



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

Handover Ceremony of the ASEAN Chairmanship to the Kingdom of Cambodia

28 October 2021, via Videoconference



At the Closing Ceremony 38th ASEAN Summit, 39th ASEAN Summit and related Summits in the afternoon of 28 October 2021, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, expressed appreciation to all ASEAN member states and all dialogue partners for supporting Brunei's chairmanship in accomplishing various priorities and deliverables during the year as the region endeavor to build a people-centred ASEAN Community under the theme: "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper". His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam handed over the Gavel of the ASEAN Chair to **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Prime Minister HUN SEN**, and wishes the Kingdom of Cambodia a great success in steering ASEAN Community building efforts throughout 2022.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister commended His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah for his wise and effective leadership in stewarding ASEAN towards achieving fruitful outcomes. **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** announced Cambodia's chairmanship theme for 2022 "ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together" for harmony, peace, and prosperity in the whole region. The theme underscores ASEAN's spirit of "Togetherness" as one community with common will to overcome challenges facing the region, through action-oriented approach that is based on openness, good faith and equal mutual respect.

Under this theme, **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** affirmed Cambodia's commitment to steer ASEAN's collective efforts to accomplish important tasks, especially in expediting the building process of an equitable, strong, and inclusive ASEAN Community, which are in line with core spirit of ASEAN: "One Vision, One Identity and One Community".



Samdech Techo Prime Minister presented Cambodia's key priorities in 2022 as follows:

- On Political and Security Pillar: Cambodia will focus on strengthening the ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN Unity, for both regional mechanism and external partners' cooperation, based on the ASEAN Way and Principles stipulated in the ASEAN Charter, Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. ASEAN must be resilient and strong against the pressure and influence stemming from rising geo-political competition, transnational-crimes, terrorism, climate change and infectious diseases, etc. to ensure our way forward in peace, security, and prosperity.
- On Economic Pillar: Cambodia will promote effective implementation of all initiatives and measures agreed, as well as leverage trade agreements to the maximum so as to expedite the recovery of economic growth while we are living with Covid-19 in the new normal, and ensure that ASEAN remains an attractive and dynamic hub for trade and investment by enhancing both physical and digital connectivity; strengthening the capacity of MSMEs; and promoting the entrepreneurship amongst women and youth; as well as other priorities aimed at narrowing the development gaps and advancing regional integration.
- On Socio-Cultural Pillar: Cambodia will strengthen the development of human resources to respond to the needs on the ground for community building, promote the participation of women and youth in building and maintaining peace, and develop an inclusive social protection system. Another key priority is strengthening people-to-people bonds to enhance the spirit of One ASEAN Identity.

Lastly, **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** looked forward to warmly welcoming all delegations to the Kingdom of Cambodia in 2022.

Phnom Penh, 28 October 2021

