



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn Discusses Cooperation
with U.S. Assistant Secretary Daniel Kritenbrink**

H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Mr. Daniel Kritenbrink, shared during a meeting on 12 July 2022 the satisfaction vis-à-vis the fruitful outcomes of the Special ASEAN-US Summit that was co-chaired by President Joe Biden and Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen in his capacity as the ASEAN Chair this year in Washington, D.C. last May.

Assistant Secretary Daniel Kritenbrink informed Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn that the objective of his first visit to Cambodia in his current position is to demonstrate the U.S. commitment to support Cambodia's ASEAN chairmanship and to enhance the bilateral relations with Cambodia. He conveyed Secretary of State Antony Blinken's reaffirmation of the US support for the success of the ASEAN Chairmanship of Cambodia.

Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn and Assistant Secretary Daniel Kritenbrink discussed the enhancement of bilateral cooperation on various fields, in which the Deputy PM expressed satisfaction with the steady growth in the bilateral trade and reiterated his call for the renewal of U.S. GSP for the benefit of the economic relationship. He also appreciated the U.S. humanitarian assistance extended to Cambodia, including more than 3 million doses of Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines provided through COVAX as well as the development assistance granted to the country on education, health, agriculture, climate change, demining, among others. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn expressed his disappointment with Cambodia being unfairly considered an "un-cooperative" country with regard to the repatriation cooperation, leading to the imposing of visa restrictions on senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

In the ASEAN framework, Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn and Assistant Secretary Daniel Kritenbrink shared the commitment to further deepen the ASEAN-US Dialogue Relations. Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn renewed Cambodia's support for the elevation of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). Assistant Secretary Daniel Kritenbrink thanked Cambodia for this support and underlined the importance of having the CSP announced during the upcoming ASEAN-US Summit in Cambodia.

Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn and Assistant Secretary Daniel Kritenbrink had an exchange of views and discussion on the preparation for and the challenges facing at the upcoming 55th AMM and Related Meetings as well as the visit by Secretary of State Antony Blinken to attend the ASEAN PMC + US, the 12th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and the 29th ASEAN Regional Forum.

The Deputy PM briefed the Assistant Secretary on the development in Myanmar, underlining Cambodia's endeavors as Chair of ASEAN this year to implement the ASEAN Leaders' Five Point Consensus (5PC) and some concrete outcomes achieved so far in this purpose. He also touched on his second visit to Myanmar in his capacity as Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair from 30 June-2 July 2022, emphasizing the progress registered by it, particularly his meetings with 7 Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and 7 political parties that won seats in the 2020 election. Assistant Secretary Daniel Kritenbrink appreciated the efforts of Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen and of the Deputy PM himself in helping Myanmar to return to peace, stability and normalcy.

Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn and Assistant Secretary Daniel Kritenbrink had also an exchange of views and discussion on some other regional and international issues of common concerns and interests.

Phnom Penh, 12 July 2022
Spokesperson of the MFAIC
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