

VISIONS of CAMBODIA

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**ASEAN
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ASEAN A.C.T.:
Addressing Challenges Together

ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE 26 FEBRUARY 2022

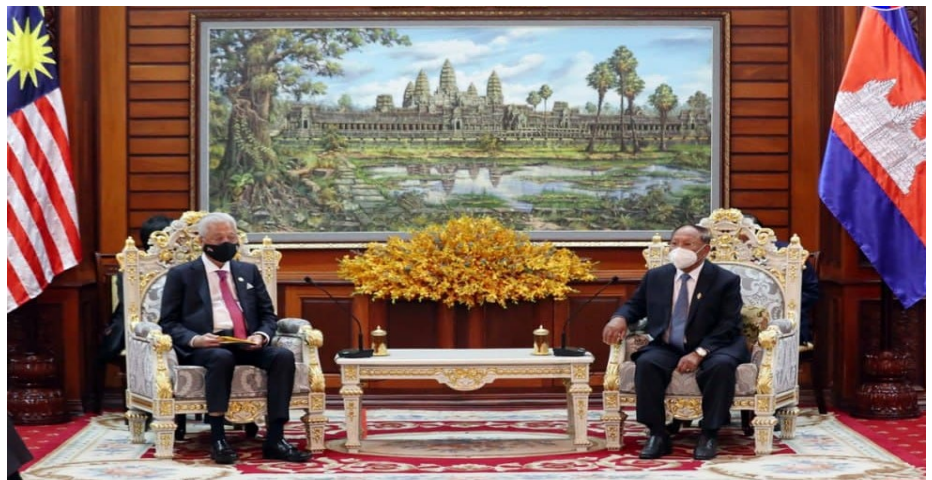
1. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers are deeply concerned over the evolving situation and armed hostilities in Ukraine. We call on all relevant parties to exercise maximum restraint and make utmost efforts to pursue dialogues through all channels, including diplomatic means to contain the situation, to de-escalate tensions, and to seek peaceful resolution in accordance with international law, the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.
2. We believe that there is still room for a peaceful dialogue to prevent the situation from getting out of control. For peace, security, and harmonious co-existence to prevail, it is the responsibility of all parties to uphold the principles of mutual respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and equal rights of all nations.

OUTCOMES OF OFFICIAL VISIT OF DPM PRAK SOKHONN TO GERMANY

At the invitation of Her Excellency ANNALENA BAERBOCK, Minister for External Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, paid an Official Visit to the Federal Republic of Germany on 23 February 2022, the first in twenty-five years since the last exchange of visits in January 1997 to further promote the excellent relations of friendship and expand across-the-board cooperation between the two countries.

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NA SUPPORTS MULTI-SECTORAL COOPERATION BETWEEN CAMBODIAN-MALAYSIAN LEGISLATIVE BODIES



Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly (NA) of Cambodia, has expressed the NA's satisfaction and support for the multi-sectoral cooperation between the legislative bodies of Cambodia and Malaysia.

While receiving the courtesy visit from visiting Prime Minister of Malaysia H.E. Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob at the NA Palace in Phnom Penh on 24 February 2022, Samdech Heng Samrin noted with satisfaction the good cooperation between the two governments, both in the regional and international frameworks, especially in the ASEAN framework.

The Cambodian NA president commended both governments for establishing bilateral agreements and MoUs to pave the way for mutual support mechanisms on regional and international arenas, and encouraged for more bilateral cooperation in accordance with the current global developments.

Samdech Heng Samrin also laid stress on the good cooperation between Cambodian and Malaysian executive bodies through mutual support on regional and international scenes such as ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and so on.

Besides, he asked the Malaysian side to further boost investment, trade and tourism from Malaysia to Cambodia and to continue supporting Cambodian human resource training.

For his part, H.E. Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob thanked Samdech Heng Samrin for promoting the cooperation between the two countries' parliaments through the Cambodia-Malaysia Parliamentary Friendship Group.

He also briefed the Cambodian NA president on the outcomes of his meeting on 24 February 2022 with Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, during which both sides agreed to strengthen and expand the cooperation in key areas, including economy, trade, IT, and cybersecurity.

H.E. Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob arrived on 23 February 2022 for a two-day official visit in Cambodia. A part from Samdech Techo Hun Sen and Samdech Heng Samrin, the Malaysian leader was granted a royal audience by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, and paid a courtesy call on Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei Say Chhum, President of the Senate.

DPM PRAK SOKHONN: GREATER ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE TO REDUCE RISKS OF CONFLICTS

Greater economic interdependence will reduce the risks of conflicts, and as such countries need to deepen further intra- and inter-regional economic cooperation.

The remark was underlined by Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Prak Sokhonn while attending the Ministerial Forum for the Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific in Paris, France on 22 February 2022, at the joint invitation of H.E. Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, who is holding the presidency of the European Council, and H.E. Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, according to a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

As one of the panelists, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn, in his capacity of the chair of ASEAN, commended the conclusion of the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement, and looked forward to the future realisation of the ASEAN-EU Free Trade Agreement. He encouraged more efforts to be made to tap the benefit from the entry into force of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and concrete linkage between the Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Global Gateway of the EU.

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister also shared perspectives of ASEAN in shaping the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) believing that the Outlook may provide platform to accommodate complementarities among various versions of the Indo-Pacific strategies to materialise the common objectives in preserving peace, stability and bringing prosperity to the people.

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister opined that both the EU and ASEAN see multilateralism as an instrument for peace and development, in light of the fast-changing global landscape, including geopolitical rivalries and other complex regional hot spots, the COVID-19 pandemic, and climate change.

He expressed satisfaction on the enhancement of the ASEAN-EU strategic partnership and looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit this year to mark the 45th anniversary of Dialogue Relations.

Touching on issues of concern in terms of regional peace and security, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister also briefed the forum on the development in Myanmar, the intention of the icebreaking visit made by Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen to Myanmar in early January,



and pragmatic approaches of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair in furthering the implementation of the Five Point Consensus.

The Ministerial Forum for the Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific brought together Foreign Ministers of EU Member States and some 30 countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

At the plenary session, panelists touched on various aspects of the Indo-Pacific from the viewpoints of European Union, ASEAN and countries in the Indo-Pacific. Panelists shared common concern about the binary view of the world that leads to confrontation, rivalries and tension. Panelists suggested that there are areas that Europe and countries in the Indo-Pacific can join hands to provide alternative to shape orders that are multilateral, rule-based and open for the benefit of peace, security, stability and prosperity.

In that regard, ASEAN is recognised as one of the central actors in the Indo-Pacific, and views were raised that ASEAN and Europe should make efforts to find complementarities and synergies between the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), and the European Union's Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, especially in tangible cooperation areas such as connectivity, sustainable development, digital transformation, climate change, economic recovery, health security, maritime cooperation and biodiversity protection.

The Plenary session was followed by three roundtables on connectivity and digital technology, global challenges (climate, biodiversity, oceans, health), and security and defence issues. H.E. Deputy Prime Minister attended the roundtable on security and defence, in which he reiterated Cambodia's position in modernising Ream naval base for the purpose of national defence that is strictly in line with the Constitution

OUTCOMES OF OFFICIAL VISIT ...

During the visit, His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn held official talks with Her Excellency ANNALENA BAERBOCK focusing on bilateral ties, cooperation with ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific region, the situation in Myanmar and in Ukraine, and climate change among others.

On behalf of the Royal Government and the People of Cambodia, His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn deeply valued the high quality of these relations as reflected by the exchange of high level of visits and the recent signing of the Joint Declaration of Intent on Bilateral Consultations between both Ministries of Foreign Affairs on last 26th January and the First Consultations held in Phnom-Penh on that day.

His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn also conveyed deep thanks for the continuous generous assistance extended by Germany since the time when Cambodia was building peace in 1992 totaling 580 million Euro, including 53 million Euro under the Technical Cooperation Agreement for the time frame 2021-2022, and the support of 14 million Euro to the COVID-19 Emergency Response of the Royal Government. His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn underlined that currently almost 90% of Cambodia's citizens had been vaccinated throughout the country. Her Excellency ANNALENA BAERBOCK was impressed by these achievements and expressed the willingness of Germany to forge international cooperation to eradicate the pandemic world wide.

Cambodia looks forward to work closely with Germany to combat climate change and highly appreciates its support to develop a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in cooperation with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ).

Cambodia is committed to increase renewable energy to 25 % of the national integrated energy sources by 2030 and to become carbon neutral by 2050.

The Ministers exchanged views on regional and international issues of interest and concern to their respective two regions:

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USAID DIGITAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LAUNCHED

A new US\$15 million USAID-funded initiative that will give young Cambodians the skills to compete in the digital economy was launched on 23 February 2022 in Phnom Penh by Minister of Education, Youth and Sports H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron and U.S. Ambassador H.E. W. Patrick Murphy.

The University of California at Berkeley will implement the five-year "USAID Digital Workforce Development project" along with Cambodian partner institutions, said a press release of the USAID AKP received on 23 February 2022.

According to source, the project will improve the digital skills of Cambodia's youth and professionals so the country will improve its competitiveness in a global economy that is increasingly technology-reliant and requires a digitally skilled labour force.

The new activity will work with Cambodian higher education institutions to strengthen courses and programmes for students in the area of information and communication technology, said the press release, pointing out that it will also help those institutions meet recognised educational standards so that employers can recruit Cambodian graduates, with confidence.



Scholarships and networking opportunities will be a priority for the new project so that Cambodian students and youth can build their skills and find the job opportunities that match their education.

The project will also bridge Cambodia's private sector and local universities by creating job opportunities through internships in collaboration with the private sector. The project will put a high priority on inclusivity, to ensure that youth from all backgrounds can access the opportunities it will offer.

SOME 220 CAMBODIAN PEACEKEEPERS DISPATCHED TO CENTRAL AFRICA

A total of 219 Cambodian blue beret troops of the Engineering Division Unit 432, including 28 women, have left for their UN peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic.

Seeing them off at the Phnom Penh International Airport on 20 February 2022, H.E. Gen. Sem Sovanny, Director General of the National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces, Mines and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance (NPMEC), underlined that this is another pride for Cambodia.

This is the 8th mission, and the Engineering Division Unit 432 will contribute to the peace building in conflict-stricken countries like their previous counterparts, he said.

On the same day, 204 peacekeepers of Engineering Division Unit 576 returned home after successfully completing their one-year mission under the UN umbrella in the Central African Republic. They were warmly welcomed upon their arrival by H.E. Gen. Sem Sovanny.



Since 2006, Cambodia has deployed more than 7,000 peacekeepers, including over 500 women for 11 missions in nine countries: Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, the Central African Republic, Cyprus, Lebanon, Mali, Syria, and Yemen.

OUTCOMES OF OFFICIAL VISIT ...

On Myanmar, both sides agreed on the necessity to implement the 5PC to help bring back normalcy to this country. In this connection, Her Excellency ANNALENA BAERBOCK, Minister for External Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, has expressed support for Cambodia as the Chair of ASEAN and for the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair who has envisioned a visit to Myanmar to advance the implementation of the 5PC; namely in finding common ground to ending violence, providing humanitarian assistance and creating a conducive environment to start a dialogue among all parties concerned. She expressed the willingness of her country to join in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the People of Myanmar.

While discussing the situation in Ukraine, Her Excellency ANNALENA BAERBOCK stressed the importance of solidarity and partnership between G7 and ASEAN. Both sides emphasized the crucial significance of securing world peace and maintaining the rule of law in international affairs as the fundamentals for international cooperation and shared prosperity.

Both Ministers have expressed their profound satisfaction at the exchange of mutual support for their respective candidatures in international bodies.

The meeting was held in an excellent atmosphere of warm friendship and mutual understanding and support.

SOME 130 SPECIES OF WATERFOWL SPOTTED IN TAKEO AND KAMPOT

A total of 130 species of waterfowl have been spotted at protected areas in Cambodia's provinces of Takeo and Kampot.

The news was unveiled recently by BirdLife International Cambodia Programme, adding that 78 species of the birds were discovered at Takeo's Boeung Prek Lapov protected area and 52 others at Kampot's Anlung Pring protected area.

Among the birds, there are some endangered species including Yellow Breasted Bunting and Cranes, continued the source.

To date, about a thousand of yellow breasted buntings remain at Boeung Prek Lapov protected area.

HOLLYWOOD ACTRESS ANGELINA JOLIE SUPPORTS THE WOMEN FOR BEES PROGRAMME



Ms. Angelina Jolie, a well-known Hollywood actress, paid a working visit to Angkor Park from 20-21 February 2022 and attended the official launch of the Women for Bees programme in collaboration with UNESCO, according to a news release of the APSARA National Authority. The beekeeping programme, facilitated by APSARA National Authority, aims to conserve *Apis cerana* and *Apis dorsata*, the native honey bees to Angkor Park as well as promote sustainable beekeeping and empower women to earn a living for their families and communities, it underlined.

It should be noted that Angelina Jolie is the Godmother of UNESCO-GUERLAIN "Women for bees" sponsored by the famous French perfume company "GUERLAIN", it added.

During the mission, the same source pointed out, Ms. Angelina Jolie also visited Angkor Wat and with this significant presence, she also helped to promote the Angkor site to the world, especially during the COVID-19 crisis to prove that Cambodia is a safe tourist destination.

APSARA NATIONAL AUTHORITY ORGANISING NEW VISITING CIRCUIT AT NEAK PEAN TEMPLE

APSARA National Authority has been organising a new visiting circuit at Neak Pean Temple in Siem Reap province to provide visitors with a safe, comfortable, new visiting experience, according to the authority's news release issued on 18 February 2022.

Mr. Seng Sotheara, Deputy Director of the Angkor Tourism Development Department, said that the new visiting circuit will be divided into three categories, including:

"Tour in the temple: will take tourists to visit all four corners of the temple in the shape of a cross, as well as capture beautiful pictures of the temple.

Tour outside the temple: a new tour that the team of APSARA National Authority spends time researching and preparing. This tour will allow tourists to explore the structure of the island with the temple in the centre, as well as the natural scenery and animals that are present here, as well as visit the temple.

Boat Tour: In order to improve the livelihood of the people in Angkor and to consider the environment, this is a special tour that not only helps the activities of the boat tourism community but also revives the temple. At this point, it means that the eastern and western ports of Neak Pean will be reopened, as tourists will begin their visit by boat from the east port of Preah Khan to the west port of Neak Pean. To go up, they will start visiting the temple and leave the temple through the east port to continue by boat to the Krang Krouch Nursery Station and Ta Som Temple."

Mr. Seng Sotheara also confirmed that tourists who are disabled in wheelchairs are also considered a safe way to visit and take pictures of the temple.

The above proposal will be submitted to experts and heads of the APSARA National Authority to check and evaluate the approval before proceeding after the construction of the bridge to Neak Pean Temple is completed, underlined the news release.

