



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

On 27 June 2022, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC), presided over the closing ceremony of the “National Consultation Workshop on Economic Diplomacy in the New Normal”, organized by Economic Diplomacy Coordinating Group (EDCG) with the support of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund at Hyatt Regency Phnom Penh Hotel.

His Excellency Wang Wentian, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Cambodia, MFAIC Leaders, and representatives from relevant ministries/institutions and the private sector physically attended this Workshop, while our diplomats abroad attended via videoconference. The Workshop aims to 1) support the realization of Economic Diplomacy Strategy (EDS) 2021-2023; 2) gather inputs from line ministries/institutions and the private sector to further strengthen existing cooperation; 3) address key challenges in EDS execution and clarify the roles and responsibilities of relevant actors; and 4) seek ways to further enhance the capacity of Cambodian officials in carrying out economic diplomacy works.

A number of experts from relevant ministries/institutions and the private sector participated in three panel discussions to discuss and highlight the roles of diplomats in promoting three key sectors namely: 1) investment and trade; 2) tourism; 3) cultural and culinary diplomacy in hope to maximize benefits for our people.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn commended the initiative and efforts of the EDCG in organizing this Workshop and expressed his appreciation for the accomplishments thus far such as 1) the publication of “The Taste of Angkor” which has won “Best Asian Cuisine Book” in two consecutive years (2021 and 2022) and “Best Heads of State/Food” from Gourmand World Cookbook Award 2022; 2) the organization of numerous Business Matching Forums with potential trading partners; 3) the publication of informative dashboards on Cambodia’s economy and society; and



4) the enhancement of cooperation/collaboration between embassies/consular offices and relevant ministries/institutions and the private sector in promoting national products, trade, investment opportunities and new investment laws to potential markets.

The Workshop recommended that the role of diplomats could be expanded and enhanced in the following areas: 1) publicizing information the new investment laws and preferential market access; 2) conducts of market research of potential markets for exports from Cambodia and organize business matching; 3) enhancing information sharing between the public and private sector; 4) disseminating information about tourism potential in Cambodia; and 5) establishing a working group which focuses on promoting specific Khmer dishes on the international stage.

His Excellency Dr. NHIM Khemara, Secretary of State and Head of the Economic Diplomacy Coordinating Group, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, underscored the importance of partnership between relevant ministries/institutions and the private sector in implementing economic diplomacy related works to contribute to Cambodia's socio-economic growth.

Phnom Penh, 27 June 2022

