



**Speech By  
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Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, and Colleagues

On behalf of the Mekong River Commission, I would like to highlight MRC key achievements in 2021 through the implementation of the MRC Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

In the area of cooperation and partnership, the MRC successfully secured the funding commitment from Member Countries and Development Partners for implementation the MRC Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025. We have strengthened the cooperation with ASEAN in conducting the first inaugural ASEAN – MRC Water Security Dialogue to help countries in the Mekong Basin and ASEAN address existential water security challenges in the region.

To promote the implementation of the Basin Development Strategy (BDS) 2021 – 2030, the MRC has worked with other regional frameworks, river basin organizations and partners, particularly in the environs of improving flood and drought forecasting and monitoring, riverine plastics monitoring, irrigation and drought management. Similarly, the Joint Study between MRC and Lancang Mekong Cooperation (LMC) was approved for the implementation to get the comprehensive explanation on climate and hydrological patterns of the whole river basin.

To address transboundary issues and future hydropower challenges, the 28<sup>th</sup> MRC Council Meeting had approved the updated Sustainable Hydropower Development Strategy 2021 for the Lower Mekong Basin. Furthermore, the updated Rules of Procedures (RoPs) for the MRC Council and Joint Committee was approved to enhance transparency and effective decision making and efficient collaboration of MRC.

Although the MRC has made remarkable achievements in the past years, we will further enhance our role as water diplomacy platform and find innovative mechanisms and solutions for a peaceful and prosperous Mekong.

Thank you for your kind attention.