

Annual Report 2017

Report on Activities and Finances

April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018



(Approved at the Annual Membership Meeting)

Mekong Watch

Not-for-Profit Organization (NPO)

Contents

Introduction	2
About Mekong Watch	
Activities for April 1, 2017- March 31, 2018	4
A. Investigative Research: field surveys and research into aid policies of Japanese and international institutions	
B. Field Projects: environmental conservation activities in the Mekong basin	
C. Outreach in Japan and Abroad	
D. Advocacy	
Appendices	11
Board/Staff/Interns and Volunteers	14
Financial Statements	15

(Cover Photo: Mekong River, Cambodia)

Introduction

About Mekong Watch

Mekong Watch's Vision

Our vision is for the people of the Mekong Region to benefit from the region's natural environments and sustain ways of life that are rooted in the integrity of their environments, without falling victim to the harmful impacts of destructive development.

Mekong Watch started its activities in June 1993 to monitor the impact of development projects and development policy on the Mekong River basin countries (Burma/Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and China's Yunnan Province). At the time, Vietnam had recently ended its occupation of Cambodia after more than ten years, marking the end of Cambodia's civil war and the start of a more peaceful era. With peace came a dramatic expansion of development assistance to Cambodia along with the rest of the Mekong River region, including Laos and Vietnam. A group of Japanese Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) with experience backing grassroots movements in this region since the 1980s, concerned that the expansion of aid would destroy local ways of life and damage the environment, formed Mekong Watch as a network to monitor the negative aspects of development and advocate for policy improvements. Later, in 1998 this network was dissolved to form a membership-based volunteer group, and in September 2003 reorganized again as a certified Non-Profit Organization (NPO).



(Photo : Ferry crossing the Mekong River, Cambodia)

From the start of the 21st century, many development projects have been proposed, purportedly to eliminate poverty. To the socially vulnerable, in particular, the existence of a natural environment in which they can obtain food is critically important. The changes in society and the environment that accompany these development projects, however, can easily lead to environmental destruction and removal of the inhabitants, resulting in the loss of means of livelihood and places for the people to live. Development does not always benefit people financially, but runs the risk of depriving people of independence and forcing them into poverty.

While ascertaining the problems faced locally through direct dialogue with the people being harmed by development on the one hand, we reach out on the other hand to the people responsible for formulating and implementing development policies.

Through dialogue, we can improve development projects and policies so as to prevent or ameliorate their negative impacts. These are Mekong Watch's activities.

Mekong Watch's Initiatives

1. Information gathering and analysis on development policies, projects, and organizations that carry out development (development institutions, recipient country governments, private companies).
 - We analyze environmental impact assessments of dam, hydropower and other projects and investigate the environmental policies of countries in carrying out development.
2. Fostering understanding, developing resources on the environment and society.
 - We gather information on the lives of people residing in places where development is occurring and release it to the public in written or video form.
3. Gathering information, conducting analyses, and developing resources on development, including historical case studies.
 - We gather moral lessons from the impoverishment of residents and other negative effects that have resulted in the past from development projects and document these.
4. Communicating and networking with NGOs, citizens and persons involved in projects in the Mekong Region or in countries involved with aid and investment (including Japan).
 - We convey information on problems with development projects to NGOs and citizens of the countries in the Mekong Basin undergoing development and the countries executing or providing aid for these projects. In addition, we build cooperative relations with NGOs and citizens groups sharing our concerns and work with them to resolve issues.
5. Targeting our advocacy activities at development protagonists using the policies and programs of those same protagonists.
 - We utilize the systems of the Asian Development Bank and other institutions for expressing formal objections, conveying the views of the local people to development institutions, informing the public of problems and urging stronger movements toward having these institutions solve those problems.
6. Advocating for improvement in environmental and social consideration policies in Mekong countries via aid-providing countries and aid organizations.
 - Citizen's concerns are not reflected sufficiently in the policies of countries with weak governance. On the other hand, countries and organizations providing aid to the Mekong Region have opportunities to get involved in improving the environment-related policies of the countries they are aiding. By conveying the concerns of the residents to them and relaying past problems, we advocate for the application of Mekong countries' environmental policies as a tool for solving local problems.

Medium-term Goals (2017-2020)

- 1) Increase the number of cases in which the lessons of past development are applied to projects in various stages of progress in the Mekong basin countries and surrounding areas and the views of those affected are respected.
- 2) Increase the number of cases in the Mekong basin countries in which environmental/social policies and programs improve in a way that reflects past lessons of development, the natural environment, and ways of life rooted in the integrity of that environment.
- 3) Increase the number of people who know about the past lessons of development, the natural environment, and people's lifestyles rooted in the integrity of their environments in the Mekong basin countries.

FY2017 Activities

[Local Conditions and Changes Resulting from Mekong Watch Activities in FY2017]

2017 was a year in which the narrowing of political space for citizens throughout Asia became more pronounced.

In Cambodia, pressure on NGOs, citizens' groups and the media continued, with one arrest after another of activists who had filed suits over land issues and environmental protection. Moreover, the largest opposition party, which won more than 40% of the parliamentary seats in the national election in 2013 and, likewise, more than 40% of seats in local elections in 2016, was dissolved as the result of a Supreme Court decision in November. This cast a shadow over advocacy activities, in which free speech for citizens and NGOs is essential. The EU has cut off support for its elections, saying the upcoming national election in 2018 will be neither free nor fair. In Thailand, the military regime continues, with servicepersons seen participating as "observers" in many meetings to discuss environmental problems. In Myanmar (Burma), persecution of religious and ethnic minorities by government troops continues, and the government is attracting international criticism for its inability to handle the situation sufficiently. In Vietnam, there is growing concern among citizens about environmental issues, but almost no opportunity for free discussion of these issues, with crackdowns on bloggers being seen. In Laos, the fate of Ramon Magsaysay Award winning activist Sombath Somphone, who was disappeared in a 2012 abduction, is still unknown, and no clear improvements have been seen in the human rights situation.

Japan was no exception. A preemptive anti-terror law, the so-called "Anti-Conspiracy Bill" was rammed through the Diet. There are strong concerns that this law will apply to targets beyond preventing terrorism, including not only forcible obstruction of business, where it is feared it will be applied to copyright infringements, trade union activities and, for example, sit-ins to protest development projects, but also theft of forestry and mineral resources in forest reserves under the Forest Act or infringement of plant breeders' rights or other provisions under the Plant Variety Protection and Seed Act. For that reason, Mekong Watch called for issuance of a joint statement by NGOs in May and also relayed our concerns to civil society in the Mekong basin. We ultimately gathered signatures from 254 organizations in 18 countries worldwide.

We think that this has become an age in which, in addition to our normal activities, we must pay considerable attention to whether or not citizens' activities in Japan and the Mekong basin are being stunted.

The 50th Annual General Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) was held in 2017 in Yokohama. Guests were invited from abroad to the meeting, and a discussion was held on Nam Theun 2 Dam (NT2) in Laos, with the ADB, Japanese Ministry of Finance and others participating. Construction is proceeding on a number of dams in Laos, aiming for eradication of poverty through hydroelectric power generation. What has provided the incentive to proceed to such a degree with such a policy was support from the ADB and World Bank for the NT2. The World Bank and ADB assert that NT2 is an optimal model for economic development of inland countries like Laos. We continue, however, to point out various problems affecting villages along rivers impacted by dams' water conveyance and the fact that the displaced villagers have been unable to recover their means of living. In discussion with NGOs, the Japanese government also indicates awareness that the recovery of means of living is not on track and provides assurances that it will continue to be concerned about the issue.

On the other hand, the Japanese government also asserts that watershed management of the Mekong Basin has been strengthened through the support of the

World Bank and ADB for the NT2, but the Lao government is proceeding with construction of two dams on the Mekong mainstream, overriding the concerns of the countries downstream. The possibility has arisen, however, that procedures for the third, the Pak Beng Dam, may be suspended, as Thailand is deferring its purchase of electric power. Electric power development in the region, including China, has been proceeding rapidly, and power shortages are becoming a thing of the past. Hydroelectric power puts an enormous burden on the people in Laos's agricultural areas, who depend on the natural resources of the rivers and forests. In the future, we will continue disputing this development model.

In Laos, we have documented land use through surveys and video filming. In 2017, the Lao government declared a halt to expansion of large-scale banana cultivation through investments from Chinese corporations in northern Laos, that had become a source of concern over the scale of environmental impact and health damage. Even after that, though, many local residents still cannot find a way ahead toward sustainable land use. Videos Mekong Watch has produced on banana cultivation are being viewed widely by people concerned in international organizations and Laotian universities.

At the Lower Sesan 2 Dam, being constructed on a Mekong tributary in northeastern Cambodia, water impoundment began in July despite residents' opposition, and an inauguration ceremony was held in September. Residences and other facilities are already flooded or in danger of being flooded, but even now the people of more than 100 residences are refusing to move out. The decision has been made to carry out surveys for two dams on the Mekong mainstream, the Sambor and Stung Treng dams. Nothing about this has been communicated to the residents, however. We are relaying lessons from previous dam development to villagers in the Sambor region and helping the people document their way of life and resources.

In Myanmar (Burma) we are monitoring the state of implementation of the proposals for problem resolution put forward by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Examiners based on the results of a formal objection filed in 2014 against JICA by villagers impacted by development of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ), to which Japan's public and private sectors have contributed. The people in the area affected by the first phase of development still face hardship reestablishing their lives due to burdens such as loans they had to take out when they relocated. Relocation has begun from the area affected by the second phase of development, and we are continuing to monitor the situation.

Also, while the world is charting a course away from coal-fired thermal power, the Japanese government continues to provide support for coal-fired power plants in Vietnam. With regard to this, we are continuing our talks with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), teaming up with other NGOs.

A. Investigative Research

Mekong Watch engages in two types of investigative research. The first is monitoring of projects and programs for potential threats to people who rely on natural resources. In recent years, we have begun monitoring corporate activity amid the rise of private sector-led development projects. The second is field research (not limited to that involved in specific development projects) conducted in cooperation with local residents to collect basic data and deepen overall understanding of the connection between the environment and people's lives. The information and knowledge gained from this research form the basis of our advocacy work.

A-1. Project Monitoring

We continued monitoring hydroelectric power projects, special economic zone development, highway and railway rehabilitation and other projects involving bilateral aid from institutions such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) or funding from multilateral development banks such as the World Bank and Asia Development Bank (ADB).

Monitoring activities of FY2017 are listed below. Countries/organizations providing or considering providing funds are indicated in parentheses. For further details on any of the projects, see Mekong Watch's website.

【Myanmar (Burma)】

Thilawa Special Economic Zone (JICA)

Four years have passed since 68 households were evicted for development of Phase 1 (400 hectares) of the Thilawa SEZ, which Japan's public and private sector are proceeding with on the outskirts of Yangon. They have still only partly recovered their means of living. Relocations for Phase 2 have begun, and we continue to suggest ways to avoid a repetition of the problems of Phase 1.



Houses remaining in a Phase 2 construction site (left), where no agreement had been reached on means of relocation

Common land that was finally provided to dislocated villagers in Phase 1 (right)

- Dawei Special Economic Zone (JBIC, Thai and Japanese private sectors, others)
- Southern Economic Corridor (JICA)
- Coal-fired power plant project in Hpa-An (TTCL, a Thailand-based affiliate of Toyo Engineering (TEC))
- Coal-fired power plant project in Ye township, Mon State (TTCL, a Thailand-based affiliate of Toyo Engineering (TEC))
- Coal-fired power plant project in Nga Yoke Kaung, Irrawaddy Region (Mitsubishi Corporation, J-Power, others)
- Coal-fired power plant project in Thara Bwin, Tanintharyi Region (Marubeni, EGAT International (Thailand), others)

【Laos】

Laos: the Nam Theun 2 Dam (World Bank, ADB, private French concerns and others)

In areas affected by this project, which has been hailed as a success by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB), there remain numerous unresolved issues. Based on the results of interviews of residents of the affected areas and information gathered on-site, we are holding discussions on disclosure of information about the project at regularly held consultations between Japan's Ministry of Finance and NGOs.

Continuing upon our work FY 2016, we conducted interview surveys of the affected villagers in FY 2017. Also, we held talks with the ADB Japanese Representative Office in Manila and presented problems to the CSO ahead of the Annual Meeting of the ADB, which was held in Japan. In conjunction with that meeting, we invited guests from overseas and together had a dialogue with the Japanese government and ADB.

- Xayaburi Dam on the Mekong Mainstream (Thai private sector)
- Don Sahong Dam on the Mekong Mainstream (Malaysian private sector)
- Nam Ngiep 1 Dam (Kansai Electric Power, JBIC, ADB)
- Pak Beng Dam on the Mekong Mainstream (Chinese private sector)

【Thailand】

- Pak Mun Dam (World Bank, Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand)
- Water Resource Management Program (Government of Thailand)

【Cambodia】

- West Tonle Sap Irrigation Project (JICA)
- Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower Project (Chinese and Cambodian private sector, others)
- Sambor Dam (Mekong Mainstream)

【Vietnam】

- Nghi Son 2 Coal-Fired Power Plant (JBIC)
- Hai Phong Coal-Fired Power Plant (JBIC)
- Vin Than 4 and 4 Extension Coal-Fired Power Plants (JBIC)

A-2. Research

We conducted the following research in FY2017

◆Survey on sustainable land use in Laos

The Lao government declared a sweeping halt to banana cultivation through investments by Chinese companies in northern Laos due to its huge impacts on the environment and society. Following that, we investigated conditions locally and prepared videos.



B. Field Projects

Our field projects consist of activities aimed at understanding the state of natural resources of inhabitants of countries of the Mekong Basin. We document the people's ways of living with nature and help residents of the region manage their natural resources.

◆ **Strengthening Community Advocacy through Renewed Recognition of Traditional Resource Use and the Impact of Externally Imposed Development (Laos and Cambodia)**

The Cambodian government gave approval for a survey for the Sambor Dam, but failed to inform the general public about it, raising strong protests from local residents, who are concerned about the impact. We continue to provide information to the residents about environmental changes and effects on their lives if the dam is



constructed to ensure conditions under which they can determine what kind of attitude they want to take regarding this development. We also provide assistance for resource and land-use mapping activities so that the residents can get an objective grasp of the resources and land that they use and explain them to outsiders. In Laos, we aim for dissemination of the videos we have filmed so far.

◆ **Environmental Education Activities Utilizing People’s Stories in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand**

In the Mekong Basin, people’s livelihoods have their roots in the natural resources provided by rivers and forests. Here, many legends, tales of old times, proverbs and the like featuring nature have been handed down. In recent years, however, natural resource depletion has advanced rapidly amid swift economic development. At the same time, a whole world of traditional oral literature and knowledge of traditional natural resource use is being lost.

We have been conducting activities to record these “people’s stories” in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, and with the stories gathered from these three countries as a theme, produced environmental education materials for elementary and junior high school students. In fiscal 2017, we continued investigating local natural resource use and stories in Thailand and Laos, while making use of these educational materials in holding environmental workshops for local elementary school children and meetings for exchanging ideas with NGOs.



◆ **Other**

Fish Survey for Mun River Environmental Conservation

We had aimed to continue investigating fish in the Mun River basin, a tributary of the Mekong, but were unable to make progress due to large-scale flooding that spanned four months, so we worked on formulating a system for the coming fiscal year.

[Column] From People's Stories regarding Resource Use: Connection between a Water Buffalo Legend and Fish Conservation



There is a region with many islands called Si Phan Don where the Mekong River branches in complex ways in southern Laos. On one of these islands, Tolathi, fishery resource conservation has been conducted for twenty years or more by prohibiting fishing in a deep pool by the island during the dry season. The preservation zone is in an area inundated during the rainy season where shrubs grow around the pool, forming a good place for fish to live. Not only that, but a legend is shared among the villagers that strongly influences them to feel that they “do not want to cause damage to that place.” The village’s name is Tolathi, but it is said that it is the local way of pronouncing “*tolaphi*,” the name of a certain water buffalo.

The legend goes like this. “Once upon a time, there was a water buffalo king. It had been foretold that he would be killed by his son, so he killed all male buffalo calves that were born. There was one astute female buffalo, however, who hid in a certain grotto in the middle of the Mekong River to give birth. This male calf, whose name was Tolaphi, grew up and overthrew the king, fulfilling the prophecy. That grotto was in the deep pool by this village.”

Originally, the Tolathi villagers did not fish in this pool, but twenty or more years ago there was an incident in which people from other villages, wanting to catch many of a certain fish known as *Par Kuang*, fished the pool excessively. Fearing their extinction, the villagers requested the government to establish it officially as a preservation zone. (The pool, it appears, happens to be a spawning site of the *Par Kuang*. People going out to the pool by boat around March from afternoon to evening can hear the calls (sounds) made by the *Par Kuang*, going “boo, boo,” during their spawning season.

Even without financial help from the government or NGOs, the villagers have long continued to protect the pool. This is because many of the villagers have a real sense that the existence of the preservation zone enables fishing to continue steadily even now near the village. It is also fortunate that the pool is located within immediate view of the village. It is said that if the children spot someone fishing illegally there, they run and tell an adult. It is a special pool related to a story that everyone in the village knows, and is also exceptional from an environmental standpoint, so the villagers’ conservation activities are continuing there even now.

C. Outreach in Japan and Abroad

◆ Seminars and lectures

Our seminars and lectures communicate the problems of development and the environment in Mekong basin countries to the general public. In FY2017, we held 14 events, including seminars, screening parties and others. (For a summary of our seminars and lectures, see Appendix 1.)

◆ Official magazine, Forum Mekong

To increase the reach of Forum Mekong, we transitioned to digital-only distribution. Our back issues are also available online in PDF format.

◆ Mekong river development e-mail newsletter

Mekong Watch disseminates news on development and environmental issues in the Mekong region via an e-mail newsletter. In FY2017, we issued 15 newsletters in Japanese. Also, we released 7 statements, including a request letter regarding research for review process of the Guidelines on Social Environmental Considerations

◆ Website

Difficulty keeping pace with the large number of issues occurring in the Mekong basin and making updates on them quickly, together with thoroughly updating our English website continue to be tasks for us. We continue to make use of Facebook and Twitter to help spread information. Recently, the number of foreign registrants on our YouTube channel has been increasing, and it appears that the total number of views of some of our videos has exceeded 70,000.

◆ Providing lecturers and publishing research

We sent our staff to give talks on Mekong River development, the environment, and ODA at lectures and seminars (see Appendix 2). In FY2017, staff had 19 lectures at universities and 6 public lectures.

◆ Media outreach

The goal of our media outreach is not to attract coverage of Mekong Watch's activities, but to increase coverage of the development issues we are concerned about. Mekong Watch was involved in the creation of 3 media stories in this fiscal year.

* Mekong Library: Previously opened to provide information Mekong Watch had gathered to the public, our library is closed for the time being. At our urging for information disclosure to civil society, many international aid organizations have started providing information on the Internet. For this reason, we determined that it was less necessary for us to disclose information we had gathered. We are accepting inquiries about individual items of documentation from the past.

D. Advocacy

Our advocacy has three objectives: (1) improve individual aid projects; (2) question development in the Mekong basin countries; and (3) encourage the Japanese government to reflect past experience in ODA and other policies and processes.

◆ Improving individual projects

We held meetings (detailed below) with JICA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA),

and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) on individual aid projects, with the aim of pushing for improvements to problems we identified through our project monitoring activities. The agendas for our regularly held meetings with MOF can be found in Appendix 5.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Mekong Watch Seminars/Lectures April 2017 - March 2018

年月日	イベント名	テーマ・表題	講演者
2017年4月13日	【セミナー】ボルネオの森林破壊とオランウータン	パーム油生産のアブラヤシ農園の拡大によるオランウータンへの影響と保護活動について	協力団体
5月2日	【セミナー】ラオス「貧困」と「開発」～森と川の国は今	ラオス・ナムトゥン2ダムの問題について	ブルース・シューメーカー、グレン・ハント、東智美
5月2日	【セミナー】開発援助が創り出す「貧困」？国際金融機関アジア開発銀行（ADB）の影	国際金融機関アジア開発銀行が抱える課題など、ADBの開発をめぐる問題を振り返る	ライアン・ハッサン、ブルース・シューメーカー、グレン・ハント、松本悟
6月7日	【セミナー】ミャンマー一経済特別区開発の今：環境と暮らしへの影響	ティラワとダウエイの経済特別区の日本の関与、住民の状況について	土川実鳴、木口由香
6月23日	【上映会】ラオス、自然を食べる暮らし	ラオスの自然資源利用の紹介	東智美、木口由香
9月24日	【共催セミナー】持続社会ってなんだろうーラオスやタイでのNGO活動から見たこと	タイとラオスの農村の食や文化を手掛かりに、人々の暮らしと、今起きている環境問題、日本との繋がりについて知る。	木口由香
10月8日	【共催イベント】チキンカレーを“ほぼ”イチから作る	成田の農家で鶏をしめるところからカレーを作り、命や食べ物に関して考える（イベント内セミナーで「東北タイの塩の話」開催）	バンペン・チャイラック スタッフ
10月11日 10月12日	【セミナー】（東京）環境を守る物語の力-東北タイの伝承と開発（京都）東北タイの自然と人々の物語	物語を持つ環境保全の可能性。調査の経過報告と東北タイの環境保全について	バンペン・チャイラック
11月26日	【セミナー】ミャンマー：ティラワとダウエイ、2つの経済特別区開発（京都）	ティラワとダウエイの経済特別区の日本の関与、現地での人権状況など	土川実鳴、木口由香
2018年1月25日	【セミナー】森林火災とブランテーション：熱帯林の持続可能な利用と紙調達	日本で消費される紙の生産に起因する森林減少や森林火災について	協力団体

2月13日	【セミナー】「アジア地域の水資源共同管理から展望する共生社会～日本、タイ、バンラデシュの水資源管理の現場から～」	水をめぐる人びとと自然の共生、異なる利害関係者の共生のあり方を考える	協力者、東智美
3月20日	【上映会】開発に押されて—メコン河流域の生活と環境は今	川と人々の生活、ダムの影響についての映像上映会	遠藤諭子、東智美
3月22日	PEOPLE'S STORIES - Small Film Event	ラオス・ビエンチャンでの「人々の物語」事業に関連する上映会	木口由香

Appendix 2

**Mekong Watch Lectures Organized by Others
April 2017 – March 2018**

年月日	場所/主催	テーマ・表題
2017年6月28日	旅するアジア 2017 第4回/上智大学	東北タイの伝説と環境問題
9月21日	ソーシャル・ジャスティス基金(SJF)アドボカシーカフェ 第50回	経済開発と格差 日本のミャンマー支援と現地の人々
10月13日	神戸大学学内セミナー	環境を守る物語の力—地域の伝承と開発—
10月15日	「タイ・ミャンマーにおけるクロスボーダーな工業化・人権侵害と域外責務・環境民主主義」研究会/熊本学園大学	ティラワ経済特区の現状
2018年1月9日	ソーシャル・ジャスティス基金(SJF)助成発表フォーラム 第6回	
3月30日	ラオス文化研究会	「ラオス・森の民クムの人びとの暮らしと焼畑」
大学での講義：青山学院女子短期大学など、各大学で計19回		

Appendix 3

**Publications by Mekong Watch Staff
April 2017 – March 2018**

年月日	執筆・出演	テーマ・表題
2017年8月5日	Mekong Commons	Will the Dawei Special Economic Zone benefit the people of Myanmar?
12月	書籍「非戦・対話・NGO 国境を越え、世代を受け継ぐ私たちの歩み」	「普通の人たち」から学んだ力—悩みながらメコン河流域を歩き回った

Appendix 4

Media Articles/Programs Made with Mekong Watch Involvement April 2017 – March 2018

年月日	掲載紙名	テーマ・表題
6月9日	朝日新聞	「共謀罪」法案への反対声明、国内外の団体が名を連ねる
6月15日	毎日新聞	(共謀罪) 抗議活動も反社会的か NGO など影響を懸念
10月18日	社会新報	物語の力で環境を守る
10月25日	Ganas	東北タイの鉱山開発をストップさせるのは「昔話」！ みんな知っているから環境の大切さをわかってもらえる
2018年 3月27日	GARDEN Journalism	NGO、専門家、そして廃刊に追い込まれたメディア当事者が証言 するカンボジアの「独裁」 https://gardenjournalism.com/feature/cambodia/

Appendix 5

Meetings with Government Institutions April 2017 – March 2018

年月日	協議の名称など	提起したテーマ・問題
2017年4月3日	JICA 個別会合	ティラワ SEZ について
5月3日	財務省 ADB-NGO 協議	ラオス・ナムトゥン2ダムについて
6月6日	JICA 個別会合	ミャンマー・ダウエイ開発を含むタニンダーリ地域 開発について
7月4日	NGO-JICA 協議会 (参加)	カンボジア選挙支援について
7月28日	JBIC 個別会合	ベトナム石炭火力発電所の問題について
9月1日	JICA 環境社会配慮助言委員会 (参加)	JICA ガイドラインレビュー・改定に関して
9月29日	JICA 個別会合	JICA ガイドラインレビュー・改定に関して
10月5日	JICA 個別会合	JICA ガイドラインレビュー・改定に関して
10月13日	JICA 環境社会配慮助言委員会 (参加)	JICA ガイドラインレビュー・改定に関して
10月31日	JBIC 個別会合	ベトナム石炭火力発電所の問題について
12月8日	JICA 環境社会配慮助言委員会 (参加)	JICA ガイドラインレビュー・改定に関して
12月13日	NGO-外務省 ODA 協議会 (参加)	カンボジア選挙支援について

12月21日	財務省・NGO 定期協議	ラオス・ナムトゥン2水力発電事業（IDA、IBRD、MIGA、ADB）に関する評価と世界銀行・アジア開発銀行の今後の関与について
2018年3月15日	JICA 個別会合	ミャンマー・ダウエイ開発を含むタニンダーリ地域開発について
3月22日	JBIC 個別会合	ベトナム石炭火力発電所の問題について

Board of Directors

[Directors:]

Fukuda, Kenji Representative Director
Higashi, Satomi Deputy Representative Director
Onizuka, Madoka Chase
Kiguchi, Yuka
Sakamoto, Yuki
Shimizu, Noriko
Shin'e, Toshihiko
Doi, Toshiyuki
Nagase, Riei
Yonekura, Yukiko

[Auditor:]

Kawamura, Akio

[Advisor:]

Matsumoto, Satoru

Staff

Endo, Satoko Tokyo Office Manager (full-time)
Kiguchi, Yuka Executive Director (full-time)
Tsuchikawa, Minari Burma Program Coordinator (part-time)
Doi, Toshiyuki Senior Advisor (full-time)
Hayashi, Mariko Laos Program Coordinator (part-time)
and 2 interns

(Board, staff, interns as of March 31, 2018)

Donor Institutions

Ayus: Network of Buddhists Volunteers on International Cooperation
Odake Foundation
Oxfam Australia
McKnight Foundation
The Mitsui & Co. Environment Fund
Social Justice Fund
Welthaus

NPO Mekong Watch

FY2017 Financial Statements

April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

Unit: USD

1 USD = 106.220 JPY (as of 31 March 2018, source: OANDA)

Revenue

Membership fee	2,918
Donation	1,220
Operating revenue	5,159
Monitoring & research	0
Outreach	5,159
Advocacy	0
Grant	144,215
Contract income	252
Interest income	141
Miscellaneous income	5,176
TOTAL REVENUE	159,081

Expenditure

Monitoring and research	26,572
Project monitoring	12,277
Staff salary	14,295
Field project	71,457
Strengthening of advocacy capacities of communities through re-recognition of traditional ways of resource utilization and effects from foreign development projects	24,192
Research for Mun River fish conservation	988
Peoples' stories on the use of natural resources	34,254
Staff salary	12,023
Policy advocacy	11,544
Mitigation of transboundary impacts	19
Policy on sustainable use of land in Laos	6,427
Staff salary	5,098
Outreach	19,920
Film shows and seminars	781
Staff salary	19,139
Administration	30,935
Tokyo office management	14,150
Overseas office management	21
Staff salary	16,764
Exchange Loss	2,023
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	162,451

Balance	-3,370
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Beginning of year	174,037
End of year	170,667

NPO Mekong Watch FY2017 Balance Sheet

April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

Unit: USD

1 USD = 106.220 JPY (as of 31 March 2018, source: OANDA)

Assets		Liabilities and surpluses	
1.Current assets		1.Current liabilities	
Cash and cash equivalents	224,410	Accounts payable	0
Accounts receivable	4,575	Advance payments received	61,230
		Deposits	1,795
Total current assets	228,985	Total current liabilities	63,025
2.Fixed assets		2. Surpluses	
Guarantee deposit	4,707	Surpluses carried over	170,667
Total fixed assets	4,707		
Total assets	233,692	Total surpluses and liabilities	233,692

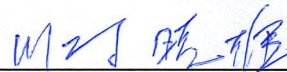
Audit Report

I have audited the FY2017 (April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018) financial reports of Mekong Watch, an incorporated non-profit organization (NPO) in Japan that also qualified for Equivalency Determination (ED) status in the United States, making it the equivalent of a US public charity.

The audit was conducted in accordance with the Accounting Standard of NPOs in Japan. As a result, I hereby acknowledge that Mekong Watch's activities were conducted in appropriate ways and that its financial statements and balance sheet were prepared according to generally accepted principle.

Also, I hereby note as a supplement that upon auditing, an Audit Checklist for NPOs, which is designed to review internal procedures of the financial management of NPOs in Japan and those who conduct activities overseas were also used. These checkpoints include, 1) whether the organization abided by spending procedure rules, 2) whether personnel expenses were paid according to the rules and legally required records were kept, and 3) evidence of expenses were appropriately filed and stored. I performed a thorough review of fifty-nine points including above three and found no violation of rules or particular instances to report. Thus, I hereby acknowledge that the organization's internal control this fiscal year was suitable.

May 21, 2018



Akio Kawamura
Auditor

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