Civil Society and Wetland Management

Group 3 – “Baan Phung 1 team”

Our research question

- Main question: What has been the role of civil society and people organizations in wetland recovery?
- Sub question:
  - How has civil society addressed the issue of women in wetland management?
  - How has the interaction between civil society and local authorities/government been?
  - How have civil society and people organization addressed the issue of local livelihoods?

What data?

- Tuesday August 4
  - Informal group discussion with host family
- Wednesday August 5
  - “Tak bat” with monks/visit temple
  - Visit Rasi Salai Dam site
  - Group meeting with Meh Pah and P’Sanam, Taam Moon Association (TMA)
  - Visit TMA learning center and fish conservation area
  - Observe TMA monthly meeting
  - Visit (by boat): Reservoir area; farmland; community forest and dong phu din; salt site; aquaculture fish farm
- Thursday August 6
  - Visit the “Green Market”

What tool?

- Group discussion
- In-depth interview
- Non participant observation
- Structured observation
- Photography
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<th>Question</th>
<th>What Tool?</th>
<th>What Data?</th>
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<td>Civil society, women, and water management</td>
<td>• Group discussion • In-depth interview • Non participant observation • Structured observation • Photography</td>
<td>• Role of women leadership • NGO assessment tools • Activities for women</td>
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<td>Civil society and local authority/government agency interaction</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Chronology of relationship between government, civil society and people orgs • Different forms of communication/engagement between government, civil society and people orgs</td>
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<td>Civil society and local livelihoods</td>
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<td>• Local livelihood activities supported by civil society and PO • Other activities of civil society and PO that support local livelihoods</td>
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### Findings: Civil society, women, and water management

#### Findings
- Role of women leadership in the movement and the association activities
- NGOs did gender impact analysis
- Organized livelihoods activity for women such as weaving group, savings group, and green market project

#### Future research
- How to balance the involvement of women in association activities?
- How does it implies gender quality?

### Findings: Civil society and local authority/government agency interaction

- **Phase I:** Before dam construction (1991) there was both lack of consultation with civil society and awareness from civil society in terms of the impact of projects on wetland and community livelihood
- **Phase II:** Since formation of Taam Moon Assoc, civil society has been trying to engage with local authority for a more inclusive wetland management system, and succeeded in implementing a community – driven wetland – recovery plan (2003)
- **Phase III:** Past 3 – 4 years, more collaboration between civil society and local authority/government on making decisions regarding water management on the Khong-Chi-Mun river basin (e.g. the opening of Rasi Salai Dam)

### Findings: Civil society and local livelihoods

- Assembly of the poor is establishing micro-finance program to address livelihoods of the people.
- Farmer can go back to wet land and do farming after people association negotiated water level with the government.
- Green Market has been established by Taam People Association to support the economy for local people.
**Challenges of data collection**

- Language
  - Technical terms and local terms can be lost in translation (despite our highly skilled translator!)
- Takes more time to undertake the research
- Time limitations, and limitations in access to some interviewees
- The issues are complex
  - Difficult to structure questions and answers
- Challenges of understanding the local political context and history
- We sometimes forgot to arrange permissions for photography
- Opportunity: New researchers can ask new questions/ see the Rasi Salai in new ways

**How we analyzed the data**

- Carefully considered our research questions
  - Not too complex
  - Link only two ideas together at a time
  - Recognized our conceptual framework in the questions: “civil society & people organizations”; “gender”; civil society-government relations; and local livelihoods
- Brainstormed the answers to the question by reflecting on the days fieldwork
- Evaluated the answers by:
  - Drew on field notes, and presented evidence that we collected
  - Triangulated data from multiple sources
  - Deliberated the answer (peer review!)

**Thank you for listening**