

Joint Media Statement of the 12th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting Video Conference, 27th August, 2020

1. The 12th Mekong - Japan Economic Ministers Meeting was held online on 27th August 2020 (hereinafter, the Meeting). The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Nguyen Chi Dung, Minister of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam, and H.E. Hiroshi Kajiyama, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan. It was attended by Economic Ministers and Representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand as well as the Secretary-General of ASEAN, business representatives from Mekong countries and Japan.
2. Regardless of recent economic disruptions caused by Covid-19 outbreak, the Ministers noted the vision of MIDV2.0, highlighted by three main pillars of Connectivity, Digital Innovations and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), continues to be the solution for balanced development of the Mekong region and would contribute to transforming to a more resilient economy. As noted by past Leaders' statements, the Ministers reaffirmed the necessity to further enhance connectivity within Mekong sub-region through the realization of MIDV2.0, bearing in mind the needs and priorities of the region.
3. In line with the efforts to counter economic disruptions caused by Covid-19, the Ministers acknowledged that, from a medium and long term perspective, it is important to tackle and resolve existing challenges at hand. Development of hard/soft infrastructure and related human resources are the keys for further promoting connectivity within Mekong sub-region, expanding and enhancing resilience of intraregional supply chains and finally leading to improvement in overall productivity. Additionally, the Ministers shared the view that their efforts in response to the recent changes by Covid-19 are giving impetus for Mekong countries to drive Digital Innovations and to meet the agenda of SDGs, two other main pillars of MIDV2.0.
4. Business representatives reported the outcomes of the Joint Session of 13th Mekong-Japan Industry and Government Dialogue and the 1st Meeting of 2020 AMEICC Working Group on West-East Corridor Development (AMEICC WEC-WG) held online on 17th July in 2020. The Ministers appreciated the inputs, especially the suggestions that public and private sector should cooperate to;
 - a) Further enhance cross border trade facilitation in Mekong sub-region by improving hard and soft infrastructure.
 - b) Strengthen supply chain in Mekong sub-region by promoting investment and developing stable supply of electric power and human resources.
 - c) Further drive digital innovation in various sectors to meet the challenges after Covid-19 outbreak.

- d) Promote both economic growth and the resolution of social issues toward the achievement of the SDGs.
5. The Ministers welcomed the Work Programme for steady implementation of MIDV2.0, which comprehensively compiles concrete cooperation projects submitted by Mekong countries, Japan and development partners. The Work Programme includes East-West Economic Corridor and Southern Economic Corridor improvement project in Connectivity, collaboration project between Mekong and Japanese companies in Digital Innovation, and cooperation for human resource development in pollution management in SDGs.
6. Towards the 13th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting, the Ministers mandated AMEICC WEC-WG to follow up the Work Programme for the realization of MIDV2.0. The Ministers agreed that these efforts are to be reported to the 12th Mekong-Japan Summit.
7. The Ministers noted that the 13th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting will be held back-to-back with the 53rd ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting in 2021 in Brunei Darussalam.



List of Ministers

1. H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
2. H.E. Hiroshi Kajiyama, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan
3. H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
4. H.E. Bharat Singh, Deputy Minister of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Myanmar (representing H.E. Thaung Tun, Minister of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Myanmar)
5. H.E. Thaworn Senneam, Deputy Minister of Transport, Thailand (representing H.E. Saksayam Chidchob, Minister of Transport, Thailand)
6. H.E. Nguyen Chi Dung, Minister of Planning and Investment, Vietnam
7. H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN