

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

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## ASEAN CHAIR JOINS 43RD AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S OPENING CEREMONY



As the ASEAN Chairman for 2022, Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen attended on 21 November 2022 the opening ceremony of the 43rd General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA-43) under the theme “Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient ASEAN”.

Addressing to the opening ceremony, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said the theme of AIPA-43 is relevant and appropriate, which will contribute to inspiring a sense of shared responsibility to respond to regional and global development in a timely manner as well as accelerating ASEAN socio-economic recovery toward common prosperity.

“ASEAN has come a long way and is globally recognised as a core community of regional architecture. As the rotating Chair of ASEAN in 2022 under the theme ‘ASEAN A.C.T: Addressing Challenges Together’, Cambodia is indeed proud to have navigated ASEAN in addressing difficult challenges facing our region and making significant achievements to expedite the building process of ASEAN Community in accordance with ASEAN’s core spirit of: One Vision, One Identity, One Community’,” he said.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also mentioned about the success of Cambodia as the ASEAN Chair in hosting the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, with support from ASEAN member states.

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## AIPA VOWS TO STRENGTHEN AND ENHANCE COOPERATION



ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) on 21 November 2022 was committed to enhance and strengthen cooperation on maintaining stability, security, sustainability and resilient development, and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in the region and the world.

The commitment was made in the First Plenary Session of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly in Phnom Penh, chaired by Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Cambodia and Chair of the 43rd AIPA.

In the meeting, the AIPA delegation from each participating parliaments made their statements, emphasising that the 43rd AIPA will allow delegation to hold discussions and dialogues that provide excellent results in enhancing the role of AIPA.

They also stressed the significance of the parliamentary role in promoting regional cooperation, maintaining stability, security, economy, investment, tourism and socio-economic recovery in the post Covid-19.

AIPA delegations also highlighted the importance of enhancing cooperation, closer engagement between regional parliaments and dialogue partners, and deepening cooperation to respond more effectively to regional and global challenges.

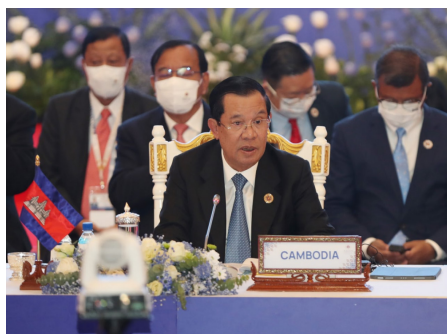
In their statement, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN H.E. Tran Duc Binh and AIPA Secretary-General H.E. Ms. Nguyen Tuong Van spoke highly of the cooperation of AIPA, which has led to the development in the region, and urged AIPA to continue holding a series of talks and discussions to address the regional and global challenges to build a community with shared future.

The AIPA will begin the second round of the First Plenary Session at 4:00.

Themed “Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient ASEAN”, the 43rd AIPA General Assembly is taking place from 20-25 November 2022.

AIPA members include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. But this year's assembly groups only eight parliaments. Malaysia is not taking part due to weekend elections and Myanmar is not attending amid a political and humanitarian crisis.

## PM: CAMBODIA NO RIGHT TO ASSIGN A REPRESENTATIVE AT G20 SUMMIT AND APEC DIALOGUE



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has made a clarification to some misunderstanding over the return of the whole Cambodian delegation from the G20 Summit in Indonesia without a representation.

In a special voice message shared on 16 November 2022, Samdech Techo Hun Sen explained that Cambodia is neither a member of G20 nor a member of APEC, it was invited because it is the ASEAN Chair; therefore, it has no right to assign a minister or Deputy Prime Minister as its representative.

Cambodia has coordinated with Indonesia, that had received the ASEAN chairmanship gavel, to represent ASEAN, he added.

Moreover, he continued, all the Cambodian delegates, about 40 of them, were on the same flight. "Even though no one got infected with COVID-19 (besides me), it could pose a concern for the host Indonesia, that is why I decided that the whole delegation must return home and to hand over the [ASEAN] representation to Indonesia," he underlined.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen took the opportunity to confirm his good health. "It is now more than 24 hours since my last (voice) message. Now my health is normal. I eat and rest normally," he affirmed.

The Prime Minister stressed that what make him very happy is that all leaders who left Cambodia for the G20 Summit in Indonesia or return to their respective countries have been tested negative for the virus.

"Therefore, we can confirm that Cambodia received guests with safety, security and without COVID-19 infections, which provide favorable conditions for Cambodia to successfully host the ASEAN Summits and Related Summits," the Cambodian Prime Minister emphasized.

## AUSTRALIAN PM PRAISES ASEAN CHAIR OVER RELEASE OF PROFESSOR TURNELL

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia, has appreciated Cambodia, the ASEAN Chair, for having lobbied for the release of Professor Sean Turnell, former economic policy advisor to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

"I do want to thank ... our ASEAN friends, in particular, PM Hun Sen of Cambodia who has chaired ASEAN and has kept the pressure on ... But other friends in ASEAN, who've been so consistent about the need to release Professor Turnell," the Australian Prime Minister was quoted as saying at a press conference in Bangkok, Thailand on 17 November 2022.

Professor Sean Turnell has been recently released along with other political prisoners including Mr. Kyaw Tint Swe, former Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor; Mrs. Lei Lei Maw, former Chief Minister of Tanintharyi Region; Mr. Mya Aye, 8888 generation for pro-democracy activist; Dr. Myo Nyunt, member of the central executive committee and spokesperson of the National League for Democracy (NLD); U Thein Oo, NLD central executive committee member; U Kyaw Ho, NLD legal advisor; Professor U Maung Tha Cho; Ven. Shwe Nya War Sayadaw; Mrs. Vicky Bowman,

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Regarding sustainability, inclusiveness and resilience, he continued, ASEAN has been placing its priority on human resource development, education reform and vocational training to keep pace with digital transformation and enhance the role of women and youth to increase economic productivity and stimulate economic growth in the post COVID-19 era. On climate change issue, Cambodia has also proposed the formulation of "ASEAN Green Deal Initiative" at the recent ASEAN Summits, to re-orient regional development toward ASEAN's sustainable green future.

ASEAN is also scaling up concerted efforts to implement agreed action plans and initiatives to derive maximum benefits from the opportunities arising from global trends, including digitalisation, circular economy, green economy, development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs), and especially the effective implementation of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as well as other ASEAN Free Trade Agreements. All of these will be the key driving force in promoting connectivity in all areas as well as in working together to effectively respond to any challenges.

On political and security aspect, Cambodia has continued attaching the priority to strengthening ASEAN Centrality and Unity as well as adhering to multilateralism, which is a key regional mechanism for contributing to reducing the geo-political tensions and the confrontation between the superpowers, especially by continuing to promote dialogues with partners through various forums. "Although regional security issues have not yet been fully addressed, I believe that the positive outcomes of the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits have made significant contribution to setting the common positions, that provide inputs to the finding of the solutions toward ensuring regional security, stability, and development," Samdech Techo Hun Sen said.

These achievements and the setting of these clear directions are once again the testimony to the unwavering political will of ASEAN in continuing to intensify regional integration

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## AUSTRALIAN PM PRAISES ASEAN CHAIR...

United Kingdom's former Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and her spouse; Mr. Toru Kubota, Japanese journalist and film producer; and Mr. Kyaw Htay Oo, a U.S. Citizen.

The Special Envoy of the Chair of ASEAN on Myanmar has issued a statement welcoming the recent mass release of prisoners by the State Administrative Council of Myanmar, considering it as an important gesture in the

right direction to create a conducive environment for the commencement of a dialogue process among all concerned parties in Myanmar.

It is a sign of good will in pursuing a peaceful solution to the current crisis, and a positive development in line with the spirit and aspiration of the Five-Point Consensus reached at the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on April 24, 2021, the Special Envoy added.

## CAMBODIA-BRUNEI COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND RICE EXPORT ENCOURAGED



The Kingdom of Cambodia and Brunei Darussalam have highly valued their bilateral relations and cooperation and pledged to further foster them.

The appreciation was made during the bilateral summit at the Peace Palace on 14 November 2022 between Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

According to H.E. Eang Sophalleth, Personal Assistant to the Cambodian Premier, His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam encouraged both sides to continue their existing cooperation, especially in the field of agriculture and "Mlis" rice export.

His Majesty the Sultan congratulated Samdech Techo Hun Sen and the Royal Government of Cambodia for successfully organising the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, and thanked the Cambodian side for the warm hospitality during his participation in the summits and his state visit in Cambodia.

For his part, Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed his gratitude to His Majesty the Sultan for his presence in the ASEAN Summits and Related Summits,

which contributes to making this historical event for Cambodia a success.

The Cambodian Prime Minister also thanked the Brunei side for the good cooperation with Cambodia.

Following the summit meeting, both Samdech Techo Hun Sen and His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam witnessed the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two governments on Bilateral Consultations.

During his state visit in Cambodia on 14 November 2022, His Majesty the Sultan also held a bilateral meeting with His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia.

Besides, he laid wreaths and paid tribute at the Independence Monument and the Royal Memorial Statue of His Majesty the late King-Father, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk (Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh).

Cambodia and Brunei Darussalam mark this year the 30th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations.

## SINGAPORE PM EXTENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO CAMBODIA ...

At the same time, other ASEAN and world leaders attending the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits hosted by Cambodia from 8 to 13 November 2022 have also congratulated Cambodia on the successful ASEAN Chairmanship and the excellent arrangement in hosting the summits.

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and adaptation to the new normal, aimed at building the future of ASEAN with unity, inclusiveness, and resilience as well as to demonstrate ASEAN's commitment to strengthening relations with partners based on the principles of trust and mutual respect for regional and global peace and prosperity. Themed "Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient ASEAN", the 43rd AIPA General Assembly is taking place from 20-25 November 2022.

This year's assembly groups eight parliaments from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Malaysia is not taking part due to weekend elections and Myanmar is not attending amid a political and humanitarian crisis.

## SINGAPORE PM EXTENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO CAMBODIA ON SUCCESSFUL ASEAN CHAIRMANSHIP

Singapore Prime Minister H.E. Lee Hsien Loong has expressed his congratulations to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for the successful hosting of ASEAN Summits and Related Summits.

"Thanks to Samdech Hun Sen, Cambodian Prime Minister for the warm hospitality and for a successful ASEAN Chairmanship year," he wrote on his Facebook page on 13 November 2022.

"Wrapped up the ASEAN 2022 Summits with discussions on current strategic, political, and economic issues at the 17th East Asia Summit (EAS) this morning 13 November 2022). We are a very diverse group, but the strength of ASEAN and the EAS is in bringing the Leaders together for dialogue and discussion," the Singapore leader added.

For his part, UN Secretary-General António Guterres also appreciated Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship.

"I thank Cambodia as the Chair of ASEAN for its important efforts as this time of serious global challenges," he tweeted. "We need to strengthen our collective action to find multilateral solutions and get the Global Goals back on track."

## FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON: CAMBODIAN EMBASSY WORKING TO SEEK JUSTICE FOR ARRESTED OFFICIALS ON DUTY

The Royal Cambodian Embassy in the U.S. is coordinating through both diplomatic and legal channels over the case of arrested Cambodian officials on duty.

H.E. Chum Sounry, Secretary of State and Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, said on 18 November 2022 that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Royal Cambodian Embassy is working through diplomatic and legal channels to protect and seek justice for the Cambodian officials who have been detained while on official mission.

"Our embassy is also seeking to meet with the arrested officials and looking for a defence lawyer," he added.

Mr. Kry Masphal, Director of Wildlife and Biodiversity Department, had been arrested at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, whilst in transit to attend the meeting of the Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Panama.

According to the announcement on the website of the U.S. Justice Department, he and the head of Forestry Administration have been indicted for alleged conspiracy to smuggle crab eating monkeys into the U.S.

In a press release issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) affirmed that Cambodia will make its utmost efforts in order to seek justice for its officials, especially those on official duty representing the country according to international conventions.

"We uphold CITES convention's principles and laws. It is a big irony that he, who was going to attend an official meeting at the United Nations forum to protect the endangered species of wild fauna and flora, has been arrested under such alleged conspiracy, while both Cambodia and the USA, maintain good diplomatic relations," MAFF said.

The crab-eating monkeys are commonly scattered all over Cambodia, in the wilderness and suburban and urban areas including Wat Phnom tourist site in Phnom Penh, it pointed out.

Since 2005, the source explained, the monkeys have been farmed in Cambodia and are exported for pharmaceutical research for new medicines and vaccines as well as cosmetic products. They are not caught from the wilderness and smuggled out, but farmed in decent manners with respect to good hygiene and health standards so as to preserve their gene pool. As obliged by CITES convention and applicable laws, only next generation of monkeys are exported.

Cambodian CITES management authority has allowed their exports based on both domestic and international laws and regulations, said MAFF, adding that as for their imports into the U.S., the import companies shall be responsible for complying with all U.S. procedures.

## CAMBODIAN RICE WINS WORLD'S BEST RICE AWARD FOR FIFTH TIME

Cambodian premium fragrant rice branded as "Pkar Rumduol" on 17 November 2022 was crowned the World's Best Rice at The Rice Trade (TRT) World Rice Conference 2022 held in Phuket, Thailand.

This is the fifth time that Cambodian rice earned this award since its participation in the annual World Best Rice contest. The previous four were in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2018.

Cambodian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries H.E. Dith Tina expressed his congratulations to the victory, which he said brought about pride for to the nation.

This World Rice Conference has been organising annually, for the global rice community and the many allied industries that support the production, transport, trade, and consumption of rice.

The presence of Cambodia's rice in the world platform has promoted the products in international markets.

The Kingdom exported almost 450,000 tonnes of milled rice to markets across the world in the first nine months of this year, up 10 percent compared to the same period in 2021.

