



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

**On the Outcomes of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat (AMM Retreat)
4-6 February 2018, Singapore**

At the invitation of **His Excellency Dr. VIVIAN Balakrishnan**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, **His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn**, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, led a Cambodia delegation to attend the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat (AMM Retreat) held on 4-6 February 2018 in Singapore.

The Retreat deliberated on several topics, the most important of which are the follow-ups of the ASEAN Leaders' decisions at the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, the priorities of Singapore's ASEAN Chairmanship and ASEAN's external relations. The ministers had also frank exchanges of views on regional and international issues.

In support of Singapore Chairmanship's theme of "**Resilience and Innovation**", H.E. Senior Minister reiterated Cambodia's support to ASEAN's efforts in addressing its competitiveness, equitable economic development, regional integration and reducing the development gap within ASEAN. He underscored the importance of investment in youths that will bring enormous return as they can embrace the opportunities created by new technologies and innovation, which will transform ASEAN into a smart and innovative region.

On the matter of ASEAN's external relations, he underlined the need to find the best approaches to address shifting regional geo-economics and geo-politics challenges so as to ensure peace, security and prosperity in the region and beyond.✍

He underscored that economic imperatives should continue to dictate external relations in term of securing better market access for ASEAN exports, more investments and more cooperation in trade in services and tourism. As a resilient ASEAN Community, he hoped to see more development cooperation focusing on narrowing the development gaps and other activities that could yield tangible benefits to the ASEAN business community, particularly the SMEs, the youths and civil societies.

On regional and international issues, the Ministers exchanged views on the South China Sea (SCS), the Rakhine State, and the initial concept of the Indo-Pacific regional architecture. On the SCS, H.E. Senior Minister was encouraged by the positive developments ASEAN and China made last year, in particular on the adoption of the COC Framework and the official announcement on the commencement of negotiations on the COC.

On the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State, the Ministers expressed support for Myanmar's humanitarian relief programme and welcomed the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre)'s ongoing work with the Myanmar Government-led mechanism to deliver humanitarian assistance to all displaced persons.✉

Phnom Penh, 07 February 2018

