

**Kingdom of Cambodia
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**Joint Statement of the Community and the River Coalition in Cambodia (RCC) on the Meeting
of the Procedural Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNPCA) of the Don
Sahong Dam in Lao PDR**

RCC and communities along the Mekong river and Tonle Sap lake would like to express our concerns with the decision-making process of the Don Sahong dam construction in Southern Lao PDR. Our main concern is related to the recent submission of the Procedure Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNPCA) about the Don Sahong dam by the Lao government. We are concerned that the PNPCA of the Don Sahong dam project does not comply with the Agreement of the collaboration for sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin, 1995 (MRC Agreement, 1995). The PNPCA process which will be conducted in Stung Treng could be follow the same path as the Xayabury dam which has been destroying and/or affecting seriously the riverine resources and people of the Mekong river.

Many studies show that if built, the Don Sahong dam will seriously affect the Irrawaddy Dolphin, Mekong fish and the fish migration all over lower Mekong basin and Tonle Sap lake which threatens the food security and livelihoods of Millions of people as well as the social and political stability in the region. Regardless of this, construction of the Don Sahong is still ongoing.

PNPCA is just a way to provide legitimacy to the construction of the Don Sahong based on the Mekong Agreement 1995 because:

- Does not provide for public information dissemination about the dam project in the national (Khmer) language.
- Does not provide for prior public consultation with related stakeholders.
- Does not provide for the agreement on the justification of the PNPCA.
- Does not provide for a proper environmental impact assessment and transboundary environmental impact assessment.
- Does not provide for the agreement from the MRC member countries for the dam construction.
- Does not provide for the potentially affected communities along the Mekong river to fully participate in the project decision-making process.
- Have not responded publicly and transparently resolved the communities's concern.

On behalf of the communities and RCC, we would like to suggest the MRC and the member countries to:

- Stop construction of the Don Sahong dam
- Conduct proper environmental and transboundary impact assessment
- Conduct a comprehensive study on Mekong river fishery resources
- Disseminate publicly the information of the dam project in the national language
- Hold a full, public and prior consultation with the related stakeholders.
- MRC and government of MRC countries have to set up and agree on the justification of the PNPCA prior to the consultation process.

Stung Treng, 16th October, 2014

List of the RCC's members and the communities endorsed the joint statement

- The NGO FORUM on Cambodia (NGOF)
- SeSan, Sekong and Srepok River Protection Network (3SPN)
- Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)
- Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA)
- My Village Organization (MVi)
- Cambodia Volunteers for Society (CVS).
- Save Vulnerable Cambodians (SVC)
- Community Economic Development (CED)
- Khmer Farmer's Association (KFA)
- Northeastern Rural Development Organization(NRD)
- Ponlok Khmer Organization (PKH)
- Mlup Prom Vihear Thor Center (MPC)
- Cooperation for Environment and Ecotourism Organization (CETO)
- The Cambodia Rural Development Team (CRDT)
- Peace and Development Aid Organization (PDAO)
- Fisheries Coalition Cambodia (CCF)
- SACRED, Cambodia
- Mr Kong Chanthy Mekong Community, Stung Treng Province.
- Mr Huot Seng Mekong Community, Stung Treng Province.
- Mr An Hou Mekong Community, Kratie Province.
- Ms Sem Vorn Mekong Community, Kratie Province.
- Mr Ear Eang Nam Mekong Community, Kampong Cham Province.
- Mr Min Mon Mekong Lowland Community, Takeo Province.
- Mr Heng Uy Mekong Lowland Community, Prey Veng Province.
- Mr Long Socheth Tonlesap Community, Pursat Province.

Contact Address:

The NGO FORUM on Cambodia Office.

#9-11, St. 476, Sangkat Toul Tompoung1, P.O. Bo 2295 Phnom Penh 3

Tel: (855) 23 214 429 Ext. No 106, Fax: (855) 23 994 063

Mobile: (855) 12 793 489, Email: vannara@ngoforum.org.kh, Skype: tekvannara1

Web: ngoforum.org.kh , *Working Together for Positive Change*