



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of Asia-Pacific

PRESS RELEASE

**“Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet further strengthens
Cambodia’s commitment to high-quality cooperation during
Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing”**

At the invitation of His Excellency XI Jinping, President of the People’s Republic of China, Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a high-level delegation to the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing from 16 to 19 October 2023. The theme was “High-quality Belt and Road Cooperation: Together for Common Development and Prosperity”.

1. Third Belt and Road Forum

Twenty-three heads of state/government, more than 140 countries and more than 30 organizations took part in the forum, held in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which has provided many developing countries, including Cambodia, with numerous advantages such as infrastructure development, foreign direct investment, economic growth, regional and global integration, and people-to-people exchanges.

Samdech Thipadei affirmed Cambodia’s full support and readiness to jointly implement eight major actions outlined by President Xi in his keynote speech to the forum: building a multidimensional Belt and Road connectivity network, supporting an open world economy, carrying out practical cooperation, promoting green development, advancing scientific and technological innovation, supporting people-to-people exchanges, promoting integrity-based Belt and Road cooperation, and strengthening institutional building for international Belt and Road cooperation.



In his remarks to the forum, Samdech Thipadei highlighted the growing vitality of the digital economy as a new source of growth, providing a unique opportunity to many nations to diversify their economies. To harness its full potential, he stressed the importance of favourable policies and regulations as well as enabling infrastructure to support innovation, protect intellectual property rights, and promote digital literacy. Samdech Thipadei called for increased funding for digital infrastructure in developing economies including connectivity, data centres, security, and other key enablers and platforms, particularly through the BRI.

Samdech Thipadei underlined the Royal Government of Cambodia's commitment to transition from a conventional economic model to a resilient digital economy by introducing numerous digital-related policies. He urged key partners from both the public and private sectors to explore the tremendous opportunities that Cambodia can offer in the digital economic field.

The Chair of the forum issued a statement outlining fruitful outcomes and key deliverables.

2. Bilateral Meetings

On the sidelines of the forum, Samdech Thipadei paid a courtesy call on His Excellency President XI Jinping and held separate talks with Their Excellencies Premier LI Qiang and CAI Qi, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau and Director of the General Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, to deepen the Cambodia-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Cooperation.

The two sides spoke highly of the substantial development of Cambodia-China relations and reaffirmed their commitment to advancing diamond cooperation with six priority areas and building a Cambodia-China Community with a Shared Future.

Samdech Thipadei and President Xi jointly declared 2024 as the Year of People-to-People Exchanges between Cambodia and China. Both sides agreed to strengthen tourism cooperation, and the Chinese side pledged to encourage more Chinese tourists to visit Cambodia.

The two sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation in green energy development and welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Upper Tatay Pumped Storage Hydropower, which will contribute to energy security and the development of clean energy in Cambodia.

Both sides agreed to accelerate the development of the "Industrial Development Corridor" and "Fish and Rice Corridor" with a view to enhancing bilateral industrial



and agricultural cooperation, and modernizing Cambodia's agriculture. In response to Cambodia's request, the Chinese side agreed to urge Chinese companies to invest in priority areas of mutual interest.

The two sides praised achievements under BRI cooperation such as the Phnom Penh – Sihanoukville Expressway, the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone and the Siem Reap Angkor International Airport. The two sides agreed to further enhance cooperation under the BRI framework.

The two sides also agreed to further enhance cooperation in law enforcement, particularly in combating cross-border gambling, drug and human trafficking, cybercrime and fake news.

The Chinese side reaffirmed unwavering support for Cambodia's choice of a development path that suits its national conditions. Samdech Thipadei expressed his gratitude for China's invaluable assistance and support which have significantly contributed to socio-economic development in Cambodia, and reiterated Cambodia's resolute adherence to the One-China Policy. Both sides reaffirmed their close collaboration and mutual support in regional and multilateral fora.

Samdech Thipadei and Premier Li presided over a signing ceremony for 10 bilateral cooperation documents in fields such as investment, production capacity, e-commerce, digital transformation, infrastructure, energy and green development.

Samdech Thipadei paid separate courtesy calls on His Excellency Vo Van Thuong, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and His Excellency Thongloun Sisoulith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Samdech Thipadei and President Thuong discussed ways to enhance long-lasting friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation in key areas including trade, investment, tourism, connectivity, defense and security, and education. They agreed to maintain high-level exchanges between the two countries. Both leaders underscored the significance of trilateral cooperation with Lao PDR in promoting connectivity and joint development in areas such as trade, tourism, and industry.

Samdech Thipadei and President Thongloun discussed deepening bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas such as politics, defense, trade, investment, tourism, energy, connectivity, culture and education. The two leaders agreed to further strengthen the Comprehensive and Long-lasting Strategic Partnership between Cambodia and Lao PDR for the mutual benefit of the two nations and peoples. Both leaders stressed the importance of trilateral cooperation with Viet Nam,



especially in joint tourism development (three countries, one destination) initiated by Samdech Thipadei. The two leaders reiterated mutual support in regional and international cooperation.

During his stay in Beijing, Samdech Thipadei also met with several leading Chinese companies investing in banking, energy, construction, engineering and real estate in Cambodia. He urged the Chinese companies to expand their investment in Cambodia, and the companies expressed their deep appreciation to the Royal Government for supporting their business activities.

Phnom Penh, 19 October 2023

