



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

Press Release

**Outcomes of the 20th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting,
the 9th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the 26th ASEAN Regional Forum
02 August 2019, Bangkok**

His Excellency Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, participated in the following meetings, held on 02 August 2019.

The 20th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting (APT FMM)

The Meeting commended the steady progress in the implementation of the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2018-2022) and the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II selected recommendations, which pave the way towards greater APT integration. It welcomed the progress in the negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and looked forward to its conclusion by 2019 as mandated by the RCEP Leaders. It also exchanged views on the situation in the Korean Peninsula and the rise of trade protectionism.

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn underlined that the APT is the most fully established ASEAN-led mechanisms and further stressed that the widespread circulation of substandard and counterfeit medicine is a major threat to the public health in the region and the world at large. APT needed to come up with preventive measures and must act on it with urgency. The Meeting issued the Chairman's Statement of the 20th APT FMM.

The 9th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting (EAS FMM)

The Meeting underscored the need to further strengthen the EAS to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in response to the rapidly changing regional and international order. It recognized the importance of having free flowing constructive dialogue on strategic issues amongst Leaders at the EAS Summit in order to reinforce strategic trust to address common challenges through practical cooperation, based on mutual trust, mutual benefit and mutual respect.



The Meeting exchanged views on regional and international issues including the situation in the Korean Peninsula; the Rakhine State; Countering Violent Extremism, Radicalisation and Terrorism; and the South China Sea. While on the issue of South China Sea, H.E. Prak Sokhonn recognized the good progress of the COC negotiation which reflects the trust and the confidence that ASEAN and China have played in safeguarding peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn also shared his views on the importance of striking a more balanced discussion between "development cooperation" and "political security aspect" in the dialogue process to ensure that EAS's agenda is more inclusive and progressive in addressing common concerns in the region and the world at large. He also stressed on the need to fully and effectively implementing the Manila Plan of Action so that the EAS cooperation becomes more responsive to the urgent needs of the region such as, economic integration, achieving sustainable development, and enhancing regional connectivity. The Meeting issued Chairman's Statement of the 9th EAS FMM.

The 26th ASEAN Regional Forum (26th ARF)

The Meeting noted that the ARF has been successful in the promotion of peace and stability in the region through enhanced cooperation in various fields through Confidence Building Measure and Preventing Diplomacy. It also reviewed the ARF Inter-Sessional Activities (2019-2020).

On the Korean Peninsula, the Ministers stressed the importance of continued peaceful dialogue amongst all parties concerned in order to realise lasting peace and stability and complete denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula. On the South China Sea, the Ministers reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region. They also recognised the benefits of having the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability and prosperity. The Ministers emphasised the need for enhanced synergy and coordination between the works of the ARF and other ASEAN-led mechanisms.

The Meeting adopted 3 statements, namely; 1) ARF Statement on Aviation Partnership: Soaring Ahead Together; 2) Joint Statement on Promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda at the ASEAN Regional Forum; and 3) ARF Statement on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism. ៩.

Phnom Penh, 04 August 2019.

