

## **Current situation and investment/development challenge regarding the Mekong River Basin Development in Cambodia**

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### **Abstract**

After many years of isolation, Cambodia is pursuing opportunities to engage with the international community in a number of areas. The kingdom has become a member of the Association of Southeast Asian nations (ASEAN), and is working towards accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). These and other moves contribute to one of the three elements of the government's “Triangle Strategy” for national reconstruction.

Water resources management is an area in which Cambodia has no choice over international linkages. The kingdom shares the Mekong river basin with five other countries Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Thailand, Myanmar and China and 86 percent of its own land area lies within the Mekong basin. In 1995, it became a signatory to the Agreement on the cooperation for the sustainable development of the Mekong river basin, which established the **Mekong-Lancang Cooperation** (MLC), and it participates in the work following the Sanya Declaration (1<sup>st</sup> LMC Leader's Meeting in Sanya, Hainan, China: 22-23 March 2016 “**Shared River - Share Future**”) and Phnom Penh Declaration (2<sup>nd</sup> MLC Leader's Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia: 10 January 2018 “**Our River of Peace and Sustainable Development**”).

It is in this spirit that Cambodia approaches the World Water Vision process. The nation must adopt a strategic approach to managing water, because water is one of its most important resources. Since 1998 in particular, it has taken a number of important steps to do this. An element of one of these steps preparation of a national water resources policy has been to enunciate a national vision for water. Cambodia is pleased to be working with the wider international community in this activity.

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