



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**PRESS RELEASE
OUTCOMES OF THE SIXTH POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS
BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND VIET NAM
PHNOM PENH, 18 JULY 2019**

On 18th July 2019, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **Prak Sokhonn** received a courtesy call by His Excellency **Nguyen Quoc Dung**, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and accompanying delegates who are in Cambodia to attend the **6th Political Consultations** between Cambodia and Vietnam. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister warmly welcomed the Vietnamese delegation and congratulated the fruitful outcomes of the Political Consultation which contribute to strengthening the long-lasting traditional relations of friendship and good neighborliness between the two countries, and lay good ground work for the **17th Joint Commission Meeting** between Cambodia and Viet Nam in the coming month of August. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister had an extensive exchanged of views with His Excellency **Nguyen Quoc Dung** on the progress of bilateral relations and on regional and international cooperation between Cambodia and Vietnam.

Prior to the above courtesy call, His Excellency **Nguyen Quoc Dung** co-chaired with Her Excellency **Eat Sophea**, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia the **6th Political Consultations**, which proceeded in a very cordial atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding and successfully concluded.

Both sides noted with satisfaction the steady advancement of bilateral cooperation in many areas, underpinned by the frequent exchanges of visits at all levels and joint commitments of the leaders of the two countries to strengthen close ties. They expressed shared aspiration to consolidate the spirit of good neighborliness, traditional friendship and further develop comprehensive cooperation between Cambodia and Viet Nam, while at the same time contribute to peace, stability, cooperation and development in and outside the region.

Both sides briefed each other on the recent political and economic development in Cambodia and Viet Nam respectively, and shared the view that peace, security and stability are the core factors for socio-economic progress in both countries and the region. The discussion covered various fields including political-security cooperation, bilateral exchange



of trade and investment, human resource development, tourism and cultural promotion, infrastructure connectivity and border issues. Both sides agreed to find ways and means to further enhance cooperation in these fields to serve the best interests of the two nations.

On political-security cooperation, both sides agreed to maintain the good momentum of high level contacts, regular meetings of all the existing bilateral mechanisms, continue to increase information exchange and coordination to prevent and combat crimes such as drug and human trafficking, smuggling of contrabands and illegal logging. They also concurred to promote the awareness among both peoples on the importance and achievement of the joint effort to build a common border of peace, friendship, cooperation and development between the two countries.

On trade and investment, both sides expressed optimism that, with the growing trend, two-way bilateral trade which increased to around 4.7 billion in 2018 will reach and may even surpass the set target of USD 5 billion by 2020, thanks to the Bilateral Trade Enhancement for 2019-2020, signed in February 2019. They agreed to speed up conclusion of the Border Trade Agreement and implement relevant measures to further expand trade and investment exchange, and facilitate cross-border movement of goods and people between the two countries.

The Vietnamese side pledged to continue assisting Cambodia in education and human resource capacity building in the fields required by Cambodia, as far as possible. Both sides agreed to encourage cooperation between the National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations (NIDIR) of Cambodia and the Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam. They also agreed to encourage full implementation of cooperation agreements and programs to increase cultural and tourism exchange and the number of direct flights between the two countries.

On border affairs, both sides commended the completion of 84% of the land boundary demarcation work and expressed confidence that the relevant legal documents to acknowledge this achievement will be ready for signing as planned within this year 2019. They reiterated their resolve to expedite the solution to the remaining 16% of the border yet to be settled, in line with international laws and the principle of Uti possidetis.

Beside bilateral relations, both sides also discussed cooperation in multi-lateral frameworks including ASEAN and Mekong cooperation frameworks, and exchanged views on each country's external relations and challenges, and on regional and international matters of common interest including the South China Sea, Rakhine State, Korean Peninsula, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Indo-Pacific initiative, and the impact of USA-China Trade War .

Expressing full commitment to building a cohesive and resilient ASEAN family and upholding ASEAN's leading role, the Cambodian side reaffirmed readiness to support Viet Nam's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2020 and effort to strengthen regional peace, stability, security and development. The Cambodia side also congratulated Viet Nam on its



overwhelming election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the term 2020-2021. The Vietnamese side reaffirmed support to Cambodia in hosting the 13th ASEM Summit in 2020, and committed to work closely with Cambodia as well as other ASEM Members to ensure the success of this important event.

Both sides discussed on the arrangement of the 17th Joint Commission Meeting between Cambodia and Viet Nam to be held in August 2019 in Cambodia, and agreed to convene the 7th Political Consultations in 2020, in Viet Nam.

The Cambodian side recalled with high appreciation Viet Nam's valuable support for the liberation of Cambodia from the Khmer Rouge Genocidal Regime and its contribution to peace and socio-economic development of Cambodia which continue until today. The Vietnamese delegation expressed sincere appreciation for the warm hospitality extended during their stay in Phnom Penh and highly valued the excellent arrangement of the meeting. ៖

Phnom Penh, 18 July 2019

