

Outcomes of the Meeting between

His Excellency Mr. **Ouch Borith**, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Standing Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Her Excellency Ms. **Marianne Hagen**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway

On Tuesday afternoon, 25 February 2020, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr. **Ouch Borith**, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Standing Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Her Excellency Ms. **Marianne Hagen**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway, held a series of frank exchanges on host issues related to the bilateral relations, regional and international subjects of mutual interests.

His Excellency **Ouch Borith** also briefed Her Excellency **Marianne Hagen** about the situation of economic, social and political development in Cambodia, and underlined the long-standing relations and fruitful cooperation between Cambodia and Norway in many areas ranging from frequent political contacts to human resources development, administration, health, social and rural development to mine clearance and Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). In addition, he informed her about the upcoming 13th ASEM Summit scheduled to be held in Phnom Penh on 16-17 November 2020 under the theme "Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth".

In response, Her Excellency **Marianne Hagen** reaffirmed Norway's commitment to continue providing assistance to Cambodia in the areas of de-mining and the ECCC and highlighted that Norway has spent approximate 50 million (Norwegian Krone) annually in bilateral assistance to Cambodia, focusing on good governance, human rights, education, health and social services, economic development, and trade, including 3 million (Norwegian Krone) to the ECCC.

She also stressed that Norway is not the member of the European Union, and that Norway has no such a plan to exclude Cambodia from its GSP Scheme. Her Excellency **Marianne Hagen** also reiterated that Norway has substantially allocated 720 million Krone (approximately 80 million US dollars) to micro finance sector through Innovation Development Finance Institution to enable small and medium enterprises to create business in the country.

In relation to the upcoming ASEM Summit, Her Excellency **Marianne Hagen** assured that Norway's high-level delegation will attend the Summit; and emphasized that like Cambodia, as a small nation, Norway values multilateral system in dealing with regional and international issues.

At the conclusion of the meeting, both sides signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway, which will be used as a concrete platform to further strengthen cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

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