



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Department of Information**

**Press Release on the Outcomes of the Official Visit of  
His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of  
the Kingdom of Cambodia, to Hungary  
11-12 December 2018**

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His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, concluded an official visit to Hungary on 11-12 December 2018 at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. This visit seeks to further strengthen political trust and unlock new potential spheres of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Both ministers had a productive dialogue during which the Hungarian foreign minister reiterated his country's principled position of non-interference in Cambodia's internal affairs, and respected the decision of the Cambodian people concerning the recent elections. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister recalled with gratitude the precious and timely assistance and support of Hungary extended to Cambodia during its most difficult time after the liberation from the Khmer Rouge regime as well as Hungary's contribution to the peacekeeping operation under the framework of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

This is the second time that the two foreign ministers met in less than three months in this year, thus reflecting their mutual commitment to developing regular consultations on bilateral and international agenda. Moreover, they expressed their satisfaction with intensified bilateral ties in recent years evidenced through regular dialogues, exchange of high-level visits from executive and legislative organs and business missions.

To foster the overall relationship, Hungary's diplomatic representative office will be operationalized in Phnom Penh on 02 January 2019. In addition, Hungary welcomed Cambodia's proposed appointment of an honorary consul in Budapest. The two ministers signed two MoUs to boost cooperation in the areas of tourism and diplomatic institutes, and agreed to work together toward realization of the exchange of visit at the level of Prime Minister in the near future.

Both ministers underscored the necessity to bring up the bilateral trade volume to match the existing potentialities. To this end, they agreed to take certain steps





toward creation of Joint Economic Committee in order to elevate the economic and trade partnership to a greater height. In addition, the ministers identified key potential collaboration in the fields of water management, irrigation and waste management, and agreed to encourage ministries concerned to explore practical projects. Both sides also stressed the vital role of the credit line that the EXIM Bank of Hungary is ready to offer to stimulate the economic linkage and to help Cambodian and Hungarian entrepreneurs.

On development cooperation, Hungary intended to increase the number of annual scholarships to Cambodia, and pledged to support landmine clearance activities in order to help realize the goal of "mine-free Cambodia by 2025".

While reviewing the collaboration at the international arena, the two ministers agreed to lend reciprocal support at the UN system. In Cambodia-EU context, Hungary reiterated its sustained support for ensuring that Cambodia's march toward peaceful democracy and sustainable development continues unimpeded. In addition, the Hungarian side agreed to reconsider its position with regard to the tariff on Cambodia's jasmine rice in the EU market, and pledged to push for the continuation of EU's financial assistance to Cambodia in order to address development challenges.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister also paid a courtesy call upon His Excellency László Kövér, Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary. Their conversation centered around the importance of promoting bilateral partnership in the spheres of water management, higher education, and tourism. The Hungarian side looks forward to hosting Presidents of the Senate and the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Budapest, and to welcoming the high-level representation of Cambodia at the World Water Summit slated in October 2019 in Hungary.

Prior to the said courtesy call, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister was invited as a guest of honor to attend the plenary session of the National Assembly of Hungary during which the Hungarian Foreign Minister and deputies were debating a number of significant policy topics.

Phnom Penh, 14 December 2018

