



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

On the Outcomes of the 2nd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders' Meeting
(Phnom Penh, 10 January 2018)

At the invitation of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, H.E. Mr. Myint Swe, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, and H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, led their respective delegations to attend the 2nd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) Leaders' Meeting on 10 January 2018 at the Peace Palace, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen and Premier H.E. Li Keqiang co-chaired successfully this landmark meeting under the theme "Our River of Peace and Sustainable Development" at the important juncture where this new mechanism is moving from the "foundation-laying stage" to an "expansion stage" marked by an ambitious agenda of partnership and cooperation.

As the host and co-chair, Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen highlighted the importance of sustained peace and long term sustainable development in the Mekong region, which was historically marred by wars and competition of ideologies. He praised the significant achievement of the Mekong region in achieving peaceful co-existence through mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Such spirit is consistent with the values of the Mekong Lancang Cooperation, which adhere to the principles of consensus, equality, mutual consultation and coordination, voluntarism, common contribution and shared benefits, and respect for the United Nations Charter and international laws.

At the Meeting, the Leaders reviewed the progress made pursuant to the directions set by the Sanya Declaration, which was adopted at the 1st MLC Leaders' Meeting in Sanya, China in March 2016.

The Leaders congratulated the establishment of MLC National Secretariats/ Coordination Units in the six countries, the launch of application and approval of the first batch of projects of the LMC Special Fund, the setup and operation of all the six Joint Working Groups on key priority areas as well as the setup of the Water Resources Cooperation Center, the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation

Center and the Global Center for Mekong Studies.

The Leaders noted with satisfaction that most of the 45 Early Harvest Projects and the 13 Initiatives put forward by China at the 2nd MLC Foreign Ministers' Meeting have either been completed or made substantive progress. With China's launching of the LMC Special Fund to support small and medium projects, the Leaders also expressed 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, the Leaders had 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). They 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.

The Meeting marked the completion of Cambodia's 2-year co-chairmanship with China as permanent co-chair. At the end of the Meeting, Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen handed over an oar, a symbol of MLC co-chairmanship, to H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as the next co-chair.

On the sideline of the meeting, Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen also held bilateral meetings with H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha and H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith.

Phnom Penh, 11 January 2018

