



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

Press Release

**Outcomes of the participation of His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn,
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,
at the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit and the First Mekong-ROK Summit
Busan, 24-27 November 2019**

His Excellency **PRAK Sokhonn**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, as the High Representative of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, attended the ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Commemorative Summit and the First Mekong-ROK Summit in Busan, from 24 to 27 November 2019.

The ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit

The Theme of the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit is “Partnership for Peace, Prosperity for People”. In the “ASEAN-ROK 30 & 30” session, the Leaders reviewed the achievements of the ASEAN-ROK cooperation over the past 30 years and charted its future cooperation for the next 30 years. They exchanged views on enhancing connectivity toward prosperity and held a special retreat session to discuss on the issue of peace in the Korean Peninsula.

ASEAN Leaders applauded the New Southern Policy of the H.E. Moon Jae-In, President of the Republic of Korea, underpinned by three pillars of “peace, prosperity and people,” which has strengthened the focus of the ROK’s foreign policy towards ASEAN. The Summit highly valued the ROK’s support of ASEAN Centrality through its active engagement in various ASEAN-led mechanisms, which has contributed significantly to peace and security and prosperity in the region. The Leaders further encouraged stronger cooperation on transnational crimes, counter-terrorism, illicit drug, and cyber security, food and energy security, climate change-related disasters and environment management, among others.

The Leaders also noted the strong economic relations between ASEAN and the ROK and expressed their firm commitment for a rule-based multilateral trading system, an effective utilization of the ASEAN-ROK Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA), and the early conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) among the 15 participating countries next year. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the ROK’s support in regional integration and ASEAN Community



building through the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). They acknowledged the ROK's strength in technologies and innovation and encouraged the ROK's support on human resource development, education and capacity building to bridge the digital divide.

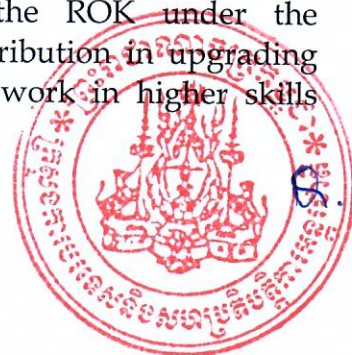
H.E. Prak Sokhonn stressed on the need to translate the "Joint Declaration on ASEAN-ROK for Peace, Prosperity, and Partnership" into concrete actions that will be reflected in the new "5-year Action Plan (2021-2025)". He encouraged the ROK to continue strengthening collaboration with ASEAN through sharing of knowledge, best practices and technical support and expressed Cambodia's hope to benefit more from technical assistance on skills training and human resource development in the field of ICT and digital innovation so that Cambodia can benefit from the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). He acknowledged the important role played by the ASEAN-Korea Center and the ASEAN Culture House in the promotion of tourism, culture, trade, and investment within ASEAN and in the ROK and fully support the initiative of Busan City to designate a two-kilometer "ASEAN Street" in the spirit to promote cultural understanding between ASEAN and the ROK. He also urged for the conclusion of RCEP by the 15 participating countries in early next year as well as appreciated the ROK's contribution in the implementation of the Work Plan of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) as a key element for narrowing the development gap in the region. On enhancing connectivity, he urged the ROK to encourage more Korean companies to take part in connectivity projects in ASEAN countries, especially in the areas of Smart Cities, soft and hard infrastructure and skill trainings to promote economic growth and wellbeing of the people.

On the Korean Peninsula issues, H.E. Prak Sokhonn welcomed the positive development brought about by the Inter-Korean Summits and the U.S.-DPRK Summits and expressed support to President Moon Jae-in's three principles of "zero tolerance for war, mutual security guarantee and co-prosperity" and his commitment towards finding solutions to a complete denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula.

At the conclusion of the Commemorative Summit, the Leaders adopted the "ASEAN-ROK Joint Vision for Peace, Prosperity, and Partnership" and issued the "Co-Chairs' Statement of the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit".

The First Mekong-ROK Summit

During the First Mekong-ROK Summit held on 27 November, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn expressed thanks to H.E. President Moon Jae-in and all Mekong countries Leaders for supporting Samdech Techo Hun Sen's initiative to elevate the working structure of the Mekong-ROK cooperation framework from a foreign ministerial level to a summit level. He noted the steady progress and tangible achievements of the Mekong-ROK cooperation framework that has contributed to the socio-economic transformation of the Mekong countries, in the form of human resource development and employment opportunities. Since 2007 more than 61,000 Cambodians have found employment opportunities in the ROK under the Employment Permit System. He highlighted the ROK's contribution in upgrading their skills and prepared them upon their return home to work in higher skills industries.



H.E. Prak Sokhonn has reiterated his strong support of the “Mekong-ROK Business Forum”, which is a useful platform to connect businesspeople, especially SMEs, in regional and global production chains. He is also pleased that Cambodia could tap the “Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund” to implement this year a capacity building project on logistics database management, which aims at strengthening Cambodia’s trade connectivity with Lao PDR and Vietnam.

The Summit adopted the Mekong-Han River Declaration and agreed to continue the Mekong-ROK cooperation based on the three pillars of People, Prosperity and Peace, which are also the key pillars of the New Southern Policy, and seven new priority areas: (i) Culture and Tourism, (ii) Human Resources Development, (iii) Agriculture and Rural Development, (iv) Infrastructure, (v) Information and Communication Technology (ICT), (vi) Environment, (vii) Non-traditional Security Challenges.

The Summit agreed to hold the Mekong-ROK Summit every year on the sidelines of the ASEAN-related summits, under the co-chairmanship of the ROK and one of the Mekong countries.

Bilateral Meetings

On the sideline of the Summits, on 25 November 2019, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn received a courtesy call by H.E. Oh Keo-don, Major of Busan Metropolitan City, and met with H.E. Mrs. Kang Kyung-wha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (ROK).

In a call, H.E. Prak Sokhonn thanked the Major of Busan for warmly welcoming the Cambodian delegation. He highly commended Busan City Administration for its effort to organize many events, including ASEAN Food Street, the naming of ASEAN Street, ASEAN Film Festival and the launch of a Community Center Building for foreign expatriates, to celebrate growing relations and cooperation between the Republic of Korea and ASEAN nations. H.E. Prak Sokhonn and H.E. Oh Keo-don also exchanged views on promoting Busan-Phnom Penh cooperation in the areas of smart-city development, urban planning and water management, through the existing sister-city relationship. H.E. Prak Sokhonn expressed full support and welcomed Busan’s cooperation in the development of film industry, port management and dry port development in Cambodia. Taking this opportunity, he requested Busan Administration to continue providing good care for the welfare of over 9,000 Cambodian people who are current living and working in Busan city.

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn met with H.E. Mrs. Kang Kyung-wha to discuss bilateral cooperation between Cambodia and the ROK. At the outset, H.E. Mrs. Kang Kyung-wha expressed sadness for being unable to welcome Samdech Techo Prime Minister in Busan due to the critical condition of his mother-in-law’s health, and conveyed President Moon Jae-in’s best wishes for her speedy recovery.



H.E. Prak Sokhonn expressed appreciation for warm hospitality and for President Moon Jae-in's best wishes. He recalled the fruitful State Visit of H.E. President Moon Jae-in in Cambodia in March this year, which contributed to further deepening bilateral relations between the two countries.

The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on bilateral cooperation in various areas including investment, trade, connectivity, finance, agriculture, energy, waste management and people-to-people exchange. They expressed satisfaction that both sides agreed to the signing of the Agreement on the Elimination of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance and the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, which are relevant for facilitating people-to-people and business-to-business relations between the two countries.

On agriculture, both Foreign Ministers welcomed the signing by the Ministers of Agriculture to the two countries on a Memorandum of Understanding to extend agricultural cooperation, and agreed to continue promoting cooperation in the areas of forestry, agro-industry and agro-processing. They were pleased to welcome the launch of a joint study on a possible Cambodia-ROK Free Trade Area (FTA), which will further increase bilateral trade volume, which has been steadily increasing to nearly 1 billion US dollar.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn took the opportunity to thank the ROK for its continued contribution to the socio-economic development of Cambodia, as well as its recent pledge to increase concessional loan for Cambodia to USD 700 million for 2019-2023 and its grant support of 10 million USD for mine clearance in Battambang, Pailin and Banteay Meanchey. On labor cooperation, he was grateful that the ROK has been increasing recruitment quota of Cambodian workers and caring for the welfare of Cambodian nationals who live and work in ROK.

Both Ministers also discussed on regional and international cooperation. H.E. Mrs. Kang Kyung-wha sought Cambodia's support for ROK's hosting of "The Second P4G Summit: Partnership for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030", in June in 2020 in Seoul. H.E. Prak Sokhonn assured his counterpart of Cambodia's full support and assignment of a high delegation to attend this Summit.

At the conclusion of the meeting, which proceeded in a very cordial atmosphere, the two Ministers signed two important documents, namely the Agreement for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to taxes on income and the prevention of tax evasion and avoidance and the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. ១.

Phnom Penh, 28 November 2019.

