



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of Asia-Pacific

PRESS RELEASE

**“Cambodia and China Committed to Advancing Diamond Cooperation and
Celebrating 2024 as the Year of People-to-People Exchange”**

On 7 November 2023, **His Excellency SOK Chenda Sophea**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, received a courtesy call from **His Excellency LOU Qinjian**, Member of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress and Chairman of its Foreign Affairs Committee.

As the two countries are celebrating the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations and Cambodia-China Friendship Year, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening their “diamond cooperation” framework and deepening the building of a Cambodia-China Community with a Shared Future in the new era. They noted with satisfaction the remarkable progress of Cambodia-China relations and commended the frequent high-level exchanges of visits between legislative and executive institutions of the two countries.

His Excellency LOU congratulated Cambodia for successfully organizing the general election and smoothly forming the National Assembly and new government this year. He expressed his confidence that Cambodia would continue to accomplish greater achievements under the wise leadership of **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister noted that high voter turnout and overwhelming support for the Royal Government were driven by people’s confidence in the government’s effective control of COVID-19 and improved living standards. He conveyed his sincere appreciation to China for its invaluable support and assistance to the socio-economic development of the Kingdom, including the timely provision of COVID-19 vaccines.



His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister praised the outstanding achievements under Belt and Road Initiative cooperation between the two countries, especially the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway and the new Siem Reap Angkor International Airport. Both sides stressed the importance of promoting increased Chinese investment in Cambodia, particularly the commitment to transform Preah Sihanouk Province into a model multi-purposed special economic zone.

Recalling fruitful meetings between **Samdech Thipadei HUN Manet** and Chinese leaders, especially Their Excellencies **President XI Jinping** and **Premier LI Qiang**, the two sides exchanged views on propelling the Year of People-to-People Exchange in 2024 into a productive year with concrete outcomes by attracting additional Chinese tourists and more direct flights from China to Cambodia, particularly Siem Reap.

Both sides underscored the importance of effectively implementing the strategic consensus between leaders, including the establishment of the "Industrial and Technological Corridor" and the "Fish and Rice Corridor."

Phnom Penh, 7 November 2023

