The Mekong River Commission

By Hans Guttman

15-16 October, Vientiane, Lao PDR
What is the MRC?

- An intergovernmental river basin organisation built on a foundation of nearly 50 years of knowledge and experience in the region.

- Formed on the 5\textsuperscript{th} of April 1995 with the signing of the “Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin”
What is the MRC?
"An economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River Basin."

1995 Mekong Agreement and Procedural Rules
Article 1. Areas of Cooperation

Article 2. Projects, Programs and Planning

Article 3. Protection of the Environment and Ecological Balance

Article 4. Sovereign Equality and Territorial Integrity

Article 5. Reasonable and Equitable Utilization

Article 6. Maintenance of Flows on the Mainstream

Article 7. Prevention and Cessation of Harmful Effects

Article 8. State Responsibility for Damages

Article 9. Freedom of Navigation

Article 10. Emergency Situations
MRC Procedures

- Data Exchange and Information Sharing
- Maintaining Minimum Flows
- Monitor Water Use
- Notification and prior consultation on projects
- Water Quality
The IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy: ‘meeting the needs, keeping the balance’

- Approved in January 2011 by Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam

- Sets out how the MRC Member Countries will share, use, manage and conserve water and related resources of the Mekong

- Primary framework for cooperation for the implementation of the 1995 Mekong Agreement
Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (tbEIA)

- To ensure that transboundary impacts are identified and addressed in order to minimise negative impacts.
- Remains in progress.
The Mekong River Report Card on Aquatic Ecological Health 2008
Thank you