

**Joint Media Statement of the 10th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting
Singapore, 30th August, 2018**

1. The 10th Mekong - Japan Economic Ministers Meeting was held in Singapore on 30th August 2018 (hereinafter, the Meeting). The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Soe Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, Myanmar, and H.E. Hiroshige Seko, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan. It was also attended by Economic Ministers and Representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam as well as the Secretary-General of ASEAN, business representatives from Mekong countries and Japan.
2. The Ministers appreciated major achievements under each pillar of the Work Programme, namely the comprehensive list of cooperation projects by Mekong countries, Japan, and relevant organizations for steady implementation of the Mekong Industrial Development Vision (MIDV). The progress includes increase in the number of the Japan Chambers of Commerce members in Mekong countries by 110 companies to 4,288 from July 2017 to June 2018, activities of ASEAN-Japan Innovation Network (AJIN) such as Innovation Working Group, Internet of Things (IoT) Survey, innovation dialogues, and networking / matching events, completion of the Vietnam Automated Customs Clearance System (VNACCS) in Viet Nam, and introduction of the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) in Myanmar. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the relevant organizations and Japan for their support.
3. Business representatives reported the outcomes of the 11th Mekong-Japan Industry and Government Dialogue held on 2nd August in 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Ministers appreciated the inputs, especially the suggestions that public and private sector should cooperate to;
 - a) Further upgrade of the industrial structures through each country's support for development of digital infrastructure and promotion of people-connectivity through business matching for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), young entrepreneur and Startups.
 - b) Further enhancement of the cross-border trade by the implementation of Cross Border Transport Facilitation Agreement (CBTA), and improve logistics infrastructure.
 - c) Collaboration with the third countries and/or organizations in Mekong sub-region.
4. The Ministers noted the progress of the MIDV, including the improvement of the business environment in the Mekong sub-region, mainly due to the development of hard and soft infrastructure. The Ministers, however, acknowledged that further efforts from each Mekong country and support from Japan are required for further industrial development in the Mekong sub-region, especially in response to the recent changes affecting the Mekong sub-region, such as the digital economy, social problem, and others.
5. In this regard, the Ministers shared the view that development of MIDV, with 3 pillars such as i) Industry Connectivity, ii) Soft Connectivity, and iii) Hard Connectivity by reflecting changes in the surrounding circumstances is necessary. The Ministers agreed on the necessity to conduct early implementation measures to resolve existing bottlenecks. From

this viewpoint, the Ministers tasked officials to organize public-private dialogue in each Mekong country to provide inputs to MIDV2.0 and early implementation measures. Therefore, the Ministers mandated the AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee's West-East Corridor Development Working Group (AMEICC WEC-WG) to develop the MIDV 2.0 in order to submit to the 11th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting for endorsement. The Ministers agreed that these efforts toward the development of the MIDV2.0 are to be reported to the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit.

6. The Ministers confirmed that the 11th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting will be held back-to-back with the 51st ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting in 2019 in Thailand.



List of Ministers

1. H.E. Sok Sopheak, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia (representing H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia)
2. H.E. Hiroshige Seko, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan.
3. H.E. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
4. H.E. Soe Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, Myanmar
5. H.E. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, Minister of Transport, Thailand
6. H.E. Le Quang Manh, Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam
7. H.E. Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN
