

How a China-Built Dam Destroyed an Ecosystem and Livelihoods

Building the Asia's widest dam, the Lower Sesan 2, cause many significant impacts to all of aspects, both people and environment. This affects people in many ways including their living area, jobs, and styles of living. This also affects the environment by affecting the marine life and forest. Moreover, this makes the effect to the economic by giving the question of "Does it worth when comparing to the losses"

Many people who live in Mekong River basin receive many influences from building this dam. There are thousands of people who lost their home. Moreover, minorities and indigenous who live in that area have no place to live, and there is no official support from the government for this problem. People who work on the fishery in that area have a significant impact, as their income from this job is dramatically decrease from catching 40 kilos to almost 2 kilos per day. After the construction of this dam was finished, there were many villages were destroyed by flooded. There are about 4,000 to 5,000 people must deal with this affect, as their food, income is mostly from the fish. It is obvious that building this dam make important affects to people and minorities in many ways.

In addition, the environment was harm by this situation including both marine life and forest. This causes a very severe impact to the marine life. As we know that Mekong River is one of the most abundant river basins in the southeast Asia. This dam interrupts the fish from going up and down, their feeding, and reproduction. This harm the fish for the whole species and this might cause the fish have no shelter and reducing the amount of them dramatically. Apart from marine life, the forest has affected too. They have to cutting down trees for making the large dam. This could affect the wildlife and causing the deforestation.

Not only the environmentalists concern about this problem, but the economists also concern about the economic which cause by this problem too. To compare their losses and gains, economist might think about the optimization of the worthiness of building this dam. They lost the fishery income which effect many people to lose their jobs. This question "Does it worth when comparing to the losses" is still controversial between the environmentalists and economists, as we know that electricity supply in Cambodia is not enough and uncertain, but their gigawatt per hour is worth the cost that they spent.

Lastly, this harm could be alleviated by compensating from the government. However, the communities were forced to accept the offers that government give around 6,000 dollars per household. In reality, this amount of money is not enough for their actual lost: they have to lose their job and need to find a new one. To sum up, there would be concluded as the bad management and low compensate for affected people.