



# 4<sup>th</sup> MRC International Conference

“Innovation and Cooperation for a Water-Secure and Sustainable Mekong”

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 2–3 April 2023

## DRAFT AGENDA

**Conference master of ceremony and coordinator:** Mr Santi Baran, Chief Strategy & Partnership Officer, Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS)

**Conference facilitators:** Mr Santi Baran, Chief Strategy and Partnership Officer, MRCS, and Dr Susanne Schmeier, Associate Professor of Water Law and Diplomacy at IHE Delft

### DAY 1: 2 APRIL 2023

7:30 Registration

#### WELCOME SESSION

8:15 **Welcome remarks** (5') His Excellency Atsaphangthong Siphandone, Governor of Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
**Message about the International Conference** (5') by Dr Anoulak Kittikhoun, Chief Executive Officer, MRCS  
**Opening remarks** (10') by Her Excellency Bounkham Vorachit, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment and MRC Council Member for Lao PDR

8:45 **Conference objectives and structure** (5') by Mr Santi Baran, Chief Strategy and Partnership Officer, MRCS, and Dr Susanne Schmeier, Associate Professor of Water Law and Diplomacy at IHE Delft, Conference facilitators

8.50 **Key achievements and developments since 2018 and what new initiatives and innovations are needed for a water-secure Mekong of the future** (15') by Mr Santi Baran, Chief Strategy and Partnership Officer, MRCS

9.10 *Coffee break* \***Brief tour of Conference Exhibition for Minister, Governor, JC Chair, and CEO\***

#### OPENING SESSION: MEKONG DEVELOPMENTS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

9.40 **Reflections from a panel of senior government officials of the Mekong River Basin countries** (30')

10.20 **Keynote 1: Innovation in policy: Advancing the Mekong agenda through intersectoral policy coherence, regional-to-national policy alignment and breaking through barriers to progress** (15')

10.40 **Keynote 2: Innovation in transboundary cooperation: Working better together through more efficient and effective processes that focus on impact at regional and national levels** (15')

11.00 **Keynote 3: Innovation in technology and infrastructure for climate resilient river basin planning and management under conditions of uncertainty** (15')

11.20 **Keynote 4: Green energy policy: What it means for the Mekong and to the Sustainable Development Goals** (15')

11.40 **Questions-and-Answers and Discussion** (20')

12.00 *Lunch*

#### SESSION 1A: HOW COOPERATION IS YIELDING BENEFITS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT

#### SESSION 1B: HOW INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES ARE TRANSFORMING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT

13:05 **Introduction to Session 1** (10')  
by Mr Santi Baran, Chief Strategy and Partnership Officer, MRCS, Conference facilitator

13.15 **Introduction** by Session 1A chair

**Introduction** by Session 1B chair

13.20 **1A1: Cooperating to avoid, minimise, and mitigate transboundary impacts**

Presentations (60')

Questions and Answers (30')

**1B1: Innovative technologies for river monitoring, modelling, and forecasting**

Presentations (50')

Facilitated panel-participant discussion (30')

15.00 *Coffee break* \***Poster presentations at the Conference Exhibition\***

16.00	<b>1A2: Cooperating for better data, information, and coordination of dam cascade: meeting multiple objectives</b> Presentations (60') Questions and Answers (30')	<b>1B2: Innovative decision support systems for integrated water resources development and how they support decision-making (cases of application)</b> Presentations (60') Questions and Answers (30')
17.50	<b>Closure of Session 1A</b> by Session 1A chair	<b>Closure of Session 1B</b> by Session 1B chair

## CLOSURE OF DAY 1

18.00	<b>Reception and cocktails</b>
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## DAY 2 – 3 APRIL 2023

8.30	<b>Opening of Day 2 with the expectations for Day 2</b> by Mr Santi Baran, Chief Strategy and Partnership Officer, MRCS, and Dr Susanne, Conference facilitators
8.40	<b>Keynote 5</b> (15')
8.55	<b>Keynote 6</b> (15')

<b>Wrap-up of session 1</b>	
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9.10	<b>Report from Session 1A</b> (10') by Session 1A facilitator/ rapporteurs <b>Report from Session 1B</b> (10') by Session 1B facilitator/ rapporteurs Questions, additions, comments (15')
9.45	<i>Coffee break</i>

<b>SESSION 2A: HOW COOPERATION IN INNOVATIVE FINANCING CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE</b>	
<b>SESSION 2B: HOW COOPERATION IN GENDER INCLUSION AND MAINSTREAMING IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT</b>	

10.25	<b>Introduction</b> by Session 2A chair	<b>Introduction</b> by Session 2B chair
10.30	<b>Cooperation between the public and private sectors for responsible financing and sustainable development</b> Presentations (60') Questions and Answers (30')	<b>Innovation for advancing gender equality and responsiveness to water resources management</b> Presentations (60') Questions and Answers (30')
12.00	<b>Report from Parallel Session 2A</b> (10') by Session 2A facilitator <b>Report from Parallel Session 2B</b> (10') by Session 2B facilitator Questions, additions, comments (15')	

<b>FINAL SESSION: RECAP AND PARTING CONFERENCE MESSAGES</b>	
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12.15	<b>Key messages from the Conference to the Summit</b> (30') by Mr Santi Baran, Chief Strategy and Partnership Officer, MRCS, Conference facilitator	
12.45	<b>Final thoughts 1</b> (5') by [Representative of a Development Partner]	
	<b>Final thoughts 2</b> (5') by Dr Anoulak Kittikhoun, Chief Executive Officer, MRCS	
	<b>Closing remarks</b> (5') by Mrs Nguyen Thi Thu Linh, Director General of Viet Nam National Mekong Committee and Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2023	

13.00	<i>Lunch</i>
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## CLOSURE OF DAY 2

14:30	<b>Side event (by invitation only)</b>
16.00	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> State of Mekong Address (2023) – Dr Anoulak Kittikhoun, Chief Executive Officer, MRCS</b>
17.00	<b>Reception and cocktails for the International Conference participants, hosted by Dr Anoulak Kittikhoun, Chief Executive Officer, MRCS</b>

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