



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

Press Release

**Outcomes of the 8th Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic
Cooperation Strategy Summit (8th ACMECS) and
the 9th Cambodia-Laos –Myanmar-Vietnam Summit (9th CLMV)**

15-16 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

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Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia led a high-level delegation to attend the 8th ACMECS and chaired the 9th CLMV Summit, in Bangkok, Thailand, from 15 to 16 June 2018.

1- The 8th ACMECS Summit

His Excellency General **Prayut Chan-o-cha**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand chaired the 8th ACMECS Summit, which was held from 15-16 June 2018 under the theme “Towards an Integrated and Connected Mekong Community”.

During the Summit, the Leaders deliberated and exchanged views on the cooperation of 8 priority sectors, in which the positive achievements have been realized, including Transport Linkages, Investment and Trade Facilitation, Industrial and Energy sector, Agricultural sector, Human Resource Development, Tourism Sector, Public Health, and Environmental Cooperation.

The Leaders also underlined with satisfaction that the ACMECS sub-region presents immense potential in Asia due to strategic location that propels regional and global economic growth witnessing by sub-region’s high annual growth rate and skill-based human resources. The Leaders recognized that the sub-region is facing new emerging challenges posed by slower-than-anticipated global economic recovery, growing trend of trade protectionism, anti-globalization. Moreover, the Leaders discussed how ACMECS’ cooperation and integration can generate stronger economic growth along borders, which contribute to strengthening peace, security, stability and prosperity in ASEAN region.

The ACMECS Summit underscored the importance of cooperative implementation of three main pillars of the ACMECS Master Plan, as the following:

- 1) Seamless ACMECS to promote seamless connectivity from multi-modal transports links (roads, rails, bridges, ports, air, inland waterway, and maritime connectivity) including but not limited to infrastructures designed for sub-regional digital connectivity and energy infrastructure interconnection.



2) Synchronized ACMECS to promote software connectivity namely i) Trade, Investment and Industrial Cooperation emphasizing on ACMECS policy cooperation in the harmonization and simplification of rules and regulations to facilitate movement of people, free flow of goods, services, and investment and ii) financial cooperation including the establishment of the ACMECS Fund and the ACMECS Infrastructure Fund and Trust.

3) Smart and Sustainable ACMECS to promote the development of human capital in strategic areas including entrepreneurship, agriculture, tourism, medical services and education, while continue to promote environmental cooperation, renewable energy, climate change, disaster-risk management, and so on.

During the Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister made substantive contributions. The key points of his interventions can be quoted as follows:

First: I would like to highly appreciate the Kingdom of Thailand for initiating the ACMECS Master Plan 2019-2023, aiming to reform the ACMECS Cooperation structure, and to fully utilize ACMECS's potential. At the same time, Cambodia would also agree in principle on the initiative of Thailand to establish ACMECS Fund and ACMECS Infrastructure Fund and Trust. For further works, I would request our technical officials to deliberate and study more on the mechanism, structure, feasibility and Terms of References of these Funds.

Second: the private sector has played a significant role in accelerating development. We, therefore, have to encourage the Public Private Partnership, which is the key driving force of economic growth, and continue to provide priority in improving business climate, especially through the development of transport infrastructure, logistics, trade facilitation and Special Economic Zones. Furthermore, with regard to the remaining projects that have not been financed, we should encourage the private sector to participate, especially through the Public Private Partnership, so that those priority projects can be completed on time. I would also congratulate the success of ACMECS CEO Forum, which was held yesterday, entitled "Connecting our Future: Enhancing ACMECS Cooperation and Integration," aiming to promote connectivity, trade and investment, as well as strengthening financial cooperation.

Third: strengthening the cooperation on Trade, Investment and Industry among ACMECS members in the context of the Global and Regional Value Chains is the task to be further expedited, so that we can benefit from outflow of modern technology and changes in economic structure of some countries in the region, from a labor-intensive to capital-intensive economy. At the same time, we have to regularly adapt ourselves with new conditions and maintain an open and flexible attitude toward the positive changes, particularly in the context of the arrival of the fourth Industrial Evolution and the change of technology in financial services in order to ensure that our production capacity remains competitive.

Fourth: maintaining regional and sub-regional security, peace and stability still remains the integral part of successes and economic development, both at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. In this regard, there is a need for us to strengthen mutual trust, based on the peaceful resolution for dispute settlement mechanism, mutual dialogue and consultation in accordance with international law and the spirit of good collaboration.

Fifth: I would like to express my full support for the joint vision of ACMECS development, especially I would support the Bangkok Declaration of the 8th ACMECS Summit and the ACMECS Master Plan 2019-2013.

At the conclusion, the Leaders adopted the Bangkok Declaration and ACMECS Master Plan.



In the capacity of the incoming chair of ACMECS, in his acceptance speech, Samdech Techo Prime Minister reiterates Cambodia's commitment to strengthen the traditional friendship, good neighborhood and mutual benefits among ACMECS countries in order to promote peace, stability and development within the region. Cambodia will redouble its efforts in focusing on ACMECS' priority direction by reducing the development gap and enhancing socio-economic development while protecting our environment to strengthen welfare of our citizens for the benefit of ACMECS countries.

Cambodia will ensure the effective implementation of the Bangkok Declaration and particularly the three pillars of ACMECS Mater Plan 2019-2023 while encouraging and finalizing the implementation of Hanoi Declaration, previous Declarations as well as other projects and initiatives being implemented both at either bilateral or multilateral levels.

In the framework of the 8th ACMECS Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister delivered a key note speech, focusing on enhancing ACMECS cooperation and integration. He underlined Cambodia's efforts to promote and facilitate trade, simplify customs procedures, enhance institutional connectivity and upgrade physical connectivity in transportation connecting to neighboring countries in order to realise Connectivity Vision under cooperation framework of ACMECS and the whole ASEAN.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is reviewing the feasibility to gradually lower the tariff from 2019 onwards, and increasing the efforts to further enhance stability and quality of the electricity supply in order to attract investment in industries that have higher-value-added, use modern machineries and be a part of regional value chain.

2-The 9th CLMV

On 16 June 2018, **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN** chaired the 9th CLMV Summit under the theme "For Greater Economic Integration and Connectivity". In his opening remarks, Samdech Techo extends his gratitude to H.E. Gen. Prayut Chan-o-cha and the Government of Thailand for providing the venue and arranged this 9th CLMV Summit as well as the warm hospitality extended to all members of the delegations.

Samdech Techo stressed the importance of this Summit in exploring further opportunity among the CLMV countries in expanding and enhancing trade and investment, deepening cooperation through soft and hard infrastructure connectivity, and human resource development with the core objectives to uplift the welfare and quality of life of the CLMV peoples. The key objectives of CLMV cooperation is to focus on our priorities to strengthen macroeconomic stability and deeper structural reforms in our respective country, as well as to further enhance our cooperation, particularly in the 9 priority areas that have been so far agreed.

The CLMV Summit resolved to expand trade and investment, deepening cooperation in soft and hard connectivity, promoting Human Resource development with a view to uplifting the well-being and quality of life of CLMV peoples and achieving sustainable and inclusive development and expressed the commitment to pursue the objectives of CLMV cooperation.

The Leaders noted with satisfaction that CLMV has continued to experience dynamic growth. It is imperative for CLMV to further enhance their cooperation to bring about the realization of the development opportunities and potentials and express strong belief that the challenges faced by CLMV can be overcome through closer cooperation and coordination among the CLMV countries.

The Summit noted satisfactorily to see the growing friendship and cooperation among CLMV over the past years. The establishment of various economic, infrastructure and people-to-people linkages has greatly contributed to the development of the ASEAN Community, the narrowing of the development gap, and the improvement of well-being and livelihoods of the peoples.



The Leaders also discussed and exchanged views on various cooperative areas in transport, trade and investment facilitation, industry, tourism, human resource, agriculture energy, ICT, which are crucial factors for the development of the CLMV and play an essential role in promoting economic growth as well as bringing the betterness for the well-being of the CLMV people.

At the end of the Summit, the Joint Statement of the 9th CLMV was adopted.

After the 9th CLMV Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister hold a Press Conference in which he indicated key substances that reaffirmed CLMV commitments to further deepening cooperation, actively coordinating and comprehensively promoting CLMV's economic linkage and peoples' connectivity with priority objectives as follows:

1. Enhancing transport sector cooperation through infrastructure connectivity and facilitate cross border goods and peoples' movements of CLMV Countries, while promoting cross border trade.
2. Developing Special Economic or Industry Zones, to support mechanism for small and medium enterprises, and to promote smart entrepreneurship, improving productivity and harmonization in order to minimize Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs).
3. Reducing unnecessary barriers (formalities), promoting Public Private Partnership and enhancing air linkages among CLMV countries; in order to facilitate and simplify the movement of intra-CLMV travelers and attract more inbound tourists to CLMV countries.
4. Promoting the cooperation on human resource development through exchanges of experiences and best practice, particularly technical vocational education and training, promoting joint programs among CLMV Universities and language training institutions, and the exchange programs between educational officials, experts, teachers, administrators and students and developing mutual recognition arrangement for teachers and vocational trainers among CLMV countries.
5. Enhancing productivities and diversification, promoting agro-industrial cropping for export and processing through the implementation of "contract farming", and enhancing cooperation in fisheries and forestry sectors through research and development.
6. Increasing energy cooperation, especially on power grid connectivity, power trade and exchange of energy, capacity building and technical assistance, based on sustainable development framework, mitigation of adverse impacts and formulation of the development strategy including production of clean energy, enhancement of energy efficiency and preservation.
7. Expediting capacity building on digital skills in order to prepare for the revolution of digital economy, enhance cross border ICT connectivity and services to encourage online trade, economic activities and socio-cultural exchange; while strengthening the cooperation on cyber security, through including the cooperation between Computer Emergency Response Team of CLMV countries (CLMV CERTs).

On the sidelines of the 9th CLMV Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen attended a working breakfast with H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith and H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, had a bilateral talk with His Excellency Gen. Prayut Chan-o-cha in order to strengthen and further deepen cordial and productive bilateral relations between Cambodia and Thailand, received a courtesy call on by H.E. Mr. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, former Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Phnom Penh, 19 June 2018

