

Speech by H.E. Mr. U Ohn Winn
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Asia-Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment: Side event
Impactful Investments in Water Efficient Infrastructure:
Inputs to the 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Summit
7 September 2017, 13:00 ~ 14:00 (Speech time: 5 mins)

Your Excellences,
Distinguished guests, and
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is my great pleasure to chair this side event. I would like to thank Japan Water Agency, NARBO, Asia-Pacific Water Forum and ESCAP, for organizing this side event and giving me this opportunity to introduce the 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Summit in this event.

- Also, I would like to give my appreciation to
 - Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP,
 - H.E. Mr. Yeshey Dorji, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture & Forests, Thimphu, Bhutan, and
 - Mr. Khamphanh Nanthavong, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) , Lao PDR on behalf of H.E. Bounkham VORACHIT, Vice-Minister of Ministry of MONRE, Lao PDRfor your participation to the side event.

- The Government of Myanmar is going to host the 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Summit which will be held in the City of Yangon from 11 to 12 December this year, in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Water Forum.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Water is a vital and focal element for health, sanitation, socio-economic activities, as well as securing and creation of sound environment. In order to address water-related issues, we need harmony and collaboration with various types of stakeholders.
- The 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Summit will be held with national leaders of the Asia-Pacific region, for the purposes of enhancing political leadership and commitments and inspiring partnership among the stakeholders.
- The previous Asia-Pacific Water Summits had the heads of state and ministerial-level officials from 42 countries and regions of the Asia-Pacific region. Such high-level participants of the Asia-Pacific region getting together and sharing opinions, which formed the announcement of the Message from Beppu and the Chiang Mai Declaration, we saw significant influence on the region as people's awareness towards water issues have been increased and certain movements to solve such issues have been promoted.
- As for the 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Summit, we are expecting to invite the heads of state or government, ministerial-level officials from Asia-Pacific region and experts in the field of water. I believe we can think about water issues of the region and accelerate the concrete action towards the solution.
- Some technical themes to be discussed during the Summit such as "Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)" and "Grappling with Water-related Disasters and Climate Change" are the challenges not only for Myanmar but also for any countries of the region, therefore we are convinced that what will be discussed during the Summit should be beneficial to all countries and regions of the Asia-Pacific region.

Ladies and gentleman,

- We believe your country's active involvement in the Summit will lead fruitful discussions and enhance the value of the Summit, which, I am certain, will contribute to sustainable development of the Asia-Pacific region. So, we would strongly ask you to participate in the 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Summit.
- Today, this side event is focusing on the matter of investment in water infrastructure which will also be addressed in the Summit. I believe that today's discussion will become very valuable inputs to the Summit.
- To conclude, again, I would like to ask for your participation in the 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Summit. I look forward to meeting you again in Yangon December.
- Thank you.
- Today we have a great honor to welcome Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary General of the UN and Executive Secretary of ESCAP to deliver his opening statement. Dr. Akhtar, may I invite you please to make your statement.

~~~End of speech~~~

- Now I am glad to introduce Mr. Kaveh Zhedi, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP who will support this side event as a moderator. Mr. Kaveh, now floor is yours.