



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, presided over the opening of a two-day virtual seminar on the "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)" that was held at the Ministry on 27 January 2022 and attended physically by the Leaders of the Ministry and via videoconference by Heads of Cambodia's Diplomatic Mission / Consular Office abroad as well as the Ministry's senior officials.

The seminar, organized by the Ministry's Economic Diplomacy Team at the instruction of the Deputy Prime Minister, was aimed at supporting the realization of the RCEP's full potential by strengthening the knowledge and understanding among the Ministry's leaders, officials and diplomats vis-a-vis the Agreement.

In his opening remarks, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister expressed his appreciation to the ministries and institutions that were involved in materializing this historic trade deal, and emphasized that the Agreement has clearly affirmed the resurgence of multilateralism. He further highlighted that its entry into force has signaled the Asia Pacific's collective commitment to mutual prosperity, peaceful co-existence, and a comprehensive post-pandemic recovery grounded on free and rules-based trade.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister concluded his remarks by underlining the important roles of Cambodia's Missions abroad in leveraging and supporting the successful implementation of Cambodia's new Investment Law, the RCEP, the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and the Cambodia-Korea FTA in order to facilitate the promotion and diversification of trade, attract foreign direct investment (FDI), and enhance national economic potential.



H.E. Dr. SOK Siphana, Senior Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia, as the Honorable Guestspeaker, has shared with the seminar his knowledge on RCEP and his rich experiences in trade sector.

The RCEP commenced its first-round of negotiations in 2012 under Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship. This regional trade agreement was signed on 15 November 2020 by the 10 ASEAN Member States and 5 ASEAN Dialogue Partner countries – China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand, making it the world's biggest trade deal. The RCEP covers approximately 1) 2.2 billion people or 30% of the world's population; 2) USD 26.6 trillion or 30% of global gross domestic product (GDP); and 3) USD 12.7 trillion or 28% of global trade. ១.

Phnom Penh, 28 January 2022

