WHICH PATH TO TAKE?
Pathways for the Nu-Salween-Thanlwin River

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Introduction

• A range of visions – or “pathways” - exist for the future of the Salween River
  • Electricity generation, ranging from large dams to decentralized and renewable energy
  • Large dams for water transfer
  • National parks and peace parks, for environmental conservation and ecotourism
  • Regional economic integrations for national economic growth, and/or local approaches for local economies
  • We ask:
    • Why some pathways are given more consideration than others?
    • Who is included/ excluded from decision-taking?
    • What are the implications of downplaying alternatives, including in terms of attaining diverse policy goals?

Making sense of contrasting visions and policies: A “pathways” approach

• Choice of technology
• What knowledge is valued in decision-making? (science? Local knowledge?)
  • How are assessment tools, such as EIA used?
• Type of government institutions, policies, and extent of democratization
• Space for civil society
• Types of business, and their accountability

Pathway - “the particular directions in which interacting social, technological and environmental systems co-evolve over time”

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Choosing a pathway (and dismissing another) is a political process, and therefore shaped by power, resources and legitimacy claims
Which path to take?:
“Opening Up” and “Broadening Out”

- Pathways can be contrasted against high-level, cross-cutting policy goals
  - How can decision making: be inclusive, informed, and accountable; reduce poverty; be sustainable; and promote peace and social justice?
- “Opening Up” and “Broadening Out”
  - Participatory and deliberative;
  - Assessment methods that consider more than economic least cost, but an array of social and environmental values;
  - Value a diversity of knowledge and perspectives;
  - Design decision-making processes to consider rights, equity and power; and
  - Give serious consideration to a range of options and possible alternatives

Thank you for listening

http://csds-chula.org/salween-water-governance/

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