

11.2 GENERAL WORKSHOP

11.2.1 GENERAL

“The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development”, having met at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, proclaims that:

“Principle 10: Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.”

This is based on the following premises: All the resources belong principally to concerned citizens in the region. Therefore, the concerned citizens have a right to manage and use the resources properly, and should decide methods of utilization and development of the resources. The concerned citizens means the nation at an international level, citizens of each provinces at the national level, and local people living in the district at the provincial level.

Taking the above into account, the Study is carried out with participation of concerned citizens at both national and provincial levels as well as possible public opening of information, although the Study is at an environmental assessment stage as 1st F/S. A total of three times of General Workshop and the same times of Site Workshop are planned during the Study period.

World Bank recommended a public opening of information and reflecting opinions of local people for planned Nam Theun 2 HEPP in “Aide Memoire (November 9, 1995)”. GOL executed positively public opening of information with NTEC and held more than 200 times of workshops where 5,000 persons in total participated for two years. By using these experiences, GOL manages General and Site Workshops for the Project with financial and technical supports of JICA and the Study Team.

11.2.2 FIRST GENERAL WORKSHOP

(1) General

The 1st General Workshop was held during the 2nd Field Investigation to explain about project features, contents of EIA, results of IEE, schedule of the Workshop, etc. aiming at the exchange of views with local people and NGOs, by a positive challenge for free access to information. As recommended in the Inception Report, a Workshop Preparation Committee has been organized and a program of workshops has been consolidated together with MIH/HPO in advance.

The points of the General Workshop are as summarized in Table 11.2.1. The execution program and list of participants are given in Supporting Report (V)3.1.1. Minutes of Meeting is shown in Supporting Report (V)3.1.2. Also, reduced copies of OHP sheets used in presentations are

shown in Supporting Report (V)3.1.4.

Table 11.2.1 Outline of the 1st General Workshop

No.	Item	Contents	Remarks
1.	Date	November 26 and 27, 1998 (2 days)	Detailed schedule is shown in Supporting Report (V)3.1.1.
2.	Place	Lao PDR, Vientiane City, Langxane Hotel, Conference Room	Well-facilitated hotel was judged to be appropriate because of many participants.
3.	Participants	80 participants in total . (i) 31 from 23 organizations form GOL including local governments, (ii) 15 from local resident representatives from 3 districts, (iii) 8 from 4 international organizations, (iv) 7 from 7 local NGOs, (v) 4 from 4 international NGOs and (vi) 15 from others (EIA Committee, Study Team, preparation Committee)	Participants were selected based on HPO's proposal. Invitation letters were sent at the end of October and persons who replied the letter were accepted to participate. EIA sub-contractor also participated.
4.	Moderator	Facilitators (Canadian 1 person and Lao 1 person) and Translators (2 Laos) were recruited from outside.	Workshop were proceeded with two languages, in English and Lao in principle. Moderators were recruited from outside for neutrality of the Workshop.
5.	Q & A	A total of 6 chairmen nominated from each agency of MIH/STENO/MIC/MFA/JICA answered on the matter only related to government policy decision.	The 4 Study Team members (Team Leader, Hydropower, Natural Environment, and Social Environment) answered questions on technical matters or study results.
6.	Program	1st day: a general meeting and explanation. 2nd day: question-and-answer.	Sectional Committees were not held, as this was the first workshop.
7.	Distributed References	Advance: Project Summary, Summary of IEE Report (English/Lao) That day: Project Layout Map After: OHP Copies for presentation by S/Team (English)	On the day of the Workshop, Inception, Progress, and IEE Reports were presented. OHP copies were distributed-on demand.

(2) Minutes of 1st General Workshop

The 1st General Workshop was held at the main conference room of Lane Xang Hotel in Vientiane City on November 26 and 27, 1998. A total of 104 persons and 80 persons were participated on the 1st day and 2nd day respectively. On the front stage, representatives of the related organizations seated as chairmen, who joined to the discussion from time to time as requested. The six (6) chairmen consisted of the vice-minister of MIH, representatives from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Science Technology & Environmental Organization (STENO), Ministry of Information and Culture, and JICA, and the technical adviser of Environmental Assessment Committee. Other participants were the representatives from local government, local people, press, and local and foreign NGOs.

The Study Team explained progress and results of the Study mainly for contents of the Inception Report and the IEE Report with simultaneous interpreting between English and Lao and two (2) sets of overhead projector (OHP) for both English and Lao. After the explanation by the Study Team on the 1st day, discussions were proceeded in the 2nd day. In the discussion, one of the nominated facilitators recorded the contents of discussion by stenography on the A1 size board prepared at the center of the room in both English and Lao.

The main points of the above discussion are as summarized below:

- (i) Representative from Mekong Committee: As the medium and small schemes are doubtful

from the economic viewpoint, it is recommended to evaluate carefully those from an economic and financial aspect.

Study Team: It is too early to evaluate economic feasibility at present since the topographic and hydrological conditions have not been clear yet. The study results from an economic aspect would be reported at the next Workshop, though its accuracy might not be satisfactory because study priority is given to the environmental survey and topographic survey for the reservoir area, and geological drillings for the dam site would not have been performed in the Study.

- (ii) **Representative of a consulting firm:** It seems difficult to carry out EIA at this stage when definite scale of the development has not been consolidated. Therefore, screening of EIA should be made first.

Study Team: Alternative study will be carried out in parallel with EIA, so that satisfactory results of EIA will be obtained at the final stage of this study. In the contract with JICA, such intention has been reflected.

- (iii) **Representative of an international NGO:** He confirmed first whether or not an official contact with local people has been made.

Study Team: Field investigation have been carried out several times at the prospective dam site and reservoir area. Especially for the Thaviang Sub-District, hydrological observation and topographic survey are now being done. But, the formal presentation on the Project to the inhabitants has not yet been made. People in the project area were invited to this General Workshop. Close communication with local people will be continued through the social-environmental survey.

The above questionnaire directly asked the representatives of local people upon consent of the chairmen and confirmed them of the impression to this project implementation. One of the participants of Thaviang Sub-District expressed intention of welcome for the Project as the general opinion of them on the condition that the living standard is improved by the resettlement.

- (iv) **Representative from d/s of dam site:** He expressed his welcome for the Project. But he requested that the implementation of the Project would improve the living standard of the local people as the present conditions are very bad concerning traffic, communication and electricity.
- (v) **Representative from Kethpiseth Xaisomboun:** Local people are expecting regional economic growth by development of hydro-potential in the Nam Ngiep River basin, since merits of the Project seem to be larger than demerits considering the present condition. Therefore, it is requested to give sufficient consideration to the regional development. He proposed establishment of a trust-fund for the regional economic development.
- (vi) **Representative from Bolikhamxay Province:** He explained there is a provincial intention to secure the local people's livelihood by the chance of the Project. The Province agreed that with the execution of the project, a lot of merit for the local people would be expected by the Project. Details of required facilities to be included in the Project were stable electric supply, improvement of irrigation facilities, traffic improvement, increasing job opportunity,

provision of public services like well-equipped hospitals, etc. For further process, he requested close contact with Provincial Office respecting a democratic approach in the project implementation.

- (vii) Representative from Ministry of Justice: He proposed a thorough watershed management under the Project, because he was concerned very much about the shifting cultivation in the river basin. Also he requested to take care of the influence to water quality at the downstream reach.
- (viii) Representative from STENO: He stressed necessity of this project implementation, as the economic development of Lao PDR is strongly dependent on the maximum use of hydro-potential in the country.
- (ix) Representative from MIH: He explained the present status and policy on electricity in Lao PDR, and the exchanged MOU for trading national power with Thailand and Vietnam. He introduced an on-going national plan of about 3,000MW export to Thailand by the year 2006 and 1,500 to 2,000 MW to Vietnam by the year 2010.
- (x) Other comments: Several questionnaires indicating interest of the people were raised such as concrete time schedule for project construction, definite area to be inundated, and so on.

(3) Requirements at 1st General Workshop and Study Team's Comment

Assuming the fact that most of the responses on the Project from the people were favorable for project implementation, their expectation of the Project seems large. Therefore, the stance of the people for the Project is probably dependent on the contents of the proposal for environmental mitigation.

Although allocation of a sufficient budget for the environmental mitigation is possible, the issue to be solved is the establishment of the strategy for regional socio-economic development and the definite plan for securing people's livelihood. It is very important to propose a firm rural development plan taking into consideration the said regional requirement.

Judging from the number of participants to the Workshop, interest of both local and foreign NGOs to the Project is deemed not so high at the present. However, studies should be examined in consideration of environmental requirements from project financing agencies to be raised at the stage of financial arrangement after the Study.

Since some participants might hesitate to speak in the Workshop, the Study Team prepared the Suggestion Sheets for all participants on the 1st day as questionnaires, and collected them in the morning on the 2nd day from twenty-nine (29) persons. Both the questionnaires and the Study Team's answer are shown in Supporting Report (V)3.1.3.

(4) Review of 1st General Workshop and Measures

(i) Preparation of Explanatory Papers

MIH requested to prepare distribution papers 3 weeks prior to the Workshop. As the 1st Workshop was held just after the preparation of the Progress Report and 10 days after commencement of the 2nd Field Investigation, preparation of the papers was made just before

the Workshop due to insufficient time.

For the 2nd Workshop, in which the result of the Interim Report will be explained, more sufficient reference data will be required. Therefore, the paper of about 20 pages will be prepared in both English and Lao and distributed at latest 3 weeks before the Workshop.

(ii) Public Reading of Reports

In the case of the Nam Theun-2 HEPP, various technical reports were presented for public reading and copies of it were handed with charge to the people who required it. As the same arrangement was requested for the Study, a positive solution will be made through a discussion between JICA and MIH.

(iii) Method of Presentation

A presentation at the Workshop was made using 2 sets of OHP for English and Lao. The proceedings were also made in both languages by an interpreter through wireless receivers distributed to each attendant. Communication at the Workshop, therefore, was deemed to be sufficient.

On the other hand, there were the comments such as (i) letters on OHP were illegible from the rear seat, (ii) screen was illegible because the format was different by each announcer, etc. Therefore, the following improvements were recommended for the next Workshop, (i) use of a larger font on OHP, (ii) standardization of format, (iii) distribution of copies of OHP sheets, and (iv) preparation of additional OHP set at the center of the conference room, so on.

(iv) Relation with EAC Meeting

As the 1st EAC Meeting was held just after the commencement of the Field Investigation and the 1st General Workshop was held just after the EAC Meeting, preparation works of both events suffered from time shortage. Therefore, a sufficient time interval will be kept between the 2nd EAC Meeting and 2nd General Workshop. Also, it was proposed to collect the Committee members' comments in writing on the Interim Report by the Study Team before the EAC Meeting.

(v) Publicity of JICA

JICA officers made the following campaign at the Workshop in response to the advice of JICA Laos Offices: (i) JICA's basic stance for the Nam Ngiep-1 HEPP was added to the agenda of the Workshop and explained, and (ii) a press release was issued after the Workshop.

(vi) Review of Study for Nam Theun-2 HEPP

The Study Team was requested to review promptly the studies on the Nam Theun-2 HEPP and reflect the useful result on this project after comparing the two schemes.

For the above request, the Study Team explained as follows: More than 10 years had passed from the completion of the feasibility study for the project. Huge documents and data had been prepared and 15 reports can be purchased. The Study Team will refer and compare construction unit prices, rural development study, and a resettlement plan which is deemed still useful at present, after reviewing almost all of the documents.

(vii) Setting up for Discussion at Village Level

In view of the difficulty in the joining of local people to the General Workshop due to remoteness, time and economical restrictions, it was advised to arrange field presentations and discussions with local people. In response to the above proposal, a site Workshop was carried out during the 3rd Field Investigation as the additional scope of the study upon consent of GOL and JICA. Its detail is as described in the foregoing Chapter.

(viii) Additional Traverse Survey

During the 1st Field Investigation from August to September 1998, a GPS-survey was performed by frequent use of helicopters and major point elevations were confirmed for the prospective reservoir area including Thaviang Sub-District. The survey revealed that there was a large elevation gap with the existing topographic map without mutual relation between the two. In addition, the point elevations were measured at the representative place in each village but these did not always show the lowest level of the village. Elevations of paddy field also had not been confirmed at that time.

Inundation of Thaviang Sub-District is a great concern in the Study, and the necessity of additional surveys was suggested at the EAC held in November 1998 not only for villages but also for dry and wet paddy fields.

Due to the above reasons, the Study Team proposed to JICA the supplemental survey works for grasping updated aspect of cultivating area, villages, roads, etc. at the Thaviang Sub-District as the additional scope of work. JICA approved the proposal to be carried out during the 3rd Field Investigation. Its detail is as given in the foregoing Chapter.

11.2.3 SECOND GENERAL WORKSHOP

(1) General

Following the 1st General Workshop at Vientiane in November 1998, the 2nd General Workshop was held in Pakxan of Bolikhamxay Province, which was located near the confluence of the Nam Ngiep River and the Mekong River and in the region affected by the Project as the downstream reach of the dam site. The Workshop was conducted in a conference room of a prefectural office for two days (net time) from June 9 afternoon to June 11 noon 1999 during the 4th Field Investigation. It aimed at explaining project features, interim results of alternative study, EIA interim report, and schedule of the Workshop, and at exchanging views with local people and NGOs, by a positive challenge for free access to information as performed in the 1st Workshop. The Workshop was conducted smoothly owing to efforts for careful preparation by MIH/HPO as counterparts.

The points of the General Workshop are as summarized in Table 11.2.2. Execution program and a list of participants are given in Supporting Report (V)3.2.1. Minutes of Meeting is shown in Supporting Report (V)3.2.2. Also, reduced copies of OHP sheets used in presentations are shown in Supporting Report (V)3.2.4.

Table 11.2.2 Outline of the 2nd General Workshop

No.	Item	Contents	Remarks
1.	Date	June 9 to 11, 1999 (3 days)	Detailed schedule is shown in Supporting Report (V)3.2.1.
2.	Place	Lao PDR, Pakxan, Bolikhamxay Province (140km from Vientiane), Prefectural Office, Conference Room (3rd floor)	The place is the only large conference room in Pakxan.
3.	Participants	120 participants in total: 6 Chairmen. (i) 39 from 19 organizations form GOL, (ii) 17 from 10 organizations from local governments of province and district, (iii) 35 from local resident representatives, (iv) 10 from 6 international organizations, and (v) 12 from others (EIA Committee, Study Team, preparation Committee). None from NGOs.	Invitation letters with summary of Interim Report (English/Lao) were sent at the beginning of May and persons who replied the letter were accepted to participate. EIA sub-contractor also participated. Participants from reservoir area moved by a big helicopter.
4.	Moderator	Facilitator (Lao 1 person), and Translators (2 Laos) were recruited from outside.	Workshop were proceeded with two languages, in English and Lao in principle. Moderators were recruited from outside for neutrality of the Workshop.
5.	Q & A	A total of 6 chairmen nominated from each agency of MIH/STENO/MIC/MFA/JICA answered on the matter only related to government policy decision.	The 4 Study Team members (Team Leader, Hydropower, Natural Environment, and Social Environment) answered questions on technical matters or study results.
6.	Program	1st day and 2nd day morning: a general meeting and explanation. 2nd day afternoon and 3rd day: question-and-answer.	Sectional Committees were not held.
7.	Distributed References	Advance:-Summary of Interim Report (English/Lao) That day: OHP Copies for presentation by S/Team (Lao)	On the day of the Workshop, the existing reports (Interim Report and EIA Interim Report) were presented.

(2) Minutes of 2nd General Workshop

The 2nd General Workshop was held in the main conference room of the Prefectural Office in Pakxan of Bolikhamxay Province for three days from June 9 to June 11, 1999. The number of participants was 116 persons on the 1st day, 113 persons on the 2nd day, and 110 persons on the 3rd day. Similar to the previous Workshop, representatives of the related organizations seated as chairmen on the front stage. The six chairmen consisted of the vice-minister of MIH, deputy governor of Bolikhamxay Province, representatives from STENO, Ministry of Information and Culture, and JICA, and the technical adviser of Environmental Assessment Committee. Other participants were 40 central government officials, 18 local government officials, 35 local people, 3 international organization representatives, 9 JICA and Embassy of Japan representatives, 5 EAC members, 8 Study Team and Sub-contractor members, 1 press, etc. Both local and foreign NGOs did not participated. Invitation letters with the summary of the Interim Report were sent one month before the Workshop. Reasons of absence were duplication with other conference, burden of expense, and so on.

Mr.Somboune, Vice-minister of MIH, opened the Workshop. Mr.Nagata, director of JICA, and Mr.Khamphanh, Deputy Governor of Bolikhamxay Province, presented general speeches regarding aim and meaning of the Workshop.

The Study Team explained the progress and results of the Study mainly for contents of the Interim Report and the EIA Interim Report, with simultaneous interpreting between English and Lao and three (3) sets of overhead projectors (OHP), one for English and two for Lao. After the

explanation by the Study Team from noon of the 2nd day, discussions proceeded until the 3rd day. In the discussion, one of the nominated facilitators recorded the contents of discussion by stenography. Reduced copies of the OHP sheets used in the presentations are shown in Supporting Report (V)3.2.2.

Details of the Minutes of Meeting are given in Supporting Report (V)3.2.2. The main points of the discussion are summarized below:

- (i) Representative from Xiengkhouang Province: The following two opinions were presented. First, exploration companies in Malaysia and Australia had been executing investigations for mining of gold and iron in Xiengkhouang Province. So far the investigation area was outside the Project catchment area. Secondly, Xiengkhouang Province supported the medium scale alternative for the dam, not the large scale one with FSL at EL.360m. Transportation conditions between Xiengkhouang Province and Bolikhamsay Province would be improved upon completion of the reservoir. Thaviang Sub-District submerged with the large scale alternative would play an important role as a port community in agricultural development and community revitalization of the Xiengkhouang Province.
- (ii) Representative of STENO: A question about the initial impounding period of the reservoir was raised. The Study Team replied that impounding would take 14~15 months considering duty release to the downstream area, though 12 months is technically sufficient.
- (iii) Representative of STENO: Questions regarding the following issues were presented: (1) water leakage from the reservoir, (2) soil conditions of the resettlement areas and cost required for land improvement, (3) source of surface and ground water for the resettlement areas, and (4) sediment and erosion in the upstream part of the reservoir. The Study Team explained present problems and issues awaiting further investigations.
- (iv) Representative from Ministry of Foreign Affairs: He raised a question on how the hydrology risk would be solved, because the Study Team explained shortage of hydrological data. The Study Team replied as follows: New hydrological stations were established and observation had started. The obtained data would be studied before the project implementation. At present the studies would be made with conservative values.
- (v) Representative from Bolikhamxay Province: The following two points were addressed: (1) necessity of a survey on artifacts such as precise objects in temples and caves, and (2) water release on Sunday on which energy would not be sold to Thailand. The Study Team explained as follows: No artifacts including old temples and caves were found in the preliminary survey. The Project area was not in the scenic Karstic limestone terrain. Even on Sunday when power generation would be stopped, 20m³/s of downstream release would be kept.
- (vi) Representative from Agriculture: He raised a question about countermeasures for rescue of animals remaining on a small island in the reservoir. The Study Team replied that resettlement of animals should be considered when clearing of the reservoir area is carried out before impounding though no islands would be produced in this Project.
- (vii) Representative from STENO: He asked a question on how the dam height would be selected among alternatives comparing advantages and impacts from both economic and environmental aspects. The Study Team explained that it should be determined taking all

the factors into account though many factors were intertwined. The low dam was preferable for the environment but was economically unfavorable. The high dam was economical though technically more difficult than the low dam. Investment in the high dam was advantageous but the investment would not be easy if construction cost is high.

- (viii) Representative from Bolikhamxay Province: The following were suggested: There was a potential of 40,000 ha of agricultural development in Bolikhamxay and 80m³/s of water would be required. In addition, new resettlement areas would require more water supply. Gravity flow irrigation was possible by using the re-regulating weir at EL.200m. The Study Team replied that further studies would be made for riparian release though the gravity irrigation seemed unrealistic.
- (ix) Participant from Vientiane: After discussion about sediment and forest conservation, he asked questions whether the compensation price was estimated based on the international standard or in consideration of Laotian local conditions, and whether the price of US\$2,000 in the other example was to be reviewed taking into account future improvement of life level. The Study Team replied that the costs for environment and compensation this time were estimated from economic costs and it would be necessary to execute realistic financial estimates.
- (x) Representative from Mekong Committee: The following questions were raised: (1) how many units would be in operation, (2) how operation of power generation and re-regulating pond was, (3) how possibility of waterborne disease due to water level fluctuation of 30m in the reservoir was, and (4) whether agriculture in the downstream area would be affected by stop of soil supply at the reservoir. The Study Team replied as follows: An operation plan of the re-regulating pond was explained with illustration. The number of turbine units was planned as 3-4 units but would depend on alternatives. A constant flow would be released from the re-regulating pond with a storage capacity of 6 million m³. Waterborne diseases did not cause problems in the Nam Ngum reservoir.
- (xi) Representative from Special Zone Xaisomboun: He asked the following questions: (1) whether the irrigated paddy fields of Thaviang Sub-District inundated by the reservoir would be compensated and soil conditions in the resettlement site would be better than before, and (2) how the transmission lines from Xaisomboun to Xiengkhouang to be completed in 2001 would be after inundation. The Study Team replied as follows: Paddy fields would be compensated. Soil capability in the resettlement site would be assessed with detailed soil investigations. As part of the inhabitants in Thaviang Sub-District had hoped to resettle to Pakxan, these issues would be studied in cooperation with Bolikhamxay Province.
- (xii) Representative from Labor Union: The following requests were given: (1) employment opportunities for villagers especially for the submerged villages should be created with priority, and (2) water released to the downstream area should be incorporated into the irrigation plan of Bolikhamxay Province. The Study Team replied that the employment opportunities would be given to the local people as much as possible after necessary job training.
- (xiii) Representative from National Assembly: The following was requested: It was important that the Project would accord with regional economy. The Project should include development programs such as consumable production, forestry, fruits production, tourism,

water resources, and flood mitigation.

- (xiv) Representative from Bolikhamxay Province: The following requests were presented: (1) Construction of the dam was acceptable and should be proceeded if the Project is economical. (2) Environmental and NGO matters would be minor issues compared with the Nam Ngum HEPP. (3) Development of 20,000 ha of idle land in the Province was expected. (4) The Study Team was requested to communicate with them for necessary investigations.
- (xv) Representative from Tha Thom District: He suggested that a resettlement plan should be prepared deliberately in parallel with infrastructure development, if Thaviang Sub-District would be inundated.

(3) Requirements at 2nd General Workshop and Study Team's Comment

In the 2nd General Workshop, favorable opinions were dominant from the local people, similar to the previous Workshop. The people were expecting to get benefits from the Project. Therefore, proposal for environmental mitigation measures in the next reports and Workshops would considerably affect the attitude of the local people including local governments toward the Project. Though budgetary allocation on an international level to environmental measures were possible, essential requirements were development strategies of regional economy and concrete plan of stable livelihood after resettlement. The hydropower planning stressing these points should be continued not only during the Study but also in the next stage so as not to disappoint the people's expectations.

Though participants from Lao PDR central and local governments, international organizations, and local people were more than that in the previous Workshop, no participants came from NGOs. However, as invitation letters with a summary report were sent one month before the Workshop, objectives of the Workshop were understood and many reply letters expressed their intention to participate in the next Workshop. Opinions from different viewpoints were not presented but it is natural because there are no actual problems observed in other projects such as cutting trees and resettlement before determining project implementation and insufficient EIA for nature preservation areas (NBCA). The Project would be implemented by IPP and financial arrangement would be commenced after submitting the Final Report. At that stage, comments and questions would be raised from international funding agencies as well as NGOs.

It seemed difficult that all participants understood a lot of information of the Interim Report within the limited time. The Study Team distributed a paper titled "Suggestion Sheets" to participants after explanation of the Report in afternoon of the 2nd day and collected them after the Workshop. Contents of the collected 67 suggestions with comments by the Study Team are given in Supporting Report (V)3.2.3.

(4) Review of 2nd General Workshop and Measures

(i) Preparation of Explanatory Papers

A summary of the Interim Report in 50 pages was prepared in both English and Lao. As the summary was sent with invitation letters to participants one month before the 2nd General Workshop, the Workshop was efficient due to better understanding. In the next Workshop at Vientiane in the beginning of December 1999, summary of the Final Report, in which comments of JICA and GOL would be reflected, would be used. Preparation of the Final Report is

expedited so as to submit the first draft by the end of September 1999 and the second draft by the beginning of November 1999, instead of the original schedule. Summary of the second draft would be distributed before the 3rd General Workshop.

(ii) Public Reading of Reports

As a result of discussion between JICA and MIH/HPO, the Interim Reports were presented for public reading in the 2nd General Workshop. If participants requested to obtain the copies of reports, it is proposed to distribute the Final Report in the next Workshop. Therefore, copies of the Final Report (second draft) would be provided to participants who would require the copies without charge.

(iii) Method of Presentation

Efforts were made for better understanding such as using OHP sheets with color, increasing number of OHP sheets, and adding OHP machines (3 in total). However, translation in Lao was not complete and all copies could not be distributed to the participants.

In the 3rd General Workshop, the following measures would be taken: early preparation of OHP sheets, complete translation into Lao, and distribution of complete set.

(iv) Period and Participants for Workshop

As the period of the 2nd General Workshop in June 1999 was a busy farming time of the rainy season, participants of local people came to the Workshop in bad road conditions stopping their farm work. Also, arrival of the large helicopter to the conference place was delayed for several hours. It seemed necessary to avoid the rainy season so that the local people could participate in the Workshop easily, though fixing the period would be difficult, because the Workshop was held in the process of report preparation.

In the 2nd General Workshop, upon review of the previous Workshop, 14 representatives from Thaviang Sub-District (upstream area) and 3 representatives from Hom District could participate in the Workshop using the large helicopter arranged by Lao MIH/HPO. In addition 17 representatives from local government of Xiengkhouang Province, Xaisomboun Special Zone, and Bolikhamxay Province, 8 representatives of local people from Bolikhan District, and 10 representatives of local people from Pakxan District participated. It was beneficial to hold the Workshop in Pakxan, which led to the participation of a lot of concerned people in the region. Especially, meaningful participation of inhabitants of the reservoir area in the rainy season was not realized without mobilization of the helicopter.

As well as local people, participation from central government with transportation by a large bus from Vientiane and arrangement of logging in Pakxan was good. Also, the conference room in government office of Bolikhamxay Province was sufficient for more than 100 participants and was expected to be used for the future workshops.

On the other hand, some considerations would be necessary because no people from NGOs participated in the Workshop. Invitation letters with summary of the Final Report would be issued for the 3rd General Workshop.

(v) Additional Survey on Potential Resettlement Area

As it was pointed out that basic surveys on resettlement sites were insufficient in the 2nd EAC, discussion was made among MIH/IPO, the Study Team, and representatives from local governments. Respective proposals on the resettlement sites were presented from the local government of Xiengkhouang Province, Bolikhamxay Province, Xaisomboun Special Zone, Tha Thom District, and Hom District. The Study Team would start surveys on the resettlement sites referring to the proposals after discussion with MIH and JICA. The survey results would be incorporated into the Final Report (second draft) submitted in the beginning of November 1999.

(vi) Impact Mitigation Cost and Project Economic Evaluation

It was pointed out that the estimated mitigation and compensation cost was comparatively small and reliability of hydrological data which would be basis of the project economic evaluation was not sufficient, in the 2nd General Workshop as well as in the 2nd EAC.

11.2.4 THIRD GENERAL WORKSHOP

(1) General

The 3rd General Workshop was held in Vientiane in December 1999, following the 1st of the same in Vientiane in November 1998 and the 2nd at Pakxan in Bolikhamxay in June 1999. Same as the 1st workshop, the 3rd was held at the main conference room of the Lane Xang Hotel during the 6th field investigation stage from morning on December 9, 1999 to 11 noon. The main topics were explanation of Project features, history of the Study, final report on the alternative studies, final result of the environmental survey and assessment, further study subjects, so on. At the site, same as the previous 1st and 2nd workshops, all reports were provided for public reading and the views and opinions were positively exchanged among the central and local governments, affected peoples, NGO, etc. The workshop was successfully completed with the energetic support of the MIH/HPO.

Schedule of the 3rd General Workshop is as shown in Table 11.2.3 below. The details of the program and the attendance are given in Supporting Report (V) 3.3.2. The reduced copies of the projected screens for presentation are given in (V) 3.3.4 of this Report.

Table 11.2.3 Outline of the 3rd General Workshop

No.	Item	Contents	Remarks
1.	Date	December 9 to 11, 1999 (3 days)	Detailed schedule is shown in Supporting Report (V)3.3.1.
2.	Place	Lao PDR, Vientiane City, Lane Xang Hotel, Main Conference Room	It was judged that the holding in Vientiane is the best for the final workshop.
3.	Participants	120 participants in total. 6-Chairmen and (i) 42 from 15 organizations of GOL (ii) 12 from 9 local governments, (iii) 25 local resident representatives from affected districts, (iv) 18 from 10 international organizations, (v) 3 from local 2 NGOs, (vi) 16 from others (EIA Committee, Study Team, preparation Committee), no attendance from international NGOs	Invitation letters were sent one month before with the summary of the final report and only the parties who showed intention of attendance were accepted. For the participants from reservoir area, government sent chartered helicopter to those districts.

No.	Item	Contents	Remarks
4.	Moderator	Facilitators (Canadian 1 person) and Translators (2 Laos) were-recruited from outside.	Workshop were proceeded with two languages, in English and Lao in principle. Moderators were recruited from outside for neutrality of the Workshop.
5.	Q & A	A total of 6 chairmen nominated from each agency of MIH/STENO/MIC/MFA/JICA answered on the matter only related to government policy decision.	The 4 Study Team members (Team Leader, Hydropower, Natural Environment, and Social Environment) answered questions on technical matters or study results. Supplemental explanations were made by MIH/HPO staff.
6.	Program	1st day: a general meeting and explanation. 2nd day: question-and-answer.	Presentation was made not only by the Study team, but also by Gender specialist.
7.	Distributed References	Advance: Project Summary, (English/Lao) That day: OHP Copies for presentation by S/Team (English/Lao)	On the day of the Workshop, all study reports (inception, progress, interim, final draft reports) were presented.

(2) Minutes of 3rd General Workshop

The 3rd General Workshop was held at main conference room of the Lane Xang Hotel in Vientiane for 3 days from 9 to 11, December 1999. 116 persons in the 1st day, 112 persons in the 2nd day and 107 persons in the 3rd day have attended. These are the similar numbers of participant in the 2nd General Workshop at Pakxan. The 6 representatives from the various sectors of the government organizations positioned at the central stage as chairmen such as vice minister of MIH, the representatives from MFA, STENO, MIC, the representatives of JICA and EAC's advisor. Participants are 46 persons from central government, 12 from local government, 25 from affected districts, 3 from international organizations, 3 from local NGO, 11 from Japanese embassy and JICA, 5 from EAC, 5 from Study team and Gender specialist, 9 from press, etc. International NGOs did not attended. Invitation letters were sent before one month together with the summary of the final draft report. Same as the previous workshop, 26 representatives from the affected area were invited by using the chartered large-scale helicopter.

Mr.Somboun, MIH Vice Minister made an opening speech, then Mr.Ohtake, the Chief of the Energy & Mining Development Study Division of JICA explained the meaning of this General Workshop.

The Study Team made the presentations regarding the results of the Study based on the 2nd Draft Final Report and the environmental survey report, using each one unit of English and Lao version computer LCD projectors with simultaneous translation. After the continuation of the presentation up to the 2nd day's morning, detailed discussion was made with the participants until the 3rd day's afternoon. In the discussion, one moderator taken shorthand notes in English. The reduced totally 289 copies of the panels projected on the screen are compiled in this report (V) 3.3.4.

Major points of the above discussion are as summarized below. The details are given in the Supporting Report (V) 3.3.2.

- (i) Representative from Mekong Committee: As for the development scales of FSL.360m and FSL.320m, the following recommendations were made and those were agreed by the Study Team: (i) a larger reservoir is favorable in view of the future organizations of joint control system of electricity, (ii) it is required to study at further stages to increase reservoir level as much as possible without fixing FSL to EL.320m at this stage, (iii) it is required to shorten the period of study including resettlement plan, because usually the hydropower project

takes excessively long period for investigation, (iv) resettlement plan should be consolidated together with the affected peoples showing a shortlist of the prospective sites, etc. He also suggested to be important to study (i) influence of the Project to the Mekong River regime, (ii) backwater effect to the reservoir upstream basin due to flood, (iii) security of a sustainable income of the resettlement peoples, etc.

- (ii) Australian woman specialist in MIH/HPO: She pointed out the following subjects (i) role of the EAC, (ii) reliability and accuracy of environmental assessment, (iii) influence of the lowering water level at the downstream reach during wet season, (iv) problems on cultivation in the draw-down reservoir area, etc. Among the above, (ii) and (iii) above are new concept to be considered in the further studies.
- (iii) Representative of GOL (STENO, Ministry of Agriculture): They pointed out the necessity of the following studies: (i) education to the affected peoples, (ii) migration of wild animals, (iii) effort for promotion of women's participation in the Project implementation, (iv) macroscopic view on the influence of forest forfeiture, general archaeological problems in Lao PDR which have been noticed by UNESCO.
- (iv) Representatives of Local People (Xaysomboon Special Zone, Thaviang Sub-District, Xiengkhouang Province, Bolikhamxay Province): They thought much of the government considerations in the implementation and generally showed the understandings that the large-scale development is acceptable with the conditions of the governmental guarantee for the peoples on satisfactory compensation and support of life. A woman from the Thaviang sub-district sincerely expressed with gratitude for invitation to this workshop that she will make an effort to follow the government decision.
- (v) Representative from MIH/HPO: The general concept of the government policy on the national electricity development of Lao PDR was explained. The summary is as follows: (i) In February 1997 the electricity law was enacted and the policy on electricity development now step by step being reinforced with the preparation of related laws. The present situation is comparable to the adjacent countries, such as Cambodia and Vietnam. (ii) It is planned that the power schemes more than 50MW are to be implemented directly by the central government. (iii) Environmental impact assessment is one of the important subjects in development of electricity. (iv) Strict judgment and assessment are making for the development by IPP.

As for the Nam Ngiep-1 HEPP, the following explanation was made. (i) The government has an intention to finalize the Project in the economically attractive scheme as much as possible, because Yunnan Province of the PRC is also making an effort to exchange PPA with Thailand. (ii) Loss of energy generation by the low FSL scheme is equivalent to the annual energy production by the Houay Ho Hydropower Plant which was completed last September. (iii) Resettlement peoples for the Nam Ngiep-1 HEPP is not so remarkable numbers compared with 40,000 of the Nam Ngum-1, 2,700 of the Nam Ngum-2, 9,000 of the Nam Ngum-3, 4,800 of the Nam Thuen-2, so on. (iv) Since the financial IRR of the Project estimated in the final report seems not so high, it will be necessary to depend on the soft loan as much as possible.

However, when road system around the reservoir area is improved, Pakxan-Thaviang can be connected with only 1-hour drive. Therefore, the socio-economic impact of the Project is high. The GOL wishes for continuation of Study with the technical support of JICA and completion of the Project with the financial support of the Japanese government.

(3) Requirements at 3rd General Workshop and Study Team's Comment

In the 3rd General Workshop, the Study Team recommended the medium-scale scheme as proposed in the Final Report. This conclusion was made on the recent worldwide circumstance and with understanding that the development should be made on the international rule even in the developing countries. However, on the other hand, there is a different recognition that it is still permissible greatly for the developing countries to give national developments the highest priority in order to maximize their own benefits.

In this Workshop, there was no discussion on the theme for choice between "Environmental Conservation" and "Promotion of National Development". But, the same will probably come to the main theme by shaping up of the Project. The scale of the Project, which constructs the permanent structure, is determined based on the sense of value at that time. Especially, for the Project likely to be implemented by IPP, the minimization of risks is a key factor for determination of the development scale. Therefore, the extent and scopes for further investigation and study should not be limited only for the medium scale development.

There prepared the time for free discussion, but it is difficult to give the chance to the all participants. Therefore, suggestion sheets were distributed to all them at the 1st day, and collected at the closing time of the workshop. Similar to the previous workshop, the answer was returned from 60 participants. Summary of the contents of suggestion sheets is compiled in the Supporting report (V) 3.3.3.

Since the 3rd General Workshop was the final event in this stage, the memorial handbags printed a logo of workshop with ethnic group's patterns were served for all participants and the Laotian traditional "Bassii" ceremony was held following the Buddhist service after closing the Workshop. The ceremony was opened by a priest with his pray and rolled each other the wrist of the respective participant with a cotton white string in the hope of meeting again and successful completion of the Project.

(4) Review of 3rd General Workshop

(i) Preparation of Explanatory Papers

A summary of the Final Report (2nd Draft) in 10 pages was prepared in both English and Lao. As the summary was sent with invitation letters to participants one month before the General Workshop, the Workshop was efficient due to better understanding.

(ii) Public Reading of Reports

As a result of discussion between JICA and MIH/HPO, all reports were presented for public reading in the 3rd General Workshop. For the participants who requested to obtain the copies, the Final Report is scheduled to be distributed to them.

(iii) Method of Presentation

The method of presentation was changed this time from the OHP sheets like the 2nd General Workshop to the computer LCD projector system of both English and Lao version. By this change, the screen become clear and program was smoothly proceeded. For the persons who want, reduced copies of the screened panels were distributed.

11.3 SITE WORKSHOP

11.3.1 BACKGROUND AND SUBJECTS

The first General Workshop was held on both 26 and 28 of November 1998 in Vientiane, the capital city, with a hundred participants and the anticipated results were obtained. But the participants from the proposed reservoir area were only a few, because the sessions had been scheduled during the harvest time and it would take several days to reach the Metropolitan area by land.

In this Study, it is planned to hold a total of three (3) Workshops with a key word of "Public Participation" both in Vientiane, the capital, and at Pakxan, the prefectural seat of the Project area of the Study. However, in this context, it has been clear that the prospective participation of the inhabitants in the Project area cannot be expected to attend even in the future General Workshops.

The workshop, named "General Workshop", was planned from the beginning of the Study. In addition to these workshops, it was decided for the achievement of the Study purposes to hold three (3) of workshops, named "Site Workshop", at two (2) villages in the proposed reservoir area and at the lower reaches of the dam site so that the local inhabitants could definitely attend.

11.3.2 FIRST SITE WORKSHOP

(1) General

The Site Workshops were held in the two (2) villages located in the proposed reservoir area. A total of seventeen (17) attendants, including six (6) Lao Government officers, four (4) JICA officers in Laos, three (3) Study Team members, one each of the interpreter and the facilitator, and two (2) environmental staff of local sub-contractors, had left Vientiane for the field by the helicopter. Also, a representative of Kethpiseth Xaisomboun (XSZ) joined us at Xaisomboun, the prefectural seat of XSZ, which controls the above two (2) villages although Xaisomboun is not located in the proposed reservoir area.

The participants stayed at Xaisomboun on the first day and made a round trip to B.Dong, the first location of the Site Workshop. Moreover, they flew to B.Sopyouk, the second location of the Site Workshop, and returned to Vientiane directly after the Workshop by the same helicopter.

B.Dong, the first location of the Site Workshop, is located in Thaviang district (a part of Tathon District) and is going to be submerged under the large-scale dam alternative. Four (4) members on an average were called out from each of twelve (12) villages around the Site, and five (5) regional government officers and forty-eight (48) inhabitants had participated. The Lao Loum tribe inhabits this area concentrically. The Workshop was held in the two-storied public facility made of block.

B.Sopyouk, the second location of the Site Workshop, is located in Hom District and is going to be submerged even under the middle-scale dam alternative. Six (6) members on an average were called out from each of four (4) villages around the Site, and four (4) regional government officers and twenty-three (23) inhabitants had participated. The Lao Hmong tribe inhabits this area concentrically. The Workshop was held at the wooden public facility in piloti type.

Fourteen (14) items, i.e. overall topographic maps, plans and cross sections of the reservoir with photographs, eight (8) sheets of posters in Lao language, photo panels of field work and so on were prepared for the both places. The facilitator was a neutral Canadian who was belonged to neither Lao government nor the Study Team. And, three (3) Study Team members explained to the villagers in English through the Lao interpreter.

(2) Places (both in Kethpiseth Xaisomboun)

Considering the impacts of the alternative adoption and the differences of component ratio of the Lao tribe minorities, the Workshops were executed in the following two (2) villages:

Table 11.3.1 Places for 1st Site Workshop

No	Date	Name of Village	Place	Representative
1	Mar.16	B.Dong in Thaviang District (U/S of Reservoir)	Public building	Main village in 12
2	Mar.17	B.Sopyouk in Hom District (D/S of Reservoir)	Village meeting place	Main village in 4

(3) Time Schedule of Workshop including Preparatory Work

Although the Workshops were held only on March 16 and 17, as shown in the following table, three (3) HPO staffs entered the Site about a week before and started the preparatory works. They executed the explanation of the Workshop purposes, confirmation of the attendants' transportation for moving, preparation of the Sites including meal services, and so on in accordance with the directions of the Study Team.

Table 11.3.2 Preparatory Schedule for 1st Site Workshop

No.	Date	Events	Accommodations
1.	Mar.08 (Mon)	VTE→XSB by Car for Preparatory team of HPO	Stay at XSB
2.	Mar.09 (Tue)	XSB→SYK by Car	Stay at SYK
3.	Mar.10 (Wed)	SYK→XSB by Car	Stay at XSB
4.	Mar.11 (Thu)	XSB→TVG by Car	Stay at TVG
5.	Mar.12 (Fri)	Workshop Preparation	Stay at TVG
6.	Mar.13 (Sat)	Workshop Preparation	Stay at TVG
7.	Mar.14 (Sun)	Workshop Preparation	Stay at TVG
8.	Mar.15 (Mon)	VTE→XSB by Helicopter	Stay at XSB
9.	Mar.16 (Tue)	XSB→TVG by Heli, Workshop at TVG, TVG→XSB by Heli, TVG→XSB by Car	Stay at XSB
10.	Mar.17 (Wed)	XSB→SYK by Heli, Workshop at SYK, SYK→VTE by Heli, SYK→XSB by Heli and XSB→VTE by Car	Stay at VTE

Note; VTE:Vientiane, TVG:Thaviang District(B.Dong), XSB:Xaisomboun, SYK:B.Sopyouk

(4) Execution Program and Attendance List

Execution Program and Attendance List were shown in Supporting Report (V)4.1.1..

(5) Minutes of 1st Site Workshop

Although the actual period of each Workshop was about three (3) hours only, there were anticipated participants in spite of the season of the slash and burn agriculture, and the Workshop was successful. Besides, the vehicles carried in by the Study Team were used as the mean of inhabitants' transportation between the villages. The explanation was done stressing the following: (i) the present life environment will be maintained for the time being because it will take a decade to finish the dam project even under the favorable schedule, and (ii) the resettlement program will be proceeded carefully and in no hurry while keeping pace with the national plan of the government.

After the explanation of the Project, the discussion was held under the frank atmosphere in both workshops. Although the objection to the Project was scarcely heard, there were more questions than the Study Team had expected. In addition, the Study Team could hear their confessions that the Upper Reservoir inhabitants wouldn't want to move if the middle-scale dam alternative would be possible economically and that the Lower Reservoir inhabitants want the conditions of resettlement to be summarized in the contract documents with an official signature.

Moreover, a sheet of the questionnaires was delivered to the participants for collecting the wide and frank opinions. The Study Team asked the participants to answer them and received their opinions from all of them as mentioned below.

(6) Suggestion Sheets and Study Team's Comments

In addition to distribution of notebooks and ballpoint pens, a sheet of the questionnaires in Lao was delivered to each participant at the entrances of the place. The questionnaire had columns for participant's name, village name, age and sex, position in the village and questions for confirming the grade of understanding and other opinions.

The questionnaires were collected from all the attendants by presenting a parcel of sugar, salt and detergent for returning of them.

Those questionnaires written in Lao language were translated to English and attached to Supporting Report (V)4.1.3.

11.3.3 SECOND SITE WORKSHOP

(1) General

The 2nd Site Workshop was held on June 24, 1999 in B.Somseum (former B.Maung May) in Bolikhan District located at the middle of the downstream area of dam site along the Nam Ngiep River, while the 1st Site Workshop was held in two villages in the reservoir area. A total of seventeen (17) attendants, including seven (7) Lao Government officers including MIH/HPO, three (3) JICA officers in Laos, three (3) Study Team members, one interpreter, two (2)

environmental staff of local sub-contractors, and one gender specialist as observer had left Vientiane for the field by 4WD vehicles.

The participants from Vientiane stayed at Pakxan on the previous day, made a trip to B.Somseum, the first place of the Site Workshop and arrived at the wooden public facility in piloti type. Besides a government officer of Pakxan District, eighteen (18) inhabitants from five (5) villages in Bolikhan District, and twenty-four (24) inhabitants from nine (9) villages in Pakxan District, which included eight (8) women, participated in the Workshop. The Lao Loum tribe inhabits this area concentrically and income and living standard of these people are better than those in the reservoir area.

As done in the previous Workshop, overall topographic maps, plans and cross sections of the reservoir with photographs, posters in Lao language, photo panels of field work and so on were prepared. The Team Leader acted as a facilitator and three (3) Study Team members explained to the villagers in English through the Lao interpreter.

(2) Time Schedule of Workshop including Preparatory Work

As the 2nd Site Workshop was held near Pakxan, a convenient place for transportation, it took only three (3) days for the preparatory works as shown in the following table. Three (3) HPO staff executed the explanation of the Workshop purposes, confirmation of the attendants' transportation for moving, preparation of the Sites including meal services, and so on in accordance with the directions of the Study Team.

Table 11.3.3 Preparatory Schedule for 2nd Site Workshop

No.	Date	Events	Remarks
1.	Jun.21 (Mon)	VTE→PKX by Car for Preparatory team of HPO	Stay at PKX
2.	Jun.22 (Tue)	PKX→B.Somseum→PKX by Car	Stay at PKX
3.	Jun.23 (Wed)	PKX→B.Somseum→PKX, VTE→PKX by Car	Stay at PKX
4.	Jun.24 (Thu)	PKX→B.Somseum→PKX by Car (Workshop)→VTE	Stay at PKX

Note; VTE:Vientiane, PKX:Pakxan, HTK:B.Hatkham

(3) Execution Program and Attendance List

Execution Program and Attendance List were shown in Supporting Report (V)4.2.1.

(4) Minutes of 2nd Site Workshop

Although the actual period of the Workshop was about three (3) hours only, there were anticipated participants in spite of the season of the slash and burn agriculture, and the Workshop was an overall success. Besides the vehicles carried in by the Study Team, vehicles and motorcycles belonging to inhabitants were used as the mean of inhabitants' transportation between the villages.

The explanation was done stressing the followings especially particular problems in the downstream area: (i) outline of the planned dam to be constructed in the upstream area, (ii) though the resettlement program will be proceeded carefully and in no hurry while keeping pace with the national plan of the government, the resettlement site is conceivable near this area, (iii) major impacts with dam will be blocking the river and changing the river flow, (iv) as a result,

fishery will be somewhat affected, river water quality will be changed, sediment will be blocked, annual river flow will leveled off, discharge will be constant on weekdays with re-regulating pond but be less on Sunday, and so on.

After the explanation of the Project, the discussion was held under the frank atmosphere. The people did not show keen interests as the people in the reservoir area did, because they would not be affected directly with resettlement. Although the objection to the Project was scarcely heard, there were more questions than the Study Team had expected. The questions were mainly regarding extent of impacts to the downstream area and mitigation measures. Moreover, a sheet of the questionnaires was delivered to the participants to collect wide and frank opinions. The Study Team asked the participants to answer them and received opinions from all of them as mentioned below.

Attendance of the gender specialist and a JICA's woman staff softened the atmosphere of the Workshop, giving a favorable impression to woman participants. Though no opinion was raised from the woman participants in the Workshop, their opinions close to the villager's life could be obtained through conversations among women during break and lunch time, such as questions whether living environment would be worse by water quality change, whether road improvements would result in better living standard, and whether job opportunities would increase, etc.

After the Workshop, all the participants took lunch with Lao traditional liqueur (Lao-Lao), which was prepared in cooperation with local people.

(5) Suggestion Sheets and Study Team's Comments

In addition to distribution of notebooks and ballpoint pens, a sheet of the questionnaires in Lao was delivered to each participant at the entrances of the place by the same manner as before. The questionnaire had columns for participant's name, village name, age and sex, position in the village and questions for confirming the grade of understanding and other opinions. The interpreter explained in detail how to fill up the questionnaires. The questionnaires were filled up during a break and collected from all the attendants who were presented a parcel of sugar, salt and detergent for returning of them.

Those questionnaires written in Lao language were translated to English and attached to Supporting Report (V)4.2.3.

11.3.4 THIRD SITE WORKSHOP

(1) General

The 3rd Site Workshop was held at totally three (3) villages: at two (2) villages in the reservoir area, and at B.Somseum (former B.Muangmai) in Bolikhan District located at the middle of the downstream area of dam site along the Nam Ngiep River. These are the same villages visited in the 2nd Site Workshop. Total 21 attendants, consisted of 7 Lao Government officers including MIH/HPO, 3 representatives of JICA headquarter, 3 JICA officers in Laos, 6 Study Team members, and each one of facilitator and interpreter had left Vientiane for the site by a large size helicopter. A vice-mayor of Xaisomboun Special Zone also attended though located outskirts of

the reservoir area but he will manage the workshop at the two villages in the reservoir area.

Mr.Ohtake, the Division Chief of JICA headquarter, Mr.Adachi, the advisor for international corporation of JICA, Mr.Shimizu, the Secretary of Japan Foreign Affaires, and Ms.Kesone, the Gender specialist joined. Since, one month before, the gender specialist was dispatched to the field for pre-investigation, every halls were filled by the majority of woman's audience and the workshop was successfully completed from the viewpoint of WID (Women in Development) with wide opinions from them.

In the 1st day, the party started at Vientiane airport to the 1st place at B.Dong in the Thaviang Sub-District via. Xaisomboun and returned after workshop to Pakxan for staying. In the 2nd day, the party traveled between the 2nd place at B.Sopyouk and Pakxan by the helicopter. In the final 3rd day, they visited the 3rd place at B.Somseum and returned to Vientiane by road.

The 1st place is located at B.Dong in Thaviang Sub-District, where Lao-Loum concentrates who will be affected by inundation in the case of large-scale dam development. From the surrounding 14 villages, about 200 persons gathered. The presentation was made in the parachute tent taking the chair by the facilitator and the interpreter and using explanatory panel board and loud speakers. After the Workshop, the villagers prepared a traditional "Bassii" ceremony and a friendly relationship were formed among all of the participants.

The 2nd place is located at B.Sopyouk in Hom District where inundation is unavoidable even in the case of the medium-scale dam development. From the surrounding 4 villages, about 170 persons gathered. The presentation spot has been prepared by the villagers in the yard of the school, which had been donated by the Japanese government, and the presentation was smoothly proceeded in the shadow of the trees. The interpretation was made from the English to Lao and further to Hmong language by the village chief, because most of the peoples here are Hmong, the minority in Lao PDR.

The 3rd place is located at B.Somsuem in Bolikhan District located at the middle of the downstream area of dam site along the Nam Ngiiep River. From the 5 villages just downstream of the dam site in Bolikhan area and 9 villages in Pakxan, totally 80 persons gathered. In the place, a friendly relationship were also formed among the participants with "Bassii" ceremony.

All places were exhibited with the publicity posters in Lao version. Each presentation of the 4 Study Team members was translated into Lao by the interpreter. The presentation was spotlighted to the two (2) alternative schemes of FSL.320m and FSL.360m and finally the medium FSL.320m alternative was proposed by the Study Team after the detailed explanation for the respective alternative with an additional note that the final decision for the development scale will take for further long period. The Gender specialist enlightened the significance for enrolling of each woman in the Project. This has provoked the gathered women and positive opinions from the women came into prominence.

The summary of the opinions obtained in the filed is:

At the 1st place; "Large-scale development is principally disagreeable, but the peoples may have to follow if it is inevitable from the national economic viewpoint."

At the 2nd place; "The peoples understand the situation of the Project and will agree the resettlement on the conditions that the responsible body for compensation will be made clear and the resettlement sites will be determined with the consent of the affected peoples.", and

At the 3rd place; "Impact mitigation measures will be taken for the change of river flow regime at the downstream reach, and the peoples resettlement to the downstream area is welcome."

(2) The places of Site Workshop

Taking into consideration the effect of the development scale and structural difference of minority, the workshops were made at the following three (3) villages.

Table 11.3.4 Sites for the 3rd Site Workshop

No.	Date	Village Name	Place	Remarks
1.	Dec. 13	B.Dong in Thaviang sub-district (upper reservoir area)	Public yard	Representatives of 12 villages
2.	Dec. 14	B.Sopyouk in Hom District (lower reservoir area)	Schoolyard	Representatives of 4 villages
3.	Dec. 15	B.Somseum in Bolikhan District (d/s of dam)	Public hall	Representatives of 14 villages

(3) Schedule of the 3rd Site Workshop

Although the effective duration of the site workshop was three (3) days on December 12-15, 1999 about one (1) week before on November 16-23, 1999, the 3 staffs of HPO and the Gender specialist entered sites. They made the explanation of the concept for this Workshop to the village chiefs, confirmation of prospective number of participants and method for transportation of them, preparation of field including service of lunch, etc.

Table 11.3.5 Preparatory Schedule for 3rd Site Workshop

No.	Date	Events	Remarks
1.	Dec. 13 (Mon)	VTE→XSB→Thaviang (1st place)→PKX by Helicopter	Stay at PKX
2.	Dec. 14 (Tue)	PKX→B.Sopyouk (2nd place)→PKX by Helicopter PKX→XSB→VTE by Helicopter	Stay at PKX
3.	Dec. 15 (Wed)	PKX→B.Somseum (3rd place)→PKX→VTE by Car	-

(4) Execution Program and Attendance List

Execution Program and Attendance List were shown in Supporting Report (V)4.3.1.

(5) Minutes of 3rd Site Workshop

Although the actual period of the Workshop was about three (3) hours only, there were lot of participants which includes the majority of woman's audience. The Site Workshop was an overall success exchanging the constructive opinions. The detailed minutes of those meetings are compiled in the Supporting Report (V) 4.3.2.

The 1st Place: B.Dong in Thaviang Sub-District (a part of Thathom District)

- (i) Explanation was understandable for everybody. Continuation of the Study is desired. The environmental-friendly FSL.320m scheme is more favorable than the FSL.360m scheme for us. Betterment of the bridges and roads for going schools is desirable.
- (ii) Either is OK, if it is effective for the development of the Thaviang area.

- (iii) FSL.320m, which will not accompany inundation of Thaviang area, is preferable if the opinion is allowed as one of the women's representative. Even so, FSL.360m may be accepted, if the government chooses it from the viewpoint of the national construction policy. At that occasion, the peoples may expect for the improvement of roads, bridges, schools, education, etc.
- (iv) Vice-mayor of Xaisomboun: Positive participation of every people is welcome for successfully implementation of the Project. I will make my best effort for the regional development under a motto of "Rice, Money and House!" If the resettlement becomes inevitable, a fair and enough compensation will be made for every affected people.

The 2nd Place: B.Sopyouk in Hom District

- (i) Gender specialist: The Project may not be realized in a favorable direction, if women hesitate for participation. Since the Project will influence largely on children and women who are taking important role in the life, everyone should join in the Project implementation.
- (ii) Representative of HPO/MIH: The living environment after the resettlement will come to better one than the present state, because the peoples can obtain the various benefits in electrification, water supply, road, school, clinic, irrigation, job opportunity, so on. The government will publicly inform the progress at every occasion, but the completion of the Project will take the period at least 10 years from now on.
- (iii) We do not object to the resettlement, providing that enough compensation will be made for us. The main concern is: when will start the detailed study for compensation and who has the responsibility of it.
- (iv) All statement made during this workshop have been recorded in the tape recorders. Therefore, anybody can not shirk the responsibilities of the promises made here on the compensation.
- (v) Most of the women satisfy the present environment of which living level is being improved, and may have a feeling that the dam construction is not welcome. However, if the resettlement becomes inevitable, we may ask for the supply of rich land like the present one.
- (vi) Resettlement should be made not only for peoples but also for graves, otherwise the children may be accursed by the ancestor.
- (vii) A written guarantee should be issued: who will be responsible for compensation.
- (viii) I do not want to leave from this land where is my home. If moved, I wish to live at a land somewhere surrounding area of the reservoir and continue the slash and burn cultivation like now.
- (ix) Although the present life is satisfactory, the resettlement is acceptable if the children can receive more higher education as a result.
- (x) I want to visit the resettlement site and confirm whether is it similar or not compared with the present land. I have a bitter experience in construction of this school that the payment of the wage for the work was incomplete. In the resettlement of the Project, it is desired that the compensation will be strictly enforced.
- (xi) It is desired that the compensation will be made fairly for every people.

The 3rd Place: B.Somseum (former B.Muangmai) in Bolikhan District

- (i) There is a concern about the influence on drinking water quality and catch of fish due to the change of flow regime after dam construction.
- (ii) There presumed that the social problems will happen due to the difference of custom and culture with new comer after the resettlement of peoples to the downstream area.
- (iii) Representative of Bolikhan District: I understood the prospective problems at the downstream area and the national benefits, too. On behalf of the village peoples, I would like to say thank you for the Study Team who made an effort to minimize the impact of the Project to the downstream area.

(6) Suggestion Sheets collected at the 3rd Site Workshop

At the entrance of the respective hall, a notebook and a ball pen were distributed to all participants together with the suggestion sheet in Lao version. The sheet was provided with blanks for the entry of village name, participant's name, age, sex, position, understandings about the Project, and other comments.

Each time after closing the workshop, lunch was served for the persons who returned the suggestion sheet with comment. Even from the participants who can not read, many sheets were submitted with the support of the neighbors. Since most of the sheets were filled in Lao, these translated in English were compiled in the Supporting Report (V) 4.3.3.

11.4 EIA SURVEY BY SUB-CONTRACTOR

11.4.1 WORK ITEMS OF EIA SURVEY

An EIA survey was carried out by a local sub-contractor in accordance with the EIA Survey Execution Plan prepared by the Study Team. The following six work items in the EIA survey were established based on the results of IEE survey executed during the First Field Investigation of the Study:

- (i) Socio-economic Survey of the proposed upper and lower reservoirs and of the downstream area,
- (ii) Survey of fisheries activities in those areas and in coordination with the socio-economic survey,
- (iii) Survey of aquatic biodiversity along the Nam Ngiep river and along its main tributaries,
- (iv) Survey of the water quality along the river,
- (v) Survey of terrestrial wildlife, vegetation and habitats, and
- (vi) Preliminary land use of the project area.

11.4.2 BIDDING PROCEDURE OF THE WORKS

(1) Preparation of Specifications

For execution of the EIA survey related to the natural and socio-economic environments starting from December 1998 after the 2nd Field Investigation, the specifications of the EIA survey were prepared based on the Execution Plan of EIA established during the 1st Field Investigation. The Execution Plan includes a part of the IEE (Initial Environmental Examination) results. The draft tender documents also were prepared, in which the specifications clearly mentioned that the works of local contract should be performed continuously from the 1st Fiscal Year to 2nd Fiscal Year, but the contract should be made separately for each year.

The tender documents and specifications were requested to JICA for approval with the Study Team's letter No. NKA-415 on September 8, 1998 and were approved through letter No.9-235 on September 22, 1998.

(2) Start of Tendering Works

Tendering works were started at the end of September 1998 after sending the approved tender documents and specifications to candidate sub-contractors. Three (3) candidates (STS Consultants, MEKCONSULT, and Lao Survey & Exploration Services Co.,Ltd.) were selected in consideration of past experiences and they were being requested to submit proposals based on the specifications indicated.

After those proposals were submitted by the end of October 1998, they were evaluated technically and financially, and a local company "STS Consultants", which was technically reliable and with the lowest price, was selected as a local sub-contractor.

The selected local sub-contractor and proposed contract price were submitted to JICA with an attachment of evaluation results by the Study Team's letter No.NKA-577 on November 10, 1998. Approval was made by JICA's letter No.11-097 dated November 25, 1998 during the 2nd Field Investigation, which was commenced in the middle of November.

(3) Reasons for Selection of Sub-Contractor

The company history is not so long, but it was highly evaluated that STS Consultants proposed the lowest price and presented many experienced engineers. Especially, the nomination of Dr. Watson, who is an English living in Lao PDR since 1994 and was in charge of EIA survey on both the Nam Theun-2 HEPP and Nam Leuk HEPP, is worth special mention. Besides, it was judged an important point for smooth execution of the Project that they had been highly rated by the counterparts HPO.

The 2nd fiscal year contract with STS Consultants was conducted by a direct appointment during the 4th Field Investigation executed after conclusion of the 2nd fiscal year contract between JICA and Study Team, Nippon Koei.

(4) Contract Discussion

The work schedule, in addition to review of the contract price, was confirmed in detail before the contract. Although there was no change on the contract price and the study items in each year, the partial move of the work items between the yearly programs had been done after the consent to the Sub-Contractor under the instruction of the Study Team. The re-submission was requested on the insufficient items in the Method Statement for Methodology and Implementation Arrangement attached to the Sub-Contractor's proposal. And the Memorandum of Agreement confirmed that the Sub-Contractor would sublet his works to the other contractor.

The minutes of meeting for the Contract Discussion held on November 30, 1998 before the contract signing and for the Kick-off Meeting held on December 4, 1998 were prepared. The materials presented at these meetings were attached to the Contract Documents as the appendices. The following items comprise the parts of the contract documents:

- (i) Minutes of meeting for the Contract Discussion (November 30, 1998),
- (ii) Breakdown list of final contract price,
- (iii) Final work schedule,
- (iv) Minutes of meeting for the Kick-off Meeting (December 4, 1998),
- (v) Memorandum of Agreement with the sublet contractor, and
- (vi) Method Statement for Methodology and Implementation Arrangement on 5 items.

The above documents were submitted to JICA for the reporting of the Contract Documents with the Study Team's letter No.NKA-665 on December 28, 1998.

11.4.3 SUPERVISION OF THE WORKS

(1) Terms of References

The EIA survey undertaken by a Lao firm, STS Consultants, in accordance with the contract concluded on December 1, 1998, included the following work items:

- (i) Socio-economic Survey of the proposed upper and lower reservoirs and of the downstream area,
- (ii) Survey of fisheries activities in those areas and in coordination with the socio-economic survey,
- (iii) Survey of aquatic biodiversity along the Nam Ngiep river and along its main tributaries,
- (iv) Survey of the water quality along the river,
- (v) Survey of terrestrial wildlife, vegetation and habitats, and
- (vi) Preliminary land use of the project area.

(2) Execution of Questionnaires

The Study Team closely supervised the planning, selection of sample size and the design of questionnaires for village and household-level surveys. It supervised also the preparation of field methodologies for carrying out the water quality survey and the aquatic ecology survey. The Study Team held meetings with the Sub-Contractor to finalize detailed Terms of Reference for the Vegetation, Wildlife and Habitat Survey, and to define the objectives and most appropriate approach for the Land Use Survey.

The Village Level Questionnaire of the Socio-economic Survey was filled with the assistance of Village Heads and/or their assistants. The objective was to understand the general social, economic, and land use situation of the village, as well as the community assets in the project area such as schools, dispensaries, bridges, communal forests and pasture lands.

The Household Level Questionnaire of the Socio-economic and Fishery Surveys was filled out by household heads. This questionnaire covered aspects related to household ethnic identification, demography and family structure; health and education; income, expenditures, land and natural resource usage; household-level production systems and assets such as land and built-up properties; and knowledge and opinions about the project and possible resettlement. The Fishery Questionnaire covered aspects related to fishery practices of the household: preferred period, location, frequency for fishing, equipment used, marketing of catches.

(3) Execution of Site Presentation

STS held Field Orientation Meetings at three (3) levels, Zonal, District, and Village levels: (i) the first field orientation meeting was held with administration personnel of Xaysomboon Special Zone on December 27, 1998, (ii) the second meeting was held with Thaviang Sub-District authorities of Thatom District on December 28, 1998; and (iii) the third meeting was with Village Heads and with the villagers themselves during the course of the survey. The Study Team defined during the 2nd Field Investigation (November-December 1998) with the Sub-Contractor the objectives and content of each level meeting prior to their implementation.

Data collection was done in the Upper and Lower Reservoir Impact Zones (URIZ and LRIZ).

Data collection for the socio-economic and fishery surveys in the URIZ was conducted from December 28, 1998 to January 16, 1999 whereas in the LRIZ from January 20 to 28, 1999. The URIZ comprises of thirteen (13) villages whereas the LRIZ only four (4) villages of which a total of 179 out of a total of 853 were interviewed (21% sample). Prior to the launching of the survey, the final questionnaire was translated into Lao and used for in-house training. In order to ensure a smooth implementation of the survey, the following actions were undertaken:

- (i) Informal meeting with the representatives of local authorities who attended the 1st General Workshop in Vientiane on November 26 and 27, 1998,
 - (ii) HPO provided a counterpart to accompany the surveyors and to provide assistance in informing the local authorities about the objectives of the survey, and
 - (iii) At the outset of the survey in each village, the survey team briefed the local authority and elderly people on the objectives of the survey.
- (4) Review of Sub-Contractor's Interim Report

STS presented the draft Interim Report for The Socio-economic Survey of proposed Upper and Lower Reservoir Areas to the Study Team on March 2, 1999. Other draft Interim Reports including the Fishery Survey Report, the Water Quality Report and the Vegetation, Wildlife and Habitat Reports were presented to the Study Team on March 4, 1999. The draft Interim Report on the Aquatic Ecology was presented on March 18, 1999.

The Study Team has carefully reviewed the draft report on Socio-economic Survey, and he has made a number of recommendations for reformulation of the text and tables to more adequately present the questionnaire data for use in the final EIA report. These concern especially disaggregating the data to reflect the two very different communities in the Upper and Lower Reservoir areas and to bring out some of the questions asked concerning migration histories of the villages and resettlement preferences.

The Study Team also reviewed carefully the other draft Interim Reports submitted by STS. Concerning the Fishery Survey Report, it was also requested to the Sub-Contractor disaggregate the data in the same way as requested for the Socio-economic Survey. In addition to that, he requested revision of certain tables of results where the data were not processed appropriately. The Study Team also held a meeting with STS on March 7, 1999 to revise some questions in the Fishery Questionnaire in order to improve its applicability in the downstream area where the survey was starting the next day.

Some comments were also expressed on the results of the first Water Quality Sampling Survey. Limited comments only were made on the draft Interim Reports of the Aquatic Ecology, the Vegetation, and the Wildlife and Habitat, because of the very preliminary information provided at this stage.

(5) Execution of Site Workshop

The Study Team, accompanied by the staff of the Sub-Contractor, presented the overall Project alternatives, impacts and mitigation measures, as well as the essential draft Report findings, at public consultation and participation Workshops held in the Upper and Lower Reservoir areas. These were held at B.Dong (Thavieng Sub-District of Thatom District) on March 16, 1999 and at B.Sopyouk (Hom District) on March 17, 1999.

(6) Sub-Contractor's Interim Report

STS Consultants, the local Sub-Contractor, submitted the draft Interim Report for EIA in the end of February 1999 in accordance with the 1st fiscal year contract with the Study Team. The study area was divided roughly into three (3) areas, namely the Upper and Lower Reservoir Impact Zones and the Lower area of the proposed dam site, and study findings for the Upper and Lower Reservoir Impact Zones were reported in the Interim Report.

The Study Team reviewed and revised these draft Interim Reports through the direct instruction to the Sub-Contractor staffs during the 3rd Field Investigation, and re-submitted the revised report at the end of March 1999.

(7) Sub-Contractor's Final Report

The 2nd fiscal year contract with the above Sub-Contractor was done by direct appointment during the 4th Field Investigation. This Sublet Study was continued up to the end of September 1999 and the Final Report was submitted to the Study Team at the beginning of October 1999. The EIA Survey Final Report by the Sub-contractor is presented in Supporting Report (IV).