



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

ASEAN, in cooperation with the People's Republic of China and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will hold an "ASEAN-China-UNDP Symposium on Localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Realising Poverty Eradication" in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on 20-21 August 2018.

This is the third Symposium which is organized to carry out ASEAN's several initiatives to promote implementation of the SDGs and according to their local context and to realise poverty eradication. They include Symposium on "Leave No One Behind" and ASEAN-China-UNDP Research and Symposium on Financing the Implementation of SDGs in ASEAN, both held in cooperation with China and the UNDP.

This two-day Symposium aims to push for local implementation of the SDGs and elaborate ways to mainstream the SDGs at regional and sub-national levels in the context of complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the SDGs. The Symposium includes panel roundtables and group discussions with local people called "Under the Sun, Under the Tree" where local communities will interact directly with symposium participants to present their voices to the policy makers. The topics for group discussions will focus on gender mainstreaming, disaster risk reduction, sustainable livelihood for farmers and entrepreneurs, and capacity building for workforce and local officers.

The Symposium will bring together senior government officials in charge of implementing the SDGs, experts, international organisations, development partners, non-governmental organisations/civil society organisations, and private sectors in ten ASEAN Member States, China and from UNDP. They will share best practices on certain aspects of the role of sub-regional cooperation in localising SDGs and eradicating poverty such as national policies and institutional arrangement, stakeholder engagement for sustainable development.



private sector engagement and SDGs financing, and smart cities and innovation at the local level.

The Opening Ceremony will be presided over by H.E Mr. Sao Chivoan, Secretary of State, Ministry of Rural Development of Cambodia, and H.E Mr. KAN Pharidh, Under-Secretary of State, as high representative of H.E. PRAK Sokhonn, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Other key dignitaries are H.E. Mr. **Vongthep Arthakaivalttee**, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, H.E. Huang Xilian, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to ASEAN, and Mr. Haoliang Xu, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific.

The choice of location of the Symposium – Siem Reap, Angkor Wat – presents both a renowned world heritage and showcase of the success of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia in eradicating poverty and localizing the SDGs. Cambodia has achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of halving poverty in 2009. Since 2007, Cambodia has achieved 7% of annual economic growth with gross domestic product per capita (GDP) rising from US\$1,042 in 2013 to US\$1,435 in 2017, and it is expected to reach at US\$1,560 in 2018. The firm implementation of the Rectangular Strategy has created a favorable environment and necessary conditions for Cambodia to move confidently forwards on a vision of an upper-middle income country by 2030.

Phnom Penh, 17 August 2018

