

Remarks by H.E. Mr. PRAK Sokhonn
Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
On the Occasion of Signing Ceremony of the Agreement between the
Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the ARMAC
on Hosting and Granting Privileges and Immunities to the ARMAC

At the ARMAC Headquarters, 27 February 2018



**His Excellency Ambassador Michael Tan of the Republic of Singapore and
the Chair of ARMAC Steering Committee
Excellency Ambassadors
Mr. Ly Panharith, Executive Director of ARMAC
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning!

1. Let me start by saying that after we together celebrated the inauguration of this Headquarters on 25 May 2016, this is indeed another historic moment for the ARMAC that His Excellency Ambassador Michael Tan and I just signed the Agreement on Hosting and Granting Privileges and Immunities to the ARMAC. It is a great honor for me for being here with you all.

2. I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all of you for spending your precious and busy times to witness the important event this morning. Let me say a few words on this occasion.

3. First, I would highly appreciate the great efforts of all ASEAN Member States, Members of Steering Committee of the Center, and relevant Ministries and agencies of Cambodia to finalize this Hosting Country Agreement. I also commend the hard work of our Executive Director, Mr. Ly Panharith, and all of staff for very good arrangement and achievements since you assumed your post in October 2017.

4. Second, allow me to repeat a little bit history of ARMAC. Cambodia is equipped with one of the best and most diverse facilities for operations, and possesses training, research, and development (R&D) facilities in mine action and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Under the UN framework, Cambodia has sent more than 4,000 peacekeepers since 2006 to join various UN peacekeeping missions, especially in the field of humanitarian demining and UXO clearance. That is why **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister

of the Kingdom of Cambodia, came up with the initiative to establish the Center during Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2012.

5. In moving forward, Cambodia still stands ready to continue assisting the Center as I strongly believe that all ASEAN Member States are at the same position. Doing so, ARMAC could discharge its full mandate with regard to ERW-addressing efforts, and promoting awareness of the dangers of unexploded ordnance and explosive remnant of war within our region, where our people can benefit from it and live in peace, stability, security and prosperity.

6. After the signing of this Agreement, I do hope that the Center would play more active role to coordinate with all relevant stakeholders and other mine-action operators and regulators in Cambodia, as well as with regional and international institutions, including the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), to mobilize resources and implement activities for the sake of saving life of the people in our region and beyond in other countries.

7. Of course, the Agreement is extremely providing the ARMAC with a more formal cooperation, particularly between the Center and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, into a full and effective operationalization. However, more works ahead to be done. We must bring this message to the people of ASEAN that we are critical to the wellbeing of our peoples.

8. Last but not least, once again, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all ASEAN Member States, especially our former Chair, the Philippines for kind support and commitment to ARMAC. I am strongly confident that under the able Chairmanship of Singapore, ARMAC's roles and functions will be further strengthened and will be able to secure sufficient financial resource for its long-term sustainability.

9. I am confident that with our concerted efforts, the Agreement we signed will deliver the benefits as it promises.

10. On this auspicious moment, I would like to invite Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, to join me in a toast:

- To celebrate the success and achievements for ARMAC; and
- To the good health and success of Your Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen here present.

I thank you!