



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of Europe,
America, and Africa-Middle East

Press Release

**Outcomes of the Fourth Round of the Political Consultations between
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia
and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation**

Bern, 18 June 2025 - His Excellency KHUON Phon Rattanak, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and His Excellency Ambassador Heinrich Schellenberg, Assistant State Secretary for Asia Pacific of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, co-chaired the Fourth Round of Political Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation.

The two dignitaries expressed deep satisfaction with the longstanding bonds of friendship and close cooperation that continue to flourish between the two countries. To further solidify this partnership, His Excellency KHUON Phon Rattanak proposed that both sides maintain regular dialogue and stimulate future high-level engagements, an initiative warmly welcomed by His Excellency Ambassador Heinrich Schellenberg.

They exchanged views on the political, economic, and developmental spheres. The discussions covered a wide range of cooperation areas, including health, governance, decentralisation, agriculture, trade, investment, tourism, vocational training, demining, development assistance, and collaboration at regional and international forums such as ASEAN and the United Nations.

His Excellency KHUON Phon Rattanak expressed sincere appreciation, on behalf of the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia, to Switzerland for its unwavering development assistance, which has played a vital role in the kingdom's progress.



He highlighted the remarkable work of the Kantha Bopha Children's Hospitals, whose commitment to providing free, high-quality healthcare to Cambodian children and women has touched countless lives. The people of Cambodia always remember, with deep gratitude and admiration, the late Dr. Beat Richner, whose selfless dedication over the years saved the lives of millions of Cambodian children.

For his part, Ambassador Heinrich Schellenberg praised Cambodia's rapid economic progress over the past few decades, which has undergone significant transformation, shifting from post-conflict recovery to being one of Southeast Asia's fastest-growing economies. The co-chairs emphasized the importance of strengthening trade and investment while acknowledging that trade volumes between the two countries have been fluctuating. In an effort to boost trade, the two sides agreed to explore the establishment of effective trade mechanisms, encourage business-to-business partnerships, and continue discussions on the possibility of a free trade agreement to diversify export markets.

Both sides expressed strong confidence that the alignment between Cambodia's Pentagonal Strategy Phase I and Switzerland's development cooperation priorities provides a robust foundation for deeper collaboration. The two strategies converge on key areas such as human capital development, economic diversification, sustainable development, digital innovation, and governance. This strategic synergy forms a solid basis for sustained partnership in support of Cambodia's Vision 2050.

The meeting also addressed regional and global issues, including broader developments in international trade. Both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to promoting peace, stability, and a rules-based international order through constructive dialogue and close cooperation.

In conclusion, the Political Consultations was held successfully in a warm and cordial atmosphere, reflecting the enduring friendship and mutual respect between Cambodia and Switzerland. The Co-chairs looked forward to holding the next round of Political Consultations in Cambodia at a mutually convenient date.



Phnom Penh, 23 June 2025