



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of Asia-Pacific

PRESS RELEASE

**“Cambodia and Thailand to further Enhance
Partnership for Peace and Prosperity”**

At the invitation of Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Srettha THAVISIN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, paid his first official visit to Cambodia as Head of Government on 28 September 2023. The visit aimed to further strengthen ties of traditional friendship, good neighbourliness, and multifaceted cooperation between the two kingdoms under the spirit of Enhanced Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. His Excellency Srettha THAVISIN underlined that his choice of Cambodia as his first official overseas visit signifies the importance of the ties between the two countries.

During extensive bilateral talks, the two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their firm commitment to elevate cooperation to new heights through regular high-level interactions among leaders, ministries, institutions, and local authorities. They encouraged closer collaboration among relevant authorities to ensure peace, stability and prosperity along the border, transforming it into a border of lasting peace and development.

The two sides reiterated the importance of further intensifying two-way trade and investment. They agreed to instruct relevant authorities to expedite negotiations on a Memorandum of Understanding on Goods in Transit between Cambodia and Thailand to address pending issues with goods transiting from third countries. The two Prime Ministers agreed to task respective relevant authorities to effectively utilize the existing mechanisms and explore more potential opportunities to boost cross border trade to reach the bilateral trade target of USD 15 billion by 2025.



As the majority of the two countries' population are farmers, the two Prime Ministers emphasized the importance of exchange of agricultural expertise, including flood and drought management. On matter related to corn, Prime Minister Srettha THAVISIN proposed the topic to cover the issue of corn in its entirety, not only harvesting. Samdech Thipadei proposed the Thai side to provide greater market access for various Cambodian agricultural products.

The two sides attached importance to the digital economy and green economy in support of socio-economic recovery, poverty eradication, and sustainable development. They welcomed the joint launch of the KH-QR cross-border payment system to promote the use of local currency and facilitate tourism and trade.

In the field of tourism, the two Prime Ministers urged relevant authorities to effectively implement the Joint Action Plan on Tourism Cooperation 2023-2025 and further enhance visitor flows between the two countries and from elsewhere under the slogan "Two Kingdoms, One Destination". Prime Minister Srettha THAVISIN supported Cambodia's proposal for increased flights, particularly focusing on secondary cities.

In the realm of education, Samdech Thipadei expressed deep gratitude to Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the Royal Thai Government and private companies for their continued assistance in developing Cambodian human resources by, among others, establishing the Kampong Chheu Teal Institute of Technology and Kampong Speu Institute of Technology, and providing many scholarships every year. His Excellency Srettha THAVISIN reaffirmed Thailand's role as a strong development partner of Cambodia.

On labour, Samdech Thipadei expressed his appreciation to the Royal Thai Government for taking care of the rights and legitimate interests of Cambodians living and working in Thailand. Prime Minister Srettha THAVISIN emphasized that Cambodian workers play a crucial role in Thailand's economy; thus, we have to take care of their well-being.

In defense and security sector, the two sides committed closer cooperation in preventing and suppressing illegal activities, exchanging and sharing information, joining forces in fighting against transnational crimes, communicable diseases, fake news, and assisting each other in natural disasters relief.



The two Prime Ministers emphasized the importance of continuing demining activities along the border, strengthening safety measures to protect the people and national security.

At the request of Samdech Thipadei, Prime Minister Srettha THAVISIN will take with utmost consideration Cambodia's proposal for a better immigration procedures and border facilitation, and expedite the process of establishing a Consulate General of Cambodia in Songkla Province to expand consular assistance to Cambodian people working and residing in the southern part of Thailand.

After the extensive discussion, the two Prime Ministers took part in a handover ceremony of the "Transit and Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking and Other Vulnerable Groups" in Poipet, Banteay Meanchey Province. The center provides victims of human trafficking with protection and rehabilitation services, including temporary accommodation, food, health care, medical treatment, education, vocational training, and safety life skills without discrimination.

Samdech Thipadei accepted with pleasure Prime Minister Srettha THAVISIN's invitation for an official visit to Thailand at an appropriate time in the near future.

Phnom Penh, 28 September 2023

