

# Water experts discuss knowledge-sharing programme



Mr Keomany Luanglith addresses the meeting.

## Times Reporters

Members of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and experts from the Korea Development Institute (KDI) are working together to share experiences on how to effectively minimise potential adverse impacts from development projects.

Their joint commitment to sustainable development was confirmed during a regional working session held in Vientiane recently, according to the MRC.

At the meeting, water experts discussed topics such as water security and integrated river basin management, the challenges and opportunities in hydropower development, and the future direction of sustainable hydropower development in the Mekong basin.

These topics are an integral part of a report that the Mekong and Korean specialists will produce this year, as part of the MRC-KDI's Knowledge Sharing Programme.

In his opening remarks, Director of the Governance and Cooperation Division at the Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat, Mr Keomany Luanglith, reiterated the importance of cooperation between the MRC and Korea, saying the Korean experience would be important to the MRC's work.

"We welcome the opportunity to work together with the Korea Development Institute and encourage their experts to share their experiences and lesson learned on related issues. So far,

we have certainly benefitted from Korean experiences as long as they can be contextualised," Mr Keomany said.

In 2017, the MRC and Korea's Ministry of Strategy and Finance, as part of Mekong-Korea Cooperation, agreed to launch the Knowledge Sharing Programme, creating an avenue for the two to collaborate on sharing knowledge and experiences in various fields of water and water-related resources.

"The MRC is our strategic development partner," KDI's Division Director of Policy Consultation, Dr Kyoung Doung Kwon, said.

"We believe that knowledge is the key to successfully establishing legal and institutional conditions for self-sustainable growth," he added, pointing to the remarkable transition that Korea made from one of the world's poorest nations to a developed country.

"The Knowledge Sharing Programme will provide a meaningful platform through a structured policy dialogue and an exchange of practical experiences and knowledge from Korea and MRC member countries."

The meeting also discussed the agenda and schedule of a week-long visit by MRC member countries to Korea in late January, with the aim of exploring potential development projects and collaboration between the MRC and Korea.

Outcomes from the visit will also feed into the report that the Mekong and Korean specialists are going to produce, according to the MRC.