

## **The Lower Sesan 2 dam**

Building a dam has been one of the most serious issues that heavily affect an ecosystem and livelihoods. Firstly, this essay will analyze the principal problem of the Lower Sesan 2 dam in Cambodia and secondly, it will discuss the cause of the problem caused by the dam.

The Lower Sesan 2 dam's existence has caused an impact negatively on Cambodians' living and the environment. First, the dam destroys the fish's route and disrupts fish life cycles, leading to a native species of fish migrating and some dying. As a major Cambodian's job is a fishery, the number of fish declining directly affects the people's income. Second, local communities who lost everything are the most suffering to begin a new living. It can be seen that there are a variety of things that can generate income that is forced to go in vain such as medicinal plants and rice.

The main cause of problems occurs due to Cambodia and the Chinese government. They are the main influences that drive the dam project. The Cambodian government is mainly focused on China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as it provides a huge benefit to the country. Also, Chinese authorities did not consider vulnerable communities as they have no obligations to protect the native rights. Moreover, economists' opposition has shown that building the dam will be worth or not depends on the power that the dam can generate compared to the economic impact. According to Cambodia's geography, it can clearly be seen that hydroelectric power is not appropriate for the dam. The assessment already shows how the geography of the land is not suitable for hydroelectric power. Moreover, building dams require wide land space, generating carbon footprints. Therefore, the cost of building the dam is not worth it as hydroelectric power cannot be used effectively to produce power. The Cambodian government might consider another clean source of energy since hydroelectric power is not going well and the opportunity cost of constructing the dam is beyond what the dam will provide to Cambodia's country. For example, the migration of fish will make many people lose income and the forest which is enriched with plants for medicine is forced to go, leading to more poor people in the country. The compensation native people get is not worth it at all because they can generate more income in the long term.

In conclusion, the Lower Sesan 2 dam has a severe effect on local people by disrupting their fishing area and their hometown and the ecosystem by destroying the forest. The government of Cambodia and China pay attention to building the dam without a reasonable responsibility plan for native communities and the environment.

