

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

General Department of Asia-Pacific

PRESS RELEASE

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM PRESIDENT'S STATE VISIT TO THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

His Excellency TO Lam, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam paid a state visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia at the invitation of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM Sihamoni, King of Cambodia on 12-13 July 2024. President TO Lam had separate royal audiences with His Majesty the King and Her Majesty NORODOM Monineath Sihanouk, Queen-Mother of Cambodia and attended a state banquet hosted in his honour. President TO Lam also met with Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, President of the Senate, Samdech Moha Rathsapheathika Thipadei KHUON Sudary, President of the National Assembly and Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The leaders of the two countries highly value the outcome of President TO Lam's first state visit to Cambodia, as it has added great significance to the growing ties of close friendship, comprehensive cooperation, the spirit of good neighbourliness and solidarity between the two nations. The leaders of the two countries noted with satisfaction the steady development of relations and cooperation in all fields at every level between Cambodia and Viet Nam. They expressed their strong commitment to continue deepening and expanding cooperation under both bilateral and multilateral frameworks. They also shared the view that it is important to maintain frequent exchanges of high-level vietts and contacts at all levels.

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They applauded the good cooperation in the fields of **defense and security**. To maintain safety in border regions, they encouraged their relevant armed force units to strengthen collaboration in fighting and preventing crime, including the smuggling of goods and people, drug trafficking and transnational crimes. It was agreed that the scope of Cambodia-Laos-Viet Nam Young Leaders' training programs should be expanded to enhance mutual understanding, friendship and a strong sense of collaboration. It was also concurred that the settlement of the remaining border demarcation work should remain a priority, and that the implementation of all agreements reached should be expedited.

The leaders of Cambodia and President TO Lam praised relevant institutions of the two countries for their active efforts to increase economic exchanges. They highlighted the importance of strengthening connectivity to improve trade, tourism and investment. They agreed to encourage the early opening of the Meun Chey (Prey Veng)-Tan Nam (Tay Ninh) international border checkpoint, as well as the connection of the Phnom Penh-Bavet and the Ho Chi Minh-Moc Bai expressways. They touched on the possibility of establishing more direct flights between Cambodia and Vietnam popular tourist destinations to increase flow of tourists between the two countries. They also urged relevant authorities to intensify dialogues to realize the "three countries, one destination" initiative, under the Cambodia-Laos-Viet Nam cooperation framework.

On energy sector, **Samdech Thipadei** expressed appreciation to Viet Nam for its continued and steady supply of electricity. He thanked the Vietnamese President for supporting Cambodia's proposal for increasing electricity supply to Cambodia, and encourage energy ministers of both countries to meet as soon as possible to discuss consolidating strategic cooperation in energy.

Samdech Thipadei and President TO Lam applauded the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to promote cooperation between the News Agency of Viet Nam (VNA) and Cambodia News Agency (AKP).

Other topics covered during **President TO Lam's** meeting with **Cambodian leaders** includes cooperation in education, cultural and youth exchanges, cooperation under the Mekong River Commission, facilitation of consular issues, and regional issues of common interest and concern.

During his visit, **President TO Lam** received a courtesy call from **Samdech Kittisangahapundit MEN Sam An**, President of the Cambodia-Viet Nam Friendship Association, and met with more than 200 Cambodian alumni from Viet Nam. He also visited the Royal University of Phnom Penh, where he delivered a keynote address to students on promoting awareness of Cambodia-Viet Nam amicable ties.

Phnom Penh. 16 July 2024