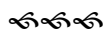


**Joint Media Statement of the 11th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting
Bangkok, Thailand, 10th September, 2019**

1. The 11th Mekong - Japan Economic Ministers Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 10th September 2019 (hereinafter, the Meeting). The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Saksayam Chidchob, Minister of Transport, Thailand, and H.E. Shigehiro Tanaka, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Japan. It was also attended by Economic Ministers and representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam as well as the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), business representatives from Mekong countries and Japan.
2. The Ministers noted the outcomes of the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit held on 9th October 2018 in Tokyo, which includes the “Tokyo Strategy 2018 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation”. As noted by the Leaders in this Strategy, the Ministers reaffirmed the necessity to further enhance connectivity within Mekong sub-region through the development of the “Mekong Industrial Development Vision 2.0 (hereinafter, MIDV2.0)”, bearing in mind the needs and priorities of the region.
3. Business representatives from Mekong countries and Japan reported the outcomes of the discussion on MIDV 2.0 at the 12th Mekong-Japan Industry and Government Dialogue held on 15th August in 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand from the perspectives of industry. The Ministers appreciated the inputs, especially the suggestions that public and private sector should cooperate to:
 - a) Further enhance trade facilitation in Mekong sub-region by resolution of Missing Link, implementation of ASEAN Single Window (ASW) and Cross Border Transport Facilitation Agreement (CBTA) as well as adoption of advanced digital technologies such as e-signature.
 - b) Further develop human resources in order to enhance productivity and capacity of workforce in existing industries such as agriculture and manufacturing, and to get ready for Fourth Industrial Revolution.
 - c) Strengthen competitiveness of MSMEs to establish the foundation for more advanced industrial structure, and encourage MSMEs to adopt digital technologies.
4. The Ministers noted the achievement and progress under the MIDV adopted in 2015 (hereinafter, MIDV1.0). This includes the increase of trade and investment within and/or to the Mekong sub-region, which resulted from enhancement of “Partnering with neighboring countries”, the emergence of local start-ups contributing to “Building a footing for more advanced industrial structure”, as well as the development of hard infrastructure physically connecting the Mekong sub-

region under “Strengthening infrastructure and resource that support regional value chain”, compared to the year before formulation of MIDV1.0.

5. The Ministers also acknowledged that the resolution of the existing challenges, such as further expansion of supply chains within Mekong sub-region, improvement in overall productivity and related human resources, and development of soft infrastructure is necessary for further promoting connectivity within its region. Additionally, the Ministers shared the view that their efforts in response to the recent changes in external environment, such as the rise of digital economy and need for sustainable growth, are important to realize the enhancement of “Quality of Life” through innovations.
6. Therefore, the Ministers adopted the MIDV2.0 with three main pillars, namely i) Connectivity (Industry, Hard and Soft), ii) Digital Innovations, and iii) SDGs (Inclusiveness/Sustainability), which was discussed at AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee’s West-East Corridor Development Working Group (hereinafter, AMEICC WEC-WG) held on 10th May and 15th August in 2019. This vision as aligned with ACMECS Master Plan is the medium and long term economic and industrial cooperation framework between Mekong countries and Japan. The Ministers mandated AMEICC WEC-WG to develop the detailed work programme and the evaluation system in order to realize this vision into action and to submit this work programme and the evaluation system to the 12th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting in 2020.
7. The Ministers agreed that the 12th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting will be held back-to-back with the 52nd ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting in 2020 in Viet Nam.



List of Ministers

1. H.E. Pich Rithi, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia (representing H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia)
2. H.E. Shigehiro Tanaka, Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan (representing H.E. Hiroshige Seko, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan)
3. H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
4. Mr. Than Aung Kyaw, Director General, Foreign Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Myanmar (representing H.E. Thuang Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Myanmar)
5. H.E. Saksayam Chidchob, Minister of Transport, Thailand
6. H.E. Tran Quoc Khanh, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Tran Tuan Anh, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam)
7. H.E. Aladdin D. Rillo, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for AEC (representing H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN)