

**SUMMARY
OF
MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF
THE MRC COUNCIL
(SESSION 1)

MEKONG RIVER COMMISSION
28 November 2018 in Ha Long City, Viet Nam**

GENERAL

1. The MRC Council held its Twenty Fifth Meeting (hereinafter referred to as “The Meeting”) on 28 November 2018 in Ha Long City, Viet Nam. The proposed Programme and Agendas covered the following items:

- Report by the Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2018 on the achievements since 24th Meeting of the MRC Council
- Progress on the Review and Update of the Basin-wide Sustainable Hydropower Development Strategy 2019 (SHDS2019)
- Information on the implementation of the Core Functions Decentralization
- Consideration for Approval of the MRC Annual Work Plan 2019
- Progress report on recruitment of 2nd riparian CEO

2. Session 1 of the Meeting was followed by a Session of the MRC Council with the Twenty third Development Partners Consultative Group Meeting on the same date, 28 November 2018, at which other strategic matters were discussed.

A. WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MRC COUNCIL FOR 2018

3. The Chairperson expressed profound thanks and sincere appreciation to all Council members for their dedicated advice and guidance provided over the past year and joined the other Council fellows in applauding the MRC for the key milestones made in implementing the strategic priorities set out in the Summits. The Chairperson highlighted the synergy forged by the new cooperation and joint efforts resulting from the 3rd MRC Summit and encouraged all the participants to actively discuss and provide their approval of the Annual Work Plan 2019. The Chairperson also thanked the MRC Secretariat and VNMC Secretariat for all their efforts in arranging this Meeting and wished the Meeting success.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Chairperson sought comments and suggestions from the floor on the agenda for the Meeting. The Agenda was adopted as proposed (Appendix No.1.1: Agenda).

C. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

C.1 Report by the Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2018 on the achievements since 24th Meeting of the MRC Council

5. Warmly welcoming the Chairperson of the MRC Council for 2018, the Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2018 reported to the Meeting on some key progress and achievements made since the 24th Meeting of the MRC Council late November last year. Chief among the briefing is the report on the Council Study completion and implementation followed by MRC Procedures, Hydropower Development Strategy, MRC Joint Project on Water Resources Development and Management among countries, MRCS’s work to provide support for the Member Countries and the cooperation between the MRC and its partners that has been brought to a new height after the 3rd MRC Summit and International Conference earlier this year witnessed by the signing of new cooperation agreements with UNESCAP and UNOPS as well as the Agreements regarding funding

support by Germany and EU that will be signed today. The new Cooperation Framework between the MRC and ASEAN has also been finally endorsed recently after two years of preparation. Apart from the exchange visits, study and technical cooperation with its Dialogue Partners, the MRC has also continued its collaborative activities with ADPC, ADB GMS, CNR, KDI, IWMI, Morocco, SEAFDEC, USACE, and GWP.

6. The Meeting took note with great appreciation of the phenomenal achievements made by the MRC Secretariat and reported by the Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee.

C.2 Progress on the Review and Update of the Basin-wide Sustainable Hydropower Development Strategy 2019 (SHDS2019)

7. After the report by the Chairperson of the Joint Committee, the Secretariat presented the progress made on the review and update of the Basin wide Sustainably Hydropower Development Strategy 2019 (SHDS2019), starting with the MRC BDS and SP for 2016 2020; need for updated Sustainable Hydropower Strategy; SHDS2019 overall progress SHDS2019 – Discussion Paper #1; approach to Defining Pathways, SHDS2019 – How alternative pathways might look; Harmonising Hydropower Development with National PDPs; Regional Power System Integration; initial findings; and conclusion and next steps.

8. The Meeting took note of the progress on the review and update of the SHDS2019 reported by the Secretariat and encouraged the MRC to explore more clean energy sources options for the sustainable and equitable development of the Mekong and the well being of its people.

C.3 Information on the implementation of the Core Functions Decentralization

9. The Secretariat reported on the progress with decentralization of the core functions activities for the Council's information.

10. The Meeting took note of the report on the progress on the decentralization.

D. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

D.1 Consideration for Approval of the MRC Annual Work Plan 2019

11. The Secretariat informed the Council that the Budget Committee and Joint Committee agreed to budget of USD 15.8 million for 2019 and sought the Council's approval of the AWP 2019.

12. The Meeting approved the AWP 2019 and requested the MRCS to take actions regarding the guidance of the Council.

D.2 Progress report on recruitment of 2nd riparian CEO

13. Before moving to Session 2 of the 25th Meeting of the MRC Council, the Secretariat reported to the Council for their information on the progress on the recruitment of the 2nd riparian CEO and the recommendations from the Joint Committee at the Preparatory Meeting of the MRC Joint Committee. The Secretariat also informed the Council of the selected candidate for the riparian CEO for the Council's approval.

14. The Meeting took note with appreciation of the progress on and result of the recruitment by the Secretariat and approved Dr. An Pich Hatda as 2nd Riparian CEO.