Taibaan Research in Mekong Region

TEERAPONG POMUN
MEKONG COMMUNITY INSTITUTE
Contents

- What is Taibaan Research?
- How to do Taibaan Research?
- Taibaan Research in Mekong Countries
  - Thailand
  - Vietnam
  - Cambodia
  - Myanmar
  - Laos
  - China
What is Taibaan Research?

- **Taibaan** = villagers
- "Vijai (research) Taibaan" or Taibaan Research (TBR) = “searching for knowledge in a local community, by villagers, based on local knowledge, for community’s benefit”

**Objectives**
- Local knowledge is recorded
- Community is strengthened
- Community’s knowledge and rights is recognized: understanding, legitimate, evidences,

**Some principles:** Ownership, Participation, Locality
How to do TBR?

6 Steps

1) Consultation
   - do: meeting
   - get: understanding & cooperation

2) Preparation
   - do: meeting
   - get: research guidelines

3) Data Collection
   - do: collect data
   - get: data

4) Progress Report & Data Checking
   - do: presentation
   - get: data check
   - do: collect missing data

5) Summary
   - do: summarize & analyze
   - do: present the final research
   - get: final

6) Publication & Dissemination
   - do: publicize
   - do: launch the research
How to do TBR?

Some principles

- Villagers’ participation in all TBR processes
- Flexibility & depending on local contexts: results, steps, participation, topics, contents
- 3 Cs: Cooperation, Collection, and Correctness
TBR in Thailand

“TBR and movement against dams”

- The 1st TBR:
  - Conducted in 2001
  - by villagers affected by Pak Mun dams
  - Villagers mistrust state-funded research
  - Find their own evidences
  - Supported by Living River Siam Association and Academics from CMU
TBR in Thailand

“TBR and movement against dams”

- Other TBR in Thailand
- Research topics: 1) fisheries, 2) local riverine ecosystems, 3) plant and vegetation, 4) fishing gears, 5) riverbank garden, 6) local history, 7) social, economic, and cultural issues
TBR in Thailand
“TBR for rivers and communities”

- On going projects by MCI
  - “Eatable and Herbal Plants in Boonroung Wetland”
  - “Local Foods from Mekong Fish in Tamui Village”

Photo: MCI
TBR in Vietnam

“cooperation between NGO, villagers, authorities”

- A project by Vietnamese NGO in the Red River, Hanoi
Taibaan Research in Cambodia

- Sala Phoum by CEPA
Taibaan Research in Myanmar

"Kyae Ywa (villager) Thu Tae Tha Na (research)"

- TBR in Kamongtua River basin, Dawei, Southern Myanmar
- Against Dawei development project and road construction
- by 11 Karen communities and local NGOs
- Continue to Fish Conservation Zone
Taibaan Research in Myanmar

“TBR and land grabbling”

- MOSAIC Project
- Applying TBR to land grabbling and climate change issues
- Keywords:
  - **Ownership**: connection to land
  - **Changes**: of ownership & environment
Taibaan Research in Myanmar

“a tool for approaching communities”

- TBR by Dawei youths
- On going project by Semsikkha
- To approach local communities in conflict areas affected by Dawei development projects
Taibaan Research in Myanmar

“TBR and local movement against Salween dams”

- “Karn Kon Kwa (research) Wan Tai (Shan village) or Kon Wan (village)”
- Local movement against Salween dams in Shan

Karn Kon Kwa (Research) Wan Tai (Shan Village)
on The Eatable Plants and Flowers in Huai Nam Rin Resort

နက်နှစ်စလုံး သိမ်းပေးမှုအတွက် ဗျားနှုန်းနှင့် ဗျားနှုန်းစံများနှင့်များ
Taibaan Research in Laos and China

- **TBR in Laos**: cooperation with authorities in controversial project
  - A project by Lao NGO
  - Mekong dams, controversial projects

- **TBR in China**: Training
Other Community Research

- “Vijai (research) Kumpong (village)”
  - Under conflicts in Three Southernmost Provinces
  - Interesting methodology

- “Vijai Thangthin (local)” or Community-base Research by Thailand Research Fund
Applying TBR to Mining

- **Community rights:**
  to show that land, natural resources, and minerals BELONG to communities not state

- Find evidence

- Community strengthening
Thank You