



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

Press Release
Outcomes of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit
16-18 March 2018, Sydney, Australia

At the invitation of the **Honourable Malcolm TURNBULL**, Prime Minister of Australia, **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a high-level delegation to attend the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit, which took place from 16 to 18 March 2018 in Sydney, Australia.

The Special Summit under the theme “Enhancing Regional Security and Prosperity”, held for the first time in Australia after over four decades of mutual engagement, reflects the recognition of Australia’s strategic relations with ASEAN and marks a new chapter of an enhanced ASEAN-Australia dialogue relation. In leading up to the Special Summit, Australia also hosted two significant meetings namely a Business Summit and Counter-Terrorism Conference, aiming to secure greater opportunities for businesses and address common security challenges.

The Summit recognized ASEAN’s central role in the evolving regional architecture in fostering peace, stability and inclusive growth. It acknowledged the contributions of ASEAN over the past 50 years towards regional peace and prosperity as well as Australia’s support to ASEAN Community building. It reaffirmed the great importance of mutual respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality, and non-interference as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC).

At the Summit, the Leaders committed to intensify the response to regional and global challenges, including Korean Peninsula, terrorism and violent extremism, and South China Sea. The leaders agreed to enhance cooperation on maritime cooperation, cyber affairs, combatting transnational crime in particular, people trafficking and dealing with emerging health threats in the region. The Leaders also agreed to boost trade, investment and business links and to move forward new initiatives on smart cities, infrastructure development and economic policy cooperation. Australia announced AUD 80 million commitment to continue collaboration with ASEAN to combat human trafficking. Australia also announced that in order to strengthen ASEAN-Australia education exchange, Australia will award 50 “Australia Awards ASEAN Scholarships” to the next generation of leaders from ASEAN countries to undertake post-graduate study in Australia.

The Leaders adopted the “Joint Statement of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit: Sydney Declaration” (as attached herewith) as a roadmap for further strengthening and advancing ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations in the next decade. The Leaders also witnessed the signing ceremony of the “Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and Australia for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism.”

During the Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister made three interventions on different topics, in which Samdech Techo underlined that:

- In the context of a fast-changing regional geo-political architecture and the growing inter-dependence of the ASEAN region and Australia, peace, security, and stability are the core interest of ASEAN-Australia relations and are the foundation of growth and prosperity for the whole region.
- There is a need to further promote cooperation in the education sector, via the provision of scholarships to ASEAN students through Australia's New Colombo Plan.
- There is an urgency to conclude the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership's (RCEP) negotiations in 2018.
- Samdech Techo also urges Australia to continue supporting ASEAN's centrality in the regional architecture, especially through the East-Asia Summit mechanism to effectively address non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, climate change related natural disasters, international migration, epidemics, and so forth, so as to ensure peace and security for the people in the East-Asian region.

While in Australia, Samdech Techo joined other ASEAN Leaders in attending a luncheon hosted by the Honourable Peter Cosgrove, Governor-General of Australia.

During his stay in Australia, Samdech Techo HUN Sen also had bilateral talks with the Honourable Malcolm TURNBULL, Prime Minister of Australia. During the meeting, Samdech Techo informed his counterpart of the recent political development in Cambodia, the improved economic situation and efforts to maintain peace, security and stability in Cambodia.

On bilateral cooperation, both Leaders agreed to further strengthen cooperation, particularly in the field of human resources development, demining and UXOs assistance to Cambodia and ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center. Both Leaders reaffirmed the ties between the two countries by further enhancing the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of Australia relating to the Settlement of Refugees (MOU) signed in 2014 in Phnom Penh. The Leaders will push for the establishment of the consultation and cooperation between the two countries on politic, security, economy and culture in accordance with the MoU on the Establishment of Senior Official Consultation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia and that of Australia, which was signed on October 2017. Australian Prime Minister Turnbull pledged AUD 87 million for development assistance to Cambodia for 2018 and to further improve bilateral relation by encouraging more investors to Cambodia. Moreover, he expressed thanks to the Royal Government of Cambodia for supporting the New Colombo Plan. In that occasion, Samdech Techo extended an invitation to Prime Minister Turnbull to pay an official visit to Cambodia.

During his stay in Australia, Samdech Techo met and had solidarity dinner with over 1500 Cambodian people living in Australia and New Zealand in the evenings of 16 and 17 March. In both occasion, Samdech Techo informed the Cambodian compatriots of the political situation, the improvement of Cambodia's economy, the increased numbers of foreign tourists to Cambodia, the enhanced living condition, measures to strengthen the rule of law and especially, the government's efforts in bringing about peace, national reconciliation, political stability and the development in all areas.

Samdech Techo has also received a courtesy call by Mr. Jeremy Johnson, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Australia. The discussion focused mainly on the economic relations between the two countries.

Phnom Penh, 20 March 2018

