



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

**On the Outcomes of the ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)
via Videoconference on 07 and 09 July 2021**

Cambodia, as the host of the 13th ASEM Summit (ASEM13), co-chaired with the European Union (EU) the ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on 7 and 9 July 2021 via videoconference. The ASEM SOM was participated by all 51 ASEM SOM Leaders as well as the representatives from the EU, ASEAN Secretariat, and Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).

Given that the COVID-19 pandemic remains looming large and emerging variants trigger new waves in many parts of the world, including Cambodia, H.E. Mr. LUY David, Secretary of State and ASEM SOM Leader for Cambodia, officially announced that Cambodia would host the ASEM13 on **25-26 November 2021** virtually. The decision has been made based on the recommendation of the National Committee for Combatting COVID-19 that a physical summit is neither safe for ASEM Leaders to attend nor practical as the virus continues to rage on while travel restrictions are being re-imposed by many countries.

The Meeting substantively discussed the draft of the Phnom Penh Statement on the Post-COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery, which will be one of the two outcome documents to be adopted at the ASEM13. The Statement reflects the ultimate goal of all ASEM Leaders to ensure an inclusive, sustainable and resilient post-pandemic recovery. ASEM SOM Leaders agreed to meet again later this month to finalize the Statement.

The Meeting welcomed with appreciation Slovenia's offer to organize another ASEM SOM, tentatively on 16-17 September 2021, to discuss the ASEM13 Chair's Statement.

Phnom Penh, 12 July 2021

