

Embassy of the Republic of Singapore  
129, Norodom Blvd,  
Sangkat Chaktomuk,  
Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh  
Kingdom of Cambodia

06-January-2016

His Excellency Kevin Cheok, The Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore

We, the undersigned Cambodian civil society organizations, write to you to cordially request a meeting regarding the role of the Government of Singapore as a purchaser of Cambodian sand.

Prime Minister Hun Sen issued a letter on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2015, in response to a request for clarification by a Cambodian member of parliament, which corroborated that the sand dredged in Koh Kong is solely for export purposes.

In August 2015, an article in *The Cambodia Daily*<sup>1</sup> quoted the Captain of the sand transport ship, the Ikan Jenahar. The Captain confirmed that the shipment of silica sand was destined for Singapore.

These recent developments suggest a continuation of Cambodia's sand trade with Singapore as detailed by Global Witness in a 2010 report<sup>2</sup> and later confirmed by the Singaporean Government<sup>3,4</sup>.

Fishing communities remain deeply concerned that the ongoing sand mining operation in Koh Kong's estuaries and creeks continues to cause serious impacts on their livelihoods, due to a decrease in fisheries and other environmental impacts.

The questions we request that you address during the above-mentioned meeting are as follows:

- Is Singapore still purchasing Cambodian sand and if so, how much has Singapore imported since 2008?
- Which ministries are responsible for these imports and what is the sand being used for?
- From which private companies have Singaporean authorities bought or imported this sand?
- Which regulatory procedures apply to sand imports?
- Is the Singaporean Government observing its own laws and international conventions that regulate the import of sand and the impacts of sand dredging?

We are grateful for your serious consideration of our meeting request and look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Sar Mory  
Vice-president of CYN

Thun Ratha (mobile: 015 426 404)  
Campaign coordinator for Mother Nature

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/lawmaker-ngo-want-govt-to-investigate-sand-dredging-90588/>

<sup>2</sup> "Shifting Sand: how Singapore's demand for Cambodian sand threatens ecosystems and undermines good governance.

<sup>3</sup> <http://wildsingaporenews.blogspot.com.es/2010/05/singapore-rejects-claim-of-illegal-sand.html#.Vmiae97IU>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/singapore-hits-back-over-sand-report>  
<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/archives/spore-claims-it-was-unaware-of-moratorium-91568/>

This letter is endorsed by the following civil society groups;

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Mother Nature – [alex.mothernature@gmail.com](mailto:alex.mothernature@gmail.com)

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