

Annual Report 2018

Report on Activities and Finances



April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

Mekong Watch

Not-for-Profit Organization (NPO)



Contents

Introduction	1
About Mekong Watch	
Activities for April 1, 2018- March 31, 2019	3
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	10
Board/Staff/Interns and Volunteers	13
Financial Statements	14

(Cover Photo: Elementary school in Laos damaged from collapse of the Xepian-Xenamnoy Dam; this school had received aid from Japan)

Introduction

About Mekong Watch



*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, Cambodia's civil war has just ended and rapid expansion of development aid in the region was starting.

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 voluntary group, and in September 2003 reorganized again as a certified Non-Profit Organization (NPO).

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

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.



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 dams, power plants and other projects and investigate the environmental policies countries use in carrying out development.
2. Fostering understanding, developing documents on the natural resource management and livelihoods of people in the Mekong region.
 - 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 actors using the policies and programs those actors have provided.
 - 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.



FY2018 Activities

[Local Conditions and Changes Resulting from Mekong Watch Activities in FY2018]

The political situation in the Mekong basin is similar to that of last year, with each country facing its own difficulties. Nonetheless, even in the Mekong basin countries people are becoming more concerned about global issues such as marine plastics, air pollution and climate change. Calls for environmental improvement, especially from young people, are reaching them via SNS on a daily basis.

In Thailand, national elections were held in March 2019, as the country continues advancing toward democracy. National elections were also held in Cambodia in July 2018, and after that, there has been an apparent decreasing trend in openly heavy-handed suppression of citizen activities. In Vietnam, there is growing concern among citizens about environmental issues, but a cyber-security law took effect in January 2019 that gives the government power to restrict transmission of information over the Internet. In Myanmar (Burma), rumors such that the discontinued construction of the Myitsone Dam will be resumed are drawing concern about being drawn closer to China in development projects.

In Laos, an unanticipated catastrophe occurred on July 23, 2018. An auxiliary dam supporting a reservoir behind the Xepian-Xenamnoy hydroelectric dam under construction by South Korean and Thai companies collapsed resulting in the loss of 71 lives and houses of more than 7000 people. The search for the cause of this accident has continued for nearly a year, and while there are signs that the Lao government will review its economic development policy that has to date overemphasized hydroelectric power, whether that will actually happen is unclear. We are cooperating with various groups regarding this case, carrying out basic surveys for improving the residents' circumstances and compiling reports analyzing various policies.

We are cooperating with people in Thai communities to conduct surveys of sustainable river resource use. Meanwhile, in Myanmar, we are making efforts to improve conditions of villagers who have been impoverished as a result of relocation due to special economic zone development.

Regarding environmental pollution and damage to health and livelihoods incurred after the Hai Phong coal-fired power plant in Vietnam began operations, residents living near

the plant filed an objection with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in November 2017. This objection, however, was neglected for about a half year, until NGOs pointed it out in May 2018. JBIC was lax in monitoring as stipulated in its own “JBIC Guidelines for Confirmation of Environmental and Social Considerations,” and it failed to implement the Objection Procedure Outline based on those Guidelines. Mekong Watch gave them a strong warning over this and a request to prevent recurrences.

As implementation of countermeasures to global warming is hastened worldwide, Japan, South Korea and China are now becoming the only countries still building new coal-fired power plants in Southeast Asia. In particular, the Japanese government’s support for coal-fired power plants in Vietnam is drawing international concern. Mekong Watch is calling for JBIC, which provides financing, Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), which provides coverage, along with businesses and banks to say no to coal.

The various faults of conventional large-scale development have become apparent including not only clear manifestation of damage but also accidents and the failure of institutions to remedy deficiencies. Still, the idea that disruption and sacrifices must naturally accompany development remains as strongly rooted in society as ever. On the other hand, the first glimmers of new trends created by younger people are being seen. Perhaps we are now standing at a turning point toward a new age. We will continue our activities in the future to build a sustainable society that is also fair to the socially disadvantaged.

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 programs and projects such as bilateral assistance through organizations such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), special economic zone development projects and coal-fired power plants funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

Monitoring activities of FY2018 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. <http://www.mekongwatch.org/report/index.html>

【Myanmar (Burma)】

- Thilawa Special Economic Zone (JICA)



Common land provided to residents relocated in Phase 1 that still cannot be used (photo taken in Feb. 2019)

At the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ), five years have passed since 68 households were required to relocate for Phase 1 of development (covering 400 hectares) promoted by Japanese public and private sector entities, yet the relocated villagers are still in the process of recovering their livelihoods, unable to use the common land that was provided to them after the villagers voiced objections. The difficulty recovering their livelihoods has rendered them unable to repay the debts they incurred through their relocation, and some of the villagers have even had to give up their houses or lots. Relocations have begun for Phase 2 now, too, but these issues remain unresolved. We are continuing to request JICA to arrange a respectful dialog between Myanmar's government and the affected villagers.

- Dawei Special Economic Zone (JBIC, Thai and Japanese private sectors, others)
- Southern Economic Corridor (JICA)
- Coal-fired power plant project in Hpa-An, Karen State (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】

- Xepian-Xenamnoy Hydropower dam (private and public, South Korea and Thai)



House damaged in disaster (photo taken in Dec. 2018)

This power plant was designed to generate 410 gigawatts of power utilizing water conveyance and taking advantage of the altitude of the Boloven Plateau, where two reservoirs have been constructed, damming three rivers. It is a BOT (build-operate-transfer) project, being promoted by South Korean and Thai enterprises with joint investment by a Lao state enterprise. After 32 years in operation, including construction, management of the project will be transferred to the Lao government. About 90 percent of the electricity it generates will be exported to Thailand.

This project, which resulted in a major accident in July 2018 when one of the saddle dams under construction collapsed, is being financed by Thai banks. One of those, Bank of Ayudhya, is a subsidiary of Japan's MUFG Bank. Moreover, with Japan's Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF) owning upwards of 8 billion yen worth of shares in SK Engineering and Construction, which is in charge of construction work for the project, Japan has financial ties to this project.

After the accident, the Lao government announced that it was reconsidering its investments in hydroelectric power projects, but the outcome of that is unclear. There are still many dam construction projects underway in Laos. To enable the people of Laos to exist without their livelihoods and their very lives themselves being threatened by dams, open discussions must be held, but the Lao government has not released the results of its investigation into the accident.

Mekong Watch is investigating the situation in disaster area, and cooperating with other organizations to compile a report on it. In addition, the Japanese government, World Bank and Asian Development Bank have all been playing a major role in the course of setting Laos's current course of economic development with its overemphasis on hydroelectric power. In the future, we will propose that these donors aiding the Lao government support the Lao government in conducting a proper reassessment of dam development and providing effective relief to the impacted inhabitants.

- Don Sahong Dam on the Mekong Mainstream (Malaysian private sector)
- Nam Ngiep 1 Dam (Kansai Electric Power, JBIC, ADB)
- Nam Theun 2 Dam (WB, ADB, French private sector, and others)
- Pak Beng Dam on the Mekong Mainstream (Chinese private sector)
- Xayaburi Dam on the Mekong Mainstream (Thai private sector)

【Thailand】

- Thai Overseas Investment Projects in Mekong Basin Countries (Thai private sector)

【Cambodia】

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

【Vietnam】

- Nghi Son 2 Coal-Fired Power Plant (JBIC)
- Hai Phong Coal-Fired Power Plant (JBIC)
- Van Phong 1 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 FY2018.

- Biomass Power Generation in Thailand and its Impact on the Livelihood of Local Communities (Thai Private)



A truck carrying sugar cane to a plant (photo taken in March 2019)

In northeastern Thailand, a number of plans for constructing biomass power plants to use bagasse, a sugar production waste product, are advancing, but are meeting strong opposition from residents in several places. Biomass power plants are attracting hope as a renewable energy source, so we have investigated what issues these electric power projects have to understand why the residents are so strongly opposed to them. The results of our investigation can be seen on the Mekong Watch website.

http://www.mekongwatch.org/PDF/Baiomass_2018.pdf

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)

Activities toward the construction of the Sambor Dam in Cambodia remain unclear, but strong concerns are arising among local residents about its impact. While continuing to provide information to the residents on environmental changes and the impact on their livelihoods if the dam is built, in the current fiscal year we are also taking steps such as helping them discussions with residents affected by other dams to exchange views and promoting exchanges with university students who have not heard about the problems with these projects. In addition to conducting a survey of the area affected by dams on the Sekong River, a Mekong tributary in southern Laos, our activities in that country have included disseminating the videos we have made so far. Our video titled "Hoo Sahong, a Fish Corridor Threatened by Dam Development" captures the issues with the Don Sahong Dam currently under construction on the Mekong mainstream and livelihoods in that area prior to the construction, so it was filmed in Laos and Thailand and produced in the Thai language, but it has captured much interest with more than 380,000 views and is being watched not only in Thailand but also in Laos.

◆ 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.

Heretofore we have conducted activities to record these kinds of "people's stories" in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. To wrap up the final year of this effort, in Laos, we showed the videos we had filmed in the villages, sharing them with the residents. In Thailand, we published a supplemental teaching aid "Handbook of Environment Education through People's Stories," which is used in practice by teachers at elementary and junior high schools, and provided it back to the communities. It can be downloaded from the Mekong Watch website's publication corner. http://www.mekongwatch.org/PDF/Handbook_Thai_PeopleStory.pdf

Also, in August 2018 we held an international open seminar "Transformative Learning toward a Sustainable Society: Principles and Practices" in Bangkok in cooperation with Chulalongkorn University of Thailand and UNESCO Bangkok, where we talked together for two days about the possibilities for using "people's stories" toward realization of a sustainable society and how they could be used.



◆ Fish Survey for Mun River Environmental Conservation

The Mun River in northeastern Thailand, including its tributaries such as the Chi River, is one of the most important places regarding the Mekong River's ecosystem. Currently, many dams have been constructed there, leaving the river's environment fragmented. There are still stretches in the middle of the basin, however, where an environment partially exists in which many kinds of fish can live. To achieve sustainable management of fish resources by the residents in these places, Mekong Watch is gathering information on the fishes' ecology with the goal of providing it to the people in these local communities.

In this fiscal year, we are cooperating with local residents' groups, conducting surveys of a total of seven villages along the Mun River and its tributary the Chi River and gathering information from residents working in fisheries in these places about which fish species remain and which have disappeared. In addition, we have recorded information on the natural environment, remaining fish species, presence or absence of spawning areas and fish spawning behavior in the vicinity of four villages along the Mun River where fish conservation zones have been established, and characteristics of these conservation zones. We are compiling data sheets for each village. In the future, we will release this information via our website as well.



Field Research

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 FY2018, we held 5 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 FY2018, we issued 15 newsletters in Japanese. Also, we released 9 statements, including a request letter regarding research by JICA for their review process in the Guidelines on Social and 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.

◆ 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 FY2018, staff had 21 lectures at universities and 3 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 7 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 2018 - March 2019

年月日	イベント名	テーマ・表題	講演者
2018年 6月21日	【セミナー】カンボジアとメコン河 開発の現場で起きていること	カンボジアの政治状況と大規模開発の現場	米倉雪子、木口由香
8月14・15日	Seminar: Transformative learning toward a sustainable society: Principles and practices	持続的可能な社会の実現に向けた「人びとの物語」の可能性と活用方法	東智美 (チュラロンコーン大学バンコク・フォーラム2018/アジア研究所と共催)
10月11日	【セミナー】「川に生きる人びと」フォトエコロジストの見たメコン	メコン河と暮らしについて外部講師の講演と、最近のメコン河開発について	新村安雄、木口由香
10月18日	【パネル】Dams, disaster and	ナムトゥン2ダム <small>の</small> 教訓、セピアン・セナムノイダム決壊事故、メ	(International Rivers、Lao Dam

	ecological justice: hydropower legacies in the Mekong	コン河ダム開発の現状と課題	Investment Monitor と共催)
11月8日	【報告会】 ラオス・ダム決壊のその後—生活、環境、投資	セピアン・セナムノイダム決壊事故。ラオスの水力発電事業と人々の生活への影響、環境や投資を巡る状況について振り返る	松本悟、東智美、木口由香
2019年 2月23日	【セミナー】東北タイにおけるバガス燃料バイオマス発電所建設事業の環境社会影響(バンコク)	東北タイのバガスによるバイオマス発電に関する調査報告	木口由香
3月6日	【セミナー】東北タイにおけるバガス燃料バイオマス発電所建設事業の環境社会影響(東京)	東北タイのバガスによるバイオマス発電に関する調査報告	木口由香

Appendix 2

Mekong Watch Lectures Organized by Others April 2018 – March 2019

年月日	場所/主催	テーマ・表題
2018年8月14日	FoE フクロウの会インターネットテレビ	セピアン・セナムノイダム決壊事故について
10月25日	Bangkok Forum 2018	Language Revitalization as University-Community Collaboration
12月13日	Resource Politics and the Public Sphere in Southeast Asia: Deliberation, Accountability and Alternatives	Why Irrawaddy dolphins and <i>sida</i> birds live together: People's stories as alter-narratives
大学での講義：青山学院女子短期大学など、各大学で計21回		

Appendix 3

Publications by Mekong Watch Staff April 2018 – March 2019

年月日	執筆・出演	テーマ・表題
2018年11月	ハリーナ No.41 (NPO ALPA 機関紙)	ラオスのダム決壊事故の教訓は？
2018年	Suwilai Preamsirat and David Hirsh (編) <i>Language Revitalization: Insights from Thailand</i>	<i>Cheum Chong: Outcomes and Challenges of Chong Language Revitalization Project.</i>

Appendix 4

Media Articles/Programs Made with Mekong Watch Involvement April 2018 – March 2019

年月日	掲載紙名	テーマ・表題
2018年 4月20日	The Straits Times	DBS and OCBC among lenders of \$2.45 billion for Vietnam coal power plant
8月2日	朝日新聞	「数千人が家を喪失」ラオスのダム決壊1週間（ネット版のみ）
8月21日	ハーバービジネスオンライン	建設中に決壊したラオスのダムは、日本の資金によるものだった——韓国叩きに終始するメディアが報じるべきこと
9月17日	ハーバービジネスオンライン	「投資しているだけ」は無責任——ラオスのダム決壊事故と日本の関係、国際社会の視点から問う
8月7日	SPA	地球温暖化に殺される！異常気象は地球レベルで発生
2019年1月 4日	Global Voices	How preserving folktales and legends help raise environment awareness in the Mekong
3月20日	NNA	庶民と対話したタクシン首相 ポピュリズムの現場、未完の約束

Appendix 5

Meetings with Government Institutions April 2018 – March 2019

年月日	協議の名称など	提起したテーマ・問題
2018年4月4日	JBIC 個別会合	ミャンマー・ダウェイについて情報提供
6月14日	財務省・NGO 定期協議	世界銀行の「ナムトゥン2 社会環境プロジェクト」（ラオス）終了に対する日本政府の評価と今後の関与について 対カンボジア経済インフラ整備事業における影響住民への配慮と援助効果の確認に関して
6月15日	JBIC 個別会合	ガイドライン／異議申立手続の違反およびベトナム・ハイフォン石炭火力発電事業について
7月18日	JBIC 個別会合	ガイドライン／異議申立手続の違反およびベトナム・ハイフォン石炭火力発電事業について
8月7日	NEXI 個別会合	ベトナム・ギソン2 石炭火力発電事業について
8月31日	JBIC 個別会合	ベトナム・ハイフォン石炭火力発電事業について
9月21日	財務省・NGO 定期協議	国際協力銀行（JBIC）の異議申立書の回付漏れに見られるようなガイドライン運用体制の不備と再発防止について ラオス・ナムトゥン2 水力発電事業（IDA、IBRD、MIGA、ADB）の移転目標の未達成と移転実施期間との終了について ラオス・水力発電セクター支援に関する今後の日本政府の対応について
10月11日	JBIC 個別会合	ガイドライン／異議申立手続の違反再発防止およびベトナム・ハイフォン石炭火力発電事業について

11月20日	JICA 個別会合	ミャンマー・ティラワ経済特別区について
11月29日	JBIC 個別会合	ガイドライン／異議申立手続の違反再発防止およびベトナム・ハイフォン石炭火力発電事業について
2019年 3月8日	JBIC 個別会合	ベトナム・バンフォン1石炭火力発電事業について
3月19日	財務省個別会合	ベトナム・バンフォン1石炭火力発電事業について
3月29日	JICA 個別会合	JICA ガイドラインに関する意見交換

Board of Directors

[Directors:]		[Auditor:]	[Advisor:]
Fukuda, Kenji	Representative Director	Kawamura, Akio	Matsumoto, Satoru
Higashi, Satomi	Deputy Representative Director		
Onizuka, Madoka	Chase		
Kiguchi, Yuka			
Sakamoto, Yuki			
Shimizu, Noriko			
Shin'e, Toshihiko			
Doi, Toshiyuki			
Nagase, Riei			
Yonekura, Yukiko			

Staff

Endo, Satoko	Policy Coordinator (full-time)
Kiguchi, Yuka	Executive Director (full-time)
Lee, Tanya	Lead Researcher (part-time)
Tsuchikawa, Minari	Burma Program Coordinator (part-time)
Doi, Toshiyuki	Senior Advisor (full-time)

(Board, staff, interns as of March 31, 2019)

Donor Institutions

Ayus: Network of Buddhists Volunteers on International Cooperation
Oxfam Australia
McKnight Foundation
The Japan Trust for Global Environment
The Mitsui & Co. Environment Fund
The Takagi Fund for Citizen Science
Welthaus

NPO Mekong Watch

FY2018 Financial Statements

April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

Unit: USD

1 USD = 110.835 JPY (as of 31 March 2019, source: OANDA)

Revenue

Membership fee	3,198
Donation	4,622
Operating revenue	3,762
Monitoring & research	397
Outreach	1,518
Advocacy	1,847
Grant	111,157
Contract income	14,369
Interest income	127
Miscellaneous income	4,901
Exchange Loss	406
TOTAL REVENUE	142,542

Expenditure

Monitoring and research	25,903
Project monitoring	8,961
Staff salary	16,942
Field project	67,181
Strengthening of advocacy capacities of communities through re-recognition of traditional ways of resource utilization and effects from foreign development projects	29,172
Research for Mun River fish conservation	6,384
Peoples' stories on the use of natural resources	17,315
Staff salary	14,310
Policy advocacy	12,733
JICA Environmental and Social Considerations Guideline Review and Revision	30
Policy on sustainable use of land in Laos	938
Staff salary	11,765
Outreach	17,622
Forum Mekong	50
Website	250
Outreach materials	273
Staff salary	17,049
Administration	28,028
Tokyo office management	13,225
Overseas office management	7
Staff salary	14,796
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	151,467

Balance	-8,925
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Beginning of year	163,561
End of year	154,636

NPO Mekong Watch FY2018 Balance Sheet

April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

Unit: USD

1 USD = 110.835 JPY (as of 31 March 2019, source: OANDA)

Assets		Liabilities and surpluses	
1.Current assets		1.Current liabilities	
Cash and cash equivalents	165,294	Accounts payable	0
Accounts receivable	24,371	Advance payments received	37,430
Advances paid	78	Deposits	2,189
Total current assets	189,743	Total current liabilities	39,619
2.Fixed assets		2. Surpluses	
Guarantee deposit	4,511	Surpluses carried over	154,635
Total fixed assets	4,511		
Total assets	194,254	Total surpluses and liabilities	194,254

Audit Report

I have audited the FY2018 (April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019) 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 27, 2019

川村 曉雄

Akio Kawamura
Auditor

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