Green Growth on the Rise in the Mekong River Basin: From Concept to Reality

Multi-stakeholder discussion on Water and Green Growth

Date 1-2 July, 2014

Host Viet Nam National Mekong Committee (VNMC),
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE),
Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

Venue Ninh Binh, Viet Nam

Global Green Growth Institute

VNMC

I. CONTEXT

BACKGROUND

Shared by the riparian countries, the Mekong River Basin serves as the basis for economic growth of the region but at the cost of its degradation and losses that have negatively influenced natural capital and livelihoods. Apart from the overuse of the resources for economic development, the Basin is also suffering from floods, droughts and rising sea and salinity levels to compound the situation. The adverse impacts from man-made developments and consequent environmental changes, i.e. climate change, urbanization, and population growth have created an immense pressure on socio-economic development and natural resources management across national boundaries, thereby urging strong international cooperation. And, all of these issues converge upon one single theme: water.

Water is one of the fundamental resources that supports livelihoods and socio-economic development determining energy and food security: Playing an essential role in securing the world's food supply, water management has a high degree of impact on productivity of the agricultural sector consuming up to 70 percent of the world's available water resources. Also, almost all types of energy generation require significant amount of water, while the treatment and transport of water require energy. Despite its significance and interconnected implication with other resources, water is faced with challenges including increasing demands, over exploitation, and pollution. It is estimated that by 2030, nearly half of the world's population will be living in areas of high water stress, which would exacerbate energy and food security issues. Mekong River Basin is not an exception.

Taking into account the aforementioned imminent and forecasted challenges, the efforts to tackle them with more integrated and systematic approach have been made at the national, regional and international levels. At the center of discussions is the water, energy and food security nexus approach, according to which no more "silo" approaches are acceptable as solutions based on one sector inevitably affect other sectors and these interconnections manifest the most in the sectors of water, energy and food. Acknowledging its relevance to the Mekong context, the nexus thinking has been engaged in the regional/national policy-making process through regional platforms, i.e. the Mekong River Commission (MRC). However, it is still needed to explore how these conceptual discussions can be interpreted into real hands-on opportunities, in policy-making and business context. That is why many countries in the Mekong region adopted Green growth in their policy context.

GGGI's engagement in the Mekong River Basin

The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) started engaging in the Mekong River Basin in 2012. In cooperation with the Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC), the Lao National Mekong Committee (LNMC), and the Viet Nam Mekong National Committee (VNMC), GGGI conducted preliminary stock-taking activities exploring the green growth opportunities in the Basin. In October 2013, it narrowed down a focus of the project to the Mekong Delta in Viet Nam, i.e. the pilot project as one of the components of the GGGI Viet Nam country program, due to the Delta's critical role in the socio-economic development of the country and strong demands from the VNMC. Over the past 6 months, GGGI has been collaborating with VNMC to identify green growth options that can resolve the current water-related challenges in the Delta. Vietnam has recently adopted the National Green Growth Strategy, striving to be one of the pioneers at the forefront to realize green growth via mobilizing water resources and policies. This included capturing the existing link between water and economic growth in the Delta, and developing a tool to prioritize the identified green growth opportunities in relation to water sector.

II. CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

Green growth is essentially an approach to achieve several simultaneous objectives across economic, social and environmental dimensions. The definition itself is still evolving, as it is the experience of countries testing what works - and what does not. However, if effectively implemented green growth interventions will add on to achieving sustainable development by: avoiding and curbing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting resource efficiency, building resilience to climate variability, reducing poverty and inequality, and creating a value for economically invisible natural assets that have underpinned economic success over the past decades and centuries.

Within the Mekong context, the concept of green growth will help foster transboundary cooperation as it encourages collaborative efforts at sectoral and cross-sectoral levels, thereby reinforcing efficient water management and water governance in the Basin. This will also capture strong interdependences among resources and sectors to highlight the need for radical but gradual transformation in production and consumption patterns without compromising the environmental limits.

This international conference titled **'Green Growth on the Rise in the Mekong River Basin: From Concept to Reality'** aims to 1) discuss the possible linkages between green growth and water management in the Mekong context; 2) examine from the socio-economic and political perspectives the role of water as one of the significant promoters of green growth; and 3) serve as a platform for knowledge sharing on global water agenda to realize green growth from policy to action.

At the conference, cross-sectoral experts will have a chance to discuss a variety of topics pertaining to the green growth opportunities for the Mekong River Basin (and beyond), including the conceptual issues of water and green growth; climate change and water; prioritization methodologies to explore water-related policy intervention options; cutting-edge knowledge on both sustainable man-made and ecological infrastructure to provide decision makers in the public and private sectors with holistic information; and water-related global agenda for the post-2015 discussion (See the conference schedule for the five subthemes).

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE CONFERENCE

The expected outcomes of this international conference are:

a. Challenges and missing links discussed between water and economy, particularly in the Mekong River Basin;

b. Best practices and lessons learned in green growth policymaking activities in the national and global context;

c. Dissemination of knowledge on diverse global water issues by examining current approaches and limitations as well as their implications for the Mekong region; and

d. Enhancement of green growth partnership and collaboration among various actors/ initiatives.

PROGRAM

Day 1

Time	Program
09:00 - 09:30	**Registration**
09:30 - 10:15	**Opening Session** • *Nguyen Thai Lai, PhD, Deputy Minister of MONRE** • *Le Duc Trung, Director General, Viet Nam National Mekong Committee (VNMC)* • *Imran Ahmad, Director for East Asia and Pacific, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)*
10:15 - 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 - 12:30	**Session 1 : Water and Green Growth in the Context of Sustainable Development** The session aims to discuss the concept of Water and Green Growth and its possible linkage to the Mekong River Basin context. Water and Green Growth is a new concept that highlights on the role of water as a facilitator to achieving economic growth while protecting and improving the environment, thereby contributing to the overall social development. By explaining green growth that supports economic growth together with environmental conservation; water, vital to life and economic development but becoming depleted and polluted in the midst of challenges arising from climate change and urbanization; and the intricate link between the two. Building on the understanding of the concept, challenges faced in the Mekong River Basin will be discussed with possible solutions taking a green growth approach. **Questions** 1. What is the concept of water and green growth – how are they interlinked? What roles does water play in pursuing green economy? How can water and green growth approach build on a series of efforts to address the nexus approach to ensure water, energy and food security? 2. Taking into account issues concerning the Mekong River Basin, what benefits the water and green growth approach to the issues can provide? What are the challenges? 3. What are the successful/ongoing stories or lesson learned of taking the water and green growth approach in the sustainable development planning process in the Mekong River Basin and beyond? **Panel Presentation & Discussion** • *Nguyen Thi Dieu Trinh, Senior Officer, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Viet Nam* • *Ken Sereyrotha, Deputy Secretary-General, National Council on Green Growth, Cambodia* • *Nguyen Van Duyen, Environment Programme Coordinator, Mekong River Commission (MRC)* • *Mary Ann Lucille Sering, Vice Chairperson and Executive Director, Climate Change Commission, Philippines** • *Endah Murniningtyas, Deputy of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of National Development Planning / BAPPENAS, Indonesia** **Panel Discussion / Q&A**
12:30 - 14:00	Networking Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	**Session 2: Climate Change and Water** Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges the world faces today as it poses a grave threat to global security and prosperity. We already live in a warming world to experience and withstand extreme and abnormal weather conditions. The Mekong River Basin is not an exception. It is vital to understand in the Mekong context how climate change is likely to impact growing insecurities over water, in link with energy and food. These climate challenges also present opportunities. The climate crisis has led many countries to think anew about the sources and conditions of growth. Increasingly, policymakers are recognizing the need for a new economic model, one that offers the prospect of prosperity under conditions of intensified resource competition; and where growth supports rather than

* invited speaker

Time	Program
14:00 - 15:30	undermines a sustainable environment. This session provides an up-to-date scientific findings on climate change in global, regional and national level, in particular in the context of Mekong River Basin. The session also explores how to best adapt the measures to counter, mitigate and protect the Basin under continued climate change by exploring and drawing lessons from case studies. **Questions** 1. What are the up-to-date scientific findings on global, regional, and national climate change scenarios? 2. What are the potential effects of climate change on natural resources – particularly water, in relation to green growth? 3. In the Mekong context, what lessons have been learned in attempting to protect the Basin against climate change impacts, and what can we do better? **Panel Presentation & Discussion** • *Tariq Banuri, Professor, University of Utah* • *Tran Thuc, Institute for Hydrology, Meteorololy, and Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Viet Nam* • *Loeung Kesaro, National Expert of Climate Change Program, Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC)* • *Victor Vazquez, Water Resources Specialist, World Bank* **Panel Discussion / Q&A**
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 - 17:30	**Session 3: Integrated Approach to Water-related Policy-Making** The session presents ways to integrate green growth in designing water policies in the Mekong River Basin. Policies set the boundaries for potential actions to be taken, and thus it is important to implant green elements from the initial stage. Case studies to support this claim will be delivered. This will be followed by methodologies and a tool that can assist the decision-makers in the region in the process of prioritizing and selecting policies and projects that adds to realize green growth in riparian countries, respectively. **Questions** 1. Why is it necessary to integrate green growth elements in designing water-related policies? How will it realize green growth in the region – from policy to action? Are there any difficulties in shaping such integrated policy approach? 2. What are the policy tools and methodologies through which green growth can be optimized in the region and beyond? 3. What are the case studies or lesson learned that successfully incorporated green growth elements in the initial stage of policy making process? **Panel Presentation & Discussion** • *Juhern Kim, Senior Natural Capital Specialist, GGGI* • *Michael Vardon, Visiting Fellow, Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University* • *Kyungmee Kim, Programme Officer, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)* **Panel Discussion / Q&A**
17:00 - 17:30	Closing: Summary of Day 1

Day 2

Time	Program
08:30 - 10:30	**Session 4: Sustainable Water Infrastructure** What is green infrastructure? How is it differentiated from the grey infrastructure? What would be the benefits and limitations if employed in the Mekong regional context? Addressing these questions, this session provides the participants with an opportunity to delve into the profound importance of such infrastructure in the Mekong River Basin, while discussing global safeguarding principles that can be applied in the regional context. **Questions** 1. How can we define green infrastructure, compared to the conventional one? 2. How can building and sustaining water infrastructure bring about green growth, i.e. promote economic growth, reduce environmental risks, and enhance socially inclusive development? 3. What are the long-term / short-term implications of facilitating water infrastructure that is sustainable, in the Mekong context? **Panel Presentation & Discussion** • *Yongsung Kim, Senior Infrastructure Specialist, GGGI* • *Adrian Sym, Executive Director, Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)* • *Tae-Sun Shin, Head Manager, Research Center for Water Policy & Economy* **Panel Discussion / Q&A**
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 12:30	**Session 5: Water as Natural Capital / Ecological Infrastructure** Ecosystems provide a range of services that benefit people, society and economy at large, many of which are related to water via provision, regulation, purification, and groundwater replenishment, and therefore reinforce the importance of ensuring the water, energy and food security. This session deals with how the value of water-related ecosystem services can properly be captured and thus integrated into a national decision-making process. It also provides an opportunity to discuss the risks and opportunities associated with the impacts of business and its dependence on water services in the short to long term, while touching upon a case of corporate-level activities on disclosing externalities (e.g. EP&L). **Questions** 1. What benefits does water provide as an ecological infrastructure, particularly in the Mekong River Basin? 2. How do we value water-related ecosystem services? What are the tools available? 3. What are the risks and opportunities in the perspective of business implication in the water sector? 4. What are the financing mechanisms for water-related ecosystem services? How can they address the water scarcity issues? What should be done to make the financing work in the Mekong context? **Panel Presentation & Discussion** • *Nicolas Bertrand, Programme Officer, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)* • *Louise Gallagher, Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Lead, Luc Hoffmann Institute, WWF International* • *Nguyen The Chinh, Deputy Director, Environment Policy & Strategy Institute, MONRE, Viet Nam* • *Simone Quatrini, Coordinator, The Global Mechanism, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)* **Panel Discussion / Q&A**
12:30 - 14:00	Networking Lunch

Time	Program
14:00 - 16:00	**Session 6: Water and SDGs** As the stipulated period for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) comes to an end in 2015, it has become imperative to shape the scope of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the context of post 2015 development agenda. Taking account of the water sector as a fundamental element in economic development and the increased demand of water usage for development activities, this session aims to address the up-to-date discussions in regard to water-related SDGs. This session brings experts to discuss whether and how the water-related SDGs could serve as a driving force to promote green growth in the region. **Questions** 1. Tracing back the MDG experience in the water sector, what has been achieved and what has not? How should water be featured within the post 2015 development agenda? 2. How has water been positioned in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target-setting process? 3. What will the impacts and challenges of the water-related SDGs be, when pursued in the context of the Mekong River Basin and beyond? **Panel Presentation & Discussion** • *Gordon Johnson, Regional Practice Manager, UNDP* • *Binaya Raj Shivakoti, Water Resources Specialist, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)* • *Felix Dodds, Global Research Institute Senior Fellow, The Water Institute** • *Inthavy Akkharath, Senior Research Officer, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, Lao PDR** **Panel Discussion / Q&A**
16:00 - 16:30	**Closing Session** • *Le Duc Trung, PhD, Director General, VNMC* • *Imran Ahmad, PhD, Director for East Asia and Pacific, GGGI*

Nguyen Thai Lai

Dr. Nguyen Thai Lai is the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources & Environment (MONRE) of Viet Nam. Prior to MONRE, he spent over 30 years in serving at various ministries in Viet Nam, including the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. He holds MSc in Hydrologic Modelling from New South Wales University, Australia.

Le Duc Trung

Dr. Le Duc Trung is the Director General, Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Viet Nam, Viet Nam National Mekong Committee (VNMC). Before working for VNMC, he worked for Viet Nam Isn't of Water Resources Research, Hanoi, Viet Nam. He has a PhD Degree on Water Resources Management from Institute of Meteo-Hydrology and Environment (Ha Noi, Viet Nam).

Imran Ahmad

Dr. Imran Habib Ahmad is the Director of East Asia and Pacific at the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). Dr. Ahmad has over twenty years of professional experience in the areas of climate change, sustainable development, environment, renewable energy, energy policy and developmental assistance in the Asia-Pacific region. Dr. Ahmad has worked in the international system, government, non-profit, development agency, academia and private sector. He has been a member of UNFCCC Expert Group on National Communications from Non-Annex 1 parties (CGE) and Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT). Dr. Ahmad has been one of the lead authors of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs flagship report, World Economic and Social Survey. He has taught at the Australian National University in Canberra and a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University with speaking engagements at some of the leading international think-tanks. He holds an undergraduate degree in engineering, a PhD from Australian National University and a Master's degree from Brandeis University and has published on the above topics.

Nguyen Thi Thu Linh

Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Linh is the Deputy Director General of Viet Nam National Mekong Committee. She hold a Master Degree on Science in Geography, Oregon State University, the United States from 1997 to 1999. Currently, she is also the Deputy Director of the Project Management Unit of the Project: “Study on the impacts of mainstream hydropower on the Mekong river”.

Adrian Sym

Adrian Sym joined the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) as Executive Director in 2011. Adrian has a diverse range of experiences in the international development sector, including with social and environmental standards, and in running his own business. Adrian joined AWS from Fairtrade International, where he led Fairtrade’s partnerships program. Before this, Adrian worked for many years on disability-related programs in South Asia (Bangladesh and Nepal). His diverse experience, together with his academic background (Masters in International Policy and Diplomacy), has helped to shape Adrian’s view on sustainable development, believing that true development can only be achieved through effective partnerships amongst and between stakeholder groups. Originally from Scotland, Adrian is now based in Bonn, Germany, where he lives with his wife, Natasha, and children, Delta and Jamison.

Binaya Raj Shivakoti

Dr. Binaya is a water resources specialist at Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan. He has 10 years of working experience on water resources management. His current areas of interest are water supply and sanitation, wastewater management, climate change adaptation, and groundwater management. As a part of IGES research project on SDG, he is contributing water and sanitation component on various occasions.

Gordon Johnson

Mr. Gordon Johnson currently serves as the Regional Practice Leader for Environment and Energy for the United Nations Development Programme based in Bangkok. He has over 25 years of professional experience as an environmental engineer, consultant and manager. For the past 18 years he has worked for UNDP with postings in New York, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Vietnam. Prior to joining UNDP, he worked for a variety of NGOs and consulting firms, mostly in the field of water resource management, with assignments in Cambodia, Nepal and South Korea. Mr. Johnson holds a master's degree in international relations from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and bachelor's degrees in civil engineering and philosophy.

Kyungmee Kim

Ms Kyungmee Kim is Program Officer for Transboundary Water Management Department at Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). Ms Kim works on the transboundary processes and regional environmental issues in the shared rivers in Southeast Asia. Her responsibility at SIWI includes planning and implementing activities in South and Southeast Asia of the UNDP Shared Waters Partnership.

Loeung Kesaro

Mr. Loeung Kesaro is originally from the Ministry of Environment, and currently working as a national expert of climate change and adaptation initiative based at the Cambodian National Mekong Committee. Mr. Kesaro will complete his doctoral degree progam from the Asian Institute of Technology in the field of natural resources management within this year.

Louise Gallagher

Louise is an environmental economist with broad ranging experience in policy analysis, market transformation and environmental finance. Her technical expertise includes valuation of natural capital and environmental externalities and applying this information in decision-making. A graduate of University College Dublin, Louise holds a Ph.D. in environmental studies, specializing in environmental economics and policy. Louise joined WWF in the Greater Mekong to lead the development of green economy in the regional programme in 2012. She recently joined the Luc Hoffmann Institute, whose mission is to link the best available science to better policy planning and more effective field practices in conservation.

Michael Vardon

Dr. Michael Vardon is a Visiting Fellow at the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National University (Canberra) where he does teaching and research on environmental accounting. He was formerly the Director of the Centre of Environmental Statistics at Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Canberra Australia. He spent most of the past 15 years at the ABS working in various capacities, culminating in the publication of the Australian Environmental-Economic Accounts in April 2014.

For more information visit: au.linkedin.com/in/vardon/

Nguyen The Chinh

Dr. Nguyen The Chinh is the Deputy Director General for the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE) in the Viet Nam's Government Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE). Prior to joining ISPONRE, he served as the Dean of faculty of Urban-Environmetal and Natural Resource Economics and Management at National Economics University, Hanoi, Viet Nam. He holds a PhD from Hanoi National Economics University with the subject of science base for identifies tourism sites and lines in Nghe An Province.

Nguyen Thi Dieu Trinh

Nguyen Thi Dieu Trinh (Ms.), Official at the Ministry of Planning and Investment of Viet Nam for 12 years, holds the Master Degree in Environmental Economics Management at Hanoi Economics University. Her current work contributes to the formulation and implementation of Viet Nam Green Growth Strategy particularly (also a member of the Climate Finance Task force) and to the planning process where environment and climate change issues are taken into account for sustainable socio-economic development strategies/plans. She is also active in working with development partners/donors across the globe for international knowledge transfer, experiences sharing and policy updates at all levels. Her daily job is either doing researches or integrating research results into planning and contributing to the environmental friendly investment policy making process.

Nguyen Van Duyen

Nguyen Van Duyen is environmental governance specialist and holding a position of Environmental Programme Coordinator at the Mekong River Commission Secretariat. His main duty is to lead the Environment Programme with about ten international staff managing a budget of 11 mio USD (2011-2015). The EP has several components such as water quality monitoring, social impact monitoring and vulnerability assessment, transboundary environment impact assessment, environment risk assessment, ecological health monitoring, biodiversity indicator, and wetland management in the context of climate change. He has over 20 years working experiences in various field including more than 15 years working in legal development and environment areas in different positions.

Nicolas Bertrand

Nick Bertrand has worked on green economy issues, with a particular focus on water and biodiversity, since early 2009 as Economic Affairs Officer at UNEP. Previously, Nick managed the business engagement portfolio at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal. Prior to joining UNEP, Nick worked on economics and business at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) where he helped establish the first programme on business and biodiversity. He was contributing editor of Business and Biodiversity: A Handbook for Corporate Action (WBCSD, 2002) and a co-editor of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in Business and Enterprise (2011). Nick obtained a BSc(Econ) and MSc(Econ) from University College London and an MPhil from the Institute of Forestry, Agricultural and Environmental Engineering (Paris).

Sereyrotha Ken

Professional experience and background: Rotha has worke for over 20 years with multi-lateral, bilateral, international and national organizations. His area of expertise and interests including multidisciplinary and participatory approaches to environmental planning, policy and sustainable development, biodiversit conservation, resource management, people's responses and adaptation to climate change, social and organizational change, and recently green growth related issues. Current and past positions: Deputy-Director General, General Directorate of Nature Conservation and Protection, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia (2007- March 2014). From April 2014 to now, he is a Deputy Secretary-General, General Secretariat for Green Growth, Cambodia National Council for Green Growth.

Simone Quatrini

Simone Quatrini coordinates the Land, Private Finance and Investments (LPFI) programme and leads the Policy and Investment Analysis Unit in the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). He is co-founder of the OSLO (Offering Sustainable Land-use Options) consortium and coordinates national - and global-level UNCCD initiatives to promote large scale investments by the public and private sector into sustainable land management activities. Mr Quatrini is an ecological economist and financial analyst, trained at the College of Europe, the University of Stirling, the Free University of Brussels, and the Polytechnic University of Marche. He is a PhD candidate at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) and the University of Zurich. Before joining the United Nations, Mr Quatrini worked as project manager and marketing executive in the supply chain management division of IBM, the multinational computer technology corporation. Prior to that he served as liaison officer for several financial and industrial groups with the European Commission in Brussels.

Tae-Sun Shin

Taesun, SHIN has conducted a wide range of works related to water at the K-water (Korea Water Resources Corporation) since 1996. Currently, he is in charge of the Water and Green Growth project which has been collaborated with Korean government and World Water Council from 2012. He got an MBA in the University of Birmingham in 2010.

Tariq Banuri

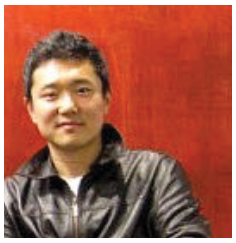
Professor Tariq Banuri, Department of City and Metropolitan Planning, and Department of Economics, University of Utah, is an expert on sustainable development policy and institutional design. He served most recently as the Director, UN Division for Sustainable Development. Earlier, he had worked on sustainable development in different institutional contexts, spanning government, academia, and civil society. He is also serving currently as the Editor of Development, the journal of the Society for International Development. He has been instrumental in the design of a number of institutions and networks on sustainable development, and has provided policy advice to the Government of Pakistan as well as several international institutions. He has served on national as well as international forums for policy and research, including as Coordinating Lead Author on the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), member of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change (AGECC), member of the United Nations' Committee on Development Policy (CDP), member of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Council, member of the board of governors of Pakistan's central bank, member/ secretary of the Presidential Committee on Higher Education, and Chair of IUCN's Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP).

Tran Thuc

Prof. Tran Thuc is the Chairman of the Viet Nam National Committee for the International Hydrological Program (IHP), and Co-Chairman of the Viet Nam - US Working Group on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. He holds qualifications in Hydrology and a Doctoral degree in Hydraulics and Coastal Engineering. He was the Lead Author of the "Viet Nam National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change", the "Viet Nam Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Scenarios for Viet Nam", "Viet Nam National Scientific Program on Climate Change" and "Viet Nam National Action Plan to Respond to Climate Change". He also involve in the development of the "Viet Nam National Strategy on Climate Change". He has publications on climate change projection, climate change impacts assessment on different sectors, adaptation, and mainstream climate change into development program, greenhouse gas inventory and baseline setting. He also contributed to the international publication on "Guide Book on National Legislation for Adaptation to Climate Change" (UNEP, 2011), "National Green House Gas Emission Baseline Scenarios – Learning from Experiences in Developing Countries" (OECD, 2013), "Guidance to NAMA Design – Building on Country Experience" (UNFCCC – 2013), "NAMA Guide Book – Manual for Practitioners Working with Mitigation Actions (OECC, 2014), "Green Growth in Practice – Lessons from Country Experiences (GGBP, 2014).

Yong Sung Kim

Yong Sung Kim works as an Infrastructure Specialist at the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), currently leading a research project on assessing Korea's experience in green growth policy and innovation. Prior to joining GGGI, he has worked for the Korea Eximbank (project financing), International Federation of Red Cross(disaster risk reduction), and Japan National Institute for Environmental Studies(environmental risk assessment). Dr. Kim holds a degree in civil and environmental engineering.



Juhern Kim

Juhern Kim is a Senior Natural Capital Specialist of the Global Green Growth Institute. Since 2012, he has been managing green growth project for the Mekong River Basin. Prior to joining GGGI, he worked at United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s Green Economy Initiative where he contributed to the landmark report on green economy. He also worked at the ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center, managing solar home projects in rural areas of Cambodia while encouraging local entrepreneurship. He is a focal point of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) in Korea and a lead editor of UN MDGs Report Korean version (Goal 7). Mr. Kim holds an M.A. in International Studies from Yonsei University and International Environmental Expert Certificate endorsed by the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea. He is married with 14-month old son.

Sooah Kim

As the Conference Coordinator for 'Green Growth on the Rise in the Mekong River Basin: From Concept to Reality', Sooah Kim engages in the overall coordination of the conference. Prior to joining the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) in August 2013, she served on several consultancy projects at different institutions, including the Overbrook Foundation and the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA). She holds a master's degree in public administration from Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and the Earth Institute.

Saebyul Chun

Saebyul Chun is the Regional Officer for Northeast and Central Asia at the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). Before joining GGGI, she worked as a Program Officer at the Korea Development Institute for country programs and on program monitoring and evaluation. She holds a M.Sc. in International Cooperation from the Seoul National University.

Benjamin Sims

Benjamin Sims is a Senior Regional Officer with the East Asia and the Pacific region in the Green Growth Planning & Implementation (GGP&I) division at the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). Previously, Ben was a Senior Officer in GGP&I working on Cambodia. Prior to joining GGGI in March 2013, Ben was a Research Associate with the Pacific Institute of Public Policy, a regional think tank in Vanuatu, and a Researcher with the Canberra-based Development Policy Centre. Ben has a Bachelor of Science in biological science from the University of Auckland and a Master of Environmental Management and Development and a Master of Diplomacy from the Australian National University.

Dang Hoang Ha

Dang Hoang Ha graduated from National Economic University with degree in Economics and Planning. With the strong passion for Water sector, she has worked for Ministry of Natural resources and Environment and previouly, Mekong River Commission, for 5 years. She also participated in water projects such as Economic evaluation in Viet Nam Water sector and recently, Study on the Impacts of the Mainstream Hydropower in Mekong River.

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