



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

**Press Release**

**Outcomes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting,  
ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting Interface  
with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and  
the Meeting of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Commission  
30-31 July 2019, Bangkok**

His Excellency **Prak Sokhonn**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, participated in the 52<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and other two meetings on 30 and 31 July 2019, namely the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting Interface with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the Meeting of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Commission.

**The 52<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM)**

At the 52<sup>nd</sup> AMM, the Ministers discussed two major topics: 1) the ASEAN Community Building, which focused mainly on the full and effective implementation of the three Blueprints of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC); and 2) ASEAN External Relation, which covered particularly on regional architecture, relations with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners and ASEAN Development Partners and regional and international organizations. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues.

The Ministers underlined the need to further strengthen cooperation and advance the partnership to ensure sustainability in all dimensions with a view to secure peace, security, stability and prosperity at a time of rapid changes and uncertainties in the globe.

In his intervention, H.E. **Prak Sokhonn** underlined that ASEAN should seek ways to mobilize more resources from interested External Partners to implement the projects under the MPAC 2025. While on the Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan III (2016-2020) H.E. **Prak Sokhonn** noted the positive progress made and its impactful effects on narrowing

the development gap within and among the ASEAN Member States. He also further stressed the need to produce a high-quality IAI Work Plan IV that would continue deepening the ASEAN integration.

H.E. **Prak Sokhonn** also announced that this year, ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) plans to implement five main activities in collaboration with the local stakeholders in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam which mainly focus on promoting awareness among youth and the public on the danger of explosive remnants of war (ERW) in the region and the victim assistance. He also called for funding support on both the implementation of its programmes/activities and the operational budget of ARMAC Secretariat, particularly from the year of 2020 onwards.

The Meeting adopted a Joint Communiqué of the 52<sup>nd</sup> AMM.

### **ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)**

The Meeting noted the 2019 AICHR Annual Report including the overall progress of AICHR over the past 10 years as well as the future direction of AICHR. The Meeting also adopted the 2020 budget and the priority programme/activities of AICHR for 2020.

### **The Meeting of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Commission**

The Meeting reviewed the progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action (POA) the SEANWFZ Treaty 2020 and discussed the way forward to the signing of the protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty.

In his comments, H.E. **Prak Sokhonn** underlined that it is vital to preserve the region as a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction. He emphasized that ASEAN should further enhance the implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty POA (2018-2022) and explore new ways to find common positions on matters related to non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. He was of the view that the relations between ASEAN and the IAEA is a welcome development which would allow ASEAN to fully capitalise on the expertise of the IAEA and seek technical assistance in many areas.

H.E. **Prak Sokhonn**, together with other ASEAN Foreign Ministers, signed the Instruments of Extension to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) by the Republic of Peru. He attended the launching ceremonies of the ASEAN-China Young Leaders Scholarship and the ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking.

### **Bilateral Meetings**

While attending the 52<sup>nd</sup> AMM, in the afternoon of 30 July 2019, H.E. **Prak Sokhonn** met with H.E. **Wang Yi**, State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. They had a fruitful discussion on bilateral cooperation in various fields, particularly



trade, investment, development and tourism, and other issues under the ASEAN framework.

In the afternoon of 31 July 2019, H.E. **Prak Sokhonn** met with H.E. **Mrs. Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway. In the Meeting, H.E. **Prak Sokhonn** thanked Norway for its generous assistance in support of mine clearance, education, health, rural development, good governance and funding for the ECCC. The two Ministers cherished their bilateral relations, particularly on political, economic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges. They also had a talk on “Mine Ban Treaty” and “Our Ocean Conference” which will be convened in late 2019 in Oslo.

H.E. **Prak Sokhonn** had a bilateral meeting with The Rt. Hon. **Winston Peters**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand. The discussion was centered on bilateral cooperation and coordination for the ASEAN-New Zealand Ministerial Meeting as the two countries were co-chairs. H.E. **Prak Sokhonn** took the opportunity to thank New Zealand for its assistance to Cambodia in agriculture, human resources development and the Khmer rouge tribunal.

Phnom Penh, 01 August 2019.

