In February 2017 the Tracking Change project hosted a Global Knowledge Symposium at Ubon Ratchathani University in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand. The Symposium was an opportunity to bring together those participating in the project from the Mackenzie, Amazon and Mekong River Basins, allowing for discussion on freshwater ecosystems both in Canada and in the international context of Brazil and Thailand.

Bringing together voices from the Mackenzie, Amazon and Mekong River Basins...

The meeting created opportunities for presentations (oral/poster) by community members, students, academics, policy-makers and partners, place-based learning about fishing livelihoods (particularly related to the impact of the Pak Mun River Dam), critical discussion with the ultimate aim of mobilizing knowledge being created through Tracking Change and strengthening the research at a global scale. Participants also had the opportunity to interview local peoples and policy-makers/government organizations.

The Group at the Pak Mun Dam!
Overview of the Global Knowledge Symposium

1. Create opportunities for indigenous community participants from the Mackenzie River Basin and the Lower Mekong River Basin to share their own local and traditional knowledge about social-ecological change and develop a better understanding of its significance at global scales.

2. Develop a deeper understanding of the knowledge, practices and beliefs of Lao/Thai fishers through place-based learning activities.

3. Identify and advance theories and conceptual frameworks that can help explain trends and patterns in the livelihoods of fishing communities in the Mackenzie, Mekong and Amazon including the changes associated with hydropower.

4. Strengthen research collaboration between graduate students, junior and senior faculty and community knowledge holders (fishers) and partners from Canada, Thailand and Brazil.

5. Build global academic-community-policy networks that can effect change in the governance of the Mackenzie, Mekong and Amazon.

6. Catalyze critical thinking about the methodological best-practice for studying and communicating about fisher knowledges and practices.

7. Advance community reporting and academic publication through facilitated workshops.

More information available on www.trackingchange.ca

Where did our participants go?

Our guests at the symposium had opportunities to visit tourist and cultural attractions in Bangkok and Ubon Ratchathani. This included aquariums, Temples (such as Wat Chaiwatthanaram Ayutthaya), restaurants, the Ubon Ratchathani University’s campus, the Pak Mun Dam, Bangkok’s Floating Market and more. Additionally, the Global Knowledge Symposium included a Homestay in the Village of Baan Kanpuay. Where participants enjoyed a night of traditional food prepared by local peoples of the community, as well as a Sai Sin Ceremony in the morning!
Posters from the Symposium can be found in the Outreach section of the Tracking Change Website!

THANK YOU TO ALL PARTICIPANTS:

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Gwich'in Tribal Council
Inuvialuit Fisheries Joint Management Ctte.
Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Deh Cho First Nations
Yellowknife Dene First Nations
Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation

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