

## **The First Mekong Roundtable Discussion**

**Topic: Mekong Water Resource Management: Regional interests vs. national interests?**

**Date: April 11, 2010**

**Time: 2pm-5pm**

**Venue: Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP)**

The Mekong River is one of the longest and biologically rich rivers in the world. However, recent development projects along the river especially a series of dam construction projects have raised a warning alarm among policy makers, experts, and people in the region. Recently, public protests have aroused against the construction of the US\$3.5 billion and 1,260MW hydropower Dam in Xayaburi in Laos. The Network of Mekong River Communities in six provinces of northeastern Thailand issued a statement opposing the plan and promised to boycott four Thai commercial banks giving loans for the construction company named Ch Kamchang. They argue that the dam will negatively impact the livelihood of the people living along the Mekong River. Cambodia and Vietnam are the two downstream countries that will be mostly affected by the dam project. Cambodian and Vietnamese people and government raised their concerns and if possible request our neighbor, Laos, to postpone the project. Australia and United State have also expressed their discontent with the project and wish to see scientific environmental impact assessment first. The Mekong River Commission, a regional institution coordinating and directing development projects along the Mekong River, has been requested by key stakeholders and donors to put pressure on Lao government from moving forward with the plan. However, Lao Government argues that the project is legally and environmentally sound. This First Mekong Roundtable will invite two speakers/experts from Cambodia to share their experiences and expertise regarding the issue scientific proof of the impacts of mainstream dams on the Mekong River and how to balance national and regional interests within the context of regional cooperation and integration.

## **Draft Program**

**1:30- 2:00pm: Registration**

**2:00pm-2:40: Mekong Water Resources Management Issue**

Presented by Maria Larson, Research Fellow, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP)

**2:40pm – 3:00pm: Coffee Break**

**3:00 – 3:40pm: Xayaburi Dam Project: Preliminary Impact Assessment**

Dr. Mey Kalyan, Senior Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia

**3:40pm- 5:00: Roundtable Discussion and Q&A (Representatives from Diplomatic Mission, Government, and CSOs in Cambodia)**