Statement of the Representatives of Governments of the Mekong Region
on
The Mekong Region Water and Sanitation (MEK-WATSAN) Initiative Regional Consultations

Date: 20 to 22 April 2009
Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

1. Preamble

Pursuant to the Bangkok Consultations held in the year of 2005, MEK-WATSAN was formulated as a collaborative effort between UN-HABITAT, the Governments of the Greater Mekong Sub-region and ADB.

The Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative (MEK-WATSAN) is a regional programme which was initiated at the request of the Governments of the Mekong Region - Kingdom of Cambodia, the People’s Republic of China, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The overall objective of MEK-WATSAN is to support the participating countries achieve the water and sanitation related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): to halve by 2015, the proportion of people without access to improved water supply and sanitation.

MEK-WATSAN promotes: (i) Pro-poor urban water governance; (ii) Urban water conservation and demand management; (iii) Integrated urban environmental sanitation, and (iv) Income generation for the urban poor through community-based water and sanitation services.

In 2005, UN-HABITAT, with funding from the donors to the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund (WSTF) began piloting the MEK-WATSAN initiative in four countries in the Mekong – Kingdom of Cambodia, Lao PDR, S.R. Vietnam and Yunnan Province of PR China.

Following country level consultations and a regional meeting held in Phnom Penh in September 2005 and joint country-level consultations, organized with ADB, held in Hanoi November 2007, Vientiane in December 2007 and in Phnom Penh in January 2008, and subsequent further funding in 2008, MEK-WATSAN is currently entering a Second Phase, where it will target investments in selected towns in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. The implementation of this initiative will be undertaken in a progressive manner in accordance with the funding.

The Mekong Region Water and Sanitation (MEK-WATSAN) Regional Consultations in Hanoi, which opened on 20 April 2009, and concluded on 22 April 2009, were attended by High Level Representatives from the Kingdom of Cambodia, Lao PDR and S.R. Vietnam, bilateral organisations, UN agencies, development banks, media, academia and representatives from NGOs.

II. Statement

We, the representatives from the Ministry of Mines and Energy of the Government of Kingdom of Cambodia, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR
and the Ministry of Construction of S.R. Vietnam, meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam, 20-
22 April 2009.

1) **Reaffirm** our commitment to continue working together and collaborate in
implementation of the MEK-WATSAN initiative in our respective countries,
including, but not limited to: poverty reduction, water and sanitation sector
reforms, solid waste management, urban planning, catchment management,
improving legislative, institutional and financial frameworks, building capacity in
service provider agencies, local authorities and communities for local water and
sanitation governance and urban management.

2) **Recall** the Bangkok Consultations of 2005 in which it was agreed that the
programme would employ a phased approach, targeted at secondary towns.

3) **Commend** the donors (Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, Spain, Oz Minerals)
to the WSTF for providing support to the initial pilot phase of MEK-WATSAN
(fast-track).

4) **Recognise** the considerable progress and achievements done through fast-track
activities in 17 towns, which has till date benefitted 43,700, of which 23,700 in
water and 20,000 in sanitation.

5) **Recognize** the need for additional financial resources in order to meet the
MDGs for water and sanitation in the Mekong Region

6) **Welcome** the additional financial assistance being provided by the
Government of Netherlands towards the upscaling of MEK-WATSAN in 15 towns
in Kingdom of Cambodia, Lao PDR and S.R. Vietnam

7) **Recognise** that training and capacity building is critical in ensuring the
sustainability of the first phase and the scaling up of the programme.

8) **Commend** UN-HABITAT for the leadership role and initiative in
implementing the project to date.

9) **Appreciate** the contribution of participating governments and other
cooperating partners in implementing the MEK-WATSAN programme in the
Mekong Region.

10) **Welcome** the synergies with other development agencies towards
implementation of MEK-WATSAN initiative

11) **Appreciate further** the contribution of all other cooperating partners, including
participating governments, Asian Development Bank, UN Agencies, Academia and Non-governmental
organizations at this Regional consultation

**III Resolution**

We, therefore, in the spirit of regional cooperation, and with a common goal,

1) **Resolve** to fully support the implementation of the current and next
phase of MEK-WATSAN by committing
to contribute the required counterpart
support for both the first phase and for the
scaling up of the programme.

2) **Further Call upon donors** to provide
an increased level of funding towards the
programme, including for capacity
building in order to ensure sustainability
of the programme and subsequent
achievement of the MDGs for Water and
Sanitation.

3) **Endorse** the action plans for
implementation of this second phase of the
MEK-WATSAN initiative as developed
during these consultations;

4) **Affirm** our commitment to coordinate
to ensure adequate monitoring and
evaluation of the progress of the initiative
in our respective countries, including
carrying out sustainability checks covering
infrastructural, socio-economic and
environmental aspects.
5) **Recommend** UN-HABITAT continues its partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and explore all venues of cooperation to increase investments in MEK-WATSAN.

6) **Encourage** UN-HABITAT to continue close partnership with other development agencies in implementation and scaling up of MEK-WATSAN initiative.

7) **Decide** to meet within a year to assess progress made.

**Acknowledge** the support and thank the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for hosting the Regional Consultations in Hanoi from 20-22 April 2009.

Delivered on 22 April 2009 during the MEK-WATSAN Regional Consultations.

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