

**Thesis Title :** Conflicts over Public Water Management : A Case Study of Mae Sarn Reservoir Muang District , Lamphun Province.

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### **Abstract**

This study investigates major causes, problems and future trends of the conflicts resulted from the government management of public water. The study also examines the role of government in mobilizing public water resources and managing the conflict . In addition, the study evaluates the effectiveness and impact of the management according to the government policy and provides recommendations on solutions to the problems related to the conflicts.

The study concludes that the development pattern promoted by the government especially the construction of medium sized reservoir has had a negative

impact on the local community management of water resources. One of the major consequences is that the management approach has changed from self-help concept by the local community to the government centered system. This centralized system of water management has caused other related problems such as continuing lack of water and inefficient management of water resources. At the same time, the participation of community members has been neglected, resulting in increasing conflicts in the management of the reservoir and creating a negative attitude among the people towards other development projects promoted by the government.

It is suggested that of the role of all parties concerned in this issue be assessed in order to determine responsibilities and suitable tasks for each party. A holistic approach should also be used to mobilize all natural resources more effectively. The traditional system of utilizing water resources need to be enhanced by ways of strengthening local reservoir or dam maintenance organizations(Ongkorn Muang Fai)and networking of all organizations along the river. In this regard, the government should promote people's participation through the entire development process to minimize the conflicts related to the management of water resources and to improve an understanding of the community based approach development.