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Population Displacement

Chiew Larn, Thailand

6-8 years after implementation, surveys indicate that the Chiew Larn resettlement program was extremely effective in improving the quality of life and net income of displaced families in Thailand.

Overview

Chiew Larn is a multipurpose water development project, providing the Thai people with electricity, flood management, irrigation, fisheries enhancement, and environmental protection benefits. The dam is constructed on the Khlong Saeng River, at Ban Chiew Larn, Amphoe Ban Ta Khun, Surat Thani province.

The dam consists of a rockfill, central clay core dam with crest elevation of 99.5 m MSL. At its normal high water level of 95.0 m, the reservoir has an active storage of 5,050 million cubic meters and a water surface of 165 sq.km².

The powerhouse is equipped with 3 generating units and has an installed capacity of 240 MW and total generation capacity of 554 GWh per year. After project completion the Chiew Larn Dam was conferred by His Majesty the King to be called the “Rajjaprabha” Dam the English translation being “Light of the Kingdom” Dam.

Dam Name

Scheme operator

Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand

Size of scheme (MW)

240

Country

Thailand

Catchment area

1435 km²

River

Klong Saeng

Effective reservoir capacity

5050 x 10⁶m³

Construction years

Reservoir size
165 km²

External recognition

Nil

Details

The resettlement of people displaced by the Chiew Larn Multipurpose Project is considered one of the more successful resettlement programs of the region.

The selected resettlement area of approximately 18,000 rai (2,900 ha), is located within the Ban Ta Khun district boundary, 4 km east of the dam site and was selected on the preferences of people to be resettled. The site has the capacity to accommodate about 400 families. As the principal activities of the displaced people prior to the project was the cultivation of orchards, para rubber and rice, land capability played an important role in site selection.

The major tasks accomplished in constructing the resettlement area were completed by 1987 and included:

- Construction of public infrastructure such as access roads, electricity and water supply systems, government service buildings, primary and secondary schools, public health centres, monasteries, police stations, etc.
- Provision to each family of 1 rai (0.16 ha) of land for a house lot and 19 rai (3.04 ha) for rubber planting.
- Provision of monthly income of 1,000 Baht for each family in the first 2 years to enable them to establish their rubber tree plantations
- Establishment of agricultural cooperative for resettlers, providing financial services including loans
- Provision of supplementary occupational extension programs to support the resettlers household income; this included fisheries development, agricultural extension (e.g., poultry farms, mechanical training, vegetable growing).

Long term monitoring of the socio-economic conditions at the resettlement site indicate that 6-8 years after resettlement the displaced individuals enjoy a higher standard of living when public health, nutrition, employment security, community management, public infrastructure, education, quality of dwellings and net income are considered.

Other aspects

[Social Impact Assessment](#)

Social impact assessments of the people displaced by the Chiew Larn Development project have included long-term monitoring of public health, nutrition, employment, education and overall standard of living following construction and commissioning of the project.

Public Health

As a result of the Chiew Larn Development, the standard of living for displaced people has been improved. Better nutrition and more adequate health care facilities have resulted in a decline in the prevalence of malaria.

Multiple Use Benefits

In addition to power generating capability, the Chiew Larn Multipurpose Project has enabled authorities to better manage flooding in the Klong Saeng Basin, provide water for irrigation of dry season crops and enhance fishing opportunities.

Local capacity building

Extension training programs associated with the resettlement of displaced communities provided local people to expand their skills and diversify their income earning activities to include fishing, mechanical repair, poultry farming etc.

Further information

Source: Hydropower Good Practices Workshop, Annex VIII - Examples for Good Practice Report, Villach, Austria, October 2005. International Energy Agency.

www.egat.co.th/english