Coordinating European water research for poverty reduction

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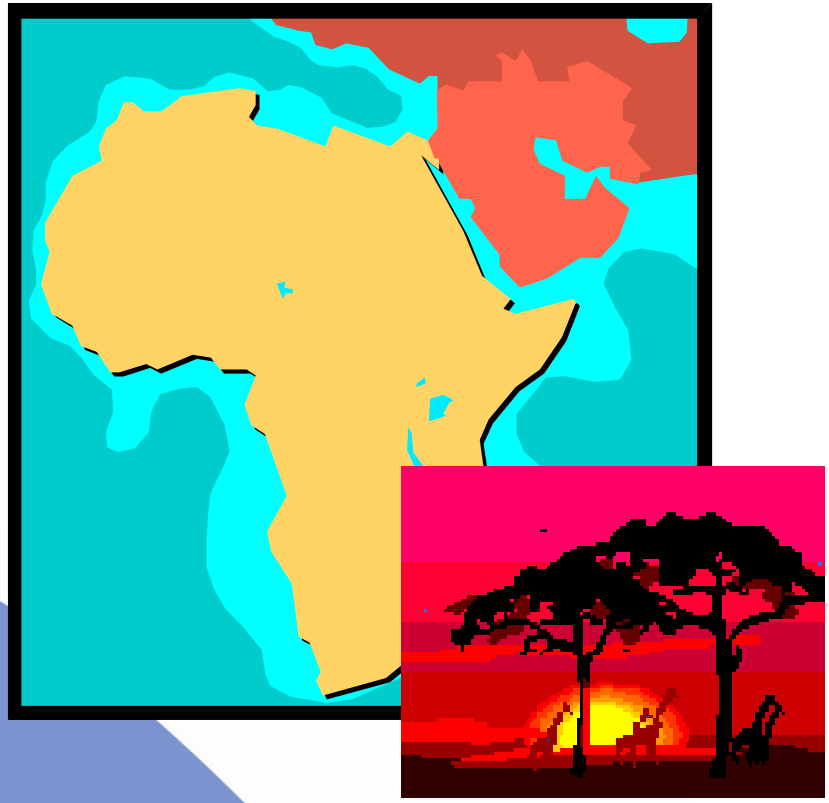
What is SPLASH?

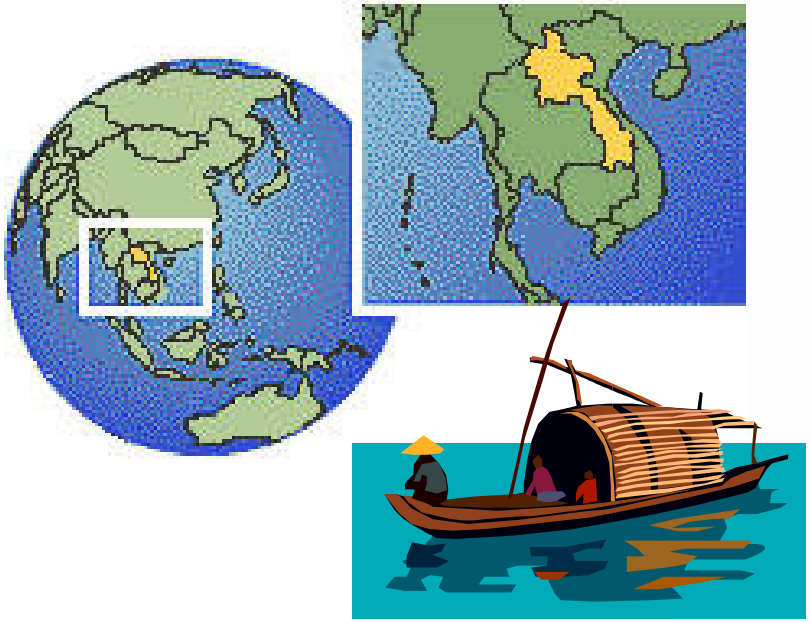
- SPLASH: European Union Water Initiative European Research Area Network (EUWI Era-Net).
- Consortium of 16 ministries, funding agencies and national research and technological development authorities from 11 European countries.
- Duration: 4 years (2007-2010)
- Funded **European Commission** (FP 6)
- Goals: improve water research for poverty reduction ⇒ MDGs

SPLASH Objectives

1. **Improve coordination** of water research for development between European countries, to **reduce duplication**, exploit synergies and enhance **progress to MDGs**
2. Understand and synthesise **good research management** & practice, and ensure it is used
3. Speed up **transfer of results into practice and policy** through improved dialogue
4. Agree **joint activities**, including **funding of new research** which will benefit from a trans-national approach

Where?





Activities

- Compile information on European partner water research funding for poverty reduction
- Work with developing country partners in identifying their priorities for water-related research
- Establish tools (web portals, reports, workshops, and review meetings) to enable more efficient sharing of information between researchers, policy makers and practitioners
- Develop and implement a strategy and work plan where priority topics for collaboration will be identified

PLASH-Mekong Project

Water and Energy: sustainable development of hydropower with involvement of the private sector in the Lower Mekong region

Funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland

Why the SPLASH-Mekong project?

Mekong region: hydropower development is within national strategies for economic development and energy security.

Private sector is an important actor in development. Issues: lack of transparency, unregulated, unclear benefit sharing, lack of proper EIA/SIA, etc. → needs for policy, regulatory framework, transparency, equity, etc.

Sustainable development of HP: minimum negative impacts.

Need of capacity building in the region related to sustainable hydropower development, and application of research results to policy and practical levels

General goal

To increase cooperation between research, private sector and policy-makers in hydro energy development in the Lower Mekong region.

Specific objectives

To assess:

- Research and knowledge transfer on several topics related to hydropower development, such as assessment of water availability for hydropower development & impacts of climate change; multicriteria decision analysis (MCDA); water footprints of hydropower development in the region.

- Existing knowledge/experiences/practices, tools, methodologies on sustainable private sector involvement in hydro energy development: national legislations, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and corporate social responsibility (CSR), etc.

- Interest of private sector in these research themes and research done by this sector

Specific objectives (cont)

To facilitate:

- Promotion of applications of research findings/results into practical and policy levels.
- Capacity building using South-South cooperation besides North-South cooperation.

Expected results

- **Reviews** (available for distribution; comments are welcome):

  - existing research and capacity building projects/programs in assessment of water availability and effect of climate change on hydrology, MCDA, and water footprints.

  - existing finance and investment models for hydro energy development in the region.

- **Workshop**: networking and forum for discussion for various stakeholders (researchers, policy-makers, private sector, and NGOs) and their recommendations.

Expected results (cont)

- Recommendations for mechanisms for inclusion of various stakeholders in research including the private sector

- Outlines of North-South-South collaborative projects on:

  (i) research and capacity building in water availability for hydropower development and effects of climate change on hydrology, MCDA, water footprints;

  (ii) on national and local legislations/policies for private sector involvement and PPP in hydropower development.

- Outlines for funding opportunities for such projects.

Disseminations

- Relevant ministries and regional organizations
- Workshop participants
- SPLASH website: http://www.splash-era.net/

Thank you for attention