



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

**on the outcomes of the Official Visit to the Philippines
of His Excellency Mr. Prak Sokhonn, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia
and the 2nd Meeting of the Cambodia - Philippines Joint Commission for Bilateral
Cooperation
(Manila, 05-06 December 2017)**

At the invitation of the **Honorable Alan Peter S. Cayetano**, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, **H.E. Mr. Prak Sokhonn**, Sr. Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, paid an Official Visit to the Republic of the Philippines and co-chaired the 2nd Meeting of the Cambodia-Philippines Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) from 05 to 06 December 2017. This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and the Republic of the Philippines.

During this visit, H.E. Prak Sokhonn paid a courtesy call on His Excellency **Rodrigo Roa Duterte**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, during which time he conveyed warmest regards and congratulations of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, to **His Excellency President Duterte** for the Philippines' great success during the ASEAN Chairmanship. **His Excellency President Duterte** reciprocated his regards and high appreciation to **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen** for the support during the ASEAN Chairmanship of the Philippines.

His Excellency President Duterte said he was glad to see an "ASEAN Brother" coming to the Philippines, noting that he wants the Philippines to forge a stronger bond with Cambodia. "With the foundation of strong relations laid out during the recently concluded ASEAN Summit in Manila, the President said he wants trade and investment to flourish between the two countries". The President stressed that the Philippines respected the sovereignty of Cambodia and expressed satisfaction with the growing bilateral relations and multifaceted cooperation between the two countries. The President encouraged the Philippines to import Cambodian rice and welcomed Cambodia's investment in the country.

Moreover, H.E. Prak Sokhonn expressed his thanks to **His Excellency President Duterte** for the Philippines' strong support for the enlisting of Cambodia's Temple Zone of *Sambor Prey Kuk* as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. He congratulated also the Government of the Philippines for the liberation of Marawi



City last October and briefed **His Excellency President** on the outcomes of his official visit and the 2nd JCBC Meeting.

Prior to co-chairing the 2nd JCBC Meeting, H.E Prak Sokhonn and the Honorable Alan Peter S. Cayetano had a bilateral meeting during which they shared with each other on the latest political, economic and social development of their respective countries as well as exchanged views on some regional and international issues of common concerns.

The 2nd JCBC Meeting was conducted in a friendly atmosphere and mutual understanding and reflected the bonds of friendship and close cooperation enjoyed by both countries. The Meeting highlighted the close interaction and exchanges of high level visits, in particular, the State Visit to Cambodia by **His Excellency President Duterte** in December 2016 and his attendance at the World Economic Forum on ASEAN in Phnom Penh in May 2017 and the participation of **Samdech Techo Hun Sen** at the 30th ASEAN Summit in April and the 31st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits in November 2017.

The Meeting agreed to further deepen the existing cooperation covering defense and transnational crimes, trade and investment, agriculture and agribusiness, tourism and air services, culture, labor, education and vocational training, science and innovation and health. The meeting also identified new areas of cooperation, such as legal and environmental protection.

The Meeting agreed to work on the following: (i) to negotiate an Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation; (ii) to renew the Memorandum of Agreement on Rice Trade, which is due to expire; (iii) to expedite the process of signing the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Educational and Vocational Training; (iv) to pursue the establishment of direct flights between Phnom Penh and Manila; and (v) to explore the possibility of entering into a partnership between Cambodia's National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations and the Philippines' Foreign Service Institute.

The following documents were signed at the conclusion of the Meeting:

1. Agreed Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Cambodia-Philippines Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation.
2. Agreement on Prevention of Looting and Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property.
3. Memorandum of Understanding on Defense Cooperation between the Ministry of National Defense of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Department of the National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines.

Last, H.E. Prak Sokhonn cordially invited the Honorable Alan Peter S. Cayetano to pay an official visit to Cambodia and co-chair the 3rd JCBC Meeting scheduled for 2019 at a mutually convenient date.



Phnom Penh, 08 December 2017