

What China-Built Dam Destroyed Environment

China's Belt and Road Initiative is one of Asia's widest dams in Cambodia's Mekong River Basin which build on numerous problem that dstroyed environment and economic in Cambodia. The huge source of income of the country was cut off and millions of people were struggle by human made dams

Thousands of Cambodian were affected by the BRI infrastructure projects. Environment and ecosystem in the country were all destroyed. The old villages that they use to live, fields for planting crops and herb, or even grave were submerged by the dam. But the bigger problem is that the source of income and food that they used to have were all gone. Mekong River is ginormous freshwater where thousands species fish lives. Majority of Cambodian income were come from catching and selling fish, growing crops such as rice, fruits, and vegetables in the coastal plains along the river, and collecting forest product such as herbs, nuts, and seeds. Moreover, the environmental labs tested the water and it shown the water is polluted and not suitable for drinking, therefore people have to buy drinking water instead. This increase living expenses for people in the country.

Cambodian people were forced to left their home and not able to catch fish in the area that they were moved to, so they have to set a sail for fishing which add more cost for them to find income. They used to sold large amounts of big and meaty fish that can sell for very high price, but now fishes that they catch are too small to sell and earn money.

Moving on to the economic side, The reason that Cambodian government agree with this project is because they may have problem and struggle to get funding from Industrial and Commercial Bank of China in the future. Cambodian government has to handle many impact works from the dam project, finding appropriate compensation and new skill for people in the country, and exploring energy sources. By comparing lost people income and cost of displacement caused by the BRI dam with the electricity, gigawatt hour, that the dam have to generate cause a question about if it was really worth the cost since electricity is still in short supply and inconstant in Cambodia and the country is unsuitable for hydroelectric power. In addition, the dam also emits large amount of carbon dioxide and methane and carbon footprints.

Furthermore, cost of BRI project, bot environmental and human, were as high as in other parts of Asia and Africa. A trillion dollar of investing, yet it come without obligation for protecing the right of vulnerable communities. They might have to provide needed loans for infrastructure, but also preparing stage for abuses to happen if companies involved acknowledge the reserch of social and environmental inpact that affected on the communities

In conclusion, it can be concluded that China can Cambodia's government were more concerned about money and advantage that they would earn from building the China's Belt and Road Initiative that the environment and ecosystem that they to lose. It can be normal today, but can be worsen in the future.