

(An unofficial translation from Krungthep Turakij, Date: 12 September 2012)

Government confident of no massive flood, water under control

The Water and Flood Management Commission (WFMC) confirmed its confidence that there would be no massive flooding this year, as a systematic water control and management plan has been implemented and there has been less rain compared to last year.

Dr. Royol Chitradon, director of the Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute and a member of a WFMC, said the National Water and Weather Data has consolidated all information about weather, storms, rainfall and water, enabling the government to effectively monitor and manage the changes. The data is also being shared with other related government agencies, such as the Irrigation Department and the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, to support their work.

With updated and accurate data, the government has been able to make a realistic forecast of this year's rainfall levels and take effective measures to prevent flooding, such as releasing water from major dams at the appropriate rate and time in order to maintain the dams' water reception capacity. The government has maintained the water level in major dams at 80 per cent.

Dr. Chitradon added that the water level in closely-watched areas remained lower than the riverbanks and continued to be under control.

According to the data available, total rainfall this year has been approximately 20 per cent less than last year. This lower figure, together with the fact that the country is experiencing the El Nino effect this year, makes the government confident that the flooding will not be as severe as it was last year.

To prevent floods, major waterways were dredged, new floodways were prepared and many other measures have been taken.

However, heavy rains have brought about flooding in some areas in the lower Northern Region and some provinces in the Central Region. With all the flood prevention measures in operation, the government hopes to be able to drain the water from those flooded provinces within a few weeks.

Close monitoring will be intensified over the weekend because a storm from the South China Sea will affect Thailand's Nan Chiang Rai provinces as well as provinces in Isan.
