



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

Outcomes of the Official Visit of Senator the Honorable Marise Payne,
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women of Australia,
to the Kingdom of Cambodia
On 07-08 November 2021



At the invitation of His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Senator the Hon. **Marise Payne**, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women of Australia, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia on 07-08 November 2021 in order to further strengthen the existing good bilateral ties and cooperation between Cambodia and Australia.

On 8th November, Senator the Hon. **Marise Payne** paid a courtesy call on **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, during which she had praised the rapid development of Cambodia since her previous trip to Cambodia nearly 20 years ago, and highly valued Cambodia's effective control of Covid-19 Pandemic by advancing vaccine program to ensure the gradual opening of socio-economic activities while coping up with Covid-19.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister and Senator the Hon. **Marise Payne** are gratified with the growing bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Cambodia and Australia in various fields, including agriculture, defense, education and the fight against Covid-19. **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** recalled with appreciation the Australian assistance to Cambodia in many fields including the fight against Covid-19. He is also thankful for Australia's commitment to provide 2.35 million doses of Pfizer to Cambodia, of which 1 million doses will arrive Cambodia by the end of 2021.



Senator the Hon. **Marise Payne** expressed Australia's appreciation and high regard to **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** for supporting Australia in establishing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN, and reiterated Australia's full support for Cambodia to ensure the success of Cambodia's ASEAN chairmanship next year.

Senator the Hon. **Marise Payne** also briefed **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** on the recent launch of Trilateral Security Partnership "AUKUS" and reaffirmed that Australia's participation in AUKUS is aimed at acquiring nuclear powered submarine in order to develop the capacity of its navy, and has no intention of establishing a civil nuclear capability; additionally, Australia remains committed to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region.

On the same day, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **PRAK Sokhonn** and Senator the Hon. **Marise Payne** also had a bilateral meeting, during which they had expressed their satisfaction with the friendly relations and fruitful cooperation between the two countries, and agreed to further promote their bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, education and people-to-people connectivity.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **PRAK Sokhonn** expressed his gratefulness towards the Australian government for her support in the socio-economic development in Cambodia through the Official Development Assistance, particularly the assistance towards Cambodia's urgent need in the fight against the pandemic.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **PRAK Sokhonn** has encouraged more Australian companies to invest in Cambodia due to the latter's favorable investment climate with the adoption of the new investment law. In response, Senator the Hon. **Marise Payne** underlined that as Cambodia and Australia are emerging from the pandemic, there are good opportunities for the two countries to work together to boost trade and investment to stimulate growth.

Senator the Hon. **Marise Payne** also reaffirmed Australia's commitment to continue assisting and cooperating with Cambodia in various areas such as economic development, demining, agriculture, health, and education, particularly the continuous provision of scholarship to Cambodian students every year under the Australia Awards scholarships and Mekong-Australia Partnership programs.



On the cooperation under the Mekong-Australia Partnership (MAP), His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn expressed his appreciation to Australia's vision in the Mekong sub-region through promotion of human resource development, economic resilience, trade and investment and strengthening cyber and critical energy. Senator the Hon. **Marise Payne** reiterated Australia's continued support and assistance under this framework, with the amount of AUD 232 million (USD 168 million) for four-year period, aiming to assist the Mekong Sub-region in the post-Covid-19 economic recovery and to improve economic and environmental resilience in the region.

The two Ministers also shared their views that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which will come into force on 1st January 2022, will significantly contribute to boosting economic growth, deepening regional integration, and reinforcing the post Covid-19 economic recovery endeavors.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn has also briefed his Australian counterpart on Cambodia's priorities for ASEAN 2022, as ASEAN Chair, under the theme "ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together". Senator the Hon. **Maryse Payne** reassured Australia's full support all Cambodia's efforts and initiatives during her tenure as ASEAN Chair in 2022, including the ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit, scheduled to be held in Cambodia in 2022.

The two Ministers have also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern and interest including the current situation in Myanmar.

Phnom Penh, 09 November 2021

