

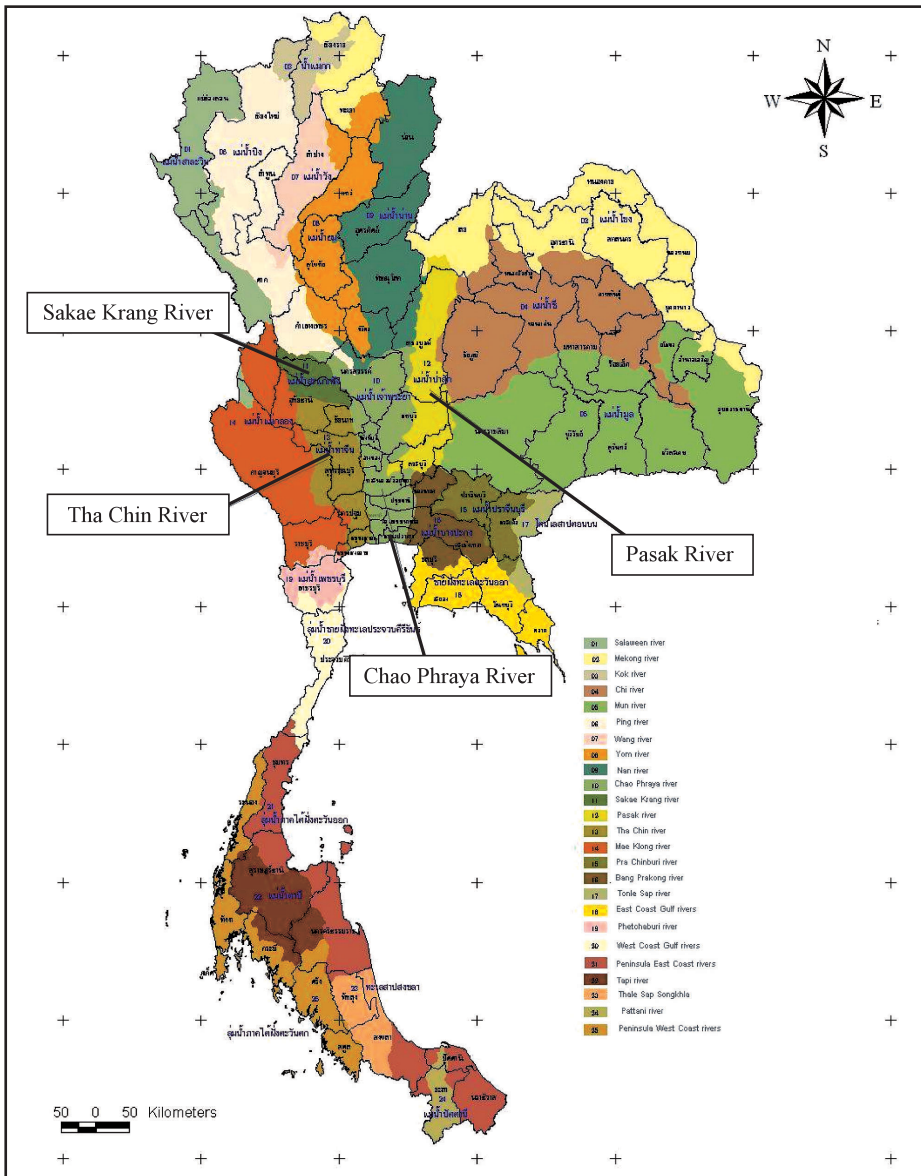
Thailand

Thailand-10: Chao Phraya River

Thailand-11: Sakae Krang River

Thailand-12: Pasak River

Thailand-13: Tha Chin River



Introduction

Thailand is situated in the tropical monsoon zone of Southeast Asia and cover an area of 513,115 km² from latitudes 5° 30' N to 21° 00' N and longitudes 97° 00' E to 105° 30' E. The country is bordered on the west and northwest by Myanmar, on the northeast and east by People's Democratic Republic of Lao, on the southeast by Cambodia and the Gulf of Thailand, and on the south by Malaysia. Thailand has maximum dimensions of about 2,500 km from north to south and 1,250 km from east to west with a coast line of approximately 1,840 km along the Gulf of Thailand and 865 km along the Indian Ocean. The topographic features of Thailand comprise of three main types of landform: highlands, plains and plateaus. The highlands include several mountain ranges covered with forest extending from north to south along the entire western length of the country. The coastal area of the Gulf of Thailand is another part of the highlands. The central part of the country is an extensive alluvial plain, while the northeast region is undulating plateau. Thailand is a warm and semi-humid tropical country. The climate is monsoonal, marked by a pronounced rainy season lasting from about May to September and a relatively dry season for the remainder of the year. The monsoon season rainfall is around 90 percent of the annual rainfall. The mean annual precipitation is 1,400 mm varying from 1,100 mm in the northeast plateau to over 1,800 mm in the southern peninsula. The population in 2003 was approximately 63 million.

The hydrological characteristics of Thailand vary from region to region depending on various factors such as the geographical and climatic conditions of each region. Further, the country area is divided into 25 river basins according to the topography.

The four rivers catalogued in this volume are the Chao Phraya River, Sakae Krang River, Pasak River and Tha Chin River. All are located in the Central part of the country. The confluence of the Ping, Wang, Yom and Nan Rivers originates the Chao Phraya River at Nakhon Sawan about 200 km north of Bangkok. The Sakae Krang River flows from northwest to southeast and joins the Chao Phraya River at the Krokphra district in U-thai Thani province. It has a catchment area of 5,202 km². The Pasak River flows from north to the south and joins the Chao Phraya River at Ayuthaya province. It has a catchment area of 15,779 km². The Tha Chin, a branch of the Chao Phraya River, begins at Chainat province. It flows through Suphanburi and Nakhonpathom province, and drains to the Gulf of Thailand at Samuthsakorn province. It has a catchment area of 14,199 km².

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