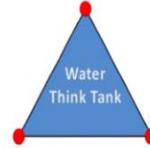




Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for
Disaster Risk Reduction and Water



Ministry of Infrastructure and the
Environment



High Level Round Table on
Water Security and the Sustainable Development Goals
Tuesday, 24th May 2016, Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon

Welcome Address

by

Deputy Union Minister U Kyaw Myo

Ministry of Transport and Communications

Good Morning. . .

~ Your Excellencies

~ Distinguished delegates from the United Nations, the World Bank, Global Water Partnership, Governments of Japan, Australia and the Netherlands,

~ Distinguished Participants,

~ Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you to this very important High Level Roundtable meeting on behalf of H.E. U Thant Sin Maung, Minister of Transport and Communications.

As you all know, people, economies, and ecosystems depend on water. Water is life. Yet water is often taken for granted, overused, abused, and poorly managed. The consequences are like water shortage and energy shortage. The way we use and manage water determines our economic prospects, gross national happiness and life expectancy of our peoples. Water should be managed properly and at the same time to develop and conserve by taking care of the integrity of ecosystems that are vital for living rivers, peoples and healthy environment.

Water insecurity makes us poor, hinders our much needed development and effecting negatively on economic growth. Increased human population induces worsened Water insecurity. Economic growth, urbanisation, conflicts, and climate change are factors affecting the water security. Such trends increase competition over water and may lead us into crisis.

On the other hand, if water is managed properly, we can get much positive impacts. Water is the basis of all economic development activities and water-energy-food nexus *should be understood and apply if we were to boost the sustainable development in Myanmar.* Myanmar also committed to the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Talking about the seventeen SDGs, it is most fitting that this High Level Roundtable meeting will address the links among five of the SDGs: SDG 5 (Gender), SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Cities), SDG 13 (Climate Change), and SDG 17 (Partnerships). I am very glad to see this positive development and welcome you all to Myanmar and to this event.

To conclude, I would like to thank all the organizers, conveners, sponsors for your great support and the Director General of DWIR for assisting us, especially to ensure good coordination among the different entities nationally and internationally. It has been an intense road and uphill battle at present, however, I can assure you that the results will be beneficial for our water, our land, our peoples and our entire nation. We once again would hereby like to express our sincere gratitude to all the participants. Have a great meeting.

Thank you.