

Amphibious House as a Solution for Sustainable Livelihood Development in the Upper Mekong Delta

Nguyen Hong Quan^{a*}, Vu Thi Thu Ha^a, Andrew Wyatt^b, Ho Long Phi^a

^a*Center of Water Management and Climate Change (WACC) Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh city (VNU – HCM), Vietnam*

^b*International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam*

Abstract

People in the Mekong delta, Vietnam, especially those from the Plain of Reeds, the Long Xuyen Quadrangle, used to live with flood. In the past years, due to the economic development (e.g. Rice production) and safety the government has spent a lot of efforts in building hydraulic structures (e.g. polder, dyke) for rice cultivation and resident areas. However, in the recent years there are some issues appeared from structure development in the areas e.g. the decreasing rice production inside the polders, as well as limited livelihood model in the dyke – based resident areas. To overcome these issues, an attempt from the Mekong delta development plan is to develop a “Room for the river” project in which amphibious house can be considered as a suitable solution for sustainable livelihood development in the areas. In this presentation, first we review how the local people used floating/amphibious house in the regions. Next we provide some typical reasons on adapting the concept of “Room for the river” in the upper of the Mekong delta. Finally, we introduce the amphibious house as one of solutions for sustainable livelihood development in the Mekong delta

Keywords: Amphibious house; Long Xuyen Quadrangle; Mekong delta; Plain of Reeds, Sustainable livelihood development

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: hongquanmt@yahoo.com