

## **“How a China-Built Dam Destroyed an Ecosystem and Livelihoods”**

An article based upon How a China-Built Dam Destroyed an Ecosystem and Livelihoods. China HuanengGroup officials and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen construct a dam which is called the Lower Sesan 2. There are many problems that affect the ecosystem and livelihood. The major problem is the fall in fisheries. Because they cut off two rivers that were major tributaries to the Makong to build the dam. Thus, it disturbs fish for feeding and other reproductive cycles. As a result, species have perished in droves, and fishery outputs have dropped. Moreover, they have another problem about livelihoods. The settlements that were flooded by the dam housed between 4,500 and 5,000 people. After the damming-up everything in their lives is gone which are fish, rice, vegetables, fruit, and forest products. The dam replaced the river, causing problems for communities' livelihoods. It is a major problem that affects ecosystems, including humans. People receive compensation for new homes but it cannot replace the value as much as they lost.

For natural resource and environmental economics, whole species, including fish, in the river have died because of the dam. When the environment cannot provide a source to households or firms, there will be scarcity of resources. From key economics insight, environmentalists and economists opposed the dam. Because when we compare the loss of fisheries income and the cost of relocation caused by the dam to the gigawatt hours, it will be clear that the dam is a risky investment. In this case, they did minimize harm by offering appropriate compensation that gives people new skills and consult about alternative mitigation strategies. However, Hydropower cannot be the focus of Cambodia's energy policy in the future. Alternative energy sources will have to be investigated by the government.