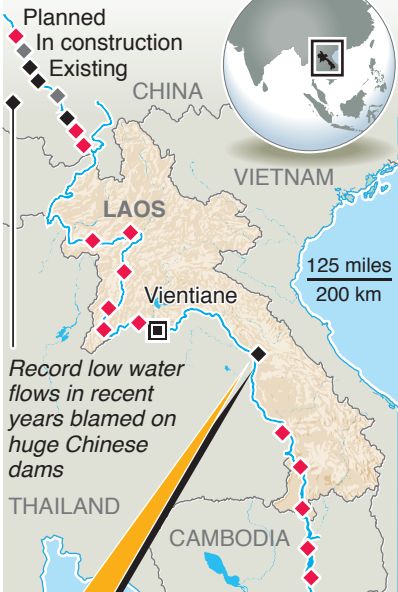


New Mekong dam opens

A controversial mega-dam on the Mekong River in Laos, part-financed by the World Bank, has begun to generate electricity, most of which will be exported to Thailand

MEKONG DAMS



Nam Theun II: \$1.45bn, 1,000MW dam has created 450km² reservoir inundating 17 villages and affecting up to 150,000 people downstream