



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

Press Release

**Outcomes of the participation of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN,
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in the 33rd ASEAN Summit
and Related Summits
13-15 November 2018 in Singapore**

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, participated in the 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, which was held under the theme “Resilient and Innovative ASEAN”, from 13-15 November 2018 in Singapore. The main outcomes are highlighted as follows:

The 33rd ASEAN Summit / Working Dinner for the ASEAN Leaders

The ASEAN Leaders had fruitful discussion and noted the progress in building a resilient and innovative ASEAN Community and the efforts to further deepening ASEAN’s relations with the rest of the world. They reaffirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the ASEAN Leaders’ Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN.

The Leaders underscored the importance of strengthening ASEAN Centrality and unity in Community-building efforts and engagement with ASEAN’s external partners. They reiterated their commitment to a rules-based regional architecture adhering to ASEAN-led mechanisms that is open, transparent and inclusive. They also had the opportunity to exchange views on many important issues including connectivity, narrowing development gap, ASEAN Smart Cities Network, digital revolution as well as other issues of common concerns affecting the region and the world.

On the economic side, the Leaders expressed satisfaction that the region has attained a combined GDP of USD 2.8 trillion in 2017 and noted that growth is expected to remain stable at 5.1 per cent and 5.2 per cent in 2018 and 2019, respectively. They welcomed the substantial progress made in the negotiation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in 2018 and reaffirmed their determination to conclude a modern, comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial RCEP in 2019.



On the socio-cultural front, the Leaders resolved to deepen the sense of ASEAN identity, awareness, connectedness and belonging, and find innovative ways to equip their citizens with skills and capabilities so that ASEAN can remain a vibrant, inclusive and dynamic place for peoples to live, work and play. They reaffirmed their commitment to nurture and invest in the youth to fully realise the energy and potential of ASEAN's youth demography.

The Leaders expressed their readiness to assist Myanmar on the repatriation of displaced persons in the spirit of ASEAN family and underlined the need to build trust and confidence among returnees and villagers as well as between Myanmar and the international community. They also expressed the support to Myanmar to enhance economic opportunity for all communities, and recommend Myanmar to invite the AHA Centre to dispatch a need assessment team.

At the Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister has stressed specifically on the following points:

- Requested all stakeholders to continue their discussions on the implementation of the ASEAN Smart Cities Framework 2018 and on finding ways to integrate and harmonize their smart cities' Master Plan into a Joint Regional Mechanism, which can be coordinated and managed.
- Underlined the importance of combatting counterfeit and substandard medicines in the region and requested the Kingdom of Thailand, as Chair of ASEAN in 2019, to put "Combatting Counterfeit and Substandard Medicines" in the agenda of the next Summit.
- Underscored, in the context of ASEAN's external relation, Cambodia's support for any initiative that benefits regional connectivity and strengthens ASEAN's Centrality, unity, openness, inclusiveness and mutual complementarity.

The 33rd ASEAN Summit adopted 7 documents, namely: 1) ASEAN Smart Cities Framework; 2) ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Green Jobs for Equity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN Community; 3) ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; 4) ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties; 5) ASEAN Joint Statement to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; 6) ASEAN Declaration on the Adoption of the ASEAN Youth in Climate Action and Disaster Resilience Day; and 7) Declaration on the Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States' Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of other ASEAN Member States.

ASEAN Business Advisory Council

On the sidelines of the 33rd ASEAN Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister, together with other ASEAN Leaders, attended the meeting of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC). Samdech Techo stressed the need to establish a private-



public consultative platform for Wide-Harmonization of National Comprehensive Digital Economy Strategy, and requested ABAC to consider it as a matter of high priority. He felt that the effort, once realized, would make each country well-prepared to seize opportunities arising from the Fourth Industrial Revolution as well as enabling ASEAN to transform itself into a highly competitive and leading region in digital economy.

The ASEAN-Australia Informal Breakfast Summit

The Leaders of ASEAN and Australia welcomed the successful conclusion of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit held in Sydney in March 2018 and reaffirmed their commitment made in the Sydney Declaration. The Leaders expressed their determination to further deepen ASEAN-Australia ties and promote open, dynamic, and competitive economies that benefit both regions. They committed to intensifying trade through investment cooperation efforts with an aim to accelerate regional economic integration. They are encouraged to see the increase of people-to-people linkages and urged more cooperation in capacity-building initiatives focusing on education and sports exchange programmes.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister welcomed the expansion of Australia's new Colombo Plan to all ASEAN Member States, which he believed will further promote wider people-to-people connectivity through supporting Australian students to study and work in the ASEAN region.

The 21st ASEAN-China Summit

The Leaders welcomed the commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership and appreciated the successful convening of various activities to commemorate the ASEAN-China Year of Innovation 2018. They noted with satisfaction that China remained as ASEAN's largest trading partner with a total merchandise trade standing at USD441.6 billion.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister expressed his full support for the adoption of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership Vision 2030 and stressed the need to further promote awareness of ASEAN-China relations in all areas, in order to contribute to building trust and confidence to forge a bridge of friendship between the peoples. He underscored the importance of finding synergy and complementarity between the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and the China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The Summit agreed to designate the year 2019 as the ASEAN-China Year of Media Exchange and adopted the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership Vision 2030 as a reflection of their commitment to boost up the relationship to greater height.

The 20th ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit

The ASEAN Leaders expressed appreciation for the ROK's "New Southern Policy" and reaffirmed their support for efforts in promoting closer cultural cooperation and people-to-people ties, which are the key pillars of the ASEAN-ROK cooperation. On



the Korean Peninsula issues, the Leaders welcomed the three Inter-Korean Summits held this year as well as the Singapore Summit between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 12 June 2018. The ASEAN Leaders recognised and appreciated President Moon's efforts in bringing about the progress thus far.

Samdech Techo expressed with satisfaction the elevation of the Mekong-ROK meeting to a Summit level. He welcomed the ROK's New Southern Policy and urged that further efforts be made to promote people-to-people linkages between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea.

The Summit agreed with the ROK's proposal to host the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit next year to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations in the Republic of Korea. The Inaugural Mekong-ROK Summit will also be held back-to-back with the Commemorative Summit.

Working lunch hosted by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong for ASEAN Leaders and Guests of the Chair

On the margin of the ASEAN Summit, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong hosted a working lunch under the theme "Free Trade and Global Economy". The lunch was attended by all ASEAN Leaders as well as other guests of the Chair, which included the Prime Minister of Canada, as Chair of the G7 in 2018; the President of the Republic of Chile, as Chair of the APEC in 2018 and the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The discussions emphasized on the importance of improving the multilateral system as well as the financial system and its governance to ensure that globalization benefits people more inclusively. The Leaders recognized the importance in providing support to SMEs to be integrated in global value chains as well as to uphold a global trade environment that is open, mutually beneficial, rule-based and inclusive. They were encouraged by ASEAN's efforts in deepening economic integration, via initiatives like the ASEAN Smart Cities Network, the ASEAN Single Window and the ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction and appreciation for the active involvement of ASEAN's partners in promoting the use of innovative technology to create digital opportunities that can be used to support the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community Agenda and strengthening ASEAN's long-term competitiveness.

The 3rd ASEAN-Russia Summit

ASEAN Leaders appreciated Russia's continued support for ASEAN Centrality and Russia's active participation in various ASEAN-led mechanisms. The Summit agreed to strengthen cooperation in addressing traditional and non-traditional security challenges, such as international terrorism, transnational crime, threats and challenges arising from the use of ICTs.



The Leaders also witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and the Eurasian Economic Commission on Economic Cooperation (EEC) by the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the Chairman of the EEC.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister, together with all ASEAN Leaders, agreed to elevate the ASEAN-Russia relations from the comprehensive partnership to a strategic partnership and adopted the Joint Statement of the 3rd ASEAN-Russia Federation on Strategic Partnership.

The 21st ASEAN-Japan Summit

The Summit commended the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap in various sectors, including activities promoting human resources development, micro small and medium enterprise (MSME) development, and infrastructure, innovation and technology.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister expressed his appreciation on Japan's important contribution in the ASEAN Community building and ASEAN integration through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund. He acknowledges Japan's efforts in assisting CLMV countries narrowing the development gaps within the region, especially through Japan's support in human resource development and people-to-people exchanges.

The Summit adopted the Joint Statement of the 21st ASEAN-Japan Summit to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

The 2nd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Leaders' Meeting

The Leaders welcomed the substantial progress made in the RCEP negotiations in 2018 and the advancement to the final stage of negotiations. They are determined to conclude a modern, comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial RCEP in 2019.

The ASEAN-India Informal Breakfast Summit

The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen and strengthen the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership for mutual benefit, across the political-security, economic, and socio-cultural pillars.

Addressing the Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister underlined the necessity to work together to further deepen and widen the economic cooperation by way of strengthening and expanding business, investment and trade activities.

Samdech Techo also welcomed the designation of 2019 as the year of ASEAN-India Tourism and looked forward to the convening of various activities and programs aimed at strengthening the people and people exchanges as well as the flow of tourists of both regions.

The 6th ASEAN-US Summit

The Leaders noted that the United States is ASEAN's third largest trading partner. In this respect, they shared their resolve to keep markets open and inclusive, and maintain a transparent and predictable global business environment. They also



appreciated the U.S.' support for ASEAN's economic integration and other efforts to promote community building through various development cooperation programmes.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister underlined Cambodia's appreciation in the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement and the Expanded Economic Engagement Initiatives Work Plan. With regards to the U.S.'s support in human resource development and education sector in ASEAN, he requested the U.S. to continue providing more scholarships to ASEAN youth, especially Cambodian youth, to pursue their undergraduate and graduate education in the U.S.

The 21st ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit

The Leaders acknowledged the importance of the APT in maintaining and enhancing peace, security, stability and development in East Asia. The Leaders also reaffirmed their support for an open, inclusive, and rules-based multilateral trading system that will support regional economic integration amidst uncertainties in the global trade environment. The Leaders also discussed many new initiatives to advance APT cooperation on all fronts toward building an East Asia community.

Samdech Techo shared his views on the importance of improving the livelihood and well-being of the people within the APT countries through strengthening cooperation to combat against counterfeit and substandard medicines. The Summit adopted the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Cooperation Against Antimicrobial Resistance.

The 13th East Asia Summit (EAS) Plenary

The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in the region.

The Leaders discussed cooperation in various areas such as environment, energy, education, finance, health related issues, natural disaster management, regional connectivity, trade and economy, food security, and information and communication technology. To this end, the Leaders adopted 5 Statements focusing on marine debris, countering terrorism, ICT and digital economy, smart cities, and nuclear safety.

The Leader also exchanged views on regional and global issues including the Korean Peninsula, the Rakhine State, the South China Sea, climate change, cyber security, terrorism and violent extremism, and multilateral trading system.

Phnom Penh, 16 November 2018

