

**Press Conference 1 pm, Sunday 3 November**

**Location: MiCasa Hotel, Phnom Penh**

**(10 minutes from InterContinental Hotel, the ASEAN/GMS summit venue)**

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## **NGOs demand summit leaders come out from behind closed doors**

*As ADB and ASEAN delegates gather in Phnom Penh, Mekong community members and NGOs issue a stern demand that leaders ensure the participation of the people in development decisions that affect their lives.*

- In Thailand, villagers are protesting against a Chinese-led project to blast rapids and dredge the Mekong river to increase trade.
- Community organization representatives from Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar want their leaders to put poverty alleviation before economic growth in the Initiative for ASEAN Integration.
- Region-wide, activists are voicing strong concerns about the privatisation of resources, such as water and energy, vital to livelihoods and environmental sustainability.

This press conference will present the highlights from a just-completed three-day meeting, hosted by the Oxfam Mekong Initiative, of people throughout the region to debate and strategize on these and other pressing issues, culminating with a dialogue between Government officials, Asian Development Bank staff and community members.

### **SPEAKERS:**

- Mak Sithirith, Fisheries Action Coalition Team, Cambodia
- Chaiyarong Sretthachau, Southeast Asia Rivers Network, Thailand
- Violeta Corral, NGO Forum on Asian Development Bank, Philippines
- Nurina Widagdo, Bank Information Center, USA

Members of communities affected by these projects will be available for interview following the press conference. At the venue is a show of art and photographs illustrating the multiple values of the waters of the Mekong.

**PLACE:** Conference Room, MiCasa Hotel, 313 Sraowath Quay, Phnom Penh (next to Cambodiana Hotel on the river) Tel: 023 214 555

**TRANSPORT:** A shuttle bus will leave the InterContinental Hotel at 12:40 pm (ADB GMS summit events begin at 3pm).

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** Kelly Brooks, Oxfam Mekong Initiative (in Cambodia) office + 855 (0) 23 210-357, mobile + 855 (0) 12 949-359 [kbrooks@oxfamamerica.org](mailto:kbrooks@oxfamamerica.org)