



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of Asia-Pacific

PRESS RELEASE

Cambodia-Philippines Pledge Deeper Bilateral Cooperation

At the invitation of His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines, Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, accompanied by the First Lady Lok Chumteav Dr. Pich Chanmony HUN Manet, made the first official visit to the Republic of the Philippines from February 10 to 11, 2025. The visit marked a significant step toward further solidifying the long-standing friendship and multi-faceted cooperation between Cambodia and the Philippines.

The two leaders had an in-depth discussion covering various areas of cooperation, including politics, defense and security, trade, investment, tourism, education, labor, culture, transport connectivity, agriculture, and people-to-people relations. They emphasized the importance of frequent exchanges between the executive and legislative institutions in strengthening mutual confidence and relations in all fields. Both leaders appreciated the fruitful outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of the Cambodia-Philippines Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) held in Manila in August 2024, and agreed that the JCBC should be convened regularly.

On defense and security, the leaders lauded active cooperation between their armed forces and police forces in combating terrorism and transnational crimes, including drug trafficking, trafficking in person and cybercrimes. They urged relevant agencies of both countries to fully implement the Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) on Defense Cooperation and on Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crimes.

Recognizing the vast economic potential of both countries, the two leaders agreed to task their respective institutions to explore new opportunities for enhancing trade and investment, and to further strengthen collaboration between the Cambodian Investment Board and the Philippine Board of Investments.

On connectivity, the two leaders noted the positive growth in people-to-people exchanges, particularly in tourism. They encouraged the relevant institutions of both countries to fully implement the newly signed Implementation Program for the Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation (2025-2028) to enhance



collaboration in the sector. Both parties also discussed potential new flight routes between the two countries, including Manila-Siem Reap, Cebu-Phnom Penh, and Cebu-Siem Reap.

President Marcos thanked Cambodia for the good treatment extended to the Filipino community living in Cambodia. The two leaders celebrated the successful cooperation on labor matters, and on technical and vocational education and training.

A total of eight documents were signed to intensify cooperation between Cambodia and the Philippines in the areas of tax, trade, investment, culture, agriculture, TVET, tourism and ICT.

The leaders exchanged views on regional and international developments of shared interest. They reaffirmed their commitment to contributing to global and regional peace, security, and stability and to continuing their support for each other in international fora. **Samdech Thipadei** expressed his aspiration to see the South China Sea a sea of peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity. He reaffirmed Cambodia's full support for the Philippines' ASEAN Chairmanship in 2026.

As part of the visit, **Samdech Thipadei** met with His Excellency Francis Joseph G. Escudero, President of the Senate, and His Excellency Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The leaders underscored the importance of continued interaction between the legislative bodies of Cambodia and the Philippines. These calls add significance to the visit.

Putting strong emphasis on the importance of private sector engagement, **Samdech Thipadei** delivered a key note address at the opening of the Cambodia-Philippines Business Forum, which was attended by more than one hundred of Cambodian and Philippine entrepreneurs. He also met the representatives of several Philippine companies, encouraging them to consider Cambodia as a promising business and investment destination and to explore the country's burgeoning economy.

During the visit, **First Lady Dr. Pich Chanmony HUN Manet** participated in several social programs organized by Madam Louise C. Araneta, the spouse of President Marcos Jr.

Samdech Thipadei and **the First Lady** extended their heartfelt thanks to President Marcos, and First Lady Madam Louise C. Araneta, as well as their supporting teams for the outstanding arrangements and warm hospitality extended to the Cambodian delegation during the visit.



Phnom Penh, 11 February 2025