## Kingdom of Cambodia Nation Religion King నారాయ్రి సారా

We are representatives of communities living in 12 villages in 4 communes of Sesan district along the Sesan, Srepok Rivers in Stung Treng Province of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The total population of these communities amounts to more than 7, 544 people (3,788 are women). Many of us are ethnic minority and indigenous peoples and have lived on the banks of these rivers for generations.

### Dear H.E Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy and Chief of Inter-Ministeries Committee

## **COMMUNITY STATEMENT**

We, the communities of Sesan District in Stung Treng make this statement to reject the "Mechanisms and Procedures of Compensation and Resettlement Policy of Lower Sesan 2 in Stung Treng" which was signed on 17 January 2014 by H.E Suy Sem Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy and the Chief of Inter-Ministries Committee" and the "Compensation and Solution Policies on Impacts of Lower Sesan 2" prepared by Hydropower Lower Sesan2 Co., Ltd.

We express our utmost concern over the Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower Dam developed by Chinese and Cambodian companies on the Sesan River in Stung Treng Province. If the dam is built, it will cause extremely serious adverse impacts to our food security, livelihoods, traditions and cultural practices, and destroy our natural resources, including agricultural land, forest, and fish.

We have raised our concerns on numerous occasions and requested consultation on the LS2 project. However, neither the developers nor the government have provided us with even basic information about the project, or allowed us opportunities to convey our concerns and views about this project. For example, when the current provincial governor (*H.E Loy Sophat*) came to visit our communities, he only notified us about the project and did not give us any details regarding the project design or impacts. The dam developers have only given us one-sided information, emphasizing only the project's economic benefits and provided no means for communities to express concerns or grievances regarding the project to the company.

Recently, we have obtained two documents entitled "Mechanisms and Procedures of Compensation and Resettlement Policy of Lower Sesan 2 in Stung Treng" dated 17 January 2014 and "Compensation and Solution Policies on Impacts of Lower Sesan 2" through a commune chief, who was given the documents at a meeting hold by the government on 27 January 2014. The commune chief was given a single copy of the documents. He himself was not allowed to ask questions or speak out with respect the project or these documents.

After receiving these policies, we immediately reviewed them meticulously and have consulted together closely within our communities. We experienced serious anguish and horror when we saw that the documents state that we will be evicted by the government and the Lower Sesan 2 hydropower company from our villages and farmland and will be forced to accept compensation determined by the government and project developers without any prior consultation, opportunity for participation in decision-making on the project plans and compensation and resettlement plans and without our

agreement. We therefore reject these two policies and we believe that they violate our rights under the Cambodian Constitution and relevant laws.

With great respect, we make the following requests of H.E Suy Sem and the project developers, and we trust in your assistance and honest reply with respect to these requests.

### **REQUESTS:**

- 1. Open a free public forum and consultation between the local communities at the dam site with parliamentarians and dam developers to explain and discuss the detail of this project, including opportunities for full and meaningful participation by communities.
- 2. We call on the Hydropower Lower Sesan 2 Co. Ltd. to immediately implement and follow China's "Guidelines for Environmental Protection in Cooperation and Foreign Investment", because this project involves investment from Chinese Stated Owned Enterprises, Hydrolancang International Energy Co Ltd., an affiliate of Huaneng Group.

#### For more information or feedback, please contact us at the address below:

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1. Mr. Fut Kheun, representative of the communities at Lower Sesan 2	(855) 977 797 488
2. Ms. Pha Vy, representative of the communities at Lower Sesan 2	(855) 978 192 295
3. Mr. Phao Mai, representative of the communities at Lower Sesan 2	(855) 978 236 979
4. Mr. Va Khampai, representative of the communities at Lower Sesan 2	(855) 888 043 691
5. Mr. Dam Samnang, representative of the communities at Lower Sesan 2	(855) 885 840 762

Our communities have requested assistance from 3S Rivers Protection Network (3SPN) to coordinate the meeting with communities. To arrange a meeting with communities representative from 3S area please contact:

Mr. Meach Mean, 3SPN Coordinator, Tel: (855) 887 984 490 Email: info@3spn.org or meachmean@hotmail.com

We have attached with following documents as below:

- "Mechanisms and Procedures of Compensation and Resettlement Policy of Lower Sesan 2"
- "Compensation and Solution Policies on Impacts of Lower Sesan 2", prepared by Hydropower Lower Sesan 2 Co. Ltd
- Chinese Guidelines for Environmental Protection in Cooperation and Foreign Investment

# CC to:

- National Assembly of Cambodia
- Ministry of Economics and Finance
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower Company (Joint venture of Hydrolancang and the Royal Group)
- Chinese Embassy in Cambodia