

Message of H.E. Prak Sokhonn
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia
on the Occasion of the Celebration
of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Week 2022

On this auspicious occasion of the 6th Anniversary of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC), on behalf of the Royal Government and People of Cambodia, I am delighted to extend our warm wishes to the Peoples of the Mekong-Lancang countries for their good health, happiness and prosperity. I am indeed honored to share my personal message on this annual “MLC Week 2022”.

First and foremost, we have to recognize the growing importance of the Mekong-Lancang region as a “growth pole” in our dynamic Asia Pacific region, thanks to its geostrategic significance, economic weight, and enormous market potentials. Our close collaboration and solidarity over the past six years have enabled the MLC to sustain our development momentum, reinforce our economic complementarity and strengthen our people and cultural links, which are all the fundamental elements to build a more open, inclusive and sustainable community of shared future of peace and prosperity.

We have just concluded successfully our Plan of Action (2018-2022) and we are prime to work on our next phase of cooperation with focus on a people-oriented development agenda. To secure our new sources of growth amidst the rapidly evolving global and regional economic conditions, we look to the realization of the Mekong-Lancang Economic Development Belt and the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor to further boost and deepen our regional integration efforts. We are mindful that our developmental needs will place a strain on our natural resources and so we will combine our joint efforts to cooperate on the sustainable management of our water resources and on the management of our flood, drought and other extreme weather events.

I am also pleased to see the complementarities of the MLC with other Mekong sub-regional mechanisms, in particular the ACMECS and Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), to drive to our sub-regional transformation and our ASEAN community building efforts. Through the MLC Special Fund, Cambodia has benefited from 67 projects amounting to more than 20 million USD that support a broad range of

cooperation activities in the field of rural development, poverty alleviation, water resources, agriculture, air connectivity, education, cultural heritage preservation, as well as women empowerment, among many others.

Against the backdrop of a COVID-19 pandemic and global health crisis, Cambodia values China's commitment through the establishment of the Mekong-Lancang Public Health Community and its leading role in providing medicines, medical supplies and millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccines in a timely manner to the Mekong countries. Such contribution, in particular to Cambodia, have led to the success of our national vaccination campaign where we could secure a vaccination coverage rate of over 92% and reopen our country to the rest of the world. These accomplishments, among others, are strong testimonial of the efficacy and relevance of the MLC framework.

As Cambodia holds the ASEAN Chairmanship this year, the MLC mechanism will certainly contribute its strong development component to ensure that ASEAN will continue to thrive in the true spirit of a Community of Shared Future.
