



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of ASEAN

PRESS RELEASE

“Outcomes of the inaugural ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit”

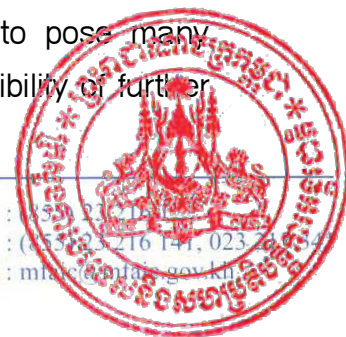
At the invitation of His Majesty the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a high-level delegation to the inaugural ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit in Riyadh on 20 October 2023.

1. The ASEAN- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit

The first-ever historic Summit of heads of state and government of the two regions reviewed and set the future direction of ASEAN-GCC relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues to effectively respond to common challenges and grasp new cooperation opportunities. The leaders adopted the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council Riyadh Summit and noted the ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council Framework of Cooperation (2024-2028).

Samdech Thipadei emphasised the important role of trade and investment in fostering economic growth and sustainability. He highlighted the critical need to further support free and open trade, stimulate investment and create a conducive environment for promoting business in the two regions. In line with the economic trends of the 21st century and in response to global uncertainties, Samdech Thipadei urged ASEAN and the GCC to explore new sources of growth in key areas such as connectivity, digital economy, green energy transition, banking and finance, regional supply chains, artificial intelligence and innovation.

Samdech Thipadei underscored that the two regions are linked by ancient and rich culture and civilization, presenting great potential for further strengthening tourism cooperation. Against the backdrop of climate change that continues to pose many challenges to food security, he urged GCC members to explore the possibility of further



investment in agriculture in ASEAN Member States and promote exchanges of technologies, research, and best practices, especially in developing the halal food industry.

Samdech Thipadei expressed concern and regret over the escalation of conflict and violence in the Middle East, resulting in the loss of many innocent lives including a Cambodian student in Israel. He expressed his strong belief that GCC Member States are in a unique position to urge all parties concerned to exercise utmost restraint and engage in dialogue towards a ceasefire agreement to pave the way for a peaceful, just and lasting solution. Moreover, he emphasised the need to ensure full access for humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza, and the safety and immediate and unconditional release of all hostages in accordance with international humanitarian law.

The ASEAN and GCC leaders also exchanged views on other recent developments and stressed the importance of maintaining ASEAN Centrality in a rapidly evolving regional architecture, and cooperating on initiatives to support and contribute to ASEAN integration and the ASEAN Community building process. In addition, they agreed to hold an ASEAN-GCC summit every two years, and look forward to convening the next summit in Malaysia in 2025.

2. Bilateral Meetings

On the sidelines of the Summit, Samdech Thipadei held productive bilateral meetings with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and His Excellency Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. He also received a courtesy call of H. E. Mr. Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad, Chief Executive Officer of the Saudi Fund for Development.

- Samdech Thipadei’s meeting with the Crown Prince identified areas of bilateral cooperation. His Royal Highness informed about the potential direction of enhancing bilateral relations to increase cooperation in a number of key areas including trade, investment, energy and other potential areas for the mutual benefits of the two nations and peoples. Samdech Thipadei expressed satisfaction over the progress of bilateral relations between Cambodia and Saudi Arabia, through the decision to establish the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Phnom Penh and suggested the two sides to explore possibility of drafting agreements, particularly, the Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders. The two Prime Ministers expressed their joint commitment to further strengthen and expand the relations between the two



countries and agreed on the direction of establishing a consultative mechanism between the two ministries of foreign affairs to discuss cooperation in areas of common interest. Samdech Thipadei extended invitation to the Crown Prince to pay a visit to Cambodia at a convenient time to which the Crown Prince gladly accepted.

- At the courtesy call, H.E. Mr. Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad, Chief Executive Officer of the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) expressed its desire to provide loans to developing countries, including Cambodia, to reach their Sustainable Development Goals, eligibly in various sectors of cooperation including education, health, transportation, infrastructure, agriculture, food security, as well as climate change. Samdech Thipadei welcomed and supported the intention of SFD granting the assistances to the government of Kingdom of Cambodia. His Excellency Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad planned to visit Cambodia in the near future to explore potentials and further discuss with Cambodian relevant institutions.
- Samdech Thipadei and Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh discussed close cooperation between Cambodia and Viet Nam to further nurture and strengthen their long-lasting friendly relations for mutual interest in areas such as trade, investment, tourism, and connectivity. They agreed to maintain regular high-level talks during important meetings and official visits. The two leaders also discussed trilateral cooperation with Lao PDR to further promote connectivity and joint development in areas such as trade, tourism, and industry. Prime Minister Chinh affirmed that preparations were underway for Samdech Thipadei's upcoming official visit to Viet Nam.

Phnom Penh, 21 October 2023

