China and MRC Cooperation at a Glance

2nd MRC-ESClR Symposium
Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam
1-2 July 2015

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• China is Asia's most important upstream riparian country
• Sharing 110 rivers and lakes with 18 downstream countries
• Total transboundary water resources 800 billion m³ = 32% total runoff in China
• One of specific region of interests includes one of the four major waterways in Southwest China: Lancang-Mekong
Mekong River Commission Governance Structure

- Government of Cambodia
- Government of Lao PDR
- Government of Thailand
- Government of Viet Nam

Council
- Members at Ministerial and Cabinet level

Joint Committee
- Members at Head of Department level or higher

MRC Secretariat
- Technical and administrative arm

Donor Consultative Group
Development Partners and Cooperating Institutions

National Mekong Committees (NMCs)
Line Agencies

Our Dialogue Partners
- Government of China
- Government of Myanmar
The First Dialogue Meeting 1996

• Increasing mutual understanding between the MRC and China
• Prioritize cooperative activities and identify programmes of mutual interest
• Take a gradual approach undertaking the easier work prior to the more difficult
Area of Cooperation

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the provision of daily river flow and rainfall data from two monitoring stations in Yunnan Province during the wet season
- Technical Exchange and capacity building
- Junior Riparian Professional
China willing to continue and enhance cooperation with the MRC

• The cooperation could be enhanced by exchange visits and other activities
• China would work with MRC on a joint scientific study on water flow fluctuations of the Mekong-Lancang River

7 November 2014—China’s Vice Minister of Water Resources, H.E. Mr. JIAO Yong
MRC Summit: Political Will

- Reaffirm the transboundary cooperation amongst the Member Countries, and also with China and Myanmar
- Ho Chi Minh Declaration: "Exploring and identifying opportunities to expand cooperation between the MRC Dialogue Partners, current and new Development Partners and other regional and international initiatives"
Implications for future cooperation between China and MRC

- Strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the MRC and jointly contribute to the economic and social development of this region, guided by the principle of “equal consultation, stronger cooperation, mutual benefit and common development”

Remarks by H.E. Song Tao Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China
At the 1st Summit of the Mekong River Commission
Hua Hin, Thailand, 5 April 2010
Work Together for Common Development: 1st Summit

- Increase communication and strengthen mutual trust
- Expand the cooperation platform and strengthen cooperation in development
- Advance cooperation in disaster reduction and preserve development achievements
- Actively carry out cooperation in hydropower development and promote sustainable development
- Strengthen technical exchanges and personnel interflow to jointly improve development capacity
Work together as one for common progress: 2nd summit

• Development strategy is more connected and more aligned
• More integrated planning with regard to practical cooperation
• Enhance cooperation in hydropower development
• Jointly foster a sound atmosphere for cooperation
The future climate of cooperation

• Closer links should be developed between MRC and other cooperation framework: ASEAN, GMS, JCCCN

• Establishment of an ASEAN Community need to be fully considered by the MRC → A similar instrument such as the EU’s Water Framework Directive
The GMS-Mekong Connection

• Both MRC and GMS are of its member Countries

• GMS and MRC strengthen cooperation in common area of interest to support socio-economic development:
  – Flood management and mitigation, Sustainable hydropower development, Conservation of environment and biodiversity, Climate Change adaptation and mitigation, Agriculture, Inland water transport.
Key Messages

• MRC cooperation with China has increased substantially
• The cooperation could be enhanced by technical exchange, joint study, data-information sharing and other activities
• Expand the cooperation platform
• Communication is a must to build mutual trust
"May our friendship and cooperation run as long and deep as the Lancang-Mekong River."

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