V. HEADS OF DELEGATION

H.E. Say Samal
Minister
Ministry of Environment
Cambodia

H.E. Zhuang Guotai
Vice Minister
Ministry of Environmental Protection
People’s Republic of China

H.E. Bounkham Vorachit
Vice Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Lao People’s Democratic Republic

H.E. Ohn Winn
Union Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
Myanmar

H.E. General Surasak Karnjanarat
Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Thailand

H.E. Vo Tuan Nhan
Vice Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Viet Nam

Ramesh Subramaniam
Director General
Southeast Asia Regional Department
Asian Development Bank
A. Environment Ministries

H.E. Say Samal
Minister
Ministry of Environment
Cambodia

Prior to his post as minister of environment for Cambodia, H. E. Say Samal was deputy secretary general of Cambodia and was also the vice-chairman of the Press and Quick Reaction Unit and member of the Nepal Peace Consultation Committee under the Office of the Council of Ministers. He has also previously held various positions in the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, and the Department of Research and Information Management. Samal has a doctorate degree in biological sciences from Monash University, Australia.
H.E. ZHUANG Guotai
Vice Minister
Ministry of Environmental Protection
People’s Republic of China

H.E. Zhuang Guotai was born in Fujian in 1962 and has a master’s degree in atmospheric physics from Peking University. In 1989, he began working for the National Environmental Protection Agency. In February 2000, he was promoted to deputy director-general, Department of Nature and Ecology Conservation of the State Environment Protection Administration. In December 2004, he served as deputy director-general of the Foreign Economic Office and 2 years later, became its director-general. In 2008, Guotai moved to the Department of Nature and Ecology Conservation of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) as director-general. In November 2015, he served as director-general of the General Office at MEP. He was promoted to vice minister and member of the Party Leadership Group of MEP in December 2017.
H.E. Bounkham Vorachit  
Vice Minister  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
Lao People’s Democratic Republic

H.E. Bounkham Vorachit was officially appointed as the vice minister of natural resources and environment of the Lao PDR in 2014 to support the Government in propelling the country towards its Vision 2030 of a Green, Clean, and Beautiful Laos.

Born in November 1971 in Savannakhet Province, Vorachit graduated with a master’s degree in agriculture resources and environmental management from Udon Thani Rajabhat University, Thailand.
H.E. Ohn Winn
Union Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
Myanmar

H.E. Ohn Winn has served as the union minister of natural resources and environmental conservation of Myanmar since 2016. Prior to this appointment, he assumed various posts in government, including director of the Planning and Statistics Department of the Ministry of Forestry and director of the Shan State Forest Department and Mon State Forest Department.

He was also involved in numerous natural resources and environmental management projects of various development agencies, such as UNDP, IID, MIID, GDZ, ACIAR, and FAO. He has a long history with the University of Forestry in Yezin and the Myanmar Forest School in Mandalay.

Born 11 November 1951 in Ngaputaw Township in the Ayeyarwaddy Region, he graduated with a master’s degree in forestry hydrology from Colorado State University and obtained his diploma in ergonomics from the University of Philippines at Los Baños, Philippines. He has bachelor’s degree in forestry from the Yangon Arts and Sciences University.
H.E. General Surasak Karnjanarat
Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Thailand

H.E. Gen. Surasak Karnjanarat was officially appointed as minister of natural resources and environment of Thailand since 2015 to support the Government in developing and promoting its 20-Year Strategic Plan and 10-Year Strategic Plan and Reform on Natural Resources and Environment. These plans aim to maintain the security of the resource base and create balance between conservation and sustainable use. Prior to this appointment, Gen. Surasak was designated as the Minister of Labour from 2014 to 2015.

As an army officer, he assumed various posts in the Ministry of Defence, including Battalion commander, director of the directorate of Civil Affairs, deputy chief of staff of the army and permanent secretary of the Ministry of Defence until his retirement.

He graduated from Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy and Army Command and General Staff College, Thailand.
H.E. Vo Tuan Nhan
Vice Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Viet Nam

H.E. Vo Tuan Nhan has served as a public servant since 1990 and assumed numerous important positions, including deputy director general of the Department of Science and Technology (Quang Ngai Province) and deputy chairman of the National Assembly’s Committee for Science, Technology and Environment. He assumed the position of vice minister of Viet Nam’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment since 2016.

During his term, he has made use of his expertise in environmental policy and legislation, environmental economics, and management. He has also been engaged in the development of a number of environmental laws in Viet Nam relating to biodiversity, natural resource management, and land management. He obtained his PhD in environmental sociology from the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in 2002.
Ramesh Subramaniam
Director General
Southeast Asia Regional Department

Ramesh Subramaniam is the director general of the Southeast Asia Regional Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He assumed office in June 2017.

Subramaniam oversees ADB’s strategic agenda and development programs in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, as well as the Greater Mekong Subregion. He is also responsible for the execution of the BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT sub-regional initiatives of the department.

Subramaniam has a master’s degree in economics from Loyola College, University of Madras in India, and a PhD in economics (with focus on econometrics and development economics) from McMaster University, Canada. He was a Rockefeller Fellow at Yale University and Stanley Smith Fellow at University of St. Andrews in the UK from 1993–1997, working on various research projects.