



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of Asia-Pacific

PRESS RELEASE

**Cambodia and Thailand elevate bilateral relations to Strategic Partnership**

At the invitation of His Excellency Srettha Thavisin, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and First Lady Lok Chumteav Dr. Pich Chanmony HUN Manet, paid their first official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand on 7 February. The visit to Bangkok was aimed at further strengthening the close ties of traditional friendship, good neighbourliness, and multifaceted cooperation between the two kingdoms.

During the visit, Samdech Thipadei and the First Lady were granted a royal audience with Their Majesties King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua and Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana. Samdech Thipadei also paid courtesy calls on His Excellency Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the Senate, and His Excellency Wanmuhammadnoor Matha, President of the National Assembly and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

In a cordial atmosphere of close friendship and mutual understanding, the two prime ministers held in-depth discussions on a wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation including politics, trade, investment, tourism, education, labour, culture, transport and connectivity, agriculture, environment, defence and security, and people-to-people ties.

To further deepen long-standing relations and open up new opportunities for more comprehensive and prosperous cooperation to bring about more concrete benefits to the two kingdoms, Samdech Thipadei and Prime Minister Srettha agreed to announce the elevation of bilateral ties to the level of Strategic Partnership.

Both prime ministers attached great significance to the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Cambodia and Thailand in 2025. In this regard, the two leaders look forward to meaningful joint activities to commemorate this milestone year.



To further enhance cooperation and collaboration between the two countries, they underscored the importance of resuming meetings of bilateral-cooperation mechanisms, including the Joint Cabinet Retreat (JCR), the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JC), the General Border Committee (GBC) and the Joint Trade Committee (JTC).

Both sides are committed to redoubling their joint efforts to increase trade between our two countries to its full potential. To boost trade, Thailand will host the Seventh Joint Trade Committee Meeting at ministerial level in early May. The two prime ministers acknowledged the important role and active engagement of the private sector in promoting trade and investment between the two countries.

On tourism cooperation, the two leaders tasked their tourism ministers to continue promoting the “Two Kingdoms, One Destination” mechanism to attract more tourists to the two nations. They also agreed to explore ways and means to facilitate cross-border travel for tourists from Cambodia, Thailand and third countries.

The two prime ministers agreed to further strengthen cooperation on transboundary haze pollution to ensure clean air for the people of the two nations.

Both leaders expressed their resolve to strengthen close cooperation in fighting transnational crimes such as illicit drug smuggling, trafficking in persons, online scams and cybersecurity.

Samdech Thipadei expressed deep appreciation to the Royal Thai Government for reducing fees for work visas (Non-Immigration LA Visas) from 2,000 baht for issues of new visas and 1,900 baht for renewals to 500 baht over four years – from 11 November 2023 to 10 November 2027. Prime Minister Srettha asked his Minister of Labour to consider Samdech Thipadei’s request to exempt Cambodians from re-entry visa fees for those traveling home and returning to Thailand during Khmer New Year (Songkran) holidays in April. Prime Minister Srettha reassured Samdech Thipadei that Cambodian workers in Thailand receive fair treatment and proper economic safety nets.

To provide assistance to each other’s citizens, the two prime ministers agreed to establish a Cambodian Consulate-General in Songkhla and a Thai Consulate-General in Siem Reap. Samdech Thipadei took this opportunity to express his appreciation to Thai authorities for returning 16 artefacts and hoped that technical works will be done to expedite the return of the additional 20 pieces.



Both prime ministers reiterated their commitment not to allow anyone to use Cambodian or Thai territory as platforms to interfere in each other's internal affairs, or conduct harmful activities against their respective governments.

The leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in energy security, and to further discuss joint exploitation of hydrocarbon resources in the maritime Overlapping Claims Area between the two countries.

During the visit, Samdech Thipadei delivered opening remarks at a Cambodia-Thailand Business Forum with nearly 200 Cambodian and Thai companies. He invited companies in Thailand to visit Cambodia to consider the country as fertile ground for investment, explore booming local industries, and maximize benefits from the close partnership between the two countries.

The two prime ministers witnessed and welcomed the signing of five documents:

- 1) MOU between the National Committee for Disaster Management of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Thailand on Cooperation in the Area of Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response;
- 2) MOU between the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation of the Kingdom of Thailand on Academic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation;
- 3) MOU between the Customs Department of the Kingdom of Thailand and the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia on the Transit of Goods;
- 4) MOU between the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce and the Export-Import Bank of Thailand to develop a cooperative framework to support the potential of Thai and Cambodian enterprises in international trade and investment;
- 5) MOU between the Cambodian Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade of Thailand to further improve and expand trade and economic relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

On behalf of the Cambodian delegates, Samdech Thipadei and the First Lady expressed their profound thanks to Prime Minister Srettha, Madam Pakpilai Thavisin and their team for the excellent arrangements and gracious hospitality extended to the Cambodian delegation during their visit.



Phnom Penh, 8 February 2024