

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

ISSUE 92: 01-15 April 2022

## CAMBODIA'S FOREIGN POLICY DEPENDS ON LAWS AND UN CHARTER



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, reiterated on 28 March 2022 the country's stance in international relations.

"Cambodia's foreign policy depends on laws and UN Charter," the Prime Minister underlined at the inauguration ceremony of Cambodia-Korea Friendship ENT Building of Preah Ang Duong Hospital.

"Cambodia strongly opposes the use of forces or the threat of using forces from a country against another country. We respect the independence and sovereignty of all nations," he reaffirmed. "We have to respect the UN Charter and world order."

At the same time, Samdech Techo Hun Sen rejected any interpretations on Cambodian foreign policy that are not released by His Majesty the King, the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva.

## CAMBODIAN, PAKISTAN LAUD BILATERAL PEACEKEEPING COOPERATION

Cambodia and Pakistan laud the progress and are committed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in peacekeeping.

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## CAMBODIA, OIF HIGHLIGHT IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC, TRADE AND INVESTMENT COOPERATION



Cambodia and the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) have laid stress on the importance of tightening the economic, trade and investment cooperation between both sides.

The remarks were made during a meeting on 29 March 2022 between Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and visiting H.E. Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary General of OIF.

According to H.E. Eang Sophalleth, Assistant to the Cambodian Prime Minister, H.E. Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo told Samdech Techo Hun Sen of her visit, the purpose of which is to strengthen the economic, trade and investment cooperation between the two sides, adding that the visit is a starting point for cooperation in the future.

The OIF secretary general also briefed the Prime Minister on the outcome of the meeting between investors from 24 French-speaking countries and Cambodian investors.

In reply, Samdech Techo Hun Sen congratulated the success of the meeting between investors, underling that economy, trade and investment are the core point of cooperation between Cambodia and other French-speaking countries as well as between ASEAN and OIF.

The Prime Minister thus asked both sides to cooperate in creating more opportunities to grasp the potential to strengthen and expand not only their cooperation, but also their political ties because good relations on economic, trade and investment sectors will make the political relations closer.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen took the opportunity to inform H.E. Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo that as the ASEAN Chair, what he wants is the promotion of implementation of ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) so that the economic, trade and investment movement and travel corridor in ASEAN will resume as normal.

H.E. Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo, who led the first Economic and Trade Mission of La Francophonie in South-East Asia, arrived in Phnom Penh on 26 March 2022 for an official visit in Cambodia until 30 March 2022, at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

## CAMBODIAN, PAKISTAN LAUD...

The positive move was revealed during a recent meeting between Samdech Pichey Sena Tea Banh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence, and H.E. Zaheeruddin Babar Thaheem, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Cambodia in Phnom Penh.

Samdech Tea Banh reaffirmed his optimism that H.E. Zaheeruddin Babar Thaheem's diplomatic mission in Cambodia will grease the targeted cooperation advancement.

The two senior officials also discussed exchange visits and a cooperative memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of National Defence of both countries.

H.E. Zaheeruddin Babar Thaheem expressed his appreciation of Samdech Tea Banh's warm



hospitality and looked forward to close work cooperation with Cambodia.

## DPM PRAK SOKHONN'S MESSAGE ON OCCASION OF MEKONG-LANGANG COOPERATION WEEK 2022

H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia has sent a message on the occasion of the celebration of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Week 2022.

The full message reads as follows:

"On this auspicious occasion of the 6th Anniversary of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC), on behalf of the Royal Government and People of Cambodia, I am delighted to extend our warm wishes to the Peoples of the Mekong-Lancang countries for their good health, happiness and prosperity. I am indeed honored to share my personal message on this annual 'MLC Week 2022'.

First and foremost, we have to recognize the growing importance of the Mekong-Lancang region as a 'growth pole' in our dynamic Asia Pacific region, thanks to its geostrategic significance, economic weight, and enormous market potentials. Our close collaboration and solidarity over the past six years have enabled the MLC to sustain our development momentum, reinforce our economic complementarity and strengthen our people and cultural links, which are all the fundamental elements to build a more open, inclusive and sustainable community of shared future of peace and prosperity.

We have just concluded successfully our Plan of Action (2018-2022) and we are prime to work



on our next phase of cooperation with focus on a people-oriented development agenda. To secure our new sources of growth amidst the rapidly evolving global and regional economic conditions, we look to the realization of the Mekong-Lancang Economic Development Belt and the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor to further boost and deepen our regional integration efforts. We are mindful that our developmental needs will place a strain on our natural resources and so we will combine our joint efforts to cooperate on the sustainable management of our water resources and on the management of our flood, drought and other extreme weather events.

I am also pleased to see the complementarities of the MLC with other Mekong sub-regional mechanisms, in particular the ACMECS and Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), to drive to our sub-regional transformation and our ASEAN community building efforts.

## DPM PRAK SOKHONN'S MESSAGE...

Through the MLC Special Fund, Cambodia has benefited from 67 projects amounting to more than 20 million USD that support a broad range of cooperation activities in the field of rural development, poverty alleviation, water resources, agriculture, air connectivity, education, cultural heritage preservation, as well as women empowerment, among many others.

Against the backdrop of a COVID-19 pandemic and global health crisis, Cambodia values China's commitment through the establishment of the Mekong-Lancang Public Health Community and its leading role in providing medicines, medical supplies and millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccines in a timely manner to the Mekong countries. Such contribution, in particular to Cambodia, have led to the success of our national vaccination campaign where we could secure a vaccination coverage rate of over 92% and reopen our country to the rest of the world. These accomplishments, among others, are strong testimonial of the efficacy and relevance of the MLC framework.

As Cambodia holds the ASEAN Chairmanship this year, the MLC mechanism will certainly contribute its strong development component to ensure that ASEAN will continue to thrive in the true spirit of a Community of Shared Future."

## OUTCOMES OF THE FIRST VISIT OF ASEAN CHAIR'S SPECIAL ENVOY TO MYANMAR

The following are the outcomes of the first visit of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from 21 to 23 March 2022.

### PRESS RELEASE

**Outcomes of the First Visit of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on 21-23 March**

**"The Special Envoy calls for the end of violence, delivery of humanitarian assistance and dialogues among parties"**

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## OUTCOMES OF THE FIRST VISIT OF ASEAN CHAIR'S ...

On 21-23 March 2022, **H.E. PRAK Sokhonn**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia paid his first working visit to Myanmar, in his capacity as the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar. The mission was accompanied by **H.E. Kittti Settha Pandita Cham Prasidh**, Senior Minister, Minister of Industry, Science, Technology, and Innovation, and **H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi**, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

The primary objectives of the visit are to (1) follow up on the outcomes of **Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen's** visit to Myanmar on 7-8 January 2022, (2) facilitate the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus (5PC), which was agreed at the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on 24 April 2021, and (3) deliver humanitarian assistance to the people in need in Myanmar.

**H.E. Deputy Prime Minister** paid a courtesy call on **H.E. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing**, Chairman of the State Administration Council (SAC). The discussion covered the current development in Myanmar; the Special Envoy's mandate, positions and priorities; and the importance of the effective and timely implementation of the 5PC, including trust and confidence building, inclusive dialogue, and humanitarian efforts to Myanmar. The Special Envoy called for the implementation of three priorities, namely the cessation of violence, continued provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar and dialogues among all parties.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **H.E. PRAK Sokhonn** had a bilateral meeting with **H.E. Wunna Maung Lwin**. The Special Envoy stressed the importance of the three priorities mentioned above and emphasized the need for expediting humanitarian assistance to those most in need in Myanmar to ensure social well-being, stability, and development. **H.E. Wunna** expressed Myanmar's necessary support and cooperation for the fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Envoy to manifest more progress towards achieving a lasting solution in this regard.

At the meeting with the Task Force on ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance headed by **H.E. Ko Ko Hlaing**, the Special Envoy informed him that Cambodia is working in close consultation with ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat, and ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), as well as other partners, to expedite humanitarian assistance, including COVID-19 vaccines, to Myanmar, in a fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory manner. In response, **H.E. Ko Ko Hlaing**

demonstrated the Task Force's openness in working to address the pressing humanitarian needs in Myanmar. They looked forward to further discussions on the proposal to convene a "Consultative Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar" in late April where all stakeholders will exchange views on effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to those most in need without discrimination.

As the last programme of the first day of the visit, **H.E. PRAK Sokhonn** met **H.E. Lt.Gen. Yar Pyae**, Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Committee (NSPC), during which the Special Envoy expressed his readiness to facilitate mediation of the dialogue and stressed the importance for all parties involved to accept the ceasefire, end all acts of violence, and exercise utmost self-restraint on the use of military forces, to de-escalate hostile atmosphere and build enabling environment for a constructive political dialogue among all parties to resolve the issue. The Special Envoy also shared Cambodia's experience and lessons learned in pursuing national reconciliation and lasting peace while hoping that Myanmar could engender an inclusive political solution that is Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led in returning to normalcy. In this regard, **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister** was commended for his role as Special Envoy and genuine intention to build political trust and confidence among parties concerned during this critical juncture, which are key to enabling inclusive dialogue on peaceful, practical, and sustainable ways and means to address the issue. He was also encouraged to work with the Myanmar authority to engage all relevant parties for the peace process in Myanmar. **H.E. PRAK Sokhonn** also touched on the repatriation of refugees from Rakhine State by requesting the Myanmar authority to accelerate the process on the return of those refugees.

As for the second day of the visit, the Special Envoy had a meeting with the UN Specialized Agencies to exchange views and make assessments on the delivery of humanitarian relief as well as a working dinner with ASEAN Ambassadors/representatives, whereby the attendees comprehensively exchanged views on the ground

## UN APPRECIATES CAMBODIA'S MINE CLEARANCE ACHIEVEMENTS

The United Nations have spoken highly of the achievements of Cambodia in mine clearance, providing safe land for the people and contributing to supporting peace and development in the country.

**H.E. Ms. Pauline Tamesis**, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cambodia, made the appreciation while paying a farewell visit to Senior Minister and First Vice President of Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) **H.E. Ly Thuch**, in Phnom Penh on 28 March 2022.

The outgoing UN resident coordinator pledged to continue to participate with the Royal Government in mine clearance operations and to mobilise more resources to support Cambodia to achieve its goal of becoming a mine-free nation by 2025.

**H.E. Ms. Pauline Tamesis** also highly valued the Royal Government's attention and clear vision in adding mine action as an 18th goal to its localised version of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to key policies for national development.

For his part, **H.E. Ly Thuch** thanked **H.E. Ms. Pauline Tamesis** for her friendship, partnership and good cooperation with the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia, as well as for her support for the peacekeeping process and mine clearance activities during her four-year mandate in the Kingdom.

## CAMBODIA, EUROCHAM DISCUSS MINE ACTION COOPERATION

Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) and the European Chamber of Commerce of Cambodia (EuroCham Cambodia) have discussed a cooperation on mine clearance in Cambodia.

The discussion took place at the CMAA headquarters on 23 March 2022 between **H.E. Ly Thuch**, Senior Minister and First Vice President of CMAA and **Mr. Tassilo Brinzer**, Chairman of EuroCham Cambodia.

**H.E. Ly Thuch** informed **Mr. Tassilo Brinzer** about the progress made by the Royal Government of Cambodia on mine clearance activities through assistance from development partners and countries.

**H.E. Ly Thuch** encouraged the EuroCham Cambodia to focus its potential demining support in Kampong Cham province.

The president of EuroCham Cambodia highly valued the achievement of the Royal Government of Cambodia on mine clearance activities and expressed his interest to support the work.

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## OUTCOMES OF THE FIRST VISIT OF ASEAN CHAIR'S ...

situation and discussed efforts to support the implementation of the 5PC in order to realize the immediate priorities which are to end violence and ensure the delivery of humanitarian relief to those in need, including COVID-19 vaccines.

**H.E. PRAK Sokhonn** also took the opportunity to meet some ASEAN's partners to receive briefing on the current situation in Myanmar and exchange views on the issues related to ending violence, political dialogue and humanitarian assistance. The Special Envoy also informed them about the objectives of the visit and shared with them several priorities that ASEAN will undertake to safeguard life and livelihood of the people of Myanmar. **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister** also look forward to their strong support for the implementation of the 5PC.

During his visit to the Myanmar Red Cross Society Warehouse in Yangon, the Special Envoy encouraged the **Myanmar Red Cross Society** to continue their coordination efforts with the AHA Centre in the delivery of medical supplies and equipment to communities across Myanmar.

The visit was undertaken amicably and productively with meaningful outcomes, which reflects Myanmar's support for Cambodia's efforts in moving forward the implementation of the 5PC and serves to strengthen regional stability as well as the credibility, unity, and centrality of ASEAN and its community building process. **H.E. PRAK Sokhonn** expressed appreciation for Myanmar's support for the Special Envoy's missions, including this first visit and subsequent ones. **All parties involved** looked forward to positive development regarding efforts to resolve the current crisis in Myanmar, including the implementation of the 5PC.

Phnom Penh, 23 March 2022

## CAMBODIA, A SAFE AND WARM TOURISM DESTINATION

Cambodia is a Safe and Warm Tourism Destination and has been reopened for vaccinated travellers without quarantine, the Ministry of Tourism underlined in an announcement dated 23 March 2022.

In addition, the announcement continued, the Royal Government of Cambodia has officially decided to reopen the Visa On Arrival Service, waiving the requirement for the Negative 72-hour certificate of COVID-19 PCR Test Result prior to arrival in Cambodia and waiving the requirement for Antigen Rapid Test upon arrival for all fully vaccinated national and international travellers entering Cambodia by air, land and sea started from 17 March 2022.

The removal of unnecessary barriers and good management have resulted in an increasing number of domestic and international tourists in the first two months of 2022, and the direct flights to Cambodia has also increased significantly, the ministry noted.

The Royal Government of Cambodia, under the wise leadership of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister, has launched a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination campaign with a great success, and as of 22 March 2022 achieving up to 92.46 percent of the total 16 million population, it pointed out.

At the same time, the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, has issued the "Tourism Safety Measure" along with the strict implementation of the "Safety Rule-3 Dos and 3 Don'ts" and "Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)" for business-based and all kinds of tourism services.

## APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION TO FOREIGNER WORK PERMIT CARD'S VALIDITY PROLONGED TO MAY 31

The application for extension to the validity of Foreigner Work Permit/Employment Card for 2022 has been extended until 31 May 2022 without fines for foreigners who have Foreigner Work Permit/Employment Card for 2021.

The notification was announced by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training on 28 March 2022, after noting that a large number of foreigners who have Foreigner Work Permit/Employment Card for 2021 have not applied for extension to their card due to the situation of ongoing spread of COVID-19 in the world in 2022, especially the new Omicron variant.

New foreigners who come to work or carry out any occupation in the Kingdom of Cambodia must complete documents duly in accordance with the law, it underlined.

"The Ministry strongly hopes that all owners or directors of factories, enterprises, companies and foreigners will comply with this notification in a correct and highly effective manner," said the announcement.



The Ministry of Tourism took the opportunity to invite all international tourists to visit "Cambodia's Tourism Destinations – Safe and Warm" by participating in the implementation of the 3 Dos and 3 Don'ts and urge the tourism associations, private sectors and relevant institutions for a joint promotion of our safe and warm destination, making new tour packages and strengthening strong collaboration and networking with local and international partners to attract more international visitors to "Cambodia – Kingdom of Wonder, Safe and Warmth".