



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

Outcomes of the 18th ASEAN-India Summit

28 October 2021, via Videoconference



The Summit expressed satisfaction with the progress of the multi-faceted and dynamic ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations and looked forward to the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations in 2022, including the designation of 2022 as the "ASEAN-India Friendship Year".

The Summit underscored the importance of multilateralism, regionalism and adherence to international law in contributing to global and regional peace, stability and prosperity. The Leaders reiterated the importance of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), which serves as a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the wider Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean, and welcomed opportunities to promote practical cooperation with India in the four areas outlined in the AOIP.


The Summit expressed support for the ASEAN-India Business Council's (AIBC) active role in promoting private sector engagement regarding economic cooperation and providing opportunities for ASEAN youths to undertake internship and training programmes at Indian companies operating in the region, especially in the context of digital transformation.

The Leaders of ASEAN and India also emphasised the importance of strengthening ASEAN-India connectivity cooperation as well as exploring synergies between the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and India's connectivity strategies under India's Act East Policy.



The Leaders reaffirmed the commitment to enhance collaboration in addressing the unprecedented challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerating the post-pandemic recovery process for both ASEAN and India. The Leaders of ASEAN and India also concurred to accelerate cooperation in key areas such as digital economy and green economy, science and technology, innovation, climate change, transnational crime and cybersecurity, and encourage joint activities to support sustainable development efforts.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister welcomed India's proposal to designate 2022 as the "Year of ASEAN-India Friendship" to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. He emphasized on the importance of building regional trust through practical cooperation in line with the objectives and principles of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, and expressed support for the adoption of the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the AOIP.

As part of the efforts to boost trade and economic recovery, **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** encouraged both sides to make efforts to simplify the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) and make the agreement more open. **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** also expressed appreciation for India's contribution of USD 1 million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund and encouraged India to support ASEAN regional integration and the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Workplan IV (2021-2025), with emphasis on connectivity and digital education. 



Phnom Penh, 28 October 2021