

Statement

by

Mr. Chaiporn Siripornpibul
Deputy Director General, DWR on behalf of
H.E. Mr. Preecha Rengsomboonsuk
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment
Chairperson of the Thai National Mekong Committee
Member of the MRC Council for Thailand
Session 2: Joint Meeting with 17th DCG, 17 January 2013
at Luang Prabang View Hotel, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR

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

Excellency Mr. Nguyen Thai Lai
Vice Minister of Natural Resources and Environment
Vice Chairman of the Viet Nam National Mekong Committee
Member of the MRC Council for Viet Nam

Excellency Mr. Sin Ny Ny
Minister of Water Resources and Meteorology
Chairman of the Cambodia National Mekong Committee
Member of the MRC Council for Cambodia

Excellencies, Ambassadors, Distinguished Delegates, Development Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, the Thai National Mekong Committee would like to inform that H.E. Mr. Preecha Rengsomboonsuk, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, has serious assignment and cannot join for today Meeting. He would like to convey his apology to the Member of MRC Council and

the Meeting, in this regard. Thus, I was authorized to deliver statement on behalf of H.E. Mr. Preecha. Firstly, we would like to express our appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the Government of Lao People Democratic Republic for hosting the 19th Mekong River Commission Council Meeting, in the beautiful city of Luang Prabang, ranking on the world famous tourism.

Thailand would like to reaffirm that we will continue our support for MRC Cooperation, in particular to achieve the prosperity of the Mekong Basin while maintaining a good health of Mekong River for all people whose life depending on it. Thailand certainly confident that this policy platform will play a potential role to help our region keeping a momentum of environmental health with parallel to an implementation of economic development plan.

As you are all aware that, now, we are reaching the mid of MRC Strategic Plan of 2011 to 2015, the MRC has made progressively implementation especially on drafting basin development strategy and the assessment of basin development scenario. These were shown a major step towards our commitments to protect people livelihood in the Mekong Basin whenever we have made decision on any development projects on the mainstream.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

During last year, the MRC had held Mekong2Rio International Conference on Trans-Boundary Water Resources Management. Its results were shown us that our economic, social and environmental prosperity depends on how we protect and share the benefits of our common water resources through cooperative mechanisms as well as an involvement of stakeholders in the Mekong basin. Our increasing demands for food and energy depends on our ability to work together to develop and manage the water resources, as well as to identify the linkages between sectors while protecting the unique environment of the Mekong.

This messages has reminded us that the joint and collaborative action are urgent required. Thailand realize that, sometimes, policies at national level may cause to different point of views on MRC Programme implementation which consequently create barriers to cooperation. However, Thailand certainly confident that such different views are still on a friendly manner, which could drive us to meet our goals. To achieve our commitment, we need to continue to strengthen the MRC to enable it to play an important role and unique role on the sustainable development of water and related resources in the Mekong Basin. Thus, Thailand wish to raise the issue that it would be better for the Mekong River Commission to urgently implement the MRC Procedures as well as start the council study in order to prepare ourselves to may caused mitigate the transboundary impact and make sure of our future ecological balance.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Lao People Democratic Republic for the warm welcome and kind hospitality accorded to all delegations and we would like to express our thanks to development partners for supporting MRC to expedite activities for sustainable development in the basin.

Thank you for your kind attention