

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

PRESS RELEASE

On the Outcomes of the Third Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting

(Dali, 15 December 2017)

At the invitation of H.E. Mr. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Prak Sokhonn, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a delegation to attend and co-chair the 3rd Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting held from 14 to 16 December 2017 in Dali, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China.

During this meeting, the Ministers had an in-depth exchange of views and reached broad consensus on implementing the outcomes of the First LMC Leaders' Meeting and the 2^{nd} MLC Foreign Ministers' Meeting as well as on the future directions of the MLC and the preparations for the 2^{nd} MLC Leaders' Meeting.

The Ministers congratulated the establishment of MLC National Secretariats/ Coordination Units in the six countries ahead of the schedule, the launch of application and approval of the first batch of projects of the LMC Special Fund, the setup and operation of all the six Joint Working Groups on key priority areas as well as the setup of the Water Resources Cooperation Center, the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center and the Global Center for Mekong Studies. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that most of the 45 Early Harvest Projects and the 13 Initiatives put forward by China at the 2nd MLC Foreign Ministers' Meeting have been completed or made substantive progress. The following documents were adopted at the conclusion of the Meeting:

- 1- Joint Press Communiqué of the 3rd LMC Foreign Ministers' Meeting;
- 2- List of the first batch of projects supported by LMC Special Fund in 2017; and
- 3- Hotline platform of LMC National Secretariats and Coordination Units.

It is worth noting that, in the first batch of projects, 16 Cambodian projects with total budget of US 7,315,908 have been approved for implementation.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn expressed appreciation to all MLC member countries for the

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close cooperation and strong support towards the success and positive outcomes of the upcoming 2nd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders' Meeting, which Cambodia will host and co-chair on 10 January 2018 in Phnom Penh under the theme "Our River of Peace and Sustainable Development".

On the sideline of the meeting, H.E. Mr. Prak Sokhonn also had a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Wang Yi. Both ministers exchanged views on ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation ahead of both countries celebrating the 60^{th} anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations next year.

Phnom Penh, 17 December 2017

