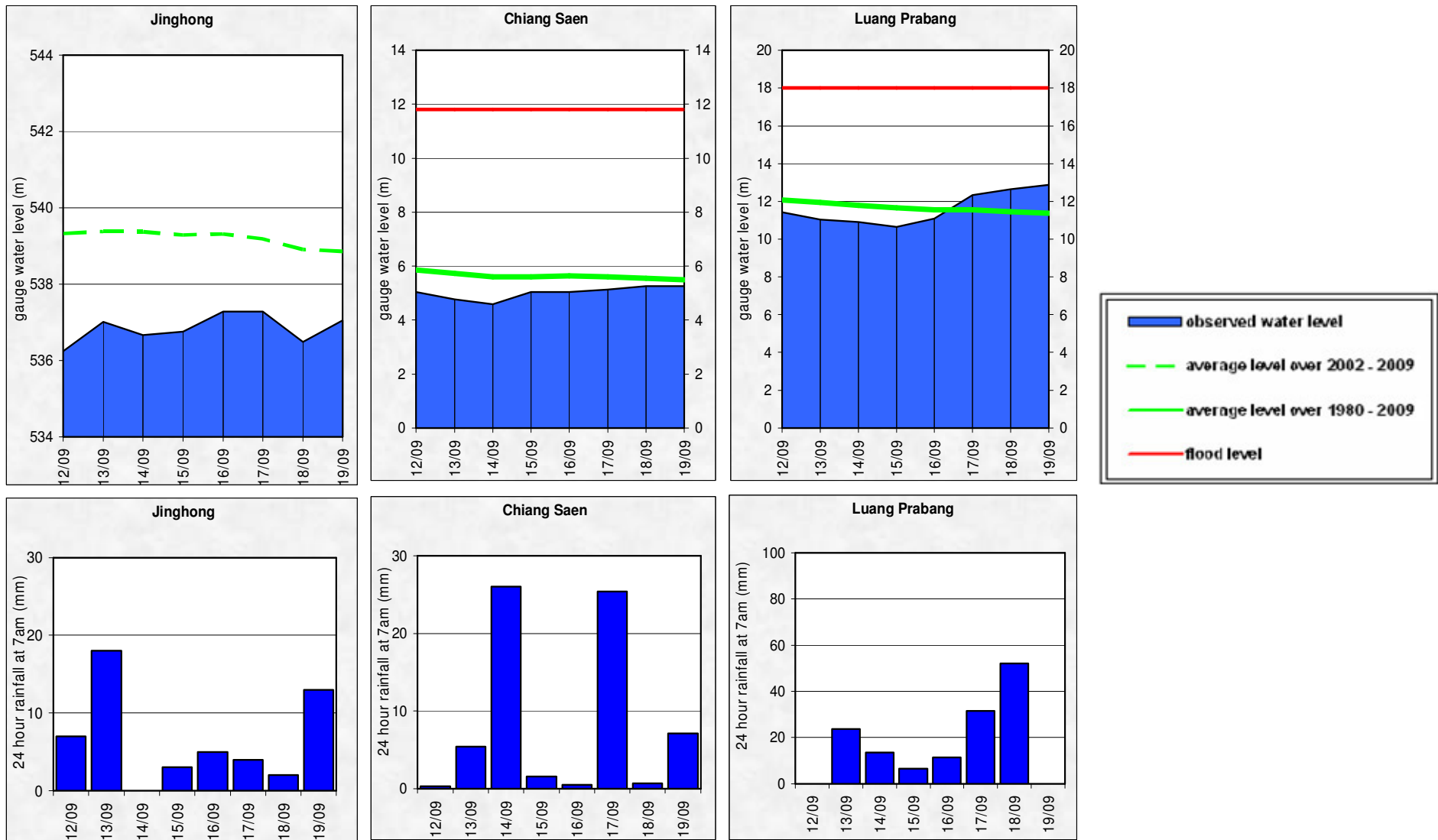


Figure A2: Water level and rainfall for Chiang Khan, Vientiane, Nongkhai, and Paksane

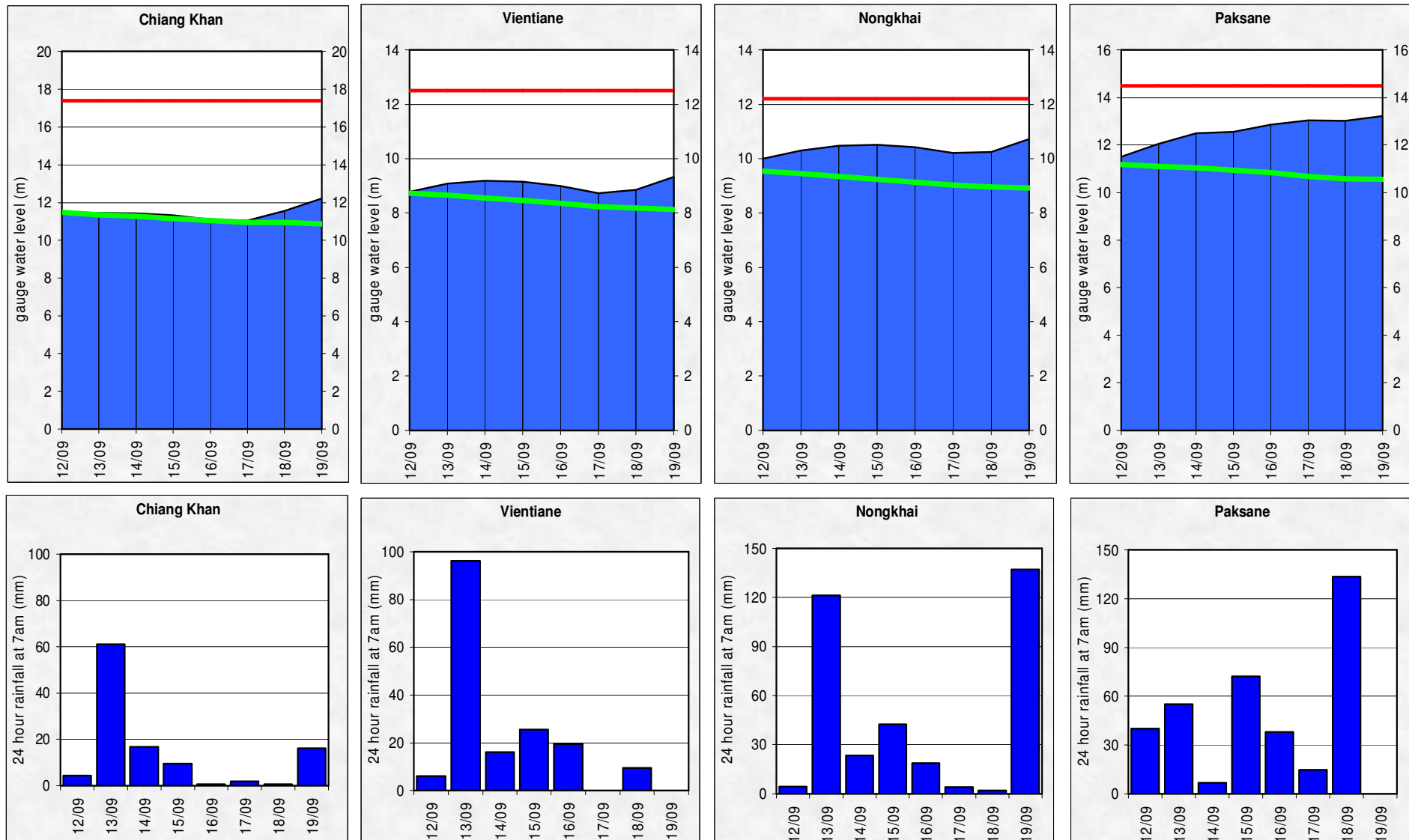


Figure A3: Water level and rainfall for Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Mukdahan and Savannakhet

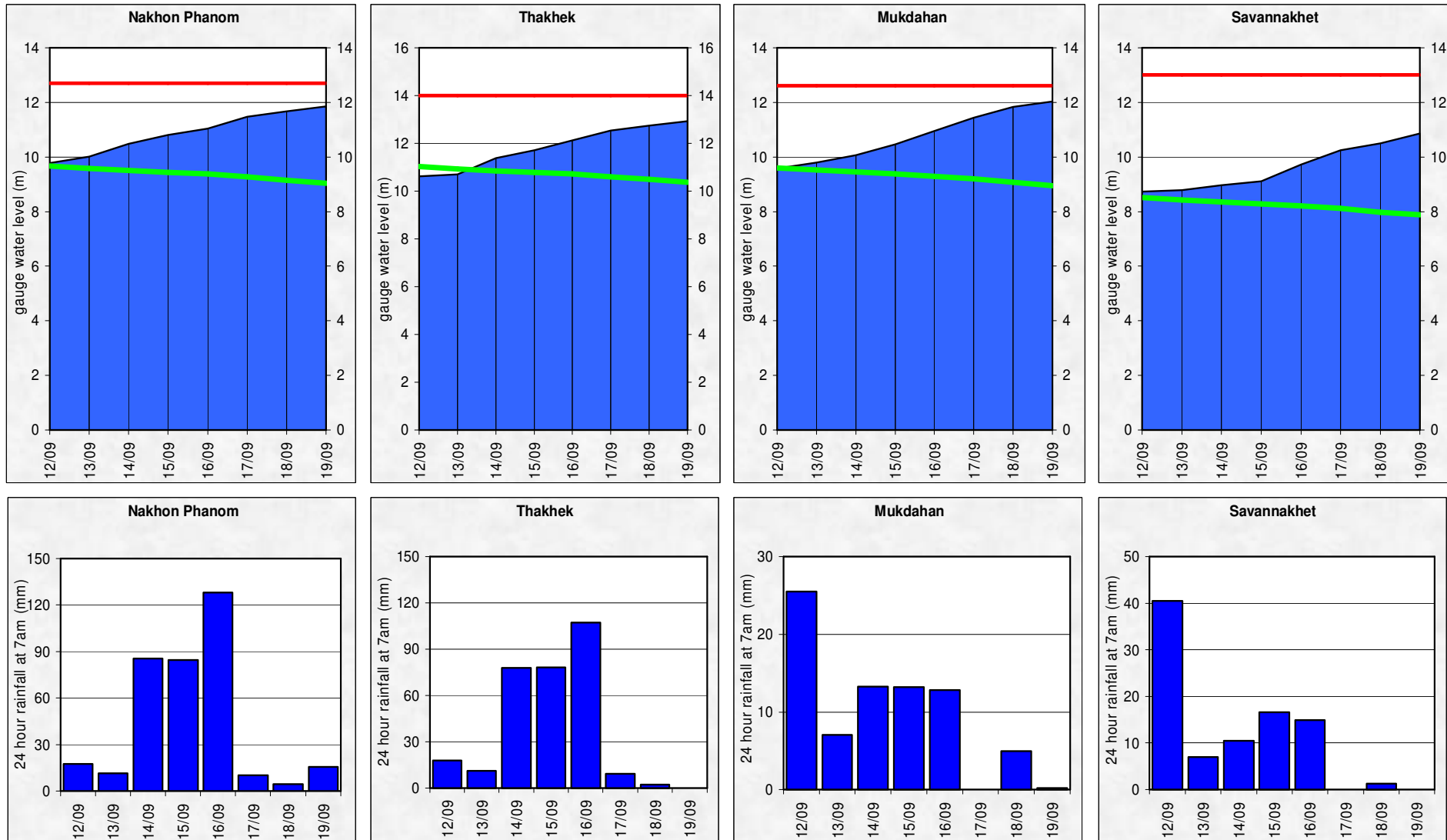


Figure A4: Water level and rainfall for Khong Chiam, Pakse, Stung Treng, and Kratie

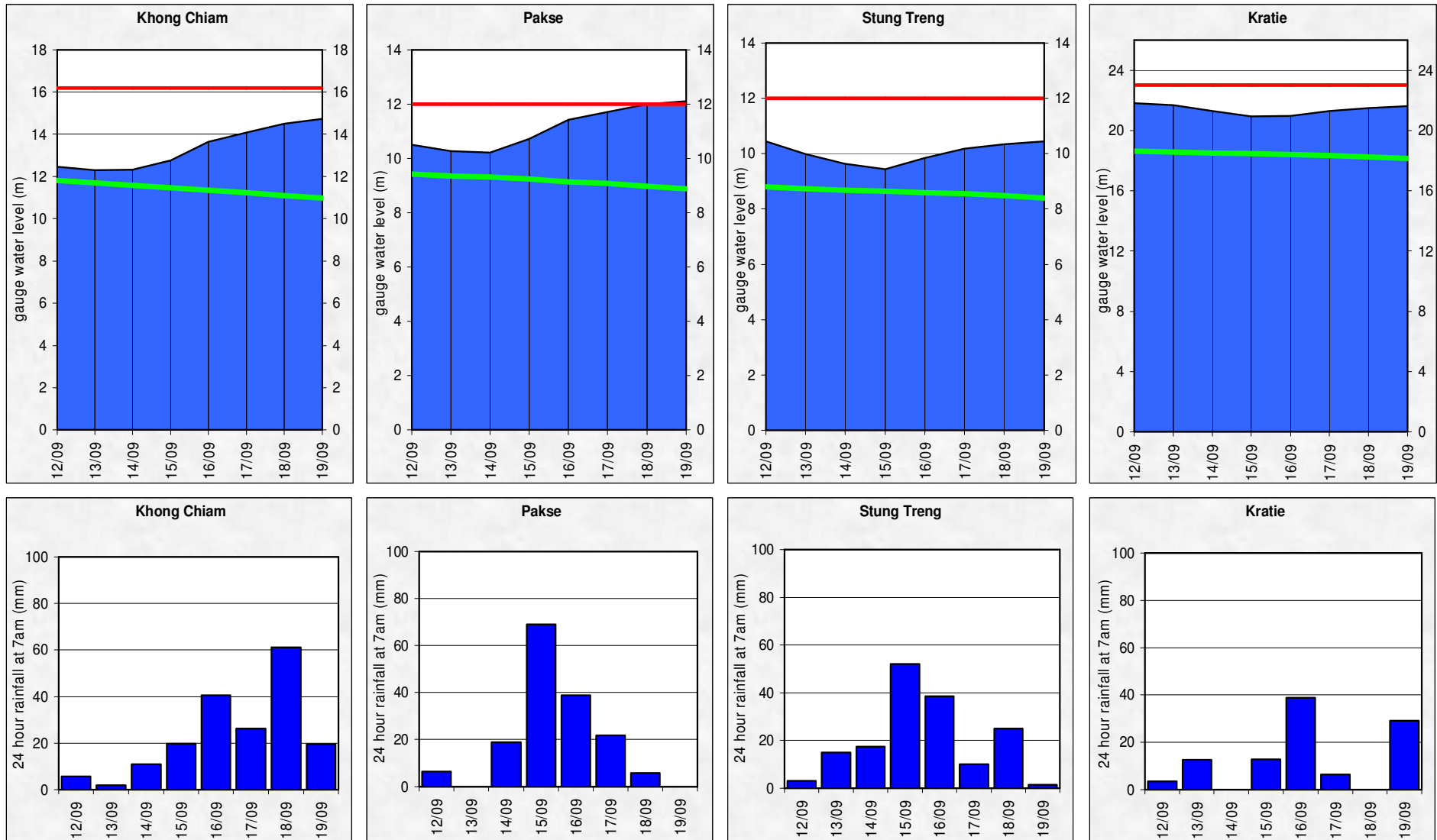


Figure A5: Water level and rainfall for Kompong Cham, Phnom Penh (Bassac and Port), and Koh Khel

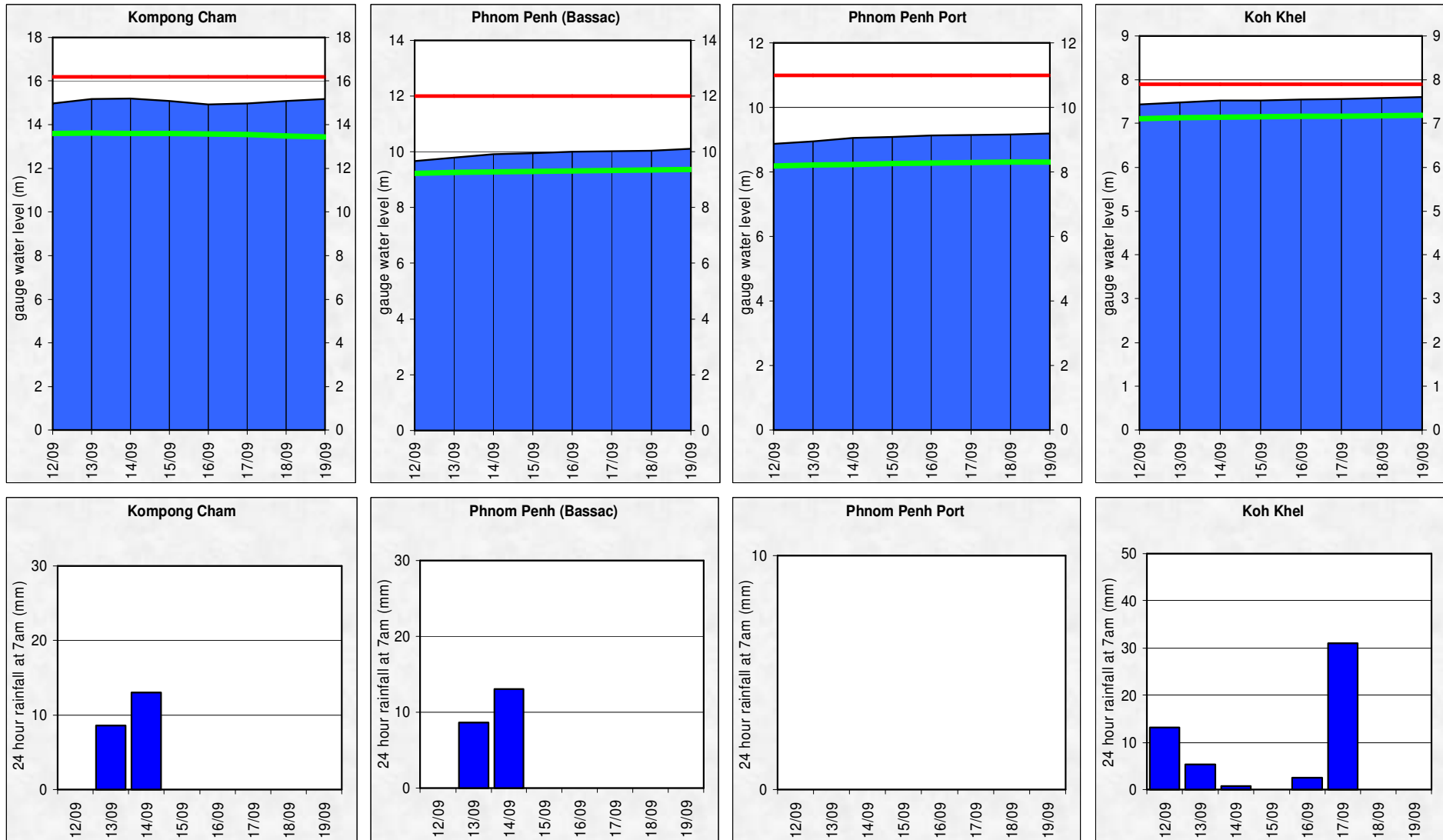
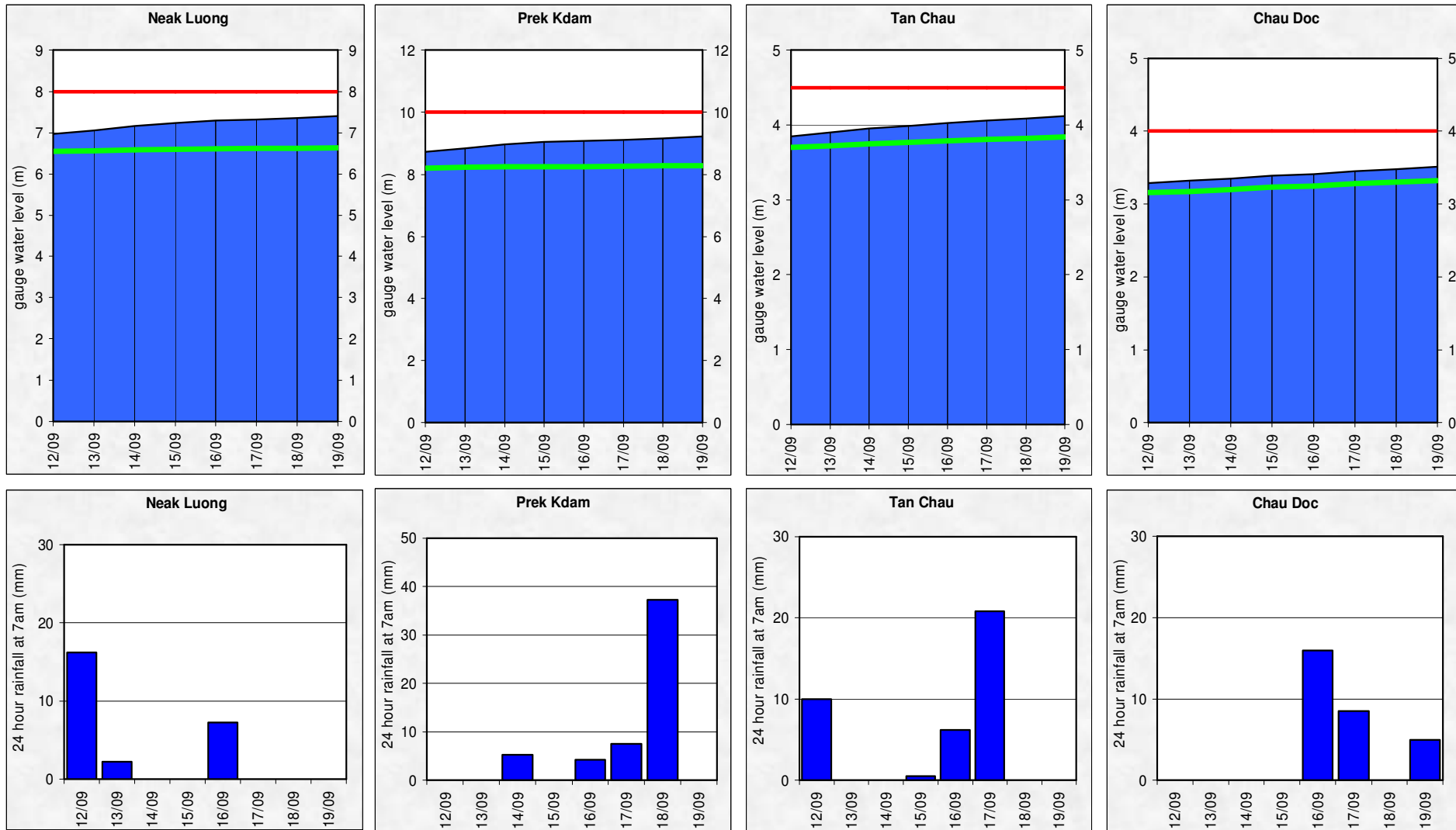


Figure A6: Water level and rainfall for Neak Luong, Prek Kdam, Tan Chau and Chau Doc



Annex B: Accuracy and performance

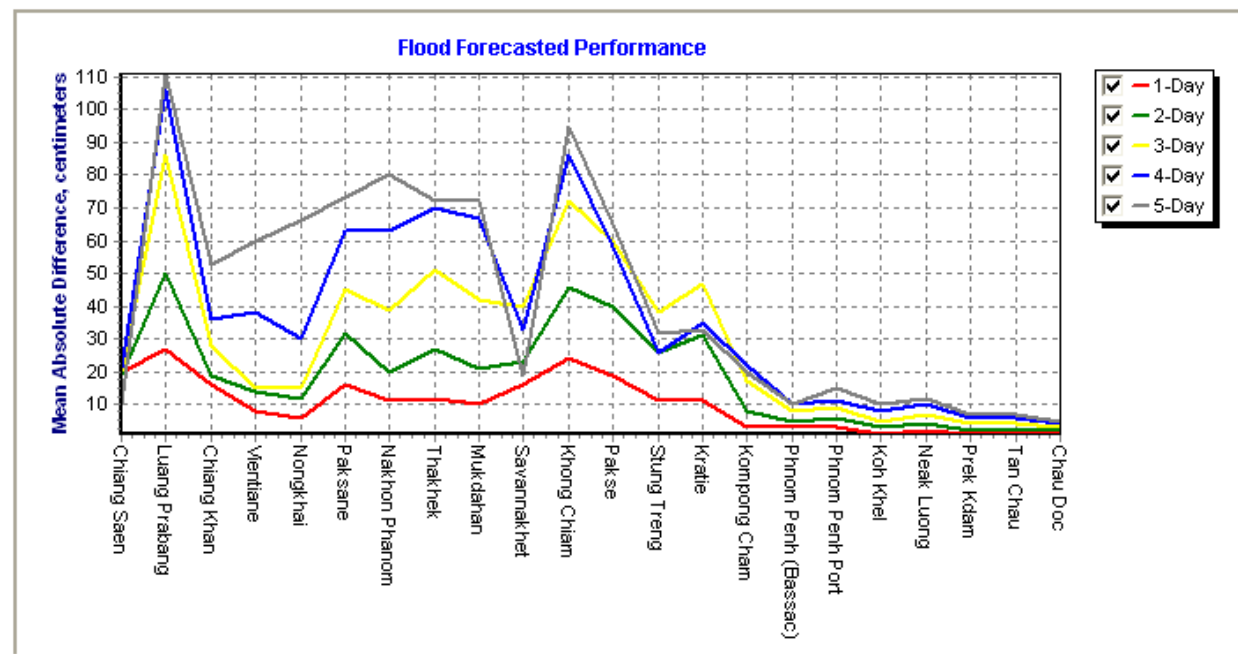
Accuracy

“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.

In general, the overall accuracy is good for 1-day and 3-day forecast lead time at most stations; however accuracies at stations Luang Prabang and Khong Chiam for 4-day to 5-day forecast were less than expected.

The above differences due to 3 main factors: (1) high variability of the SRE and NWP when appearance of critical weather pattern as ITCZ; (2) internal model functionality in forecasting for middle reach of the LMB in taking into account flow contribution from tributaries, for which the parameter adjustment in the model is not possible; (3) the adjustment by flood forecaster-in-charge at those stations.

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	85.7	71.4	71.4	85.7	57.1	42.9	71.4	71.4	57.1	28.6	42.9	42.9	42.9	100.0	100.0	85.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	74.0
2-day	100.0	66.7	100.0	83.3	83.3	66.7	66.7	50.0	66.7	66.7	33.3	50.0	33.3	50.0	100.0	83.3	83.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	76.5
3-day	100.0	20.0	80.0	100.0	80.0	40.0	20.0	40.0	20.0	40.0	0.0	40.0	40.0	20.0	80.0	80.0	60.0	100.0	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	60.9
4-day	100.0	25.0	50.0	75.0	100.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	75.0	0.0	25.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	70.5
5-day	100.0	33.3	66.7	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.3	66.7	33.3	100.0	0.0	33.3	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	69.7

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://fw.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>	10:37	0	-	5	08:08	08:19	07:23	06:27	09:07	07:41	06:58	0	0	10	46	143	3	44
<i>month</i>	10:33	0	-	14	08:09	08:13	07:21	06:05	09:06	07:46	07:00	0	0	12	139	489	4	197
<i>season</i>	10:29	4	00:00	60	08:12	08:19	07:35	06:10	08:54	07:52	07:11	3	16	39	883	1852	150	608

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.

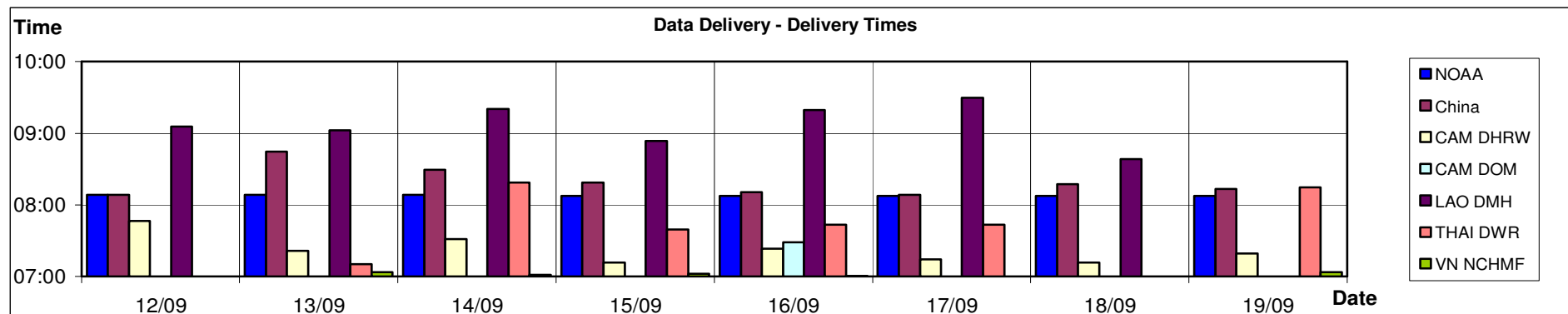


Figure B2: Data delivery times for the past 8 days including the current report date

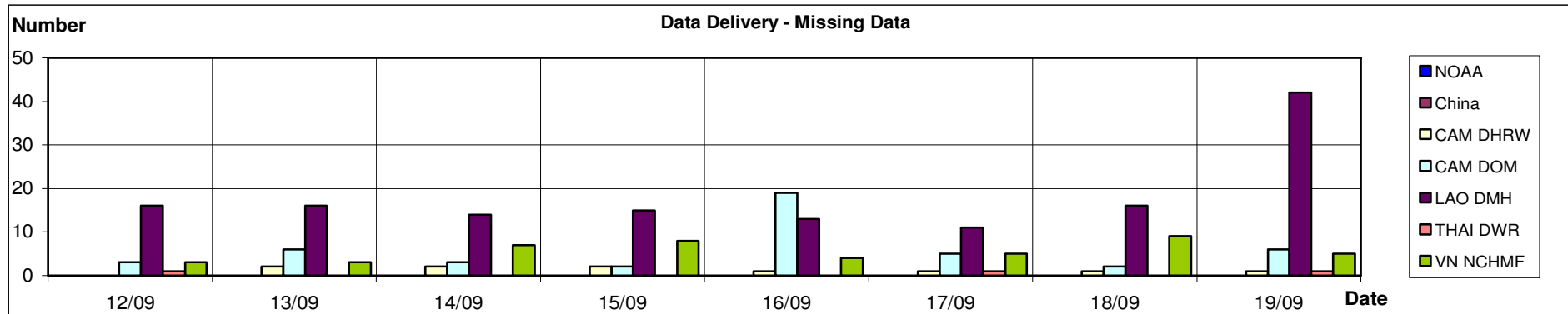


Figure B3: Missing data for the past 8 days including the current report date

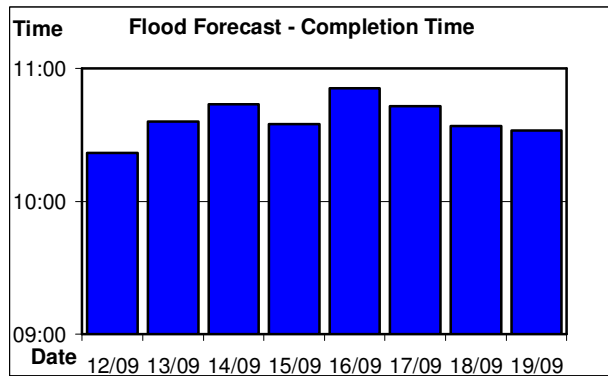


Figure B4: Flood forecast completion time

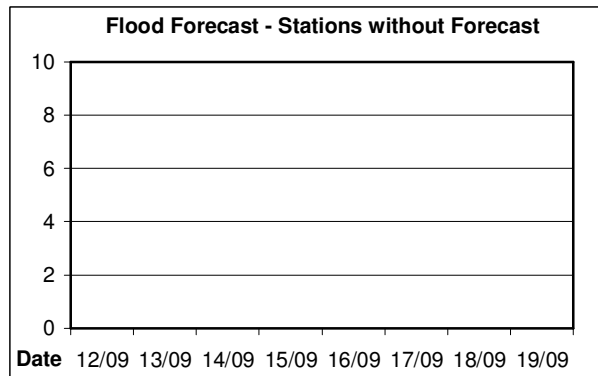


Figure B5: Flood forecast stations without forecast

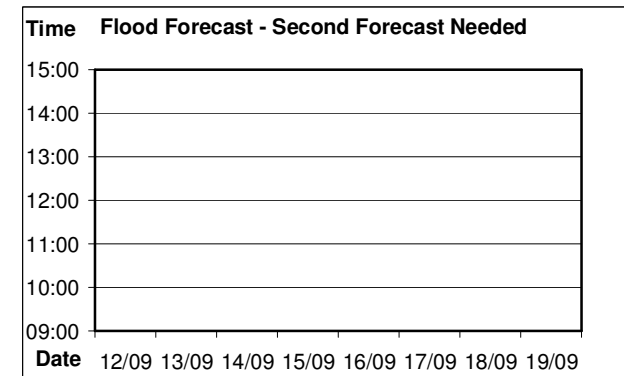


Figure B6: Second forecast needed

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

