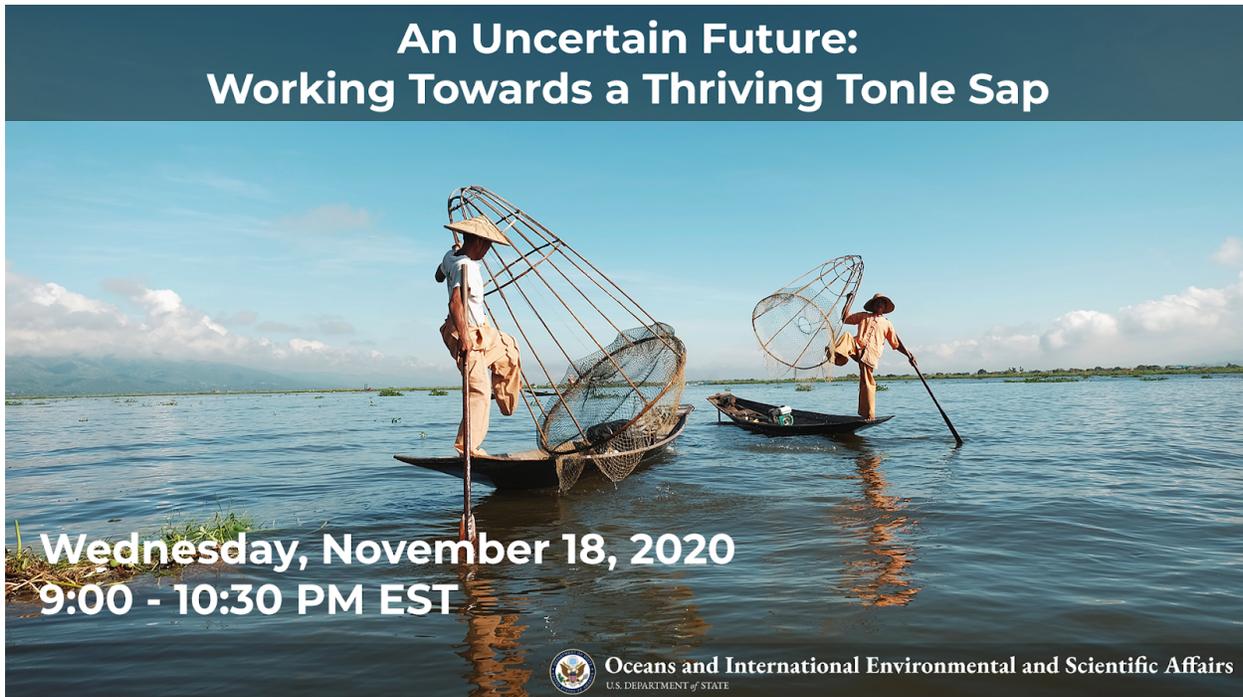


An Uncertain Future: Working Towards a Thriving Tonle Sap

Thursday, November 19, 2020 • 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM ICT

(Wednesday, November 18, 2020 • 9:00 PM – 10:30 PM EST)

Social Media Toolkit



**An Uncertain Future:
Working Towards a Thriving Tonle Sap**

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020
9:00 - 10:30 PM EST**

 **Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Summary

On Thursday, November 19 at 9:00 am ICT, the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) and the Bureau of Global Public Affairs (GPA) are co-hosting an interactive webinar to highlight the key issues facing the Tonle Sap Lake in the Mekong River Basin. Our panel of experts on Mekong-region and American ecosystems will educate key stakeholders about best practices, opportunities, and policies for sustainable natural resources management to protect and conserve the Tonle Sap ecosystem.

Program Description

The U.S. Department of State Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Bureau of Global Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy Phnom Penh, U.S. Embassy Bangkok, and the Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership are pleased to announce the second Mekong Virtual Symposium. As part of the U.S. Vision for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, the U.S. government is committed to providing a platform that encourages information sharing, dialogue, collaboration, and stakeholder engagement for cooperative, responsible management of the Mekong River. The U.S. engagement in the Mekong region has long supported transparent, open cooperation for sustainable management of the river. The U.S. recently affirmed and elevated this commitment with the launch of the Mekong – U.S. Partnership. This engagement

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builds trust among partners and stakeholders and strengthens cooperation not only on water issues but also for natural resources management more broadly.

This program will engage key stakeholders on the range of issues facing the Tonle Sap Lake in Cambodia: fishing and fish migration, plastics, floods and droughts, sediment, and dam impacts.

The Mekong River is home to one of the most biodiverse river ecosystems in the world with over 1,100 species of fish. The Tonle Sap Lake – the world's most productive inland fishery – is a unique and critical part of this complex system. During the annual monsoon season, the lake swells in size and experiences a flow reversal, where water begins flowing from the Mekong into the lake. This phenomenon is fundamental to maintaining fish passage and sediment flows, and ultimately, the thriving ecosystems and livelihoods reliant on the Tonle Sap. As drought and dams have led the Mekong's flow reversal to happen later and later each year, the Tonle Sap now faces an uncertain future.

This program on key issues in the Tonle Sap Lake builds upon existing efforts in the Mekong region to strengthen collaboration and dialogue on water issues and solutions, and supports the Mekong Water Data Initiative (MWDI). The MWDI aims to strengthen the capacity of Lower Mekong countries to collect, analyze, and manage water and water-related data in order to reduce water-related risks and promote sustainable economic development across the water, food, energy, and environment nexus.

During this event, U.S. and Mekong experts will identify strategies and methods to foster longer-term information sharing and collaboration. This program benefits regional mid-level water, rural and urban development, energy, environment, and health ministry officials, water resource managers and utility operators, academics, and civil society in the Lower Mekong region by not only providing expert consultation, but also facilitating peer-to-peer discussion. Join us before the program for a networking virtual happy hour; immediately following the program, participants will have the opportunity to join expert-led discussion breakout groups on specific topics and regions of interest.

Moderator and Speaker Biographies



Moderator: Ms. Chea Seila

Ms. Chea Seila has been working as a volunteer, research assistant, researcher, facilitator, coordinator and project manager with different projects focusing on protection and management of natural resources and communities' livelihoods depending on the Mekong River and their systems in Cambodia. She spent most of her time working in communities along the Rivers in Stung Treng Province, and the

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communities around Tonle Sap River and Lake. As a research officer, livelihood, and social safeguard specialist, she has 10 years' experience in community led action research or participatory action research which documented the local fishers' knowledge and wisdom on fish, herbs for food and medicine, livelihoods and freshwater wetlands. She designed methodology on social safeguards for the Stung Treng Ramsar Site in Cambodia – Integrating Fisheries Management and Wetlands Conservation aimed to strengthen a co-management approach to freshwater protected areas. Currently, she plays a role in managing the Wonders of the Mekong Project. She is responsible for coordinating most aspects of the Project in Cambodia, including Interdisciplinary Research and Conservation; Training and Capacity Building; and Environmental Education and Outreach activities.



Speaker: Dr. So Nam

Dr. So Nam has more than 25 years' experience as a fish ecologist and in fisheries and fisheries science. Currently, Dr. Nam is the Chief Environment Management Officer with the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Secretariat. Since 2012, Dr. Nam has also been the MRC Fisheries Program Coordinator. Previously, Dr. Nam served as the Director of the Inland Fisheries Research and Development Institute (IFReDI) and as Adjunct Professor of Royal University of Agriculture (RUA) where he led research and programs on fisheries, fish ecology, environmental monitoring, fauna and flora studies, dam impact assessments on fish and nutrition and lectured on aquaculture, fisheries, socioeconomics, livelihoods, and the interactions between them. Dr. Nam holds a PhD in Biology from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, a M.S. in Aquaculture from Ghent University, and a B.S. in Fisheries Science from Royal University of Agriculture in Cambodia.



Speaker: Dr. Zeb Hogan

Dr. Zeb Hogan is an assistant professor at the University of Nevada-Reno, the United Nations Convention on Migratory Species Councilor for Fish, and a National Geographic Society Explorer. Dr. Hogan received his Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California, Davis in 2004. His research interests include aquatic ecosystems, freshwater fish ecology, fish migration, fisheries management, and endangered species issues. Currently, Dr. Hogan is the Director of the Wonders of the Mekong Project and host of the National Geographic show Monster Fish with Zeb Hogan.

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Speaker: Dr. Jenna Jambeck

Jenna Jambeck is a Full Professor in the College of Engineering at the University of Georgia. Dr. Jambeck conducts research and teaches environmental engineering with a focus on solid waste. Her work often interweaves social context and sciences with technical aspects. She has conducted numerous research projects including those related to contaminant fate and transport during waste beneficial use, chemical fate and biological processes within disposal systems, sustainable and innovative waste management practices, marine debris and plastic pollution. As we continue to evolve from waste management to materials management, a new paradigm is being created and the Jambeck Research Group strives to be at the forefront of this transformation.

Event Details - Snapshot

Title	An Uncertain Future: Working Towards a Thriving Tonle Sap
Date and Time	Thursday, November 19, 2020 from 9:00-10:30 pm ICT (duration: 90 minutes)
Promo Page URL	http://interactive.america.gov/iip_event/mekong-tonle-sap/ or: https://bit.ly/TSLake
Watch Page URLs	Refer to Promo Page above
Format	90-minute webcast with live Q&A
Topic	Tonle Sap, Mekong River, fisheries, plastics
Audience	EAP
Hashtags	#MekongRiver #TonleSap

Promotional Banners and Images

Promotional banner image, social media toolkit can be downloaded here at the bottom of the page: http://interactive.america.gov/iip_event/mekong-tonle-sap/

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Social Media Posts

Facebook and Instagram Posts

Suggested images to use with social media posts can be downloaded here:

<https://app.box.com/s/b0w1dbbba4e0sws9f2o3r4w9krmszxk0>

Schedule Date: October 30

Save the date! We are hosting a live webinar on November 19 at 9 am ICT on the Tonle Sap Lake – the world’s most productive inland fishery. During the annual monsoon season, the lake swells in size and experiences a flow reversal, where water begins flowing from the Mekong into the lake. This phenomenon is fundamental to maintaining fish passage and sediment flows, and ultimately, to the thriving ecosystems and livelihoods which rely on the Tonle Sap. As the Mekong’s flow reversal happens later and later each year, the Tonle Sap now faces an uncertain future. Join us and learn more from Tonle Sap ecosystem experts on plastic pollution, fisheries, and river governance!  <https://bit.ly/TSLake> 

Schedule Date: November 10

#DYK the Tonle Sap river is the only river in the world whose flow direction reverses seasonally? Water flows out of the lake during the dry season and into the lake during the wet season. Without this fluctuation, fish from all over the Mekong couldn’t migrate. Ms. Chea Sila will moderate a discussion between Dr. So Nam (Mekong River Commission), Dr. Jenna Jambeck (University of Georgia), and Dr. Zeb Hogan (University of Nevada Reno) on a Nov 19 webinar at 9am ICT. Join us: <https://bit.ly/TSLake> 

Schedule Date: November 16

Billions of fish from more than 100 species migrate from every corner of the Mekong region into the Tonle Sap Lake during the seasonal flood pulse. The Mekong region relies on a thriving Tonle Sap for food, jobs, and clean water. Join us on November 19 at 9am ICT for a live webinar to learn more about the Tonle Sap. Come early for a networking hour at 8; stay for expert-led breakout groups on plastics, fisheries, flood pulse, and young voices immediately following the program. <https://bit.ly/TSLake> 

Schedule Date: November 19

Want to learn more about how to protect and conserve the Tonle Sap? Join us TODAY (Nov 19) at 9am ICT for a webinar where our panel of American and Cambodian experts will discuss how sustainably managing environmental challenges in the Tonle Sap region can secure water, jobs, fish and sediment for the whole Mekong region. Bring your questions! <https://bit.ly/TSLake> 

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Schedule Date: November 20

Thank you for joining us at the Mekong Virtual Symposium. Thanks to @JambeckResearch @ZebHogan @MRCMekong and Ms. Sila for their insights on how to support a thriving #TonleSap in the Mekong. Missed the event? Check out MekongWater.org for a readout!

[insert photo]

Facebook Polls

Polls are be loaded directly into Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/ScienceDiplomacyUSA/>

Schedule Date: November 7 – Interactive Poll

What topics related to the Tonle Sap Lake are you most interested to learn about? Comment below with any other ideas. Join our live webinar on Nov 19 at 9am ICT to learn more

<https://bit.ly/TSLake> [insert photo]

A: Flood pulse

B: Stakeholder roles

Schedule Date: November 13 – Interactive Poll

What are the top priorities for stakeholders to address in the Tonle Sap region? Comment below with any other ideas. Join our live webinar on Nov 19 at 9am ICT to hear the panel's take on top priorities <https://bit.ly/TSLake> [insert photo]

A: Sustainable water mgmt

B: Data sharing

Schedule Date: November 19 – Interactive Poll

Thank you for joining the Mekong Virtual Symposium! We enjoyed the interactive discussion on the Tonle Sap Lake. For the next Symposium, what topic would you most like to see? Comment below with any other ideas. Missed the Symposium? Watch the recording here

<https://bit.ly/TSLake> [insert photo]

A: Role of Civil Society

B: "3S" System

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Twitter Posts

Suggested images to use with social media posts can be downloaded here:

<https://app.box.com/s/b0w1dbbba4e0sws9f2o3r4w9krmszrk0>

Schedule Date: October 30

Save the date! We are hosting an interactive webinar on the future of the Tonle Sap Lake on Nov 19 @ 9 am ICT. Join us for a networking hour before the webinar and stay after for breakout discussions. Bring your questions! #MekongRiver <https://bit.ly/TSLake> [insert photo]

Schedule Date: November 1

#DYK the Tonle Sap tributary is the only river in the world whose flow direction reverses seasonally? Without this fluctuation, fish from all over the Mekong couldn't migrate. Join our Nov 19 webinar at 9am ICT to learn about the Mekong River.

<https://bit.ly/TSLake> [insert photo]

Schedule Date: November 6

#DYK 500,000 tons of fish are caught in the Tonle Sap every year? The Tonle Sap isn't just a major protein source for Cambodia but also secures water, jobs, fish and sediment for the whole Mekong region. Learn how on Nov 19 at 9am ICT <https://bit.ly/TSLake> [insert photo]

Schedule Date: November 12

#DYK billions of fish from 100+ species migrate from the Mekong region into the Tonle Sap Lake during the seasonal flood pulse? The whole Mekong region relies on a thriving Tonle Sap for food, jobs & water quality. Join our Nov 19 webinar at 9am ICT for more

<https://bit.ly/TSLake> [insert photo]

Schedule Date: November 13

Join us Nov 19 at 9am ICT for a live discussion w/ @JambeckResearch @ZebHogan and @MRCMekong on fish, plastics, and the flood pulse in the Tonle Sap: <https://bit.ly/TSLake>

[insert photo]

Schedule Date: November 18

Join us TOMORROW (Nov 19) at 9am ICT for a live webinar on how to preserve the Tonle Sap. Come early for a networking hour at 8. Stay after for expert-led breakout groups on plastics, fisheries, flood pulse, and young voices immediately following the program.

#MekongRiver <https://bit.ly/TSLake> [insert photo]

Schedule Date: November 19

LIVE IN 1 HOUR: our panel of experts are discussing the uncertain future of the Tonle Sap's once-thriving ecosystem in the Mekong. Tune in and bring your

questions! #MekongRiver <https://bit.ly/TSLake> [insert photo]

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Schedule Date: November 20

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[insert photo]

Twitter Polls

Polls are be loaded directly into Twitter page at: <https://twitter.com/scidiplomacyusa?lang=en>

Schedule Date: November 7 – Interactive Poll

What topics related to the Tonle Sap Lake are you most interested to learn about? Comment below with any other ideas. Join our live webinar on Nov 19 at 9am ICT to learn more

<https://bit.ly/TSLake> [insert photo]

- A: Flood pulse
- B: Infrastructure Impacts
- C: Stakeholder roles
- D. Plastic pollution

Schedule Date: November 13 – Interactive Poll

What are the top priorities for stakeholders to address in the Tonle Sap region? Comment below with any other ideas. Join our live webinar on Nov 19 at 9am ICT to hear the panel's take on top priorities <https://bit.ly/TSLake> [insert photo]

- A: Sustainable water mgmt
- B: Water quality
- C: Data sharing
- D: Effective governance

Schedule Date: November 19 – Interactive Poll

Thank you for joining the Mekong Virtual Symposium! We enjoyed the interactive discussion on the Tonle Sap Lake. For the next Symposium, what topic would you most like to see? Comment below with any other ideas. Missed the Symposium? Watch the recording here

<https://bit.ly/TSLake> [insert photo]

- A: Water Data Tools
- B: "3S" System
- C: Role of Civil Society
- D: Social Science & Water