



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of Asia-Pacific

PRESS RELEASE

“Cambodia and Australia to further strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation”

His Excellency **SOK Chenda Sophea**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, received a courtesy call by His Excellency **Justin Whyatt**, Ambassador of Australia to Cambodia, on 27 October 2023.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Ambassador expressed satisfaction with the close bonds of friendship, solidarity and cooperation between the two countries over the years and discussed ways to explore wider possibilities to deepen potential areas of cooperation for mutual benefit of the two peoples. The two sides looked forward to the Fourth Senior Officials’ Talks between the two foreign ministries to be held in Cambodia in 2024 to further enhance bilateral relations.

The Deputy Prime Minister renewed his gratitude for Australia’s invaluable support and continued assistance to Cambodia in various areas, particularly agriculture, education and health, including COVID-19 vaccines. The Ambassador expressed his admiration for Cambodia’s socio-economic development and his commitment to exploring new areas of cooperation to further spur the Kingdom’s national development.

On agriculture, the Deputy Prime Minister appreciated the successful launch of a new fragrant rice variety “Champey Sar 70”, named by **Samdech Techo HUN Sen** to mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Australia last year.



On education, both sides emphasized the significance of human resource development including the capacity building of Cambodian diplomats and highly valued the close collaboration between the National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations and the Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh.

The Deputy Prime Minister appreciated Australia's active engagement under the ASEAN framework and confirmed the high presence of **Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister** at the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit to be held in Australia on 4-6 March 2024 at the invitation of the Australian Prime Minister. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest.

Phnom Penh, 30 October 2023

