

"How a China-Built Dam Destroyed an Ecosystem and Livelihoods"

Belt and road initiative (BRI) is the project about expand the infrastructure throughout China's neighborhood region. In other word, this is silk road that China and other country that join this project aims to convenient in trading such as reduce trade barriers. Moreover, this is about policy coordination, financial integration, and people bonds. However, this policy did not efficient all the time some country got adverse effect. For example, Cambodia which this essay will talk about the causes and problems from this project in Cambodia.

Since Cambodian government officials and Chinese state-owned power generation company built the dam to generate electricity as a part of Belt and road Initiatives to develop the infrastructure. This causes a negative impact on not only Mekong River communities' lives but also global warming. For Mekong River communities' lives, most of their lives are depends on Mekong River such as fishing which fish is their main food and income, rice vegetables and fruit that need to grow along the river, forest products (nuts, herbs, and seeds). These three main sources for food and income had collapse after built the reservoir. The river separates into two main tributaries that affect fish food and cycle. So, there are few fish left in the river which affect the local people on their food and income. For instance, they were catch 40 kilograms of fish for sell and for their own consumption but now they can catch only two kilograms of fish, so this cause fish to become rare and their income collapse from can sell less fish. Unfortunately, Mekong River's communities are force to move out with a compensation that did not match what they lost. They have to move far away from the river and the new environment around them is not suit for their lives. For example, they have to travel to catch fish which is take more time and now fish have small amount in the river, and they cannot sell at a good price as before, so this cause reduction in income. For fruits and rice are grow better in floodplains along the river but now new place that they move have rocky soil which is unsuitable for plant, and they have to wait for plant in rainy season also have to provide fertilizers for plants to grow which they do not have money to buy because of income collapse. So, there are reduction in plant. Moreover, they do not have water to consume because the water unsuits for drink, so they have to buy the water instead. Thus, you can see that now they have more expenses for living. In addition, geography of Cambodia unsuits for hydroelectric power which have to provide many of area on land, so environmentalists and economists do not agree with this project. As Cambodia have to provide more area to do so, so there are a lot of dead vegetation that emits the carbon dioxide and methane which is the main factor of greenhouse gas that cause global warming and the carbon footprint equal to fossil fuel plants that can cause rain acid. These all of the problems happen because failing to assess on the impact.

In conclusion, Cambodia cooperates with China to build the dam to produce the hydroelectric power but did not consider carefully on the negative impact on both environment and economy. So, this cause an adverse effect to Mekong River's communities which are income collapse and about their lives to be worsen. Also, on the environment that impact on fish reproduction that cause lower number of fish and about global warming that cause by carbon dioxide from the dead plant that die from built the dam.