



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Press Release**

**Outcomes of the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-Australia Summit**

27 October 2021, via Videoconference



The Leaders noted the substantive achievements made under ASEAN-Australia dialogue relations over the past years and acknowledged that the first annualized ASEAN-Australia Summit would open a new page of partnership and further deepen and expand cooperation through the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia Plan of Action (2020-2024). The ASEAN Leaders agreed to establish a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between ASEAN and Australia that is meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial, and reaffirmed their commitment to work with Australia to that effect.

The Summit highlighted the importance of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) and committed to ensuring that the AANZFTA will remain as one of the most comprehensive and high-quality ASEAN plus one FTAs. The Summit underlined the commitment towards effective implementation of the RCEP to reinvigorate regional trade and promote recovery.

The ASEAN Leaders expressed appreciation for Australia's support to ASEAN's COVID-19 related measures and initiatives as well as recovery efforts, including through the funding of AUD 523.2 million for the Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative. ASEAN leaders welcomed Australia's new commitment of more than AUD 120 million for ASEAN's Future Initiatives over the next ten years, announced by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. The leaders agreed to place greater emphasis on enhancing cooperation in priority areas that support speedy post-pandemic recovery such as in improving public health capacity, infrastructure connectivity, digital economy, climate change and human resources development.





Australian Prime Minister reassured ASEAN Leaders on Australia's commitment to ASEAN centrality, regional peace and security, including through support for the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AIOP) and firm adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT). The leaders exchanged views on recent regional and international developments, including the Australia-UK-US trilateral security alliance (AUKUS), the importance of maintaining peace and security in the South China Sea and Myanmar situation.

**Samdech Techo Prime Minister** highlighted the historic convening of the first annualized ASEAN-Australia Summit and reiterated Cambodia's support for the establishment of the comprehensive strategic partnership between ASEAN and Australia. He applauded Australia's important contributions to the multilateral campaign to combat the COVID-19, as well as revitalize regional economic growth, especially by launching the Partnerships for Recovery Strategy with ASEAN as a key partner. He encouraged Australia to further support ASEAN Community building efforts and regional integration through the MPAC 2025 and IAI Workplan IV.

In addition, Samdech Techo Prime Minister encouraged Australia further assist in strengthening priority sectors such as digital technology and e-commerce, MSMEs and education, especially technical and vocational trainings for women and returning migrant workers, so that they can find new jobs and enjoy better lives.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister further commended Australia's efforts to promote gender equality, women's economic empowerment, and Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, and expressed Cambodia's commitment to work with Australia to further advance these important areas.



Phnom Penh, 27 October 2021