

**Joint Media Statement of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting  
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2013**

1. The 5<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2013. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Varathep Rattanakorn, Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, Thailand, and H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan and attended by Economic Ministers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam, as well as the Secretary-General of ASEAN. Business representatives of 6<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Japan Industry and Government Dialogue and ADB representative also attended.
2. The Ministers welcomed the business representatives' report of the Dialogue held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August in Thailand with 112 attendees. Ministers appreciated major inputs from the Dialogue, which include (1) further development of regional value chain through deepening of industry cluster, (2) completion of Economic Corridor infrastructure such as roads between Mawlamyine to Mae Sot, Dawei deep seaport, maintenance of existing infrastructure, and (3) reinforcing soft infrastructure in the areas of regional energy trade and cross-border transportation. The business representatives also highlighted the importance of having a region-wide, medium and long-term vision for businesses to further contribute to the Mekong-Japan economic and industrial cooperation.
3. ADB reported to the Ministers on the current progress and the future perspective of developing "Regional Investment Framework" under the GMS program. The Ministers took note of the ambitious investment framework, and reaffirmed the indispensability of close coordination and partnership with the business sector, Development Partners and other relevant initiatives in the Mekong sub-region, ASEAN and East Asia, for effective implementation of Mekong-Japan economic and industrial cooperation.
4. Referring to the comments from business representatives and ADB, Japan underscored the necessity to develop a grand design of Mekong sub-region's optimal regional value chain network from a medium- and long-term perspective beyond 2015, for more effective mobilization of resources. The Ministers welcomed Japan's proposal to formulate the "Mekong Industry Development Vision" and stressed the importance of further cooperation for empowering the Mekong sub-region as the center of gravity for global value chains beyond 2015. In this regard, the Ministers tasked AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee's Working Group on West-East Corridor Development (AMEICC WEC-WG) to work on this initiative.
5. The Ministers welcomed the steady progress in the implementation of the "Mekong Development Roadmap", especially those that appeared in the Progress Report, which includes the construction of Cai Mep ODA seaport, continuous cooperation on improving the capacity of Vientiane International Airport, steady implementation and utilization of regional transportation agreements as building blocks for full implementation of Cross-Border Transport Facilitation

Agreement (CBTA) and various human resource development activities particularly in Myanmar.

6. The Ministers also noted the new elements to be incorporated into the Roadmap, such as border area development, regional industrial human resource development, and establishing the sub-working group on business legal system under the AMEICC WEC-WG. The Ministers agreed on the general direction of revising Mekong Development Roadmap under the Mekong-Japan Economic and Industrial Cooperation Initiative (MJ-CI) Action Plan, and tasked members of AMEICC WEC-WG to further improve the Roadmap by this year's Mekong-Japan Summit.

7. For the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Japan Summit, the Ministers agreed to report major updates on the Mekong Development Roadmap under MJ-CI since the last summit to the Leaders. To this end, the Ministers tasked members of AMEICC WEC-WG to prepare the report intersessionally.

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#### **LIST OF MINISTERS**

1. **H.E. Dr. Cham Prasidh**, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
2. **H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi**, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan
3. **H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh**, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
4. **H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw**, Minister of National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar
5. **H.E. Varathep Rattanakorn**, Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, Thailand
6. **H.E. Tran Quoc Khanh**, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam
7. **H.E. Le Luong Minh**, Secretary-General of ASEAN