

The Chinese government and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has invested in the construction of a dam, which is one of Asia's wildest dams, called “The Lower Sesan 2” as part of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which is located at Mekong River. Since the dam has been built, it causes a lot of problems which affects not only people in those areas but also natural resources.

The Mekong river is a freshwater ecosystem with a different kind of fish. When the dam cuts off the Mekong river, it means that the way of making money by selling fishes was completely cut off. In addition, fish is the main part of Cambodians’ selection of food so this impacts a lot of Cambodians. Moreover, the environment around those areas will be gone too, the impact of these made farming impossible such as dry and hard soil makes it difficult to farm. Their food and income come from selling fish, growing rice, vegetables and fruits and natural products such as herbs and tree resin. Since all of this was gone, it made their lives more difficult. However, the Chinese government has not offered substantial compensation for the impact of people who have been forced to relocate and lose their main income. Not even new skills that should be taught in order to help them generate income.

In conclusion, the dam created many serious consequences, to the Cambodians and the economy because they cut off their own resources in the long term yet has not generated as many benefits as their losses. In addition, the reason for this impact is that the government acted in their own interest in order to globally develop and advance Chinese foreign policy interests, which makes them not thinking enough of the negative effects that will affect people and natural resources.