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NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

PRESS RELEASE

Cambodia and U.S. Commit to Further Strengthening Ties

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, congratulated the United States' recent successful elections while receiving a call by Ms. Bridgette L. Walker, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the U.S. Embassy, on 10 December 2024. He recalled the congratulatory messages conveyed to President-elect Donald J. Trump from His Majesty the King, President of the Senate and Prime Minister of Cambodia, which reflect the appreciation of the significance of Cambodia-U.S. relations.

H.E. Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn underscored Cambodia's readiness to work closely with the incoming US Administration to deepen the relationship and cooperation between the two countries, while expressing satisfaction with the positive momentum of bilateral ties and cooperation thanks to the high-level engagements, including the recent visits to Cambodia of U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and USAID Administrator Samantha Power. H.E. Deputy PM Sokhonn and CDA Walker applauded the reinvigoration of military-to-military cooperation and the resumption of the U.S.-Cambodia Defense Policy Dialogue. They reaffirmed shared commitment of both governments to broadening and deepening bilateral relations across all areas of mutual interest, including trade and tourism which have seen good progress.


H.E. Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn and CDA Walker agreed to have some joint activities to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Cambodia-U.S. Diplomatic Relations, next year. Touching on cultural cooperation, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister expressed deep gratitude to the U.S. authorities for their assistance in returning over 150 Khmer antiquities to Cambodia, with the hope that more items would be located and returned.



On education and people-to-people linkages, H.E. Deputy PM Sokhonn and CDA Walker agreed on the importance of continued scholarship and exchanges which have enabled over 1,000 Cambodian students to study and train in the U.S., contributing significantly to the country's human resource development.

Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn reiterated Cambodia's continued full support and cooperation for the joint humanitarian mission to recover the remains of missing U.S. soldiers during the war.

On demining, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister expressed high appreciation for the USD12 million assistance provided through USAID in 2024 to support Cambodia's demining efforts. He hoped continued fruitful cooperation in this area to expedite the realization of Cambodia's mine-free target.

The cooperation in the ASEAN-U.S. framework was also discussed. H.E. Deputy PM Sokhonn reaffirmed Cambodia's commitment, as country coordinator for ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations (2024–2027), to redouble its efforts in strengthening the ASEAN-U.S. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. 

Phnom Penh, 11 December 2024

