

# THE SECOND MEKONG RIVER COMMISSION SUMMIT

*Ho Chi Minh, April 2014*

Statement by

His Excellency U Wunna Maung Lwin,

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

at the Second Mekong River Commission Summit

( 5 April 2014, Ho Chi Minh City)

Prime Minister His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam,  
Prime Minister His Excellency Mr. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia,  
Prime Minister His Excellency Mr. Thongsing Thammavong of the Lao People's Democratic Republic,  
His Excellency CHEN Lei , Minister for Water Resources of the People's Republic of China,  
Permanent Secretary His Excellency Mr. Sihasak Phuangketekow , Special Representative of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand,

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished representatives of Development Partners and MRC Observers,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Salutation**

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the Government and People of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for hosting this auspicious occasion. I also wish to extend my delegation's profound thanks for the warm hospitality extended to us during our stay in this Second Mekong River Commission-MRC Summit Meeting.

I would like to congratulate the Chair for the successful stewardship on the work of MRC in the past 4 years. My delegation assures you of our full support and cooperation for the further achievement of MRC.

**Excellencies,**

Today's meeting is very timely and valuable to all Mekong Countries. During the retreat, we have touched upon the important issues under the theme of "Water, Energy and Food Security in the context of climate change in the Mekong River Basin" that hinders the development of our region. Based on our discussions, we will be able to ensure our efforts for the sustainable development and management of water resources for the benefit of all Mekong people.

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Undoubtedly, the Mekong River is irreplaceable to the regional food security. It also represents regional and global significance because of its rich biodiversity and ecosystem. However, the Mekong is now being threatened by unsustainable use of water, global warming and climate change. As the pressing effects of climate change, it is evident to see unpredictably changing climate patterns, flash floods, severe droughts and the accumulation of haze pollution in the region. The phenomenon of climate change has damaged crops and marine species as well as affected wellbeing and livelihood of the people living along the Mekong River.

With the emergence of Asia as a new global growth center, the MRC plays a crucial role in attracting investment for development projects. On the other hand, the Mekong River is prone to environmental challenges such as deforestation, depletion of natural resources and decreasing water level.

Pertaining to developing the sustainable management of water resources in the Mekong River and to reduce the poverty of the riparian population, the Lower Mekong Basin Governments including Cambodia, Lao, Thailand and Vietnam gathered in Hua Hin, Thailand in 2010 and convened the historic first MRC Summit.

As we are aware, Hua Hin Declaration called for the adoption and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) -Basin Development Strategy. Furthermore, the MRC member countries were encouraged to enhance efforts to adapt the climate change across the basin and conserving the existing water and future uses of water and related resources. The establishment of forecasting and warning system across the basin and the implementation of the procedures for data and information sharing, monitoring effective management of hydropower related activities and water quality were also highlighted in the Declaration.

In addition, the Mekong countries were encouraged to do related research and address the risks of climate change and to facilitate an international legal framework on river navigation and trade.

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In the nineteen years of its existences, the MRC has been successfully promoting cooperation not only among member countries but also with dialogue and development partners. MRC has expanded its cooperative ties with ASEAN, the Greater Mekong Sub-Region and the wider network of MRC Development Partners.

Myanmar welcomes the achievements of the MRC in the past years and the progress of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Basin Development Strategy (2011-2015) and will continue to support the next phase of strategy (2016-2020) that is vital for ASEAN Integration and socio-economic development of the Mekong Region.

With a view to addressing challenges timely with effective measures, Myanmar believes that Mekong River member countries have to enhance their cooperation not only at the national level but also at the regional and international level.

Furthermore, the prospect of the MRC can be promoted by strengthening the institutional capacity by recruiting technical experts on water management and expanding its cooperation with development partners by sharing good practices on resources management.

Since Hua Hin Declaration has underscored the importance and perseverance of the comprehensive cooperation between the countries in the upper and lower Mekong River, Myanmar attaches great importance to the Mekong Cooperation and always been constructively engaging with the MRC Members.

Although Myanmar is the dialogue partner to the MRC member countries, Myanmar is ready to support the sustainable development of MRC region and the Mekong River. We are also needing to positively contribute to the development of MRC into the International River Basin organization.

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As Myanmar is strategically located, we will be playing a major role in the East West Economic Corridor (EWEC), Northern Corridor, North-South Economic Corridor, South-West Corridor, and Bangladesh China India Myanmar -BCIM Economic Corridor. With a view to enhancing trade and people-to-people contacts, Myanmar has signed the GMS Framework agreement on the Facilitation of Cross Border Transport of Goods and People. Myanmar has been collaborating in the GMS's Environmental and Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Initiatives (BCI) to sustain economic corridors that is to be implemented in the GMS.

Taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to reaffirm our commitment to cooperate closely with the MRC and the dialogue partner in the areas of human resources development, capacity building, technical cooperation, information sharing and active participation in workshops and seminars conducted by the MRC and in association with other international and regional organizations.

**Conclusion**

Mekong River is not only as part of the global river basin that supports daily livelihoods of the people living along the river but also has great potentials for their socio-economic development. Therefore, it is essential for us to preserve and protect the ecosystems of the Mekong River Basin through joint management and development for its sustainability in the future.

Myanmar reiterates its support on the vision of Mekong River Basin as “An economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River Basin” and the vision for “MRC as a world class, financially secure, international River Basin Organization in 2030”.

Since the mission of MRC is to promote and coordinate sustainable management and development of water and its related resources to benefit mutually, Myanmar ensures its fullest cooperation and support for further development of the MRC to deal with the opportunities, risks and responsibilities ahead.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate MRC member states and all stakeholders for successful adoption of the Ho Chi Minh City Declaration which will serve as a road map for further cooperation in the region.

I am confident that the prioritized actions as outlined in the Declaration will further crystallized and consolidate joint efforts on Sustainable Management and Development of all peoples residing along the Mekong River.

I thank you.