

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

## PRESS RELEASE

<del>♦ ≒30(¥)©≒ **6**</del>

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Bilateral Consultation

between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Federative Republic of Brazil

H.E. Ouch Borith, Minister Delegate Attached to the Prime Minister and Standing Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia led a delegation to visit the Federative Republic of Brazil from 29 November to 1 December 2022 to co-chair the First Cambodia-Brazil Bilateral Consultation with H.E. Carlos Alberto Franco França, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Both Ministers discussed wide-ranging areas of bilateral cooperation in particular on diplomatic relation, trade, investment, education, sport, tourism, agriculture, human trafficking, demining and peacekeeping operation. The two sides also expressed their optimistic views that there are many more opportunities for both countries to explore and reap benefits from, as the two countries continue to build stronger diplomatic ties and solidify cooperation in all feasible areas. Both sides had discussed the feasibility of opening resident embassies respectively in Brasilia and in Phnom Penh in the near future.

As the trade volume between the two countries is still modest, H.E. Ouch Borith proposed to have Business Forum organized on the sideline of the next session of Bilateral Consultation in Phnom Penh to expand business-to-business activities.

On education, Brazil is pleased to offer 5 places a year to Cambodian students to study in Brazil. And on agriculture, as Cambodia and Brazil are in tropical climate, both expressed commitment to strengthen cooperation on agricultural sector by sharing technology, training and exchange visits of competent authorities. As for the

Address: No 3, **Samdech HUN Sen** Street, Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkarmon Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia Tel : (855) 23 216 122 Fax : (855) 23 216 124, 023 Email : mfaic@mfaic.gov kl demining and peacekeeping, H.E Ouch Borith encourage Brazil to cooperate with ASEAN and to provide training through the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), which is located in Phnom Penh.

On regional and international issues, the two sides discussed about ASEAN, MERCOSUR, FEALAC, and other matters in both Asia-Pacific and Latin America of common concerns. H.E. Carlos França commended Cambodia efforts for hosting and chairing ASEAN Summits and Related Summits successfully during this geopolitically challenging time, and appreciated Cambodia's support for Brazil as Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN. H.E Borith took good note of Brazil goodwill and commitment to strengthen relationship with ASEAN and to bridge closer cooperation between the two regions.

After the meeting, H.E. Ouch Borith signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the two diplomatic academies with H.E. Carlos França, and visited the Rio Branco Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil.

During the visit, H.E. Ouch Borith was invited to speak at a Seminar entitled: "Brazil and ASEAN" along with Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senators, President of Cultural Foundation of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (FUNAG) and some other diplomatic corps including ASEAN diplomatic community based in Brasilia. In his speech, His Excellency Borith touched on the success outcomes of Cambodia as the ASEAN Chair this year, and on the ways to strengthen relations between Brazil and ASEAN by promoting people-to-people connectivity, boosting trade and investment, enhancing food security cooperation, and collectively working in international peace and security endeavor.

During the stay in Brasilia, H.E. OUCH Borith also held a bilateral talk with Mr. Augusto Pestana, the President of Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (ApexBrasil). His Excellency Minister Delegate briefed President of ApexBrasil on Cambodian strong economic outlooks, speedy post-Covid-19 recovery, free trade agreements, and new and attractive investment law, all of which are favorable to Brazilian investors. Mr. Augusto Pestana expressed appreciation to Cambodian delegation visiting Brasilia and looked forward to expanding business-to-business activities to promote trade and investment between the two countries.

1 December 2022

grasilia.