

Speech
by
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Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia

At the
Plenary Session of the Second Mekong River Commission
Summit

Ho Chi Minh, April 5 2014

10:30 AM-12:50 PM



- *Excellencies, Prime Ministers of the MRC Countries,*
- *Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!*

Today's summit – the Second Mekong River Commission Summit – is another historic moment for our regional cooperation, which is attended by the prime ministers of the MRC member countries, high-level representatives of dialogue partners, development partners, as well as regional and international organizations.

This event attests to our political commitment to continued implementation of the **1995 Mekong Agreement** for the sustainable development of Mekong Basin. I am pleased to have noted some significant progress and achievements in the implementation of **Hua Hin Declaration** adopted in the First Mekong River Commission Summit. In addition, the cooperation and relations between the Mekong River Commission and dialogue partners, development partners, and other Mekong partners have achieved positive progress and our strategic partnership has been further strengthened for sustainable development of Mekong River Basin.

Although the Mekong River is an invaluable natural asset which plays a critical role in socio-economic development, environment, culture and daily livelihoods of the people in the Mekong River Basin, the population growth in the Mekong Region, the need for poverty reduction and the need for

development have caused challenges for water security, energy security and food security for countries along the Mekong River Basin that required inclusive and sustainable solutions. Mekong River will be at risk of irreversible change if development projects are undertaken with consultation, cooperation, proper planning and management, and joint decision making in cross-sectoral context and in the spirit of one Mekong River.

Along with this, the worsened climate change has become another challenge that requires urgent, collective and consistent and effective measures at local, national and international levels. Under the framework of Mekong River Commission with the support of development partners, member countries have been carrying out many projects, including the climate change adaptation program, which are significant contribution to the efforts of member countries to reduce the impact of and adapt to climate change. As a MRC member country, Cambodia wishes to thank development partners for valuable contributions, and firmly believes that they will continue to cooperate with MRC member countries to respond to climate change in the Mekong River Basin region.

Truly, the sustainable development of Mekong River Basin is the core of the regional cooperation under the framework of the **1995 Mekong Agreement**. In order to promote this cooperation, the Mekong River Commission, which is a regional inter-governmental organization, needs to further enhance the influence and effectiveness of its role. This primary task has to be jointly undertaken by member countries with great sense of responsibility and commitment by focusing on procedure for water use that has been adopted by member countries.

Furthermore, member countries have approved the study on sustainable management and development of Mekong River including the impact of hydro-power projects on the Mekong Mainstream. This is a strategic priority that must be effectively implemented by the Mekong River Commission to help ensure the sustainability of the River and its resources in the context of the need for development together with the challenges of climate change. In this regard, Cambodia requests the Mekong River Commission to continue the effort and undertake this assignment with

great sense of responsibility and full cooperation with all stakeholders. Cambodia is ready to cooperate with all stakeholders to ensure the success of the study and support better planning and management of the Mekong River Basin to achieve high level of socio-economic development while the sustainability of the Mekong River Basin can be ensured.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the host country for the warm hospitality extended to Cambodia's delegation and excellent arrangement for this second Mekong River Commission Summit. Cambodia is ready to host the third Mekong River Commission Summit in April 2018, and pledges to bring more success to this Summit under the framework of regional cooperation for the sustainable development of Mekong River Basin.

Thank You!