



High Level Round Table on Water Security and the Sustainable Development Goals

Convened by the Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Co-hosted by the Ministry of Transport and Communication, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Office of the UN Secretary General Special Envoy for Disaster Reduction and Water, the High Level Expert Panel on Water and Disasters, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) of Japan, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Myanmar Water Think Tank and other Development Partners.

Organized at the occasion of the meeting of the GWP Steering Committee

24th of May 2016 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm
Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar

1. Context

The Global Water Partnership Steering Committee (SC) meets twice a year, either in Sweden where it holds its Secretariat or in one of the countries where GWP has an active Regional or Country Water Partnership. The Steering Committee meetings are moments when GWP organizes when possible a National or International event to promote a key issue around its main corporate vision, a water secure world.

This year, at the invitation of the Government of Myanmar, the GWP SC meeting will take place from 24 – 27 May 2016 in Yangon, Myanmar. Myanmar is currently undergoing important water sector reform. Myanmar has frequently suffered from destructive earthquakes, water-related extreme weathers such as cyclones, periodic flooding, as well as droughts, which resulted in many losses and damages including landslides, with major challenges in terms water quality control and wastewater management, quite similar in fact to the challenges that other countries in the South East Asian region are facing.

In the past years, Myanmar has shown impressive strides forwards towards integrated and sustainable water resources management, supported by the core of Myanmar's academia and civil society leaders locally and from abroad, within the context of the Myanmar Water Policy approved by the Government. Myanmar's water activities are recognized by its neighbors in South East Asia as well as UN-Water.

Within the context of the recent Agreement that the International Community has formulated around Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), GWP and the Government of Myanmar would like to organize an event around the theme of Water Security and the SDGs that could benefit both Myanmar and the South East Asian Region to better address the above mentioned challenges in an integrated and participatory way.

The proposed High Level meeting builds on the multi-stakeholder panel that GWP as organized on invitation of the High Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) during the Second UN Thematic Session on Water and Disasters¹, the SDGs formulations under the leadership of UN ESCAP, and on the recent Asian Water Cycle Conference on regional water security in Tokyo on 1-2 March 2016.

This High Level event is designed to be a milestone in the new democracy of Myanmar, accelerating the already consolidated IWRM, DRR and WASH activities those are ongoing under the guidance of the Government of Myanmar and the World Bank.

It is most fitting and timely for the country to express its capability and keen interest under the new light of democratic government. The High Level Round Table meeting seeks to identify possible challenges to address the inherited impacts from past governments on the water sector. It may contribute to the reforms which the new government led by the Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Lady Aung San Suu Kyi, who at present undertaking the duties of the State Counselor and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, would like to carry out. This High Level event would also make a bridge between past and the present as well as a work plan for the future not only for Myanmar but also for the ASEAN members.

The meeting is expected to benefit from the experience and strategic vision of several key Regional Organizations with which GWP collaborates in Asia and that have knowledge on water security and SDGs.

The selective invitees inside Myanmar would be the State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (Chief Guest/Guest of Honor), Ministers of key water related Ministries, Chief Ministers of three selected regions, senior officials from water related Ministries, senior representatives of INGOs, NGOs and Business who play important roles in Myanmar water sector, distinguished water and environment professionals, and the Water Think Tank of Myanmar. In addition, Senior Representatives of a wide range of pertinent governments, institutions and organizations have been invited.

¹ UN Headquarters, New York,

2. Objectives of the High Level Roundtable Meeting

The main objective of the High Level Meeting is to contribute to the well-being of the people of Myanmar and of South East Asia in general through setting the scene for improved governance and management of water resources and therefore sustainable and equitable development in a water secure region.

The specific objectives are as follows:

- To reconcile existing National and Regional Strategies / Programs aiming at reaching Water Security with the SDGs and the 2030 Development Agenda approach. The Meeting will focus mainly on five SDGs, namely SDG 5 (Gender), SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Cities), SDG 13 (Climate Change, DRR), SDG 17 (Partnerships).
- To illustrate the importance of national partnerships and regional cooperation as key vehicles for the implementation of the SDGs as highlighted in the 2030 Agenda, under Goal 17 that could be implemented in the South Eastern Asia Region.
- To support the Government of Myanmar in promoting water high on the national development agenda.

The outcomes of this Meeting will be presented to the High Level Panel on Water that will be held in June 2016 and other relevant High Level Panels.

3. Tentative Agenda

08:00 – 09:00 Arrival and Registration of Participants (to be seated by 08:50)

Introductory High Level Session

Welcome addresses

09:00 – 09:10	Introduction by Dr. Kaye Schofield, Lead Moderator of the High Level Round Table, Chairperson of the Australian Water Partnership
09:10 – 09:20	Official Opening Speech by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counselor (TBC)
09:20 – 09:30	Welcome Address by U Thant Sin Maung, Minister of Transport and Communication
09:30 – 09:40	Welcome remarks by Drs. Alice Bouman – Dentener, Chair of the Global Water Partnership
09:40 – 09:45	Congratulatory remarks by Dr. Jennifer Sara, Global Water Practice Director, World Bank Group
09:50 – 09:55	Congratulatory remarks by Dr. Koji IKEUCHI, Vice Minister, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan

09:50 – 10:00	Group Photo
	<u>Key Note addresses</u>
10:00 – 10:10	Keynote by Dr. Han Seung-soo, former Prime Minister of Korea and United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Water
10:10 – 10:20	Keynote by Prof. Dr. Khin Ni Ni Thein, Secretary of Myanmar Water Think Tank, on Water Security and new Economic policy in Myanmar
10:20 – 10:30	Keynote on the Sustainable Development Goals, by Mrs Kenza Robinson, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
10:30 – 10:40	Keynote by Drs Koos Wieriks, Strategic Advisor Water Management at the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment of the Netherlands
10:40 – 10:45	Wrap up by Lead Moderator
10:45 – 11:15	Pause (Tea/Coffee break) and Meeting with the Press
Round Table Session	
11:15 – 11:20	Introduction to the Round Tables by Lead Moderator
11:20 – 12:20	Round Table discussions on priority actions for the implementation of the five SDGs ² : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Table 1: SDG 5 (Gender/Water Governance); – Table 2: SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation/ WASH); – Table 3: SDG 11 (Cities); – Table 4: SDG 13 (Climate Change / DRR); – Table 5: SDG 17 (Partnerships/Investment).
12:20 – 12:50	Feedback from table moderators and plenary discussion
12:50 – 12:55	Final wrap up by Lead Moderator
12:55 – 13:00	Closing of the event by Myanmar Government Official
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch

² Each participant has been assigned to a specific Table and is expected to come prepared by proposing a list of top priority actions regarding the implementation of the specific SDG in Myanmar and the South East Asian Context. Senior representatives from key water related Ministers, Yangon City Development Committee, Mandalay City Development Committee, and Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee will be especially invited to relevant tables together with water professionals and experts from the Region. Priority actions will be discussed in each table with the facilitation of a Table Moderator and then shared in Plenary. The approved Recommendations will be compiled in a document called the Myanmar Recommendations.