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PRESS RELEASE

Outcomes of the 26th ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit,
the 28th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit, the 5th Regional Comprehensive Economic
Partnership (RCEP) Leaders' Summit, the 20th East Asia Summit (EAS), and
the 15th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit

On 27 October 2025 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, attended the 26th ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit, the 28th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit, the 5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Leaders' Summit, the 20th East Asia Summit (EAS), and the 15th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit.

I. The 26th ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit

The Leaders affirmed the shared commitment to advance a future-oriented Comprehensive Strategic Partnership through the effective implementation of the ASEAN–ROK Plan of Action (2026-2030), aligned with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. The Leaders underscored the importance of deepening economic cooperation under the ASEAN–Korea Free Trade Area (AKFTA) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). ASEAN Leaders also welcomed the ROK's continued support for ASEAN digital agenda, particularly the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA).

Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister expressed appreciation for the ROK's support for ASEAN digital transformation, including through the ASEAN-ROK Digital Innovation Fund, and welcomed the ASEAN-ROK Digital Academy being set up in Cambodia, which will equip our people with future-ready skills, foster creativity, and strengthen partnerships for a thriving digital future. He also highlighted the ROK's contributions to advancing the ASEAN Power Grid 2045 and promoting the growth of ASEAN's creative industries.

Samdech Thipadei further emphasised the importance of stronger regional cooperation to combat transnational crimes, including illicit trafficking and smuggling, cybercrime, terrorism, and online scams, including through enhanced law enforcement, information sharing, and capacity-building. On a bilateral note, the Cambodian National Police has worked closely with the ROK counterpart to strengthen cooperation in addressing these threats, ensuring a peaceful, secure and resilient region that upholds the safety and well-being of all our peoples.



II. The 28th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit

The Leaders reviewed the region's economic outlook and underscored the need for deeper cooperation to capture the benefits of an open, transparent and rules-based multilateral trading system. They also underscored the importance of strengthening regional unity and cooperation in addressing shared challenges and heightened uncertainty, while upholding ASEAN Centrality in the evolving ASEAN-led regional architecture to foster inclusivity, sustainability, development and prosperity. In this regard, the Leaders adopted the *APT Leaders' Statement on Strengthening Regional Economic and Financial Cooperation*.

Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister reaffirmed the vital role of APT cooperation in promoting peace, stability and development in East Asia. He emphasised the importance of utilising existing free trade agreements, including individual free trade agreement (FTA+1) and the RCEP, to strengthen an open and rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core for the benefit of the people.

While welcoming the recent enhancements to the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) as the region's key financial safety net, **Samdech Thipadei** highlighted the major opportunity of the digital economy, and underscored the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) as a driver of regional digital growth. He also stressed the importance in strengthening dialogue and cooperation in combating transnational crimes and enhancing border management through existing mechanism under the APT Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3) Consultation.

III. The 5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Leaders' Summit

The Leaders underscored the RCEP's pivotal role in fostering regional economic integration and resilience amidst growing global uncertainties. They reiterated the firm commitment to the full and effective implementation of the RCEP Agreement, ensuring open and predictable markets, reducing unnecessary barriers to trade, and enhancing trade and investment facilitation across the region.

The Leaders attached great importance to the RCEP as the largest FTA in the world accounting for one-third of the world's population and GDP and further indicated an ambition in using the General Review of the RCEP Agreement, scheduled for 2027, to making RCEP into a modern, responsive and high standard agreement by incorporating provisions on modern and emerging issues including green economy and digital economy, among others.

Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister underscored that RCEP stands as a symbol of Cambodia's unwavering commitment to rules-based trade and as an example of open regionalism, anchored around ASEAN Centrality. He expressed strong support for the expedited accession of new members in accordance with the agreed Procedures for Accession, emphasising that expanding RCEP membership would enhance its credibility and inclusivity as a key driver of sustainable growth and regional stability.



IV. The 20th East Asia Summit (EAS)

The Leaders highlighted the important role of the EAS as a leaders-led forum for strategic dialogue and cooperation in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the region. They reaffirmed their commitments to further strengthening the implementation of the EAS Plan of Action (2024-2028) through practical and tangible cooperation to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in the rapidly evolving regional and global architecture. The Leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest and concern, with a view to fostering mutual trust and understanding, in order to address shared challenges ahead. Marking 20 years of EAS Cooperation, the Leaders adopted *the Kuala Lumpur Declaration and the 20th Anniversary of the EAS and the EAS Leaders' Statement on Promoting Localisation in Anticipatory Action for Disaster Preparedness and Response*.

Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister underlined that the EAS holds immense potential for stronger economic cooperation and shared prosperity, especially in emerging areas such as the digital economy, green transition, blue economy, supply chains, science, and innovation. He further stressed the importance of promoting peace, security and prosperity which must be advanced through diplomacy, dialogue, and respect for international law, whilst reiterated Cambodia's firm adherence to non-violence, peaceful coexistence, and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States.

Samdech Thipadei also underscored that the recent signing of *the Kuala Lumpur Joint Declaration between Cambodia and Thailand*, was a significant milestone which stands as a powerful testament that even the most challenging disputes can be addressed through mutual respect, restraint and diplomacy. This success was the result of the ceasefire that both countries, with the assistance of our partners, worked hard to establish and uphold. **Samdech Thipadei** deeply thanked Malaysia for facilitating direct and constructive dialogue; and the United States for urging the cessation of hostilities and supporting agreement on a ceasefire; and China for organizing multiple informal dialogues aimed at fostering understanding and promoting a peaceful resolution.

V. The 15th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit

ASEAN and the UN reaffirmed strong commitment to strengthening the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership under the newly adopted Plan of Action (2026–2030) for the Implementation of the Joint Declaration on the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations. The Summit also emphasised the importance of aligning the Plan of Action with ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister reaffirmed Cambodia's unwavering commitment to peace, multilateralism, and the principles of the UN Charter. He stressed that no country can face today's complex challenges alone and called for shared responsibility to uphold



the United Nations' central role in building a more peaceful, stable and just world. He also underscored that ASEAN is one of the fastest-growing regions in the world. In recent years, ASEAN has placed greater emphasis not only on sustaining rapid growth but also on ensuring that such growth is sustainable, inclusive and resilient. These priorities are clearly reflected in *ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future*, which charts our collective path toward a greener, more sustainable, and more equitable region.

VI. Bilateral Meetings of Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister

1. With New Zealand:

Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister held bilateral talks with **His Excellency Christopher Luxon**, Prime Minister of New Zealand, during which **Samdech Thipadei** briefed on Cambodia's economic development status and priorities, including efforts to diversify export markets and product categories. **Samdech Thipadei** highlighted the opportunities to increase bilateral trade, noting that Cambodia has significant potential within the framework of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. **Samdech Thipadei** requested the New Zealand Prime Minister to encourage New Zealand investors to explore further investment opportunities in Cambodia. **His Excellency Christopher Luxon** stated that Cambodia and New Zealand have their own strengths that can complement one another, and agreed to continue to promote further bilateral cooperation, especially in the economic and trade sectors. The New Zealand Prime Minister expressed his appreciation to Cambodia for supporting the establishment of the ASEAN-New Zealand Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The two Leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues, including the United States tariff issue.

2. With Australia:

Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with **His Excellency Anthony Albanese**, Prime Minister of Australia, during which both Leaders highly appreciated the progress of relations and the good cooperation between Cambodia and Australia in the areas of trade and economy, security and national defense, as well as people-to-people exchanges over the years. **Samdech Thipadei** highlighted that the trade volume between the two countries reached approximately USD 600 million in 2024, and therefore suggested that it should be increased to USD 1 billion and highly appreciated Australia's role in contributing to human resource development in Cambodia, particularly its recent decision to increase the number of scholarships for Cambodian students from 50 to 62 for 2025, in response to **Samdech Thipadei's** request. **Samdech Thipadei** also noted the progress of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of national defense and security, highlighting the visit of the Australian Navy's HMAS Ballarat, which docked at the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port and visited the Ream Naval Base in mid-October 2025. **His Excellency Anthony Albanese** recalled his previous visit to Cambodia

and expressed his interest in the country's potential in the tourism sector. **His Excellency Anthony Albanese** also highly appreciated Cambodia's efforts in combating cybercrime and technology-related fraud, noting that these challenges are shared by all countries. **The Australian Prime Minister** also welcomed the positive developments in resolving the border dispute between Cambodia and Thailand and highly appreciated **Samdech Thipadei's** skillful leadership in the process of finding a solution to this issue. Both Prime Ministers also agreed to continue strengthening and broadening cooperation between Cambodia and Australia.

VII. Bilateral Meetings of His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn

1. With Timor-Leste:

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with **His Excellency Dr. Bendito dos Santos Freitas**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, during which **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** expressed his heartfelt congratulations to Timor-Leste on its accession as a full member of ASEAN and firmly believed that this is a significant milestone that strengthens regional solidarity and the collective journey toward a more inclusive, resilient and prosperous ASEAN Community. **His Excellency Dr. Freitas** conveyed Timor-Leste's deep gratitude to Cambodia for its tremendous support and contribution to Timor-Leste's full membership in ASEAN, and expressed his sincere congratulations to Cambodia on the signing of the Kuala Lumpur Joint Declaration earlier on 26 October 2025. Both Ministers also discussed the bilateral relations between Cambodia and Timor-Leste and exchanged views on cooperation within ASEAN. **The Deputy Prime Minister** reaffirmed Cambodia's continued support, within its capacity, for Timor-Leste's next journey as an ASEAN member state.

2. With Viet Nam:

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister held a first bilateral meeting with **His Excellency Le Hoai Trung**, in his new capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The two Ministers expressed their readiness to work closely together contributing to further deepening bilateral relations between the two countries. **His Excellency Le Hoai Trung** expressed his heartfelt appreciation to **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** for kind words of congratulations and extended sincere congratulations on the signing of the Kuala Lumpur Joint Declaration on 26 October 2025. The two Ministers highly commended the growing cooperation and frequent high-level exchange of visits and interactions between the two Leaders. Both Foreign Ministers also exchanged views on key areas of mutual cooperation, including trade, investment, people-to-people exchanges and connectivity, and also discussed on the preparations for the upcoming 21st Meeting of the Joint Commission between Cambodia and Viet Nam, which is scheduled to be held in December in Cambodia.



3. With the United States:

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn held a bilateral meeting with Her Excellency Allison Hooker, United States Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister conveyed Cambodia's deepest appreciation to the United States, particularly the Honorable Donald J. Trump, for his commendable efforts, decisive leadership and invaluable role in facilitating the ceasefire agreement and the signing of the Joint Declaration between Cambodia and Thailand, on 26 October 2025. Her Excellency Allison Hooker reaffirmed the United States' strong commitment to supporting the full and effective implementation of the peace agreement between Cambodia and Thailand, including the prompt release of the 18 Cambodian soldiers.

Both sides underscored the significance of this year, which marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations of the two countries and coincides with Cambodia's role as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations. They welcomed the positive trajectory of bilateral ties and reaffirmed their shared commitment to move forward Cambodia-U.S. bilateral relations in all areas of mutual interest, including trade, investments, MIA/POW cooperation, demining, repatriation, culture and people-to-people exchanges, as well as non-traditional security issues.

On economic cooperation, the two sides welcomed the recent signing of the Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (ART), which is expected to boost two-way trade and investment flows and open new avenues for private sector collaboration. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister reaffirmed Cambodia's readiness to work closely with the United States to fully implement the ART and to explore additional mechanisms that could further enhance economic resilience and shared prosperity for both nations.



Phnom Penh, 28 October 2025