



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Outcome of the First Meeting of Cambodia-Bangladesh Joint Commission  
Dhaka, 27 February 2020**

The First Meeting of Cambodia-Bangladesh Joint Commission was held on 27 February 2020 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was co-chaired by Her Excellency Eat Sophea, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, and His Excellency Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The meeting was held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding reflecting common aspiration to promote closer relations between the two countries in bilateral and multilateral frameworks. Both sides briefed each other on the current political and socio-economic progress and goals of their respective country and noted with satisfaction the progress in bilateral cooperation following the exchange of visits between the Prime Ministers of Cambodia and Bangladesh. They agreed to make full use of the agreements signed between the two countries to promote bilateral cooperation and to maintain frequent high-level visits, and also the exchanges between the parliamentary friendship groups of the two countries. They shared the views on the significance of the mutual naming of a prominent road in Dhaka and Phnom Penh after His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, the late King-Father of Cambodia and Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, for enhancing friendship between Cambodia and Bangladesh.

On economic relations, both sides expressed satisfaction with the increasing trend of bilateral trade and investment, and agreed that the full potential of comparative advantages and complementarities of the two countries should to be capitalized to



expand bilateral trade and investment. They also agreed to encourage the relevant institutions of both sides to hold Working Group meetings to chart action plans for collaboration in agriculture and aquaculture, labour and vocational training, tourism, culture, ITC, SDG implementation and cooperation in defence training and preservation of war history and relics. To this end, both sides stressed the need for early signing of the Air Services Agreement between the two countries, paving the way for a direct air linkage to boost connectivity and people-to-people exchange.

Apart from bilateral cooperation, both side expressed commitment to strengthen cooperation and enhance mutual support in regional and international frameworks, including the World Trade Organization, UNESCAP and other UN agencies, Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and ASEAN, in order to contribute to peace, security, harmony and sustainable development. The Cambodian side expressed high appreciation that Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit hosted by Cambodia in November this year.

Both sides also exchanged views on the challenges of climate change and the issue of the displaced people from Rakhine state. Taking note of the views and proposals expressed by the Bangladesh side, the Cambodian side affirmed Cambodia's support for the expansion of the ASEAN's role through the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the AHA Centre in facilitating humanitarian assistance and safe repatriation process. Cambodian side pledged to work closely with all relevant parties and development partners, through ASEAN mechanisms, to ensure an effective repatriation process and sustainable development in Rakhine State.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the co-chairs of the First Cambodia-Bangladesh Joint Commission Meeting signed the Agreed Minutes of the Meeting and a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, which is expected to convene the first meeting in 2021.





During this visit, Her Excellency Eat Sophea co-presided with His Excellency Md. Tazul Islam, Honorable Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives of Bangladesh, over the inauguration ceremony of “King NORODOM SIHANOUK Road” located in the diplomatic enclave of Dhaka. She also met with Lieutenant General Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman, Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division of Bangladesh and Lieutenant General Sheikh Mamun Khaled, Commandant of the National Defense College of Bangladesh, when she visited the two institutions.

The Cambodian delegation expressed sincere appreciation to the Bangladesh side for the warm hospitality extended during their stay in Dhaka and agreed with the Bangladesh side to hold the Second Meeting of the Cambodia-Bangladesh Joint Commission on Promoting Bilateral Cooperation in 2022 in Cambodia.

Phnom Penh, 03 March 2020

