



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

**OUTCOMES OF THE THIRD ROUND OF BILATERAL POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS
BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND SWITZERLAND**
Held in Phnom Penh on 3rd February 2023

Phnom Penh, 04 February 2023 - On 03 February 2023, H.E. **Dr. CHEM Widhya**, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, co-chaired the Third Round of the Bilateral Political Consultations between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Swiss Confederation with H.E. **Ambassador Heinrich Schellenberg**, Assistant State Secretary for Asia Pacific of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Both sides noted with high satisfaction of the traditional excellent bonds of friendship and close cooperation, which happily exist between the two countries. They gave an overview of the political and economic situations in their respective countries and went on to discuss bilateral relations covering political, development and economic dimensions. Discussions focused on wideranging areas of cooperation, including health, governance, decentralisation, agriculture, food security, trade, investment, tourism, vocational training, demining, development assistance and cooperation in international organisations, including at the United Nations and ASEAN-Switzerland Cooperation. The two sides shared strong commitments to build on those areas. They further exchanged views regional and international issues of common interest and concern.

H.E. **Dr. CHEM Widhya** expressed the deep gratitude of the Cambodian people to the Switzerland for the development assistance to Cambodia over the years, while hailing the magnificent work made by Kantha Bopha Hospital for Cambodian children and women.

H.E. Ambassador Heinrich Schellenberg was impressed with the rapid economic progress that Cambodia had made, commended the very successful efforts of Cambodia in curbing COVID-19 pandemic and reiterated Swiss continued support for Kantha Bopha Hospital as well as for the New Cooperation Programme in the Mekong Region 2022-2025. He also congratulated Cambodia for the great achievements of the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022, as reflected in the active and successful role and efforts as Chair to reduce regional tensions.

On the trade and investment front, **H.E. Dr. CHEM Widhya** noted with deep satisfaction of the trade volume between the two countries, which has continued to grow dynamically despite the outbreak of COVID-19 over the past three years. To further boost the trade volume, he proposed the establishment of a business forum between the two countries' chambers of commerce and follow on the discussions to explore the possibility of establishing a free trade agreement between the two countries to diversify export markets.

The Third Round of the Bilateral Political Consultations between the two Foreign Ministries were held successfully in a cordial and fruitful atmosphere which is impregnated by the excellent friendship that characterise the relations between Cambodia and Switzerland.

In addition, the two countries organized cultural performances event to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Kingdom of Cambodia and Switzerland at the Chaktomuk Conference Hall. ENDS