



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

**on the Outcomes of the Official Visit to the Philippines of His Excellency
Mr. PRAK Sokhonn, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the 2nd Meeting of the Cambodia -
Philippines Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation
(Manila, 05-06 December 2017)**

His Excellency Mr. PRAK Sokhonn, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, paid an Official Visit to the Republic of the Philippines and co-chaired the 2nd Meeting of the Cambodia-Philippines Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) from 05 to 06 December 2017 at the invitation of the **Honorable Alan Peter S. Cayetano**, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines. This official visit and the convening of the 2nd JCBC Meeting occurred while both countries have been celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

During this visit, His Excellency Senior Minister **PRAK Sokhonn** paid a courtesy call on **His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, during which he conveyed warmest regards and congratulations of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, to **His Excellency President Duterte** for the Philippines' great success during the ASEAN Chairmanship. **His Excellency President Duterte** reciprocated his regards and high appreciation to **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen** for the support during the ASEAN Chairmanship of the Philippines.

His Excellency President Duterte said he was glad to see an "ASEAN Brother" coming to the Philippines, noting that he wants the Philippines to forge a stronger bond with Cambodia. "With the foundation of strong relations laid out during the recently concluded ASEAN Summit in Manila, the President said he wants trade and investment to flourish between the two countries". The President stressed that the Philippines respected the sovereignty of Cambodia and expressed satisfaction with the growing bilateral relations and multifaceted cooperation between the two countries. The President encouraged the Philippines to import Cambodian rice and welcomed Cambodia's investment in the country.

His Excellency Senior Minister thanked **His Excellency President Duterte** for the Philippines' strong support for the enlisting of Cambodia's Temple Zone of Sambor Prey Kuk as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. His Excellency Senior Minister also congratulated the Government of the Philippines for the liberation of Marawi City last October and briefed **His Excellency President Duterte** on the outcomes of his official visit and the 2nd JCBC Meeting.

Prior to co-chairing the 2nd JCBC Meeting, His Excellency Senior Minister **PRAK Sokhonn** and the **Honorable Alan Peter S. Cayetano** had a bilateral meeting during which, both Foreign Ministers shared with each other the latest political, economic and social development of their respective countries and exchanged views on some regional and international issues of common concerns.

The 2nd JCBC Meeting that was conducted in a friendly atmosphere and mutual understanding reflected the bonds of friendship and close cooperation enjoyed by both countries. The Meeting highlighted the close interaction and exchanges of visits of the two leaders, in particular, the State Visit to Cambodia of **His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte** in December 2016 and the President's attendance in the World Economic Forum on ASEAN in Phnom Penh in May 2017 and the participation of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN** in the 30th ASEAN Summit in April and 31st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits in November 2017.

The JCBC Meeting agreed to further deepen the existing cooperation covering defense, transnational crimes, trade and investment, agriculture and agribusiness, tourism, air services, culture, labor, education and vocational training, science and innovation and health and identified new areas, including legal and environmental cooperation.

The Meeting agreed to work on an Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation, to renew the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Rice Trade, which will expire soon and to expedite the process of signing the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Educational and Vocational Training while pursuing the establishment of direct flights between Phnom Penh and Manila.

The Meeting agreed to explore the possibility of entering into a partnership between Cambodia's National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations and the Philippines' Foreign Service Institute.

The following three documents were signed at the conclusion of the Meeting:

1. Agreed Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Cambodia-Philippines Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation.
2. Agreement on Prevention of Looting and Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property.
3. Memorandum of Understanding on Defense Cooperation between the Ministry of National Defense of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Department of the National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines.

His Excellency Senior Minister **PRAK Sokhonn** cordially invited the **Honorable Alan Peter S. Cayetano** to pay an official visit to Cambodia and co-chair the 3rd JCBC Meeting scheduled for 2019 at the mutual convenient date.

Phnom Penh, 08 December 2017

