



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**NATION RELIGION KING**



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn Confers Royal Order of Sahametrei, Grand Officer  
Upon Outgoing Australian Ambassador**

His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, bestowed on His Excellency Pablo Kang, outgoing Ambassador of Australia, the Kingdom of Cambodia's Royal Order of Sahametrei, Grand Officer as a token of appreciation for his contributions to strengthening the bilateral relations between Cambodia and Australia, during a farewell call by the latter on 04 January 2023.


His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn expressed his delight with the good momentum in high-level exchanges, including the visit to Cambodia of former Foreign Minister of Australia Marise Payne in November 2021, the visit in April 2022 of Lt. Gen. John Sanderson, Commander of the UNTAC force in the peace process in Cambodia, marking the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNTAC, the visit to Australia of Lieutenant General Hun Manet, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) and Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army, and the participation of Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in the ASEAN-Related Foreign Ministers' Meetings and ASEAN-Related Summits in Phnom Penh last year.

Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn and Ambassador Pablo Kang expressed satisfaction with the current status of relationship and spoke highly of the bilateral cooperation in various fields, particularly on trade and investment, health, military and security, education as well as the cooperation in the framework of Mekong-Australia partnership. His Excellency Prak Sokhonn thanked Australia for the provision of nearly 3 million doses of Pfizer vaccines and 133 vaccine freezers as well as official development assistance in many areas, including agriculture, infrastructure,

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demining and human resource development. He was also heartened to note the rising trend of two-way trade between the two countries.

The Australian Envoy congratulated Cambodia for its admirable role as the ASEAN Chair 2022 and the successful hosting of the ASEAN Summits and Related Summits and welcomed the substantial conclusion of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area ( AANZFTA ) upgraded negotiations. Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn underlined his appreciation for Australia's support and cooperation during Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship.

Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn and Ambassador Pablo Kang also exchanged views on some regional and international issues of common interests. .

Phnom Penh, 04 January 2023