



State-community relations and integrated water management in Northern Thailand: The case study of the People Council of Ing River

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Outline of the presentation

- o Introduction
- o Ing River and its significance
- o Water degradation and its impacts
- o The emergence of People Council
- o The government's responses
- o The integrated water resources management: Mission impossible?
- o Conclusion: Future of the People Council

Introduction (1)

o Background

- o A tributary of an international river located under state sovereignty
- o Conflicts and constraints between state and community

o Argument

- o State and community relations in Northern Thailand now does not facilitate the Integrated water resources management (IWRM) : Why ?

o IWRM : The Global Water Partnership

- o A process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystem

Introduction (2)

o Research design

- o Study the emergence of people movement as a “tool” of local people and community to negotiate with state
- o Study the development plan of both national and provincial levels as a government’s “mechanism” to manage water resources

o Data collection

- o Documentary research
- o In-depth interview
- o Community visit

o Analytical framework

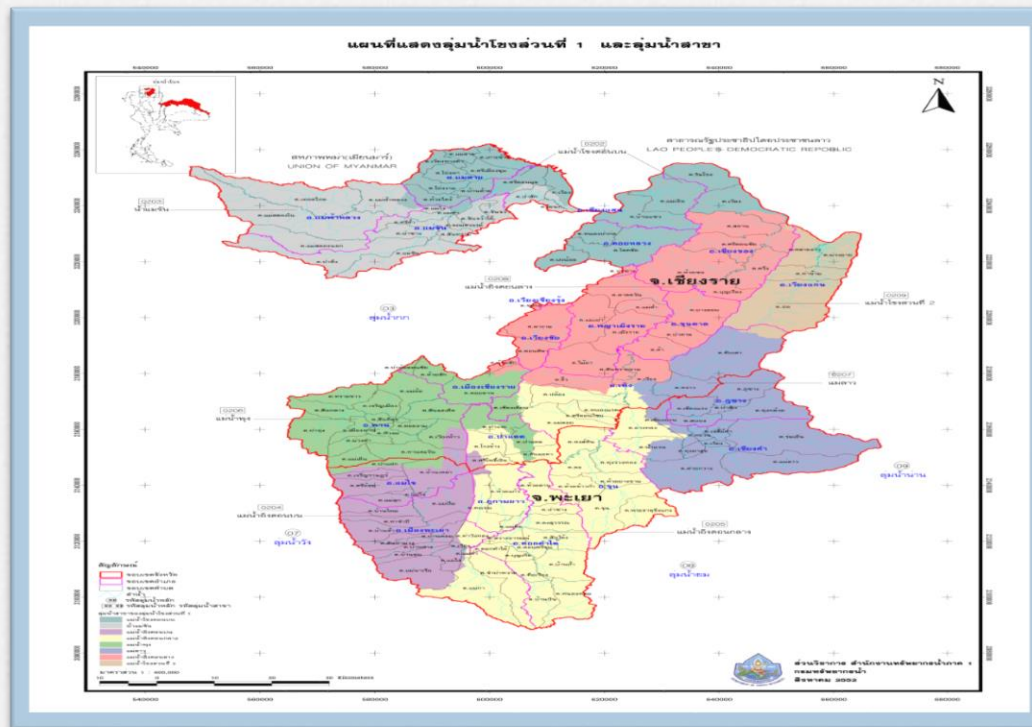
- o Decentralization, and community based management
- o IWRM

Ing River



Source:http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Topography_of_northern_Thailand.png

Chiangrai and Phayao Provinces



Source:http://region.dwr.go.th/wrro1/basin/khongkok/New_khongkok/basin_khongkok.htm

Ing River and its significance

- o Original: Phayao Province
- o Destination: Mekong River
- o Status: Mekong's tributary
- o Area cover: 4773.34 square kilometers in 2 provinces
- o Geographical nature: wetland, forest, wildlife, fishes, etc.
- o Economic and social significances: food security, indigenous wisdom and beliefs

Water degradation and its impacts

- o Upper Ing : deforestation and soil erosion
- o Mid Ing : water shortage and flood
- o Lower Ing : contamination
- o Conflicts between upstream and downstream: water allocation
- o Conflicts between officials and local people: development policy and projects, food insecurity, unrespect to local wisdom

The emergence of the People Council of Ing River: Factors contributed

- o Different perspectives on development policy
 - o **natural preservation** : preserved area overlapped with local settlement
 - o **economic development** : growth and maximized resources use or sufficiency and sustainable resources use
- o Non participatory development projects
 - o Kok – Ing – Nan Water Diversion Project
- o Inspiration from other movements
 - o Movements in the Northeastern Thailand

Structure of the People Council

- o River community : community committee
- o River community network : network committee
- o River community network forum ---> **Council**
- o **People Council of Ing River**
 - o **Phayao province** : Phayao Lake and Watershed reservation Group, Love Lao River Network, the Network of Traditional Fishery in Phayao Lake, the Network of Mid Ing River, etc.
 - o **Chiangrai province** : the Network for Conservation of Lower Ing River, the Network of Local People of Lower Ing River, Lak Chiang kong Group, etc.

People Council and its implications (1)

o **Vision:** to provide opportunities and encourage local people to take part in the process of natural resources allocation and preservation along Ing River with fairness and sustainability

o **Mission**

- o To be a forum and a process for local people to participate in the Ing River management and policy making process
- o To extend and strengthen the network of knowledge learning and sharing
- o To expand the conservation areas along Ing River

People Council and its implication (2)

o Activities

- o Frequent meetings
- o Data base to maintain traditional knowledge
- o Preserve and restoration of watershed and wetland
- o Drafting the Council's proposal for development and management of Ing River

o Implications

- o The cooperation between upstream and downstream is possible, necessary, and crucial
- o Bottom-up water resource management is desirable
- o Knowledge based Council is the key strategy

The national plans for water management

o NESDB

- o NESDP no.11 → water supply and allocation
- o Master plan on water resources management 2012 → flood control

o RID

- o RID Strategic Plan 2013-2016 → water supply and irrigated areas

o RBC – RBC-The North

- o Mekong River Basins Integrated Development and Management Framework 2014-2016 → IWRM

The provincial plans for Ing River Management

o Phayao province

- o Safety food production
- o Tourism
- o Water supply management and flood prevention: construction

o Chiang rai province

- o A prosperous border city
- o Natural resources rich province
- o Integrated approach and participatory process in natural resources management
- o Water supply management and flood prevention: construction

The integrated water management: Mission impossible?

- o IWRM: cooperation, coordination, participation → partnership
- o Government: too many organizations without appropriate coordination and duplicated plans
- o People Council: trust, mutual benefits, knowledge
- o Geographical and social management of the water resource

Tomorrow of People Council

- o Prospect and challenges
 - o Beyond the anti-government based organization
 - o To be an organization for resources use right protection
 - o Knowledge based and reserved commitment
 - o Community resilience and empowerment

Tomorrow of the People Council



Tomorrow of the People Council



Tomorrow of the People Council



Tomorrow of the People Council





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