

June 14, 2010

H. E. Madame Khampheng Pholsena,
Minister to the Prime Minister's Office
President of Water Resource and Environment Administration
Prime Minister's Office
P.O. Box 7864, Nahaidoi Road,
Vientiane, Lao PDR

Re: Request for Xayaburi Dam and the Don Sahong Dam Environmental Impact Assessment reports

Dear H. E. Madame Khampheng Pholsena,

I am writing to request copies of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports of the Xayaburi Dam and the Don Sahong Dam in Lao PDR. I understand that the *Regulation on Environment Assessment in Lao PDR* (2000) is applicable to these projects. Under this regulation, the affected parties and other interested parties are permitted to receive notification and invitation to comment on draft EIA reports (Government of Laos 2000, Article 13). **Given the rapid progress of the Xayaburi Dam and Don Sahong Dam, International Rivers would like to express our interest in these projects and request a copy of the draft EIAs in order to submit comments to the Government of Laos.**

On 9 June 2010, the Vientiane Times newspaper reported that Mega First Corporation Berhad had signed a joint venture agreement with Electricite Du Laos to develop the Don Sahong hydropower project. The Mekong River Commission also reports that a full EIA for the Don Sahong Dam has been submitted to the Water Resource and Environment Administration (WREA), and additional studies have been requested.¹

On 26 March 2010, the Nation newspaper reported that Ch Karnchang Public Co. Ltd. had signed a Project Development Agreement with the Lao government for the Xayaburi Dam. The Mekong River Commission reports that the feasibility study and full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report have been already submitted to the WREA.¹

I would like to thank you in advance for giving our request your kind consideration and look forward to hearing from you soon.

¹ <http://www.mrcmekong.org/ish/SEA-workshop/3-LMB-MSD-Drivers&Quick-Project-profiles-4Jun10.pdf>

Sincerely yours,

Ikuko Matsumoto

Handwritten signature of Ikuko Matsumoto in Japanese characters: 松本有子

Lao Program Director
International Rivers

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