

## Joint Statement

by

# Civil Society Organizations to Express Strong Disappointment over the Approval of the Concession Agreement of the Construction of the Don Sahong Hydropower Dam by the National Assembly of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos



Rivers Coalition in Cambodia (RCC) and national and international organizations express their **strong disappointment** over the approval of the concession agreement for the proposed construction of the Don Sahong Hydropower Dam by the National Assembly of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos<sup>1</sup>.



The approval of the concession agreement was made while the requests made by the Governments, communities of the lower Mekong and civil societies of the three countries members of Mekong River Commission (Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand) have yet to be meaningfully responded to and/or resolved, according to the Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNPCA) for the proposed Don Sahong Hydropower Dam held in December 12, 2014 and the Formal Reply Forms of the Governments of Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand submitted in early 2015. Furthermore, the Lao Government does not abide by the spirit of the meeting held in June 19, 2015 in which the four members of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) including Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam have agreed that a decision on the prior consultation of the proposed Don Sahong Hydropower Project be taken to the governmental level because they could not come to a common conclusion on how to proceed with the project<sup>2</sup>.



### Once again, we continue to insist for the following requests:

1. Immediately stop all activities related to the construction of the Don Sahong Dam;
2. Not to approve a Power Purchasing Agreement until all stakeholders' requests have been addressed;
3. No further project contracts should be signed, including the dam's Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) Agreement;
4. Conduct a Trans-boundary Environmental Impact Assessment by an independent consultant with the comprehensive participation of stakeholders (communities to be affected and civil society organizations);
5. Encourage debates, solutions, and agreements to all stakeholders' requests and concerns in a responsible manner;
6. All Government members of the Mekong River Commission need to put more pressure in all forms on the Lao Government, which has made the unilateral decision.



### Endorsement by Rivers Coalition in Cambodia (RCC) and other NGOs/INGOs:

- The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF)
- 3S Rivers Protection Network (3SPN)
- Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)
- Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA)
- My Village Organization (MVi)
- Save Vulnerables Cambodia (SVC)



<sup>1</sup> Phnom Penh Post (01 September 2015): Don Sahong dam gets official approval

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.mrcmekong.org/news-and-events/news/lower-mekong-countries-take-prior-consultation-on-the-don-sahong-project-to-the-governmental-level/>



វេទិកាផ្សារអង្គការមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល កម្ពុជា  
 The NGO Forum on Cambodia  
 ធ្វើការរួមគ្នាដើម្បីការប្រែប្រួលវិជ្ជមាន  
 Working Together for Positive Change

- Community Economy Development (CED)
- Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC)
- Khmer Farmer’s Association (KFA)
- Northeast Rural Development Organization (NRD)
- Ponlok Khmer (PKH)
- Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT)
- Community Legal Education Center (CLEC)
- Mlub Prumvihearthor Center (MPC)
- Environmental Cooperation and Tourism Organization (CETO)
- Action For Development (AFD)
- The Coalition of Cambodia Fishers (CCF)
- Khmer Farmer Cooperation Agriculture Development Organization (KFCADO)
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Oxfam in Cambodia
- Ponleu Ney Kdey Sangkhum (PNKS)
- Village Support Group (VSG)
- Peace and Development Aid Organization (PDAO)
- Social Action for Change Rural Education Development (SACRED)
- Kumpuchea’s Women Welfare Actions (KWWA)
- RACHANA organization (RACHANA)
- Nation Association of Prosperity (NAPA)
- Occupation of Rural Economic Development and Agriculture (OREDA)
- Sangha Dhama For Development Association (SDDA)
- Cambodia Human Rights Task Forces (CHRTF)
- Conservation and Development on Cambodia (CDCam)
- Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA)
- Cambodian Community Development (CCD)
- Banteay Srey Organization
- Mlop Baitong
- Nak Aphiwat Sahokom (NAS)
- World Renew
- Children & Women Development Center in Cambodia (CWDECC)
- Conservation International (CI)
- Indigenous Community Support Organisation (ICSO)
- Build Community Voice (BCV)
- Green Village (Phum Baitong)
- Sahmakum Teang Tnaut (STT)
- Forum Syd
- Light New of Unity (LNU)



**Cc:**

- Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM)
- Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC)
- Lao National Mekong Committee (LNMC)
- Vietnam National Mekong Committee (VNMC)
- Thai National Mekong Committee (TNMC)
- Mekong River Commission (MRC)
- National Assembly (NA)
- 3rd Committee of National Assembly
- Ministry of Mine and Energy (MoME)
- Ministry of Environment (MoE)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF)
- Ministry of Tourism (MoT)





- Ministry of Rural Development (MRD)
- Cambodia Development Council (CDC)
- Ministry of Economic and Finance (MEF)
- Ministry of Interior (Mol)
- Ministry of Women Affair (MoWA)
- Ministry of Foreign Affair and International Cooperation
- Development Partners
- International and National Media

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