

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING
OF THE MRC JOINT COMMITTEE
MEKONG RIVER COMMISSION
31 AUGUST – 1 SEPTEMBER 2011, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR**

GENERAL

1. The Joint Committee of the MRC (the Joint Committee) held its Thirty-fourth Meeting, Working Session (hereinafter referred to as “The Meeting”), on 31 August and 1 September 2011 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The proposed Agenda covered the following items (Appendix No.1: Agenda):

- Report by the Officer-in-Charge of MRCS on progress since the Thirty-third Meeting of the MRC Joint Committee;
- Endorsement of the MRC Operating Expenses Budget for 2012;
- Progress of Cooperation with Development Partners and Regional Cooperation including an analysis of MOUs signed;
- Information on Date and Venue of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of the MRC Joint Committee;
- Progress on Implementation of the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and Development of the Roadmap for Core Functions Decentralisation;
- Approval of Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative 2011-2015;
- Approval of the Drought Management Programme 2011-2015;
- Approval of the Extension of Navigation Programme 2004-2009;
- Progress Report of BDP ; and
- Endorsement of the outline of MRC Work Programme for 2012.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Le Duc Trung, Director-General, Viet Nam National Mekong Committee, Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Viet Nam, Chairman of the MRC Joint Committee for 2011-2012. The Meeting was attended by 56 participants, including Delegates from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam, and professional and support staff from the MRC Secretariat, (Appendix No.2: List of Participants).

3. On 30 August 2011, the MRC Joint Committee held a Private Meeting and a Preparatory Meeting to review the draft agenda and discuss issues of mutual concern prior to the Meeting.

A. STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MRC JOINT COMMITTEE FOR 2010-2011

4. H.E. Mr. Te Navuth, Secretary-General, Cambodia National Mekong Committee, Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Cambodia, Chairman of the MRC Joint Committee for 2010-2011 delivered a statement, (Appendix No. 3). He was pleased to officially hand over the duties as the Joint Committee Chairperson to Dr. Le Duc Trung.

5. H.E. Mr. Navuth referred to the MRC’s achievements during his chairpersonship. Last year can be summarised as a year that took regional cooperation to the next level. Member Countries have demonstrated their commitment to regional dialogue, especially through the prior consultation process. The Basin Development Strategy and the MRC’s Strategic Plan, which provide a set of strategic directions and priority actions for basin-wide development of Mekong water resources over the next five years, were approved. Several goals have been accomplished towards strengthening the relationship with the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

6. In closing, he thanked the Joint Committee and MRCS for their time and effort in the past year. Finally he invited the Joint Committee Chairperson for 2011-2012, Dr. Le Duc Trung, to chair the meeting.

B. OPENING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MRC JOINT COMMITTEE FOR 2011-2012

7. Dr. Le Duc Trung thanked H.E Mr. Te Navuth for chairing the Joint Committee over the past year and welcomed all participants to the Meeting, (Appendix No.4). The Chairman recalled the discussion of the Dialogue Partner Meeting, particularly Water Resources Development on the Lancang/Mekong.

8. Dr. Trung anticipated a collaborative exchange of ideas on financial, programme and strategy issues. He informed that the Meeting will hear about the progress on implementing programmes since the last Meeting of the Joint Committee, as well as an update on the cooperation with other regional and international organisations following the last Seventeenth Council Meeting. He recalled that the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy and the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 provide directions and priority actions for the countries to prepare and address the challenges for water resources development facing the Mekong Basin and its people. The implementation progress will be discussed and reviewed today. There will be consideration on Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative and the Drought Management Programme as well as the extension of the Navigation Programme.

9. He finally thanked all Delegations for attending and then declared the Meeting open.

C. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

10. Lao PDR proposed to review the salary structure of General Support staff in OSP and OSV under agenda item E.2 - Endorsement of the MRC Operating Expenses Budget for 2012. The Meeting adopted the agenda as amended, (Appendix No.1: Agenda).

D. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MRC HUA HIN DECLARATION

11. The Officer-in-Charge (OIC) reported to the Meeting on the progress of the implementation of the MRC Hua Hin Declaration, (Appendix No.5). The progress reported includes the approval of the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy by the Council at its recent Seventeenth Meeting. The OIC further reported that the Procedures for Water Quality was approved by all countries and its Technical Guidelines for implementation is being finalised. Regarding the implementation of the organisational riparianisation plan, the programme plans are being re-evaluated on whether the Programmes require Chief Technical Advisors beyond 2012 or not.

12. With regard to Dialogue Partners and other regional Development Partners, cooperation has been strengthened. Most of the cooperation with Dialogue Partners is currently at the technical level and capacity building activities such as the Junior Riparian Professional (JRP) Project in which China and Myanmar participated in. Development Partners have shown strong commitment and confidence in supporting the new strategic direction of the MRC and the Commission during its transition towards decentralisation of its Core Functions. The Secretariat has actively enhanced technical cooperation with other partners such as the Mississippi River Commission, the US Geological Survey, etc.

13. The OIC further reported to the Meeting the main institutional developments and activities carried out since the last Joint Committee Meeting, (Appendix No.6). Major progress includes the work on an in-depth analysis of the core functions implementation and decentralisation, the implementation of the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy and the preparation of the National Indicative Plans. Over the past five months, the Secretariat increased its cooperation with other regional development partners and has also been actively involved in major international and regional events which provided the MRC with

more exposure to the world community. The Meeting was also briefed on the approval of some programme documents, namely the Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative and Drought Management Programme. The new direction of the Agriculture and Irrigation Programme was also briefly reported to the Meeting.

14. In closing, the OIC thanked all the Joint Committee Members as well as the National Mekong Committees and their Secretariats for their continuing support and constructive advice in guiding the work of the MRC Secretariat. He also expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to Development Partners, Dialogue Partners and other stakeholders for their cooperation. The OIC thanked H.E. Mr. Te Navuth, the Joint Committee Chair for 2010-2011 for his support and guidance and congratulated Dr. Le Duc Trung, Chair of the Joint Committee for 2011-2012 for the chairpersonship.

15. Cambodia took note of both reports with appreciation and suggested that the Report of the Implementation on the Hua Hin Declaration could be structured according to the outline of the Declaration. Cambodia further recommended that the term OSP and OSV be used consistently in all MRC Documents. Thailand shared the view with Cambodia that the report structure should follow the outline of the Declaration which could be fed into the report to the next Summit. Thailand also expressed concerns on MRC programme implementation and their outputs especially in the case of some programmes such as FMMP, CCAI and NAP as Thailand already stated during the Preparatory Meeting and advised the Secretariat to pay attention on this matter. Viet Nam took note of the report and agreed with the recommendation from previous speakers. Viet Nam further suggested that in the reports by the OIC, both the Hua Hin Declaration and the Achievements since the last Joint Committee Meeting, should cover not only the progress but also planned activities. The MRC was also requested to harmonise these two reports. Lao PDR took note of the progress as reported by the Secretariat.

16. The Meeting also took note, with appreciation, of the progress reported by the Officer-in-Charge of the MRC Secretariat. The Meeting suggested that the next report of the Hua Hin Declaration should follow the outline of the Declaration and for ease of understanding a powerpoint presentation should also be used.

E. MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

E.1 Report by the Officer-in-Charge on progress since the Thirty-third Meeting of the MRC Joint Committee

This report has already been delivered under agenda item D.

E.2. Endorsement of the MRC OEB for 2012/ Discussion on salary structure of General Support staff in OSP and OSV

17. Lao PDR requested for more information and clarification on the different salary scales of General Support staff for both offices, OSP and OSV as included in the proposed OEB 2012 presented at the Preparatory Meeting a day before.

18. In clarifying, the Chief of Finance and Administration Section informed the Meeting that there are currently two different scales for support staff in OSP and OSV. The MRCS also briefly provided background information that the salary scale for MRCS support staff was firstly developed based on the UN system and the current mechanism takes into account the inflation compensation factor. The MRCS took note of the request from Lao PDR in harmonising the salary scales of support staff in OSP and OSV. But this harmonisation could not be reflected in the OEB 2012 as the issue is part of the HR Recommendations which has not yet been approved by the Joint Committee. As a result, the Secretariat can only apply the current valid salary scales for the OEB 2012 budgeting purpose.

19. The Meeting took note of the discussion and agreed that the Task Force on the Organisation Structure of the MRCS and NMCS should consider this matter in detail and then propose recommendations for the Joint Committee's consideration.

20. The Meeting decided that MRCS should further consult with Member Countries in order to finalise the draft OEB 2012 and then submit to the upcoming Preparatory Meeting for the Council Meeting for endorsement.

E.3. Progress of Cooperation with Development Partners and Regional Cooperation including an analysis of MOUs signed

21. The Chief of the International Cooperation and Communication Section reported on the progress made in obtaining financial support from Development Partners and progress made towards strengthening regional cooperation, (Appendix No.7). As of the end of July 2011, multi-year funding agreements and commitments towards the Work Programme Budget amounted to approximately US\$ 58 million. Following the last Meeting of the Joint Committee, held in March 2011, overall fundraising efforts have progressed as planned with a focus on programmes that have large funding gaps. However, despite the continuous support from the Development Partner community, the overall amount committed as of the end of July 2011 only covers 46.8% of the overall MRC Work Programme 2011-2015 budget requirement. The MRCS has submitted many funding proposals to Development Partners and expect the results to these proposals within the next few months.

22. The MRCS also presented the results of an analysis of current Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) and Letter of Intents (LoI) signed with partner organisations, as requested by the Joint Committee at its Thirty-third Meeting in March. There are currently 16 Memorandums of Understanding and 3 Letters of Intent, which are signed with Governmental, International Organisations and Research Institutes. The focus of MoU was not only on partnering with Development Partners for funding, but also to utilise technical assistance. The majority of the MoUs and LoIs signed were found to be for sharing experience and lessons learned as well as sharing data.

23. Thailand recommended that when submitting proposals to Development Partners MRCS should also emphasise the impact that each programme makes and try to match them with Development Partners' strategies to attract new funding. Thailand reminded the Meeting that MRC and the Member Countries should also focus on groundwater resources management and that potential partnerships with other organisations, such as the US Geological Survey, should be explored further. The partnership with the USGS at present is still limited and a comprehensive study of groundwater will require a lot more information and resources particularly for field investigation. Thailand asked the Secretariat to clarify what measures should be taken for programmes' proposals that require immediate funding support if such support do not materialise.

24. Lao PDR took note of the progress of cooperation with Development Partners and requested MRCS to keep Member Countries more closely informed of the current status of cooperation with Development Partners.

25. Cambodia expressed appreciation for the progress report but asked the Secretariat to be consistent with the figures of the reported programmes and those reported by ICCS. The MRCS was also requested to increase efforts to successfully conclude the current pledges. Cambodia also thanked the Secretariat for the analysis of MoUs and look forward to an in-depth analysis report of MoUs.

26. Viet Nam noted the difficult funding situation facing the MRC with only 47% of its budget funded for the period 2011-2015. Viet Nam advised the Secretariat to ensure Programmes use the current funding available effectively by prioritising activities.

27. MRCS clarified that Programmes have been working on rolling plans to prioritise activities based on the funding available. For programmes with immediate funding needs, such as FMMP, the MRCS has been looking into ways to attract available funding from Development Partners and prepare proposals that highlight the MRC Programme's alignment with the Development Partner's strategies. On groundwater management, the OIC informed the Meeting of the positive outputs of the current cooperation with the USGS.

28. The Meeting took note of the progress of the MRC's cooperation with Development Partners and partner organisations. The Meeting expressed great concerns about the current funding gaps and required the MRCS to double efforts to mobilise additional funding support from Development Partners, and to conduct an in-depth performance analysis of MoU implementation, and to make every effort to expedite disbursement rates of programmes.

E.4. Information on Date and Venue of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of the MRC Joint Committee

29. The Meeting requested the MRCS to prepare a calendar of key international events in 2012 and especially check all the International events in March 2012 and then coordinate with NMCs for suitable dates for the Meeting. The MRCS was also requested to coordinate with Viet Nam on the venue and subsequently inform the other Member Countries in due course. (Appendix No.8)

F. MRC PROGRAMMES

F.1 Discussion on Policy and Strategy Issues

F.1.1. Progress on Implementation of the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and Development of the Roadmap for Core Functions Decentralisation

30. The Chief of the International Cooperation and Communication Section reported on the progress made in preparing for the decentralization of MRC's core river basin management functions, (Appendix No.9). Before presenting on core function decentralisation the MRCS submitted for the Joint Committee's consideration two pending indicators for the Strategic Plan 2011-2015 which were reformulated and presented to the Joint Committee for endorsement. The Meeting was briefed on the general implementation of the Strategic Plan and the development of the roadmap for core function decentralisation. The result of the preliminary assessment of core functions decentralisation was described in detail. The Basin Management Function activities have already been more or less decentralised to Member Countries. A total of 110 different activities supporting the seven Core River Basin Management Functions were identified. Four degrees of decentralisation have been defined to reflect the extent a particular activity is undertaken by Member Country agencies or by MRCS.

31. Thailand expressed concerns about Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (TbEIA) and the timing to achieve the outputs of these activities, as these are difficult tasks that need to be done step by step through a learning-by-doing approach. Thailand accepted the reformulated text for the two Indicators related to transboundary impact, but requested the Secretariat to acknowledge the concerns from Thailand in a foot note indicating that there should be additional knowledge generation and capacity building activities.

32. Cambodia noted that the two proposed new indicators were now referring to guidelines rather than the pending TbEIA framework, which reflects the discussion from the Joint Committee made on this matter during the Preparatory Meeting.

33. Viet Nam clarified the differences between the original version and the reformulated version of the indicators. Viet Nam considered that the proposed reformulation will make the outcome more achievable. Viet Nam agreed to the proposal from Thailand to add a foot note

to the indicators.

34. Lao PDR noted that the issue of these two indicators has been pending for a long time and proposed to remove the term basin-wide from the reformulated indicators, which was accepted by Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam.

35. The Meeting, therefore, approved the reformulated definition of the two indicators without the term 'basin-wide' with the addition of a foot note as requested by Thailand.

36. On the suggestion to set up a JC Working Group, the Chairman expressed concerns about the number of Working Groups and Task Force and suggested that a more multi-purpose working group or task force be set up instead of creating new ones. The Chairman urged JC members to consider setting a combined working group.

37. In support of the Chairman's proposal, Thailand proposed to revise the ToR of the current JC Task Force and modify its mandate.

38. Cambodia thought that the workload on decentralization would be heavy and would be too much work to add to existing members of the Task Force and suggested that the line agency representative be at no less than a Deputy-Director General level. Viet Nam said that they were flexible on the composition of the Working Group or Task Force but agreed with Cambodia to have delegates at a high level to make decisions.

39. Lao PDR did not see the need to have an additional Task Force or Working Group and suggested to use the current JC Working Group on PNPCA, changing the mandate of the meeting and the composition of its Members.

40. The Chairman asked the MRCS to look at the existing Task Force's ToR and revise it to include a new mandate to discuss the decentralisation roadmap. The OIC announced that the MRC Secretariat will revise the ToR and submit it to the JC for consideration.

41. Cambodia noted that JC WG on PNPCA may require more work in the future, so it should be understood that the Members attending this Working Group will be different depending on the task assigned or the subject discussed.

42. Cambodia took note of the progress on the decentralisation of core functions. Regarding the preparation of the national roadmaps, Cambodia suggested to recruit national consultants rather than regional consultants for work done in each country. Cambodia took note of the timeline for the roadmap, but thought approval should be brought to the attention of the Council.

43. The Meeting took note of the progress and approved the revised version of the reformulated indicators as proposed by the MRCS including the footnote. The Meeting requested the MRCS to revise the Task Force ToR to accommodate the tasks need for the decentralisation process.

44. The MRCS was requested to inform on the progress on the Performance Management System. The Meeting was informed on the recruitment status of the result-based M&E Specialist to be attached to the TCU. As recommended by Countries, the MRCS is trying to minimise the use of external consultants. A TOR for an internal PMS Task Group has been drafted and submitted to the senior management for consideration and approval.

F.2 Consideration on Formulation of New Phases of Programmes

F.2.1 Approval of Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative 2011-2015

45. The OIC assisted by the Programme Coordinator of the Environment Programme (EP) and OIC of CCAI, informed the Meeting on the agenda item (Appendix No.10). The Secretariat briefly informed the Meeting of the progress on the finalisation of the CCAI

Document 2011-2015 and that the Programme Document version July 2011 was submitted to Member Countries for consideration. The results of the Regional Consultative Workshop in early July were also reported.

46. The next steps forward were discussed at the Meeting. The CCAI Steering Committee Meeting to review the approved document and advise the Secretariat on implementation of CCAI 2011-2015 is planned for the third Quarter of 2011. The main focus are: to provide guidance on 2011 work programme implementation and oversee the work process; to approve the regional Programme Implementation Plan of CCAI 2011-2015; to provide guidance on the preparation of National Programme Implementation Plans for the period 2011-2015 through national consultations; to consider and provide guidance on some pending issues namely the Mekong Panel on Climate Change and to provide further advice on how to overcome CCAI constraints on its implementation during the early phase of the period 2011-2015.

47. Thailand approved the Document and suggested the MRCS to timely implement CCAI's work plan as Thailand already indicated when discussing CCAI's low disbursement rate earlier at the Preparatory Meeting. In addition, Thailand also emphasised that the Mekong Panel on Climate Change should be kept separate from the CCAI governing body. Cambodia urged the MRCS to expedite the climate change activities at the national level. Viet Nam approved the Document and shared a similar view with Cambodia. Viet Nam further suggested that the MRCS should continue to prepare the regional action plan which could be discussed at the Steering Committee Meeting. Lao PDR approved the Document and recommended the MRCS to avoid the overlapping of activities between CCAI and EP while preparing the inception phase and plan of activities.

48. The Meeting took note of the proposed next steps and approved the CCAI Document 2011-2015. It was recommended that CCAI should have strong linkages with other MRC programmes. The MRCS was requested to expedite the national level implementation and the preparation of the regional plan including the setting up of a regional Mekong Panel on Climate Change.

F.2.2 Approval of the Drought Management Programme 2011-2015

49. The OIC assisted by the Drought Management Project Manager, informed the Meeting on the agenda item (Appendix No.11). The Secretariat briefly informed the Meeting of the finalisation of the DMP Document 2011-2015 and the progress of the Drought Management Project 2011-2013. The Meeting was also reported on the expected outcomes and funding situation of the programme.

50. The Meeting approved the Drought Management Programme 2011-2015 and advised the Secretariat to ensure synergies with other programmes are made such as with FMMP and make use of existing drought-related activities.

F.2.3 Approval of the Extension of Navigation Programme 2004-2009

51. The OIC assisted by the Programme Coordinator of the Navigation Programme (NAP), informed the Meeting on the agenda item (Appendix No.12). The background information on the Navigation Programme for 2004-2009 including the start-up phase and the funding were presented to the Meeting. The Secretariat also informed the Meeting of the main achievements of the programme outputs in detailed.

52. As funding for NAP 2004-2009 did not materialize until 2006 the initial six-year programme has only been implemented from March 2006 with the understanding that it will run until March 2012. Moreover, additional activities supported by both Australia and Belgium through current agreements and strong indication of future support will enable the programme to be implemented until December 2012. Planned activities which have not been implemented but considered priority may continue beyond 2012. It was proposed to the

Member Countries that the remaining activities will be implemented under the next phase of the NAP which will be aligned with the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015. The Secretariat also proposed extension of Navigation Programme 2004-2009 up to December 2012.

53. Thailand indicated that NAP's funding situation was not reported at the NAB Meeting and recommended MRCS to prepare appropriate documentation for consideration by the Joint Committee as early as possible in order for countries to have sufficient time to make a decision. Thailand requested for further clarification on the proposed extension before they could consider the matter.

54. Cambodia thanked the Government of Belgium for its financial support to NAP, but encouraged the MRCS to apply a multi-donor approach for this programme instead of relying on one large sole donor. Cambodia approved the extension and requested that the programme content be aligned with the Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and noted that programme management is a joint responsibility of coordinator, director of the division and the CEO.

55. Viet Nam shared the same concerns with Thailand. However, understanding the programme's funding situation, Viet Nam approved the extension of the programme while strongly requesting that this situation should not be repeated and that all MRC programmes should learn from this experience.

56. Lao PDR approved the extension of the NAP document as requested.

57. In clarifying the matter the MRCS provided more background information for the Meeting such as the funding cycle, the duration of the funded programme, and the time when the programme could actually start. There has also been recent consultation with Belgium which is considering further funding support to the programme. The MRCS is seeking the approval for the programme's extension in order to comply with MRC's governing rules and procedures.

58. Thailand indicated that NAP was not the only programme that needed to be reminded to follow the procedures and protocol of the Joint Committee. Thailand strongly requested the MRCS to submit for Member Country information all programmes' workplans and budget. Thailand understood the explanations provided by the MRCS on the technical issues but on management matters NAP was strongly asked to follow MRC protocols. Thailand suggested the MRCS to make concrete improvement on the management of NAP and submit a report to the next Joint Committee Meeting after the approval of this extension.

59. The Meeting considered the proposal and approved the extension of the Navigation Programme up to December 2012 as requested. The MRCS was requested to seriously learn from this lesson regarding the protocol of the Joint Committee. The Meeting strongly indicated that the Joint Committee does not wish to see this type of issue again in the future.

F.2.4 Progress Report of Basin Development Plan Programme

60. The OIC of the Basin Development Plan Programme informed the Meeting on the agenda item (Appendix No.13). The progress of BDP activities includes completion of outstanding BDP2 activities, process of finalisation of BDP 2011-2015 Programme Document and implementation of the Basin Development Strategy including the preparation of the Basin Action Plan.

61. BDP progress towards the implementation of the Procedures of Maintenance of Flows on the Mainstream (PMFM) was also reported to the Meeting. Responding to the request at the Thirty-third Meeting of the Joint Committee, a comprehensive Discussion Note was prepared to provide recommendations for the countries in considering the thresholds to adopt under Article 6A – Planning Purposes. A process and work plan has been prepared for building consensus on the pending issue. This includes engaging national facilitators to support the BDP team in building consensus between the MRC Member Countries on the flow thresholds to be adopted under Article 6A and prepare the members of the Technical

Review Group (TRG) for their 10th meeting in the last quarter of 2011. The funding situation of the Programme was also presented.

62. Viet Nam raised two matters for discussion: (i) Viet Nam asked why BDP recently submitted the 2011-2015 Programme Document to countries for written approval when the document could have been submitted for approval to this JC Meeting; (ii) Viet Nam is in the process of preparing to develop the National Indicative Plan for the implementation of the Basin Development Strategy and they need further discussion among Member Countries on the objective, content and outline of the National Indicative Plan. Viet Nam also enquired about the timeframe and a roadmap for the finalisation of the Regional Action Plan and the National Indicative Plans. To discuss the matters relating to the National Indicative Plans and the Regional Action Plan, Viet Nam proposed that a regional consultation meeting should be organised soon. The regional meeting will also discuss the level of authority to approve the National Indicative Plans.

63. Lao PDR took note of the progress of BDP and recommended that during the bridging period, activities to formulate National Indicative Plan in Lao PDR are not following the BDP bridging period workplan due to the organisation restructuring and agreed with Viet Nam that a regional meeting on the plan is required before preparing the National Indicative Plan and to also discuss the direction for the Regional Action Plan. Lao PDR approved the BDP 2011-2015 document.

64. Cambodia informed the meeting that they have already approved the Programme Document in writing. Cambodia agreed to further discuss how to move forward in the preparation of the regional meeting.

65. Thailand took note of the progress of BDP and appreciated the information provided. Thailand shared the same views with other Countries regarding finding a way to finalise the regional action plan. It is hoped that the BDP would continue to work on seeking financial support and that the regional action plan is harmonized with National Indicative Plans. Thailand suggested BDP to closely work with IKMP particularly on setting the threshold level for PMFM.

66. The Meeting took note of the progress on the finalisation of the outstanding BDP2 activities. While Cambodia has already given a written approval of the Programme Document for 2011-2015, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam approved, in principle, the Programme Document at this Meeting. As proposed by Viet Nam and agreed by the Meeting the MRCS was requested to organise the regional consultation meeting on National Indicative Plans and the Regional Action Plan in September 2011.

F.3 Endorsement of the outline of MRC Work Programme for 2012

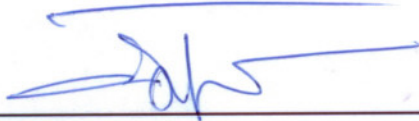
67. The MRCS is requested to prepare the full document for endorsement at the JC Preparatory Meeting and for approval by the MRC Council at its next Eighteenth Meeting. In addition, the Meeting also requested MRCS not to submit any incomplete documents for consideration in the future.

H. CLOSING STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MRC JOINT COMMITTEE FOR 2011-2012

68. After adoption of the minutes, the Chairman delivered the closing statement and the Meeting thanked the MRC Secretariat for successful preparation of the Meeting (Appendix No. 14).

G. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE MRC JOINT COMMITTEE

The Joint Committee adopted the Minutes of the Thirty-fourth Meeting as presented on 1 September 2011, Vientiane, Lao PDR.



H.E. Mr. Te Navuth
Member of the MRC Joint Committee for the Kingdom of Cambodia



Mr. Phonechaleun Nonthaxay
Alternate Member of the MRC Joint Committee for the Lao People's Democratic Republic



Mr. Chaiporn Siripornpibul
Head of Delegation for the Kingdom of Thailand



Dr. Tuong Hong Tien
Head of Delegation for the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam



Dr. Le Duc Trung
Chairman of the MRC Joint Committee for 2011-2012