



## BALI MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

**WE**, the Ministers responsible for water resources management from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam gathered for the Second Ministerial Meeting on Managing Water Resources on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 in Bali, Indonesia;

**RECALLING** the Chiang Mai Declaration and its principle guidelines to enhance regional cooperation in the field of water resource management declared at the First Ministerial Meeting on Managing Water Resources on November 21<sup>st</sup> 2003 in Chiang Mai, Thailand;

**REITERATING** our commitment to the Millennium Declaration Goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Partnership Initiatives, and mandates resulting from other global forums essential to integrated water resources management;

**DESIRING** to achieve balanced socio-economic development and environmental sustainability at the local and regional level, through, inter-alia internationally agreed commitments;

**ASSERTING** the need to enhance stakeholders participation, ensure sustainable use of water resources and increase levels of investment, as well as services in water resources infrastructure and management; and

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the need to formalize a mechanism for inter-governmental dialogue among stakeholders, for the development of a concrete set of programs, that shall prioritize policy measures in sustaining integrated water resources management in Southeast Asia:

**DO HEREBY DECLARE:**

1. In support of the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans, the objective of this Ministerial Declaration shall be to promote good governance in water resources by enhancing social capital and policy directions, exchange of best practices, lessons learned, access of information through networking and other mutually agreed cooperation areas between and among stakeholders at the sub-regional, regional and international level;
2. In this regard, Member Countries shall endeavor to implement the *Regional Action Plan on Managing Water Resources in Southeast Asia*, which shall form an integral part of the Bali Ministerial Declaration, that include the following key issues:
  - (a) Enhance knowledge and increase awareness among decision makers, stakeholders and public at large by promoting capacity building programs, and the development of formal and informal education that address good water policies, practices and management;
  - (b) Secure access to safe, affordable, sufficient, and sustainable water for domestic use in urban and rural areas, agriculture, industry, energy, environment and all socio-economic sectors by taking into account basic human needs;

- (c) Alleviate poverty through accountable, transparent and participatory process of water supply and demand management, including pricing water services to reflect the cost of their utilization provision and environmental services. Special consideration shall be given to indigenous culture and water ethics, and for the poor and vulnerable groups, including women;
- (d) Intensify and accelerate level of investment on water infrastructure by strengthening financial capacity of relevant institutions, community organizations and small scale water services providers, through allocation of national budgets, access to loan facilities, development of revolving funds, micro credits, grants and private sector participation;
- (e) Manage and conserve the eco-system for the whole river basin, including groundwater aquifers, and coastal area by promoting rehabilitation of degraded land and forest areas, waste water and sanitation management, corporate social and environmental responsibility programs that mitigate the negative impact of water related activities;
- (f) Promote better understanding to *“living in harmony with water”* by enhancing preparedness against floods, droughts, pollution and other water-related hazards, including tsunami, through capacity building measures, technological transfer and exchange of experience and information among scientists, water managers and relevant institutions at the international level to anticipate unpredictable climatic variability and changes with early warning system and disaster mitigation; and

- (g) Promote peaceful cooperation between users and synergies among different uses of water at all levels in the case of boundary and trans-boundary water resources and also between concerned states through sustainable river basin management, including groundwater aquifers, as part of IWRM, on the legal basis, or other appropriate approaches.

Take note the Declaration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Southeast Asia Water Forum and Forum Call for Action, as attached in **Annex I**.

We express our deepest gratitude to the people and government of Indonesia, for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Ministerial Meeting on Managing Water Resources in Southeast Asia.

**DONE** in *Bali, Indonesia*, this **September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005** in a single copy in the English Language.