



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**General Department of Asia-Pacific**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**“Cambodia, Malaysia committed to deepen robust relations”**

At the invitation of **Dato’ Seri Anwar Ibrahim**, Prime Minister of Malaysia, **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, undertook his first official visit to Malaysia on 27 February 2024. The visit aimed to further deepen long-standing relations and productive cooperation in multiple areas between the two countries. **Samdech Thipadei** was graciously welcomed by the Malaysian government and expressed deep appreciation to **Dato’ Seri Anwar** and the Government of Malaysia for the cordial hospitality and excellent arrangements extended to the Cambodian delegation.

During the visit, **Samdech Thipadei** was granted a Royal Audience with **His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong XVII Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar**, the king of Malaysia, and met **His Excellency Senator Datuk Mutang Tagal**, President of the Senate, as well as **His Excellency Tan Sri Dato’ (Dr.) Johari bin Abdul**, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**Samdech Thipadei** had a bilateral meeting with **Dato’ Seri Anwar** in a cordial atmosphere and the two prime ministers assessed the good bilateral cooperation and charted the future course of actions across diverse sectors. These include political, defense and security, trade and investment, tourism, Halal industry, labour, information and communications technology (ICT) as well as food and energy security.

**Both prime ministers** expressed satisfaction with the frequent exchanges of high-level visits and interactions that have significantly fostered relations between



the two countries. **Samdech Thipadei** highly valued the visit of **Prime Minister Anwar** to Cambodia in March last year and his meeting with **Samdech Techo HUN Sen**, then Prime Minister, which yielded fruitful outcomes for the two peoples.

**Samdech Thipadei** and **Dato' Seri Anwar** looked forward to the Third Meeting of the Cambodia-Malaysia Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation to be co-chaired by the two foreign ministers at the earliest convenient date.

To boost two-way trade and investment, both sides have agreed to establish a Joint Trade Committee, aimed at addressing trade issues, identifying trade opportunities and enhancing exports. **The two prime ministers** concurred that the customs agencies of both countries should consider a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in order to facilitate the movement of goods.

**Samdech Thipadei** expressed deep appreciation to Malaysia for sharing Halal industry experience and best practices to help Cambodia to increase exports to Muslim countries. Recognizing the importance of Halal certification, **the two prime ministers** expressed strong hopes for the early conclusion of an MoU or mutual recognition arrangement between the Cambodian Halal Steering Committee and the Department of Islamic Development of Malaysia.

They acknowledged the important role and active engagement of the private sector in promoting trade and investment. They encouraged the private sector to work closely and seek opportunities to invest in the Halal industry and expanding import of agricultural products between the two countries.

Regarding cooperation in tourism, **the two prime ministers** encouraged relevant authorities to collaborate and further promote the two countries, **Samdech Thipadei** recommended Malaysian airline companies to explore new routes connecting renowned tourist destinations in both countries.

On energy, **Samdech Thipadei** expressed sincere appreciation for Malaysia's support for the sub-sea Lao-Cambodia-Singapore power transmission cable, which crosses Malaysia's seabed. He also welcomed the Malaysian private sector's interest in taking part in the project, which will contribute to building the ASEAN Power Grid, a vital project for regional connectivity.



**The two prime ministers** acknowledged the growing importance of ICT, digital cooperation and innovation. They stressed the importance of training and opening up opportunities for Cambodian students in education and vocational training as well as advancing research collaboration in high-tech industries including the EV and AI sectors as part of human resource development.

On education, **both prime ministers** emphasized the importance of cooperation between universities and research institutions in the two countries.

On defence ties, the **two prime ministers** expressed their commitment to strengthen cooperation and increase engagements in training, military exercises and information sharing between the militaries of both countries.

**The two prime ministers** noted the critical importance of enhancing close engagements and timely exchanges of information between law-enforcement agencies combating transnational crimes such as online scams and terrorism. **Prime Minister Anwar** expressed deep gratitude to the Cambodian government for assisting the Malaysian side in resolving the issue of Malaysian victims of job scam syndicates.

**Samdech Thipadei** expressed deep appreciation to the Malaysian Government for taking care of Cambodians working and residing in Malaysia.

**The two prime ministers** encouraged all relevant authorities to work closely to reactivate mechanisms put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic – including finalizing an MoU on Science, Innovation and Technology – and initiate new measures to achieve tangible benefits for the two peoples and nations.

**The two prime ministers** witnessed the signing of an MoU on Cooperation in the Area of Financial Innovation and Payment Services between the National Bank of Cambodia and Bank Negara Malaysia.

Before concluding his visit, **Samdech Thipadei** delivered a keynote address at a Cambodia-Malaysia Business Forum with some 400 participants. He invited companies in Malaysia to consider new frontiers where Malaysia and Cambodia can collaborate to unleash business opportunities and further expand the already large Malaysian business community in Cambodia.



In addition to the MoU between the two central banks, **Samdech Thipadei** also presided over the signing of:

1. MoU between the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce and the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia
2. MoU between the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce and the Malaysian Business Chamber in Cambodia.

The visit marked a significant milestone in government efforts to enhance trade and investment between Cambodia and Malaysia, realize a shared vision of fostering closer ties, and maximize the potential for cooperation in various sectors.

Phnom Penh, 28 February 2024

