

Acceptance Speech for ATS Education Award 2017: Environment

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It is my great privilege to be here tonight and to be selected for the Anglo-Thai Society Academic Excellence Award 2017 in Environment Category. I would like to thank the Anglo-Thai Society, Thai Bev, and to all who have made this day possible. Thank you very much for this great honour.

My study aims to assess the impact of water infrastructure and their operation on hydrology and aquatic habitats, and their effects on fish migration, fish diversity, population structure and recruitment of fisheries resources in the Nam Kam River system, a tributary of the Mekong in Thailand. The factors that influence and restrict the migration of fish, and the effectiveness of fish passage facilities that installed at watergates in the river system were evaluated.

The study on the Nam Kam River system has proven that management control of the flow of water through the watergates and an effective fish passage facility are important elements to mitigate the impact of instream structures on the hydrology changes and habitat changes, enable free movement of fish through the river system and maintain the fisheries resources in the river system. The outputs of my PhD research were used to develop management protocols to optimize the management of water infrastructure development for the irrigation and flood control to ensure sustainable fisheries but also maintain agricultural production and potable water supply. I am confident that the protocol for watergate and fish pass management based on the knowledge from the Nam Kam river system can be upscale to other rivers in Thailand and the other tropical river systems that faced with same problems.

My research would not have been possible without the support from a great number of people. First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor Professor Ian G. Cowx for his valuable advice, motivation and support throughout my PhD. Special thanks must go to the financial support from the Royal Thai Government to pursue my fisheries studies in University of Hull International Fisheries Institute and thank you to the Fisheries Programme of Mekong River Commission who funded my research project. Finally, my family and friends who always support me, thank you very much.