



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

Press Release

**Outcomes of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners of
From 31 July to 01 August 2019, Bangkok**

His Excellency Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, participated in the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC)+1 Sessions with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, China, Canada, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America, held respectively from 31 July to 01 August 2019.

During the PMCs, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers and their Dialogue Partners focused their discussions on the review and future direction of their relations over the past year and reiterated their commitment to further strengthening partnership and cooperation. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues, particularly on counter-terrorism and extremism, disaster management, trade issue, the Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea.

The Ministers underscored the importance of ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional security architecture and reiterated the commitment to supporting an ASEAN-centred regional architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based, built upon ASEAN-led mechanisms. They also reaffirmed their commitment to upholding rules-based multilateral trading system amidst the global trade tensions, rising protectionism and anti-globalization.

On PMC+1 Session with New Zealand

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn co-chaired with The Rit. Hon. Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand. In the session, H.E. Prak Sokhonn highlighted the achievements made under the dialogue relations and underscored the importance of New Zealand's two key strategies, namely the "People Strategy" and the "Prosperity Strategy", which has enhanced cooperation and contributed towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.



The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Statement for ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership (2016–2020). They also agreed to have a new plan of action for the period of 2021-2025.

The Meeting took note of New Zealand's proposal to hold an ASEAN-New Zealand Summit to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations in 2020 in which New Zealand proposes Partnership for People, Prosperity, Peace and Planet programmes as major deliverables.

On PMC+1 Session with Australia

The Meeting adopted the new Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership (2020-2024) as a renewed commitment to further enhance the ASEAN-Australia for the next five years. The Meeting welcomed the launch of the ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking Initiative as a joint endeavor to fight human trafficking, modern slavery and forced labour.

On PMC+1 Session with Canada

The Meeting reaffirmed their commitment to advance the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations and agreed to develop a new Plan of Action (2021-2025) to succeed the current plan of action that will expire in next year. The Meeting also recognized the need to further deepen economic engagement between the two sides by exploring the possibility of an ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

On PMC+1 Session with the Republic of China

The Meeting welcomed the successful outcomes of the 21st ASEAN-China Summit to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership and recognised the importance of enhancing synergies between the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The Meeting agreed to have new Plan of Action (2021-2025) that will guide both sides in further strengthening the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations in the next five years. H.E. Prak Sokhonn also confirmed Cambodia's support for the proposed designation of 2020 as the year of ASEAN-China Digital Economy Cooperation and the Blue Economy Partnership initiatives.

On PMC+1 Session with the European Union (EU)

The Meeting reaffirmed the continued commitment to further strengthening and promoting ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations to a new height. In this spirit, they underscored their commitment to strengthening cooperation across all areas of mutual interest. They also adopted ASEAN-EU Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation.



On PMC+1 Session with India

The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2016-2020) and agreed to develop a new Plan of Action for the period of 2021 to 2025. The Meeting reiterated the commitment for the two sides in order to achieve the trade target of 200 billion USD by 2022. The Meeting also called for the need to complete the RCEP negotiations by 2019, as committed by the Leaders.

On PMC+1 Session with Japan

The Meeting reaffirmed continued commitment to further strengthening the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership through the enhanced cooperation in various fields. They also welcomed the signing of the Agreement on Technical Cooperation between ASEAN and Japan in May 2019 in Tokyo and looked forward to the early implementation of the Agreement.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn shared Cambodia's views that ASEAN and Japan need to forge engagement through the effective utilization of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership against the backdrop of unilateralism and protectionism. He also expressed Cambodia's appreciation for Japan's continued support for Cambodia's UNPKO training and ARMAC in Phnom Penh.

The PMC+1 Session with the Republic of Korea (ROK)

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers welcomed the ROK's commitment under its New Southern Policy to further strengthen relations with ASEAN. The Meeting endorsed ASEAN-ROK Joint Vision Statement for Peace, Prosperity and Partnership to chart direction to further strengthen the strategic partnership. They also looked forward to the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit later this year to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Dialogue Relations. The Meeting also welcomed the ROK's commitment to increase two-way people-to-people exchanges to 15 million by 2020.

For the 4th Industrial Revolution, H.E. Prak Sokhonn hoped Cambodia could benefit from the ROK's sharing of knowledge and expertise in cutting edge technology. He also stressed that Cambodia remains firm in its support for the complete denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula.

The PMC+1 Session with the Russian Federation

The Meeting welcomed the successful convening of the 3rd ASEAN-Russian Federation Summit on 14 November 2018 in Singapore, where both sides agreed to elevate the ASEAN-Russia relations to a Strategic Partnership. They also noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) to promote Cooperation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation 2016-2020.



The PMC+1 Session with the United States of America (U.S.A)

The Meeting commended the significant progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership (2016-2020) and looked forward to developing a new Plan of Action for the next five years.

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn valued the U.S.'s commitment in supporting the ASEAN priorities in ASEAN Community building across the three pillars as well as efforts to further advance the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership. He also hoped that trade issues would be resolved in the near future so that the danger of spillover effects would be avoided.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn also clarified on the rumor alleging that Cambodia has granted foreign military to use its Naval Base in Preah Sihanouk province. He reaffirmed that while Cambodia as a sovereign state has the rights to decide on the best options and means to defend its territory, it would do so only in respect to the Constitution, which prohibits the presence of foreign military bases on its territory.

Bilateral Meetings

In the morning of 01 August 2019, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn met with H.E. Ms. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security, and Vice-President of the European Commission. Both sides discussed about Cambodia's ongoing dialogue in the context EBA review and Cambodia-EU bilateral relations.

On 01 August 2019, H.E. Prak Sokhonn had a brief meeting with H.E. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The Meeting aimed to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and bilateral relations between the two countries.

The discussion between H.E. Prak Sokhonn and H.E. Taro KONO, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, concentrated on Cambodia-Japan bilateral cooperation, notably on trade, investment, economy and tourism. H.E. Prak Sokhonn congratulated the success of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in the Upper House election on 21 July 2019. He also informed that H.M. the King of Cambodia will visit Japan for the coronation ceremony of H.M. Emperor of Japan. In response, H.E. Taro KONO thanked H.M. the King of Cambodia and looked forward to that state visit.

Phnom Penh, 04 August 2019.

