



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

**Outcomes of the Official Visit of His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia,
and the 20th Meeting of the Cambodia-Viet Nam Joint Commission
on Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (20th JC)
Hanoi, 20-22 March 2023**



Phnom Penh, 22 March 2023 - At the invitation of His Excellency **BUI Thanh Son**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, His Excellency **PRAK Sokhonn**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a delegation to pay an Official Visit and co-chair the 20th Meeting of the Cambodia - Viet Nam Joint Commission on Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (20th JC) on 20-22 March 2023, in Hanoi, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **PRAK Sokhonn** paid separate courtesy calls on and conveyed the warmest regards of Cambodia's leaders to His Excellency **VO Van Thuong**, President, and His Excellency **PHAM Minh Chinh**, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **PRAK Sokhonn** expressed his satisfaction on the excellent relationship between the two countries which has grown from strength to strength in all areas and at all levels despite unprecedented challenges facing our region and the world. He recalled the celebration of the "Year of Friendship" while both countries commemorated the 55th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations last year. Deputy Prime Minister **PRAK Sokhonn** also underlined that the frequent exchange of visits and communications between leaders of the two countries reflected well the spirit of Good Neighbourliness, Traditional

Friendship, Mutual Trust, Comprehensive Cooperation and Long-lasting Stability. He also applauded the Communist Party, the Government and the people of Viet Nam on the remarkable achievements in socio-economic development, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic with GDP growth of 8,02 %, the fastest pace since 1997.

The Vietnamese leaders praised the significant achievements that the Government and people of Cambodia have attained under the wise reign of His Majesty the King of Cambodia and visionary leadership of Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen in national development, socio-economic recovery in the post COVID-19 pandemic era as well as her successful ASEAN Chairmanship 2022. They also wished Cambodia a success in hosting the 32nd SEA Games and the 12th ASEAN Para Games.

His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn also had a bilateral meeting with His Excellency BUI Thanh Son, during which both Foreign Ministers discussed various aspects of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interests and concerns.

During the 20th JC Meeting, both sides reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Agreed Minutes of the 19th JC Meeting held in December 2021. Both sides agreed to further promote regular exchanges of visits and meetings between Leaders, ministries, institutions and local authorities of the two countries to strengthen cooperation in all fields including Education and Human Resource Development, Agriculture, Science, Technology and Innovation, Trade and Investment, Transportation, Post, Telecommunications, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Culture, Sports and Tourism, Border Issues, Defense and Security, among others.

With Viet Nam as one of Cambodia's biggest trading partners in the region, the two sides agreed that economic cooperation is one of the priority areas in their bilateral cooperation. Despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the two-way trade volume grew remarkably, reaching US\$ 10.57 billion by 2022, an increase of 10,88% compared to 2021.

To maintain this momentum, the two sides agreed to cooperate and expedite the completion of the Master Plan on Cambodia – Viet Nam Economic Connectivity

2030 within this year. Both sides agreed to effectively implement the signed MOUs and Agreements, including the Agreement on the Transit of Goods between Cambodia and Viet Nam and further facilitate the goods in transit under the provisions of bilateral, regional and international agreements to which both sides are parties, in particular the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement.

On Investment Cooperation, both sides encouraged businesses from the two countries to explore opportunities for the joint development of a Cambodia-Viet Nam Special Economic Zone inside Cambodia's territory along the Cambodia-Viet Nam border.

On Education and Human Resource Development, the two sides agreed to effectively implement the Memorandum of Agreement on Education Cooperation for 2021-2025. The Vietnamese side will provide more scholarships for Cambodian students in STI in the field of industrial engineering, ICT, mechatronics, software development, electronic engineering, physics, data science, mathematics, and STEM education.

In terms of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in sanitary and phytosanitary measures to prevent the cross-border spread of pest and infectious diseases. The two sides also agreed to effectively implement the Memorandum of Understanding on Agriculture Cooperation signed on 08 November 2022.

On Science, Technology and Innovation, Cambodia and Viet Nam agreed to establish a bilateral cooperation mechanism on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

Regarding Cooperation in Transportation, the Vietnamese side expressed her willingness to join Cambodia in studying the possibility of establishing Phnom Penh-Bavet-Moc Bai-Ho Chi Minh City rail link. She also agreed to work closely with Cambodia to determine the connecting point of Phnom Penh-Bavet-Moc Bai-Ho Chi Minh City expressway.

On ICT Cooperation, the two sides agreed to promote cooperation in telecommunications and ICT sectors including cyberspace governance, information

security, digital infrastructure, digital transformation towards developing a digital government and a digital economy.

On **Tourism Cooperation**, both countries agreed to further enhance joint tourism promotion and marketing activities and encourage more caravan tours and self-driving tours with simplified cross-border procedures.

On **Defense Cooperation**, the two sides agreed to promote cooperation and strengthen relations between the Cambodian and Vietnamese armed forces through the implementation of the "Protocol on Bilateral Defense Cooperation for 2020-2024", the exchange of visits at all levels and annual student scholarships, thus contributing to peace, stability and security in the region and beyond.

On **Security Cooperation**, the two sides agreed to step up coordination in combating criminal offenses, drug crimes, trade fraud, money laundering, human trafficking, illegal border crossing, technology crime, illegal logging and timber transportation, natural resource crime, illegal fishing, illegal trade of wildlife, illicit trafficking in drugs and chemicals, trafficking and smuggling of weapons and ammunition as well as other cross-border crimes.

Both sides also discussed extensively cooperation in many other areas namely Environment, Water Resources and Hydro-metrology, Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, Customs, Industry and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Publishing, Press and Radio-Television Broadcasting, Finance and Banking, Culture and Sports, Labour and Vocational Training, Social Affairs and Development, Border Issues, Record and Archives, and Ethnic and Religious Affairs, National Defence, Legal and Judicial Matters, Inspection Affairs , Consular Affairs and Overseas Citizens, Cooperation between Local Authorities and Cambodia-Laos-Viet Nam Development Triangle Area.

Deputy Prime Minister **PRAK Sokhonn** invited Foreign Minister **BUI Thanh Son** to co-chair the 21st JC Meeting, which will be convened in Cambodia next year.

The Official Visit of His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **PRAK Sokhonn** to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the 20th JC Meeting was successfully concluded in a cordial atmosphere, and has contributed to further strengthening the long-

standing relations, the bond of friendship, solidarity, good neighbourliness, mutual trust and comprehensive cooperation for the mutual benefits of the two countries.

On behalf of the Cambodian delegation, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **PRAK Sokhonn** expressed his deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the warm welcome and excellent arrangements for his Official Visit and the 20th JC Meeting.

At the end of the Meeting, His Excellency **PRAK Sokhonn** and His Excellency **Bui Thanh Son** signed the Agreed Minutes of the 20th Meeting of the Cambodia-Viet Nam Joint Commission on Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation. ENDS