

WATER AND SOCIAL WELLBEING IN THAILAND AND THE REGION BEYOND COVID-19

Surichai Wun’Gaeo

Center for Peace and Conflict Studies,
Chulalongkorn University

21 March 2022 (on line)

International Dialogue: Water, Happiness, and Conscious Cooperation for Peaceful and Prosperous Mekong River Basin

The COVID-19 process : *Anthropause* and Beyond

- 1) Globalization, *Deglobalization*, Globalizations and Re-globalization
- 2) Policies, societal values, and Public (consumers) behavior and attitudes
- 3) Insecurities and Diversity of *livelihoods*
- 4) *Learning and RE-BALANCING*
- 5) Knowledge in the Age of **Anthropocene**: *learning our way out of unsustainability*

Upper Mekong/Lancang Dam's transboundary Impacts

**The dams will hold back
50% of the Mekong River
Basin's sediment flows;**

**Changes to seasonal flows-
reduction of water in rainy
season, increased flow in
dry season;**

**China's increased control
of the Mekong River and
neighboring countries.**



Xiaowan Dam

Water and Peacebuilding in a Post COVID-19 Southeast Asia

- Global Imbalances and Increased Inequalities in SEA.
- Development, Violence and the *Anthropause*
- Back to the BASICS, Back to the Future: thru SDGs?
- What Values? : Human and Planetary Solidarity
- Scales of thinking and feelings (LEARNING)

**UNITED
NATIONS**



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



BES

IPBES/7/10/Add.1



**Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and
Ecosystem Services**

Distr.: General
29 May 2019

Original: English

**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
Seventh session
Paris, 29 April–4 May 2019**

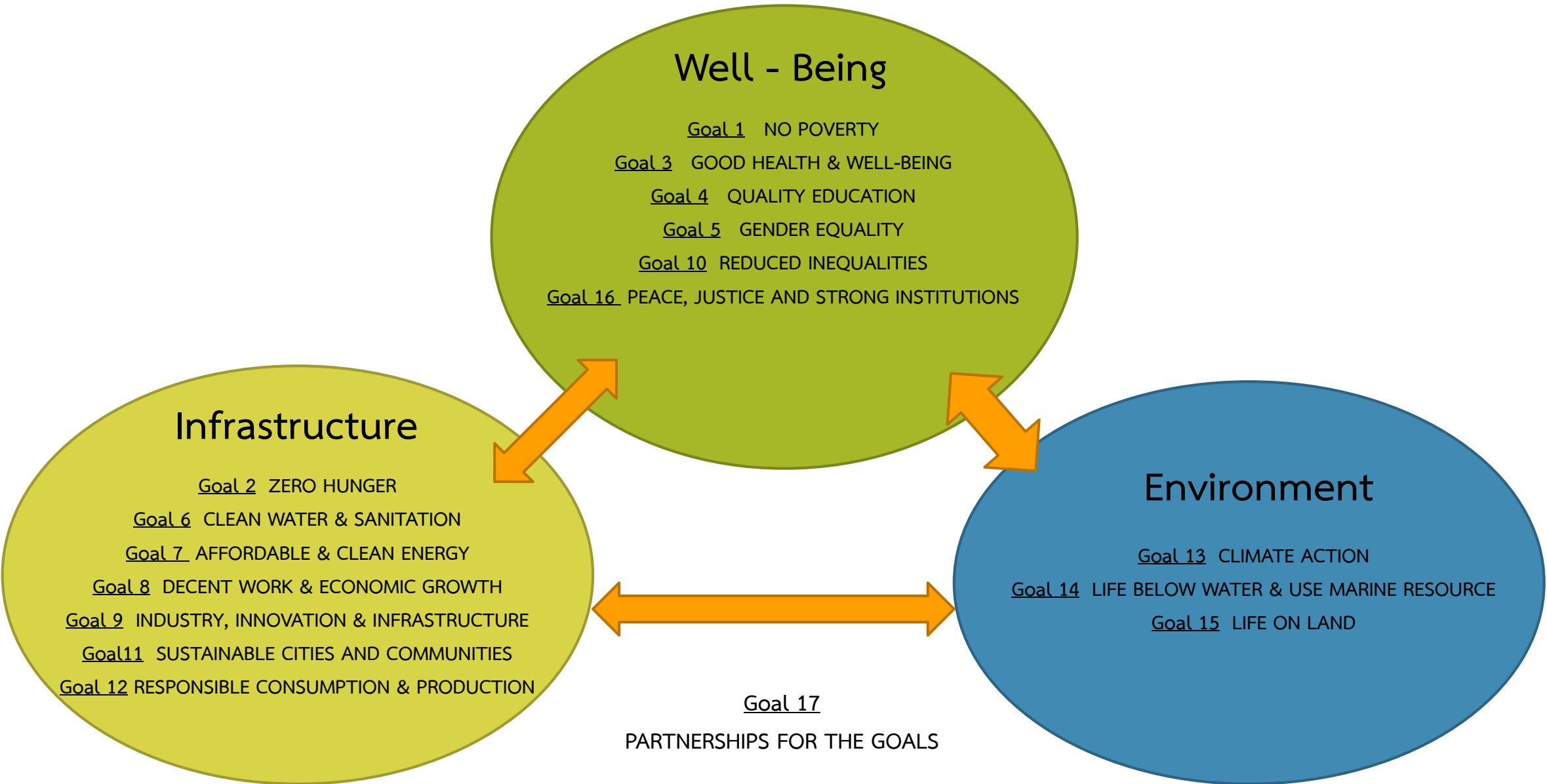
**Report of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on the work of
its seventh session**

Addendum

Knowledge Integration and the Future

Governance for SDGs





Applied from resource:

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(15\)70112-9/fulltext?rss=yes](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(15)70112-9/fulltext?rss=yes)

SDG Implementation Wellbeing as Collaborative learning

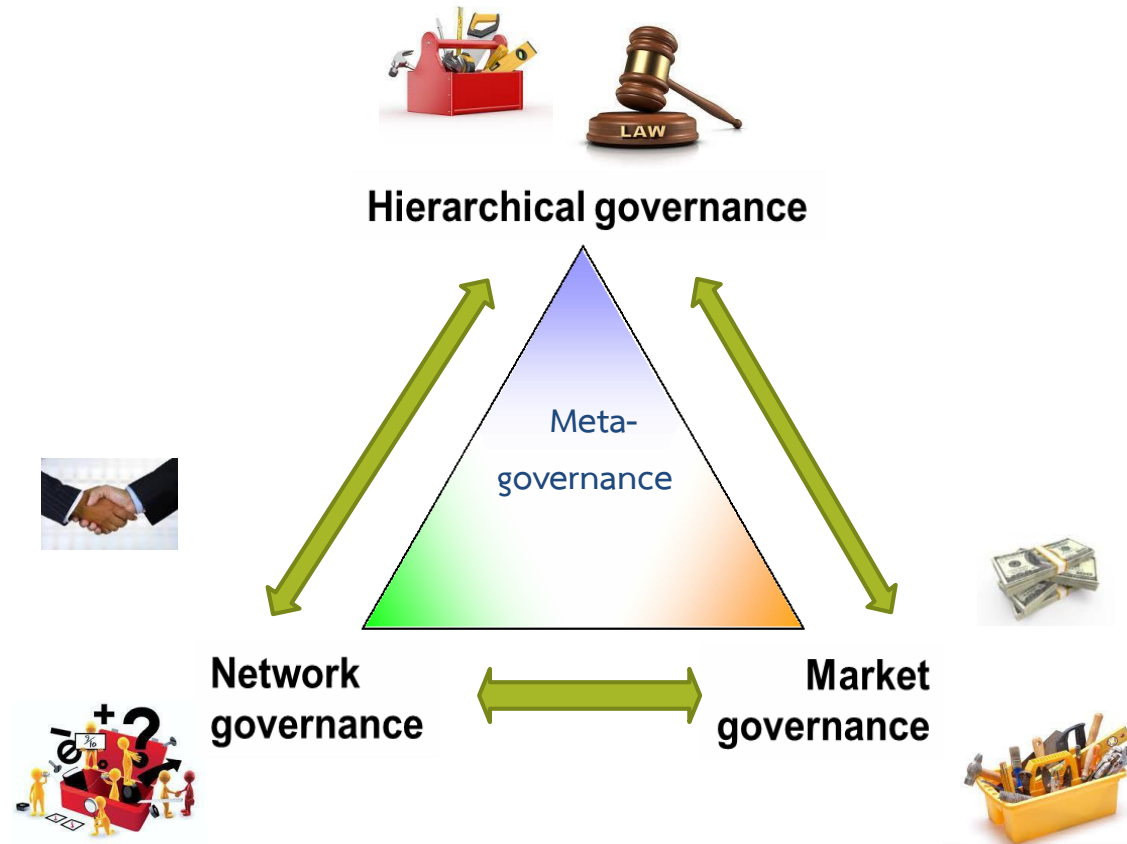
Opportunities and Challenges

- a) Beyond the national: subnational, subregional, regional and inter-regional
- b) Entry points: downstream and upstream
- c) Future oriented: regional integration and intellectual engagements
- d) Capacity building: individual, institutional and inter-regional
- e) New Global – Local, Local-Global Knowledge agendas

New Challenge : global systemic emerging risks

- Emergence of systemic risks that are :
 - transboundary
 - Socially amplified via perception and social mobilisation
 - Subject to expert dissent regarding risks and benefits
 - Unmanageable by single organizations
 - Difficult to communicate

ASEAN and Southeast Asia : Use the full governance toolbox



Creating ownership at the national level: Lessons learned about blueprints, toolboxes and silos by Dr. Louis Meuleman (201)

ASEAN and the Powers : *Learning* as if the planet matters from *G-speed* to *L-speed*

1. New Awareness

- Globalization [s] and Risks and New actors
- Politics of Identity and its Limits

2. Transformative Potentials? : **SDGs and beyond**

- Economic \neq *Social integration* : Institutional lags
- *Cultures of competitiveness*
- *Hybrid Governance*

3. Necessity of *Partnerships and public diplomacy*

- Mutual Learning in Multi-stakeholder contexts

4. Enabling Environments : **Knowledge and Policy Platforms**

- Transformative Learning

SDGs and Democratic legitimacy: Engaging stakeholders and Multi Level Learning

- learning and **transformative change** : cross scale, cross-disciplinary, cross-sectoral
- Knowledge production and policy learning
- Knowledge (actor) -policy (actors) gaps
- Knowledge actors: the formal, the bureaucratic, the established, but not the world of civil society: NGOs, social activists, affected communities
- Flexible boundaries of knowledge-policy actors: problem –solving for sustainable futures

Knowledge-based transformations

Insight(a) : From boxes to arrows- a systems perspective

Moving forward :

- ❑ address trade-offs
- ❑ harness co-benefits
- ❑ turn vicious-into
virtuous cycles