



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

On the Outcomes of 3<sup>rd</sup> MRC Summit  
(Siem Reap, 5 April 2018)

At the invitation of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand and His Excellency Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the High Representatives of the dialogue partners as well as development partners countries of the Mekong River Commission, led their respective delegation to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mekong River Commission (MRC) Summit under the theme "Enhancing Joint Efforts and Partnerships towards Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Mekong River Basin-One Mekong, One Spirit", to be held on 5 April 2018 in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia.

In this important historic event, the Heads of Government of the Member Countries met:

- at the Retreat to discuss on strengthening of the 1995 Mekong Agreement and the role of MRC in the regional cooperation and exchanged views on the challenges in the Mekong River Basin and jointly committed to work together to enhance the more effective implementation of the 1995 Mekong Agreement and to promote the MRC's role more effective in the regional cooperation for the achievement of the sustainable management and development of water and related resources in the Mekong Basin, both now and in the future.
- at the Plenary Session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> MRC Summit, the Heads of Government of the Member Countries discussed, reviewed and highly valued the significant progress and achievements of the MRC made since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit in 2014, which the major outcomes as follows:
  1. The better joint efforts and cooperation among the Member Countries, Dialogue Partners, Development Partners, and other relevant Cooperative Partners in the common goal and mission to ensure the sustainability of the Mekong and its shared resources for the sake of prosperity in the Mekong Basin while protecting the environment;
  2. The Mekong opportunities and challenges, including: rapid economic and population growth, increased demand for water, food and energy, urbanization, industrialization, the loss of environmental assets, wetlands and natural fisheries, deforestation, floods and droughts and risks to biodiversity and people's livelihoods and assets. The effects of climate change, as well as past and ongoing

developments in all water and related sectors. All of these demonstrate the need to be jointly addressed with the Mekong Spirit and better cooperation among all relevant stakeholders;

3. Determined the priority areas of action with the main focus on strengthening and enhancing joint efforts, regional cooperation and partnerships towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Mekong Basin, with special attention and high sense of responsibility on and for the following core works:
  - Enhancing the effective implementation of the MRC's Strategic Plan 2016-2020;
  - Continuing to better strengthen the implementation of all MRC Procedures for water and related resource management and utilization in Mekong River Basin;
  - Continuing to strengthen the implementation of decentralized monitoring activities at the national level;
  - Strengthening the implementation of MRC centralized basin-wide monitoring at the regional level;
  - Raising awareness and use of MRC products by Member Countries and relevant stakeholders;
  - Promoting and strengthening cooperation with relevant regional and international initiatives and mechanisms;
  - Considering the outcomes of the Study on the Sustainable Management and Development of the Mekong River including impact of mainstream hydropower projects, that would be used for the sake of better basin planning and sustainable management and development.
4. In regard to the Way Ahead, the Heads of Government of MRC Member Countries have:
  - Reaffirmed the highest political commitment to the effective implementation of the 1995 Mekong Agreement and encouraged MRC to be self-financial sustainability by 2030 and to continue to strengthen the roles of Council, Joint Committee, MRC Secretariat, National Mekong Committees and the national line agencies in the work of MRC;
  - Encouraged MRC to continue to mobilize funds from various sources to support its work;
  - Tasked the MRC Council to monitor and ensure the effective implementation of Siem Reap Declaration;
  - Agreed that the 4th MRC Summit will be held in April 2022, in Lao PDR.

As the Host Country and the Chair of the 3rd MRC Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister expressed his sincere thanks to the Heads of Government of MRC Member Countries and other relevant Partners who attended the Summit and also expressed the pleasure and success of the Summit with the adoption of Siem Reap Declaration, setting the future strategic direction of promoting and enhancing joint efforts, cooperation and partnership towards the achievements of Sustainable Development Goals in Mekong River Basin.

On the sidelines of the 3rd MRC Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister held separate bilateral meetings with His Excellency Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, His Excellency General Prayuth Chan-o-cha and His Excellency Nguyen Xuan Phuc, and received courtesy calls on His Excellency Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN and His Excellency E Jingping, Minister of Water Resources of China.

Phnom Penh, 06 April 2018

