



MERIDIAN DIPLOMACY FORUM: COUNTRIES OF THE MEKONG

EXPLORING THE CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LINKAGES
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Meridian International Center | Washington, DC | June 6, 2019

SUMMARY

The countries along the Mekong River have much in common boasting rich cultural heritage and biodiversity, while experiencing significant economic growth and undertaking substantial infrastructure development in recent years. The five nations of Mainland Southeast Asia – **Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam** – comprise promising economic markets in this region of rising geopolitical importance and one with increasing wanderlust appeal. As the United States continues to evaluate existing alliances and consider new partnerships, this is an ideal time for policymakers and private sector leaders to forge ahead with new and stronger bilateral and regional relationships with the countries along the Mekong.

On June 6, 2019, the Meridian Diplomacy Forum: Countries of the Mekong will bring together government, business and artistic leaders to discover and explore the ecological, cultural and economic allure flowing through the subregion. A deeper understanding of the cultures and histories of Mainland Southeast Asia can lead to more effective and beneficial engagement between the United States and the governments, businesses and people of this emerging area of the globe.

Meridian International Center is recognized around the world as a center for global leadership, bringing the right thinkers and decision makers together in a neutral forum to discuss and address critical global issues. 2019 will mark the fourth year of the Meridian Diplomacy Forum.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Held on Meridian’s historic Washington, DC campus, the half-day program will feature in-depth panel discussions, high-level networking, and cultural performances. The agenda and speaker list is currently in formation and will include the following components:

VIP LUNCH: An intimate salon lunch for influential leaders from the diplomatic, U.S. government, think tank, and corporate communities will allow for conversations around business and policy priorities.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS: A series of afternoon panel discussions analyzing opportunities for collaboration through policies and initiatives that encourage trade and investment, showcasing the use of cultural and educational exchange to bolster U.S.-Greater Mekong relations and build closer ties, and emphasizing the power of shared ideas and culture to unlock unprecedented potential for solving the world’s greatest challenges.

CULTURAL RECEPTION: An elegant evening reception celebrating the myriad cultures along the Mekong River – with an emphasis on art, dance, music, and cuisine – attended by a cross-section of Washington’s congressional, government, business, cultural, and philanthropic leaders.

DIPLOMACY FORUM 2016



Ambassador of Cuba to the United States Dr. José R. Cabañas, Meridian Diplomacy Forum on Cuba

DIPLOMACY FORUM 2017



Member of Parliament of India Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Meridian Diplomacy Forum on India

DIPLOMACY FORUM 2018



Aflac Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Dan Amos, Meridian Diplomacy Forum on Japan



BACKGROUND ON MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Building on more than 55 years of experience as a leading non-profit, non-partisan global leadership and public diplomacy institution, Meridian prepares U.S. and international leaders to meet global challenges and opportunities and advances American diplomacy through the exchange of people, ideas and culture. Through exchange, training, cultural, and convening programs, Meridian utilizes an integrated approach to strengthen U.S. engagement with the world to expand economic development opportunities, protect national and international security interests, and prepare leaders for a complex global future.

Our partnerships with U.S. government agencies, corporations, and non-profits have resulted in a better understanding of both foreign interests in the United States as well as American interests abroad, a strong domestic and international network of partners, and meaningful programs on the critical issues that drive policy decisions in the United States and around the globe.

Corporate Partnership Opportunities

Meridian International Center seeks partners to sponsor the Meridian Diplomacy Forum: Countries of the Mekong and will work closely with partners to integrate aligned priorities and objectives into the program. Contributions support Meridian International Center, a 501c3 non-profit organization.

The Meridian Diplomacy Forum is a valuable opportunity for companies to further strengthen relationships with key U.S., Thai, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian and Burmese officials, convey support of the U.S. – Mainland Southeast Asia relationship in front of an influential, high-level cross section of Washington, DC, and amplify and highlight priorities and thought leadership in a neutral, non-partisan forum. Please contact Puru Trivedi, Director of Corporate Relations at (202) 939-5524 or ptrivedi@meridian.org for more information.

LEAD PARTNER - \$25,000

- 8 invitations to VIP lunch with honored guests and speakers
- 10 invitations to the Meridian Diplomacy Forum (Reserved Seating) and evening cultural celebration
- Featured Speaker Spotlight during the Program
- 2 invitations to a private dinner
- Tailored branding, activation and media opportunities
- Acknowledgement in Meridian Diplomacy Forum materials including: invitations, programs, website, and signage
- Listing in Meridian's 2019 Annual Report

PARTNER - \$10,000

- 4 invitations to VIP lunch with honored guests and speakers
- 6 invitations to the Meridian Diplomacy Forum (Reserved Seating) and evening cultural celebration
- Panelist Speaking role during the program
- 2 invitations to a private dinner
- Acknowledgement in Meridian Diplomacy Forum materials including: invitations, programs, website, and signage
- Listing in Meridian's 2019 Annual Report

SPONSOR - \$5,000

- 2 invitations to VIP lunch with honored guests and speakers
- 4 invitations to the Meridian Diplomacy Forum and evening cultural celebration
- Acknowledgement in Meridian Diplomacy Forum materials including: invitations, programs, website, and signage
- Listing in Meridian's 2019 Annual Report



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