

Mong Ton (“Tasang”) hydroelectric scheme: Shan State, Myanmar

“The second longest river flowing through Southeast Asia [after the Lancangjiang–Nam Khong–Mekong] is the Salween. Until it reaches its delta in Burma, the Salween flows almost entirely through sharply rising gorges on either side of its banks. In Tibet and western Yunnan some of these gorges rise to a height of 3,000 metres above the river. Even in the region where the Salween flows between Burma and Thailand, where the height of the surrounding gorges is much reduced, the topography is such that it still provides an ideal physical setting for dam construction.

Like the Mekong, the Salween —the last free-flowing river in South-east Asia— rises in Eastern Tibet at a height above 4,000m, where for several hundred km it runs parallel to both the Mekong and the Yangtze, forming part of what is known as the ‘Three Parallel Rivers’ region. After passing through Yunnan, where it is known as the *Nu Jiang*, or ‘Angry River’, a reflection on the speed of its flow, it enters and flows through Burma.

For a distance of some 120km during its passage through Burma it forms the national boundary between Burma and Thailand. It then resumes its course through Burma alone, finally emptying into the Gulf of Martaban at Moulmein. There is irrefutable evidence of the problems that can be caused by the construction of large-scale dams on previously free-flowing rivers...

Of great importance to any discussion of the Salween’s future as a prospective site for a series of dams is the rich biodiversity existing along its entire course. In addition there is a remarkably diverse set of minority ethnic population groups in the regions through which it flows, both in China and Burma. Indeed, the presence of ethnic minorities along the Salween in Burma has been the touchstone for the vigorous opposition to the plans for the construction of dams on the river from a varied range of advocacy NGOs, most particularly in Thailand.

Both in Burma and in China there is concern among human rights advocates that dam building will lead to the displacement of populations. And this prospect, as discussed later, is seen by critics of the Burmese regime as yet another example of that government’s efforts to impose control over dissident minorities.

[Of the aggregate power yield] 10% generated was to be provided free to Burma. As of August 2006 an agreement was in place for the first dam to be built by the major Chinese construction firm, Sinohydro, partly with Chinese funding, with work set to begin in December 2007.”**

Milton Osborne The Water Politics of China and Southeast Asia: Rivers, Dams, Cargo Boats and the Environment

** Following an armed uprising in Shan State arguably precipitated by this agreement, the Project has not yet been implemented, and the EIA alone is proving impossible to carry out.



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Salween Basin

Year: 2011 | Revision date: -- | Revision type: --

Regional report: [Water Report 37](#)

PDF version: PDF English

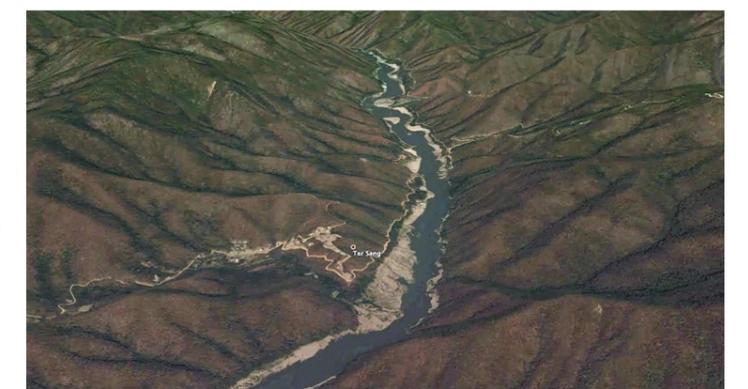
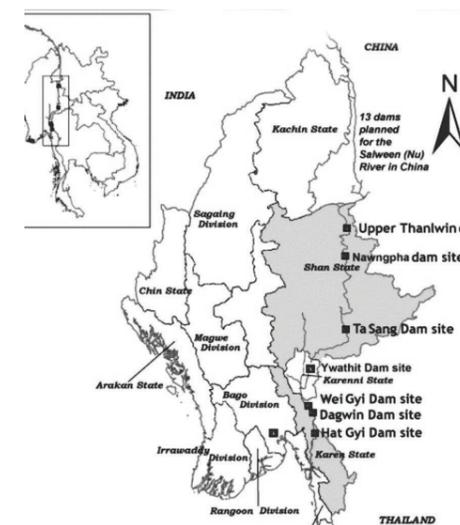
Detailed map:

Tables:

Disclaimer

Geography, population and climate

The basin of the Salween river, also known as Nu river in China and Thanlwin river in Myanmar, is a transboundary basin with a total area of 320 000 km² distributed between China (53 percent), Myanmar (42 percent) and Thailand (5 percent) (Table 1). Approximately 2 400 km long, the Salween river is the second longest river in Southeast Asia after the Mekong river. The river originates 4 000 m above sea level on the mountain Tangula in the Himalayas on the Tibetan plateau in China, then flows southward through Yunnan province, China, down through Shan and Kayah states in the east of Myanmar, along the border between Thailand and Myanmar for about 120 km, then again enters Myanmar and passes through Kayah and Mon states before emptying into the Gulf of Martaban in the Andaman Sea. The Moei river, originating in Thailand, becomes the border between Myanmar and Thailand and joins the downstream Salween river, which has also become the border river between Myanmar and Thailand, before again entering Myanmar.



Video fly-through, Tasang project up-basin: ascending Nam Pang valley

SUMMARY OF UPPER THANLWIN (MONG TON) HYDROPOWER PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - TAUNGGYI DISTRICT

Tuesday 10th March, 2015

VENUE
The first public EIA/SIA scoping meeting for the Upper Thanlwin (Mong Ton) Hydropower Project Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) was held on Tuesday 10th March between 2pm-5:30pm at the Taunggyi Hotel, Taunggyi, Shan State, Myanmar.

DISTRIBUTION
This summary of the EIA and SIA Public Scoping Meeting held in Taunggyi has been sent to Taunggyi district and Hsahseng and Pekon township administrations for distribution and is also available to the public on the Mong Ton Hydropower Project website: www.mon-ton-hydro.com

OBJECTIVE
The objective for the Public Scoping Meeting was to:

- Inform the public of the Mong Ton Hydropower Project
- Present the proposed EIA and SIA activities
- Gain meaningful input from project affected persons (PAPs) into the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment process.

Public scoping meetings are also required to be held in accordance with Myanmar EIA Procedure which is administered by Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF). This is consistent with Asian Development Bank's (ADB) environmental assessment guidelines. Only by inclusion of such input can the issues and concerns raised by legitimate PAPs be addressed during the environmental and social data collection phase of the EIA/SIA process. Further information on Myanmar EIA Procedure can be obtained from the Myanmar Environmental Information Portal at <http://meip.gms-ec.org/8080/>.

ATTENDEES
The meeting was attended by a total of 179 participants (136 males and 43 females) of key stakeholders including community members and representatives of:

National parties:

- (1) NLD – National League for Democracy
- (2) SNLD – Shan Nationalities League for Democracy
- (3) SNDDP – Shan Nationalities Democratic Party

Dam public consultation ends in protest, criticism

By Lun Min Mang | Wednesday, 11 March 2015

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Doubts surrounded both the conduct and the outcome of the first public consultation meeting on the Mong Ton Dam in Taunggyi yesterday.



Activists wearing headbands calling for an end to dams on the Thanlwin River stand up during a public consultation for the 7000-megawatt Mong Ton Dam held in Taunggyi yesterday. (Lun Min Mang/The Myanmar Times)

BURMA PARTNERSHIP

Environmental Conservation Council Public Meeting on 30th March 2015

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Determining stream baseline elevation, using Google Earth [video]



Chinese engineers doing test drilling for the Mong Ton (Tasang) Dam

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Courtney Weatherly

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