

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

## PRESS RELEASE

## OUTCOMES OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF H.E. GENERAL PRAYUT CHAN-O-CHA, PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND AND THE THIRD CAMBODIA -THAILAND JOINT CABINET RETREAT 7 September 2017, Phnom Penh

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At the invitation of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, led a high delegation to pay an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia as well as co-chair the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cambodia-Thailand Joint Cabinet Retreat with Samdech Techo Prime Minister on 07 September 2017 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

This official visit in Cambodia of H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha and Madam held back-to-back with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cambodia-Thailand Joint Cabinet Retreat is significantly contributed to further enhancing and deepening the existing excellent relations and cooperation between the two countries.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cambodia-Thailand Joint Cabinet Retreat, Samdech Techo Prime Minister and H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha has discussed in-depth bilateral issues on "Enhanced Partnership for Peace and Prosperity" in a warm and close atmosphere and agreed as follows:

The both sides commended the work progress for the opening of a new international entry point at Stung Bot in Banteay Meanchey province, Cambodia and Ban Nong Ian in Sa Kaeo province, Thailand, and agreed to expedite the construction of border-crossing bridge, connecting road, facilities and other related infrastructure at Stung Bot – Ban Nong Ian international border checkpoint.

The two Prime Ministers encouraged their concerned authorities to speed up the opening of 4 agreed international points of entry at the earliest:

- i. An Ses (Preah Vihear province) An Ma (Ubon Rachathani province)
- ii. Phnom Dei (Battambang province) Ban Khao Din(Sa Kaeo province)

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iii. Thmor Da (Pursat province) – Ban Tha Sen (Trat province)

iv. Chup Kor Ki (Oddar Meanchey province) – Sai Taku (Buriram province)

At the same time, both sides tasked the relevant authorities and the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) to commence the discussion on the opening of another international point of entry at O' Neang in Banteay Meanchey province, Cambodia, and Ban Pa Rai in Sa Kaeo province, Thailand, at the earliest opportunity.

Both sides also agreed to further discuss the Bilateral Agreement on the Joint Traffic Working over Railway between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and expedite the bridge construction at Prom (Pailin province) – Ban Pak Kard (Chanthaburi province) international point of entry as soon as possible after the completion of the Joint Detail Survey at this area by the Joint Survey Team of the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC).

Both sides remained committed to suppress illegal logging along the Cambodian-Thai border and refrain from using weapons against illegal loggers. Both sides urged the national committees on suppression of illegal logging of both countries to convene their first joint meeting at the earliest opportunity to put in place the mechanism of coordinated patrol and enhance cooperation in the prevention and suppression of illegal logging.

Both sides agreed to enhance the cooperation in the establishment of the drug free zone, "White Village", along the Cambodian-Thai border areas, as well as to reinforce the border liaison offices (BLOs) in order to promote the cooperation in the Cambodian-Thai border areas.

To reach the trade volume of USD 15 billion by the year 2020, both sides agreed to promote border trade facilitation and investment; further encourage their state agencies and private entities to raise funds in each other's capital markets to finance their investment. The Thai side further reaffirmed the strong intention to import more products from Cambodia.

Both sides also agreed to start negotiation on the draft of a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Goods in Transit with a view to concluding it before the entry into force of the new Thai Customs Act B.E. 2560 (2017).

Both sides also agreed to promote the development of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) along the Cambodian-Thai border provinces to create more jobs and economic activities and expedite the establishment of linkages between the SEZs in Banteay Meanchey - Sa Kaeo and Koh Kong - Trat as well as agreed to convene the 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Working Group on Special Economic Zone Development between Cambodia and Thailand at the earliest to discuss on relevant issues relating to the said SEZs.

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Both sides also agreed to implement the Single Window Inspection (SWI) under the Greater Mekong Sub-region Cross-border Transport Agreement (GMS-CBTA) and the Common Control Area in accordance with the ASEAN Single Window Pilot Project at the Stung Bot – Ban Nong Ian international point of entry after its completion. The Thai side agreed to provide necessary technical support to develop a compatible system of the SWI in Cambodia.

Both sides agreed to strengthen agriculture cooperation between the two countries and urged the effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in the Promotion of Contract Farming under ACMECS.

Both sides also agreed to continue to strengthen the implementation of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Project on the Cooperation and Establishment of Kampong Chheuteal Institute of Technology and Kampong Speu Institute of Technology and the cooperation on Education, Youth and Sport within the provinces along the Cambodian-Thai border. The Thai side will dispatch Thai experts to work at the Cambodian - Thai Skills Development Institute in Poun Phnom, Phnom Penh, as well as to continue assistance in developing the infrastructure of this Institute.

To boost tourism and promote "Two Kingdoms, One Destination", both sides also agreed to organize tourism activities such as road show between the two countries including between Cambodian coastal provinces and eastern Thailand and to enhance connectivity by sea, land and air in order to promote beautiful coastal destinations of the two countries.

During the visit, H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha paid courtesy call on Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdey Say Chhum, President of the Senate and Acting Head of State, and laid wreaths at the Independence Monument as well as the Monument of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, King-Father of Cambodia "PREAH BOROM RATANAK KAUDH"

Before leaving Cambodia, H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha and Madam together with Samdech Techo Prime Minister and Samdech Kittiprithpundith presided over the inauguration of the Cambodian-Thai Friendship Garden.

Phnom Penh, September 2017

