



6TH W O R L D W A T E R F O R U M

Mekong River Commission: partnerships to enhance capacity



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TIME FOR SOLUTIONS

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The Mekong River Commission

- *An intergovernmental river basin organisation built on a foundation of nearly 50 years of knowledge and experience in the region.*
- *Formed in April 1995 with the signing of the “Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin”*





Building partnerships

🔥 *The MRC aims to build more strategic partnerships to achieve its mandate*

🔥 *Principle 11 of the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 reads as follows:*

“Building strategic partnerships with other regional initiatives and other international river basin organisations”

🔥 *Specifically, the MRC recognises the benefits of cooperation with other IRBOs in dealing with complex issues of managing trans-boundary rivers through:*

- 🔥 technical exchanges,
- 🔥 capacity building,
- 🔥 sharing of best practices



Example of partnership: MRC and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (Australia)

- **Memorandum of Understanding signed in May 2011**
- **Aims to strengthen the capacity of the MRC to implement IWRM in the Mekong River Basin**
- **Cooperation mechanisms:**
 - capacity building
 - establishment of learning networks
 - technical support from Australian experts
 - exchange of staff
 - Exchange visits





Example of partnership: MRC and the Mississippi River Commission (USA)

- **Memorandum of Understanding signed in July 2010**
- **Sister river partnership to cooperate in the field of water resources development and management by sharing available technical expertise and lessons learned**
- **Contributes to the achieving the mandate of the MRC and contributes to the US Lower Mekong Initiative**
- **Cooperation mechanisms**
 - Organisation of technical workshops by US technical agencies
 - Technical support from US agencies
 - Exchange visits
 - Sharing of experiences and mutual participation in events

Conclusion and perspectives

- *Partnerships are a great for the MRC to build its capacity and leverage technical expertise from other RBOs*
- *As much as possible, the MRC aims to align this cooperation activities with already planned activities from its programmes*
- *Over time, the MRC expects a greater focus on sharing expertise, experiences and lessons learners and less on capacity building for the MRC*





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