

Key Messages from the 2nd ASEAN - MRC WATER SECURITY DIALOGUE: "Sustainable Investment for a Connected, Resilient, and Water-secure Southeast Asia"

Promote policy framework for **investments** in (1) Investment in **Cooperation & knowledge**, (2) Investment in **Monitoring and Innovation**, and (3) Investment **Joint Projects**

Strengthening **connectivity & resilience** through **IWRM, reservoir coordination, and early warning mechanisms** to mitigate the impacts of future climate extremes, such as storms, floods, and droughts

River basin and sub-basin management plans provide a **policy framework for coordinated water infrastructure financing, its operation and maintenance**

Water Security:
- Peace & political stability
- Good governance
- Transboundary cooperation
- Innovative financing

Coping with the challenges in this 'big' version of Water Security is impossible without **innovative policies and fit-for-purpose governance**

Considering traditional water infrastructure with **nature-based solutions** offers cost-effective and resilient measures to address climate change, floods, landslides, typhoons, salinity intrusion, and prolonged droughts

Develop **guidelines for assessment of water security at different levels**, spatial and temporal scales from long to medium, short-term, and real-time

Science-to-policy: Forward-looking **climate change scenarios and foresight studies** are needed to identify long-term vulnerabilities and risks for the water sector

Promote policies and strategies to support **water saving, fair water pricing and accounting** to ensure efficient water use and conservation

Restoring urban wetlands and ecosystem management can improve pluvial flood management, since the intensity, frequency, and duration of monsoon rain events increase due to climate change

Secure national and international climate finance for **community-level projects, involving women, vulnerable and indigenous groups**

"Cooperation is not an option, it's a necessity" for countries to enhance and collaborate for sustainable development

Develop and implement **concrete ASEAN-MRC Cooperation Framework**, such as **monitoring and early warning systems, and pursue joint projects** in water storage, energy projects etc.

Robust Institutional Network for intersectoral cooperation, active stakeholder participation, agreements for data sharing, & adaptive management strategies

Promote **Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP)** - leverage private sector expertise and funding for water, energy and connectivity infrastructure projects

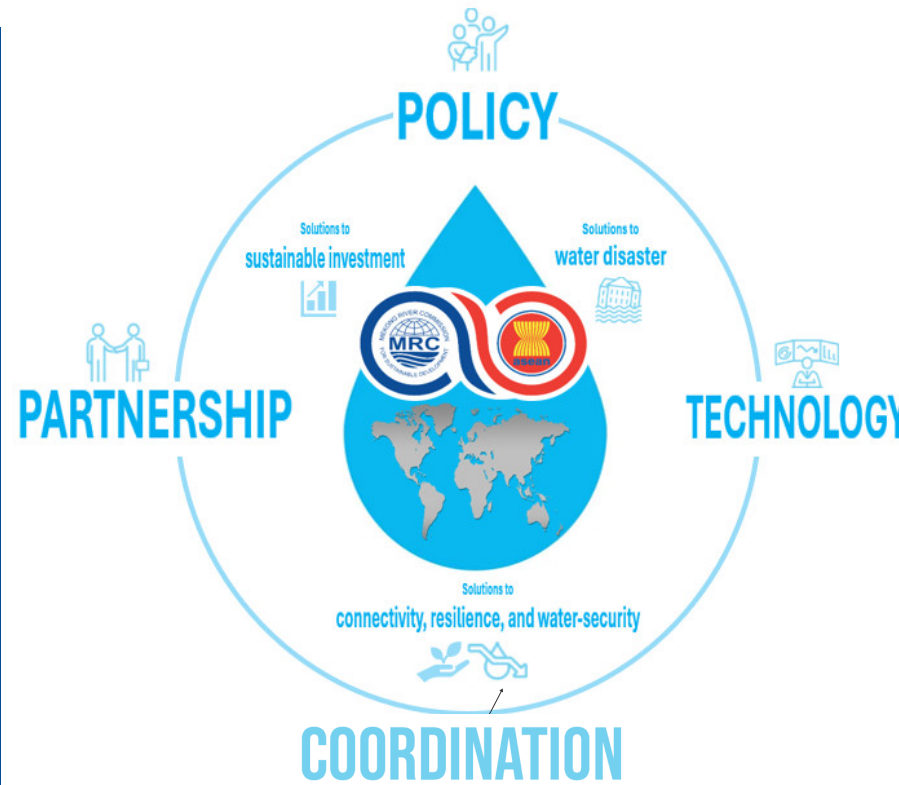
Promote **International Cooperation and Exchange** of lessons learned with other regions and countries beyond the ASEAN

Continue water **cooperation and trust-building with China**, e.g. on data sharing and Joint Studies

Establish a Mekong Scientific Platform as a science-to-policy interface to facilitate consensus-building on 'loss and damage' compensation in Mekong against the impacts of climate change and infrastructure developments

Proactive collaboration among governments, relevant stakeholders and communities to mitigate the potential effects of flooding while addressing uncertainties associated with future risks and vulnerabilities

Have robust governance structure in place for joint projects, and **balance different needs**



Embrace AI technologies for Decision Support System, i.e. **AI-powered land cover mapping** enhances accuracy and efficiency, providing vital data to support sustainable land use planning, climate change adaptation and environmental management in the Mekong region

Use **AI technology in supporting water quantity analysis for proactive planning and management** of water resources for flood and drought warning, and water allocation for critical sectors in case of prolonged drought

Reform our disaster management technologies cost

The integration of Machine Learning is **revolutionizing disaster response strategies**, which makes it possible to predict and mitigate the effects of floods more efficiently

Promote youth's engagement in sustainable management of water resources through youth exchanges, training and innovative initiatives

... through innovative **initiatives ASEAN-MRC Technology Competition** and other ASEAN initiatives under the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COSTI)

Embrace AI technologies will **empower decision-makers to make well-informed decisions** and strengthen transboundary cooperation faster



The ASEAN-MRC Water Security Dialogue serves as a key platform for international collaboration. In cooperation with ASEAN, the Mekong countries can pool resources, share expertise, and coordinate actions to safeguard and sustainably manage the Mekong Basin

The ASEAN-MRC Partnership plays a vital role in supporting disaster preparedness and fostering innovative water governance. **ASEAN and MRC will further discuss on developing concrete cooperative** activities related to disaster risk management, monitoring, and forecasting, while also building community resilience and sharing best practices.

MRC collaboration within ASEAN can greatly advance progress on SDG 6 and goes beyond water security and change risks to opportunities to collaborate utilizing regional platforms for water diplomacy and dialogue.

The challenges facing the Mekong present a unique opportunity for **increased joint investments and enhanced regional cooperation and coordination**

ASEAN-MRC Water Security Dialogue should be held regularly to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and best practices.