

JOINT STATEMENT

National Workshop On Concerns On The Don Sahong dam March, 20th, 2014

- **Prime Minister of Royal Government of Cambodia**
- **Prime Minister of Vietnam**
- **Prime Minister of Royal Government of Thailand**
- **Prime Minister of Lao-PDR**

The Don Sahong Hydropower Dam, with an installed capacity of 260 MW, is one of 12 Mekong Mainstream Dams proposed to be built on Lower Mekong Mainstream. Currently, the dam is under study and is expected to commence construction soon. The Dam is located approximately 2km from the border between Cambodia and Lao PDR in Champassak district, Lao-PDR. Electricity from the Don Sahong Dam will be exported to Thailand. If the Dam is built, it will block the water in the Hou Sahong channel which is the largest channel of the Lower Mekong River.

The NGO Forum on Cambodia, in collaboration with the Rivers Coalition in Cambodia (RCC), organized a national workshop on “Concerns on the Don Sahong Dam” on 20th March 2014, bringing together relevant stakeholders including government agencies, academia, fishery scientists, local and international NGOs, and communities. Participants discussed the importance of the Mekong River and the challenges faced to their well-being, livelihoods and security due to the Don Sahong Dam.

The primary objective of this workshop was to share information and increase awareness of the Don Sahong Dam and its potential impacts to the Mekong and Tonle Sap communities’ livelihoods. During the workshop, participants raised numerous concerns on the expected impacts of the project, including to livelihoods and food security, loss of natural resources, personal risk and security, health and nutrition. They discussed issues around the poor quality and significant gaps in the project’s impact assessment, including the absence of any trans-boundary assessment of impacts, the lack of community consultation and access to information for affected communities and stakeholders. Participants also provided recommendations for specific actions by governments, the Mekong River Commission, project developers and other stakeholders. Please refer to the attachment for details of these concerns and requested actions.

“If the Don Sahong dam is built, I am worried that there will be no more fish to catch. Then I will not be able to feed my children. I am worried for my families future” Ms. Bou Kam Kong, a community representative from Stung Treng.

“If the dam is built, Lao will lose dolphin forever, and those remaining in Cambodia is will be push closer to oblivion”, Mr. Gerry Ryan, Technical Advisor for WWF- Cambodia

“No dolphin, No tourist and No income!”. Mr. Phloy Vanna, community from Kratie

“We cannot live without fish but we can live without electricity”. Mr. Long Sochet, community fishery

We respectfully request that all issues and concerns raised in our request to The Royal Government of Cambodia, Royal Government of Lao, Royal Government of Vietnam and Royal Government of Thailand will be taken into full consideration during the upcoming Second Summit of the Mekong River Commission being held in Vietnam on 5th April 2014.

- Immediately halt all progress on the Don Sahong Dam until comprehensive and trans-boundary impact assessments have been conducted.
- Require full information transparency and meaningful consultation with communities affected by the project
- Request MRC governments to call for Prior Consultation under the 1995 Mekong Agreement

Contact for more information

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