

VISIONS of CAMBODIA

ISSUE 157: 16 – 31 May 2025

PM ENCOURAGES MORE JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN CAMBODIA

Prime Minister Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet has invited more Japanese investors to expand their ventures in Cambodia, highlighting the Kingdom's political and economic stability.

The invitation was extended during his keynote address at the Cambodia-Japan Business Forum held in Tokyo on 29 May, as part of his official working visit to Japan from May 28 to 31.

Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet noted that Japan has become one of the Kingdom's major foreign investors, actively involved in numerous projects, including those by companies such as Toyota, Honda, and Aeon Mall.

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OUTCOMES OF ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING AND SOME OTHER MEETINGS

On 25 May 2025, His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM), the 29th ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council Meeting, the 36th ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) Meeting, and the ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

1. ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM)

The Meeting deliberated on the progress of the ASEAN Community building under Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN Chairmanship, held under the theme "Inclusivity and Sustainability". The Meeting welcomed the finalization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its Strategic

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OUTCOMES OF 46TH ASEAN SUMMIT



On 26 May 2025, at the invitation of His Excellency Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, attended the 46th ASEAN Summit held under the theme "Inclusivity and Sustainability" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

1. 46th ASEAN Summit

During the Plenary Session, the ASEAN Leaders reviewed the progress of ASEAN Community building efforts with the successful conclusion of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. The Leaders also commended the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community Vision 2045 (HLTF-ACV), the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI), the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Post-2025 Strategic Plan, and the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) for developing the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its Strategic Plans, and adopted these milestone documents as a guiding framework for advancing the ASEAN Community for the next two decades.

In the context of an increasingly complex and unpredictable geopolitical landscape, the Leaders reaffirmed the importance of upholding and strengthening ASEAN Centrality and unity in ASEAN's engagements with existing and new external partners. The Leaders also underscored the importance of deepening economic integration and further enhancing intra-ASEAN trade and investment flows, with a focus on inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth that leaves no one and no place behind. To address growing geoeconomic uncertainties, the Leaders reaffirmed their support for a free, open, fair, inclusive, and rules-based multilateral trading system.

Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister expressed Cambodia's full support for Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025, especially as inclusiveness and sustainability are essential pillars for ensuring the region's long-term peace, stability and prosperity. He emphasized that, in the face of intensifying geopolitical rivalries, prolonged armed conflicts, erosion of multilateral cooperation, and growing threats

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from non-traditional security challenges, ASEAN must be united in purpose, strategic in vision, and steadfast in collective action.

Samdech Thipadei highlighted the necessity of deepening regional integration and strengthening cooperation with interested partners to ensure that ASEAN remains a beacon of stability and predictability in an increasingly uncertain world. To enhance intra-ASEAN trade, he emphasised the importance of streamlining processes, removing barriers, aligning regulatory frameworks, and embracing digital and green transitions to create a seamless and resilient regional market. He further stressed that ASEAN needs to strengthen connectivity across physical, institutional, and people-to-people dimensions. This includes advancing key strategic initiatives such as the ASEAN Power Grid to realize the shared goal for decarbonization and inclusive development and enhancing regional tourism to position ASEAN as a vibrant, diverse and competitive tourism hub.

Samdech Thipadei reiterated Cambodia's strong and consistent support for Timor-Leste's full membership in ASEAN this year, and underscored that Timor-Leste's accession will not only reinforce

our unity and inclusiveness, but also bolster ASEAN's collective capacity to address both ongoing and emerging challenges. Equally important, it will enable Timor-Leste to participate in and benefit from regional integration. As we find ourselves at a critical juncture to chart a bold and forward-looking path for the next two decades, he highlighted that the ASEAN Vision 2045, along with its Strategic Plans, will serve as a collective compass to guide ASEAN toward a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centered future.

During the Retreat Session, the Leaders discussed the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus (5PC) and exchanged views on regional and international development of mutual interest and concern, including issues affecting the global economy and the rules-based multilateral trading system.

2. ASEAN Leaders' Interfaces

At the ASEAN Leaders Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Samdech Thipadei outlined four key areas where AIPA can make a meaningful impact by: first, upholding peace and promoting inclusive, rule-based multilateralism; second, enacting legislation and overseeing the implementation of commitments that benefit all segments of society; third, advancing ASEAN's collaboration for green agenda through legislation; and fourth, enhancing collaboration with Dialogue Partners, development institutions, and civil society to promote equity, sustainability, and resilience.

At the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Youth, Samdech Thipadei recommended that youth should focus on strengthening necessary skills and competencies to stay relevant and competitive in the fast-changing world, and recognized the vital role of youth in shaping ASEAN's future and strongly committed to continue investing in their capacity to ensure they are future-ready.

At the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), Samdech Thipadei emphasized the important role of the private sector in the economic community building process in the context of global economic uncertainty. Samdech Thipadei suggested that the ASEAN-BAC should conduct further consultations with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and develop a multi-year plan of action that aligns with the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan 2026-2030 and the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, and expressed confidence that ASEAN can build a shared prosperous future that is sustainable, inclusive, innovative, and resilient.

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"These companies are just a small example of the growth of Japanese investment in Cambodia, while the country still holds even greater opportunities," he affirmed.

In 2024, Cambodia attracted US\$6.9 billion in investment, marking a 40 percent increase from the previous year. These investments contributed to the creation of approximately 320,000 jobs across various sectors, including garments, travel goods, footwear, hotel development, energy, ports, agriculture, and infrastructure.

Cambodia's total trade volume last year reached US\$54.74 billion, an increase of approximately 16.9 percent. Exports accounted for around US\$26.2 billion, while imports totalled about US\$28.54 billion.

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Plans for adoption at the 46th ASEAN Summit. On ASEAN external relations, the Meeting reaffirmed the importance of expanding engagement with external partners while strengthening ASEAN Centrality in the ASEAN-led mechanisms.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister underlined that the theme "Inclusivity and Sustainability" strongly resonates with ASEAN's shared vision of a Community where no one is left behind.

He also welcomed the increasing interest in engaging with ASEAN, as seen in the rising number of applications to accede to the TAC, which reaffirms ASEAN's growing relevance as a driving force for peace, dialogue, and cooperation.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister commended Malaysia's leadership in

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addressing the crisis in Myanmar and expressed full support for the ASEAN Chair's Special Envoy in advancing the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus (SPC). He stressed that a successful political dialogue in Myanmar could serve a dual purpose: enabling the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid and mobilizing resources for reconstruction, while also providing a platform for reconciling political differences and building trust toward a lasting political settlement.

As the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations, he reaffirmed Cambodia's commitment to strengthening cooperation between ASEAN and the United States across all sectors.

2. 29th Meeting of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council

The Meeting reviewed the progress in the implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025 and looked forward to the outcome of its End-Term Review by the ASEAN Secretariat. The Meeting discussed recent developments of sectoral bodies under the APSC pillar and took note of the work of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR).

During the Meeting, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the significant benefits to the ASEAN Community resulting from the conclusion of the APSC Blueprint 2025. He attributed this success to ASEAN's collective commitment and emphasized its role in laying the foundation for the upcoming APSC Strategic Plan. In light of rising global tensions, he stressed the need for constructive dialogue, diplomacy, and stronger multilateral cooperation to manage disputes and prevent conflicts. He further underscored the urgency of addressing cross-border threats such as drug trafficking,

online scams, and human trafficking through enhanced cooperation, robust legal frameworks, and advanced technological capabilities.

3. The 36th ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) Meeting

The Meeting underscored the importance of the timely finalization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, which lays the foundation for a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable ASEAN for future generations. The Meeting also discussed Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN, and to that end, welcomed the operationalization of the Timor-Leste Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat, highlighting its important role in assisting Timor-Leste to expedite the fulfilment of the remaining criteria in the Roadmap for full membership in ASEAN.

On trade and investment, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister expressed his support for a stronger commitment toward enhancing intra-ASEAN trade and investment. Accelerating the implementation of ATIGA and RCEP, alongside the development of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement, will be key to Southeast Asia's long-term growth. On Timor-Leste's membership in ASEAN, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister commended the significant progress made by Timor-Leste in implementing the Roadmap, as well as its active participation in ASEAN meetings and activities. He also expressed optimism that the early conclusion of Timor-Leste's accession as a full member of ASEAN will not only benefit Timor-Leste but also enhance ASEAN's unity and strength.

4. The ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Ministerial Meeting

The Ministers reviewed preparations for the Second ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit, scheduled for 27 May 2025, and exchanged updates on recent developments within their respective regions. They also shared perspectives on the future direction of inter-regional cooperation.

During the Meeting, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister commended the co-chairs for their effective coordination and stressed the importance of institutionalizing engagement between ASEAN and the GCC, especially among Permanent Representatives in Jakarta, to

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The Cambodia-Japan Business Forum was co-organised by the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), the AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC), and Mizuho Bank, and drew nearly 300 investors from 227 companies.

Following the forum, Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet presided over the exchange of two Memoranda of Understanding:

1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) aimed at promoting trade and enhancing business partnerships between Cambodia and Japan, in alignment with the policies of the two governments.
2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) and the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) of Japan to establish a robust investment partnership for the future.

ensure the effective implementation of the ASEAN-GCC Framework of Cooperation (FOC) for 2024-2028. To support free and open trade, he encouraged greater collaboration between the business communities of both regions and highlighted the significant potential of emerging industries in fostering inclusive, sustainable, and resilient growth.

5. Bilateral Meetings

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister hosted a working breakfast for His Excellency Bui Thanh Son, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and His Excellency Thongsavanh Phommvihane, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR. The ministers engaged in in-depth discussions on potential and common areas of cooperation, including trade, tourism promotion, infrastructure development, connectivity, agricultural collaboration, and joint efforts to address cross-border security challenges.

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CAMBODIA READY FOR SECOND ROUND OF RECIPROCAL TARIFF TALKS WITH U.S. NEXT WEEK



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance H.E. Dr. Hun Ponnorniroth announced that the Ad Hoc Cambodia-U.S. Bilateral Relations Coordination Working Group will travel to the U.S. next week to continue negotiations with U.S. trade officials, aimed at maintaining and strengthening bilateral trade and investment relations.

The statement was made during a working meeting on May 27 in Phnom Penh with Ms. Bridgette L. Walker, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the U.S. Embassy in Cambodia.

H.E. Dr. Hun Ponnorniroth emphasised Cambodia's commitment to addressing challenges affecting bilateral trade with the U.S., including the establishment of a dedicated working group to coordinate efforts on trade and investment issues.

"The Royal Government of Cambodia is firmly committed to strengthening mechanisms to

prevent and combat criminal activities, suppress counterfeit goods, and promote transparent enforcement of the law on rules of origin for exports to the U.S. market," he said.

Ms. Walker praised Cambodia's socio-economic progress and commended the government's efforts to diversify private investment sources. She also confirmed that the U.S. Department of the Treasury has pledged technical assistance to Cambodia to support the development of public financial management, enhance efficiency and transparency, and increase the resilience of the financial sector.

The first round of reciprocal tariff talks, led by H.E. Sun Chanthol, Deputy Prime Minister and First Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Development of Cambodia, took place from May 13 to 15 in Washington, D.C.

The second round of negotiations is scheduled to be held from June 4 to 6, 2025, also in Washington, D.C.

According to the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia, bilateral trade between Cambodia and the U.S. reached approximately US\$10 billion in 2024, an increase of 11 percent compared to 2023. Cambodian exports to the U.S. amounted to US\$9.91 billion, marking an 11.4 percent year-on-year growth.

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They also discussed preparations for the upcoming Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation, and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. Additionally, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister held bilateral meetings with His Excellency Sugiono, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and His Excellency Dato' Seri Utama Mohamad Hasan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral relations and exploring new avenues and ways for further cooperation between the respective nations.

In a recent public announcement, the Ministry of Tourism emphasised that the festival, marked with the phrase 'Green Season', marks the beginning of Cambodia's rainy season, which revitalises nature and enriches landscapes.

Organised by the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with Stung Treng provincial authorities, the three-day festival will take place at Preah Rumkel Ecotourism Community, Chheuteal Dolphin Pleasance in Preah Rumkel commune, Borei O' Svay Sen Chey district.

Beyond celebrating tourism and conservation, the event is expected to elevate the quality of tourism products and services, attracting both local and international visitors.

It will feature a diverse range of activities, including a blessing ceremony for the dolphins, kayak boat paddling, showcases of local ecotourism products and cuisine, mass sports events (such as charity marathon running and boat racing), camping excursions, and trips to Borei O' Svay Ecotourism Community and stunning Sopheakmit Waterfall.

The Ministry of Tourism invites all visitors to join in and bring to life the mottos "Tourism for All, All for Tourism", "Tourism Flourishing in Peace", and "Each Person is an Ambassador for Cambodia's Tourism."

STUNG TRENG INVITES VISITORS TO ITS FIRST-EVER MEKONG DOLPHIN AND KAYAK BOAT PADDLING FESTIVAL



For the first time, Stung Treng—a picturesque province of Cambodia lying along the Mekong River—will host the Mekong dolphin and kayak boat paddling festival from May 30 to June 1.

The event aims not only to showcase the province's tourism potential but also to promote public awareness and engagement in the conservation of the endangered Irrawaddy dolphin.