

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental
Conservation**

**H.E. U Ohn Winn (draft) Speech
3rd MRC Summit, 5 Apr 2018, Siam Reap, Cambodia**

**Your Excellency Mr. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei
Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of
Cambodia,**

**Your Excellency Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of
the Lao People's Democratic Republic,**

**Your Excellency Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of
the Socialist Republic of Vietnam**

**Your Excellency Mr. Prayuth Chan- ocha,
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand**

**Your Excellency Mr. E Jinping, Minister for Water
Resources of the People's Republic of China,**

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives of Development Partners and
MRC Observers,
CEO of Mekong River Commission,
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Minglarpar!
Good Morning**

It is an honor and great pleasure for me to take part in this important **3rd Mekong River Commission Summit** on behalf of the Government of Myanmar. Since MRC is taking a “whole basin” approach through cooperation with the upper riparian countries, which is crucial for the sustainable management of the Mekong River Basin, we are pleased to inform you that Myanmar is on the same track, taking river basin management approach in accordance with the National Water policy.

Under the theme of “Enhancing the Joint Efforts and Partnerships towards the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Mekong River Basin-One Mekong, One Spirit” of this summit, we ensure that the outcomes of the Summit will support our joint effort for the sustainable development and management of water resources for the benefit of all Mekong people.

Myanmar has forged alliances and networking relationships with international water colleagues and development partners. MRC is one of our important collaborative partners. Recently, I have actively participated in the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia, leading the multi-stakeholders delegation from Myanmar and delivered a keynote speech and panel discussions. As we all know, clean, accessible water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and it is indispensable for human development, health and well-being, regardless of our native origin. But water-related challenges, including limited access to safe water and sanitation, increasing pressure on water resources and ecosystems, and an exacerbated risk of droughts and floods, remain high on the agenda of each and every country in the region. To overcome such challenges and increased pressure, we need to collaborate and share knowledge, data, information and exchange of water professionals.

Myanmar and MRC has a long-standing relationship that has demonstrated an increasing commitment to cooperation, including sharing more data and information on the status of developments and joint capacity-building activities.

In recent years, Myanmar has cooperated with the MRC Secretariat in a number of areas, such as improving the MRC's hydro-meteorological coverage by exchanging relevant monitoring and water-quality data, and sharing technical expertise in flood prevention and management. A number of areas, such as navigation safety, strategic environmental assessment, and continued sharing of hydro-meteorological data between MRC and Myanmar are ongoing. We continue to explore possible future technical cooperation between MRC and Myanmar.

Myanmar is committed to enhanced cooperation with MRC and China, which is crucial for the sustainable management of the Lancang-Mekong Basin where flow conditions and sediment delivery downstream have already been modified by hydropower and climate change. Building on the Dialogue Partner arrangement, future cooperation may include institutionalizing a more extensive information sharing system on river flows and reservoir operations as well as joint technical studies and capacity-building in flood and drought management. To oversee and guide such activities, we have a strong APEX body in Myanmar which is called National Water Resources Committee (NWRC) chaired by the Vice President of Myanmar. The future collaboration between Myanmar and MRC can be accelerated through NWRC

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to explain about the similarities between the Mekong River Basin and Ayeyarwady River Basin in Myanmar and the possible steps that we can take for the future collaboration.

The rapid development in the Mekong River region is increasingly putting pressure on the Mekong Basin's water and related resources. Our Ayeyarwady River Basin, which is a very important asset and the most valuable for our country, has the same challenges. Demand for water use for economic development, increased population, more urban development, and flood control within the basin is accelerating. In addition, the impact of climate change was felt mostly in water resources. To narrow such gaps and face the challenges, we are implementing the "Ayeyarwady Integrated River Basin Management (AIRBM) Project" with the support of World Bank.

When it comes to water cooperation, there are political and security issues, economic and sustainable development, and social, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. We should also pay attention to interconnectivity, industrial capacity, cross-border economy, water resources, agriculture, navigation, hydropower development, fisheries, and poverty reduction topics.

The Mekong River area is a hotspot for various multilateral mechanisms. Apart from the MRC, there also is LMC and other multilateral mechanisms in various forms have been set up between the Mekong countries and the US, Japan, South Korea and India, among others. One of the most well-known is the Greater Mekong Sub-region Economic Cooperation Program (GMS) founded in 1992, involving six countries, initiated by the Asian Development Bank, focuses on multilateral cooperation in the economic field. Myanmar sees that all these energetic mechanisms are one way or the other complementary to each other and to existing cooperation mechanisms. Furthermore, Myanmar thinks that MRC in its current stage could further cement future cooperation among the six basin countries, and it would certainly contribute to reaching the MRC's goals.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

An effective water cooperation mechanism is vital to achieve fair and rational solutions to water disputes and combat the negative impact of climate change in terms of droughts and floods in the lower reaches. With this knowledge, Myanmar is very willing to cooperate with MRC member countries and the MRC Secretariat in our position as an active dialogue partner that will support the MRC's "whole basin" approach through cooperation with the upper riparian countries.

Before I conclude, I'd like to express my appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting this auspicious occasion.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the MRC Secretariat and organizers of this event for warm hospitality to Myanmar delegation.

Thank You.