

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

ISSUE 155: 16 – 30 April 2025

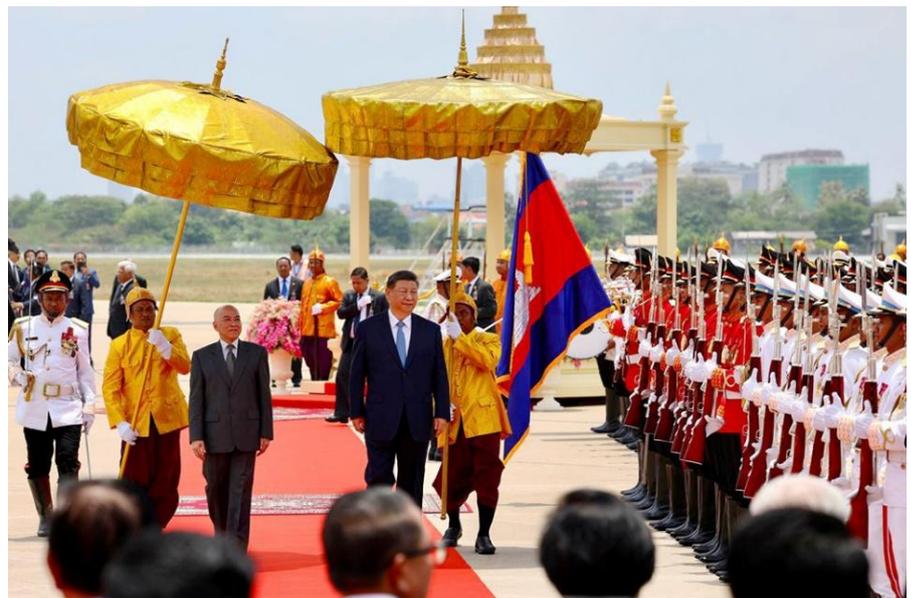
## CAMBODIA, THAILAND VOW TO DEEPEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Cambodian and Thai leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening and expanding their strategic partnership, highlighting the growing friendship and cooperation between the two neighbouring countries.

During their bilateral talks held on 23 April at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet and Thai Prime Minister H.E. Mrs. Paetongtarn Shinawatra praised the progress made in bilateral relations since the elevation of ties to a strategic partnership in 2024.

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## CHINESE LEADER REAFFIRMS FRIENDSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO SHARE FUTURE TOGETHER WITH CAMBODIA



President of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Xi Jinping, on 18 April reaffirmed his commitment to further promote friendship and share the future together with Cambodia, according to his message.

"I am very happy to visit Cambodia on the occasion of the Khmer New Year. For me, it feels like going to the home of a good friend. I wish to extend my warmest New Year greetings to our brothers and sisters in Cambodia. This is my second visit to your country in nine years. I sincerely hope this visit will spearhead progress in building a China-Cambodia community with a shared future," H.E. Xi Jinping underlined in his public statement.

As a Chinese verse goes, "True friendship, like refined gold, withstands all tests of time," H.E. Xi Jinping firmly believed that with the joint efforts, the China-Cambodia ironclad friendship, which has been tempered through trials of time and storms of adversity, will stay true to its original purpose.

The Chinese President said China will work with Cambodia to safeguard peace, pursue development and achieve shared prosperity, to make solid progress in building the China-Cambodia community with a shared future in the new era, and to bring greater stability and certainty to this turbulent world.

The community with a shared future is deeply rooted in the historic legacy of good-neighbourly relations. Thanks to the geographical proximity, friendly exchange spans two millennia of the shared history, he mentioned.

In the same statement, H.E. Xi Jinping also emphasised that the community with a shared future is powered by equality and mutual benefit between the two countries.

For many years, China has been Cambodia's largest trading partner and largest source of investment, and our industrial and supply chain cooperation has continued to deepen.

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## UK INDO-PACIFIC MINISTER'S VISIT TO BOOST TIES WITH CAMBODIA

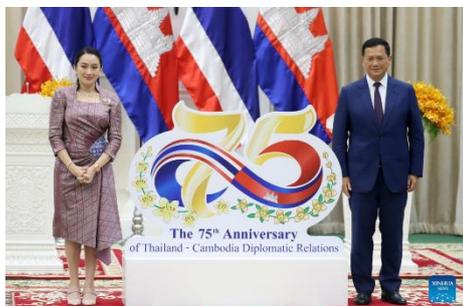
Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, hosted here this noon for a working lunch with H.E. Ms. Catherine West MP, Minister for Indo-Pacific of the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

On the occasion, H.E. Prak Sokhonn and Minister Catherine West had discussions on promoting cooperation and partnership in trade, investment, tourism, education, development and demining.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn emphasised potential opportunities for further bilateral cooperation, underlining Cambodia's readiness to host the 3rd Bilateral Consultations in Phnom Penh this year.

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## CAMBODIA, THAILAND VOW TO DEEPEN ...



Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet warmly welcomed his Thai counterpart, noting that her official visit would further promote the long-standing friendship and cooperation between the two nations.

H.E. Mrs. Paetongtarn Shinawatra expressed her gratitude for Cambodia's hospitality and reiterated Thailand's commitment to enhancing bilateral ties. She described her visit as an opportunity to deepen collaboration between the two Kingdoms.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the upcoming official inauguration of the Consulate General of Cambodia in Songkhla province and the Consulate General of Thailand in Siem Reap province. They also looked forward to the official opening of the Cambodia-Thailand Friendship Bridge (Stung Bot-Ban Nong Ian) in the near future.

The Cambodian Premier extended his appreciation to Thailand for its continued support of Cambodian workers, including the

recent waiver of the re-entry permit fee during the Khmer New Year holiday. He also thanked Thai investors and business leaders for their confidence in doing business in Cambodia.

In response, H.E. Mrs. Paetongtarn Shinawatra thanked the Royal Government of Cambodia for its support of Thai businesses operating in the country.

The two heads of government discussed enhancing cooperation in key sectors, including politics, trade and investment, energy, security and national defence, culture, tourism, education, and cross-border connectivity. They also emphasised the importance of developing Complementary Special Economic Zones along the shared border.

In addition, the leaders exchanged views on regional issues, including ASEAN matters. Both sides voiced support for Timor-Leste's full ASEAN membership by 2025 and reaffirmed ASEAN's role in addressing the situation in Myanmar.

Following the talks, the two Premiers presided over the signing ceremony of seven bilateral cooperation agreements. They also jointly unveiled the official logo commemorating the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Thailand.

## UK INDO-PACIFIC MINISTER'S VISIT TO ...



On economic cooperation, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister is satisfied with the rising trade volume, which has reached almost US\$1 billion in 2024,

and expressed profound gratitude for including Cambodia as one of the beneficiaries under the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS).

For her part, Minister West expressed her great admiration for the Techo International Airport construction, designed by British firm Foster + Partners and considered it a model of cooperation.

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## CHINESE LEADER REAFFIRMS ...

H.E. Xi Jinping and his high-level delegation safely landed at the Phnom Penh International Airport on 18 April, at around 11:00 am, under the warm welcome by His Majesty the King, Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, accompanied by Senate President Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and many other Cambodian senior officials.

## TOURISM MINISTER RECEIVES BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA



H.E. Huot Hak, Minister of Tourism, received H.E. Dominic Williams, British Ambassador to Cambodia, and his delegation on April 30 for discussions aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in tourism.

During the meeting, both parties exchanged views and strategies to enhance collaboration in the tourism sector, with a focus on creating a favourable environment and attracting more visitors from the United Kingdom.

Key topics included the development of infrastructure connecting tourist destinations, easing travel processes, and promoting Cambodia's tourism potential both globally and specifically in the UK. Both sides emphasised the importance of sustainable tourism.

The discussion also covered training and capacity building in the tourism industry,

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## UK FIRM KEEN TO PURCHASE PROCESSED CASHEW NUTS, DRIED FRUITS FROM CAMBODIA



Whitworths, a UK-based company, is interested in purchasing agro-processed products from Cambodia, focusing on cashew nuts and dried fruits for distribution in the UK market.

The interest was expressed during a meeting between H.E. Samheng Bora, the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Commerce and Chairman of

the Export Promotion Task Force, who received a courtesy call from representatives of Whitworths, a UK-based company with over a century of experience in the dried fruit, nut, and seed sector, on 28 April.

The meeting was organised to expand trade ties and continuing cooperation with the Export Promotion Task Force.

During their visit, the Whitworths delegation will visit several local cashew processing facilities to assess the quality, standards, and export readiness of Cambodian products.

## CAMBODIAN DELEGATION TO LEAVE FOR U.S. IN MID-MAY FOR TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS



The Ad Hoc Cambodia–U.S. Bilateral Relations Coordination Working Group is set to travel to the United States in mid-May to engage in direct negotiations over the new U.S. tariff rates.

On 2 May, at the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC), the Working Group led by H.E. SUN Chanthol, Deputy Prime Minister and First Vice Chairman of the CDC and H.E. Mrs. CHAM Nimul, Minister of Commerce, held via virtual conference a meeting with the United States Trade Representative (USTR), led by Ms. Sarah Ellerman, Assistant USTR for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

According to a press release of the Royal Government Spokesperson Unit issued following the virtual meeting, the discussion focused on the work progress and the following the virtual

meeting, the discussion focused on the work progress and the preparation for the upcoming bilateral negotiations, which is due to take place on May 14-15, 2025 in Washington, D.C.

“The Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led by Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister will continue to cooperate closely with the United States of America to achieve a mutually beneficial trade and investment relationship,” the press release underlined.

The negotiations follow the announcement by U.S. President Donald Trump on April 2 of new reciprocal tariffs on the country’s trading partners. Under this policy, a 49 percent tariff was initially imposed on imports from Cambodia.

However, on April 9, the U.S. government approved a 90-day temporary suspension of the full tariff, reducing it to 10 percent for countries—including Cambodia— that have officially sought to negotiate a solution with the U.S.

## UK INDO-PACIFIC MINISTER’S VISIT ...



Besides, H.E. Prak Sokhonn also briefed H.E. Ms. Catherine West on Cambodia’s commitment and strengthened efforts to tackle cyber scams, including the establishment of a new national commission led by Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister Hun Manet.

In this regard, both sides also discussed and agreed on deeper cooperation to combat this pressing transnational crime.

## TOURISM MINISTER RECEIVES BRITISH ...

efforts to establish direct flights between Cambodia and the UK, the development of eco-tourism, and opportunities to encourage film productions by renowned British and international filmmakers in Cambodia.

Both H.E. Minister and H.E. Ambassador agreed that tourism plays a vital role in deepening the relationship between the people and governments of Cambodia and the United Kingdom.

The steady rise in British tourist arrivals is attributed to Cambodia’s peace, political stability, and public security—factors that make the country a safe and appealing destination for international tourists and investors alike.

In 2024, Cambodia welcomed 115,148 British tourists—an 18.7 percent increase from 96,973 in 2023—according to the Ministry of Tourism.

## TECHO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SET TO BEGIN OPERATIONS ON JULY 10



Phase 1 of Techo International Airport (TIA) is now 96 percent complete as of April 2025 and is scheduled to begin operations on July 10, according to the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA).

The update was provided during a meeting of the Steering Committee for the Management and Coordination of the Preparation for the Operation of Techo International Airport, Level 4F, Phase 1. The meeting was held on May 2 under the chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Mao Havannal, Minister in Charge of the SSCA.

Participants included members of the SSCA working group, the TIA committee, and senior executives from Cambodia Airport Investment Co., Ltd. (CAIC).

SSCA Secretary of State and Spokesperson H.E. Sinn Chanserey Vutha stated that the committee is currently reviewing the certification and operational readiness requirements.

“If all goes according to plan, the airport will begin operations on July 10, 2025, welcoming

both domestic and international travellers,” he said.

The Techo International Airport project is being developed by CAIC, a joint venture between the Royal Government of Cambodia and Overseas Cambodian Investment Corporation (OCIC), a leading Cambodian conglomerate.

Located approximately 20 kilometers south of Phnom Penh, the US\$1.5 billion airport spans 2,600 hectares across Kandal and Takeo provinces. Designed to accommodate long-haul international flights, the facility will be capable of handling large aircraft such as the Airbus A380-800 and Boeing 747-800.

Cambodia’s aviation sector saw strong growth in 2024, with the country’s three international airports collectively handling a record 6.2 million passengers, according to SSCA data.

Currently, 31 national and international airlines operate flights to and from Cambodia’s three international airports.

## CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMBODIA'S ACCESSION TO ASEAN



This year marks 26 years since Cambodia joined the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on April 30, 1999, becoming the bloc's 10th member. Over the past two decades, Cambodia has emerged as an active supporter of ASEAN’s community-building initiatives, contributing to economic, political, security, and socio-cultural cooperation. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cambodia’s integration into ASEAN has been central to its foreign policy, promoting regional stability and development.

Established in 1967, ASEAN initially comprised Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, with Brunei joining in 1984, Vietnam in 1995, Laos and Myanmar in 1997, and Cambodia completing the ten-member bloc in 1999. As the regional group looks towards its 2045 vision, Cambodia’s contributions remain integral to ASEAN’s goals of unity, stability, and shared prosperity.