

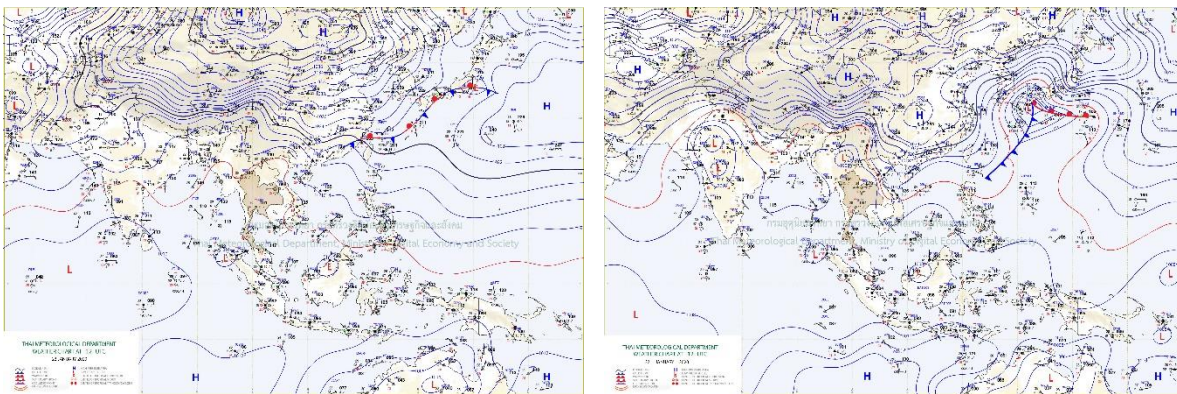
### Weekly Dry Season Situation Report for the Mekong River Basin

Prepared on: 28/01/2020, covering the week from 21 to 27 Jan 2020

### Weather Patterns, General Behaviors of the Mekong River and Outlook Situation

#### General weather patterns:

From 21 to 27 Jan 2020, there was no rainfall in the LMB. Based on the weather outlook bulletins and maps issued by the Thailand Meteorology Department (TMD) were used to verify the weather condition in the LMB. They stated that for the next 3 months from Jan to Mar 2020, the cold appears because the influentially high-pressure air mass areas prevail over Thailand for the whole month. However, at some periods, coldly high-pressure air masses from China will meet hot air masses already prevailing over LMB. They also stated that the cool weather throughout the week is covered at mountainous areas and mountain tops. **Figures 1** presented the weather map for 23 and 27 Jan 2020.



**Figure 1:** Summary of weather condition over the LMB from 23 and 27 Jan 2020

#### General behavior of the Mekong River:

This week from 21 to 27 Jan 2020, water levels from Chiang Saen were slightly increased, varied from 0.03 m to 0.09 m due to the finished test the equipment of hydropower station at Jinghong, China at 4 Jan 2020. Water levels at this station were fluctuated with its Long-Term -Average (LTA). However, water level at Luang Prabang and Chiang Khan are likely impacted by hydropower dam at Xayaburi and upstream hydropower dams in which water level at this station were raised up close to it Maximum levels and varied from 0.07 m to 0.4 m. Water levels at Chaining (downstream of Xayaburi) were stay below their LTAs. And water levels at stations in the middle part of LMB from Vientiane to Pakse were slightly increased based on the trend inflows from upstream, but their water levels are still staying below their LTAs and even below to their Minimum levels (Nong Khai). The station at Nong Khai is considered critical condition). Follow the same trend of water levels from upstream, stations at Stung Treng, Kratie, Chaktomuk on the Bassac, Phnom Penh Port and Neak Luong were very low and stay closely to their minimum levels (these stations were considered critical condition). For the 2 tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc, water levels decreased followed the same trends as minimum levels in January 2020. The actual water levels at most of the key station are staying below their LTAs and even Min Levels (see its hydrograph in **Annex B**).

#### ***For stations from Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang***

Water levels from 21 to 27 Jan 2020 at Chiang Saen station were slightly increased, after the finished testing equipment for hydropower dam at Jinghong station in China. The increased water levels were

resulted from the increased inflows from that station. Water levels at this station varied from 0.03 m to 0.09 m. However, at Luang Prabang station, water levels were raised close to its historical maximum levels. Water levels at this station sometime decreased in between 0.07 m to 0.4 m, due to the reservoir operation of upstream and downstream at Xayaburi. It was observed that the Luang Prabang stations is likely nominated by hydro power dam operation upstream (tributaries) and downstream (Xayaburi) in which water levels always fluctuated above their LTAs, during the impounding reservoir at Xayaburi from end of October 2018 to May 2019.

#### ***For stations from Chiang Khan, Vientiane-Nong Khai and Paksane***

Water levels from 21 to 27 Jan 2020 at Chiang Khan station were likely also nominated by upstream hydropower dam of Xayaburi, which was noted that water levels decreased, varied from -0.02 to -0.10 m. The current observed water levels at Vientiane and Nong Khai stations are in very critical condition, in which they stay below their historical LTA and below their Minimum levels.

#### ***For stations from Nakhon Phanom to Pakse***

Water levels from 21 to 27 Jan 2020 at Nakhon Phanom to Pakse stations were slightly decreased, followed the same trends from upstream and varied from -0.02 to -0.05 m. The current water levels at these stations are considered critical condition in which they stay below their minimum historical levels.

#### ***For stations from Stung Treng to Kompong Cham/ Phnom Penh to Koh Khel/Neak Luong***

Water levels from 21 to 27 Jan 2020 at Stung Treng, Kratie and Kompong Cham were slightly decrease, varied from -0.02 m to -0.05 m. The current water levels at Kompong Cham, Chaktomuk Koh Khel, Phnom Penh Port, Neak Luong and Prekdam on the Tonle Sap are critical. Their water levels are stay below their historical minimum levels (1980-2018).

#### ***Tan Chau and Chau Doc***

Water levels from 21 to 27 Jan 2020 at the 2 tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc were decreased and fluctuated over their LTAs, due to the tidal effect from the sea.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), Sea surface temperature (SST) variability in the tropics Neutral, which has no major impact.

### **Discussion and Conclusion**

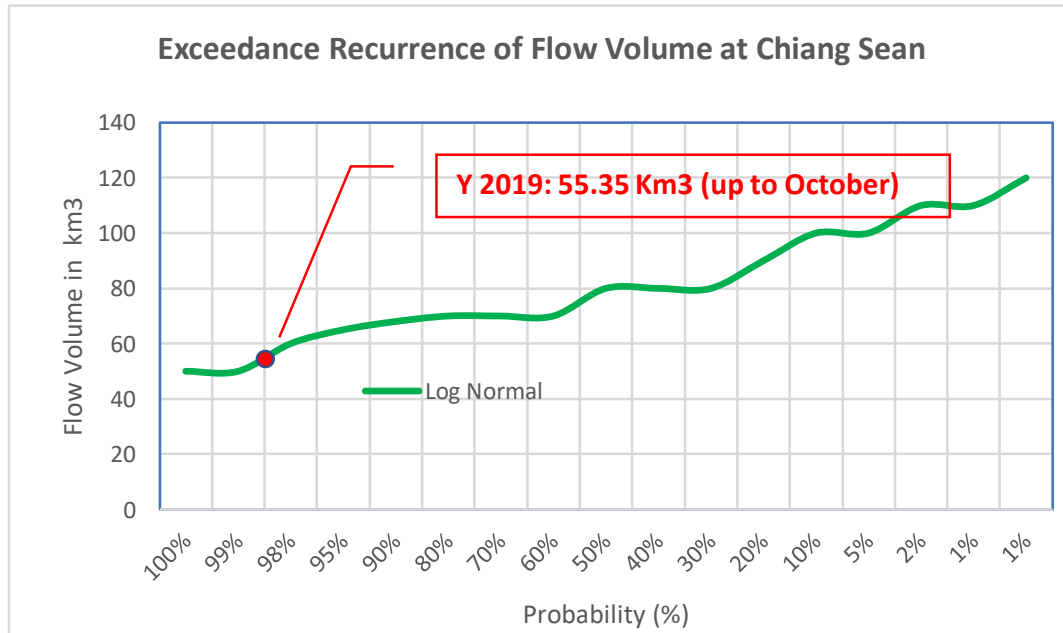
From 21 to 27 Jan 2020, the trend of water levels at Chiang Sean were slightly increased after finished the test of equipment of hydropower dam at Jinghong in 5 Jan 2020. Water level at Chiang Sean is relied from inflow from Jinghong Hydropower Station on Lancang and its catchment rainfall. The impact could obviously see the gradually increasing water level to downstream to Vientiane/Nong Khai. Based on a hydrological phenomenon, the inflow contribution of water from the upstream of Lancang-Mekong in China to the Mekong mainstream is about 16% in total during the Dry season from Nov to May, while 24% in the Wet season (Adamson. 2010). The whole inflow of water into the lower Mekong basin is influenced more by inflow from tributaries and the direct rainfall catchment.

The low inflows from upstream and less rainfall in catchments, resulting water levels from Paksane to Pakse are drastically dropped below their minimum levels. Also, from Stung Treng, Kratie and Kompong Cham stations water levels are followed the same trend from upstream which stay below their minimum levels.

Based on the Exceedance Recurrence of the Minimum Flow Volumes at Chiang Sean, Chaing Khan and Kratie referred to historical data availability and the flows volume up to October 2019, it showed the current situation at these stations are considered as critical low flows in between **50 to 100 year of return period of low flow condition**. **Figure 2** showed the Exceedance Recurrence Flow Volume

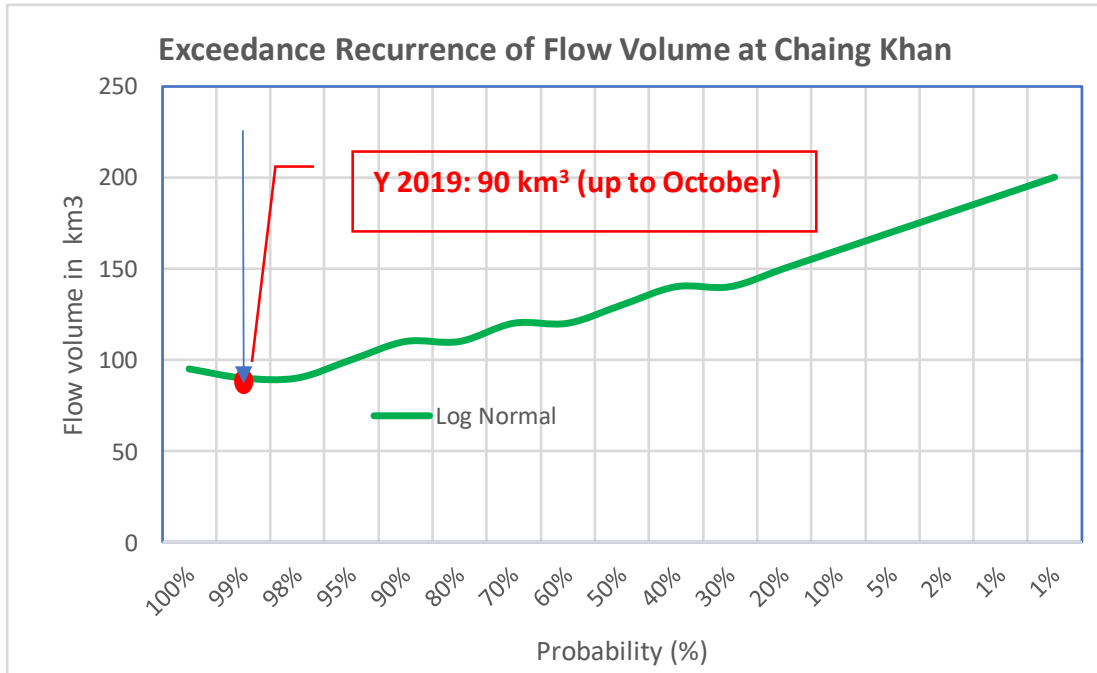
with the table of probability condition of highlighted the low flows condition at Chiang Sean, Chiang Khan and Kratie.

A. Chaing Sean Station



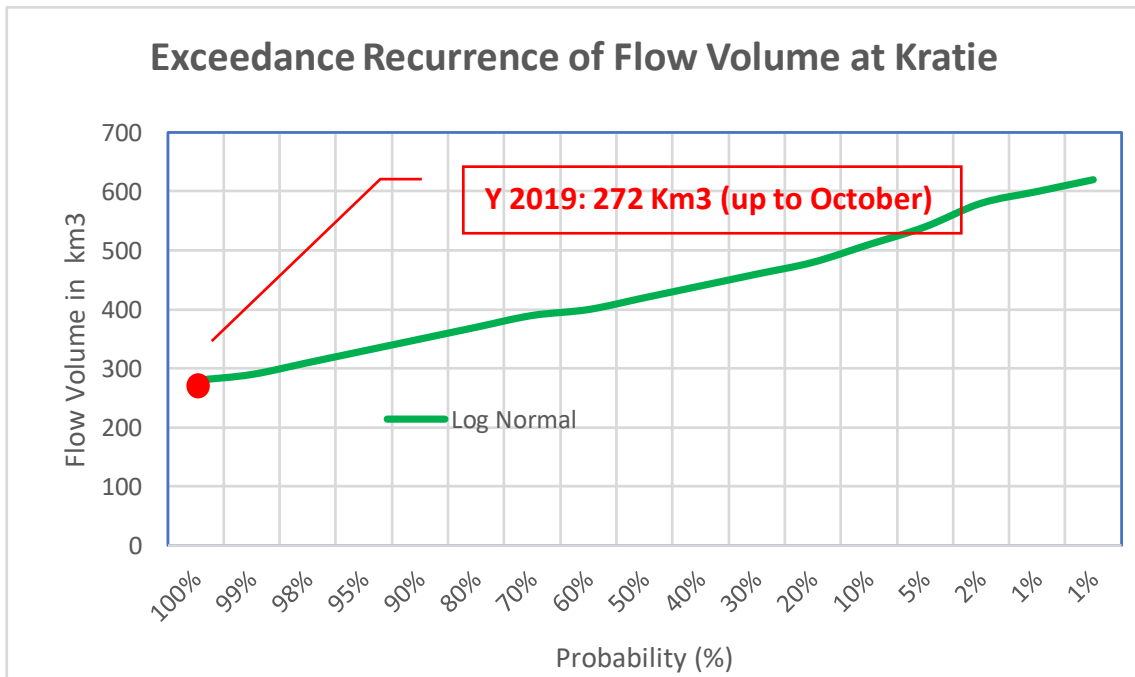
Probability	Recurrence Year	Log Normal [km <sup>3</sup> ]	Y2019 [km3]	Conditions
100%	200	50		<b>Critical Low Flow</b>
99%	100	50		
98%	50	60	<b>55.35</b>	<b>Low Flow</b>
95%	20	65		
90%	10	68		
80%	5	70		<b>Normal Flow</b>
70%	3	70		
60%	2	70		
50%	2	80		
40%	3	80		
30%	3	80		
20%	5	90		
10%	10	100		<b>High Flow</b>
5%	20	100		
2%	50	110		
1%	100	110		
1%	200	120		

B. Chiang Khan Station



Probability	Recurrence Year	Log Normal [km <sup>3</sup> ]	Y2019 [km <sup>3</sup> ]	Conditions
100%	200	50		Critical Low Flow
99%	100	50		
98%	50	60	55.35	Low Flow
95%	20	65		
90%	10	68		Normal Flow
80%	5	70		
70%	3	70		
60%	2	70		
50%	2	80		
40%	3	80		
30%	3	80		
20%	5	90		High Flow
10%	10	100		
5%	20	100		
2%	50	110		
1%	100	110		
1%	200	120		

C. Kratie Station



Probability	Recurrence Year	Log Normal [km <sup>3</sup> ]	Y2019 [km <sup>3</sup> ]	Conditions
100%	200	280	272	Critical Low Flow
99%	100	290		
98%	50	310	Low Flow	
95%	20	330		
90%	10	350		
80%	5	370	Normal Flow	
70%	3	390		
60%	2	400		
50%	2	420		
40%	3	440		
30%	3	460		
20%	5	480		
10%	10	510	High Flow	
5%	20	540		
2%	50	580		
1%	100	600		
1%	200	620		

Flow data period: 1925-2019

**Figure 2:** Exceedance Recurrence Flow Volumes and Probability of Low Flow condition at Chiang Saen, Chiang Khan and Kratie

Based on the low flow analyses of the Mekong from Chiang Saen to Kratie, the upcoming **Dry Season** can be possible of facing some problem, related to the shortage of drinking water and agricultural production, fishery production, ecological systems, biodiversity, bank erosion, salinity intrusion in the Mekong Delta and waterway transport because not enough water for fish spawning and also aquatic lives ect. The reduced water flow could also affect to the expanding unsaturated soil which cause bank erosion and salinity intrusion from the sea.

### **The Trend of water level and its Outlook**

According to a notification from China's Ministry of Water Resources that the Mekong River Commission Secretariat received yesterday, the tests of the "equipment of the power station" will result in water outflow decrease from the dam from 1,200 – 1,400 cubic meters per second (m<sup>3</sup>/s) to between 800 – 1,000m<sup>3</sup>/s from 1-3 January 2020.

The amount of water flow was further reduced to its lowest point of 504-800m<sup>3</sup>/s on January 4 before it is restored to its original volumes, the notification said.

Based on the MRC's observed and forecasting water levels, the tests was seen the water level in Chiang Saen – the first monitoring station on the Mekong River in Thailand located approximately 300km away from Jinghong – drop between 0.76m on 6 January 2020.

From 27 Jan to 03 Feb 2020, water levels along the lower Mekong River from Thailand's Chiang Saen will continue to slightly decrease after the test equipment of hydropower station at Jinghong from 5 Jan 2020. The decreased water level will vary from -0.01 m to -0.04 m. From Lao PDR's Vientiane and Thailand's Nong Khai, water levels will slightly increase, followed the same trend from upstream and vary from 0.02 m to 0.04 m. From Thailand's Nakhon Phanom to Lao PDR's at Pakse, water levels will be slightly increased, varying from 0.02 m to 0.04 m. From Cambodia's at Stung Treng to Neak Loung on the Mekong River, water will slightly increase, varies from 0.03 m to 0.09 m.

For Viet Nam's Tan Chau on the Mekong River and Chau Doc on the Bassac River, water levels will decrease and fluctuate with their long-term averages (LTAs) with different trends from last year 2018-2019.

For details information on water levels and rainfall at each key station, **Annex A** and **Annex B** are presented as follows:

- Tables presents observed water levels and rainfall from last week (**Annex A**)
- The water levels hydrographs showing the observed water levels for the dry season (**Annex B**)

**Annex A: Graphs and Tables**

Table A1: observed water levels

Unit: m

2020	Jinghong	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Chiang Khan	Vientiane	Nongkhai	Paksane	Nakhon Phanom	Mukdahan	Pakse	Stung Treng	Kratie	Kompong Cham	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Koh Khel	Neak Luong	Prek Kdam	Tan Chau	Chau Doc
21-01-2020	-	1.88	8.23	3.40	0.73	0.86	2.72	0.89	1.44	0.93	2.52	7.11	2.79	2.08	2.19	1.98	1.22	0.84	0.93
22-01-2020	-	1.86	8.17	3.45	0.70	0.82	2.67	0.90	1.43	0.80	2.47	7.03	2.71	2.08	2.05	1.98	1.22	0.94	1.06
23-01-2020	-	2.02	8.12	3.50	0.72	0.81	2.60	0.89	1.48	0.88	2.42	6.90	2.68	2.07	2.05	1.96	1.22	1.13	1.26
24-01-2020	-	1.76	8.07	3.49	0.80	0.79	2.53	0.88	1.49	0.92	2.42	6.83	2.66	1.96	1.93	1.85	1.13	1.16	1.30
25-01-2020	-	1.60	8.15	3.48	0.80	0.92	2.63	0.86	1.48	0.88	2.42	6.76	2.65	1.84	1.88	1.78	1.12	1.15	1.31
26-01-2020	-	1.78	8.56	3.42	0.83	0.92	2.63	0.85	1.45	0.88	2.40	6.76	2.60	1.75	1.87	1.53	1.11	1.00	1.20
27-01-2020	-	1.87	8.47	3.42	0.85	0.88	2.57	0.87	1.43	0.92	2.42	6.74	2.55	1.96	1.92	1.74	1.07	0.88	0.98

Table A2: observed rainfall

Unit: mm

2020	Jinghong	Chiang Saen	Luang Prabang	Chiang Khan	Vientiane	Nongkhai	Paksane	Nakhon Phanom	Mukdahan	Pakse	Stung Treng	Kratie	Kompong Cham	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	Koh Khel	Neak Luong	Prek Kdam	Tan Chau	Chau Doc	
21-01-2020	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22-01-2020	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23-01-2020	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24-01-2020	-	0	0	0	0	0	1.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-01-2020	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26-01-2020	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27-01-2020	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Note: No data available from China during the Dry Season**

### Annex B: Season Water Level Hydrographs

This Annex showed water level hydrographs of each key station. These hydrographs distributed weekly water level for River Monitoring purpose.

#### HYDROGRAPH AT 7 AM OF MEKONG TONLE SAP AND BASSAC AT MAINSTREAM STATIONS IN DRY SEASON UP TO 27 JAN 2020

