

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**  
**Office of the Auditor General of the Union**

**Erosion Control Management of Mekong River Basin in Myanmar**  
**( Summarized Audit Report )**

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# **Erosion Control Management of Mekong River Basin in Myanmar**

## **( Summarized Audit Report )**

### **Introduction**

1. Myanmar SAI carried out an Environmental audit by using Compliance and Performance audit approach focusing on Erosion Control Management of Mekong River Basin in Myanmar

### **Audit Objectives**

2. The audit objectives for Myanmar SAI are as follows:
- i. To evaluate whether the system of erosion control management for Mekong River Basin in place.
  - ii. To assess whether the system of erosion control management for Mekong River Basin is met its goals.
  - iii. To examine whether the project regarding erosion control management for Mekong River Basin is carried out in efficient and effective manner and in accordance with respective rules and procedures.

### **Audit Scope**

3. Myanmar SAI focused the conservation works of Mekong River bank erosion, the construction of Retaining Walls, performed by Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, DWIR, under Ministry of Transport from 2002-2003 to 2011-2012 excluding 2003-2004 and 2010-2011.

## **Audit Methodology**

4. Myanmar SAI applied the following audit methodology during the course of environmental audit.

- i. Collecting data and obtain the necessary audit documents by making
  - Interview
  - Enquiry
  - Questionnaires
- ii Performing analysis and making scan and evaluate upon data collected.
- iii Site visit to the approaching area of Mekong River.
- iv Conducting evaluation and review on audit reports submitted by regional audit office for construction of retaining walls built from 2002-2003 to 2011-2012.
- v Examining and verifying some necessary documents such as review of use of fund for constructions, payment system, compliance of contract agreement etc.

## **The Audit Findings**

### **Specific requirements for Laws and regulations**

5. Environmental Conservation Law has been promulgated in March 2012 and there is no specific and detailed descriptions regarding erosion control in this law. Specific rules, regulations, environmental standards and norms for erosion control management in Myanmar are required to develop. Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry is now attempting to enact rules and

regulations for Environmental Conservation Law by coordinating with other ministries responsible for erosion control and environmental conservation.

6. Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation are implementing some plans or projects regarding erosion control management system in the targeted areas of Myanmar. But project regarding erosion control management system in Mekong River Basin, is not yet formulated.

7. Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR) performs the functions of maintaining water ways and preventing river banks erosion in line with the conservation of water resources and rivers law. DWIR is carrying out conservation of Mekong river bank erosion. It could affect partially for the erosion control management.

#### **Lack of Sufficient research projects with respect to erosion control management**

8. Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR) is not able to make specific research projects for erosion control management in Mekong River and there are no research papers and reports for erosion control management of Mekong River Basin.

#### **Lack of Sufficient Performance**

9. The construction of Retaining Walls for Mekong River had been performed by DWIR since fiscal year 2002-2003. Up to fiscal year 2011-2012, total length of retaining walls constructed is only 1,900 feet and it is still needed to construct further retaining walls to maintain the river bank of Mekong. There is no master plan for Mekong River and only one project per year is implemented for conservation of river bank erosion of Mekong River. Sufficient projects could

not be performed due to the budget limit for DWIR and other constraint such as being a border river for Myanmar, etc.

### **Public Awareness**

10. There is a weakness on co-operation and coordination with local people with respect to preventing erosion and also a lack of education programs for awareness of causes of erosion at the Mekong River Basin.

### **Current Physical Situation**

11. According to site visit, environmental conservation of Mekong River cannot be performed effectively and efficiently. DWIR could not perform the maintenance of some Retaining Walls after completion period because of budget limit. Bank erosions in some part of the Mekong River could be seen during site visit although these may not cause huge problems for erosion in Mekong Basin.

### **Lack of Cooperation with International Community**

12. At present, representatives of responsible ministries from Myanmar attend the seminars and workshops arranged by Mekong River Commission (MRC) for capacity building purpose. Myanmar is a dialogue partner of MRC. If Myanmar becomes a member of MRC, the environmental conservation including erosion control management, sustaining fisheries, identifying opportunities for agriculture, maintaining freedom of navigation, flood management and preserving important ecosystems will be implemented more effectively and efficiently due to the potential opportunity of aids and assistances from international community.

## Recommendations

13. The respective ministries responsible for implementing the erosion control system should take the following actions.

- i. For Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and DWIR
  - (a) Promulgate the specific law, rules and regulation regarding the erosion control management.
- ii. For Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR)
  - (a) Encourage the significance of the sufficient projects to maintain the environmental conservation of Mekong River basin by preparing and implementing master plan of conservation of Mekong River.
  - (b) Make awareness of how to contribute in preventing erosion among local people in Mekong region by using public media and enhancing cooperation with local community.
  - (c) Encourage the improvement of the erosion control management system by promoting the bilateral and multilateral co-operation with regional groups and Mekong River Commission.



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