

Session 2: Joint Nineteenth Council and Seventeenth Donor Consultative Group Meeting
Mekong River Commission
17 January 2013,
Luang Prabang, Lao PDR
STATEMENT

by
H.E Mr. Sin Niny
Permanent Vice-Chairman of Cambodia National Mekong Committee
Alternate Member of the MRC Council for Kingdom of Cambodia
Head of Delegation of Cambodia

Excellency Mr. Noulinh Sinbandhit
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment
Chairman of Lao National Mekong Committee
Member of the MRC Council for the Lao PDR
Chairman of the MRC Council for 2012-2013

Excellencies MRC Council Members

Excellencies Ambassadors, Distinguished Representatives of Development Partners,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor and privilege to be here with you all at the Joint Nineteenth Council and Seventeenth Donor Consultative Group Meeting, being held in the beautiful City of Luang Prabang.

Cambodia wishes to note with pleasure and appreciation on the significant progress and achievements made under the MRC regional cooperation framework for the year 2012. We highly appreciate the support of our Development Partners for the MRC till now and we are pleased to note that the development partners stand ready for their continued support and assistance to the MRC, now and in the future and that the working cooperation and relationship between MRC and our Development Partners continue to be strengthened with positive progress and growth and we look forward to seeing further development in this regard.

The economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River Basin requires more effective management of water and related resources with better and stronger regional cooperation among the MRC Member Countries and between MRC and Development Partners and other Partners. There is an increasing need for the MRC Member Countries now to put more effort with cross-sectoral perspective aiming at realizing it as the increasing pressure from the rapid development in the riparian countries occurring together with the emerging climate change in the Mekong region and other parts of the world, in which we all have observed that their impacts in terms of floods and drought become more serious from year to year.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express our wholly-hearted thanks to all MRC Council Members for their collaborative participation to bring significant success to the MRC work for the year 2012 at the time that Cambodia held the Chairmanship of the MRC Council for 2011-2012. The success in 2012 has been generated from our joint collaborative efforts and participation and contribution and we do hope that more significant progress and achievements under the MRC cooperation framework will continue to produce under the wise and able leadership of Excellency Mr. Noulinh Sinbandhit, Chairman of the MRC Council for 2012-2013. We wish you, Mr. Chairman, a great success for the period of your Chairmanship and we would like to assure you of our full cooperation and support.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to our Development Partners, the MRC Member Countries, the MRC Secretariat, the MRC Programmes and other Mekong Partners for their active support, contribution and cooperation to enable MRC to having made remarkable progress and achievements for the year 2012. Our Development Partners are our long-run partners in the MRC context and we strongly believe that our Development Partners will continue to act as our continued key strategic contributor to promoting the regional cooperation for the sustainable management and development of the Mekong River Basin.

At the Eighteenth Meeting of the MRC Council, the Council agreed to conduct a Study on the Sustainable Management and Development of the Mekong River, including Impacts by the Mainstream Hydropower Projects. Lower Mekong Basin is now at the rapid development cross-road and their context might be intensified further in the future. To address this, it requires increasing attention with practical action from the riparian countries in a more effective framework. Cambodia encourages to mobilizing all resources and efforts to support the implementation of the Study at a full strength, so that sound Mekong River Basin development planning and management could be jointly ensured for the sake of the riparian countries in the sustainable way.

MRC in its operational work might face emerging key challenges at the time of full riparainization and the implementation of the Council Study, MRC core function decentralization and Regional Action Plan and National Indicative Plans. In this context, we should jointly address in the spirit of stronger MRC cooperation framework and we would like to call for continued contribution in whatever forms from our Development Partners, to assist us in that regard more effectively.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, I would like on behalf of Delegation of Cambodia to express our sincere thanks to Lao PDR as the host country for her cordial welcome and excellent hospitality extended to the Delegation of Cambodia during our mission here and to the staff of MRC Secretariat and the Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat for their good cooperation for excellent arrangements of the Joint Nineteenth Council and Seventeenth

Donor Consultative Group Meeting and other related Meetings and I do hope the Joint Session today will be very productive and fruitful in their proceedings, contributing to building a stronger MRC for the overall interest of sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin.

Thank you for your kind attention.