

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

General Department of ASEAN

PRESS RELEASE

Outcomes of the Retreat Session of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the Signing Ceremony of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Phnom Penh, 12 July 2023 – **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, attended the Retreat Session of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting chaired by **Her Excellency Retno, L.P. Marsudi**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and the Signing Ceremony of the Instrument of Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Jakarta on 12 July 2023.

Retreat Session of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

During the Retreat Session of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister reaffirmed Cambodia's support for the efforts by Indonesia, as the ASEAN Chair for 2023, in advancing the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus (5PC). He emphasised that engagement is key in promoting trust and confidence, and building a conducive environment for peaceful and inclusive dialogue. He reiterated the importance of the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus—in particular Point 14 on exploring other approaches that could support and complement the implementation of the 5PC. Importantly, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister also expressed appreciation to His Excellency Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister

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and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, for his valuable contribution to the 5PC, and welcomed his meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 July 2023 as a positive development.

Signing Ceremony of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and other ASEAN Foreign Ministers witnessed the Signing Ceremony of the Instrument of Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His Royal Highness Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, signed the Instrument making Saudi Arabia the 51st High Contracting Party to the TAC, affirming the Kingdom's commitment to ASEAN values and principles of peaceful coexistence and friendly cooperation in Southeast Asia.

Bilateral Meeting at the Sidelines of the Meeting

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister also took the opportunity to engage in a bilateral meeting with Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, to further strengthen bilateral relations and exchanged views on matters of common interest and concerns. END