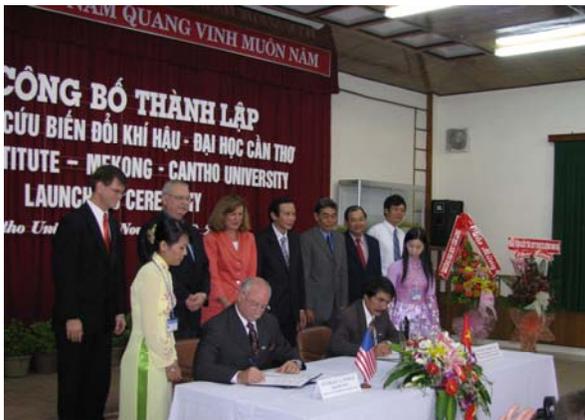


## The USGS Delta Research and Global Observation Network Update – December 2008

- [DRAGON Institute- Mekong established at Can Tho University, Vietnam](#)
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### DRAGON Institute- Mekong established at Can Tho University, Vietnam



A delegation of Department of the Interior and non-governmental organization scientists attended the launch of the [Delta Research and Global Observation Network](#) (DRAGON) Institute – Mekong at Can Tho University in Vietnam. Participants included Tim Petty, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior; Sue Haseltine, USGS Associate Director for Biology; Stanley Ponce, USGS South Central Area Regional Executive; Gregory Smith, USGS National Wetlands Center Director, Jeb Barzen,

Field Director with the International Crane Foundation; and Marc Gaden, Communications Director, Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

The events took place in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Can Tho. The delegation met with U.S. embassy officials, various Vietnamese ministries related to the environment, and several non-governmental organizations working in Vietnam. The project goal is to create a platform for integrating discipline specialists to develop a community of practice to address complex issues for effective and sustainable management of deltas and large rivers. With increasing awareness of climate change and related coastal impacts, there has never been a more urgent time to work cooperatively across the major mega-deltas around the world. The DRAGON Institute – Mekong offers an opportunity to support this process.

### Climate Change Working Group

On June 24, 2008, President Bush and Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung of Vietnam signed a joint statement between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The two leaders agreed to work together to promote

Vietnamese climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, including the formation of a new subcommittee under the bilateral Science and Technology (S&T) Agreement to discuss and coordinate joint initiatives.

This subcommittee is formed as the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) under the bilateral S&T Agreement. The purpose of the CCWG is to provide an institutional framework and a network of experts and organizations working on climate change that promotes long-term cooperation between the two countries.

### **USGS releasing the entire Landsat archive at no charge**

As of October 1, 2008, all Landsat 7 ETM+ scenes held in the USGS EROS archive are now available for download at no charge. The rest of the USGS archive, from Landsat 1 through Landsat 5, will be released by December 30, 2008.

The USGS Landsat archive is an unequalled 35-year record of the Earth's surface that is valuable for a broad range of uses, ranging from climate change science to forest management to emergency response, plus countless other user applications. The USGS now provides users with electronic access to any Landsat scene held in the USGS-managed national archive of global scenes dating back to Landsat 1, launched in 1972. By February 2009, any archive scene selected by a user – with no restriction on cloud cover – will be processed automatically to a standard product recipe, using such parameters as the Universe Transverse Mercator projection, and staged for electronic retrieval. In addition, newly acquired scenes meeting a cloud cover threshold of 20% or below will be processed to the standard recipe and placed on line for at least six months, after which they will remain available for selection from the archive.

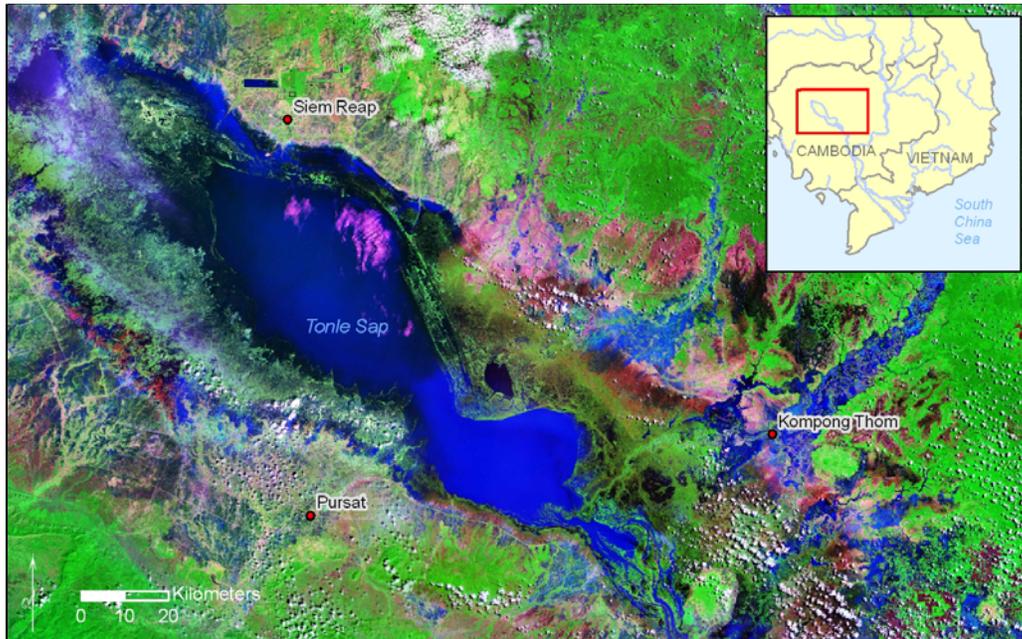
Landsat scenes can be previewed and downloaded using the USGS Global Visualization Viewer at <http://glovis.usgs.gov> [under "Select Collection" choose Landsat archive: L7 SLC-off (2003-present)]. Scenes can also be selected using the USGS Earth Explorer tool at <http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov> [under "Select Your Dataset" choose Landsat Archive: L7 SLC-off (2003-present)]. For further information on Landsat satellites and products, see <http://landsat.usgs.gov>

### **DRAGON III held in Bangkok, Thailand in May and June of 2008**

DRAGON III was a regional symposium with an educational dimension that promoted outreach and educational materials related to the ecological aspects of wetlands and delta systems. DRAGON III was held in conjunction with an annual training course on wetland ecology and management in the lower Mekong basin at Chulalongkorn University in Vietnam from May 29 to June 5, 2008. The goal of this program is to develop a significant number of educators and wetland scientists in Southeast Asia that can inform sustainable development of the lower Mekong region through international cooperative efforts.

## Announcing the 2009 DRAGON global summit

The 2009 DRAGON Global Summit will take place June 22-25, 2009 on the shores of the Tonle Sap Lake in Siem Reap, Cambodia. For more information, please visit [http://deltas.usgs.gov/Conferences/cambodia\\_2009/cambodia\\_summit.aspx?site=cambodia2009](http://deltas.usgs.gov/Conferences/cambodia_2009/cambodia_summit.aspx?site=cambodia2009).



The Tonle Sap is the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, and is linked to the Mekong River via the Tonle Sap River. The Tonle Sap acts as a large sump 200 miles upstream from the Mekong River's mouth, providing flood relief by smoothing stage differences in the Mekong River downstream.

Please visit our website at <http://deltas.usgs.gov>.

If you would like to subscribe to our mailing list, send an email from the address you want subscribed to [listserv@condor.nwrc.gov](mailto:listserv@condor.nwrc.gov) with the subject "**subscribe dragon**".

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