



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

**Press Release on the Outcomes of the Official Visit of
His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of
the Kingdom of Cambodia, to Romania
12-13 December 2018**

His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, wrapped up an official visit to Romania on 12-13 December 2018 at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Teodor Melescanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania. The purpose of this visit, which took place against the backdrop of the 55th anniversary of Cambodia-Romania diplomatic relations, was to further deepen political trust and expand across-the-board cooperation between the two nations.

At their bilateral meeting, the two foreign ministers briefed their respective country's recent development during which Minister Melescanu congratulated Cambodia's economic development at an impressive rate and expressed his readiness to further elevate the relations in all aspects of common interest.

Given the two countries' existing potentialities, both ministers stressed the necessity of further joint endeavors to advance the economic and trade partnership. They agreed to work together to push for the establishment of Cambodia-Romania Business Council, Inter-departmental Working Group between the Commerce Ministries and Joint Economic Committee. They noted that there is a great potential for cooperation in the spheres of agriculture, IT and oil/gas (machineries), and agreed to encourage their authorities concerned to discuss them in detail. Furthermore, both sides hailed the official opening of the Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Romania and the holding of a business forum, both of which occurred on the sidelines of this visit, as a new concrete stride to help foster the economic linkage.

The two ministers attached great importance to education of younger generation. In this regard, the Romanian side pledged to continue offering scholarships to Cambodian students, and to invite junior Cambodian diplomats to its annual diplomatic training course.



Both ministers signed two additional agreements, which aim to facilitate the travel of the government officers and to boost cooperation in diplomatic institutes between the two nations. Additionally, they underscored the significance of an early entry into force of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Science, Culture, Mass-Media, Youth and Sports, which was signed last year. Moreover, the two ministers agreed to work together toward an early conclusion of the pending legal base in the fields of taxation, security, tourism, maritime transportation and labor.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister was also briefed about the ongoing preparations pertaining to the official inauguration of four leaders' statue in honor of the founders of International Organization of La Francophonie (IOF), one of which is that of the late King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia, at the Francophonie Square in Bucharest. This historic event is re-scheduled to 2020 in order to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of IOF.

On multilateral agenda, Romania looks forward to welcoming high-level participation of Cambodia in ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting and that of Asia-Europe Foundation. The Romanian foreign minister also pledged to serve as an honest facilitator to push for consensus in favor of improved ties between Cambodia and the EU, including the import of Cambodia's fragrant rice into the EU market, during its rotating Presidency of the European Council in the first half of 2019. In addition, both ministers exchanged views on pressing international issues concerning political, economic and security matters in Europe and Middle East.

On a separate occasion, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister had an opportunity to interact with H.E. Mr. Viorel Stefan, Deputy Prime Minister of Romania, who highly appreciated Cambodia's sustained economic growth over the past two decades. They identified a number of prospective spheres of collaboration, namely oil/gas, railway, renewable energy, ICT, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, etc. and agreed to encourage institutions concerned to explore practical projects. Both Deputy Prime Ministers also emphasized the vital role of direct partnership between the provincial /municipal authorities in the fields of economy, youth and education. Deputy Prime Minister Stefan also reiterated Romania's intention to coordinate frank and transparent dialogues with a view to further promoting the mutual understanding and improving the relations between Cambodia and the EU.

Phnom Penh, 15 December 2018

