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**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

**“Progress Meeting of Economic Diplomacy Working Group for the First Quarter of 2023 and
Consultative Meeting for the Selection of Khmer Food to Welcome Foreign Guests”**

Phnom Penh, 25 April 2023 – His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, presided over the “Progress Meeting of Economic Diplomacy Working Group for the First Quarter of 2023 and Consultative Meeting for the Selection of Khmer Food to Welcome Foreign Guests” organized by the Economic Diplomacy Coordinating Group (EDCG) in a hybrid format at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Approximately 200 participants were present at the meeting, including senior officials, heads of Cambodian Missions abroad, and diplomatic officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, as well as representatives from Cambodian Hotel Association, Cambodian Restaurant Association, among others. The core objective of this meeting was to review the achievements of the Economic Diplomacy working group in the first quarter of 2023 and to provide a platform for relevant ministries and the private sector to discuss and provide inputs on the selection and standardization of Khmer cuisines in respect of menus, ingredients, tastes, presentation, and quality at hotels and restaurants.

H.E. DPM PRAK Sokhonn highly commended the cooperation and support from relevant ministries and the private sector in the implementation of the Economic Diplomacy Strategy 2021-2023. H.E. DPM also highlighted the importance of food diplomacy as a ‘soft power’ that Cambodia could

utilize to promote commerce, culture, tourism, exports and bolster culinary proficiency. In addition, H.E. DPM expressed his support for the initiative of selecting Khmer dishes to welcome foreign guests. This initiative required inputs from relevant stakeholders in both public and private sectors to preserve national identity and to guarantee a high standard of tastes and ingredients in Khmer food in the hope to promote Khmer cuisine and to further raise national prestige on the international stage.

Following this meeting, H.E. Dr. NHIM Khemara, Secretary of State and Head of the Economic Diplomacy Coordinating Group, hosted a dinner event for all participants to experience the flavors and to appreciatively comprehend the ingredients and culinary techniques of Khmer cuisine.