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**“Water Security and Development in the Mekong River Basin”**

*Teaching Water: Global Perspectives on a Resource in Crisis*

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**Time Tag: 3:08 – 6:30**

**Introduction**

**Content**

The water use and competition issues on the Mekong are timeless and complex

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**6:31 – 11:29**

**Geography and Characteristics, Slides 2-4**

**Content**

Source and path of the Mekong River

Countries through which the river flows or which it abuts

Lower Mekong Basin

Tonlé Sap river/lake

**Viewing Questions**

*Looking at a map of the region and where the river begins and its path, what issues or conflicts might arise?*

*How is the Tonlé Sap potentially affected by upstream activities and what are possible consequences?*

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**11:30 – 12:57**

**Choices**

**Content**

“Environmental services” of a river.

**Viewing Questions**

*How are hydropower dams compatible or incompatible with the environmental services of the Mekong?*

*How does and/or should make decisions on how to make use of the river’s resources and potential?*

*How would you weigh the benefits of generating energy vs maintaining the world’s most productive fresh-water fishery?*

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**12:58 – 17:19**

**“Old Dreams and New Dangers,” Slide 5**

## **Content**

Colonial France's "River Road to China"  
Cold War-era Mekong Committee  
Food Security  
Climate Change  
Regional peace and stability  
Coordination  
The myth of sustainable development

## **Viewing Questions**

*How has development/use of the Mekong been viewed over time and how did the political and environmental landscape of the time inform those views?*  
*How is the future of the Mekong and related projects potentially directly affected by climate change?*

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**17:20 – 48:50**

## **Hydropower Dams in China and the Lower Mekong, Slides 6-16**

## **Content**

Storage capacity  
Mekong River Commission  
Fish migration and food security  
China considers the Upper Mekong as a national river (Lancang Jiang)  
Chinese dams as "enablers" of Lower Mekong dams  
Steepest incline/largest hydropower potential is within China's borders  
Laos as the "battery of Southeast Asia"  
Sediment trapping and consequences for the Mekong Delta.  
Potential for meeting region's energy needs  
Need for coordination of inevitable dam projects  
Concerns for food security, regional peace and stability, and the future of the Mekong Delta  
Sub-regional power grid  
Obstacles

## **Viewing Questions**

*How are Lower Mekong dams dependent on Chinese dams?*  
*What does China's view of the Upper Mekong as a national river and its position that it has no obligation to its downstream neighbors mean for the countries of the Lower Mekong Basin?*  
*How should they approach negotiations with China; collectively or individually?*  
*What does the experience of the Xayaburi Dam say about the effectiveness of the Mekong River Commission and prospects for collaboration?*  
*Why is the Mekong Delta under threat from dam projects on the Mekong?*  
*What are potential issues with continued development without coordination?*

*How would a sub-regional power grid address the concerns of all interested parties?*

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**48:51 – 49:30**

**Conclusion, Slide 17**

Content

Summarized in Slide 17