



Closing Remarks by
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2nd ASEAN-MRC Water Security Dialogue:
*Sustainable Investment for a Connected, Resilient, and Water-secure
Southeast Asia*
18 September 2024, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

As we draw this important event to a close, I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you. Your valuable contributions today have made this 2nd ASEAN-MRC Water Security Dialogue not only a success, but also a testament to the power of collaboration in addressing one of the most pressing challenges we face: **water security**.

Today's discussions have been of immense importance, not only for the Mekong River Commission but for ASEAN as a whole. Water security transcends borders; it links our nations and the well-being of our people. It is a shared responsibility that requires collective action, and forums like this provide the platform to deepen our technical knowledge and strengthen the partnerships that are vital for sustainable development.

The Mekong and the broader ASEAN region are currently confronting unprecedented challenges—challenges that demand urgent and focused attention. Climate change, increasing demand for water, and competing interests are straining our resources and ecosystems. In response, both technical cooperation and high-level engagement are essential. We've seen today the value and level of our technical collaboration, as experts from across the region have shared their insights, innovations, and recommendations.

But to truly overcome these challenges, we need something more. Something higher and bolder.

Technical cooperation is the foundation of our efforts, and we all know each other well in this field. We have built strong relationships and networks, and the depth of our cooperation is undeniable. However, as critical as these technical efforts are, they will only be truly effective when backed by strong political commitment and support. This is where high-level attention becomes indispensable.

To translate our discussions and technical recommendations into meaningful action, we must have the buy-in and direction of decision-makers at the highest levels. It is only through their engagement that we can secure the necessary resources, policy support, and strategic direction needed to implement the solutions we have discussed. The purpose of this dialogue is precisely to bring these two elements together—technical expertise and political will—to forge a path forward that will ensure a connected, resilient, and water-secure Southeast Asia.

As we conclude, I would like to once again thank all of you for your time, effort, and dedication. Your contributions today have set the stage for continued progress in water security across the Mekong and ASEAN regions.

For those of you traveling back home, I wish you a safe and pleasant journey. And for those who will be staying here in Lao PDR a little longer, I hope you enjoy your time in this beautiful country.

Thank you.