

NGOs, Transnational Networks and Regional Governance in East Asia

Kim D. Reimann, Georgia State
University

Catching the Wave Conference

UC Berkeley

October 6, 2007



WTO Ministerial, Hong Kong, 2005



APEC, Pusan, Korea 2005



APEC Summit, Pusan, 2005



ADB Annual Meeting, Chiang Mai, 2000

The Rise of NGOs and Regional Activism in East Asia

- Greater number of NGOs in many East Asian countries
- Many new regional networks in many areas (human rights, environment, women's issues, peace, trade)

Why the rise?

- Domestic factors
 - Democratization, More Political Space
 - Socio-economic Development, Rise of Middle Class, Post-Material Values
- International factors
 - The International Promotion of Civil Society and NGOs
 - International Opportunities: Funding, International Elite Support, International Conferences and Summits (Political Globalization)
 - Other Globalization Processes: Economic, Internet

Types of Groups and Governance

- **Protest and Advocacy Groups**
 - Agenda setting and identification of issues
 - Good governance: transparency, accountability, representation
 - Source of policy ideas and change
 - Source of institutional and political change
- **Project Implementation and Cooperation Promotion (Service NGOs)**
 - Service provision
 - Promotion of regional projects and exchange
 - Policy ideas and innovations

Asian Development Bank

- Protest
 - Local protest against ADB-funded projects (Representation, Transparency, Accountability)
- Advocacy
 - Institutional Change at the ADB (Transparency, Accountability, Representation, Institutional and Policy Change)
- Cooperation
 - Partnerships with the ADB: NGOs as project implementers, cooperation in the Mekong Region and Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion

Protest of ADB-Funded Projects

| Time Period | Project Location | Project |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Ear ly 1990s | Phili ppines | Mas inloc Power Plant |
| Mid-1990s | Laos | Na m Leuk Hydr opowe r Pr oject |
| Mid-1990s | Sarawak, Ma laysia | Ba tang Ai Rese ttlement Pr ogra m |
| Mid-1990s | Laos | Upper Mek ong Na vigation Improvement Pr oject |
| Mid-1990s | Laos | Theu n-Hinboun Hydr opowe r Pr oject |
| Late 1990s | Thailand | Sa mut Praka n W astewa ter Trea tment Plant |
| Late 1990s | Thailand | Agricu lture Sec tor Pr ogra m Loan |
| Late 1990s | Indonesia | Power Sec tor Rec onstruc ting |
| Late 1990s | Laos | Na m Song Da m Pr oject |
| Ear ly 2000s | Ca mbodia | Phnom Penh Š Ho Chi Min City Road |
| Ear ly 2000s | Ca mbodia | Pr im ary Road Res toration |
| Ear ly 2000s | Ca mbodia | Tonle Sap Env ironmental Ma nage ment Pr oject |
| Ear ly 2000s | China | Highway E xtension in Yu nnan |
| Ear ly 2000s | Indonesia | Comm unity Empower ment for Rura l De velopment, South Kalim antan |
| Ear ly 2000s | Indonesia | Ta nggu h LGN Fac ility |
| Ear ly 2000s | Mek ong Reg ion | Pove rty Reduc tion and Env ironment Ma nage ment in Re mote Waters heds of the Grea ter Mek ong Subreg ion |
| Ear ly 2000s | Mek ong Reg ion | Grea ter Mek ong Su breg ion (GMS) Pr ogra m |
| Ear ly 2000s | Mek ong Reg ion | Mek ong Power Grid |
| Ear ly 2000s | Myanmar | Da ms in Bur ma |
| Ear ly 2000s | Papua New Gu inea | Oil Pa lm Plantations |
| Ear ly 2000s | Phili ppines | Cordillera Highland Agricu ltura l Res ource Ma nage ment Pr oject |
| Ear ly 2000s | Phili ppines | Ma ynilad Water Pr oject |
| Ear ly 2000s | Phili ppines | Power Sec tor Res truc turing Pr ogra m |
| Ear ly 2000s | Phili ppines | Gra ins Sec tor De velopment Pr oject |
| Ear ly 2000s | Reg ional | Thailand-Bur ma Gas Pipe line Pr oject |
| Ear ly 2000s | Thailand | Mae M oh and Ma Ta Phut Coal Power Plants |

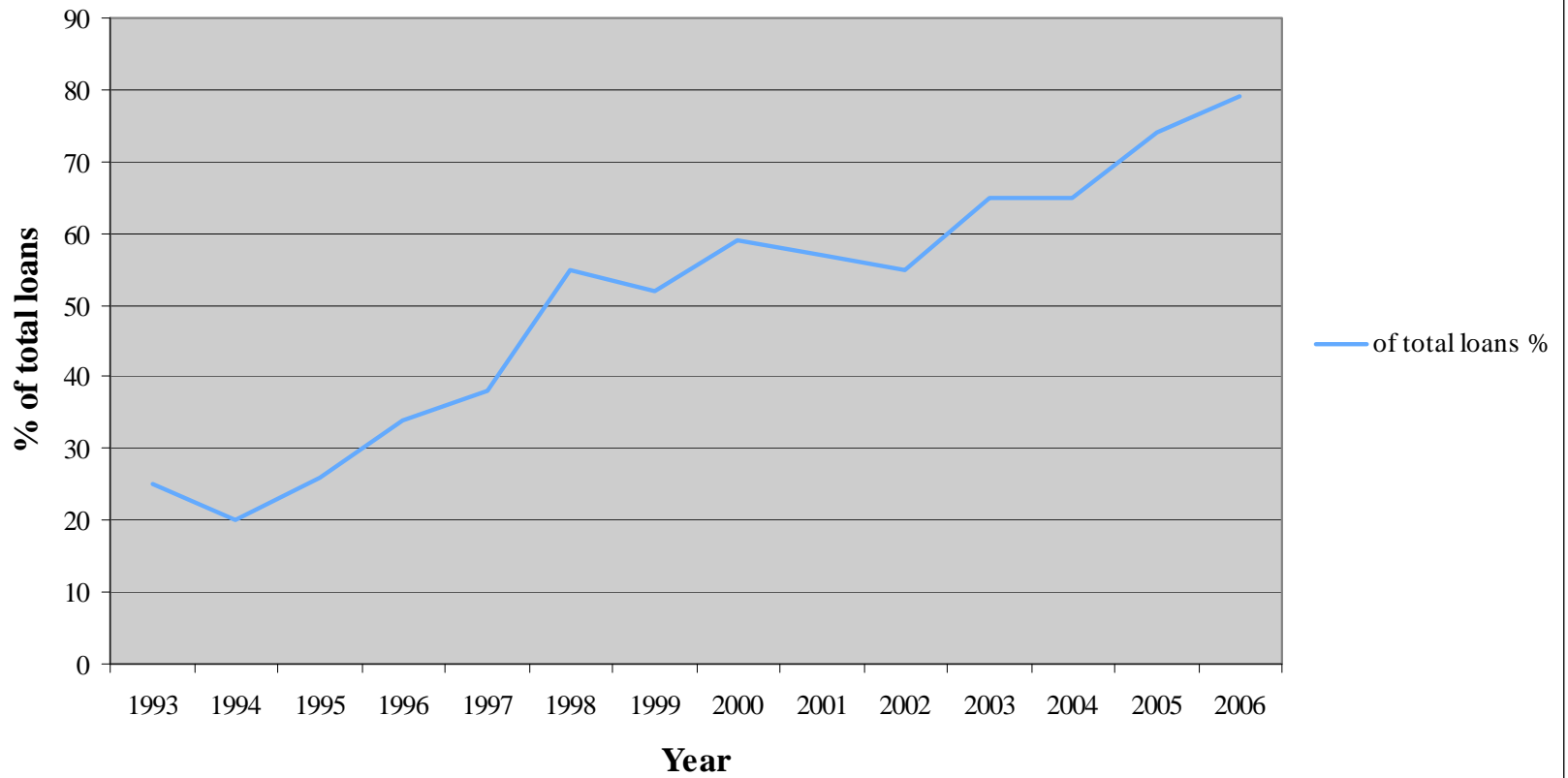
The ADB and NGO Advocacy

- NGO Forum on the ADB
 - Network that includes 300 groups and members in more than 30 countries
- Areas of Reform and Change
 - Environment policy, information disclosure, water policy, indigenous people and resettlement policies, accountability mechanisms, etc.
- ADB Annual Meetings

The ADB and NGO Collaboration

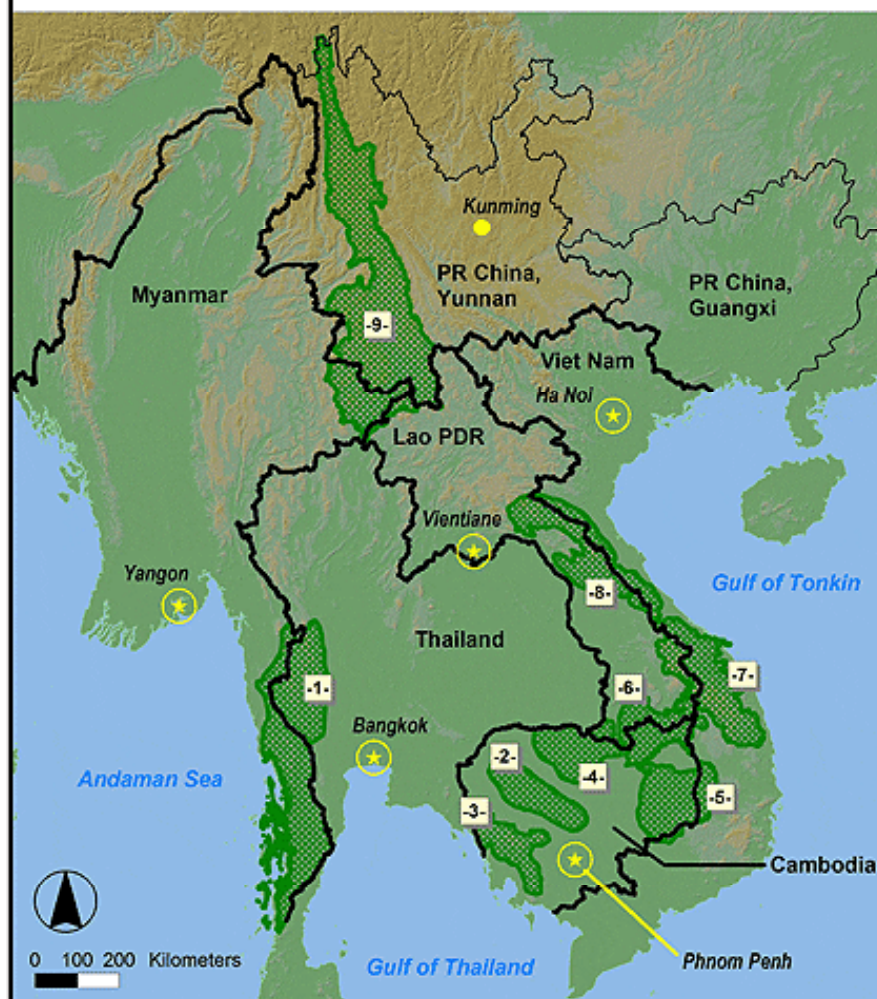
- Rising participation of NGOs in ADB-funded projects and technical assistance grants
 - 1980s less than 10%, from 1998 more than 50% (2006: 79%)
- Cooperation Agreement with World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
 - Mekong Biodiversity Conservation Corridor
 - Sustainable Fisheries in the Sulu Sulawesi Seas

Figure 1. ADB Loans with NGO Participation, 1990-2006, as % of total loans

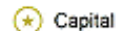


Biodiversity Conservation Landscapes

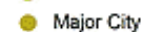
ADB RETA 6213, GMS Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative



Legend



Capital



Major City



International Border



Biodiversity Conservation Landscape



Provincial Border

- 1- Western Forest Complex
- 2- Tonle Sap Inundation Zone
- 3- Cardamom and Elephant Mountains
- 4- Northern Plains Dry Forest
- 5- Eastern Plains Dry Forest
- 6- Tri-Border Forest
- 7- Central Annamites
- 8- Northern Annamites
- 9- Mekong Headwaters

Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion Priority Conservation Areas

Red: Outstanding in the Indo-Pacific

Orange: Outstanding in ecoregion

Green: Outstanding in sub-region

Blue Circles: large priority area

Yellow: Corridor

