



THE FIFTH GMS ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS' MEETING

GMS MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – VIET NAM – 01 FEBRUARY 2018

Honourable Environment Ministers of Greater Mekong Subregion Countries,

Mr. Ramesh Subramaniam, Director General for Southeast Asia Regional Department of the Asian Development Bank,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, it is a pleasure for me to attend and deliver this statement at the fifth GMS Environment Ministers' Meeting in Chiang Mai, the Kingdom of Thailand. The theme of this meeting, *GMS Environmental Cooperation towards Inclusive and Sustainable Growth* is very crucial, both for Viet Nam and for the region in general. I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Kingdom of Thailand and especially to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand for hosting this important meeting as well as a warm welcome to all delegates.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After more than 30 years of innovation, Vietnam is considered as one of the fastest growing economies in the world. From an underdeveloped country, Vietnam has become a middle-income country.

However, it can be seen that the Vietnamese economy still faces many challenges: the natural environment is polluted, the resources are seriously degraded and climate change impacts become more severe. These are major obstacles for Vietnam to achieving sustainable and comprehensive development.

Deeply aware of the challenges and pressures of economic development on the environment, and in order to harmonize economic development with environment protection, the Government of Vietnam has step by step implemented important and meaningful measures to develop "National Action Plan on Green Growth" since 2012, issued an action plan for implementing the Paris Climate Change Agreement, and currently reviewing the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) report.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Core Environment Program has made significant contributions to solving environmental problems and green growth in Vietnam

We hope that the Core Environment Program will continue to expand, promote and support regional collaborative efforts on sustainable environmental management, climate change adaptation and green growth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With its geographical location and economic potential, Vietnam plays an important role in GMS cooperation. For the region's joint effort to build a rich ecological and poverty-free subregion, Vietnam has committed to maintaining a good relation within the GMS framework. Cooperation amongst GMS countries is important for achieving sustainable towards the green economy. We are fully aware that every country in the region needs to exert greater efforts and cooperation to address environmental issues, promote green growth and sustainable development. Vietnam has committed to continuing its efforts to promote environmental cooperation in the region; improve institutions and policies on resource management and environmental protection; integrating natural capital into the decision-making process on socio-economic development; To attach importance to investment in order to maintain and restore natural capital.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this occasion, I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Asian Development Bank and its development partners for supporting the GMS countries over recent years. I hope to continue to receive valuable support and close cooperation in addressing GMS challenges in terms of environmental protection, resource management in the context of green growth towards sustainable development and the successful implementation of the Core Environment Program for the period of 2018 - 2022

I hope that the meeting will be successful with many achieved results and wish all delegates the best of health and success

Thank you very much./.