



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

Press Release

On the afternoon of 20th December 2019, at 14:00hrs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency **Prak Sokhonn**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, presided over the celebration of the 10-year anniversary of cooperation of the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) and made a Keynote Address on the achievements and future direction of the Lower Mekong Initiative.

The event was organized jointly with the Embassy of the United States of America and participated by Ambassadors and representatives of the LMI member countries as well as representatives of the Friends of Lower Mekong. In attendance are representatives from relevant ministries and institutions, educational institutions, think-tanks and civil society organizations.

His Excellency **Prak Sokhonn** highlighted that “the gathering was more than just an LMI public awareness event, it is a day of appreciation, of thanks, of recognition, of remembrance, to all the people, near and far, present here or long retired, for their involvement in making this LMI an initiative worth celebrating.”

The LMI is an ambitious initiative that brings together 5 Lower Mekong countries and the United States to develop regional approach to address current and future transnational challenges so that they can deliver equitable, sustainable and inclusive economic growth among the five LMI Mekong countries.

H.E. **Prak Sokhonn** also mentioned that the initiative has evolved to reflect the global and regional realities. The LMI has recently consolidated the six pillars of the program into two big nexus, that is the “Water, Food, Energy and Environment Nexus” and the “Human Development and Connectivity Nexus”. This change enabled the LMI to have clearer actions and new approaches to better address the evolving challenges of the Mekong countries.

Phnom Penh, 23 December 2019.

