

GWP SEA STATEMENT TO THE ASEAN LEADERS SUMMIT MEETING

NOTING that ASEAN Vision 2020 envisions ASEAN as a concert of Southeast Asian Nations, outward-looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies;

NOTING that the Heads of State and Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as ASEAN), gathered in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 29 November 2004 for the Tenth ASEAN Summit;

NOTING that among others, the ASEAN leaders agree that they shall address, by various ways and means, the development issues and special needs of the less developed ASEAN Member Countries and sub-regional areas of ASEAN, including the implementation of the concept of "Prosper Thy Neighbour" - by instituting programmes to narrow the development gap, reducing socio-economic disparities and eradicating poverty within ASEAN, and by doing so, move forward in a unifying and cohesive manner to prosper ASEAN.

WHEREAS, as part of the Vientiane Action Plan, 3.3.9 Freshwater Resources the ASEAN Leaders agreed to:

- Halve by 2010 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water (WSSD target by 2015)
- Manage water resources efficiently and effectively
- Promote integrated river basin management
- Promote awareness to enhance integrated water resources management (IWRM)

WHEREAS, the eight country water partnerships in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and its partners in Singapore linked together under the Global Water Partnership in Southeast Asia (GWP-SEA) have individually and collectively supported the promotion of IWRM, integrated river basin management, capacity building and knowledge sharing to enable countries to meet their MDG targets and manage their water resources efficiently and effectively.

WHEREAS the GWP-SEA has supported the preparation of the status of IWRM in the region in 2005 for the ASEAN and funded by the Australian Government which has been one of the bases of the preparation of the ASEAN Water Resources Strategic Plan;

WHEREAS an update of the status of IWRM in the region has been requested by the ASEAN secretariat to the GWP-SEA in June 2010 during the ASEAN-convened Non-structural Measures for Flood Management Workshop in Bali, Indonesia;

WHEREAS, the international community will review the commitment to take an integrated approach to water resources management as stated in the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 at the UN Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

WHEREAS, the Southeast Asian Countries collectively achieved 86% water supply coverage with a few countries having almost 100% coverage such as Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand while the other countries are having difficulties achieving their targets;

WHEREAS, the over-all sanitation coverage is only 69% and is below the target of 73% and needs further attention especially in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Timor Leste, Vietnam and the Philippines;

WHEREAS, despite the fact that agriculture and industry receives the biggest allocation of freshwater resources for food production and processing, food security and poverty are still major issues in the region;

WHEREAS, trends in urbanization, industrialization, agriculture (including aquaculture) have caused rapid and increased pollution and damage to many of the ASEAN rivers and need to be urgently addressed;

WHEREAS the degradation of water and related ecosystems in the river basins and the growing water-related hazards (floods, droughts, landslides and others) have been worsened by non-sustainable uses and infrastructure development, and further aggravated by climate change;

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to request and exhort the ASEAN Leaders to ensure effective water governance by initiating the development of an integrated and comprehensive ASEAN Water Security Roadmap for the 21st century and to oversee the implementation of regional and country action plans.

RESOLVED, finally that the GWP-SEA is ready to contribute to the formulation of the regional water security roadmap which includes among others a 10-year assessment of integrated water resources management plans in the countries.

Done this 13th day of October 2010 at the Expert Group's Meeting in the Asian Development Bank.