Anotated Agenda

Forum
Lower-Mekong Initiative: Broadening cooperation

Vietnam House, 2251 R Street, NW
May 1, 2013

Since its inception on July 23, 2009, the Lower-Mekong Initiative has become an important aspect of US – ASEAN development cooperation. From the four original areas of environment, health, education, and infrastructure development, the LMI’s activities have been broadening and deepening to include energy and food security. The US and ASEAN Leaders have agreed in their Summit in November 2012 to further strengthen US – ASEAN comprehensive cooperation through key measures, including the Lower-Mekong Initiative (LMI), together with the new Expanded Economic Engagement – E3 and the U.S.-Asia Pacific Comprehensive Energy Partnership initiatives.

The Vietnam Embassy, in cooperation with the State Department (Bureau of East Asian & Pacific Affairs) and LMI Country Embassies in Washington DC, is organizing the “Lower-Mekong Initiative: Broadening cooperation” Forum to discuss LMI priorities and ways to broaden the scope of cooperation, especially from US stake-holders. Government experts, business representatives, scholars and members of the NGO communities will gather to discuss about ASEAN and US priorities and share ideas and best-practices that can be implemented under LMI framework.

The proposed agenda of the Forum, to be held on May 1st, is as follows:

8h30 Arrival of guests and registration
9h00 – 9h05 Welcoming remarks – Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong

9h05 – 9h25 Keynote remarks
- H.E. Pham Quang Vinh, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Vietnam
- Hon. Joe Yun, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia

9h25 – 10h25 Panel 1 - US and ASEAN priorities
- Mike H. Fuchs, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
- Crai Allen, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce
- Patricia M. Loui, Member of the Board of Directors, EXIM Bank
- Representatives from LMI countries, joined by representatives from other ASEAN countries

Discussion

Moderator: Jocelyn D. Roberts (or TBD), Lower Mekong Initiative Coordinator
Office of Multilateral Affairs
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

10h25 – 10h40 Coffee break

10h40 – 11h40 Panel 2: Deepening cooperation from US stakeholders

- Jeffrey S. Goss, Associate Vice Provost, South East Asia Programs, Director, Vietnam Higher Engineering Education Alliance, Arizona State University, to talk about the HEEAP initiative

- Scott Bode, Representative of World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Washington DC, CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research)

- Richard P. Cronin, Director, Southeast Asia Program, Stimson Center to talk about NGO’s participation and initiatives

- Marc Meally, Vice President for Policy, USABC to talk about the roles and opportunities for US Businesses

Discussion

Moderator: Dzung Le, Economic Counselor
Vietnam Embassy

11h40 Concluding remarks
- Mike H. Fuchs, Deputy Assistant Secretary
- Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong

12h00 Luncheon

End of program