

(This is translation of the Khmer original)

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

3rd October, 2014

JOINT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITIES

**Launching Workshop on Community Based Research
on Development of Lower Sesan II Hydropower Dam
Imperial Garden Villa & Hotel
03 October 2014**

We are representative of indigenous community who are living along the Sesan and Srepok River from the villages in the Lower Sesan 2 dam area such as Kbal Romeas, Sreko 1& 2, Chrob and Krobey Chroum in Sesan district, Stung Treng province and community representative from Ratanakiri province, both are concerning on the impacts that will cause by Lower Sesan 2 400MW Hydropower dam.

We community representative would like to express our collective voice to **refuse the resettlement or compensation and calls for canceling the Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower dam immediately**

- We are very happy to live in our village, which provides us with rich natural resources. These natural resources support our daily life. Moreover, culturally and ethnically, we have deep sentimental ties to our land which our ancestors have left us and for next generations.
- We have beautiful land with rich natural resources that support our life and provide us with our food and income sources. These natural resources include agricultural land, land reserved for next generations, forests to raise livestock, cemeteries and ancestral graves, forbidden and sanctuary forests, rivers and other resources under the water as well as on land. These natural resources are priceless.
- These natural resources also have very strong connections with our culture, tradition and daily life, which are indispensable to us. We have arranged praying ceremony to Kro Harm Kor Spirit every year at Kro Harm Kor Spirit house which is located on the bank of Sesan River to request happiness of our community and also ask the spirit to protect our environment and natural resources, especially to protect/keep our river's natural flow for our generation. Kro Harm Kor spirit is important for us to connect ourselves to ancestors. If we lose this spiritual place by LS2, we will lose our culture and tradition. Once we lose these natural resources and our culture and tradition, it is impossible to recover them.
- Our culture, tradition, guardian spirits and ancestral graves cannot be compensated by money or moved to alternative places.

- If we move out from our village, we will lose our identity as the ethnic Lao. Our guardian spirits, ancestral graves, forbidden and sanctuary forests cannot be moved to other places.
- In accordance with international laws on Indigenous Peoples' rights and the Chinese government's Guidelines for Environmental Protection in Overseas Investment and Cooperation, any activity or development project that harms or affects identities or spiritual places of Indigenous Peoples should not be implemented.
- LS2 will cut off river flow which can cause huge negative impacts to upstream and downstream especially this hydropower dam will cut off the fish migration that will affect to Mekong and Tonle Sap lake as hole.
- LS2 will bring even more tragic despair than what happened in Pol Pot's time. But government says this is bringing "development." We think a "development" should make Cambodian ordinary people like us happier. Authorities like your agency, which have more power and education than we do, should find good solutions to this problem rather than making us despair and suffer.

We kindly request to Royal Government of Cambodia as following:

- The Royal Government of Cambodia cancels the Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower dam project immediately.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia and company need to compensate for the loss or damage by logging the trees for LS2 reservoir clearance activity. This forest area is the resources that our communities rely on for collecting NTFP for daily life and also the home of wildlife as well. Losing these resources will negative impacts to our communities.

We hope that all the concerns and requests mentioned above will be taken into serious account and properly addressed by the Royal Government of Cambodia.

3rd October, 2014

For more information, please contact:

1. Mr. Futh Kheun, Community Representative in Srekor 2 Village, Stung Treng: 097 7 797 488
2. Mr. Dam Samnang, Community Representative in Kbal Romeas village, Stung Treng : 088 584 0762
3. Mr. Srey Lybi, Community Representative in Chrob village, Stung Treng: 097 5 001 806
4. Mss. Nen Soukit, Community Representative in Lumphat village, Ratanakiri : 097 877 6497
5. Mr. Long Sochaet, director of fishery in Cambodia, Poh Sat province: 012 989 318

to:

- Department of Mines and Energy in Stung Treng
- Department of Economy and Finance in Stung Treng
- Department of Environment in Stung Treng

- Department of Rural Development in Stung Treng
- Sesan District hall in Stung Treng
- Srekor and Kbal Romeas commune in Stung Treng
- Village chief of Srekor and Kbal Romeas in Stung Treng
- Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower Company (Joint venture of Hydrolancang and the Royal Group) in Stung Treng
- National Assembly of Cambodia
- Ministry of Mines and Energy
- Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Chinese Embassy in Cambodia
- Media and civil society organizations in Mekong Region countries and internationally