



Monitoring for the Future - Transboundary Core River Monitoring Network

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For “Committing to advance transboundary water cooperation worldwide for sustainable development, climate action, stability and peace”

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Good evening,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the MRC Secretariat, it gives me great pleasure to deliver a commitment story of transboundary cooperation in the Lower Mekong River Basin, specifically on the topic of the Transboundary Core River Monitoring Network (CRMN).

The Mekong River Basin is one of the most significant transboundary river basins in the world that support the livelihoods of over 70 million people who call it home.

The MRC Member Countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam) have jointly established a Transboundary Core River Monitoring Network (CRMN), covering five environmental disciplines namely hydrology, sediment, water quality, ecological health, and fisheries.

The objectives of the CRMN are to (1) assess river basin conditions (i.e., the whole of the basin status and trends); (2) monitor water infrastructure project operations (integrating joint environment monitoring of mainstream dams); (3) Flood and drought forecasting; and (4) Assessment of the links to socio-economic conditions of vulnerable people whose livelihoods depend on the Mekong River system, the network reflects the Member Countries commitments for the sustainable development of the LMB, as detailed in the 1995 Mekong Agreement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since its establishment, the CRMN has provided continued records of environmental data across the LMB, allowing for timely assessment of the status and trends of each environmental discipline to better inform of the effects of rapid development and urbanization which are currently being undertaken at an unprecedented rate in the basin. As well, data

obtained from the CRMN has provided the baseline for the assessment of potential impacts of future development in the Basin.

The establishment of the CRMN has also led to the adoption of systematic methodologies and approaches for basin specific long-term monitoring of environmental indicators. This has resulted in increased cooperation among the Member Countries while at the same increasing ownership and improves of monitoring capacity across the basin for sustainable monitoring.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The establishment and implementation of a transboundary core river monitoring network for the Lower Mekong River Basin illustrate **the spirit of cooperation and commitment of the MRC Member Countries toward sustainable development and protection of the Mekong River and its water resources**, which ultimately have benefitted the ecosystem and the people of the Lower Mekong River Basin and contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you very much for your attention.