



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

**Official Visit of Deputy Prime Minister SOK Chenda Sophea to the Philippines
and the Fourth Meeting of Cambodia-Philippines Joint Commission
for Bilateral Cooperation**

At the invitation of **His Excellency Enrique A. Manalo**, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, **His Excellency SOK Chenda Sophea**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, paid an official visit to the Philippines and co-chaired the Fourth Meeting of the Cambodia-Philippines Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC), in Manila from 27 to 28 August, 2024.

His Excellency SOK Chenda Sophea paid a courtesy call on **His Excellency President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.** The exchange of views with the President covered many areas, including increasing air connectivity, bilateral trade, investment, and tourism. **His Excellency President Marcos** expressed his strong desire to forge stronger ties with Cambodia and looked forward to his next engagement with **Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister HUN Manet**. **His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister** also called on **Her Excellency Vice President Sara Duterte**. The two sides held cordial talks on enhancing ties between Cambodia and the Philippines and many aspects of bilateral cooperation. Prior to this meeting, **His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister** visited the Rizal Monument and laid a wreath in honour of the Philippine national hero José Rizal.

At the JCBC meeting, the two sides expressed deep satisfaction with progress in bilateral cooperation since the Third Meeting in 2021 and committed to further enhancing relations in multiple fields.



On political cooperation, both sides underscored the benefit of frequent exchanges of visits and engagements between their executive and legislative bodies, and recalled the strategic importance of two meetings between **Samdech Thipadei** and **His Excellency President Marcos** over the past year.

On defence and security cooperation, **the ministers** applauded the productive Third Meeting of the Cambodia-Philippines Joint Defence Cooperation Committee last year and agreed to enhance information sharing and capacity building as well as the existing good cooperation in fighting transnational crimes, particularly trafficking in persons.

On economic cooperation, the two sides acknowledged vast potential and opportunities and agreed to increase trade and investment by encouraging business-to-business contacts and trade fairs. They also discussed ways to boost trade in rice and other commodities and develop agricultural businesses.

On tourism and cultural exchanges, both sides noted with satisfaction increased tourism and agreed to jointly promote tourist destinations, establish more direct flights and finalize the implementation program for the MoU on Tourism Cooperation for 2024-2028. They also agreed to expedite the renewal of the Agreement on Prevention of Looting and Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property.

On labour and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), the two sides agreed to renew the Memorandum of Agreement in the Field of Labour and looked forward to the signing of an MoU on cooperation in TVET.

The meeting held extensive deliberations in other fields including health, information and communication technology, environment, connectivity, transport, housing, urban development and planning, civil service, and media and information.

The two ministers exchanged views on regional and international developments of common interest and concern. They emphasized shared resolve to contribute to global and regional peace, security and stability, and committed to continue strengthening coordination and support for each other in regional and international fora.

The meeting concluded with the signing of Agreed Minutes of the Fourth JCBC Meeting. Cambodia is scheduled to host the Fifth Meeting in 2026.

Phnom Penh, 29 August 2024

