



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Statement
by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
on the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting
14 June 2016, Kunming, China

His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, led Cambodian delegation to attend the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting held on 14 June 2016, in Kunming, the People's Republic of China.

The Meeting was co-chaired by His Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, and His Excellency Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China.

During the Meeting, the Foreign Ministers had extensive discussion on the ASEAN-China Relations, its future direction and the preparation for the Commemorative Summit to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations as well as the South China Sea issue.

On the ASEAN-China dialogue relations, the Foreign Ministers recognized the remarkable achievements made over the past 25 years. Looking ahead, the Foreign Ministers agreed to enhance and bring the ASEAN-China cooperation to the next level on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual benefits and shared responsibility in the interest of achieving national and regional prosperity in the 21st Century. His Excellency Senior Minister highlighted that Cambodia valued the strong bond of friendship, close partnership and fruitful cooperation between ASEAN and China, which have made the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations one of the most meaningful and substantive partnership among all the ten dialogue partners of ASEAN.

The Foreign Ministers emphasized that the year 2016 is a landmark year as the ASEAN Member States and China celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ASEAN-China Dialogue

Relations. They also noted the commemorative activities, which have been carried out by ASEAN and China throughout the year. In this regard, His Excellency Senior Minister informed the Meeting that Cambodia would host 3 commemorative activities, namely the 2nd ASEAN-China Youth Exchange Visit, the ASEAN-China Joint Cultural Performance and the ASEAN-China Young Entrepreneur Forum in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

On the South China Sea issue, the Foreign Ministers had a frank and candid discussion on the recent developments on the ground and emphasized the crucial need to enhance mutual trust and confidence and to uphold peaceful resolution of disputes.

Concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and consultation on the Code of Conduct (COC), His Excellency Senior Minister raised that the provisions contained in the DOC have not been fully implemented by all parties and called for the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety. He also underscored the important need to move forward the substantive consultation and negotiation on the COC. In this context, the Foreign Ministers agreed on the importance of the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety with a view to maintain peace, security and stability in the region and agreed on the early adoption of an effective COC, through increasing frequency of ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting and the Joint Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC.

The Foreign Ministers reiterated the importance of establishing the MFA-to-MFA Hotline Communication to manage maritime emergencies in the South China Sea and considered the proposal for a Code of Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES) for the naval vessels in the South China Sea, which both are seen as deliverables for the upcoming ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit in September 2016 in Laos.

His Excellency Senior Minister emphasized that South China Sea issue is very complex and sensitive that requires proper ways and approaches to address. He also reiterated Cambodia's position that territorial and jurisdictional disputes should be resolved peacefully by parties directly concerned, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

Phnom Penh, 16 June 2016

