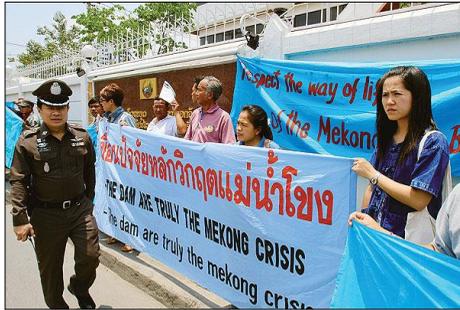


WATER GOVERNANCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



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QUESTIONS TO YOU

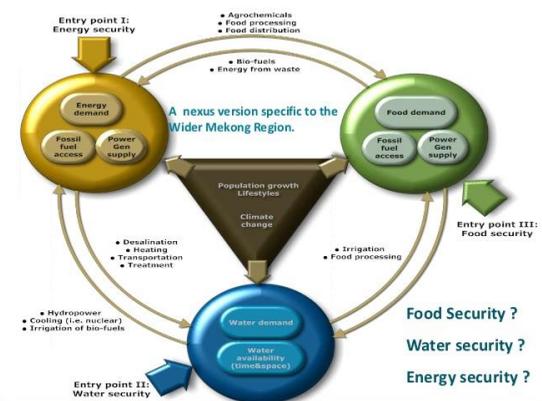
- What were the three key insights into “water governance” that you gained from your research?
- Suggest one future research question?
- What topics do you think should be incorporated into curriculum (and where)?

Please make notes on this as we go through the presentation! It is the basis of the group reflection

Why “govern” water

- **Local water allocation**, for example between farmers, or between local groups
- Water **sustains many local resources and associated livelihoods**, including various commons (fisheries, wetlands)
- Competing **sectoral allocation** of water: Food production; energy production; industrial production; domestic water supply; ecosystems
- **Redistribution** of water’s benefits, for example with the construction of a large dam
- **Upstream/ downstream cooperation** (or conflict) on rivers – national and transnational

Food - water - energy “nexus”

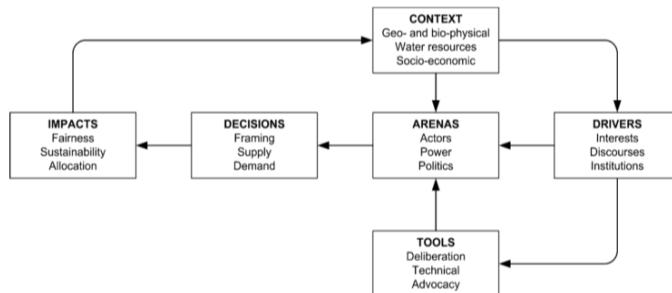


Defining water governance

- “The political, social, economic and administrative systems that are in place, and which directly or indirectly affect the use, development and management of water resources and the delivery of water service delivery at different levels of society” (UNDP 2013).
- “The practices of coordination and decision making between different actors around contested water distributions” Zwartveen et al (2017)
- a social process of dialogue, negotiation and decision-making; or, instrumentally, as a means to achieve pre-determined objectives.” Dore et al, (2012)

Water governance is a process

- We need to think about:
 - Actors (Stakeholders) (Whose involved, what are their interests and values?)
 - Structures (what Laws, policies and other rules are in place)
 - Processes (how are decisions taken through formal and informal processes)
 - Scale (project, provincial, national, regional, global)
- The process is often complex
 - A series of decisions being taken rather than a single decision
 - Reflects societal ethics, values and history
 - Emerge (in general) over a long period of time, (over which values may change)



Actors engage in multiple arenas, depending on opportunity, necessity and choice. Drivers are what influence and motivate actors. We suggest three are key: interests, discourses and institutions. Actors employ tools to establish and legitimise their positions, inform debate and influence negotiations; or resist, reinforce and reframe perspectives . . . Decisions emerge from arenas. We separate the decisions that emerge as being primarily about framing, supply and demand. Ultimately, we are interested in the impacts of decisions in terms of the fairness and sustainability of water allocation, that reshapes the water governance context. We define allocation broadly to include water use, related investment and sharing arrangements. (p. 23)

Dore et al, 2012

Actors: Whose involved?

- **“People”**
 - Farmers
 - Fishers
 - Domestic water consumers...
- **Civil society**
 - NGOs / NPAs
 - Social movements
 - Media
 - Unions/ consumer groups
 - General Public
 - International Humanitarian/Relief Agencies
 - International advocacy organizations
 - Academics
- **Government**
 - Politicians
 - National Government agencies
 - Local government agencies
 - State utilities and SOEs
 - Regulatory Agencies
 - Military

Actors: Whose involved?

- **Private sector**
 - International corporations
 - Construction companies
 - Contractors...
 - Local businesses
 - Project partners
 - Contractors etc...
 - Chambers of Commerce
 - Consultants
- **Financiers**
 - Commercial banks
 - Export Credit Agencies
 - Bond and stock markets
 - Private equity
 - Others (pension funds...)
- **International/ regional organizations**
 - Bilateral aid agencies
 - Asian Development Bank
 - World Bank
 - ASEAN / GMS
 - UN and the “international community”

Arenas: Power and politics

- **Politics:** “Who gets what, when, how?”
 - The study of water governance is the study of the exercise of power
- **Power: Ideas; Positions; Resources**
 - Lukes’ “faces of power” (1974) drew attention to the ability to set agendas, take decisions, or shape preferences.
 - Hay (1997) speaks of “ability to shape the context and conduct of others” and
 - Vermeulen (2005) as “ability to achieve a wanted end in a social context, with or without the consent of others”
 - Is power centralized or distributed?
- **Power and politics:**
 - “Politics of scale” – Who defines scale?
 - “Politics of uncertainty” – Who defines acceptable risk/ knowledge

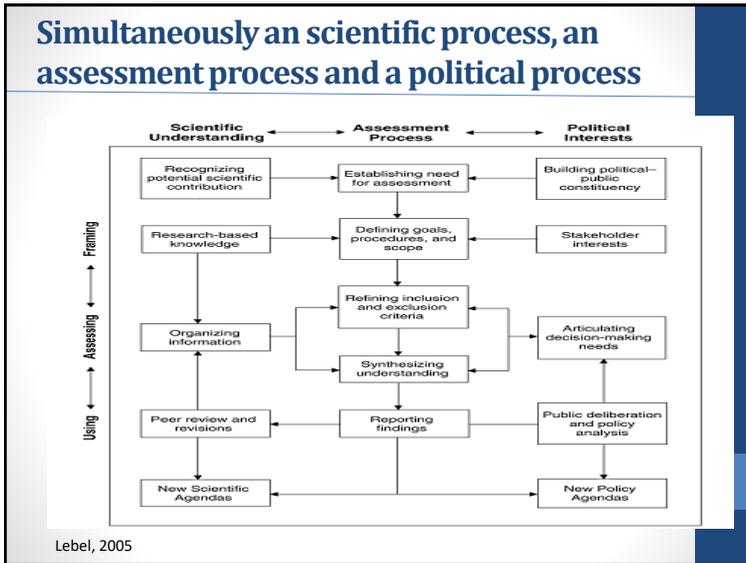
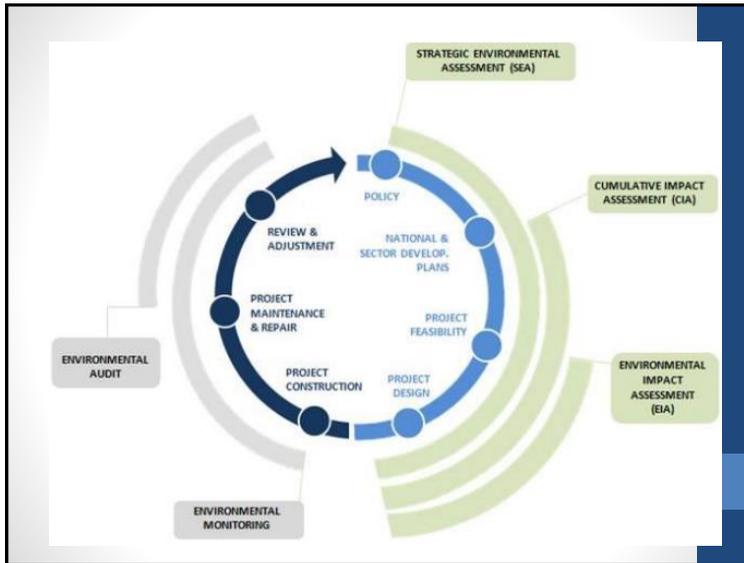
Arenas: Power and politics

- **Whose knowledge counts?**
 - Expert knowledge
 - Situational knowledge
 - Co-produced knowledge
- **Arenas :** “Politicized spaces of governance in which a process for claiming rights or seeking redress take places”
 - Not only “formal” arenas
 - “Arenas of struggle” not just “arenas as institutions.”
 - Hard and soft laws are relevant

Assessment tools

- **Technical tools** bring scientific knowledge into decision-making processes
 - Impact assessment
 - EIA / SIA / HIA
 - TEIA
 - CIA
 - SEA
 - Modeling
 - MRC’s Decision Support Framework, associated with the Water Utilization Program
 - (Combines with scenario planning)





Deliberative processes

- “Deliberation tools should assist the exploration of options, examination of technical outputs and contestation of discourses”
 - Multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs),
 - Scenario-building (generate contrasting stories of what the future might look)
 - (Which can be prepared in a deliberative manner or not)
- Co-production of knowledge

Advocacy and public spheres

- Advocacy tools underpin campaigns supporting, opposing or otherwise seeking to influence decisions
 - Coalition building (local to global)
 - Media outreach & public awareness
 - Challenge destructive project
 - Promote alternatives

Evaluating outcomes

- **Social:** Equitable distribution of water resources and services
 - Who can *access* water?
 - What are the social decision-making processes?
 - What is considered “fair” or “just”
- **Economic:** “*Efficiency*” in water allocation
 - Role of water in *national* economic growth
 - Role of water in *poverty reduction*
 - Role of “the market” (water rights; water pricing...)
- **Political:** Whose voice is heard in decision making? Who, in the end, wins and loses?
- **Environment:** Water quality and quantity; Water for ecosystems;

More inclusive approaches: Broadening out, Opening up

- **“Broadening out”** the possibilities
 - Participatory engagement
 - Extend scope to include multiple criteria and scales
 - Accept a diversity of knowledges
 - Humbly acknowledge uncertainty
 - Address issues of rights, equity and power
- **“Opening up”** whose involved
 - More participatory, deliberative and reflexive forms of governance
 - Deliberate a range of options and possible alternatives

Group work: What have you learned about “water governance” from your research?

- What were the three key insights into “water governance” that you gained from your research?
- Suggest one future research question?
- What topics do you think should be incorporated into curriculum (and where)?