

## Key message

By H.E. PRAK Sokhonn

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International  
Cooperation

On the Celebration of ASEM Day

01 March 2022

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To all our ASEM Partners,

1. As this year marks the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Asia-Europe Meeting – ASEM, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I am pleased to extend my warmest message of happiness, good health and a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 pandemic to all ASEM Partners and the peoples of our two continents. Since its inception in 2016 in Mongolia it has become a practice that we choose the month of March to celebrate the ASEM Day.
2. We can be proud of ASEM's past 26 years track records of a solid partnership between Asia and Europe. ASEM is now the largest cooperation framework outside the United Nations, representing 60% of the global population, 55% of global trade, 65% of the global economy, and 75% of global tourism. With such a significant contribution, ASEM

does carry a meaningful heft in global affair, with multilateralism at its core.

3. Last year, we had a historical opportunity and a great honor to host the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit (ASEM13) under the theme “Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth”, and I was pleased to witness ASEM Leaders placing paramount importance on ASEM’s core values as well as their commitments to revitalizing multilateralism towards a more resilient, sustainable, inclusive and dynamic future of Asia-Europe cooperation. The spirit of informality, flexibility, equal partnership, consensus and mutual benefits has once again shone throughout the whole summit.
4. ASEM Leaders had showcased their steadfast engagement in tackling global and regional challenges, as reflected with their global actions against Covid-19 and climate change, their commitment to enhancing public health and safety, their focus on youth employment and women empowerment, and their resolve to tackle WTO reforms, among others. More importantly, they had ultimately adopted three significant outcome documents, namely: (1) the ASEM13 Chair’s Statement; (2) the Phnom Penh Statement on the

Post-COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery; and (3) the Way Forward on ASEM Connectivity.

5. These outcome documents marked a new historic milestone in ASEM cooperation and solidified our solidarity and shared resolve to maintain and promote peace, stability and prosperity in Asia and Europe as well as to build an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future for our current and next generations.
6. ASEM must persevere in the next several decades and beyond to ensure that prosperity and sustainable development are secured for all ASEM Partners and, perhaps, the rest of the world. Its commitment toward building a cohesive, competitive, resilient, and sustainable community for the peoples of Asia and Europe remains a top priority.
7. To this end, all ASEM Partners are bound together in this common goal to ensure that multilateralism will generate stability and prosperity for shared growth, and that it will address existing and emerging regional and global issues with the aim of attaining the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

8. In this connection, Cambodia is ready and looks forward to continuing to work closely with all ASEM Partners and relevant stakeholders to implement the measures set out in our recent ASEM13 outcome documents to further foster ASEM cooperation, address issues of common concern, and elevate the friendly relations among all Partners to a new height.

**Thank You!**