



Mekong River Commission

Weekly Wet Season Situation Report in the Lower Mekong River Basin 30 August-05 September 2022

Prepared by
The Regional Flood and Drought Management Centre
06 September 2022

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Key Messages

Key messages for this weekly report are presented below:

Rainfall and its forecast

- Rainfall focused in the areas from Chiang Saen in Thailand to Tan Chau and Chau Doc in Viet Nam, including the upper, middle and lower parts in Lao PDR and Cambodia, varying from 5.60 millimetres (mm) to 130.00 mm.
- There will be above-average rainfalls for the next 5 days over the Mekong region from 06 to 10 September 2022 because there will be a low pressure dominating the upper Mekong region.

Water level and its forecast

- According to MRC's observed water level at Jinghong, it showed a fluctuated WL between 536.02 m and 536.72 m from 30 August to 05 September 2022. The current level is staying 0.06 m lower than its LTA value. Outflows from this station varied between 1,330.00 m³/s and 1,860.00 m³/s during the report period.
- With the fluctuated outflow from Jinghong upstream and heavy rainfall at catchment inflow, water levels of monitoring stations at Chiang Saen in Thailand experienced a significant decrease of about 0.72 m from 30 August to 05 September 2022, staying about 1.88 m lower than its LTA level, which is considered critical.
- Water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand from 30 August to 05 September 2022 decreased about 1.70 m and stayed about 2.05 m lower than its LTA value, while water level at Vientiane also decreased about 1.98 m and stayed about 1.44 m lower than its LTA level. Water levels at Nong Khai decreased 2.13 m and at Paksane it also decreased about 1.66 m, staying about 2.17 m and 2.47 m lower than their LTA value respectively. Water levels at these stations are considered critical.
- Water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand and Pakse in Lao PDR fluctuated between 0.10 m and 0.50 m. The current WLs at these stations are staying lower than their LTA level, considering **critical**. From the stretches of the river from Stung Treng to Kratie, water level decreased and stayed lower than their LTA values, which also considered critical.
- Water levels from Kompong Cham down to Chaktomuk, Koh Khel on the Bassac and Phnom Penh Port to Prek Kdam in Cambodia decreased and stayed below their LTA level, **considering critical**.

- The current water levels for most of the stations are lower than their LTA value. WLS at the 2 tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc were above their LTA value due to tidal effect during this monitoring period.
- Over the next five days, the water levels at the upper and middle parts from Chiang Khan to Pakse are expected to go up and those in downstream from Stung Treng to Neak Luong and Koh Khel will also go up. Water levels at these stations are still staying lower than their long-term average value.

Drought condition and its forecast

- During August 28-September 3, the LMB was facing some moderate drought in the eastern part covering **Borikhamxay, Khammuane, Savannakhet, Nong Khai, Nakhon Phanom, and Sakon Nakhon**. Among those drought-hit areas, **Khammuane is the driest province** during the week; and drought has been persisting for a few weeks by now. It is likely impacting some agricultural lands in the area.
- During the next three months, September is likely to be severely dry in the lower part covering around 50% of Cambodia, Vientiane province of Lao PDR in the north, and Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, and Kien Giang of the Mekong Delta of Viet Nam. While October and November are forecasted to be normal and wet all over the region.

1 Introduction

This Weekly Wet Season Situation Report presents a preliminary analysis of the weekly hydrological and drought situation in the Lower Mekong River Basin (LMB) for the period from **30 August-05 September 2022**. The trend and outlook for water levels are also presented.

This analysis is based on the daily hydro-meteorological data provided by the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Member Countries (MCs) – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam – and on satellite data. All the water levels indicated in this report refer to an above zero gauge of each station.

The report covers the following topics that are updated weekly:

- General weather patterns, including rainfall patterns over the LMB
- Water levels in the LMB, including in the Tonle Sap Lake
- Flash flood and drought situation in the LMB
- Weather, water level and flash flood forecast, and
- Possible implications.

Mekong River water levels are updated daily and can be accessed from:
http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin_wet.php.

Drought monitoring and forecasting information is available at:
<http://droughtforecast.mrcmekong.org>

Flash flood information is accessible at: <http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/ffg.php>

2 General Weather Patterns

The weather outlook bulletins for three months (July, August and September) and the weather maps issued by the Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) were used to verify weather conditions in the LMB.

At the end of August 2022, above-average rainfall has dropped over the LMB with increasing water levels in both mainstream and tributaries. The data from the TMD predict that above-average rainfall will happen again in the 2nd and 3rd weeks of September because of the coming back low-pressure trough moving downward in the LMB. Moreover, based on observation, the 1st week of September, rainfall was considered high due to the heavy rainfall in the upper, middle and lower parts of the LMB. They also mentioned from September to November, the low-pressure trough is going to prevail over the Mekong region bringing rainfalls during the rainy season period in 2022.

[Figure 1](#) presents the weather map of 05 September 2022, showing low-pressure dominating the upper part of the Mekong region, which might bring some rains for the next few days. The average rainfall is also predicted over the upper and lower parts of LMB, including northern Thailand, Lao PDR and Viet Nam and the 3S area (Sesan, Sre Pok, and Sekong) of Cambodia and Viet Nam.

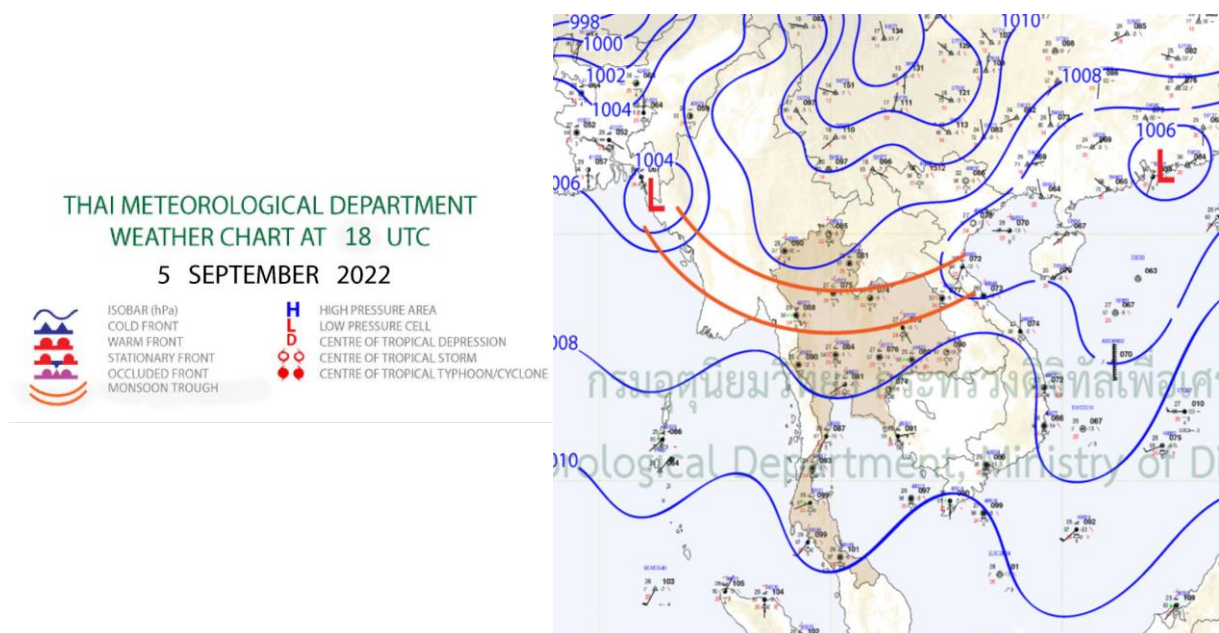


Figure 1. Summary of weather conditions over the LMB.

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), the highest probability of wet and warm conditions is predicted over the lower part of the Mekong region from 5 to 18 September 2022. Therefore, the Mekong region is likely dominated by wet and warm conditions, which may bring more rainfall and warm temperatures in general to the upper and lower parts of the LMB. **Figure 2** shows the outlook of weather condition from 5 to 18 September 2022 in Southeast Asia based on results from the NCEP model (National Centres for Environmental Prediction).

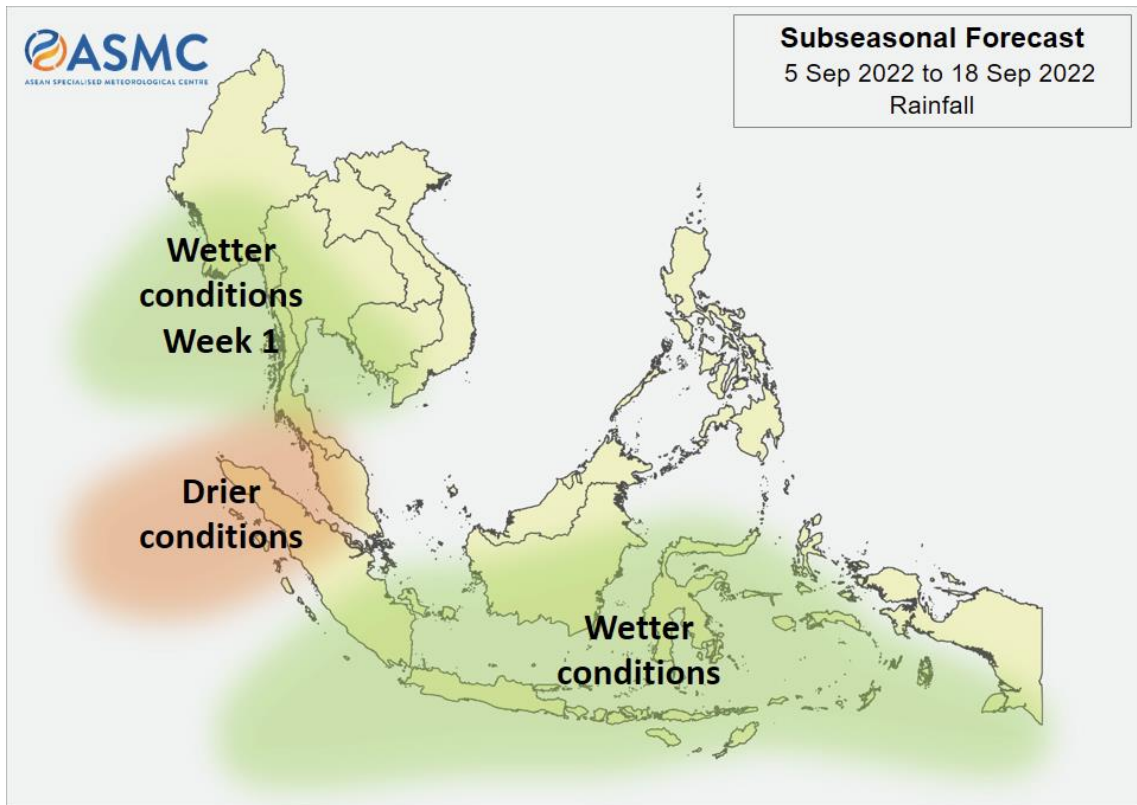


Figure 2. Outlook of wet and dry conditions over the Asian countries by ASMC.

2.1 Tropical depressions (TD), tropical storms (TS) and typhoons (TY)

There was no sign of Tropical Storm moving from the Sea to the LMB between 30 August and 05 September 2022, a low-pressure line is still presenting as shown in [Figure 1](#). The storms movement was detected outside of the LMB on September 5 in the LMB, as displayed in [Figure 3](#).

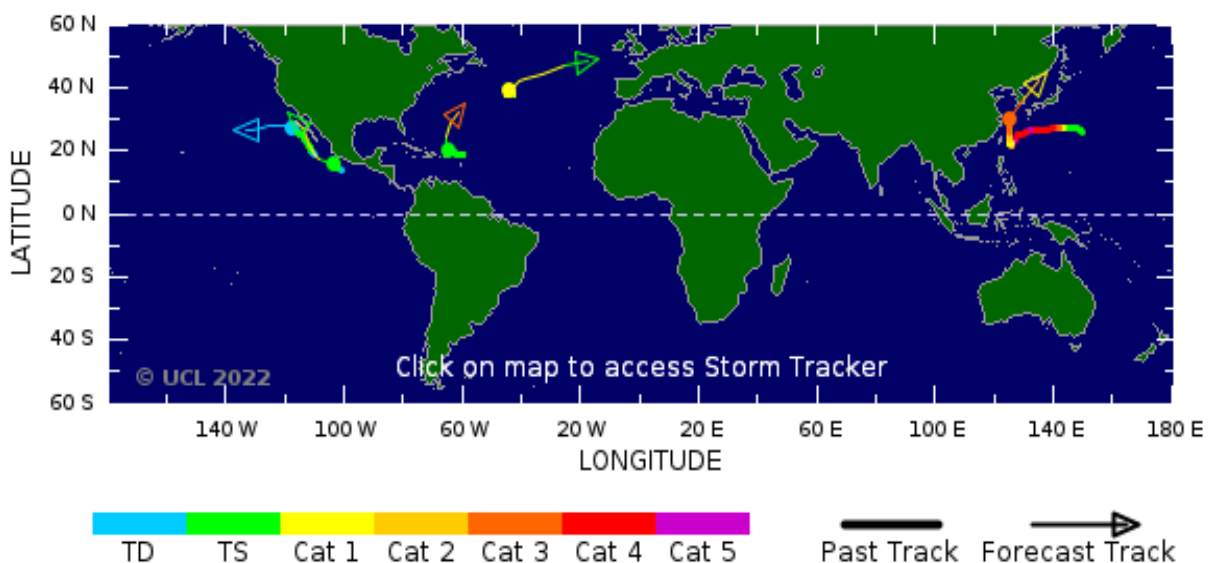


Figure 3. A tropical depression risk observed on 05 September 2022.

2.2 Rainfall patterns over the LMB

This week from 30 August to 05 September 2022, rainfall was observed from the upper to lower part starting from Chiang Saen in Thailand to Tan Chau and Chau Doc in Viet Nam of the Lower Mekong Basin, varied from 5.20 mm to 131.00 mm. The highest rainfall of this week report concentrated from Vientiane in Lao PDR to Kompong Cham in Cambodia, which reached up to 131.00 mm at Thakhek in Lao PDR. The total rainfall of this week report in the Mekong region, compared with last week and its long-term-average (LTA) is showed in [Figure 4](#). The total rainfall of this week was considered low, compared with its LTA and last week rainfall in most of the stations.

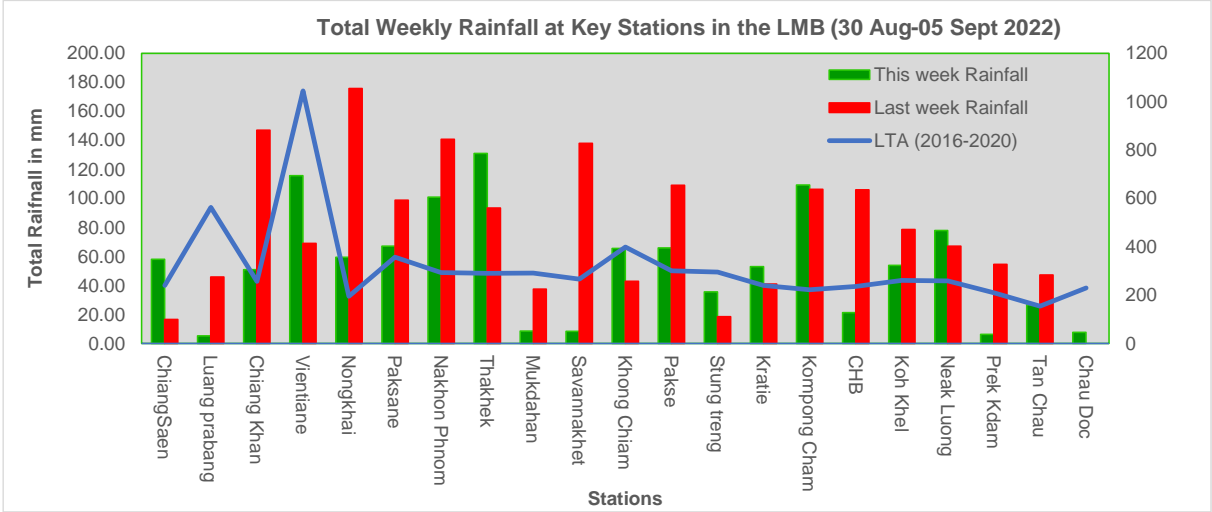


Figure 4. Weekly total rainfall at key stations in the LMB during 30 August- 05 September 2022.

To verify area rainfall distribution, [Figure 5](#) shows a map of the weekly accumulated rainfall based on observed data provided by the MRC Member Countries – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam – from 30 August to 05 September 2022.

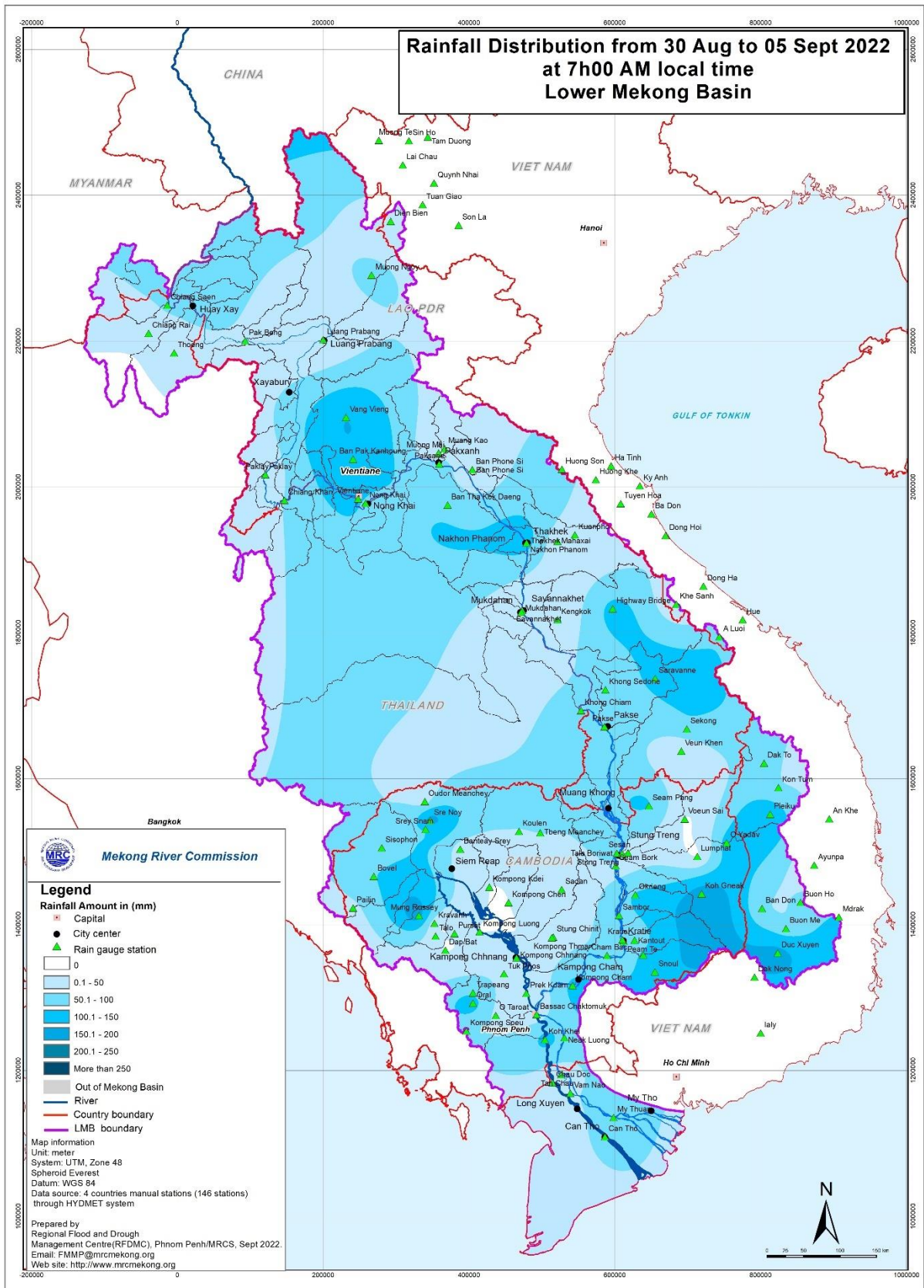


Figure 5. Weekly rainfall distribution over the LMB during 30 August to 05 September 2022.

3 Water Levels in the Lower Mekong River

The hydrological regimes of the Mekong mainstream are illustrated by recorded water levels and flows at key mainstream stations: at Chiang Saen in Thailand to capture mainstream flows entering from the Upper Mekong Basin (UMB); at Vientiane in Lao PDR to present flows generated by climate conditions in the upper part of the LMB; at Pakse in Lao PDR to investigate flows influenced by inflows from the larger Mekong tributaries; at Kratie in Cambodia to capture overall flows of the Mekong Basin; and at Viet Nam’s Tan Chau and Chau Doc to monitor flows to the Delta.

The key stations along the LMB and their respective model application for River Flood Forecasting during the wet season from June to October and River Monitoring during the dry season from November to May are presented in [Figure 6](#). The hydrograph for each key station is available from the MRC’s River Flood Forecasting: <http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/overview.php>. The weekly water levels and rainfall at each key station are summarised in [Annex A](#).

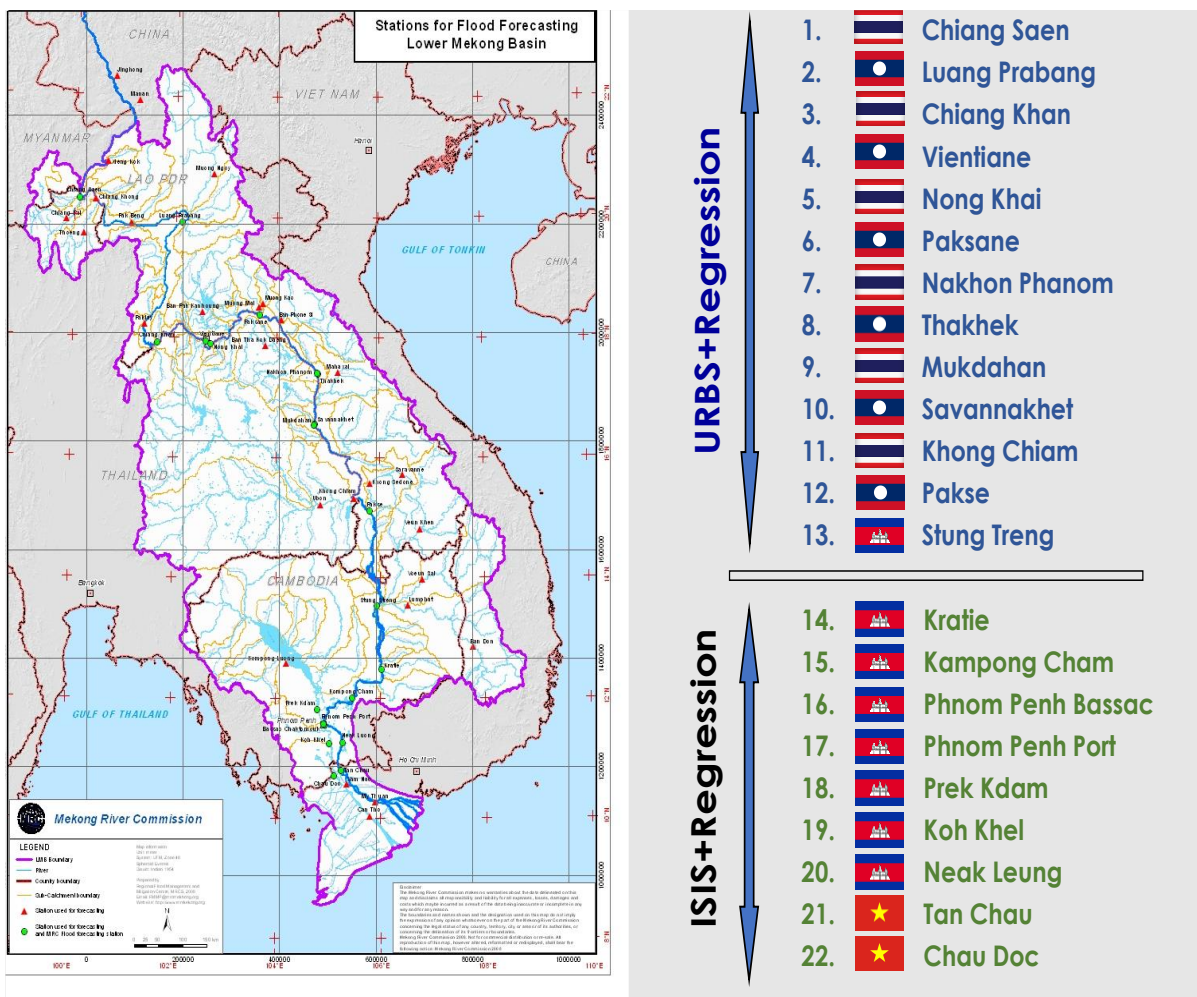


Figure 6. Key stations and model application for River Monitoring and Flood Forecasting.

According to MRC’s observed water level at Jinghong, it showed fluctuated water levels between **536.02 m** and **536.72 m** from 30 August to 05 September 2022 (**recorded on 7:00 am**). The current level is staying about 0.06 m lower than its Long-Term-Average (LTA: 2015-2021) value. The outflow at Jinghong station varied from 1,330.00 m³/s to 1,860.00 m³/s on 31 August and 05 September 2022. [Figure 7](#) below presents water level that fluctuated at the Jinghong hydrological station¹, indicating the trend of fluctuating water level up to 05 September 2022.

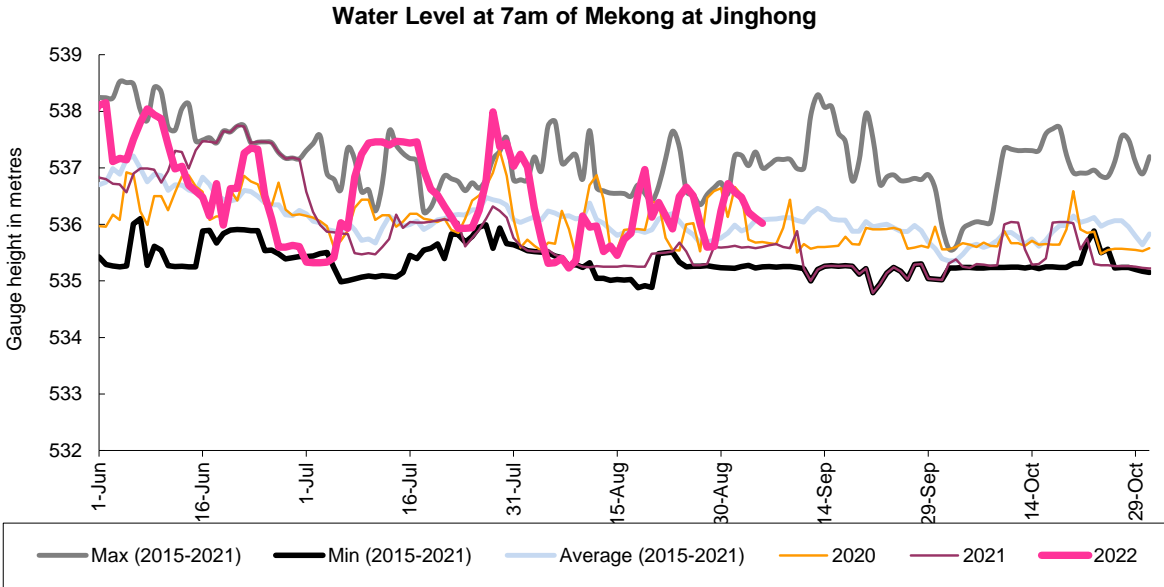


Figure 7. Water level at the Jinghong hydrological station up to 05 September 2022.

Along with the fluctuating outflow from Jinghong upstream, water levels of monitoring stations at Chiang Saen in Thailand showed a significant decrease of about 0.72 m from 30 August to 05 September 2022, staying about 1.88 m lower than its LTA level, **which is still considered critical**.

Water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand from 30 August to 05 September 2022, moreover, decreased about 1.70 m and stayed about 2.05 m lower than its LTA value, while water level at Vientiane also decreased about 1.98 m and stayed about 1.44 m lower than its LTA level, **which considered critical**. Water levels at Nong Khai decreased 2.13 m and at Paksane it also decreased about 1.66 m, staying about 2.17 m and 2.47 m lower than their LTA value respectively, **which is considered critical**.

Water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand to Pakse in Lao PDR decreased in between 0.90 m to 1.05 m. The current WLs at these stations are staying between 0.30 m and 2.00 m lower than their LTA level, considering **critical**. From the stretches of the river at Stung Treng WL decreased 0.29 m and stayed about 1.24 m lower than its LTA, while at Kratie water level was down about 0.67 m, staying 1.89 m lower than its LTA level, **which considered critical**.

¹ Near-real time data of hydro-meteorological monitoring at the Jinghong hydrological station is available at <https://portal.mrcmekong.org/monitoring/river-monitoring-telemetry>.

Water levels from Kompong Cham down to Chaktomuk, Koh Khel and Phnom Penh Port to Prek Kdam in Cambodia fluctuated between 0.05 m and 0.45 m, staying between 0.10 m and 1.30 m lower than their LTA level, **considering critical**.

Water levels at all stations along the Mekong River are staying lower than their LTAs values, during this week report. The tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc have WL also lower than their LTA value due to tidal effect during this monitoring period.

Based on hydrological phenomenon, the contribution of inflow water from the upstream of Lancang-Mekong in China to the Mekong mainstream is from 16% to 18% in total during the wet season from June to October. The whole inflow of water into the LMB is influenced by rainfall at the Mekong mainstream and its tributaries during the wet season.

Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang

The water level from 30 August to 05 September 2022 at Thailand’s Chiang Saen station significantly decreased from 4.70 m to 3.98 m, showing 1.88 m lower than its Long-Term-Average (LTA) value, which considered critical. The water level at Luang Prabang station in Lao PDR was down about 1.46 m from 12.92 m to 11.46 m during the reporting period. This level shows 1.11 m lower than its LTA. The trend – sometimes higher or lower to its historical maximum and LTA values – has been observed since early 2022. The phenomenon was potentially caused by upstream dam operations, downstream Xayaburi dam, and heavy rainfall in the surrounding areas. The water levels at Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang are shown in [Figure 8](#) below.

Being situated between the upstream (Nam Beng, Nam Ou, Nam Suong, and Nam Khan) and downstream (Xayaburi) hydropower dams, the Luang Prabang station has a unique characteristic as it is influenced by the operations of all its surrounding dams. **Thus, the water level at this station can possibly change very rapidly during the early of wet and dry season.**

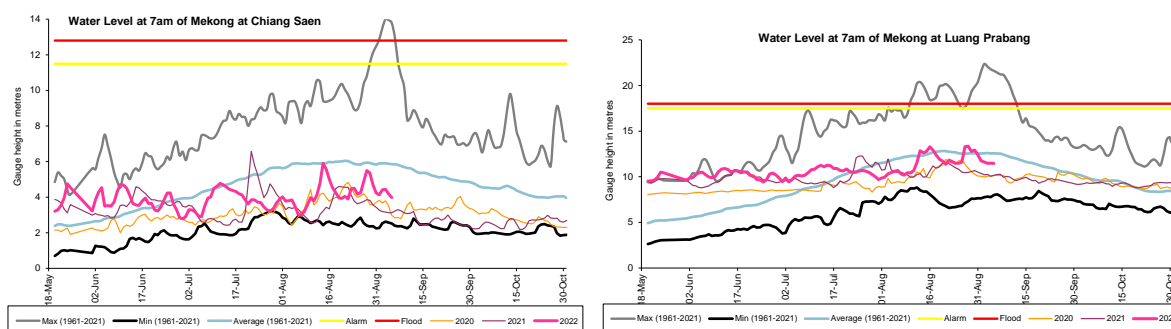


Figure 8. Water levels at Chiang Saen in Thailand and Luang Prabang in Lao PDR.

Chiang Khan, Vientiane-Nong Khai and Paksane

The water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand (downstream of the Xayaburi dam) decreased from 11.07 m to 9.37 m during the reporting week. It showed 2.05 m lower than its LTA value. The water level downstream at Vientiane in Lao PDR followed the upstream trend. It also decreased from 9.16 m to 7.18 m and was about 1.41 m lower than its LTA during 30 August - 05 September 2022. At Nong Khai station in Thailand, the water level was also down during

the reporting period. It decreased about 2.13 m from 9.36 m to 7.23 m and showed 2.17 m lower than its LTA. At Paksane in Lao PDR, water level decreased about 1.66 m from 10.04 m to 8.38 m. The water level at this station was about 2.47 m lower than its LTA value. The recently decreased water levels were obviously due to the below-average rainfall in the sub-catchment area, along with the inflows and water stored at upstream parts. The water levels at Vientiane and Paksane are shown in [Figure 9](#) below.



Figure 9. Water levels Veintiane and Paksane in Lao PDR.

Nakhon Phanom to Pakse

The water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand and Thakhek in Lao PDR decreased about 1.00 m due to less contributions of rainfalls and inflow from upstream, while from Mukdahan in Thailand to Pakse in Lao PDR it decreased between 0.85 m and 1.10 m. **Water levels at these stations are staying over 2.00 m lower than their LTA level, which considered critical.** [Figure 10](#) shows the water levels at Nakhon Phanom and Pakse stations.

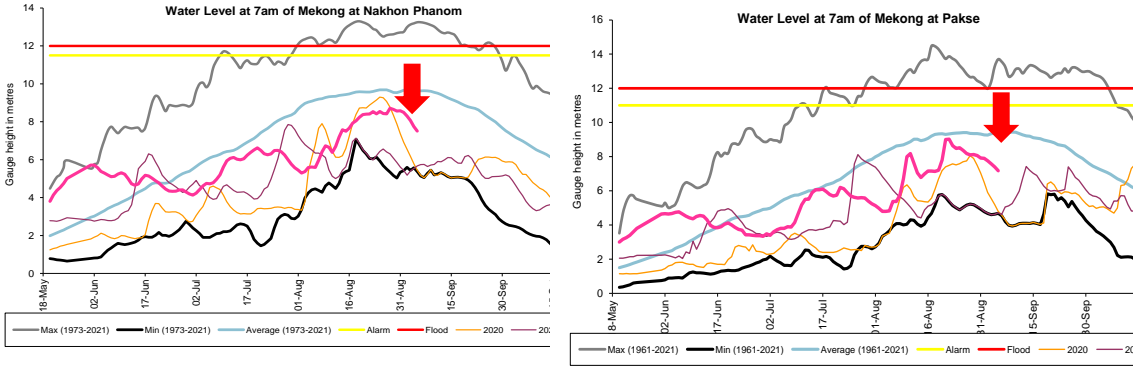


Figure 10. Weekly water levels at Nakhon Phanom in Thailand and Pakse in Lao PDR

Stung Treng to Kompong Cham/Phnom Penh to Koh Khel/Neak Luong/Prek Kdam

Following the same trend from the upstream part of the Mekong River and the 3S river (Sekong, Se San, and Sre Pok), the water levels from Stung Treng to Kratie in Cambodia were decreasing during 30 August - 05 September 2022. The water levels at Stung Treng decreased about 0.29 m, while at Kratie it decreased about 0.67 m, staying about 1.24 m and 1.89 m lower than their LTA respectively (as showed in [Figure 11](#)), **considered critical**. The water level

at Kompong Cham station decreased about 0.46 m and was about 2.02 m lower than its LTA. **The water levels at downstream stations were also lower than their LTA, which considered critical.**

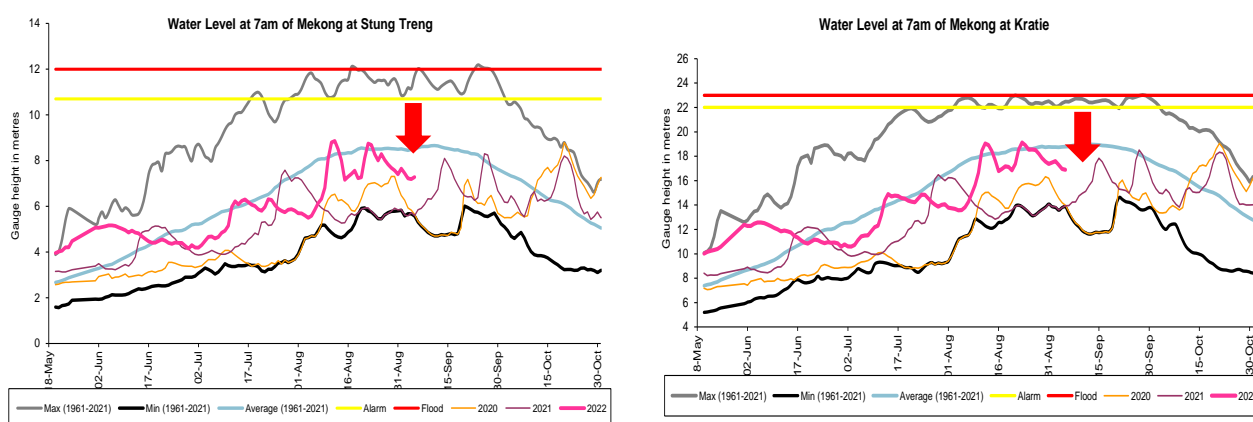


Figure 11. Water levels at Stung Treng and Kratie on the Mekong River.

At Chaktomuk on the Bassac River, due to less accumulated rainfall and contributed flows from upstream catchment, the water level decreased by about 0.05 m and stayed 1.48 m lower than its LTA value; while at Koh Khel, water level decreased about 0.05 m, staying 0.25 m lower than its LTA value. The water level at Prek Kdam on the Tonle Sap Lake increased about 0.03 m and was about 1.26 m lower than its LTA value. The water level at the Tonle Sap Lake (observed at Kampong Luong) was similar to Prek Kdam station's water level. The recently increased water level at Prek Kdam was due to rainfall and inflow contributed from upstream of the Tonle Sap Lake area during the reporting period. The water level at the Tonle Sap Lake (observed at Kampong Luong) followed the same trend of Prek Kdam station's water level. From next week, **water levels at most of those stations will continue to stay lower than their LTA level, which are considered critical.**

Tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc

Like last week, the water levels from 30 August to 05 September 2022 at Viet Nam's Tan Chau and Chau Doc were fluctuating due to daily tidal effects from the sea. The fluctuation levels were between 1.84 m and 2.26 m; they were in between the range of their LTA and historical minimum level and **considered critical**. The current water levels at Tan Chau and Chau Doc are lower than their LTA level up to 05 September 2022.

The Tonle Sap Flow

At the end of the dry season, when water levels along the Mekong River rise and the inflows of the Mekong River return into the Tonle Sap Lake. This phenomenon normally takes place from end of May to July. Based on flow observation at Prek Kdam, the inflow of the Tonle Sap Lake took place first from May 29 up to June 9 and the second inflow happened between 13 and 27 July 2022.

[Figure 12](#) shows the seasonal changes of the outflow and the inflow/reversed flow of the TSL at Prek Kdam in comparison with the flows of 2019 and 2020, and their LTA level (1997-2020). Up to September 05 of this reporting period, **it was observed that the main outflow into**

Tonle Sap Lake decreased due to below-average rainfall and inflows from upstream. This decreased inflow into the Tonle Sap Lake was most likely caused by inflows and rainfall from the catchment area. Up to present, the inflow into the Tonle Sap Lake condition in 2022 is higher than 2019, 2020, 2021 but lower than its LTA (1997-2021) inflow conditions. For next week, rainfall is forecasted for the Tonle Sap area; thus, the inflow into the Tonle Sap Lake is likely expecting to go up from the current level.

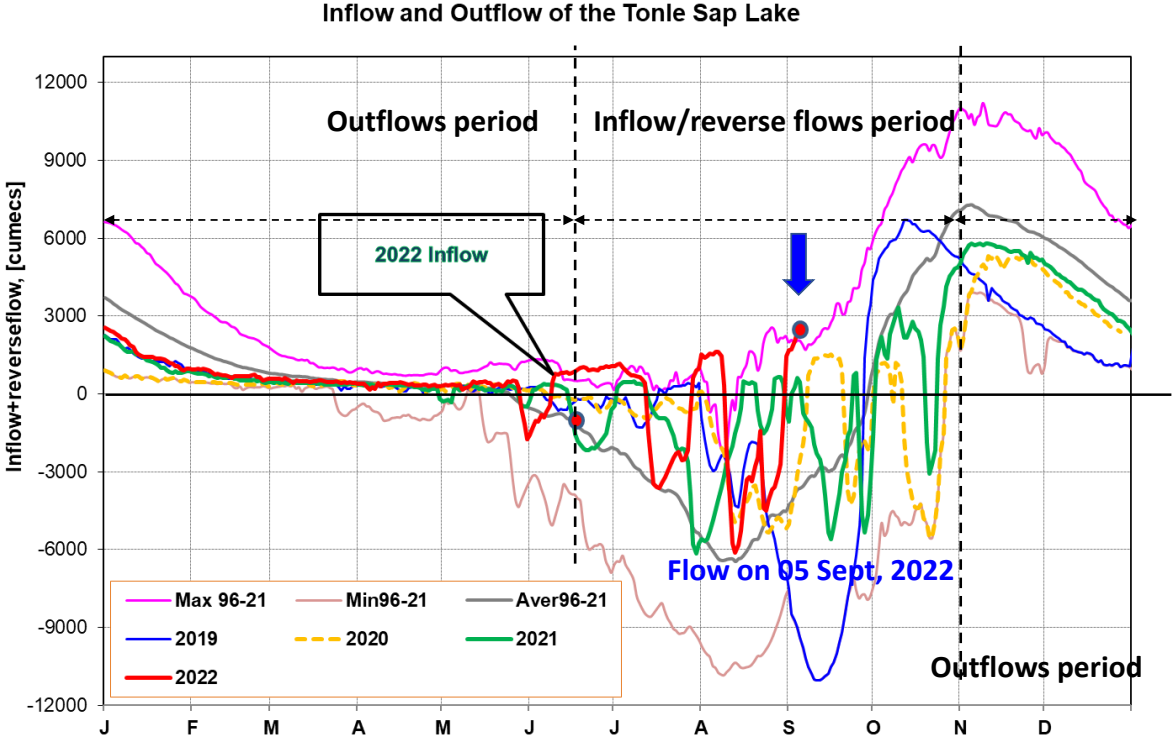


Figure 12. Seasonal change of inflows and outflows of Tonle Sap Lake

[Figure 13](#) shows seasonal changes in monthly flow volumes up to 05 September 2022 for the Lake compared with the volumes in 2019, 2020, 2021 and their LTA, and the fluctuation levels (1997–2021). It shows that up to September 05, **the water volume of the Tonle Sap Lake was higher than 2019, 2020, 2021 but lower than its LTA (about 70%), during the same period.** The figure is displayed in [Table 1](#), which indicates that the Tonle Sap Lake has been affected by water levels from the tributaries and rainfall in the surrounding sub-catchments and **considered normal situation.**

This demonstrates the influence of the relationships of the reverse and out flows, water levels of the Mekong River, inflows from tributaries, and the flow direction in the complex hydraulic environment of the Tonle Sap Lake during the wet and dry seasons. The data show that about half of the annual inflow volume into the Tonle Sap Lake has originated from the Mekong mainstream. Thus, flow alterations in the mainstream could have direct impact on the Tonle Sap Lake water levels and on its hydrology.

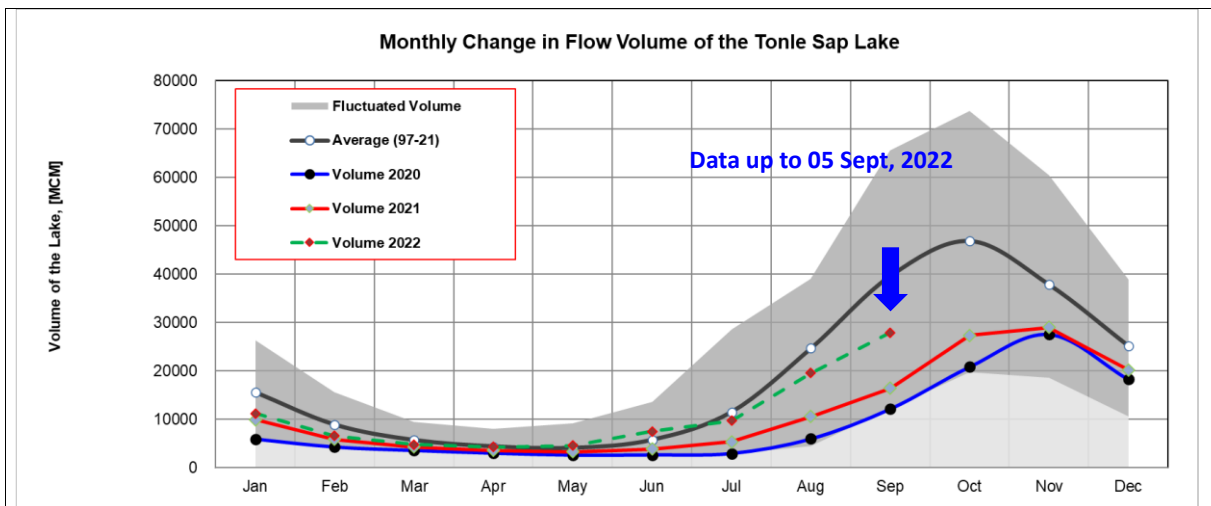


Figure 13. The seasonal change in monthly flow volume of Tonle Sap Lake.

Table 1. The monthly change in the flow volume of Tonle Sap Lake.

Month	LTA (97-21) [MCM]	Max Volume [MCM]	Min Volume [MCM]	Volume 2018 [MCM]	Volume 2019 [MCM]	Volume 2020 [MCM]	Volume 2021 [MCM]	Volume 2022 [MCM]	Volume in 2022 [%], compared with its LTA
Jan	15523.23	26357.53	5906.80	13633.41	10285.31	5906.80	9923.80	11214.32	72.24
Feb	8837.89	15596.22	4198.60	7729.72	6019.30	4264.19	5832.97	6558.79	74.21
Mar	5654.18	9438.24	3347.07	5037.06	4354.62	3553.99	4264.88	4736.52	83.77
Apr	4346.65	8009.14	2866.91	3956.47	3667.47	2992.61	3556.68	4288.31	98.66
May	4030.23	9176.93	2417.81	3864.00	3266.43	2594.92	3240.78	4556.83	113.07
Jun	5708.30	13635.01	2468.70	5919.18	3517.06	2641.88	3798.29	7489.04	131.20
Jul	11493.25	28599.56	2925.86	12024.96	4001.99	2925.86	5346.73	9703.79	84.43
Aug	24666.69	39015.12	4433.46	22399.65	7622.71	5941.07	10547.80	19554.70	79.28
Sep	39634.03	65632.35	12105.31	53639.54	24194.19	12105.31	16382.34	27906.09	70.41
Oct	46873.44	73757.23	19705.50	48193.08	30358.38	20799.13	27318.21		
Nov	37823.16	60367.33	18534.61	31036.07	19112.65	27546.80	28982.93		
Dec	25126.11	38888.95	10563.49	18469.21	10577.29	18251.65	20170.76		
	Critical situation, compared with historical Min values								
	Normal condition, compared with LTA (Long term average)								
	Low volume situation, compared with LTA values								

Unit: Million Cubic Meter (1 MCM= 0.001 Km³)

LTA: Long-Term-Average

4 Flash Flood in the Lower Mekong Basin

From 30 August to 5 September 2022, the LMB was affected by three weather factors including (i) The easterly wave during the first day of the week and the south-easterly wind prevailed over parts during Aug 30-31, (ii) the monsoon trough laid across the upper northern and north-eastern parts towards a low-pressure cell over the coast of upper Viet Nam and the Gulf of Tonkin during Sep 1-2. Then it moved northward to lie across upper Myanmar and upper Lao PDR toward a low-pressure cell over upper Viet Nam during the weekend, and (iii) the southwest monsoon prevailed over the Gulf of Thailand then strengthened during the last day of the week. These conditions caused small and moderate rainfall over the LMB during middle of the week.

According to the MRC-Flash Flood Guidance System (MRC-FFGS) and analysis, low-risk flash flood events were detected during the reporting period in several areas of Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam as shown in [Figure 14](#) and [Table 2](#).

Table 2. Detected flash flood in Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Viet Nam on 05 September

Rate-risk and location of the flash flood may occur in the next 1, 3, and 6 hours in Thailand															
Date of FFG products 05/09/2022 00:00 UTC time															
01-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location				03-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location				06-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location							
Provinces	Districts	Region	Level Risk	Provinces	Districts	Region	Level Risk	Provinces	Districts	Region	Level Risk	Provinces	Districts	Region	Level Risk
NO ANY DETECTION OF FLASH FLOOD WITHIN NEXT 01-HOUR				NO ANY DETECTION OF FLASH FLOOD WITHIN NEXT 03-HOUR				Nan Mae Charim Northern Low-Risk							

Rate-risk and location of the flash flood may occur in the next 1, 3, and 6 hours in Lao PDR															
Date of FFG products 05/09/2022 00:00 UTC time															
01-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location				03-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location				06-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location							
Provinces	Districts	Villages	Region	Level Risk	Provinces	Districts	Villages	Region	Level Risk	Provinces	Districts	Villages	Region	Level Risk	
Vientiane Municipality	Sangthong		MAIPAKSANG	Northwest	Low-Risk	NO ANY DETECTION OF FLASH FLOOD WITHIN NEXT 03-HOUR				Vientiane Municipality	Sangthong		MAIPAKSANG	Northwest	Low-Risk

Rate-risk and location of the flash flood may occur in the next 1, 3, and 6 hours in Cambodia														
Date of FFG products 05/09/2022 00:00 UTC time														
01-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location				03-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location				06-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location						
Provinces	Districts	Villages	Region	Level Risk	Provinces	Districts	Villages	Region	Level Risk	Provinces	Districts	Villages	Region	Level Risk
NO ANY DETECTION OF FLASH FLOOD WITHIN NEXT 01-HOUR				NO ANY DETECTION OF FLASH FLOOD WITHIN NEXT 03-HOUR				Kampong Spei Aoral Peam Lvea Low-Risk						

Rate-risk and location of the flash flood may occur in the next 1, 3, and 6 hours in Viet Nam															
Date of FFG products 05/09/2022 00:00 UTC time															
01-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location				3-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location in Vietnam				6-Hour Flash Flood Risk and Location in Vietnam							
Provinces	Districts	Region	Level Risks	Provinces	Districts	Region	Level Risks	Provinces	Districts	Region	Level Risks	Provinces	Districts	Region	Level Risks
Lam Dong	Bao Lam	Central Highlands	Low-Risk	Lam Dong	Bao Lam	Central Highlands	Low-Risk	Binh Phuoc	Phuoc Long	Southeast	Low-Risk	Lam Dong	Bao Lam	Central Highlands	Low-Risk

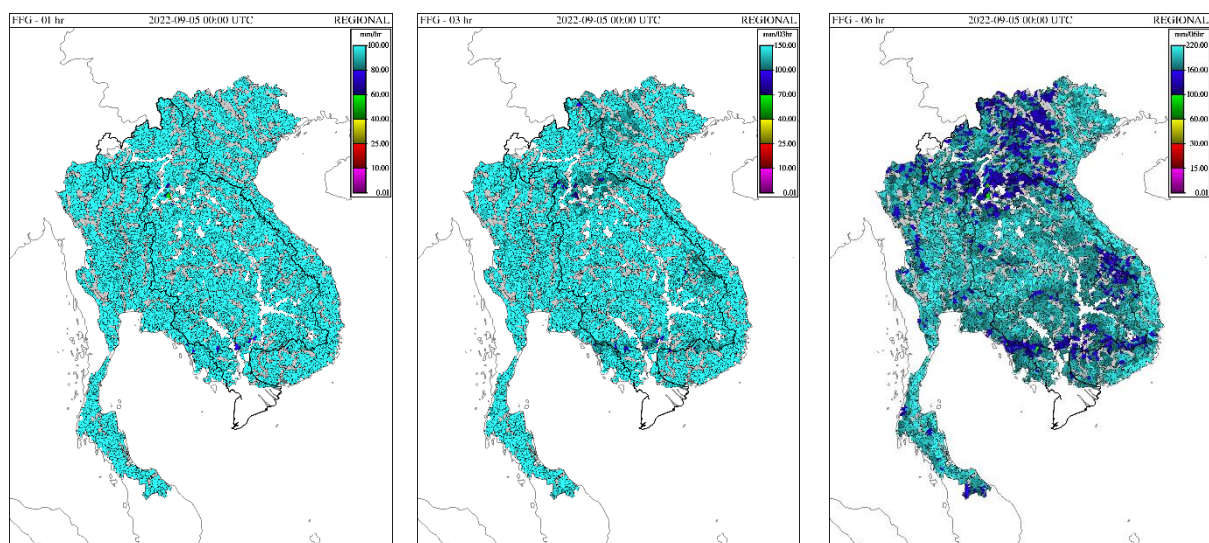


Figure 14. Flash Flood Guidance for the next 1-hr, 3-hr and 6-hr on 5 September

5 Drought Monitoring in the Lower Mekong Basin

Weekly drought monitoring from 28 August to 03 September 2022

Drought monitoring data in 2022 are available from Sunday to Saturday every week; thus, the reporting period is normally delayed by three days compared to Flood and Flash Flood reports. We adopt the Index of Soil Water Fraction (ISWF) data obtained from FFGS to represent soil moisture of agricultural indicator for both dry and wet seasons.

- **Weekly Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI1)**

The meteorological drought indicator of SPI from August 28 to September 3, as displayed in [Figure 15](#), shows that the LMB generally received average rainfall in most parts of the region. The only moderate and severe meteorological droughts were found in **Phongsaly, Khammuane, and Savannakhet** of Lao PDR in the north and east, and **Battambang and Pursat** of Cambodia in the south of the LMB. There was no significant meteorological drought threat found during the monitoring week.

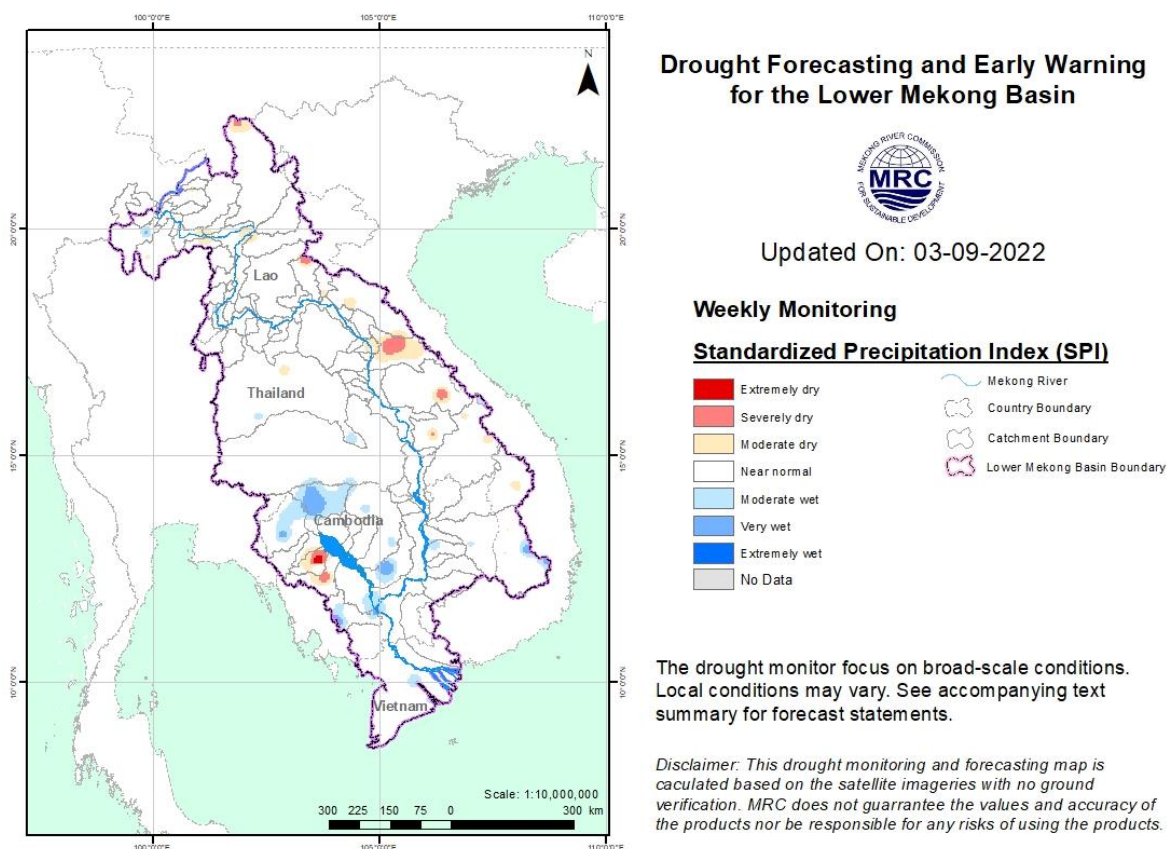


Figure 15. Weekly standardized precipitation index from 28 August to 3 September 2022.

- **Weekly Index of Soil Water Fraction (ISWF)**

For the agricultural indicator, the forecast this week from August 28 to September 3 indicates a relatively dry condition in the middle part of the LMB, displayed in [Figure 16](#). Moderate and severe agricultural droughts cover mainly **Borikhamxay, Khammuane, Savannakhet, Nong Khai, Sakon Nakhon, Nakhon Phanom, Mukdahan, Kalasin, Roi Et, Yasothon, Amnat Charoen, Ubon Ratchathani, Si Saket, Surin, Burirum, Maha Sarakham, and Preah Vihea**. However, the condition has just started since the beginning of the week. Thus, it does not have any significant threat to agriculture yet.

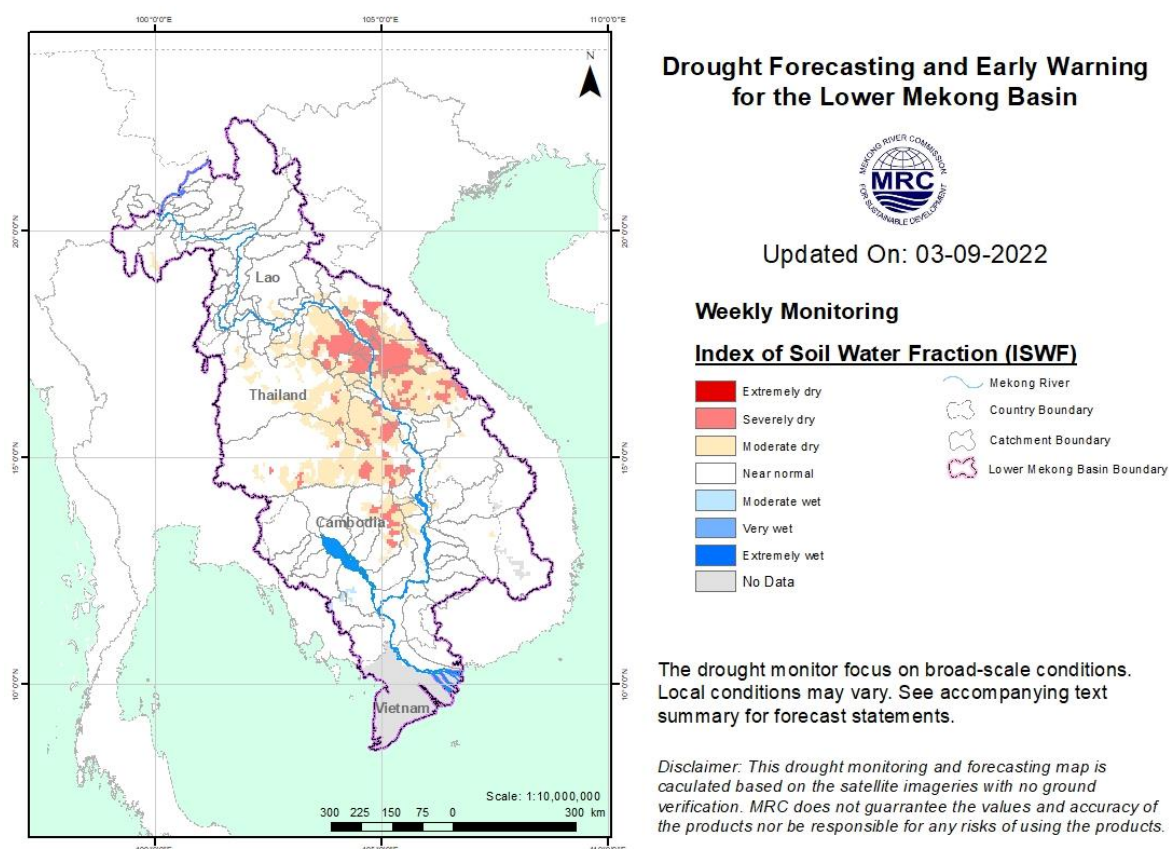


Figure 16. Index of Soil Water Fraction from 28 August to 3 September 2022.

- **Weekly Combined Drought Index (CDI)**

The combined drought indicator from the meteorological and agricultural indices from August 28 to September 3, as displayed in [Figure 17](#), shows that the LMB was facing some moderate drought in the eastern part covering **Borikhamxay, Khammuane, Savannakhet, Nong Khai, Nakhon Phanom, and Sakon Nakhon**. Among those drought-hit areas, **Khammuane is the driest province** during the week; and drought has been persisting for a

few weeks by now. It is likely impacting agriculture in the area.

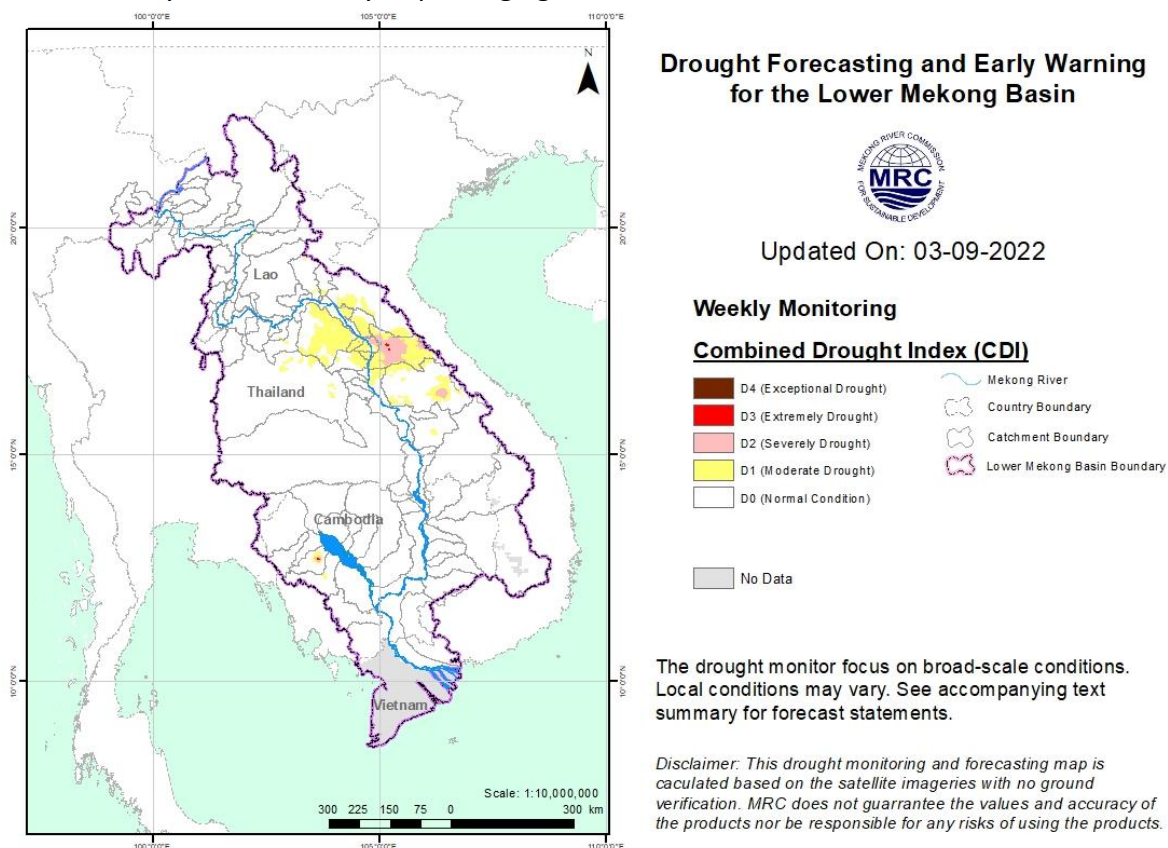


Figure 17. Weekly Combined Drought Index from 28 August to 3 September 2022.

More information on Drought Forecasting and Early Warning (DFEW) as well as the explanation is available here: <http://droughtforecast.mrcmekong.org/templates/view/our-product>. DFEW provides not only weekly monitoring and forecasting information but also a three-month forecast of drought indicators with seasonal outlook which are updated every month based on international weather forecast models. Details on drought forecast are described in section [6.4](#) of this report.

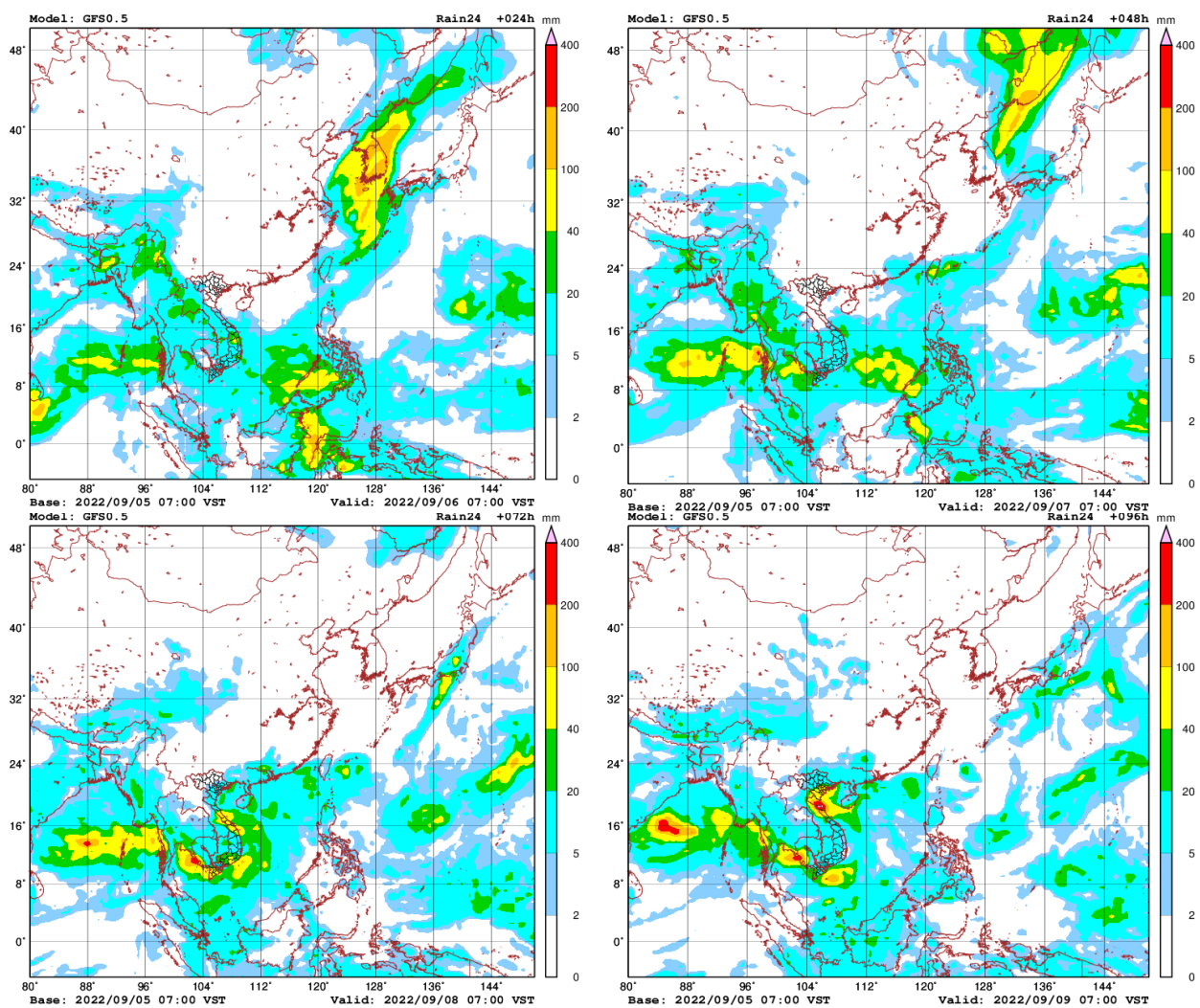
6 Weather and Water Level Forecast and Flash Flood Information

6.1 Weather and rainfall forecast

Based on the analysis of the synoptic meteorological information and result from the Global Forecast System (GFS) model, in the coming week, the southwest monsoon and low-pressure cell will continue prevailing over the LMB.

In general, during September 6-12 small (5 -20 mm/24h) amounts of rainfall will likely occur over the LMB. However, during September 8-12, moderate (20-50 mm/24h) and heavy rainfall (50-100 mm/24h) will likely occur in the middle and lower parts of LMB especially on September 8 and 9.

[Figure 18](#) shows accumulated rainfall forecast (24 h) of the GFS model from 6-12 September.



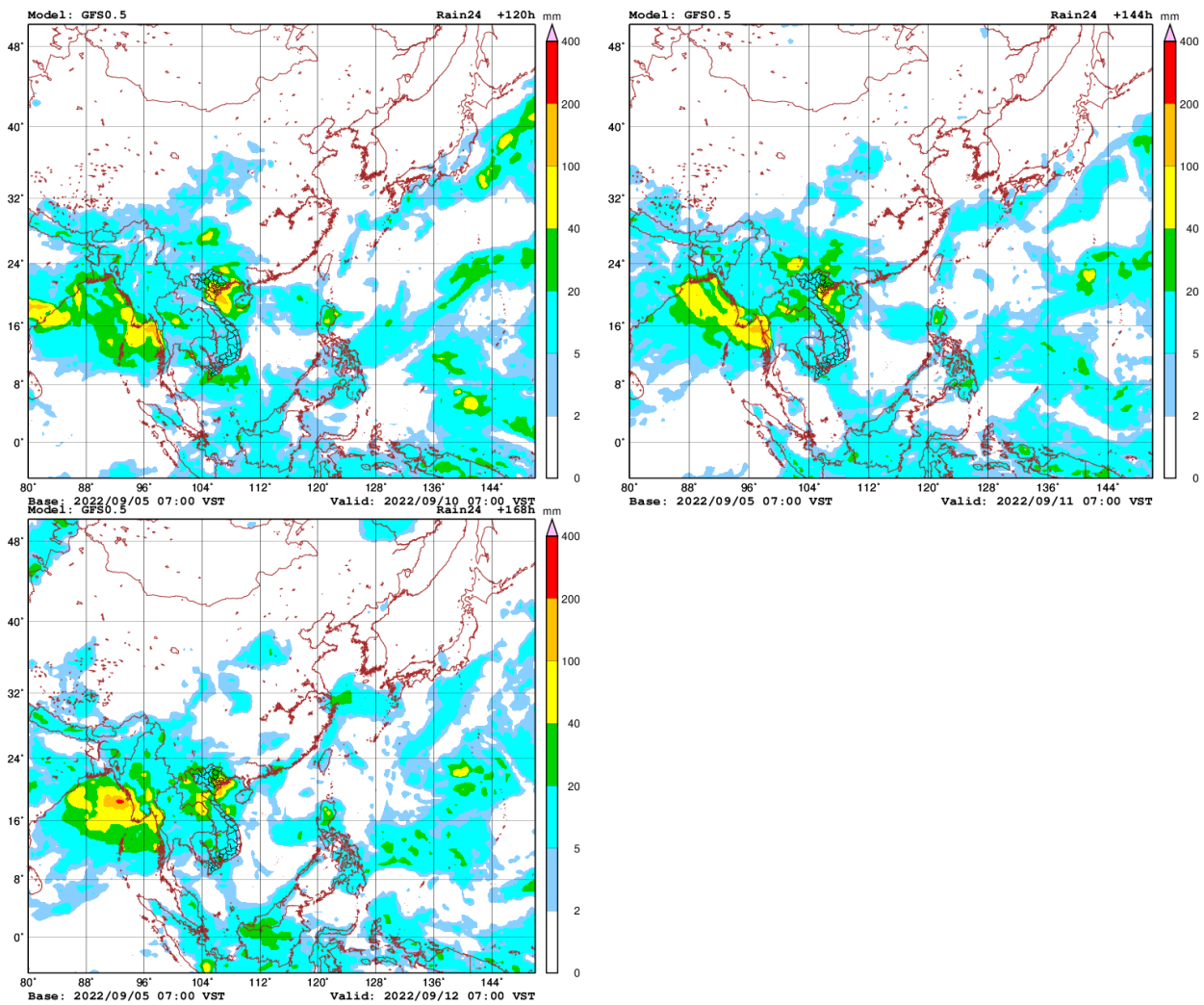


Figure 18. Accumulated rainfall forecast (24 h) based on a GFS model.

6.2 Water level forecast

Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang

Based on September 05's daily flood forecasting bulletin, the daily forecasted water level at Chiang Saen in Thailand indicates an increase of water level from 3.98 m to 4.24 m over the next five days. The trend will keep the water level at this station below its LTA.

For Luang Prabang in Lao PDR, the water level will increase from 11.46 m to 11.90 m during the next five days. The current water level is lower than its LTA. Precipitation is forecasted for the area between Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang next week.

Chiang Khan, Vientiane-Nong Khai and Paksane

The water level at Chiang Khan in Thailand is forecasted to go up approximately 0.50 m, while water level at Vientiane in Lao PDR will increase about 0.48 m. Furthermore, in Nong Khai in Thailand the water level will increase about 0.30 m over the next five days; at Paksane in Lao PDR water level will increase about 0.20 m due to some forecasted rainfalls and dam operation in the upper catchments. Rainfall is forecasted for the area of Paksane next week.

The water levels at these stations are remaining lower than their LTA.

Nakhon Phanom to Pakse

The water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand to Pakse in Lao PDR are forecasted to go up between 0.10 m and 0.30 m. Water level at these stations will stay lower than their LTA level. Rainfall is forecasted for the area next week.

Stung Treng to Kompong Cham/Phnom Penh to Koh Khel/Neak Luong

WL at Stung Treng will go up by about 0.55 m, while from Kratie to Kompong Cham along the Mekong River in Cambodia the water levels will go up about 0.86 m over the next five days. Precipitation is forecasted for the area between Stung Treng and Kompong Cham during next week.

The water levels of the Tonle Sap Lake at Prek Kdam and Phnom Penh Port as well as at Phnom Penh's Chaktomuk on the Bassac River will increase about 0.30 m over the next five days.

Water levels at most of the stations will go up for next week, which some stations WLs will be staying close to their LTA value, particularly in the lower part of the region from the Pakse to Treng to Kratie. From Kompong Cham and further downstream stations, water levels will still be staying below their LTA. Precipitation is forecasted for the low-lying area of Cambodia next week.

Tidal stations at Tan Chau and Chau Doc

For Viet Nam's Tan Chau on the Mekong River and Chau Doc on the Bassac River, the water levels will be fluctuating above their LTA level, following daily tidal effects from the sea. Rainfall is forecasted for the Delta area next week.

The performance of the weekly flood forecast, with an accuracy and data input evaluation from 30 August to 05 September 2022, is presented in **Annex 1**.

[Table 2](#) shows the daily flood forecasting Bulletin issued on 05 September 2022. Results of the weekly river monitoring bulletin are also available at http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin_wet.php.

6.3 Flash Flood Information

With small and moderate rainfall forecasted for next week, flash floods with high levels are not expected to take place in the LMB. However local heavy rain in a short period of time is possible with unexpected short flash floods especially on September 8 and 9. The information on flash flood guidance for the next one, three, and six hours is updated twice a day at: <http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/ffg.php>.

Detailed information on Flash Flood Warning Information as well as its explanation is available for download [here](#).

6.4 Drought forecast

There are several climate-prediction models with different scenarios in the upcoming months until November 2022. The MRC’s DFEWS adopts an ensemble model called the North America Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME), which averages all scenarios, and downscales the forecasts to the regional level. The Viable Infiltration Capability (VIC) is then used to generate soil moisture and runoff for the whole basin.

[Figure 19](#) below shows the Combine Drought Indicator (CDI) forecast for September, October, and November 2022. CDI is a combination of meteorological and agricultural indicators.

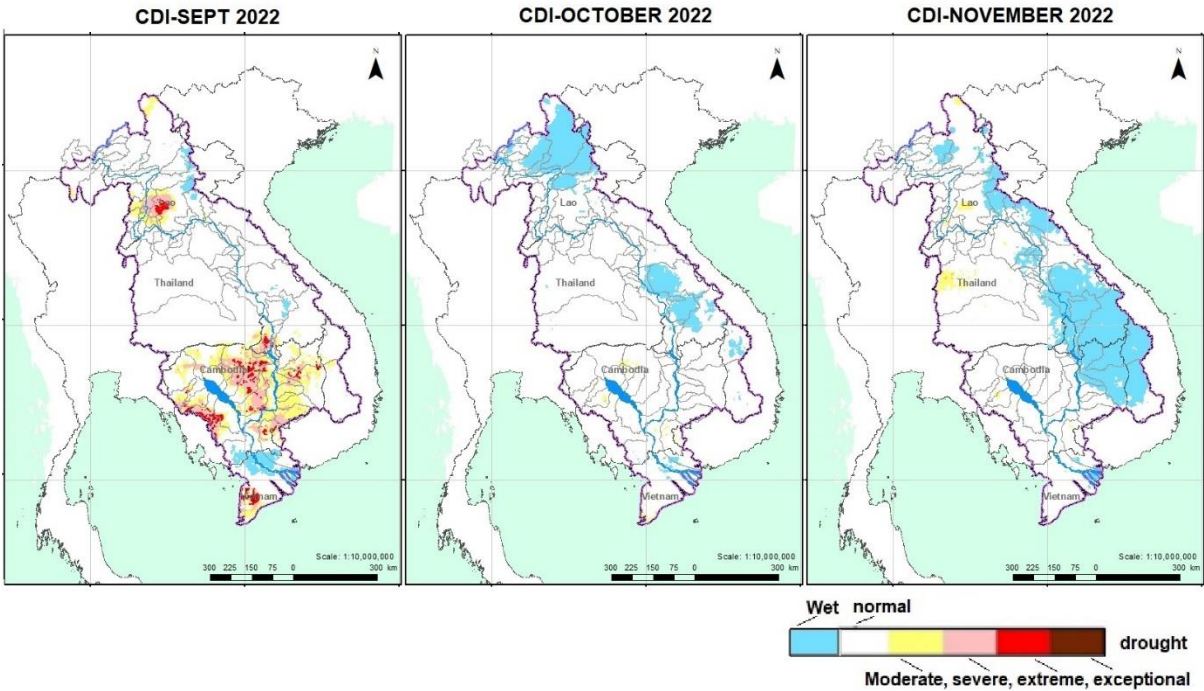


Figure 19. Monthly forecast of CDI for September, October, and November in 2022.

Figure 19 above shows that September is likely to be severely dry in the lower part covering around 50% of Cambodia, Vientiane province of Lao PDR in the north, and Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, and Kien Giang of the Mekong Delta of Viet Nam. While October and November are forecasted to be normal and wet all over the region.

7 Summary and Possible Implications

7.1 Rainfall and its forecast

Rain was observed from Chiang Saen in Thailand to Tan Chau and Chau Doc in Viet Nam during August 30-September 5, including the lower part in Lao PDR and Cambodia, varying from 5.20 mm to 131.00 mm due to low pressure dominating the LMB. However, this week rainfall was considered average in the upper, middle and lower parts of the LMB compared with last week rainfall.

Based on the forecasted satellite data, rainfall is forecasted for some areas of the LMB with the value range from 20 mm to 80 mm for the next seven days. The forecasting model using GFS data, moreover, shows that no significant rainfall (<100 mm) is likely to take place in the Mekong region from 06 to 12 September 2022.

7.2 Water level and its forecast

According to MRC's observed water level at Jinghong, it showed fluctuated water levels between 536.02 m and 536.72 m between 30 August and 05 September 2022. The current level is staying about 0.06 m lower than its LTA value. The outflow at Jinghong station varied from 1,330.00 m³/s to 1,860.00 m³/s on 31 August and 05 September 2022.

Along with the fluctuated outflow from Jinghong upstream, water levels of monitoring stations at Chiang Saen in Thailand decreased about 0.72 m from 30 August to 05 September 2022. Furthermore, from Chiang Khan in Thailand to Vientiane in Lao PDR, water levels significantly decreased between 1.00 m and 2.00 m during Aug 30-Sept 5 due to influence of below-average rainfall and dam operation upstream. Water levels from Nakhon Phanom in Thailand to Pakse in Lao PDR were fluctuating from 0.10 m to 0.50 m. Water levels from the stretches of the river from Stung Treng to Kratie and at Kompong Cham in Cambodia were decreasing from 0.29 m to 0.70 m, due to less contributed rainfall from the upstream part (at Pakse and 3S area in Viet Nam).

Over the next five days, the water levels from Chiang Saen down to Stung Treng and to the lower part at key stations in Cambodia are expected to go up between 0.20 m and 0.55 m.

The flow volume of the Tonle Sap Lake is lower than its LTA up to September 05. From next week, the flow is expected to increase due to above-average rainfall forecasted in the inflow catchments of the Tonle Sap Lake.

From Stung Treng to Kratie, the water levels are expected to stay close to their LTA value. The water levels – at Neak Luong on the Mekong River, from Prek Kdam to Phnom Penh Port on the Tonle Sap, and from Chaktomuk to Koh Khel on the Bassac – are forecasted to continue staying lower than their LTA.

The situation in Tan Chau on the Mekong River and Chau Doc on the Bassac River is expected to remain unchanged.

Since the second week of June 2022, water levels across most monitoring stations in the LMB have significantly dropped to the level lower than their LTA (from middle to lower stretches within the LMB). The preliminary analysis of the hydrological conditions in the LMB over July–December 2020 and November 2020 to May 2021 was done as [Situation Report](#), which can be used as reference for the trend of water level and flows of the Mekong River Basin.

The contribution to the Mekong River’s flow from the UMB in China (Yunnan component) is about 16% by the time the river discharges through the Mekong Delta into the Sea. By far the major contribution comes from the two major ‘left-bank’ (Eastern) tributaries between Vientiane – Nakhon Phanom and Pakse – Stung Treng, which together contribute more than 40% of the flows.

7.3 Flash flood and its trends

With the predicted amount of rainfall for the coming week as mentioned earlier in [section 6.1](#), major flash floods are not expected in the LMB during next week. However local heavy rain in a short period of time is possible with unexpected short flash floods especially on September 8 and 9.

7.4 Drought condition and its forecast

During August 28-September 3, the LMB was facing some moderate drought in the eastern part covering **Borikhamxay, Khammuane, Savannakhet, Nong Khai, Nakhon Phanom, and Sakon Nakhon**. Among those drought-hit areas, **Khammuane is the driest province** during the week; and drought has been persisting for a few weeks by now. It is likely impacting some agricultural lands in the area.

During the next three months, September is likely to be severely dry in the lower part covering around 50% of Cambodia, Vientiane province of Lao PDR in the north, and Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, and Kien Giang of the Mekong Delta of Viet Nam. While October and November are forecasted to be normal and wet all over the region.

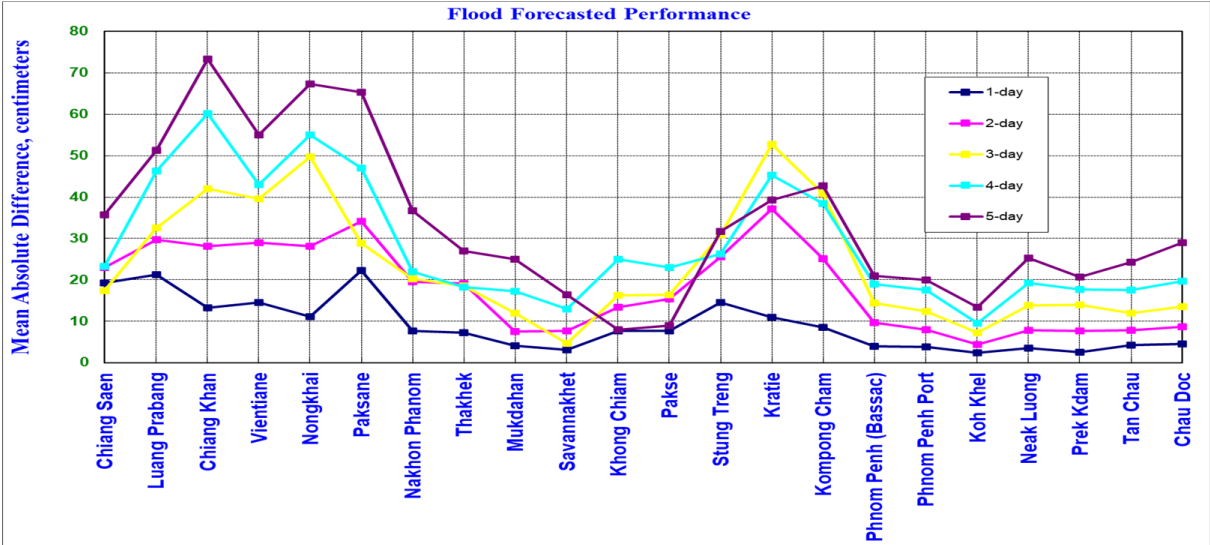
Annex 1: Performance of the weekly flood forecasting

Accuracy

“Accuracy” here refers to the state where data recorded in the MRC’s Mekong River Flood Forecasting System are cleaned and verified.

The adjustment of flood forecasting outcomes from the flood forecasting system requires flood forecasters to have extensive knowledge in hydrology and statistical modelling for estimating the relationships between stations upstream and downstream in the Mekong River Basin. Flood forecasting performance presented in the graph below shows the average flood forecasting accuracy at each key station along the Mekong mainstream from 30 August to 05 September 2022.

The forecasting values from 30 August to 05 September 2022 show that the overall accuracy is fair for a one-day to three-day forecast in lead time at stations in the lower parts of the Mekong River from Luang Prabang to Paksane in Lao PDR because of heavy rainfall and dams’ operation in this area during the report period.



Note: The higher percentage of flood forecasting accuracy is due to several key factors as follows:

- Missing rainfall in Cambodia (DOM) data and data input are not sufficient to be used for inputting into the flood forecasting model system.
- Luang Prabang to Chiang Khan and Stung Treng to Kratie have been effluent by hydropower operations upstream, tributaries inflows.
- The influence of heavy rainfall caused by storms and hydropower operations from upstream, tributaries inflows and the lower part of the Mekong floodplain, including the 3S (Stung Treng and Kratie).
- Khong Chiam, Pakse, Stung Treng and Kratie stations have been affected by heavy rainfall from Viet Nam and some hydropower operations on Sekong, Sesan and Sre Pok (water retention and release). Rainfall always accumulates at this spot, which could be

- causing rapidly high-water levels.
- Fluctuations of the water levels at Tan Chau and Chau Doc stations were due to daily tidal effects of the sea in the Mekong Delta.
 - Satellite rainfall data were not representative of the actual rainfall at ground stations in some areas of the Mekong region.

Performance based on data from the Member Countries

Flood forecasting performance is based on the hydro-met data received from the Member Countries. The flood forecasting achievement indicated in (%) and (cm) from 1 day to 5 days at each key station, against with Old Benchmark are presented in Table B1 and Table B2.

The evaluation of performance indicators, missing data and completion time for flood forecasting are presented in Table B3 and Figures B4, B5 and B6, respectively from 30 August to 05 September 2022.

Table B1: The Mean Absolute Difference (Error) of Flood Forecasting base on old defined Benchmark from 30 August to 05 September 2022 in cm

Lead-time Forecasted	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	19	<u>21</u>	13	15	11	<u>22</u>	8	7	4	3	8	8	15	11	9	4	4	2	4	3	4	5
2-day	<u>23</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>34</u>	20	19	8	8	13	15	<u>26</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>25</u>	10	8	4	8	8	8	9
3-day	17	<u>33</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>20</u>	19	12	5	16	16	<u>31</u>	53	<u>41</u>	14	12	7	14	14	12	14
4-day	<u>23</u>	<u>46</u>	60	<u>43</u>	55	<u>47</u>	<u>22</u>	18	17	13	<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>39</u>	19	18	10	19	18	18	20
5-day	<u>36</u>	51	73	55	67	65	<u>37</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>25</u>	16	8	9	<u>32</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>20</u>	13	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>29</u>

Table B2: The Mean Absolute Difference (Error) of Flood Forecasting base on old defined Benchmark from 30 August to 05 September 2022 in %

Lead-time Forecasted	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	<u>42.9</u>	57.1	71.4	71.4	57.1	57.1	57.1	57.1	71.4	85.7	85.7	57.1	71.4	57.1	57.1	57.1	71.4	57.1	57.1	71.4	57.1	57.1	63.0
2-day	<u>50.0</u>	66.7	66.7	<u>50.0</u>	66.7	<u>50.0</u>	66.7	66.7	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	66.7	66.7	<u>33.3</u>	66.7	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>33.3</u>	66.7	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	55.3
3-day	60.0	60.0	60.0	<u>40.0</u>	60.0	<u>40.0</u>	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	80.0	80.0	<u>40.0</u>	60.0	<u>40.0</u>	<u>20.0</u>	<u>20.0</u>	<u>40.0</u>	60.0	60.0	60.0	<u>40.0</u>	<u>40.0</u>	52.7
4-day	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	75.0	75.0	<u>50.0</u>	75.0	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>25.0</u>	<u>25.0</u>	52.3
5-day	<u>33.3</u>	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7	<u>33.3</u>	66.7	66.7	66.7	<u>33.3</u>	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.3</u>	66.7	<u>33.3</u>	57.6

Table B3: Overview of performance indicators for the past 7 days from 30 August to 05 September 2022

	FF time sent				Arrival time of input data								Missing data (number-mainstream and trib.st.)							
	FF completed and sent (time)	Stations without forecast	FF2 completed and sent (time)	Weather data available (time)	NOAA data	China	Cambodia - DHRW	Cambodia - DOM	Lao PDR - DMH	Thailand - DWR	Viet Nam - SRHMC	Viet Nam - HMS	NOAA data/2dataset	China/2	Cambodia - DHRW/15	Cambodia - DOM/34	Lao PDR - DMH/32	Thailand - DWR/13	Viet Nam - SRHMC/6	Viet Nam - HMS/39
2022																				
week	10:25	#DIV/0!	-	-	08:15	07:10	07:15	07:53	08:30	08:40	07:27	08:09	0	0	0	0	6	3	0	0
month	10:27	#DIV/0!	-	-	08:15	07:10	07:16	08:01	08:33	08:25	07:16	08:09	0	0	0	34	69	0	0	2

Fig. B4: Data delivery times for the past 7 days from 30 August to 05 September 2022

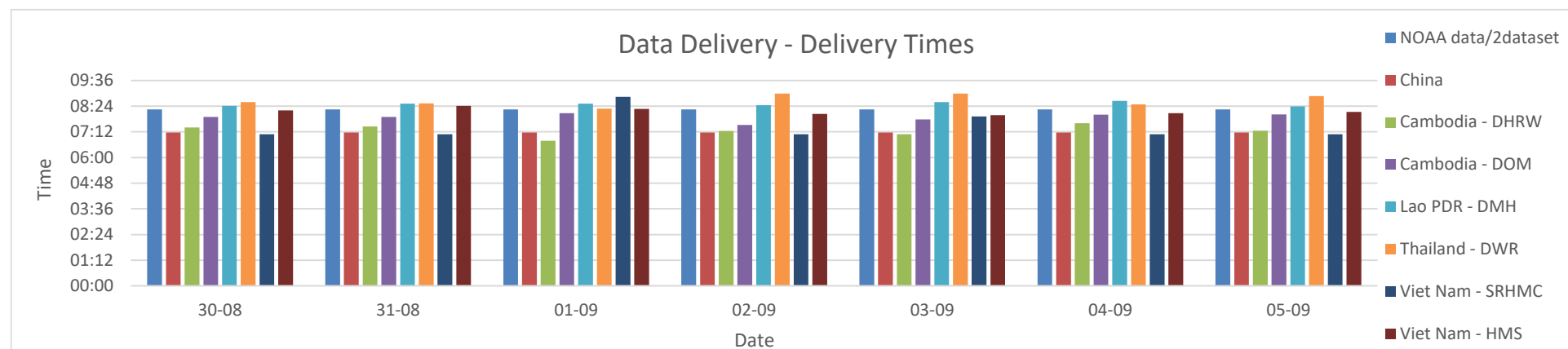


Fig. B5: Missing data for the past 7 days from 30 August to 05 September 2022

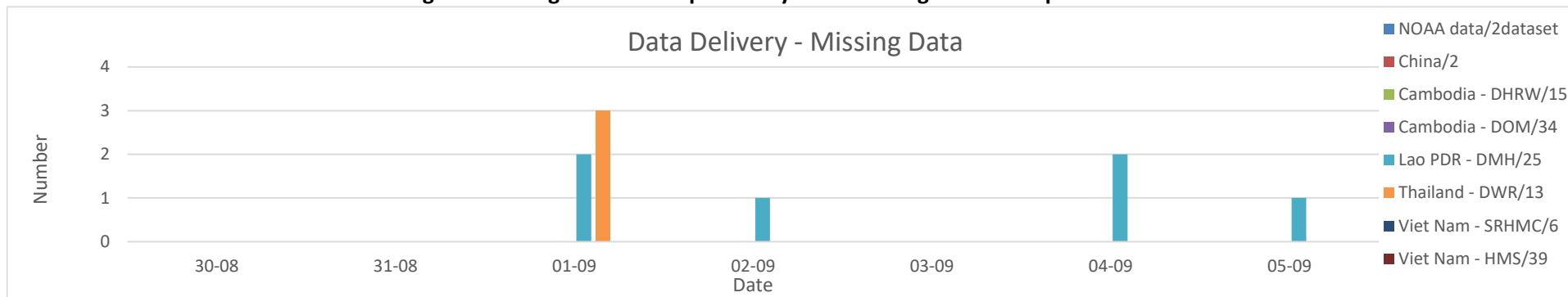
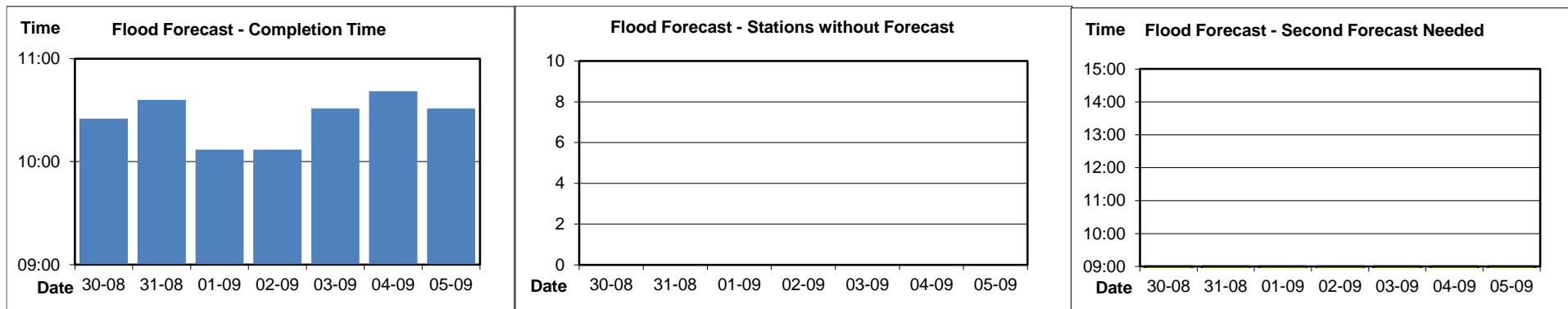


Fig. B6: Flood forecast completion time, stations without forecasts, and second forecasts need from 30 August to 05 September 2022





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