



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of Asia-Pacific

PRESS RELEASE

**“Cambodia and Laos pledged to deepen
the Comprehensive and Long-Lasting Strategic Partnership”**

At the invitation of His Excellency Dr. Sonexay SIPHANDONE, the Lao Prime Minister, **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a high-level delegation on an official visit to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic from 25 to 26 March 2024. The visit aimed to further strengthen and deepen good bilateral relations in the spirit of a comprehensive and long-lasting strategic partnership. During the visit, **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet** had a meeting with His Excellency Dr. Sonexay SIPHANDONE, paid a courtesy call on His Excellency President Thongloun SISOULITH, and received His Excellency Khambai DAMLATH, President of the Lao-Cambodian Friendship Association. The meetings were held in a cordial and warm atmosphere, covering areas such as politics, trade and investment, energy, public works and transport, tourism, education, security and defence, border affairs, and multilateral cooperation.

The talks between **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet** and His Excellency Dr. Sonexay SIPHANDONE were fruitful with agreement to ensure peace and prosperity for the two countries, contributing to harmony and development in the region.

On political cooperation, the two Prime Ministers expressed their commitment to effectively implement the Action Plan for the Comprehensive and Long-Lasting Strategic Partnership between Cambodia and Laos (2023-2027), signed in 2023, to increase exchanges of visits at all levels and convene the Meeting of the



Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation in the near future. During his meetings with Lao Leaders, **Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister** conveyed an invitation from **His Majesty the King of Cambodia** to **His Excellency the President of Laos** to pay a state visit to Cambodia in April 2024.

On energy cooperation, **Samdech Thipadei** expressed appreciation for the Lao provision of electricity to Cambodia. He also reaffirmed Cambodia's support for Lao green energy trading with ASEAN countries including Singapore, contributing to enhancing energy security in ASEAN. **Samdech Thipadei** and **His Excellency Dr. Sonexay SIPHANDONE** welcomed the signing of a new agreement on energy cooperation between the two governments and Memoranda of Understanding on green power purchases and a feasibility study on an electricity transmission line to Cambodia.

On Trade, Investment and Tourism, **Samdech Thipadei** and **Laos Prime Minister** agreed to convene the Cambodia-Laos Trade Committee Meeting in 2025, in conjunction with a business and investment forum in order to enhance cooperation in the preparation of trade fairs, exhibitions, business and investment matching and tourism promotion. Both Leaders also agreed to encourage both relevant institutions to ensure tangible results of the tourism cooperation initiative **"Three Countries, One Destination"** between Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam. **The two Prime Ministers** welcomed the resumption of direct flights between Vientiane and Phnom Penh by Lao Airlines on 19 March 2024 and agreed to encourage tourists to travel in private vehicles between the two countries.

On transport and connectivity, the two sides urged relevant authorities – particularly border authorities – to facilitate people-to-people ties, tourism and trade between the two countries. The Prime Ministers agreed to encourage technical teams to select the site for a bridge between Tonle Ropov in Cambodia and Selam Pao in Laos as soon as possible.

On security and defence, **Samdech Thipadei** and **His Excellency Dr. Sonexay SIPHANDONE** agreed to urge their authorities to continue efforts to maintain border security in line with laws and agreements, consolidating good cooperation between border forces and other relevant authorities through regular information exchanges and timely joint actions against hostile politically destabilizing activities that undermine security, public order and social stability, and increase cooperation to



prevent and combat all transnational crimes, especially drug smuggling, human trafficking and other border crimes.

On border affairs, **the two Prime Ministers** highly valued the results achieved of 86% of the boundary demarcation and committed to expedite settlement of the remaining 14 percent as soon as possible. **The two Prime Ministers** witnessed the exchange of instruments of ratification for the treaty on delimitation of the border signed in 2023 and the signing of minutes on the exchange of instruments for its effective implementation to build a border of peace, friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides agreed to continue to promote cooperation in the fields of culture, education, sports, and agriculture and also agreed to elaborate on a memorandum of understanding on agricultural cooperation and extend by five years a cooperation agreement between the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and the Lao Ministry of Education and Sports.

The two Prime Ministers exchanged views on regional and international development and reaffirmed their commitment to continue supporting each other and further promote bilateral cooperation in regional and international fora – especially under ASEAN frameworks – for regional and global peace, stability and prosperity.

Samdech Thipadei cordially invited **His Excellency the Prime Minister** to pay an official visit to Cambodia which he accepted with pleasure, promising to find a convenient time in the near future. During his meetings with Lao Leaders, **Samdech Thipadei** reaffirmed Cambodia's full support for the Lao chairmanship of ASEAN this year.

Samdech Thipadei and Cambodian delegation visited Thanaleng Dry Port and Vientiane Logistics Park and lauded efforts to transform Lao geographical challenges into opportunities through land connections (from landlock to landlink). **Samdech Thipadei** also met with Cambodian business club, trainees and students studying in Laos.

Phnom Penh, 26 March 2024

