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Phnom Penh, November 15, 2026

Press Release
on
the Launch of "Bakong to the World" Initiative

On Sunday, November 15, 2026, the National Bank of Cambodia officially launched a new cross-border payment service called "Bakong to the World." This initiative enables Bakong payment app users to make international payments directly from their smartphones using Tap-to-Pay technology. The official launch took place during the Black Swan Summit Cambodia, held from November 15-16, 2026, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

This initiative was developed under the framework of cooperation between the National Bank of Cambodia and Google, with ACLEDA Bank Plc. acting as the correspondent bank. Bakong payment app users can generate virtual Visa or Mastercard cards directly within the Bakong app, then link that card to digital wallet on their phone with Google Pay. Users can then use that card to pay for goods and services online, or simply tap their phone against a point-of-sale POS terminal without needing to insert the card. Through the launch of this initiative, Cambodian people travelling abroad can make payments as easily as domestic payments, without the need to use cash or carry payment cards with them.

"Bakong to the World" marks a significant new chapter for Bakong, evolving from a domestic payment system into a gateway for payments across the globe. This cooperation will connect Cambodia's national payment system to the global payment networks of Visa and Mastercard, providing Cambodian people with a means of payment that is modern, convenient, secure, and reliable wherever they travel.

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