

# Improving Data for Water Resources Management

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**Dialogue session held at MRC Summit  
April 2018**

**Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership (SIP)  
Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI)**



# Background

- Clear importance of water data production and sharing throughout the Mekong region.
- Question about how a new regional initiative can learn from and improve upon previous and ongoing efforts.



# Consultations and assessment

- Open dialogue session conducted in October at the Water Food and Energy (WLE) Forum, Rangoon, Myanmar.
- Regional consultation with Lower Mekong country representatives, development partners, and experts in Vientiane, November 2017.
- On-going rapid needs assessment conducted by SIP since February 2018, to be finalized in May.



# Key Questions to be Answered

- Understand key stakeholders and their roles.
- Needs of water and knowledge users
- Approaches and technologies in data collection and transformation
- Deliverable services and products
- Data and information sharing and distribution
- Potential opportunities of the initiative



# Key findings to date

- Consensus amongst stakeholders that there is a real need for a regional water data initiative that is inclusive of diverse perspectives and has precise objectives.
- Capacity in water monitoring, management and emergency response in each Mekong country is varied.
- Water data management and governance is a high priority for all Mekong countries, but significant barriers remain to achieve national and regional strategies.
- Maintain a geographical and issue based-focus and awareness.



# Keys to future success

- ***Learn from the past.*** Ensure that a new initiative has internalized the many previous experiences in the region.
- ***Leverage existing networks & institutions.*** Support and complement the national and regional institutions that are currently active.
- ***Promote country to country support.*** Country experiences and capacities are a significant regional asset.
- ***Promote inclusive management.*** Diverse stakeholders should be consulted, involved, and informed about strategic decisions.



# Next steps

- Continue assessments and engagement with key stakeholders and initiatives to determine priority needs and opportunities.
- The next LMI regional consultation for country representatives and regional experts will be organized in early May, in Nay Pee Daw, Myanmar.
- Propose potential approach and strategy for stakeholder feedback and inputs.



Thank you for your interest and participation!

For more information about LMI and SIP:

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<https://www.lowermekong.org/>

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# *Optional slide:* Technical findings

- Most LM countries still do not possess sufficient number of automatic water monitoring stations. Lack of hard and software investment, expertise and maintenance are still key obstacles.
- Radar and meteorological satellite technologies alone can only answer certain questions and emergencies.
- Land-use survey data is still lacking in certain key locations and LM countries.
- “Black Box Approach” is still used for flood emergency forecast in most LM countries which leads to large inaccuracy gaps and reliability.
- Multi-disciplinary and multi-level participation for many technical matters still have not been efficiently designed and adopted.
- Despite extensive aid in capacity building programs, regional and national modeling assessment capacity in water and climate still requires much further support.

