



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

Press Release

**Outcomes of the Official Visit of His Excellency Mr. PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, to the Lao's People Democratic Republic and the 13th Meeting of Cambodia-Laos Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation
Vientiane, 21-22 February 2019**

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At the Invitation of His Excellency Saleumxay KOMMASITH, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao's People Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a delegation to pay an official visit to the Lao PDR and to co-chair the 13th Meeting of the Cambodia-Lao Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) from 21 to 22 February 2019 in Vientiane.

Prior to the JCBC Meeting, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn and His Excellency Minister Saleumxay KOMMASITH had a bilateral meeting during which the two Foreign Ministers exchanged information on the recent political development in their respective countries.

Both sides had cordial and in-depth discussions on wide-ranging areas of cooperation at the 13th JCBC Meeting. Noting that trade volume between the two countries has been growing, but still limited, both sides agreed to further facilitate bilateral trade, to accelerate the implementation of the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment and to create the enabling environment for investors to promote investment outflows and inflows between the two countries.

On security matters, both sides agreed to continue sharing and exchanging information regarding prevention of human trafficking and to promote cooperation between the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and Lao People's Army by regular exchange of visits at all levels.



The meeting welcomed the preliminary arrangement of cross-border transport by buses between Cambodia and Lao PDR, especially between Phnom Penh-Pakse and Siem Reap-Pakse. Both sides also agreed to strengthen the civil aviation cooperation in the area of safety, security, air route development and training exchange, and to seek the possibility to increase more direct flights between the two countries.

Both sides also discussed border issue and encouraged the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries to finalize soon the TOR complying with the core contents of the Joint Letter of the two Prime Ministers dated 06 September 2017 addressed to the President of France. They also agreed to raise their people's awareness on the border documents concluded by the two countries and to strengthen cooperation in preventing activities such as illegal migration, illegal trading and illegal border crossing along the border.

The meeting also agreed to enhance cooperation in other fields of cooperation which include education, information, agriculture, tourism, culture, public health, post and telecommunication, law and judicial cooperation and consular cooperation.

Apart from bilateral cooperation, both sides expressed commitment to continue cooperation in sub-regional and regional mechanisms towards sustainable and comprehensive economic integration and connectivity.

At the conclusion of the meeting, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn and His Excellency Saleumxay KOMMASITH signed the Agreed Minutes of the 13th JCBC Meeting and agreed to hold the 14th JCBC Meeting in Cambodia in 2021.

During the visit to the Lao PDR, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn also paid separate courtesy calls on His Excellency Bounnhang VORACHITH, President of the Lao PDR, and His Excellency Thongloun SISOULITH, Prime Minister. In responding to His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn's brief report on the outcome of the JCBC Meeting, the two Lao Leaders highly valued the long standing relations and good neighborhood between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Lao PDR. The two leaders also encouraged both countries to maintain the existing relations of friendship, solidarity, fraternity and to further expand bilateral cooperation for the benefit of both Cambodian and Lao Peoples.

Phnom Penh, 23 February 2019

