

**ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND REGIONAL DISPUTE IN THE LOWER
MEKONG RIVER BASIN: A CASE STUDY OF XAYABURI DAM**

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DECLARATIONS

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

19 September 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AYESHA LORENZA', written in a cursive style.

AYESHA LORENZA

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Abstract

This paper examines the impact of the proposed construction of the Xayaburi Hydropower dam on the Mekong River Mainstream on environmental security and the ensuing issues which relates to the relations among stakeholder states in the lower Mekong River basin which includes Thailand, Laos, Viet Nam, and Cambodia. This mega dam project is estimated to produce a large amount of electric power that can supply electricity for both commercial domestic use in Laos and its neighbouring countries. Thus, it is hoped that the construction of the hydropower dam can help decrease economic development problems faced by Laos, a landlocked country. However, this proposed dam project raises a storm of protest because of its adverse impact on the ecosystem of the river as well as the environmental security of the lower Mekong River basin countries including Laos, the proposer itself. In worst-case scenario it may even lead to disputes among the stakeholder countries of Mekong River over water source. Thus, it is argued that the Xayaburi hydropower mega dam project proposed by Lao has more disadvantages for all parties involved.

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