

Remarks

by

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Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia

At the Joint Press Conference by Co-Chairs of the 2nd Mekong-

Lancang Cooperation Leaders' Meeting

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- ***Excellency Co-Chair,***
- ***My Dear Media!***

Today's event marks another historical milestone as Cambodia has hosted the 2nd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders' Meeting under the theme "**Our River of Peace and Sustainable Development**". I am pleased to have co-chaired the meeting with my esteemed colleague, H.E. **Li Keqiang**, Premier of the People's Republic of China, and we are pleased to inform you all that the meeting has been concluded successfully with satisfactory outcomes.

Today's meeting reviewed the progress that we have made since the holding of the 1st Leaders' Meeting in Sanya, China, in March 2016. Within less than two years, we have developed this new sub-regional mechanism into a full-fledged cooperation scheme.

In terms of institutional capacity, we have been able to build a strong and fully operational multi-layer working structure and implementing mechanisms and we are quite confident that these mechanisms would enable our six countries to move at a faster speed in the realization of the MLC goals to have a community of shared future, peace and prosperity.

These mechanisms include among others the establishment of the MLC National Secretariat/Coordination Units in all 6 countries and the activation of the Joint Working Group on key priority areas. Several other institutions have been set up as well to support the MLC such as

the Water Resources Cooperation Centre, the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Centre and the Global Mekong River Studies Centre.

We are also very pleased with the substantive progress made in implementing the 45 Early Harvest Projects identified at the 1st LMC Leaders' Meeting and the 13 Initiatives put forward by China at the 2nd LMC Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

With China's launching of the LMC Special Fund to support small and medium projects, we noted with satisfaction that 132 projects in the First Batch of Projects supported by LMC Special Fund 2017 have been steadily implemented.

Adding up to this growing momentum, at today's Meeting, we have reached consensus and adopted two important outcome documents, namely: (1) the Phnom Penh Declaration of the 2nd MLC Leaders' Meeting, and (2) the Five Year Plan of Action of the MLC (2018-2022). We also took note of the 2nd Batch of Projects to be supported by LMC Special Fund 2018 and the Progress Report of the 6 Joint Working Groups on key priority areas.

In conclusion, we are proud of the many tangible achievements and we look forward with great optimism on the future of MLC. On that note, I would like also to inform that Cambodia has completed its 2-year co-chairmanship with China as permanent co-chair and today we handed over our co-chairmanship to Lao PDR.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of my Mekong colleagues, to thank the Government of People's Republic of China for its leading role in advancing the MLC agenda and its unwavering support extended to Cambodia co-chairmanship during these last two years.

I thank you very much for your attention, and I would like to give the floor to my co-chair to share his view.

Thank you!