

## **Summary**

Building a dam with regard to the environmental impact study may cause enormous damage to the ecosystem and livelihoods. Asia's widest dams, The lower Sesan 2, in Cambodia's Mekong River Basin is an example of this regardless of building. This dam is a part of the Chinese government's large-scale "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI) which has a trillion dollar investment. By the reason to improve the economy, Cambodia government decided to build these dams by ignoring any against from local communities. But the government decision and intervention makes things worse. Creating not only environmental problems but also economic problems.

Lots of problems from constructing dams which is related to environmental problems is mainly caused by the location of the dams. By cutting off two rivers that were major tributaries to the Mekong makes a bunch of fish can't go traveling up and down which is interrupting the feeding and reproductive cycles. A whole fish species are plummeted and the size of fish also reduce. About 4,500-5,000 people around the dams have to resettle their accommodate in the forests. By submerging forest, many plants are completely gone. Additionally, many forest and vegetated land are flooded and rotted. Emitting large amounts of carbon dioxide and methane. Moreover the dams are also contribute to many economic problems. Since many people around the river are mainly rely on three sources of food and made income from these three things which is fish, crops, and forest products. The plummeted of whole fish species and smaller size of fish made people receive less money from catching and selling. The crops are also affected from the dams because people have to resettle communities far from the river, so the soil there is so rocky, dry, and difficult to farm. Moreover, groundwater is unfit for drinking made people to spend money on purchase water to drink. And since the main food, which is fish and crops, are decreasing and the communities are resettled in forest, forest products have been harvested more until it's all gone. Cambodia's government are expected that the dams will provide the positive economic impact by generated electricity. However, when compare the losses of fishery with electricity generated by dams it was worth.

In conclusion, The lower Sesan 2 dam is a part of China's project Belt and Road Initiative with Cambodia's government. Creating a lot of both economic and environmental problems. Lots of ecosystem of river and forest are damaged. Local people around the river have to resettle their communities and find a new way to live such as rely less on fishing and the government compensates them by only building them a new home.