



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Department of Information**

**Press Release**

**Outcomes of the 51<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and other Related  
Meetings**

**1-4 August 2018, Singapore**

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His Excellency Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, led the Cambodian delegation to attend the 51<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and Related Meetings in Singapore from 1 to 4 August 2018. The AMM under this year's theme of "Resilient and Innovative" is an important gathering of ASEAN Foreign Ministers to discuss and follow up to ASEAN's efforts in ASEAN Community building and economic integration. This event also provides an opportunity for ASEAN Foreign Ministers to constructively engage their counterparts under different ASEAN-led mechanisms to deepen and enhance ASEAN's external relations.

The Senior Minister, together with other ASEAN Foreign Ministers, made a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore.

The Ministers engaged in substantive discussions and exchange of views on matters relating to regional and international issues of common interest, such as recent development in the South China Sea and in the Korean Peninsula, counter terrorism and violent extremism, maritime security as well as other traditional and non-traditional issues. Throughout the four-day meetings, H.E. Senior Minister made numerous interventions on a number of issues, the key messages of which are highlighted below:

- On the situation in the **Korean Peninsula**, the Senior Minister welcomed the successful conclusion of the two Inter-Korean Summits held in April and May 2018, the three DPRK-China Summits and the historic US-DPRK Summit in June 2018. He recognized that the "*Panmunjeom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula*" and the "*US-DPRK Joint Statement*" marked significant steps in the denuclearisation process on the Korean Peninsula. In line with the views expressed by other Ministers, he encouraged all parties concerned to fully implement the commitments in order to lay the groundwork for the realization of a lasting peace regime and the complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.
- On the **South China Sea**, the Senior Minister recognised that positive developments have taken place with the agreement on a **Single Draft Code of Conduct in the South China Sea Negotiating Text**. He reiterated that ASEAN



and China have demonstrated that trust combined with practical maritime cooperation and credible Early Harvest and Confidence Building Measures can bring positive results. Moving forward with the COC negotiation, he urged all parties to continue adhering to the Bali-Siem Reap spirit.

- While noting the concerns surrounding the growing trade tensions among the major economies, the Senior Minister concurred with a number of Foreign Ministers on the need to conclude the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations by end of this year. He pointed out that the RCEP, which aims to establish a modern, comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial agreement, would act to resist the growing trend of protectionism in the multilateral trading system.
- On the various proposed “Indo-Pacific” concepts, the Senior Minister vigorously stressed on the need to place ASEAN Centrality at the heart of this emerging regional architecture initiative. While acknowledging that the proposed Indo-Pacific concepts are expected to be further discussed in the future, he maintained the position that the initiative should be open, inclusive, complementary to other initiatives and should advance connectivity and cooperation rather than creating competition.
- The AMM took note of the progress on the ASEAN Community building, the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and the IAI Work Plan III. The Ministers reiterated the importance of promoting people-to-people ties, fostering digital connectivity and innovation. On people-to-people connectivity, various views were raised to support initiatives to promote ASEAN identity among ASEAN peoples, to engage ASEAN youth and to enhance dialogue and mutual understanding among youth of different faiths. The Ministers highlighted also the growing use of innovation and technology to improve the lives of the people. They noted that the ASEAN Smart City Network is a good initiative that can provide a platform to synergise development efforts, to share best practices, and to catalyse more opportunities for growth, innovation, capacity-building and inclusive sustainable development.

On the margin of the AMM, there were four separate Mekong cooperation ministerial meetings, namely the 9<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting, the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting-ROK Ministerial Meeting, the 11<sup>th</sup> Lower Mekong Initiative Ministerial Meeting, and the 11<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Japan Ministerial Meeting.

The Senior Minister had also the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with ministers and delegates from various countries, namely, Australia, China, DPRK, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russia Federation, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Thailand and Viet Nam. These bilateral meetings were focused on strengthening bilateral ties and issues of common interests and concerns.

Please read the Joint Communiqué of the 51<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting and the Chairman’s Statements of the relevant ministerial meetings for further information.

Phnom Penh, 07 August 2018

