



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**
Department of Information

Press Release

On the Outcomes of 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits
12-14 November 2017, Manila, Republic of the Philippines

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a high delegation to attend the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits under the theme “Partnering for Change, Enhancing the World” held from 12-14 November 2017 in Manila, Republic of the Philippines.

I. Summits and Activities:

1. 31st ASEAN Summits:

Samdech Techo Prime Minister suggested ASEAN: to further promote regional peace, stability, security and prosperity; to maintain the consensus principles for decision-making process; to actively emphasize on the implementation of what ASEAN has adopted so far; to prepare “ASEAN Digital Economy Strategy” based on the principles of different development gaps among ASEAN Member States; and to promote and speed up the negotiations on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), ASEAN-EU FTA and ASEAN-Canada FTA.

The Summit had a deep and fruitful discussion on many important issues of the three pillars of the ASEAN Community - ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community – as well as on ASEAN External Relations, and Regional and International Issues and Developments.

The ASEAN Leaders signed the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers and adopted 11 documents.

2. ASEAN Leaders Interface with ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN BAC)

Samdech Techo Prime Minister requested for cooperation between the government with the private sectors in developing connectivity infrastructure responding to the demand of Micro, Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and in transforming ASEAN to a region with high competitive advantages and at forefront in the area of digital economy.

3. 5th ASEAN-US Summit to Commemorate the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-US Dialogue Relations:

Samdech Techo praised President Donald Trump for his statement made at the UN, at the APEC (Summit in Viet Nam) and reiterated at this ASEAN-US Summit that “ We respect the independence and sovereignty of your country. We want you to grow strong and independent, to deepen your historical value and to strive for the better future of your people”. Samdech Techo stated: “ the previous US Administration used the notion of democracy and human rights to interfere with internal affairs of others. We are victims again and again, and are now being victimized because of actions of your subordinating officials who practice against your policy lines”. With regard to Cambodia’s debt, Samdech Techo said that “Cambodia was abolished by a US-backed coup and became a debtor of US, and that debt, we inherited, so we have to pay back. We asked that we pay back, but asked the US to transform the debt (into assistance) to Cambodia.

The Leaders agreed to further strengthen ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations as well as cooperation and coordination in addressing emerging regional and global challenges. The Leaders noted the active ASEAN-US economic relations.

4. 20th ASEAN-China Summit:

Samdech Techo Prime Minister highly appreciated the introduction of One Belt One Road Initiative and the establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and requested China to continue encouraging Chinese investors to invest more in Cambodia, particularly in agricultural production, infrastructure, small and medium enterprises, energy and tourism as well as encouraging more Chinese tourists to visit Cambodia.

The Leaders took note that the ASEAN-China relations have become one of ASEAN's most substantive dialogue partnerships. The Leaders welcomed the positive developments on the South China Sea since the last Summit and noted that the Framework of COC adopted in August was an important milestone. Both sides will officially commence negotiations on the COC. The Leaders agreed to continue to build confidence through practical maritime cooperation and adopted the Leaders' Declaration on a Decade of Coastal and Marine Environmental Protection in the South China Sea.

5. 19th ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit:

As Cambodia is the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations, Samdech Techo Prime Minister delivered the common ASEAN Statement highlighting the progress achieved in ASEAN-ROK relations and informed the Summit that Cambodia would host the ASEAN-ROK Youth Exchange Visit under the theme "Nurturing Youth Leadership, Cultivating Future Leaders" in 2017 in Siem Reap with more than 240 participants.

On the situation in the Korean Peninsula, Samdech Techo, on behalf of ASEAN, stated that: "ASEAN together with the international community has expressed grave concerns over the recent nuclear tests and ballistic missile tests by Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). We therefore strongly urge the DPRK to immediately halt these actions that are in violation of all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and only serve to escalate tensions in the region. ASEAN reiterates its full support for the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and looks forward to the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks as well as constructive dialogue and consultations in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) as the best platform for promoting open dialogue on political and security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. The DPRK's disregard of the international law, as well as, the grave concerns of the international community seriously calls into question the country's sincerity in having meaningful dialogue on the real issues facing the Korean Peninsula. ASEAN continues to stand ready to play a meaningful role in achieving the peaceful resolution of issues and to contribute to the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula. We express support for the ROK government's initiative towards securing lasting peace in the region and improving inter-Korean relations".

The Summit was committed to further strengthening economic cooperation, people-to-people engagement, narrowing development gaps and cooperation in the political and security fields. The Leaders noted that ROK remained ASEAN's fifth largest trading partner and ASEAN's fifth largest source of FDI in 2016.

6. 20th ASEAN-Japan Summit:

Cambodia requested Japan to continue encouraging the Japanese investors and people to further invest and visit Cambodia. Samdech Techo expressed deep appreciation to Japan, which strongly supports ASEAN's human resources development, especially in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV) and request Japan for further support and assistance through the provisions of scholarships and other trainings.

The ASEAN Leaders supported Japan's policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" and noted that Japan ranked as ASEAN's fourth largest trading partner and ASEAN's second largest source of FDI in 2016.

7. ASEAN Plus Three Leaders Interface with East Asia Business Council:

The Leaders expressed support to the inclusion of voices from the business sector into the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and underlined the necessity to facilitate the development of e-commerce in the region.

8. 9th ASEAN-United Nations Summit:

Samdech Techo Prime Minister referred to the threat to security and stability of the region by the extremism and terrorism and recommended ASEAN and UN to undertake further joint efforts to eradicate the attempt to convince young Southeast Asians to join terrorist group and to prevent any attempt by the terrorist to set up base in this region. Samdech Techo affirmed that Cambodia would continue to send Peace-Keeping Forces under UN to contribute to peace building and peace keeping in other regions of the world.

The UN Secretary-General expressed appreciation to the ASEAN Leaders for the current contribution of more than 4,600 peacekeeping personnel from ASEAN Member States to global UN peace operations. The Leaders reaffirmed the importance of global, regional and national cooperation to address the threats and challenges of global terrorism and violent extremism.

9. 20th ASEAN Plus Three Commemorative Summit:

Samdech Techo Prime Minister requested the plus three countries to continue supporting the IAI Work Plan III and MPAC 2025 as well as providing technical and financial assistances as well as to encourage and incentivize investment from the plus three countries to ASEAN, particularly to the members with less development.

The Leaders issued the Manila Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of APT Cooperation and adopted the APT Leaders' Statement on Food Security.

The Leaders expressed grave concerns to the recent provocative and threatening actions by the DPRK and urged the DPRK to immediately comply with its obligations under all relevant UNSC resolutions. ASEAN Leaders reiterated ASEAN's readiness to play a constructive role in contributing to peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.

10. ASEAN-Canada 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit:

Samdech Techo Prime Minister requested Canada to continue providing technical assistance to ASEAN, particularly Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar to promote the implementation of innovation projects and economic growth, as well as, to consider providing technical assistance and financing to the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC).

The Leaders directed the relevant officials to embark on exploratory discussions on a potential ASEAN-Canada FTA and to hasten the implementation of the programs and goals identified in the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership (2016-2020) and other existing ASEAN-Canada mechanisms for cooperation.

11. ASEAN-EU 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit:

Cambodia expressed hope for EU's further assistance to ARMAC and requested EU to continue strengthening and expanding cooperation in education sector by providing scholarships to ASEAN members, especially the members with least development.

The Leaders reaffirmed the importance of enhancing strategic connectivity and the economic partnership between ASEAN-EU and reaffirm their commitment to concluding ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement and to intensify work towards the resumption of the ASEAN-EU FTA negotiations.

12. 12th East Asia Summit:

Samdech Techo Prime Minister shared his views on the Korean Peninsular, South China Sea and terrorism issues.

The Leaders condemned the DPRK's ongoing development of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear and chemical weapons, and ballistic missile technologies, which are in contravention of UNSC resolutions. The Leaders strongly urged the DPRK to immediately and fully comply with all relevant UNSC resolutions and underlined that all EAS participating countries are committed to full and thorough implementation of UNSC resolutions on DPRK and urged all States to do the same. The Summit also emphasized the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue.

The Summit adopted the EAS Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in Poverty Alleviation, the EAS Leaders' Statement on Chemical Weapons, the EAS Leaders' Statement on Countering Ideological Challenges of Terrorism and Terrorist Narratives and Propaganda, and the EAS Leaders' Declaration on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism.

13. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Summit:

Samdech Techo Prime Minister, after noting that this Summit was the first one in 5 years since the launch of negotiation in November 2012 in Phnom Penh and the progress of negotiation, encouraged political commitment in trying to push the negotiation to ensure that the agreement could be signed soon, according to the new mandate set by the end of 2018.

The Leaders instructed their Ministers and negotiators to intensify efforts in 2018 to bring the RCEP negotiations to conclusion, and resolved to ensure they have the necessary support to achieve this outcome.

14. 15th ASEAN-India Summit:

Samdech Techo Prime Minister encouraged India to play a key role in realizing the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral-Highway and continuing to Laos and Cambodia, and the building of a new highway linking India - Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

ASEAN Leaders encouraged the expeditious conclusion of ASEAN-India Air Transport Agreement and ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Agreement. The Leaders looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi on 25-26 January 2018, with the theme "Shared Values, Common Prosperity."

15. 9th Mekong-Japan Summit (on the sidelines of 31st ASEAN Summit):

Samdech Techo Prime Minister welcomed the sustainable effort of Japan in establishing the quality-based infrastructure plan in Cambodia, particularly the plan to improve the National Road No.5 (Battambang-Sisophon) and the Development Plan of New Container Terminal in Sihanouk Ville Port. Samdech Techo also looked forward to the completion of the study on the development plan of Phnom Penh-Bavit Highway, Transfer and Distribution System Expansion Plan, as well as the Southern Economic Corridor Distribution expansion plan. Samdech Techo called for more Japanese investment in the Mekong Sub-region.

The Summit adopted a Joint Statement: Welcoming the continued implementation of "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure"; Reiterating the importance of strengthening "soft connectivity"; Appreciating the progress of the "Industrial Human Resources Development Cooperation Initiative"; and Welcoming the shared intention among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Japan to establish the Southeast Asian Disaster Risk Insurance Facility which is the initiative by Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar with initial financial support from Japan.

16. Activities:

In the framework of the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, Samdech Techo Prime Minister also attended the Special Gala Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN, Working Breakfast among three Prime Ministers of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, and Lunch hosted by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in Honor of EAS HOS/G and Guests of the Chair.

II. Bilateral Meetings:

In addition, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN also had bilateral meetings with H.E. Mr. Li Keqiang, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Dmitry

Medvedev, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, and H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General.

III. Visit to Clark, Pampanga:

Prior to the 31st ASEAN Summit, Samdech Techo paid a visit to Clark, Pampanga, the Philippines, on 11 November 2017 at the invitation of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, former President of the Philippines and a member of the House of Representatives representing the 2nd District of Pampanga. Samdech Techo visited Clark Freeport Zone to see its managements and infrastructures and attended a dinner hosted by Mrs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. ៥

Phnom Penh, 16 November 2017

