



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

**OUTCOMES OF THE SEVENTH POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS
BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND VIET NAM**

Video Conference, 21 October 2021

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On 21 October 2021, Her Excellency Dr. SOEUNG Rathchavy, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and His Excellency NGUYEN Quoc Dung, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, co-chaired the 7th Political Consultations between Cambodia and Viet Nam via video conference.

During the meeting, Cambodia and Viet Nam briefed each other on the current situation in their respective country and the Governments' priorities, which primarily focused on addressing the Coronavirus pandemic and reviving the economy simultaneously.

Both sides were gratified to note that despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the traditional friendship and cordial relations as well as cooperation between the two countries have continued to grow in all dimensions covering political and security, response to the COVID-19 pandemic, trade and investment, education and culture, tourism, energy, connectivity and collaboration between the two foreign ministries.

The two sides stressed the significance and positive outcomes of the frequent exchange of contacts between the two Leaders via face-to-face meetings, video conferences and phone calls. The good personal rapport between the Leaders has promoted more effective and fruitful cooperation between the two countries. They expressed their firm commitment to double joint efforts in working closely together to



enhance bilateral relations between Cambodia and Viet Nam, and to explore the untapped potentials of both countries to serve the best interests of the two peoples.

The two Co-chairs stressed the crucial role of the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs in strengthening and deepening relations as well as expanding cooperation between the two countries based on the spirit of good neighbourliness, solidarity, trust and mutual understanding and respect.

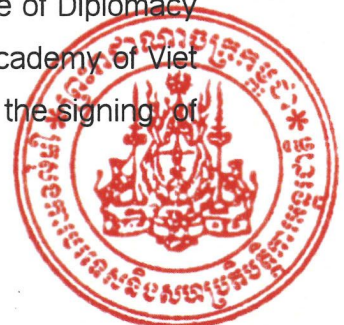
Both sides lauded the effective measures taken by both countries and close collaboration in fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic. They agreed on the necessity to continue working closely to overcome this unprecedented global health crisis. Both sides expressed deep appreciation for the generous donation in cash and medical supplies made by the Governments and relevant institutions of Cambodia and Viet Nam in the collective efforts to combat the pandemic.

On defence and security cooperation, both sides underscored the importance of strengthening coordination to prevent and combat against criminal offences, including drug-related crimes, smuggling and illegal trafficking of timbers and weapons through the exchange of information in a timely manner.

With regard to border cooperation, both sides welcomed the official ceremony to exchange the instruments of ratification of the two important legal documents to record the completion of 84% of the land boundary demarcation and marker planting between the two countries. They agreed on the expedition of the discussion to find mutually acceptable solution for the 16% remaining of undemarcated land boundary.

Both sides were encouraged to note the positive trend in bilateral trade between Cambodia and Viet Nam amid the prolonged economic difficulties caused by the pandemic. The trade volume steadily increased from USD 5.26 billion in 2019 to USD 5.33 billion in 2020 and has reached USD 6.03 billion in just seven months of 2021.

Regarding human resource cooperation, Cambodia expressed high appreciation to Viet Nam for its continued assistance in providing scholarships to Cambodian students. Both sides welcomed the commitment of the National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations (NIDIR) of Cambodia and the Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam (DAV) to strengthen their close cooperation and looked forward to the signing of



the Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions at the earliest opportunity.

Besides, the two countries also discussed cooperation in multilateral frameworks such as ASEAN, ASEM, UN and Mekong sub-regional frameworks. They also briefed each country's external relations with key partners as well as exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest and concerns such as regional and global geopolitical landscape, Myanmar issue, South China Sea and AUKUS.

While Cambodia expressed its readiness to host the 13th ASEM Summit on 25-26 November 2021 and to take over the ASEAN Chairmanship 2022, Viet Nam reiterated its full support to Cambodia. Both sides stressed the importance of working closely together to strengthen ASEAN unity, centrality and relevance in the evolving regional architecture to maintain peace, security and stability for sustainable development in the region and beyond.

Both sides discussed the preparations for the 19th Meeting of the Cambodia-Viet Nam Joint Commission on Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation to be held in December 2021 in Cambodia and the celebration of the 55th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Cambodia – Viet Nam. Both countries agreed to designate the Year 2022 as "Cambodia-Viet Nam Friendship Year". They also exchanged ideas on commemorative activities to jointly celebrate the milestone achievements of Cambodia-Vietnam relations.

Cambodia and Viet Nam agreed to convene the 8th Political Consultations in 2023 in Cambodia.

Phnom Penh, 23 October 2021

