

**Views on enhancing joint efforts partnerships by Senior Representative
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar,
at Mekong Ministerial Meeting
Siem Reap, Cambodia
on 4th April ,2018**

Mingalapar!

**Your Excellencies, Council Members from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and
Vietnam,**

Honourable CEO, MRC,

Delegates from MRC member countries

Delegates from China, Dialogue Partner Country,

Development Partners,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A Very Good Morning,

1. It is indeed my great honor and pleasure to be at this “Ministerial meeting for MRC- joint session of Dialogue partners, and Development Partners in this beautiful city of Siem Reap, Cambodia, especially for the opportunity to give views on enhancing joint efforts and partnership to this very important occasion on behalf of Myanmar Representatives.

2. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Government of Kingdom of Cambodia for its warm welcome to our Myanmar delegation and excellent arrangements. I would also like to thank to MRC Secretariat for invitation to us to this important meeting.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. While making all efforts to conserve water resources and environment in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, we recognize that cooperation among the Mekong Riparian Countries is of great importance to effectively enhance integrated

water resources and sound environmental management in the region. With this, Myanmar has well established the partnership with Mekong River Commission (MRC) through as a good dialogue partner and have active participation in trainings, workshops, seminars and forums conducted by MRC, and in collaboration with other regional and international organizations.

4. Taking this opportunity, I would like to share remarkable milestone in the areas of environment and water resources management in Myanmar since 2012. The Government pays its efforts mainstreaming environmental protection and strengthening water governance in the national economic development plan.

5. With regards to institutional strengthening, while forming National Water Resources Committee for Integrated Water Resources management, Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Committees in national, regional and local levels have been formed for coordination and policy guiding body for IWRM and integration environment into across sectors. At the same time, Secretariat of NWRC for water governance and Environmental Conservation Department were formed to effectively manage and implement environmental and water affairs in Myanmar respectively.

6. For strengthening of policy and legislation in the areas of environment and water, “Environmental Conservation Law, its rules and regulation and guidelines, National Water Policy and water directive framework have been promulgated. National Environmental Policy and Strategy, National Climate Change Policy and Strategy, Green Economy Policy Framework and National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan have been developed for guiding framework to be effective mainstreaming of environment and water resources management.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. The practices for the development including Utilization of Water Resources in the Basin from upstream to the downstream areas are most essential to minimize causing environmental and social impacts. With the purpose to be sustainable and environmentally sound development of the Mekong River Basin, as a upstream

country of the Basin, we realize that it is necessary to pay great attention to avoid the environmental impacts on the downstream whatever development activities to maximize the social and economic benefits.

8. Mekong Basin has been playing a crucial role in the economic development of the region and the livelihoods improvement of our local people in terms of navigation, irrigation, water resource, agriculture and fisheries. However, Mekong River is also facing with challenges of environmental problems such as, forest degradation, loss of habitat and biodiversity and extreme events of floods and droughts due to global climate change.

9. With seeking to find the resolution and alternatives to address these environmental challenges particularly risks of climate change, flood and drought, it is therefore, truly a great opportunity to share and exchange experiences and to enhance joint effort on science-based information among decision makers, scientists for sustainable development of Mekong River Basin over the last two days of conference and today meeting.

10. We do expect that this meeting will be much synergies to further strengthen the joint cooperation and the strategic plan incorporated into sustainable development of the basin among Mekong Riparian Countries.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. In conclusion, we look forward to have more opportunities to explore possible future technical cooperation between MRC and Myanmar including Mekong Environmental Program and Integrated River Basin Development along with our fellow MRC member countries, Dialogue Partner-China and Development Partners.

Thank you very much!