



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

**Outcomes of the 19th Meeting of the Cambodia-Viet Nam Joint Commission
on Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (19th JC)**

19 December 2021, via Video Conference

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On 19 December 2021, His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and His Excellency Bui Thanh Son, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, co-chaired the 19th Meeting of the Cambodia-Viet Nam Joint Commission on Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (19th JC) via videoconference.

During the 19th JC Meeting, the two Foreign Ministers expressed their high satisfaction that despite the complicated developments of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cambodia and Viet Nam have maintained close relations and cooperation in every aspect and at all levels. The convening of the 19th JC Meeting amidst this difficult time demonstrated the firm commitments of both countries to further enhance and deepen the bilateral relations and cooperation built upon the traditional friendship, good neighbourliness, long-lasting relationship and comprehensive strategic partnership.

Both sides also shared the view that 2022 will be another significant milestone in the bilateral relations between Cambodia and Viet Nam as the two countries will commemorate the 55th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations and agreed to mark 2022 as the "Year of Friendship between Cambodia and Viet Nam."

The meeting reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Record of Discussion of the 18th JC Meeting in 2020. The two sides also discussed and exchanged views on various aspects of the bilateral cooperation, including political



security, trade and investment, and socio-cultural cooperation. The highlights of the key outcomes of the meeting are as follow:

On Education and Human Resources Cooperation, both sides agreed to sign the Memorandum of Agreement on Education Cooperation for 2021-2025. His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn expressed his appreciation to his counterpart for providing scholarships to Cambodian students and officials to study in Viet Nam and encouraged Viet Nam to provide more scholarships in the field of industrial engineering, ICT, mechatronics, Software Development, Electronic Engineering, Physics, Data Science, Mathematics and STEM education.

On Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Cooperation, both sides agreed to effectively implement the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam on the cooperation in the field of forestry for 2017-2022 as well as accelerate the early signing of a MoU in the field of Sanitary and Phytosanitary.

On Trade Cooperation, despite the pandemic, both sides noted with satisfaction that the two-way trade volume between Cambodia and Viet Nam reached nearly 6 billion USD in 2020, and is projected to reach 8 billion USD in 2021, exceeding the 5 billion USD volume expected by the leaders of the two countries. To maintain this momentum, the two sides encouraged the Ministry of Planning of Cambodia and the Ministry of Planning and Investment of Viet Nam to further promote cooperation in expediting the completion of the Master Plan on Cambodia – Viet Nam Economic Connectivity 2030 by the end of 2022. The Cambodian side also proposed to conclude the feasibility of building border market in 2022. The two sides agreed to further facilitate the goods in transit under the provisions of bilateral, regional and international agreements to which both sides are party, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement which will take effect from 01 January 2022.

On Investment Cooperation, the two sides commended the efforts made by relevant ministries and agencies in coordinating and promoting two-way investment in accordance with the investment laws and relevant regulations of each country as well as agreed to take appropriate measures related to investment facilitation to



mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the economic domain. To boost the bilateral trade and investment, the Cambodian side proposed to establish Cambodia – Viet Nam Special Economic Zones inside Cambodia’s territory along the Cambodia – Viet Nam border.

On **Transportation**, the two sides agreed to continue effectively implementing the MoU between the two countries on Cooperation Strategy in Transport Sector for the Period 2018-2025 and related legal documents as well as to seek opportunity to sign the MoU on the types and Quantity of Commercial Motor Vehicles for the Implementation of the Agreement and the Protocol between the two countries.

On **Tourism Cooperation**, the two sides agreed to encourage the Ministry of Tourism of Cambodia and Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam to work closely to develop the Post-COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Plan and explore the possibility to jointly develop Tourists Packages for Vaccine Passport holders.

For **Public Health**, in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, Cambodia and Viet Nam affirmed to strengthen cooperation in the field of public health, communicable diseases control and non-communicable diseases through the exchange of information, experiences and best practices. Both sides also expressed appreciation for the mutual support, both in finance and medical supplies, in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

On **Security and Combating Crimes**, the two sides agreed to step up coordination in combating criminal offense, drug crimes, economic crimes, trade fraud, money laundering, human trafficking, illegal border crossing, technology crime, illegal logging and timber transportation, natural resource crime, illegal fishing, illegal trade of wildlife, illegal trade in synthetic drugs and chemicals, trafficking and smuggling of weapons and ammunition as well as other cross-border crimes.

Both sides also discussed intensively other cooperation in the areas of Environment, Water Resources and Hydro-metrology, Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, Customs, Industry and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise, Transportation, Post, Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technology, Publishing, Press and Radio-Television Broadcasting, Finance and Banking, Culture and Sports, Labour and Vocational Training, Social Affairs and Development, Border Issues, Record and Archives, and Ethnic and



Religious Affairs, National Defence, Legal and Judicial Matters, Inspection Affairs and Audit, Consular Affairs and Overseas Residents, Local Authorities and CLV-DTA.

The meeting also agreed to speed up the implementation of other pending activities and projects while exploring concrete ways and means to address the unresponsive issues to further improve bilateral cooperation for the mutual interests and benefits for the people of the two countries.

Both sides underlined their commitment to continue supporting each other in regional and international fora, particularly within the ASEAN and the UN frameworks. His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn expressed his high appreciation for His Excellency Mr. Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, who participated in the ASEM13 that was successfully hosted by Cambodia via video conference in November 2021. The Vietnamese side also pledged to fully support Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022 under the theme "ASEAN A.C.T: Addressing Challenges Together".

His Excellency Bui Thanh Son accepted the invitation of His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn to pay an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia in 2022 at the mutual convenience.

The 19th JC Meeting was conducted in a cordial atmosphere of friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding, reflecting the close relations and strong determination of both sides to forge the mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries in the years to come.

Phnom Penh, 21 December 2021

