

# A Study on Market Approach of Environment Governance in Mekong River Basin Countries

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Abstract: This thesis first reviews literatures on environment governance approaches of government, community and market and then analyze the cases of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. The thesis also discusses the relations of the studied schemes to communities, governments and enterprises or organizations and the implications of transboundary environment governance. The author concludes that the market approach is emerging with neo-liberalization and globalization and takes three major types, namely (1) standard and certification, (2) market trade and (3) social responsibility. The market approach cannot work without complementary functioning of government support and community participation. These relations are very dynamic and political. Community can benefit and be excluded the market approach while governments can choose a scheme to enhance their environment management. The market approach can, if selected by government, penetrates national boundary through production chain and realizes the environment governance purposes. The practices of the market approach challenged the concept of sovereignty in terms of natural resources management. However, under the globalization process, developing countries voluntarily transfer some of their rights to market players in exchange for economic and environment benefits. It is a process of mutually redefining the rights that while market obtains access to regulate environment in a particular time and space it re-affirm nation's rights to allow market playing its role. A nation also re-inforce its position to regulate. In the time of globalization, the content of sovereignty is not fix but change, inclusive and flexible.

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