



INCREASE COOPERATION BETWEEN ACAMEMICS AND PRIVATE SECTOR TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE HYDRO POWER DEVELOPMENT

SOME CRITICAL REMARKS

Splash seminar 14-15 September 2010

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Academics and sustainable development not precise defined

- Academics often linked to universities but Internet and digital word impose a broader scope
- More “academic” focus on “soft” issues as power sector reforms and poverty alleviation as a critical issue
- Sustainable development may include many elements as :
 - Environment
 - Control and regulation of pollution
 - Renewable
 - Poverty
 - Gender
 - Health issues
 - Land use – flood etc.

Without a more precise scope the SPLASH target becomes defuse!



Any link between academic and private investment in hydropower – who will take care of sustainable development ?

- Is the role and impact from academics to the private sector firm and visible ?
- The UN Climate Change Panel is an example of urgent warnings but lack of global coordinated actions
- Academics and sustainable development a complex process – many stakeholders involved – win or lose – postpone of actions quite common
- How can sustainable development be enhanced ?
- Are private only profit seekers ?



Academics and power sector reforms world wide

- Reforms in the early 90's carried out by “pioneer” countries as : Argentine & Chile in S America – England & Wales – Norway in Europe
- Academics outlined a reform 20-30 years before implementation was possible!
- “Private is good – public bad” was Thatcher slogan ! The reform put on the political agenda and implementation speeded up! Privatization necessary in UK!
- The political acceptance upfront boosted the development - without any major barriers !
- The political link is essential !



Targeting and understand the political processes important

- All examples from Europe, America etc. show that political will, timing and coordinating are important factors for change in the power sector.
- How to influence the political processes to make new legislation and policy are core issue!
- Incentives for the private sector important as “green label !”



Any supporting organizations to bridge academics – the power sector and the political processes?

- Mid 90's EU member states made an initiative to improve :
 - Education of regulators
 - Forum for discussion
 - Organize courses and conferences
 - Better dialog with the European Commission
 - Support research and young academics
- The outcome was Florence School of Regulation which is supported by European University, Regulators, European Commission and private sponsors from the power industry
- Academics – Regulators – the private industry - politicians/legislators all close connected.
- FSR impact can be traced !!
- website www.florence-school.eu



Will FSR be transferable outside EUROPE?

- Necessary “input”!
 - Regulators and other stakeholders well organized
 - A university willing to organize and implement core activities to coordinate
 - Private companies willing to make sponsorship
 - Governments – politicians mapping opportunities to “lubricate” political processes

Where are the opportunities barriers and opportunities in Mekong ?