



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of ASEAN

PRESS RELEASE

**Outcomes of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference 10+1 Sessions with Dialogue Partners
and the 24th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting**

Phnom Penh, 13 July 2023 – His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, attended the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Sessions with India, New Zealand, Australia, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), the European Union (EU), Canada and the United Kingdom (UK), and the 24th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Jakarta on 13 July 2023.

As ASEAN Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister co-chaired the PMC+1 Session with His Excellency Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister stressed on the need to continue efforts to tackle the ongoing challenges, including countering terrorism and transnational crime, ICT security-related issues and cybersecurity through information sharing and other well-targeted capacity-building measures. He also attached the importance of accelerating the effective implementation of the revised ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap and its Work Programme 2021-2025, and other key priority actions under the ASEAN-Eurasian Economic Union Cooperation Programme 2020-2025. The Meeting also adopted the Joint Statement of ASEAN and Russia Foreign Ministers on the Occasion of the 5th Anniversary of the ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership.

At the PMC+1 Session with India, ASEAN welcomed India's engagement in the region through its Act East Policy and the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), and commended the steady progress in implementing the Plan of Action (POA) to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity 2021–2025. The Ministers adopted the Annex to the POA to follow up on the establishment of the ASEAN-India CSP last year. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** also looked forward to the timely completion and operationalisation of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and its possible extension to Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Viet Nam.

At the PMC+1 Session with New Zealand, ASEAN expressed appreciation for New Zealand's continued support for ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture through its active participation in ASEAN-led mechanisms. The Meeting adopted the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and looked forward to the signing of the 2nd Protocol to Amend the Agreement establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) in August 2023. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** also encouraged New Zealand to provide additional support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) from CLMV countries to become more resilient, competitive and adaptive in the face of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

At the PMC+1 Session with Australia, ASEAN commended the key substantial progress delivered under the ASEAN-Australia CSP through the Australia for ASEAN (Aus4ASEAN) Initiatives, including the AUD 204 Aus4ASEAN Futures Initiatives, 100 Aus4ASEAN Scholarships, and the Aus4ASEAN Digital Transformation and Futures Skills Initiative. The Meeting also looked forward to the Special Summit to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations in March 2024 in Australia which will mark another historical milestone for the ASEAN-Australia partnership. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** also recognised that the AANZFTA has greatly benefited the peoples of ASEAN and Australia, and reaffirmed the importance of the signing of the 2nd Protocol to Amend the Agreement. He underscored that there are substantial synergies between the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Australia for ASEAN Futures–Economic and Connectivity and the Partnership for Infrastructure Initiative.

At the PMC+1 Session with China, the Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to further deepen engagements and underlined the need to continue advancing the ASEAN-China CSP to keep the Partnership dynamic, substantive, and mutually beneficial. ASEAN expressed appreciation for China's support for the ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture and recalled that China was one of the first among ASEAN Dialogue Partners to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) in October 2003. In this spirit, the Meeting adopted the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Commemorating and Reflecting on the 20th Anniversary of China's Accession to the TAC. Given the shared aspiration to make ASEAN the epicentrum of growth, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** highlighted the importance of concluding the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area 3.0 Upgrading Negotiations and the recent entry into force of the RCEP as two important milestones. He also conveyed Cambodia's support for the Joint Statement on Mutually Beneficial Cooperation between the Belt and Road Initiative and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific to be adopted at the 26th ASEAN-China Summit in September 2023. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** commended the efforts by ASEAN Member States and China in concluding the second reading of the Single Draft Negotiating Text of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

At the PMC+1 Session with Japan, the Meeting celebrated the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and looked forward to the announcement of the ASEAN-Japan CSP at the 26th ASEAN-Japan Summit in September as well as the convening of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in December 2023 in Tokyo. ASEAN welcomed Japan's support for the AOIP and appreciated Japan's contribution of USD 100 million for the establishment of Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) 3.0 in March 2023 to support concrete initiatives under the AOIP. During the Meeting, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** stressed that ASEAN and Japan should work together to carry out the implementation of the RCEP and advancing cooperation in building capacity for SMEs and creating new business opportunities through the use of digital technology. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** also underscored two key priorities of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) that ASEAN and Japan should consider pushing forward: (1) infrastructure investment such as

ports, railways, energy, and ICT, and (2) a robust public-private partnership to mobilize resources to meet ASEAN's needs.

At the PMC+1 Session with the ROK, ASEAN welcomed the ROK's commitment to a peaceful, stable and prosperous region through enhancing complementarities between the Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) and the AOIP, and therefore looked forward to the adoption of the Joint Statement on Cooperation on the AOIP at the upcoming 24th ASEAN-ROK Summit this September. ASEAN welcomed the ROK's intention to request for a CSP on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations in 2024. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** welcomed the ROK's effort to promote meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial cooperation through the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI). **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** emphasised on the importance of free and open trade to advance regional economic integration. He suggested that ASEAN and the ROK need to fully capitalize on bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, including the RCEP.

At the PMC+1 Session with the EU, the Meeting recalled the successful convening of the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit held on 14 December 2022 in Brussels and encouraged both sides to realise the goals and objectives stipulated in the Joint Leaders' Statement of ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit 2022. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** acknowledged the positive progress in bilateral trade and investment cooperation between the EU and some of ASEAN Member States, and suggested that ASEAN and EU work towards the realisation of a region-to-region FTA as a common long-term objective. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** also placed great importance on regional connectivity and urged the EU to continue to push foreign direct investment in infrastructure and the digital economy, and looked forward to the operationalisation of the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (AE-CATA) to further enhance people-to-people exchanges and business flow between the two regions.

At the PMC+1 Session with Canada, the Meeting noted the positive outcomes from the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations last year. The Meeting endorsed a draft Joint Leaders' Statement on ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership to be adopted at the ASEAN-Canada Summit in September this year.

During the Meeting, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** suggested that ASEAN and Canada should vigorously pursue all the measures outlined in the Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment Work Plan 2021-2025 to stimulate growth and re-energize global supply chains, as well as the timely conclusion of the ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement.

At the PMC+1 with the UK, ASEAN welcomed the UK's implementation of the ASEAN-UK Plan of Action 2022-2026 through five flagship programmes, namely: 1) economic integration; 2) girls' education; 3) women, peace, and security (WPS); 4) health systems, and 5) climate transition. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** encouraged the UK to further strengthen economic cooperation with ASEAN, including through regional economic integration, as well as through a possible ASEAN-UK FTA. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** also suggested that ASEAN and UK work towards a comprehensive plan that covers clean energy, environmentally friendly transport, sustainable infrastructure, and green finance for the decarbonized future.

At the 24th APT Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the Meeting reaffirmed the important role of APT cooperation in strengthening and deepening ASEAN Community building efforts. The Meeting underlined the critical need for intensified and concerted efforts to further enhance regional capacity and responsiveness to current and future challenges to promote recovery and resilience towards inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth. In this connection, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** highlighted three priorities that APT countries should focus on, namely 1) strengthening the Chiang Mai Multilateralism Initiative and the APT Macroeconomic Research Office as an instrumental part of regional financial stability; 2) enhancing the role of the APT Emergency Rice Reserve to ensure food security in the region; and 3) leveraging on APT energy cooperation to address current energy crisis and transitioning from fossil fuel to alternative, innovative and emerging energy sources in the longer term. END