



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Department of Information**

**Press Release**

**Outcomes of the participation of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN,  
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia,  
at the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits  
2-4 November 2019, Bangkok/Nonthaburi, Thailand**

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Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, attended the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits which were held under the theme "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability" in Bangkok/Nonthaburi from 2 to 4 November 2019. The main outcomes and highlights are as follow:

**The 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit**

The Leaders noted with satisfaction the progress of the ASEAN Community building and reiterated the importance of promoting partnership for sustainability within ASEAN in order to build an inclusive people-centered community. They also stressed the need to further boost ASEAN's dialogue and partnership with the international community to ensure a prosperous and outward-looking ASEAN that plays a constructive and proactive role in the promotion of international cooperation and the revitalization of multilateralism.

On the political-security pillar, the Leaders reaffirmed the importance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as the key code of conduct governing inter-state relations in the region and a foundation for the maintenance of regional peace and stability. They also were committed to addressing both traditional and non-traditional security challenges. The Leaders also exchanged views on regional issues of common interest and concern. They reaffirmed their support for a more visible and enhanced role of ASEAN to support Myanmar in providing humanitarian assistance, facilitating the repatriation process, and promoting sustainable development in Rakhine State. The Leaders also underscored the importance of exploring possible areas of cooperation with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners in supporting the regional grouping's activities, including the prioritised projects in Rakhine State to facilitate the repatriation process.





On the South China Sea issue, the Leaders are encouraged by the continued consultation and improved cooperation between ASEAN and China and welcomed the commencement of the second reading of the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text in October 2019 toward the conclusion of an effective and substantive COC in accordance with international law. They emphasized the need to maintain an environment conducive to the COC negotiations and welcomed practical measures that help reduce tensions, the risk of accidents, misunderstandings, and miscalculation. On the Korean Peninsula issue, they urged all concerned parties to resume peaceful dialogue and continue working towards the realisation of lasting peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.

As far as the economic pillar is concerned, the Leaders reiterated their commitment to make ASEAN a more connected and integrated region. They looked forward to more initiatives to address the Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) in the region. As for the socio-cultural pillar, the Leaders highlighted the importance of human capital development as a critical element in driving competitiveness, prosperity and resilience for a sustainable future.

The Leaders underscored the importance of advancing their partnership with Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners, Development Partners, and other external parties through the steady implementation of various plans of action. With Cambodia's coordinatorship for ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue relations, the Meeting also agreed to organize the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations in early 2020 in Viet Nam.

The Meeting also discussed about Timor Leste's requested membership to ASEAN. The Leaders appreciated Timor-Leste's strong political aspiration to join ASEAN and reaffirmed their commitment to continue supporting Timor-Leste's development through, among others, additional capacity building assistance. **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** expressed his strong support for Timor-Leste's participation in the ASEAN family once the necessary assessments and procedures are completed in accordance with the ASEAN Charter. He also urged early conclusion of the fact-finding missions of all the three pillars in early 2020.

On ASEAN's future direction, **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** recommended that ASEAN should attach high priority on addressing the issues of non-tariff barriers, making greater efforts in improving trade facilitation through legal and regulatory frameworks, and consistently promoting human resource development especially through vocational education and skills training. Externally, ASEAN should make good use of "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific" in its relations with the external partners to support "ASEAN Community Vision 2025" through win-win cooperation and the principles of mutual trust, respect, and benefit.

The 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit adopted six documents, namely: 1) ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; 2) Declaration on the Protection of Children from All forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN; 3) ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration; 4) Bangkok Declaration on Advancing Partnership in Education for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in ASEAN; 5) Joint Statement on Reaffirmation of Commitment to Advancing the Rights of the Child in ASEAN; and 6) ASEAN Leaders Declaration on ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance.





## **The 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-China Summit**

The Leaders were pleased to note of a strong, stable and mutually-beneficial ASEAN-China relationship of which their Strategic Partnership remained one of the key pillars of peace, stability, prosperity and sustainability in the region.

The Meeting discussed future directions to strengthen the Strategic Partnership and the realisation of the ASEAN-China Strategic Vision 2030. The Meeting took note of the progress of negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea. The Leaders determined to further maximizing benefits from the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) and agreed to explore the cooperation on blue economy. Both sides reiterated their support for a rules-based multilateral trading system, and collaboration to enhance regional connectivity through synergies between the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). In addition, Leaders also welcomed the launch of the ASEAN-China Young Leaders Scholarship Programme this year.

Addressing the Meeting, **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** underscored that Cambodia is pleased with China's endeavor to strengthen cooperation with ASEAN in the area of connectivity through synergies between MPAC 2025 and the Belt and Road Initiative. He emphasised that ASEAN and China should further strengthen cooperation on trade, investment, tourism and technology exchanges, and stressed that Cambodia supports the building of ASEAN-China Partnership on Blue Economy in accordance with the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership Vision 2030.

The Summit adopted three documents, namely: 1) Joint Statement on Strengthening Media Exchanges and Cooperation between ASEAN and China; 2) ASEAN-China Leaders' Statement on Smart City Cooperation Initiative; and 3) ASEAN-China Statement on Synergising the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and the Belt and Road Initiative. The Meeting also designated 2020 as the ASEAN-China Cooperation on Digital Economy Year.

## **The 16th ASEAN-India Summit**

At the Summit, the Leaders noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action of the ASEAN-India Partnership (2016-2020) and looked forward to a new Plan of Action (2021-2025). They emphasized the importance of further strengthening ASEAN-India connectivity cooperation to advance the implementation of the MPAC-2025.

The Meeting expressed appreciation for India's Act East Policy and continued support for ASEAN-led regional architecture, including the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific. The Leaders discussed cooperation to counter terrorism, violent extremism, and transnational crimes, as well as cooperation to promote maritime security and cyber security.

On economic cooperation, the Leaders aimed to increase trade value between India and ASEAN to 200 billion USD by 2022. With regards to connectivity, the Meeting





reiterated its support for the expansion of ASEAN-India connectivity, especially the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the air transport agreement.

On socio-cultural cooperation, the Meeting expressed its appreciation for India's initiative to provide 1,000 PhD scholarships to ASEAN students in the area of technology. The Meeting also discussed cooperation on youth and women empowerment, human capital development, smart cities network, as well as cooperation to address transboundary environmental challenges, climate change, and disaster management.

Addressing the Summit, **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** expressed his appreciation to India for the continuous support in the connectivity sector which has provided additional momentum to the MPAC 2025. He also commended India for the support for human resource development and called on India to continue providing capacity building programmes in the area of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

### **The 10th ASEAN-UN Summit**

The Leaders recognised the instrumental role of the UN in ensuring multilateral approaches. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership, and noted the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Meeting reviewed progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations 2016 - 2020.

ASEAN and the UN reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen collaboration in countering terrorism and violent extremism, preventive diplomacy, cooperation through the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, disaster management, climate change, and environmental conservation. The United Nations expressed appreciation for ASEAN's continued contribution in the United Nations' peace-keeping operations and ASEAN's efforts to promote the role of women in peace and security. In addition, the Meeting also discussed cooperation in realizing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and promoting cooperation through the newly-established ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD).

**Samdech Techo Prime Minister** stressed that ASEAN and the UN should collaborate closely to increase synergy between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and should effectively implement the ASEAN-UN Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change 2017-2020. He highlighted Cambodia's active contribution to the United Nations Peacekeeping operation in Africa and the Middle East, where 6,278 Cambodian peacekeepers including 315 female forces have been dispatched since 2006.

**Samdech Techo Prime Minister** also called upon the UN to support the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) to further enhance its capability to undertake its mission in addressing the humanitarian aspects of the issues of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in the region and beyond.





## The 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit

The Leaders noted the progress of APT cooperation and discussed the future direction of APT. The Meeting acknowledged the significance of strengthening strategic trust in the region, reiterated support to maintain a rules-based multilateral trading system including the early conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). In addition, they supported the initiative to connect the connectivities and the implementation of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM). The Meeting also discussed cooperation on MSMEs capacity building, digital economy and smart cities.

The Meeting discussed cooperation on human capital development, people-to-people exchange, environmental protection, disaster management and the control of communicable diseases. The Meeting also launched the ASEAN Plus Three website that will raise the APT public awareness and provide valuable information on the progress of the APT framework.

In addition, the Meeting exchanged views on regional developments, such as the situation in the Korean Peninsula, the upcoming ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit and the 1<sup>st</sup> Mekong-ROK Summit later this month. The APT Leaders agreed to strengthen dialogue and cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues as articulated in the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022. They exchanged views on the Korean Peninsula issues and reassured their support for further enhancing regional economic integration and adopted the APT Leaders' Statement on Connecting the Connectivities Initiative.

**Samdech Techo Prime Minister** expressed deep concerns over the negative impact to the region caused by trade tension and global economic slow down. He underlined Cambodia's full support for an open, transparent and rules-based multilateral trading system and emphasized the need to conclude the negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). **Samdech Techo** stressed Cambodia's support for the Joint Statement of the 8<sup>th</sup> APT Health Ministers Meeting held on 30 August 2019 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. He also called upon all APT countries to forge their cooperation in the area of health and welfare including the strengthening of law enforcement on combatting falsified and substandard medicine.

The Meeting adopted the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Connecting the Connectivities Initiative.

## The 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-US Summit

The Leaders noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-US Plan of Action (2016-2020) and looked forward to the development of a new Plan of Action (2021-2025).

The Meeting expressed appreciation for the United States' contribution to regional development and support to the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP). The Special Envoy of the President of the United States of America also conveyed the US President's invitation to ASEAN Leaders to attend a Special Summit in the United States in 2020.





The Meeting noted the importance of upholding an open, transparent, and rules-based multilateral trading system. Both sides support further enhancement of regional connectivities through synergies between the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025), Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), and the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI), which marks its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The Meeting discussed cooperation on disaster management, climate change, people-to-people exchange, women and youth empowerment, and exchanged views on regional developments, such as the situation in the South China Sea and the Korean Peninsula.

On behalf of **Samdech Techo Prime Minister**, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **Prak Sokhonn** thanked the US for its contribution to the ASEAN integration and encouraged the US to further support the implementation of the MPAC 2025 and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III. He commended the new technical assistance programme of ASEAN-USAID Inclusive Growth in ASEAN through Innovation, Trade, and E-Commerce 2019-2023 (IGNITE). He called for the US to continue supporting human resource development for ASEAN youth and encouraged the US to increase the number of participants in various programmes, particularly the Young Southeast Asian Leader Initiative (YSEALI).

### **The 14<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit**

The EAS seeks to build strategic trust and confidence, and supports constructive dialogue, and a rules-based approach to address traditional and non-traditional security challenges, such as transnational crimes, counter terrorism, human trafficking, disaster management, cyber security and maritime cooperation. They also exchanged views on the situation in the Korean Peninsula, the situation in Rakhine State and the South China Sea.

The Meeting observed the trend in trade protectionism and discussed the promotion of multilateralism, free trade, and economic integration. The Meeting exchanged views on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), infrastructure development and connectivity, digital economy, information and communications technology (ICT) and innovation, and sustainable fisheries. The Leaders also discussed on dumping of toxic waste, cooperation on climate change, protection of maritime environment and disaster management.

**Samdech Techo Prime Minister** encourages the EAS to focus more on cooperation that would promote people's well-being and sustainable development. He also suggested that EAS member countries focus on economic integration based not only on free but also fair trade policies with special attention to least developed countries. Discussing on various regional initiatives, he reiterated that Cambodia is fully committed to any initiative that benefits regional connectivity, strengthens unity and enhanced ASEAN Centrality.

The Summit adopted three documents, namely: 1) EAS Leaders' Statement on Combating the Spread of Illicit Drugs; 2) EAS Leaders' Statement on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime; and 3) EAS Leaders' Statement on Partnership for Sustainability.





## The 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit

ASEAN Leaders congratulated Japan on the enthronement of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito and the new Reiwa era. They also expressed their sympathy in solidarity to the government of Japan and the victims of the tragic disaster from Typhoon Hagibis.

The Meeting appreciated Japan's continued support for ASEAN centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the regional architecture, as well as Japan's contribution to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration. The Meeting discussed ways to strengthen the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership and discussed complementarities between Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) Strategy and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

Leaders also discussed on the synergy between Japan's Quality Infrastructure Initiative and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. The Leaders stressed the importance of enhancing links and synergies between MPAC-2025 and other connectivity initiatives. They also adopted the Joint Statement of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit on Connectivity.

The Meeting supported the conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and recognized the importance of developing a digital infrastructure as well as preparations for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

The Meeting also exchanged views on regional issues, such as the situation in the South China Sea and the Korean Peninsula.

**Samdech Techo Prime Minister** expressed his appreciation to Japan for the continuous support in strengthening ASEAN regional connectivity. He praised Japan for the steady implementation of the "The Third Action Plan for the ASEAN Integration Initiative 2016-2020", which has led to the reduction of the development gap among ASEAN member countries. **Samdech Techo** emphasized that Cambodia fully endorse Japan's initiative for an establishment of "The ASEAN-Japan Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Dialogue".

## The 3rd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

The Meeting welcomed the conclusion of the RCEP negotiations and the commitment to sign the RCEP Agreement in 2020 in Viet Nam.

15 of the RCEP participating countries concluded text-based negotiations for all 20 chapter texts, and essentially all their market access issues. India has decided it will not sign onto the agreement. The other 15 countries have agreed to resolve the few outstanding market access issues by the end of the year. RCEP will significantly contribute to an open, inclusive and rules-based international trading system and expansion of value chains. To mark the progress, the Meeting issued a Joint Leaders' Statement on RCEP Negotiations.





### **The 11th Mekong-Japan Summit Working Dinner**

At the Summit, the Leaders appreciated the progress of the Mekong-Japan Cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to further promote cooperation for the sustainable development of the Mekong region under the “Tokyo Strategy 2018”.

The Leaders of the Mekong countries welcomed Japan’s official status of becoming an ACMECS development partner (2019-2023) and reaffirmed their commitment to support the synergy between ACMECS and the Mekong-Japan Cooperation.

**Samdech Techo Prime Minister** emphasized that industry connectivity is the fundamental foundation for the fast-evolving Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), which can bring about tremendous benefits for the emerging digital economies in the Mekong region. He welcomed the rebranding of the existing Forum for the Promotion of Public-Private Cooperation in the Mekong Region into a new Mekong-Japan Business Forum.

The Summit adopted 2 main documents, namely: 1) the Joint Statement of the 11<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Japan Summit and 2) the Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030.

On the sidelines of the Summits, **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** held bilateral meetings with **H.E. Dmitry Medvedev**, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, and **H.E. Li Keqiang**, Premier of the People's Republic of China, to discuss bilateral and multilateral cooperation. He also briefed his counterparts about Cambodia’s major political and economic developments.

**Samdech Techo Prime Minister** also had a breakfast meeting with **H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc**, Prime Minister of Viet Nam, and **H.E. Thongloun Sisoulith**, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR. He also attended the Special Lunch on Sustainable Development, and witnessed the signing of MoU to promote cooperation between ASEAN and FIFA to foster the development of national leagues in ASEAN to meet with international standards. Q.

Phnom Penh, 06 November 2019.

