

M-POWER reporting guidelines

1 Achievements

Summarize the main achievements relevant to M-POWER program during the period. If necessary you can use subheadings to organize the text. Include tables and figures.

Make sure you are explicit about what case studies or analyses or papers or presentations or host services were offered to joint M-POWER activities during the reporting period.

Include specific statement about the contribution (role) of M-POWER activities, support and grants to activities to overall achievements if they are just a part of a larger effort and funded from other sources.

Note relevance to M-POWER thematic areas or comparative case studies.

Cite publications listed in section 2 as appropriate.

Do not directly repeat information in fellowship, research leader and partner organization reports (if applicable in your case) -- but do feel free to cross-reference reports where appropriate.

The main achievements of this research fellowship thus far are the completion of the chapter Damming the Salween, with Darrin Magee, for the M-POWER Vol 2 book. Submission of the first final draft was in August 2008, with final revisions completed in March 2009.

This work contributes to the M-POWER T1-Dialogue theme, by exploring the formal and informal channels and codes of conduct that drive and govern cross-border hydropower development, as well as the political, commercial and social challenges of launching such ventures in the Mekong region. This work also contributes to the T4-Policies theme, by addressing the quasi-privatized nature of the Tasang and other Salween projects, and by examining the Thai policy process and regulatory regime for trans-boundary hydropower development.

As a Visiting Fellow at my host institution, Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute, I have attended various conferences and seminars that were either hosted by CUSRI or those where its staff members were key participants. I have also helped write, edit and conceptualize several monographs, research papers, conferences and other CUSRI materials.

These include the following:

March 2009 – current: Helping conceptualize and organize a conference focusing on the themes of financial crisis, climate change and civil society, a collaborative effort among CUSRI, the National Research Council of Thailand and a Korean partner, to build a research network on governance, economy, education, tourism, and culture.

March 2009: Global Risk Society and a Role for the University in Thailand: Need for Re-Contextualization, by Surichai Wun'Gaeo. Contributed ideas, edited and proofread.

February 2009: Dialogue Forum on Social Policies in Southeast Asia: Probing the Social Sciences - Policy Nexus, co-hosted by CUSRI, the National Research of Thailand Sociology Committee, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, UNESCO Paris and the Thai National Commission for UNESCO, held in Bangkok, during 20-22 August 2008. Edited various conference reports.

January 27 & 29, 2009: Thai Energy Regulatory Commission Workshop on Integrated Resources Planning, Jan 27, 2009, and Demand-Side Management workshop at Thammasart University, Jan 29, 2009, Tira Foran moderator. Attended these workshops as research for my second paper for the M-POWER Fellowship, about Thailand's trans-boundary hydropower regime.

January 15, 2009: Helped draft and edit the Open Society Institute Southeast Asia Initiative Grant Application, Monograph Series on Regional Civil Society Initiatives, a project directed by a joint committee from CUSRI and the Chulalongkorn Master of Arts Program in International Development Studies.

January 13, 2009: Edited foreword for Surichai Wun'Gaeo, for the Korea Democracy Foundation and Judicialization Study Group, an inaugural joint project among researchers and democracy advocates in both countries.

December 2008 - Current: 'Thailand: Between Globalisms and Fundamentalisms' conference to focus on Thailand and its roles and responsibilities in the wider regions (Mekong, Asean, Suwannabhumi), and organized under the four key themes: Regional Integration & Migration, Governance (political power & knowledge), Human Security, and Conflict & Violence. Helping to organize conference, tentatively scheduled for August 2009, initially scheduled for March 2009. Helping to conceptualize and plan.

November 13 – 15, 2008: Mekong Mainstream Dams Conference, organized by various organizations including Oxfam, Save the Mekong coalition, and CUSRI. Edited conference reports.

September 6, 2008: Thai-Korean Workshop on Democratization and Human Security Constructing Public Policy under Globalization: A Comparative Perspective.

June 2008: Climate Change and its Impact on Human Security in the Mekong region, July, International Rural Sociology Association, organized by Asian Rural Sociology Association (ARSA) and M-POWER, the key theme of human security and sustainable livelihoods and on water, poverty and rural-urban livelihoods. Helped draft and edit conference reports, for ARSA and IRSA.

Also for M-POWER: Briefing note, for Annual Meeting in Kunming, February 2009; and research update to M-POWER newsletter, November 2008.

2 Publications

Please list any publications related to the M-POWER work which were completed or appeared in print during the reporting period. Please attach an e-copy of all articles to accompany your report. If too large please send hard-copy and/or on CD by post.

Damming the Salween, with Darrin Magee, for the M-POWER Vol 2 book (Earthscan).
Two others pending; please see below in Section 4. Plans.

3 Assessment

Provide a brief explanation for deviations and extensions from initial work plan for period and what actually happened.

Provide a self-assessment of overall progress.

Proposed work activities schedule was pushed back several months because funding was dispensed late. Also, CUSRI failed repeatedly to provide me with the proper documents necessary to obtain a one-year Non-Immigrant 'B' visa. I thus obtained one myself, in August 2008, at the Thai Consulate in Honolulu.

My chapter Damming the Salween, co-written with Darrin Magee, for the forthcoming M-POWER Vol 2 book, was completed successfully and on time, with the first final draft submitted in August 2008 and final revisions completed in March 2009. Data on the Salween projects that I have gathered since completion of the chapter will be published in a news analysis piece (see below, 4. Plans). However, gathering concrete data and confirmed information on the Salween dams is as challenging as expected; thus, while some of the research questions about the Anatomy of the Tasang Dam are proving unanswerable, my queries have led to a greater understanding of the process by which cross-border hydro projects are conceived and developed, which is a key thrust of the second paper for the fellowship (see below, 4. Plans).

4 Plans

Provide a brief plan for the next 6 months or reporting period if this is not a final report.

I plan to complete two publications (in addition to the Vol 2 chapter):

News analysis report on the impact of the financial crisis on the Salween dams – AsiaTimesOnline, forthcoming, April 2009.

Thailand's Trans-boundary Hydropower Regime: Towards institutionalizing formal processes and codes of conduct for hydropower development in Thailand. Tira Foran and John Dore are providing guidance. Both papers will contribute to M-POWER themes T1-Dialogues and T4-Policies.

For the news analysis piece I will travel to the Salween River and to other border areas nearby in Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son, Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai for a second time in late April or early May and will conduct more interviews in Bangkok.

The second, longer, paper will continue to evolve with further interviews with Thai energy planners, regulators, EGAT, IFI's, private companies and other relevant sources. One key goal is to interview Myanmar hydro officials, but trying to arrange those interviews in Yangon or Naypyidaw is extremely

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difficult though not entirely hopeless. In addition to the T1 and T4 themes, this research will also contribute to, and will possibly continue as part of, the Mekong Hydro Investment project (component C: Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility), sponsored by the Blue Moon Fund, on Thai financial institutions and sustainability initiatives.

5 Suggestions

Please feel free to offer comments and suggestions on the overall M-POWER program and its coordination here.

None