

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Department of Information

Press Release

Outcomes of the Official Visit of

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, to the Czech Republic on 13-14 October 2019

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, successfully concluded his official visit to the Czech Republic on 13-14 October 2019. He held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, in a warm and friendly atmosphere, reflecting the long-standing and close bilateral relationship developed by the great leaders of the two countries.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister emphasized that His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM SIHAMONI, King of Cambodia, had played an important role in further fostering the warm relationship of friendship and cooperation of the two peoples. On behalf of the Government and people of Cambodia, he expressed his deep gratitude for the invaluable assistance of the Government and the people of the Czech Republic extended to Cambodia during the most difficult time after the liberation of the country in 1979.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister offered his warm congratulations to the Czech Republic for its economic success as one of the fastest growing economies in the region with low unemployment rate. He had firm conviction that under the wise leadership of His Excellency Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, the people of the Czech Republic would continue to enjoy peace, progress and prosperity.

The Prime Ministers of the two countries reviewed with satisfaction the development of Cambodia-Czech relations and the progress made in recent years for the mutual interest of the two peoples and were committed to further deepening the ties and

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strengthening their cooperation in political, economic, trade, tourism, health, mines, energy, agricultural and cultural fields.

The two Prime Ministers exchanged views and agreed to enhance cooperation on regional and international issues of mutual concern. Both leaders acknowledged the importance of upholding multilateralism and international cooperation for peace and integration for sake of global development.

The two leaders attached great importance to fostering bilateral trade cooperation and noted with pleasure the rising trade volume between the two countries in the last few years. To maximize the cooperation in this sector, the two sides tasked the Ministries of Commerce of the two countries to look at possibility of signing agreement on economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries in the near future.

Both sides also stressed the significant role of the private sectors in economic development and encouraged close collaboration between the Chamber of Commerce of Cambodia and the Chamber of Commerce of the Czech Republic in fully exploiting economic potentials and business opportunity of both countries.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister expressed his sincere appreciation to the Government and the people of the Czech Republic for the debt settlement and conversion of debt into development grants for Cambodia. The signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Development Cooperation last year between Cambodia and the Czech Republic demonstrated the desire of both countries to strengthen ties of friendship and continue development cooperation in the interest of mutual benefit of the two peoples.

Recalling the historical, economic and cultural ties based on friendship, cooperation, mutual trust and understanding between the two countries, both sides agreed to draw an overall plan to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2021.

Prime Minister Andrej Babiš extended his commendation for Cambodia's commitment to peace and stability, under the leadership of Samdech Techo Prime Minister, which has allowed the country to focus on sustainable socio-economic development. He expressed his firm conviction that Cambodia would realize the goal of graduating to "upper-middle-income country by 2030 and high-income country by 2050". Concerning the process of withdrawal of a preferential treatment (Everything but Arms - EBA) by the European Commission, he reckoned the instrument of tariff preferences as a highly efficient assistance provided to developing countries, and hoped that such a

measure by the European Commission will not have to come and that Cambodia would demonstrate positive progress in the field of human rights.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister briefed his counterpart on the current political situation in Cambodia and pointed out that the attempted colour revolution or coup in Cambodia would be doomed to failure. The Government would take the legitimate and necessary actions to strengthen the rule of law and to defend peace, stability in Cambodia for the sake of national interests. He underlined Cambodia's firm commitment to pluralism, democracy and respect of human rights within the rule of law.

Both leaders welcomed the signing of three documents on the sidelines of this official visit, which aims to further promote cooperation in the spheres of health, business and diplomacy. They include the MoU on Cooperation between the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Cambodia and VAMED HEALTHPROJECTS CZ, S.R.O., the MoU between Chamber of Commerce of Cambodia and Czech Chamber of Commerce and the MoU on Cooperation between The National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister expressed his deep appreciation to His Excellency Prime Minister Andrej Babiš as well as the Government and the people of the Czech Republic for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to him and members of his delegation during their stay in Prague.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister extended a cordial invitation to His Excellency Prime Minister Andrej Babiš to visit Cambodia at his convenience. His Excellency Prime Minister Andrej Babiš accepted and thanked Samdech Techo Prime Minister for the kind invitation. The dates of the visit would be communicated through diplomatic channels.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister called on His Excellency Jaroslav Kubera, President of the Senate of the Czech Republic. Samdech Techo Prime Minister praised the good bilateral legislative relation of the two countries, and encouraged the two bodies to further strengthen their cooperation at various regional and global fora.

Phnom Penh, 16 October 2019.