



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**General Department of ASEAN**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Outcomes of the Second ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit  
and the ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council-China Summit**

On 27 May 2025, at the invitation of His Excellency Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia attended the Second ASEAN-GCC Summit and the ASEAN-GCC-China Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit**

The 2nd ASEAN-GCC Summit reviewed progress on implementing the ASEAN-GCC Framework of Cooperation (2024–2028) and discussed future directions to address challenges and seize emerging opportunities. The Leaders reaffirmed the importance of increasing trade and investment flows, particularly by strengthening linkages between business communities, including cooperation between the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) and the Federation of GCC Chambers. On this note, a feasibility study of establishing an ASEAN-GCC Free Trade Agreement was also discussed.

**Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister** highlighted the role of trade and investment, as well as a free and open rules-based trading system in promoting inclusive and long-term economic growth. He underscored the need to enhance the resilience, competitiveness and productivity of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The leaders identified a number of complementary advantages between ASEAN and the GCC, particularly in strategic areas like energy and food security, including ASEAN Power Grid and halal industries.



The Leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues, emphasizing the importance of maintaining peace, stability, and prosperity in our regions. Echoing the spirit of the Summit, **Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister** also called for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, full adherence to international humanitarian law, and reaffirmed support for a two-state solution based on international law and relevant UN resolutions.

## 2. ASEAN-GCC-China Summit

The ASEAN-GCC-China Summit was held under the theme “Synergizing Economic Opportunities towards Shared Prosperity,” aimed at reinforcing economic resilience, deepening cooperation across multiple sectors, and promoting shared prosperity. The leaders exchanged views on key developments among the three regions and explored potential areas of cooperation, including trade and investment, the digital economy, food and energy security, tourism, science, technology and innovation, and people-to-people, cultural, and educational exchanges.

Given that the GCC is ASEAN’s 6th largest trading partner, **Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister** proposed that ASEAN and the GCC move expeditiously toward establishing a comprehensive ASEAN-GCC Free Trade Agreement in order to expand markets, enhance connectivity in goods, services, and investments, and promote the harmonization of standards and trade facilitation.

**Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister** also stressed that China continues to play a significant role in ASEAN’s development, being the region’s largest trading partner and second-largest source of FDI. He commended the substantial conclusion of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area 3.0 upgrade and looked forward to its signing later this year. The upgrade will further bolster ASEAN-China economic ties, particularly in areas such as the digital economy, green economy, and supply chain connectivity, among others.





**Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister** underscored that China's inclusion in this trilateral initiative greatly enhances its impact and strategic importance. Together, ASEAN, the GCC, and China can harness advanced technologies to support the energy transition, digital trade, fintech, and other emerging sectors. He also encouraged exploring ways to mobilize resources, including through the Belt and Road Initiative, to finance critical infrastructure projects such as the ASEAN Power Grid and broader connectivity initiatives.

**Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister** highlighted that the ASEAN-GCC-China Summit marks a crucial step toward building a partnership that is resilient, inclusive, and future-ready. This cooperation model holds the potential to bring tangible benefits to our peoples and could serve as a model for ASEAN's growing engagement with external partners under the Global ASEAN agenda. In this connection, he expressed his strong support for the adoption of the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-GCC-China Summit.

### 3. Bilateral Meetings

On the sidelines of the meetings, **Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister** held bilateral meetings with leaders from China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait, to strengthen bilateral cooperation and relations, as well as exchanged views on matters of common interest. At the invitation by His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, **Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister** also joined the Royal Luncheon. Additionally, he received courtesy calls by the private sector, to discuss matters on business, trade and investment opportunities.



Phnom Penh, 28 May 2025