



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

On the Outcomes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On 06 August 2021, via Video Conference

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On 06 August 2021, His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting via Video Conference, which was chaired by His Excellency MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and attended by Foreign Ministers from other Mekong countries, namely Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers reviewed the progress of the Mekong-Japan cooperation in various priority areas and set out the future direction of this cooperation for promoting sustainable development, enhancing social, economic and cultural interconnections among the Mekong countries and Japan, and realizing a more vibrant Mekong sub-region, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and emerging challenges. In addition, they accentuated the pivotal role of the Mekong-Japan Cooperation Frameworks in maintaining peace and stability in the Mekong sub-region and the Indo-pacific.

Taking this opportunity, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister underscored that soft and hard connectivity, seamless global supply chain, support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs), encouragement of travel with mutual recognition of vaccine certificate, and digitalization of various aspects should be carefully deployed in order to ensure resilience and sustainability in the sub-region during and after the pandemic. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister also proposed that Japan and the Mekong member states consider Cambodia's initiative to establish a joint working group



on the "Mekong-Japan Economic Recovery Scenario" to explore possible recovery efforts in revitalizing the tourism industry, MSMEs, and the much-needed investment in the sub-region. The initiative was supported by the Chair and all participants of the Meeting.

The Meeting ended with fruitful outcomes through shared understanding on regional and international issues of interests and concerns, particularly the joint efforts in combating the COVID-19 pandemic and commitment to bounce back the regional economy in the post-pandemic.

Phnom Penh, 06 August 2021

