



Chiang Mai Declaration
The Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit

We, the Heads of State and Government and the high-level representatives, having met at the Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit (2nd APWS) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 20 May 2013, reiterating the importance of water as an essential part of human life, human security, environment and economy,

- *Recognizing* that water is at the core of sustainable development and is closely linked to a number of key global challenges, reiterating the importance of integrating water in sustainable development and underlining the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development as stated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",

- *Recalling* that 2005-2015 is the United Nations International Decade for Action "Water for Life", and that 2013 is the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation,

- *Recognizing* that Asia and the Pacific region is the most disaster-prone region in the world, and that water-related disasters, including floods and droughts, in the region continue to increase in intensity and frequency,

- *Further recognizing* the adverse impacts of climate change, which may aggravate the intensity and frequency of extreme events and cause economic and social damages, including the loss of human life,

- *Noting with concern* the impacts from water-related disasters that pose a significant risk to all countries, particularly the small island developing States (SIDS), the least developed countries (LDCs) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and their efforts to achieve sustainable development,

- *Emphasizing* that water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy-makers at all levels, and that women have the pivotal role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water,

- *Recognizing* that sustainability of food production increasingly depends on sound and efficient water management, and that the need to increase sustainable agricultural production is closely linked to the development and management of water resources on an integrated basis,

Do hereby declare to:

1. *Renew* the commitment made at the First Asia-Pacific Water Summit, (Beppu, Japan, 2007), to accord high priority to water and sanitation in national agendas and to allocate appropriate resources to water and sanitation sectors;

2. *Encourage* the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 to address the common challenges to reduce deaths and economic losses from floods, droughts and other natural disasters;

3. *Accelerate* the process of incorporating integrated water resources planning and management, as appropriate, in the framework of the national socio-economic development planning process while supporting the best practices and traditional treatment of water resources;

4. *Enhance* regional and international cooperation on sharing, exchange and dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge, as well as best practices, related to integrated water resources management;

5. *Promote* efficient use of water resources while taking into account basic human needs including domestic, industrial and agriculture water uses and balancing preservation of ecosystems;

6. *Improve* irrigation systems in agricultural sector which consume a huge volume of water resources as a part of the plans to promote water use efficiency;

7. *Increase* transfer of technology, enhance capacity building and knowledge sharing to optimize manifold use of water and minimize adverse impacts from water-related risks and disasters on people's livelihood, economy and environment;

8. *Accord priority* to effective use of information and communication technology towards development of water-related disaster risk reduction and relief systems, including for early warning, and build resilient communities through capacity development, responsive governance, and innovative sources of finance;

9. *Encourage* the adoption of policies and measures to reduce water pollution, combat desertification, improve water quality and protect wetlands, rivers and the other source of fresh water which are among the basic needs of human being and nature;

10. *Further encourage* better networking and partnerships, where appropriate, between governments and other stakeholders, on activities related to the management, protection and rational utilization of water resources, including through strengthened public-private partnership;

11. *Encourage* appropriate consideration of water issues in the discussion of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

12. *Invite* the Asia-Pacific Water Forum to mobilize initiatives in support of all these recommendations, and to encourage consideration, as appropriate, of green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, as well as the establishment of Asian Water Information System;

13. *Extend our sincere gratitude* to the Government and the people of Thailand for hosting the Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit and encourage all governments to make all efforts to implement these recommendations with a will and courage to realize our vision.

Chiang Mai, Thailand

20 May 2013