



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Department of Information**

**Press Release**

**Outcomes of the Mekong Cooperation Meetings**

01-03 August 2019, Bangkok

His Excellency Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, as well as high representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, participated in the following Mekong Cooperation Meetings held from 01-03 August 2019 on the sidelines of the 52<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings.

**The 12th Lower Mekong Initiative Ministerial Meeting**

The Meeting welcomed a decade of progress in capacity building in the Mekong sub-region to meet transboundary and common challenges through the 15 programs.

The Meeting welcomed the ongoing progress on the Mekong Water Data Initiative (MWDI), namely the launch of its data access platform and 'Mekong Water', with the goal of strengthening the coordinating role of the Mekong River Commission (MRC).

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn stated that Cambodia has benefited from many activities under this initiative and is pleased to co-chair with the U.S on the "Human Development and Connectivity Pillar" at the first LMI Policy Dialogue held in April in Bangkok. He welcomed also the establishment of the LMI Public Impact Program.

The Meeting adopted the Joint Statement on the 10th Anniversary of the Lower Mekong Initiative.

**The 10th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting**

The Meeting appreciated India's assistance under the MGC Quick Impact Project Scheme (QIPS) and appreciated India's assistance in setting up the Centres for Software Development and Training (CESDT) in Mekong countries.

The Meeting adopted the new MGC Plan of Action 2019-2022 and the Joint Statement of the 10<sup>th</sup> MGC Ministerial Meeting. The Meeting also agreed for Cambodia to take over the co-chairmanship of the MGC for the year 2020, which marks the 20<sup>th</sup>





Anniversary of MGC. As one of the commemorative activities, Cambodia will co-host with India the MGC's conference on heritage conservation to be held at the campus of the Asian Traditional Textile Museum in Siem Reap.

#### **The 9th Mekong-the Republic of Korea (ROK) Foreign Ministers' Meeting**

Under the Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF), 12 projects have been implemented in the six priority sectors: infrastructure, Information Communication Technology (ICT), green growth, water resource development, agriculture and rural development and human resource development. In 2019, seven projects were approved including one project for Cambodia. The ROK plans to increase the annual MKCF to USD 2 million in 2019 and 3 million in 2020.

The Meeting agreed to hold the inaugural Mekong-ROK Summit in Busan, the ROK, on 27 November 2019 back to back with the 2019 ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit and to convene the 7<sup>th</sup> Mekong-ROK Business Forum in Thailand in September 2019. The Meeting adopted the Co-Chairs' Statement of the 9<sup>th</sup> Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

#### **The 12th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting.**

The Meeting decided to formulate the "Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030" to be adopted at the Mekong-Japan Summit in Bangkok in November this year. Priority areas under the "Initiative" will cover Environmental and urban problem, Agriculture and Inclusiveness. The meeting appreciated that more than 100 events have already been endorsed as the Mekong-Japan Exchange Year events. The Ministers agreed to hold the 13<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Japan FMM in Japan in 2020. They adopted the Co-chair's Statement of the 12<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting. ៖

Phnom Penh, 04 August 2019.

