



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

**Outcomes of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference Sessions with
the United States of America, Australia, the Russian Federation and India,
and the 11th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting,
back-to-back with the 54th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings
4 August 2021, via Videoconference**



On 4 August 2021, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, attended the **ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference Sessions with the U.S., Australia, the Russian Federation and India, and the 11th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting** via videoconference.

ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with the United States of America (U.S.)

At the meeting, ASEAN expressed appreciation for the U.S.' pledge of over USD 87 million in COVID-19 related assistance to ASEAN Member States and the U.S.' contributions under its U.S.-ASEAN Health Futures initiative. The Meeting also expressed strong commitment to collaborate on addressing the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19, assuring public health safety, and deepening cooperation on post-pandemic recovery efforts.

On the future direction of ASEAN-United States Strategic Partnership for the period 2020-2024, ASEAN welcomed the U.S.' proposal to expand cooperation on in four areas, namely transportation, gender equality and women's empowerment, energy, environmental protection and climate change, and looked forward to exploring concrete collaborative activities.

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn welcomed the U.S.' efforts to increase the momentum of its relations with ASEAN, especially through the implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) 2020-2021 and the Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Work Plan. In this context, he highlighted the



important role of the ASEAN-Business Council (ABC) in promoting trade and investment between the ASEAN and the U.S. **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister** took the opportunity to thank the U.S. for its contribution of one million doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccine to Cambodia and emphasized the importance of promoting friendly relations between Cambodia and U.S. in these challenging times.

ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with Australia

The Meeting welcomed the progress of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations which marked an important milestone last year with the agreement by both sides to annualise the ASEAN-Australia Summit.

In implementing the Plan of Action 2020-2024, both sides emphasized the importance of advancing cooperation on connectivity, particularly through the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Workplan IV and the extended ASEAN-Australia Digital Standards Initiative.

ASEAN thanked Australia for its support towards enhancing region-wide access to vaccines and health security, including its financial pledge for the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) and the establishment of the ASEAN-Australia Health Security Initiative.

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister welcomed Australia's proposal to elevate its relations with ASEAN to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and took the opportunity to thank Australia for actively contributing to regional integration and narrowing the development gaps in the region. **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister** also highlighted the significant support that Australia has provided in terms of human resource development.

ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with the Russian Federation

The Meeting took note of the conclusion of the negotiations on the Comprehensive Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership 2021-2025 and emphasized the need for further collaboration on COVID-19 pandemic response and preparedness, and post-pandemic recovery efforts.

ASEAN and Russia took note of Russia's proposal to convene the 4th ASEAN-Russia Summit later this year to commemorate 25 years of ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership, and welcomed the designation of 2022 as the "ASEAN-Russia Year of Science, Technology and Industrial Cooperation". The Meeting also discussed on promoting cooperation in countering international terrorism and drug threat, and promoting growth through tourism.



At the Meeting, Cambodia took over from Indonesia as the ASEAN Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations 2021-2024. Cambodia reaffirmed readiness to further strengthen ASEAN-Russia relations and cooperation in all feasible areas, and to encourage further economic linkages through the ASEAN-EAEU cooperation programme 2020-2025, and the new Comprehensive Plan of Action 2021-2025.

ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with India

ASEAN welcomed the designation of the year 2022 as the "ASEAN-India Friendship Year", and India's proposal for an ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

To enhance regional connectivity, ASEAN encouraged the expansion of physical and digital connectivity projects between ASEAN and India and looked forward to the timely completion of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and its possible extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam.

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister highlighted that India's leading edge in the field of pharmaceuticals presents a great opportunity for cooperation on COVID-19 vaccine development between ASEAN Member States and India. **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister** also encouraged further cooperation on trade promotion and emphasized the importance of ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) in promoting linkages between prominent business leaders. He also encouraged India to support ASEAN regional integration efforts through the IAI Work Plan IV, especially in areas related to digitalisation and technological advancement.

11th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM)


The Meeting acknowledged the significant progress made on the implementation of the Manila Plan of Action to Advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative (2018-2022) and committed to accelerate efforts to ensure its effective and timely implementation.

The Meeting emphasised the importance of vaccine multilateralism and called for equitable, affordable and timely access to vaccine and adequate flows of medical supplies to support public health security in the face of the resurgence of COVID-19 pandemic.

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the importance of strengthening the EAS process to better serve common causes and stressed on the need to remain focused on delivering concrete outcomes on the nine priority areas under the Manila Plan of Action. He also pointed out the merit of adjusting the new Plan of Action to place a



greater emphasis on the priorities of post-COVID recovery such as strengthening public health security, enhancing logistics and supply chain connectivity, digitalization, and women and youth entrepreneurship.

There were extensive exchanges of views on a number of regional and international issues, including rising geopolitical competition between the U.S and China, the political-security crisis in Myanmar, tension in the South China Sea and efforts to achieve permanent peace and denuclearization in Korean Peninsula, during these ASEAN Post Ministerial Sessions. 

Phnom Penh, 5 August 2021

