



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

**Outcomes of the Official Visit of His Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore
to the Kingdom of Cambodia on 15-16 February 2022**



At the invitation of His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia on 15-16 February 2022 in order to promote and deepen the bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

During the visit, His Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan paid a courtesy call on Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn and His Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan had a bilateral meeting, during which the two Foreign Ministers highly valued the existing excellent bilateral relations between both countries and discussed means and ways to advance the cooperation in multifaceted areas.

With respect to trade and investment cooperation, the two sides noted with satisfaction the positive and growing two-ways trade despite challenges posed by Covid-19. In order to sustain this positive momentum, the two Ministers agreed to urge the relevant ministries and agencies to double their efforts to further promote the cooperation in this area. To address trade imbalance, Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn suggested (1) increasing the export of Cambodia's agricultural products to Singapore, (2) establishing the Memorandum of Understanding between Chambers



of Commerce of Both countries, and (3) effectively implementing the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement. While recognizing the significant presence of Singapore investment in Cambodia, which ranked fourth in the investment flow in 2021, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn encouraged more Singapore's investment, especially in the areas of fintech, innovation, digital and green economic and agro-industries, given the new and abundant incentives provided by the Cambodia's new Law of Investment.

On fighting against the Covid-19 pandemic, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn expressed his appreciation for the medical equipment provided by the government of Singapore as well as for taking care of Cambodian citizen living and working in Singapore by allowing them to get access to the Covid-19 vaccination, saying the Singaporeans had received the same treatment in Cambodia. The Deputy Prime Minister informed his counterpart that to ensure the effectiveness of the reopening of the country, the Royal Government of Cambodia has launched the Strategy of Living in a New Normal in the Context of Covid-19 on 12 Nov 2021 and the Strategic Framework and Programs for Economic Recovery in the Context of Living with Covid-19 in a New Normal 2021-2023 on 16 Dec 2021. The Government has also introduced the Strategic Plan for the Opening of Vaccine Tourism and the Policy Measures to Promote Domestic Tourism 2021-2023 on 23 Oct 2021, he added.

The two Foreign Ministers also emphasised the importance of the tourism sector and the cooperation in mutual recognized vaccines certificates. They were delighted to note that there are regular flights in operation between Cambodia and Singapore due to high percentage of vaccinated population in the two countries and the effective control of Covid-19.

For cooperation on human resource development, the Deputy Prime Minister appreciated Singapore's significant contribution to capacity building for Cambodian officials through short- and medium-term training courses. He requested Singapore to consider providing more scholarships, in particular under the Education Training the Trainers Program (ETTP), PhD in Public Management and ASEAN Scholarship in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and Civil Aviation management. The Deputy Prime Minister also encouraged the signing of MoU between the National Institute of




Diplomacy and International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Diplomatic Academy of Singapore.

Both sides emphasized the importance of strengthening the security and defense cooperation through exchanging visits by high-ranking military and police officials. The Deputy Prime Minister thanked Singapore for providing assistance in human resource development and capacity building to Cambodia's National Police officials.

Both Ministers discussed and exchanged views on ASEAN-related issues and recalled the fruitful discussion during the recent video call between Samdech Techo Prime Minister HUN SEN and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, on 14 January 2022. His Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan reaffirmed Singapore's support to Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship 2022 and extended his warm congratulations and support to His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn for his role as ASEAN Chair's Special Envoy on Myanmar.

On regional and international cooperation, the two sides exchanged views on issues of common interest and concern and expressed full support to each other in multilateral fora, including in the ASEAN framework.

His Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan also had separate meetings with His Excellency Dr. AUN Pornmoniroth, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Finance, His Excellency SAY Samal, Minister of Environment, and His Excellency HUN Many, Chairman of the Commission on Education, Youths, Sports, Religious Affairs, Culture and Tourism of the National Assembly of Cambodia. 

Phnom Penh, 16 February 2022

