

# Climate Change Adaptation in a transboundary context:

1.1 managing extremes

2.1 addressing sea level rise

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April 3, 2014

# sessions

- extremes
  - US/Mexico border (Dr. Robert Varady)
  - Senegal river in Africa (Dr. Kabine Komara)
  - Hindu-Kurd river basin in the Himalaya (Dr. Vijay Khadgi)
  - Mekong river in SEA (Dr. Nicholas Bakker)
- sea level rise
  - Mekong delta (Professor Tran Thuc)
  - Rhine delta (Tom Kompier)
  - downstream flood control of Lancang River reservoirs (Dr. Ma Jianhua)

# key messages

## 1. We should acknowledge progress!!

- ✓ The trend is upwards not downwards in openness, sharing of information, creating technical capacity and on concrete actions on the ground.

## 2. There is an important sense of realism and long-term commitment in climate change adaptation approaches.

- ✓ There is no quick fix.
- ✓ There is a clearer policy focus in science advances

## 3. We are sharpening the focus of the discussions and the actions when concentrating on climate variability

- ✓ there are still gaps in important areas such as sediment transportation and erosion, fish populations, and ecosystem impacts.

# we should acknowledge progress

- science/policy dialogue, public participation, and long history of collaboration builds trust even in highly asymmetric transboundary situations (Mexico/US)
- increasing policy/science – and water practitioners – dialogue in flood management, crop development, delta management (Viet Nam)
- cost/benefit and risk sharing mechanisms already in place to capture benefits of development (Senegal)
- disaster-flood information traveling faster than water with low cost solutions (Nepal)

# important sense of realism and long-term commitment

- building trust from all stakeholders takes time, is gradual: needs voice and rights to ensuring continuity of actions to solve problems (Thailand)
- soft path solutions – land management, governance, administrative integration – could be a most effective adaptation approach, not engineering solutions alone (Netherlands)
- decision support frameworks are crucial to ensure effectiveness of adaptation actions (Mekong and Rhine river deltas)

sharpening the focus of discussions/actions  
when concentrating on climate variability

- Studying/discussing climate variability, specially extreme climate and disaster could be more productive where climate change still under debate (Dr. Varady)
- scenarios and level of uncertainty still waiting for data to calibrate and assess uncertainty – analysis still very basic (Dr. Phan)
- MRC should focus more on transboundary flooding and less on national floods (Dr. Bakker)

# outlook for future cooperation

- strengthen mutual trust and understanding
- deepen technical cooperation in flood control, natural hazards...and in sediment transport, delta erosion, ecosystem impacts..
- Share data and experience in flood forecasting
- Improve capacity to jointly adapt to climate change and variability