

*Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the MRC Council
Session 2: Joint Session with Twenty-Second Development Partners Consultative
Group Meeting
Mekong River Commission 29
November 2017, Pattaya, Thailand*

STATEMENT

by

H.E Mr. Bun Hean

Secretary of State of Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology
Permanent Vice-Chairman of Cambodia National Mekong Committee
Alternate Member of MRC Council for the Kingdom of Cambodia Head of
Delegation of Cambodia

- ***Excellency General Surasak Karnjanakat, Chairperson of the MRC Council for 2017***
- ***Fellow MRC Council Members,***
- ***Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,***
- ***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

We are pleased to be here in Pattaya, the attractive tourist province of Kingdom of Thailand for the Joint Twenty-fourth Council and Twenty-second Development Partner Consultative Group Meeting to jointly review the progress made since the Twenty-third MRC Council Meeting and to further set the future directions for years to come for the Commission to work more effectively towards the sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin.

We would like to express our sincere thanks with high appreciations to Thailand through Mr. Chairperson for the excellent hospitality extended to Cambodia Delegation and for the excellent preparations for the Meeting in close collaboration with the MRC Secretariat.

The Commission has moved with the successful conclusion of the organizational reform of the MRC Secretariat and with the continued steady progress in its implementation of MRC Basin Development Strategy and Strategic Plan 2016- 2020. More importantly, at the MRC Council Meeting that has been just finished its proceedings before our joint session, the Council has approved a number of key strategic papers namely, the MRC Annual Work Plan 2018, the Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP) and the Basin-wide Fisheries Management and Development Strategy. This will guide the concrete actions for the concrete efforts contributing to the better basin development and management for the future sustainability.

In this connection, we would like to commend and highly appreciate Mr. Chairperson for the significant progress and achievements made for the Commission under your able leadership as the Chairperson of the MRC Council for 2017. We would like to thank the MRC Joint Committee for their effective support and implementation of the MRC Council' decision and instruction and for their effective supervision and guidance to the MRC Secretariat. Our thanks are also extended to the MRC Secretariat, the

National Mekong Committees and the

line agencies of the Member Countries as well as the other collaborative partners for their effective support, cooperation, coordination, contribution and participation in and for the work of the Commission.

Working together for the sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin is our joint journey and mission which has been spelled out clearly in the 1995 Mekong Agreement and the evidence of the success in our joint mission will heavily dependent on the stronger cooperation among the riparian countries and on the closer and more effective cooperation and partnership with all the other Mekong partners. In this context, we are pleased to further note that the cooperation with Dialogue Partners, Development Partners continues to grow with steady progress and the partnership with the other Mekong cooperative partners remains an important strategic priority in the MRC work now and in the future.

Taking this opportunity, Cambodia wishes to continue to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to our Development Partners and other Mekong partners who have continuously supported and contributed till to date both financially, technically to the MRC mission and work for the sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin.

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Years ahead, the emerging challenges for the Mekong Basin and the Commission still remain-the rapid development, continued population growth, the increasing needs for water, food and energy security, more frequent flooding and drought due to the climate changes and so on. These will be intensified further in the future, posing more pressures and threats to the shared Mekong resources and its sustainability.

To address these challenges more effectively, we need to increase to support and to implement our joint actions and to make our collective and collaborative efforts in a sustainable manner. The 3rd MRC Summit which is another main historic event to be organized in Cambodia in 2018 under the theme "Enhancing Joint Efforts and Partnerships towards Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Mekong Basin", will stress the importance of the regional cooperation and partnerships and call for increasing joint efforts for the sustainable development in the Mekong River Basin.

Cambodia commits as always to further work more actively with all riparian countries for this required end and further hopes that the Mekong partners will be further with us to increasingly support our joint efforts towards the achievement of the economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River Basin.

Thank you.

