

Kingdom of Cambodia
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

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Department of Information

Press Release

**Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn joins other ASEAN Foreign Ministers
in preparations for the 34th ASEAN Summit
22 June 2019, Bangkok**

In preparations for the 34th ASEAN Summit, H.E. Mr. **Prak Sokhonn**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, participated in three meetings on 22 June 2019, namely the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM), the 19th ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council Meeting and the 23rd ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) Meeting.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM)

At the AMM, the Foreign Ministers discussed ASEAN community-building and external relations as well as exchanged views on regional and international developments. The Meeting endorsed the ASEAN Leaders' vision statement on partnership for sustainability and the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific and noted the Concept Note and TOR for the Network of ASEAN Association of ASEAN Member States.

On ASEAN community-building, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn emphasized the importance of the Vision which reflected the ways in which ASEAN could progress and prosper base on sustainable partnership.

On ASEAN external relations, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn underlined that ASEAN should strive to ensure that all partners continue to respect ASEAN centrality in all ASEAN-led mechanisms and supported ASEAN agenda and its aspiration for regional peace, stability and prosperity.

On the South China Sea issue, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn reiterated that ASEAN is on the right track in ensuring South China Sea remains as a "Sea of peace". ASEAN and China should continue to work closely together to ensure trust building and confidence in making substantial headway towards the conclusion of an effective COC. He also shared his view that we need to sustain this positive

momentum if we were to conclude it by 2021. Thus, it is of paramount importance that AMS and China continue to uphold the “Bali-Siem Reap Spirit”, which stresses on flexibility and mutual compromise.

On terrorism and transnational crime, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn underlined Cambodia’s commitment to work with other ASEAN member states to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The 19th ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council Meeting

The Meeting agreed with the ASEAN Secretary-General’s request to include ASEAN Center for Military Medicine as subsidiary body under the ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) under Annex 1 of ASEAN Charter and also adopted the report of the APSC Council to the 34th ASEAN Summit.

The 23rd ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) Meeting

The Meeting adopted 1) the Questionnaire for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Pillar’s Fact-Finding Mission to Timor-Leste; and 2) the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the ASCC Pillar’s Fact-Finding Mission to Timor-Leste. The Meeting also endorsed the Appointment of Mr. Robert Matheus Mechael Tene, Indonesian, as the New Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs.

Phnom Penh, 23 June 2019.