Government of Lao PDR

Statement By
H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment
Chairman of Lao National Mekong Committee
At
Ministerial Meeting of the 3rd Summit of MRC
Siem Reap, Cambodia, 4 April 2018

Your Excellency H.E. Mr. Lim Kean Hor, Minister of Water Resources and Meteorology Chairman of Cambodia National Mekong Committee Member of the MRC Council for Cambodia Chairperson of MRC Council for 2018;

Your Excellency H.E. General Surasak Karnjanarat, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Chairperson of the Thai National Mekong Committee 7 Member of MRC Council of Thailand Chairperson of the MRC Council for 2017
Your Excellency H.E. Dr. Tran Hong Ha, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Chairman of Viet Nam National Mekong Committee Member of MRC Council for Viet Nam 
Dialogue Partners from China and Myanmar, 
Representatives of Development Partners,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, 
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honor to participate in this ministerial meeting for the 3rd Summit of the MRC Joint Session in the world heritage city of Siem Reap. I wish to express my congratulations and appreciations to the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia through HE. Mr. Lim Kean Hor for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting and for the warm welcome extended to our Delegation.

Excellencies, 
Distinguished Delegates, 
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Mekong River has long been called the river of friendship, partnership among people of the countries along this river. The MRC has brought its member countries enhancing development cooperation, properly managing and maintaining the Mekong River Basin in a sustainable manner. The solidarity, cooperation and mutual understanding, the member countries have vigorously fulfilled their obligations pertaining Mekong.
We very welcome the updated MRC IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy 2021-2025.

With regard to the joint effort and partnership, we would like to emphasize on strengthening cooperation with our dialogue partner and development partner to implementing those outlined activities in the MRC Strategic Plans in order to address basin wide strategies as well as resilience to climate change impacts and strengthening organization. The MRC member countries must lead the ways in promoting sustainable development of the Lower Mekong Basin in order to advance the goals of reducing poverty and promoting trade among the riparian countries. This is the intention to provide a political signal that demonstrates the breadth of support and scale of momentum for a transition to a low-emission and climate resilient economy. Each MRC member country has different development potential and strategies to gain benefits from water and related water resource in the Lower Mekong Basin.

In this spirit, Lao PDR has always respected the 1995 Mekong Agreement and follows the MRC procedures. Development projects in tributaries of the Mekong River and any proposed mainstream Hydropower projects have been notified through the PNPCA process based on comprehensive scientific studies and also implementing joint action plan for monitoring on operation and on going projects. Lao PDR stands with strong commitment to live in harmony with our neighboring countries in the accordance with
the principle “Meeting the needs keeping the balance” following idea one Mekong one Spirit.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I believe that our strong joint effort and partnership and cooperation among and between MRC, dialogue partners and development partners would enhance and achieve our objectives toward the MRC vision. We should continue to be innovative and advance sustainable development through various platforms and work as one towards our vision and achieve success together. By taking this opportunity, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to MRC Development Partners for their kind support and assistance to MRC activities. I would like also calling for better coordination between and among MRC member countries and our dialogue partners and development partners. In this spirit of Paris declaration and actions and result oriented. My profound thanks also goes to the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia H.E. Lim Kean Hor for hosting this meeting. I am anticipating a fruitful and successful summit.

On this occasion of the up coming Songkran New Year, May I on behalf of Lao Delegation to wish all of you a very happy new year.

Happy New Year

Or-Kun-Chreun

Thank you very much