

**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR  
ON INLAND AND COASTAL WATERBORNE TRANSPORT  
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Inland Waterborne Transport  
in Mekong River and  
its effect for the regional development**

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Ministry of Public Works and Transport**

PIANC 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in ASIA, Nagoya JAPAN  
12-14 September 2010



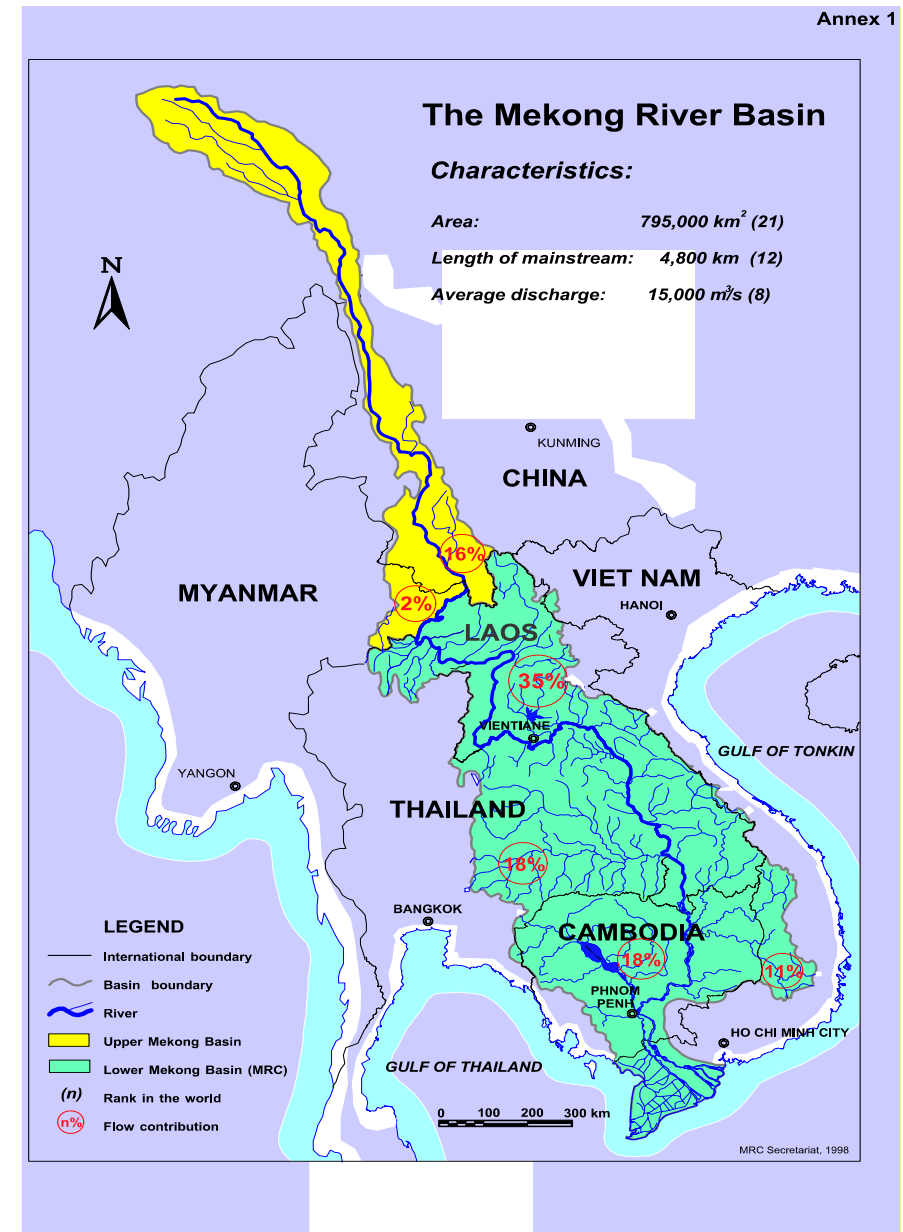
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# 1. Mekong River condition in brief

- The Total length of Mekong River is 4,800 km, and 1,989 km runs through the Lao territory.
- Major domestic and international waterways for the Lao PDR and GMS countries.



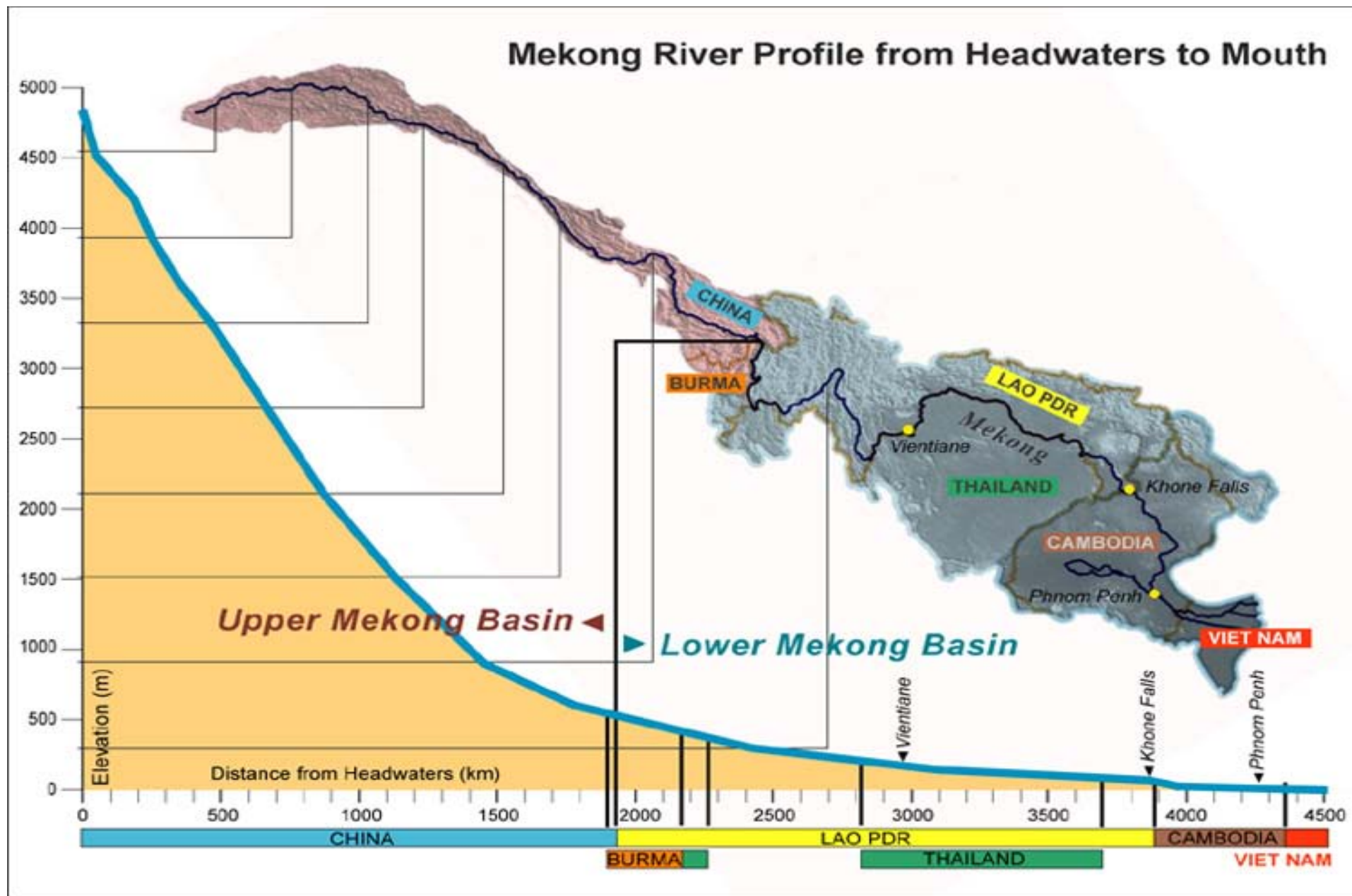
# Mekong River Basin

No	Mai Tributaries
1	Nam Tha
2	Nam Ou
3	Mam suang
5	Nam khan
6	Nam Ngum
7	Nam Theun
8	Nam Hinboun
9	Se Bang Fai
10	Se Bang Hieng
11	Se Done



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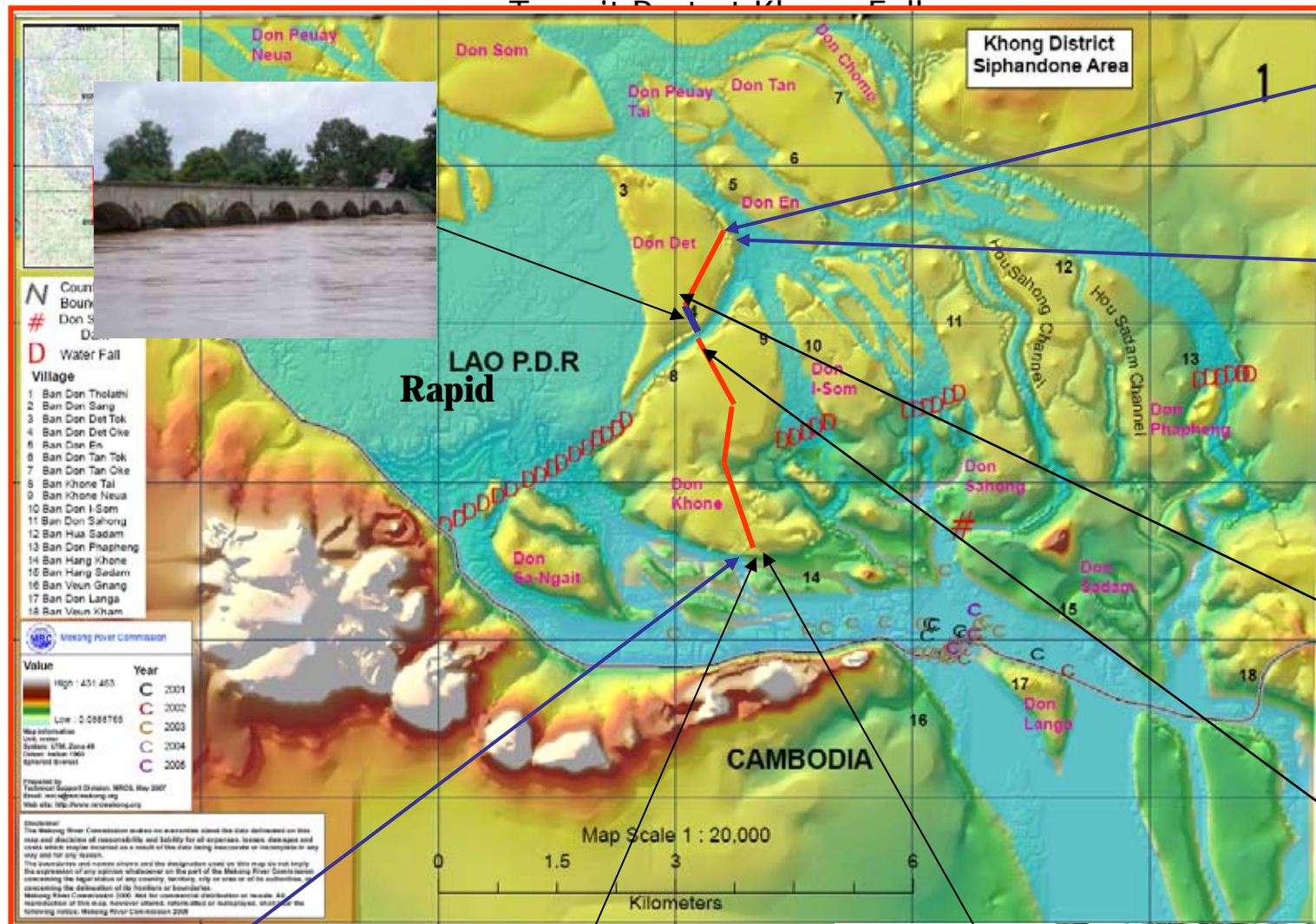


## **2. Water borne transport in Lao PDR**

- **Mekong River is one corridor from North to South, which can economically linked Laos to the other five riparian countries, Navigation on Mekong River are divided into 5 stretches with difference navigation condition depending on seasonal and water level in the river.**
- **Navigation is hindering by rapids, shoals, sand bars, rock outcrops. The main barrier along the Mekong River is the Khone falls as the Border Cambodian, in colonial time to transit goods between top and bottom of the falls by the rail line on the Khone and Deth islands.**









## 2. Water borne transport in Lao PDR(cont)

- IWT had been playing an important role since several hundred years ago until now, the IWT was a traditional mode of transport for our previous generation.
- IWT is shared the freight transport about 31% and passenger transport about 6% of total yearly carried capacity among all modes
- Main commodity or goods: timber, wood products, construction material, rice, fuel, sand, rock, wood products, foods grains, steel product and logs.





## 2. Water borne transport in Lao PDR(cont)

- The implementation of the Quadripartite Agreement is under going.
- The development of international transport along the Upper Mekong shows the potential use of the river for urging trade, tourist and friendship among China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.



## 2. Water borne transport in Lao PDR ( cont.)

### FLEET

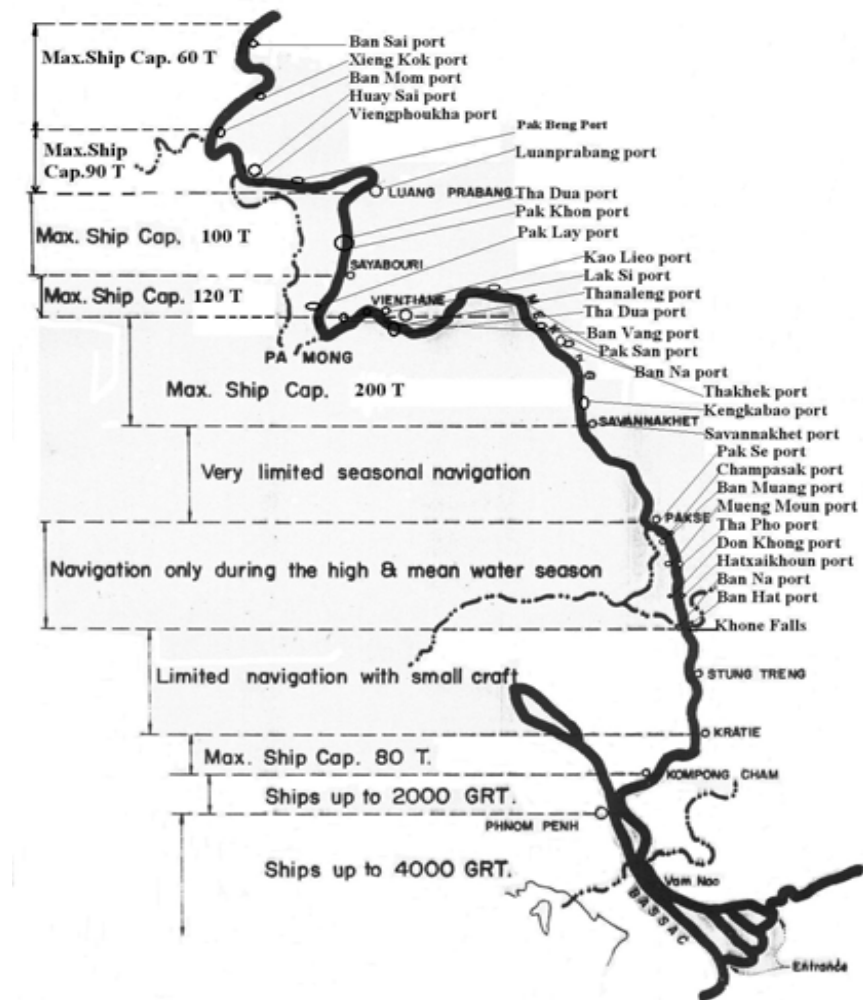
- The fleet has different capacity both Cargo barges and passenger boats which refer to condition of the waterways stretch:
  - 71 cargo barges with carrying capacity 50 T and over and 902 cargo barges less than 50 T ;
  - 84 passenger boats with carrying over 50 persons, 303 boats (15-50 persons) and 5,812 boats with carrying less than 15 persons;
  - 33 ferry boats.



## 2. Water borne transport in Lao PDR ( cont.)

### Mekong River Port

**Mekong in Laos has more than 29 river ports have been constructed to ensure loading and unloading process between boats and trucks.**



# Tourism boat



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## Speed/Passenger Boat, Laos



## Big size of Cargo Boat



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### 3. IWT improvement

#### Aids to Navigation

- There are 541 unlighted Concrete beacons in Lao PDR from Bokeo to Khone, Between 1910-1930, 600 beacons were built, some of them disappeared. In 1995, 28 beacons have been built and painted green for the left bank and red for the right





## Aids to Navigation (cont.)

- The MRC and ESCAP joint project on Recommended System of Aids to Navigation for GMS countries were introduced.





## Aids to Navigation (cont.)

- In 2008, the Mekong River Commission (MRC) carried out condition survey of hot spots and dangerous areas and then installed aids to navigation on the river section in the Lao PDR and Thailand.



## Concrete Beacon

- Aids to navigation are one of the priority areas of the Lao PDR, the MPWT has been trying to rehabilitate the existing beacons and install more beacons. However, the annual budget for aids to navigation is very limited.





# Channel Improvement



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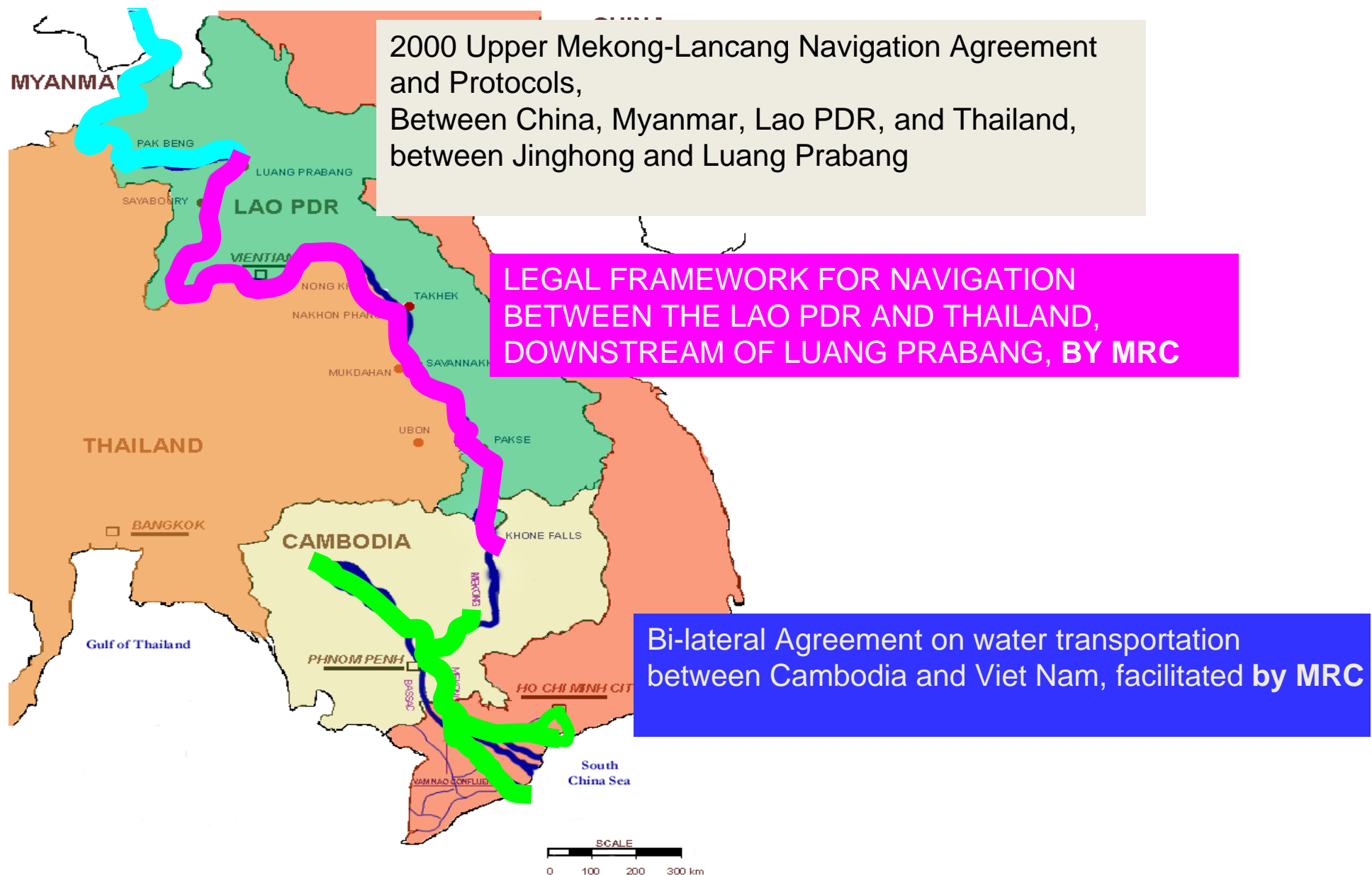


## **4. Institutional Strengthening.)**

- The Ministry of Public Works and Transport is responsible for all aspects related to IWT, inland waterways works, as well as maritime transport;**
- The Department of Waterways in general is taken the responsibility for management, construction and maintenance of waterways facilities, including ports and navigation aids, navigation channel improvement and all river works engineering.**
- All ports are under responsibility of the Provincial Department of Public Works and Transport except private port.**







## 5. Future Plan

- Formulate strategic plan for development of IWT,
- Modernize statistics collection system of IWT,
- Navigation chart drawing;
- Draft inland water transport law,
- Enhance the implementation of the Quadripartite Agreement;
- Set up national navigation training center;
- Improve and harmonize standard of national aids to navigation;
- Compile aids to navigation systems and adopt to national standard;
- Installation and rehabilitation of MRC and ESCAP recommended system of aids to navigation;





**Thank you for your attention**

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