



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

**Outcomes of the Virtual Meeting between H.E. PRAK Sokhonn,
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and
H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN
on 14 February 2022**



On 14th February 2022, His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, held a virtual meeting with His Excellency Dato LIM Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN, to discuss about the preparation of the upcoming ASEAN Foreign Ministers Retreat (AMM-Retreat), which is scheduled to be held on 16-17 February 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

During the meeting, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn and H.E. Secretary-General Dato Lim Jock Hoi exchanged views on a number of key issues that ASEAN Foreign Ministers need to discuss and provide guidance. They stressed the need to expedite the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and the operationalization of the ASEAN Travel Corridor Arrangement Framework, so that the region can build back better and greener. Moreover, they shared the view that the selection of the host of the ASEAN Center for Public Health Emergency and Emerging Diseases is an urgent priority in order for the Center to support AMS to tackle COVID-19 pandemic and to prepare for future health crises.

On Timor-Leste's ASEAN membership application, while acknowledging the difficulty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, they are determined to complete the fact finding missions of the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in the first quarter of this year, so that AMS can start to deliberate on the roadmap and timeline for Timor-Leste to accede to ASEAN. Furthermore, they also took the opportunity to discuss about the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision, and agreed for the High Level Task Force with the support from the ASEAN Secretariat to discuss about core elements and way forward.



They also spoke at length about the current political situation in Myanmar and its impacts on the works of ASEAN. They put heavy emphasis on the importance of cessation of violence and the building of trust and confidence, so that all the concerned parties can engage in an inclusive dialogue in order to achieve long lasting peace. **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn**, in his capacity as the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair for 2022, also highlighted his priorities including his upcoming first visit to Myanmar, and in response, **H.E. ASEAN Secretary-General Dato Lim Jock Hoi** expressed the ASEAN Secretariat's readiness to support, especially in the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people most in need.

Finally, they also discussed about the important role of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) in the ASEAN community building process, and that in recent years, many countries are requesting to become ASEAN's dialogue, sectoral and development partners. Going forward, ASEAN will continue to strengthen its capacity and capability, so that it is equipped to contribute effectively to the rapid growth of its partners for the mutual benefits.

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn expressed his appreciation for close coordination and all the supports extended by the ASEAN Secretariat since the beginning of Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship. **H.E ASEAN Secretary-General Dato Lim Jock Hoi** reiterated the ASEAN Secretariat's readiness and commitment to make Cambodia's Chairmanship 2022 a great success.

Phnom Penh, 14 February 2022

