

## Water Resources Management in Lao PDR

## Singthong PHANTHAMALA Department of Water Resources

#### I. Overview-Water Resources in Lao PDR

ກຊສ MONRE

- Lao PDR is located in South-East Asia with total land area of 236,800 km2, approx. population 6.49 mill. (2015);
- 90% of the country territory is located in the Mekong Basin
- Water resources per capita is around 55,000 m<sup>3</sup> per year;
- 35% of annual flow (or equal 270,000 mil. m<sup>3</sup>) in Mekong flow is from tributaries in Laos;
- The monthly rivers flow by the pattern of rainfall is around 80% (flood season) during the rainy season and 20% (drought season) in the dry season.

Lao PDR has abundance of water resources which there are total 62 river basins.





# **IWRM History in Lao PDR**

| Prior<br>1975   | 1975-2000   | 2001-2010  | 2011-Present  |
|---|---|--|---|
| <ul> <li>Traditional management /practice</li> <li>No clear institutions and specific legislations on IWRM</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Water and<br/>water<br/>resources law,<br/>1996</li> <li>Mekong<br/>Agreement<br/>1995</li> <li>Local<br/>knowledge<br/>and some<br/>regional and<br/>international<br/>applied</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>IWRM principle<br/>introduced</li> <li>Water Resources<br/>Coordination<br/>Committee and its<br/>secretariat established</li> <li>Water Resources and<br/>Environment Agencies<br/>established 2007<br/>(including Department<br/>of Water Resources)</li> <li>Integrated River Basins<br/>Planning</li> <li>Local knowledge +<br/>regional + international<br/>experiences</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Ministry of Natural<br/>Resources and<br/>Environment<br/>established 2011 (Dept<br/>of Water Resources)</li> <li>Water &amp; water resource<br/>law revised &amp; approved<br/>(May 2017)</li> <li>Water Resources Sub-<br/>sector working group<br/>established</li> <li>Expand IWRM into 10<br/>priority river basins</li> <li>Technical guidelines<br/>developed</li> <li>Up scale local<br/>knowledge + regional +<br/>international<br/>experiences</li> </ul> |







#### **III.** Problems and Challenges







### Challenges

<u>Institutional</u> arrangement & establishment – need to strengthen cross sector collaboration;

Limited <u>financial support</u> & sustainable mechanism – equipments, tools...

Legislations, guidelines need to enforce and implement

Limited <u>capacity of concerned staff</u> on RB planning & management + public awareness & local participation on IWRM. – thus need to strengthen staff capacity and more on-the-job training, etc.

Lack of efficient & accurate WR data & information

### **IV. Way Forward**

To address those challenges....we have to implement Natural Resources and Environment Sector Vision towards 2030

"Keeping Lao PDR Green, Clean and Beautiful based on green economic growth, to achieve sustainable development toward industrialization and modernization and to ensure the resilience to climate change impacts and disaster risks"



Draft Water and Water Resources Management Strategy 2030



