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New Perspectives in Southeast Asian Studies

Alfred W. McCoy, Ian Baird, Katherine A. Bowie, and Anne Ruth Hansenł EW¶W€7V[face

"A significant contribution."—Choice

"This book provides a fascinating account of how, with the NT2, the World Bank and the [government of the Lao PDR] took the first steps on the dam-building program that has brought us to where we are now."

-Water Alternatives Book Review

Dead in the Water

Global Lessons from the World Bank's Model Hydropower Project in Laos

EDITED BY BRUCE SHOEMAKER AND WILLIAM ROBICHAUD

FOREWORD BY YOS SANTASOMBAT; AFTERWORD BY PHILIP HIRSCH

Reveals how sustainable hydropower projects can harm local communities

"An essential sourcebook for anyone interested in Lao PDR, hydropower in the Mekong basin, or indeed broader questions of the political ecology of conservation and development. The volume is also relevant for those interested in the social and environmental implications of large infrastructure projects underway in the region under the umbrella of China's Belt and Road Initiative. A close reading of *Dead in the Water* is highly recommended."—Southeast Asian Studies

In the 2000s, as the World Bank was reeling from past hydropower failures, it promoted the Nam Theun 2 dam project. They believed this dam offered a new, wiser model of development that would alleviate poverty, protect the environment, engage local communities, and stimulate political transformation. Despite assertions of success from agencies involved in the project, the story of the dam has been one of substantial loss. In this volume, a diverse group of experts—involved for years with Nam Theun 2—issue an urgent call for critical reassessment of the approach to, and rationale for, these kinds of large infrastructure projects in developing countries.

BRUCE SHOEMAKER is an independent researcher and co-author of The People and Their River: River-based Livelihoods in the Xe Bang Fai Basin in Laos. **WILLIAM ROBICHAUD** is an award-winning conservation biologist who has worked in Southeast Asia for more than twenty-five years.

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