



**PANEL DISCUSSION:
The Journey from Hua Hin to Ho Chi Minh City
and Future of the Mekong River**

Time: 09:00 – 11:00 AM, Friday, 4th April 2014

***Venue: Sky View 4 Meeting Room, Riverside Hotel, 18-19-20 Ton Duc Thang Str.,
District 1, Ho Chi Minh City***

The Second MRC Summit will be organized on 5th April 2014 in Ho Chi Minh City, following the consensus made by heads of MRC member states in the first Summit in Hua Hin in 2010. This quadrennial event demonstrates the *highest level of political commitment to the implementation of the Mekong Agreement*. The Second Summit will focus the discussions of MRC state leaders on progress of implementation of the Hua Hin Declaration, among other important issues. There are also a number of other high-level events organized before the Summit, including an international conference, MRC Joint Committee meeting, and MRC Council meeting¹.

Save the Mekong Coalition² (StM) has monitored the development of Mekong River, particularly hydropower dams, with aim to keep the Mekong flowing freely to save this critical source of food, income and life for present and future generations. On the occasion of this Second Summit, StM plans to organize a side event in order to bring our concerns and voices to the leaders of MRC countries, as well as share our support to efforts that keep the Mekong flowing free for benefits of all.

The Mekong River of today is not the same as that of four years ago. The first Mekong mainstream dam, Xayaburi, controversially proceeded with construction despite a contested process within and outside the MRC that failed to achieve consensus, and now a decision on the Don Sahong Dam appears imminent. Over the past four years, the MRC has struggled to define its role and facilitate inclusive and accountable decision making. A key point has been reached for the future both of the MRC and of the Mekong River.

The panel discussion “*The Journey from Hua Hin to Ho Chi Minh City and Future of the Mekong River*” is open to the public, especially media, to join and share with speakers their views and comments.

Speakers:

- Mr. Nguyen Minh Nhi, Former Chairman of People’s Committee of An Giang Province

¹ Detailed agenda of the Summit: <http://www.mrcsummit.org>

² About StM: <http://savethemekong.org/>

- Mr. Meach Mean, 3SPN Coordinator, Cambodia
- Mr. Hoang Viet, Vietnam Rivers Network, VRN
- Ms. Ame Trandem, International Rivers

Moderator: Mr. Trinh Le Nguyen, PanNature.

Program Outline:

- 09:00 – 09:10 Introduction to the program and speakers
- 09:10 – 09:20 Keynote presentation: “Progress of the Hua Hin Declaration from Civil Society’s Perspectives” by Ms. Ame Trandem
- 09:20 – 10:00 Reflection on progress of commitments in Hua Hin Declaration: Each speaker has 10 minutes to give verbal comments from their perspectives with reference to the expected outcomes of the Second Summit (*see Summit’s website*).
- 10:00 – 10:50 Public discussion: participants can comment or question, following by responses from panel speakers.
- 10:50 – 11:00: Debriefing and closing

Language: The program will be carried out in English and Vietnamese with simultaneous translation.

Event Registration: Please RSVP required by 17:00 PM of 03 April 2014:

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This program is organized by Save the Mekong Coalition. Logistical arrangement is coordinated by PanNature, Vietnam Rivers Network- VRN, and GreenID.
