KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

No. PR 161/2026 MFA.IC

PRESS RELEASE

Outcomes of the 49th ASEAN Summit, the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) and the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Youth

On 15 November 2026, as the High Representative of **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, **His Excellency Dr. HANG Chuon Naron**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Youth and Sport, attended the 49th ASEAN Summit and the ASEAN Leaders' Interfaces with Representatives of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) and ASEAN Youth, held in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines.

At the 49th ASEAN Summit, the ASEAN Leaders discussed ASEAN Community-building under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship theme, "*Navigating Our Future, Together*", as well as ASEAN's external relations and future directions amid an increasingly complex regional and global landscape. They underscored the importance of preserving a peaceful, stable, inclusive and predictable regional environment, respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity, and resolving differences through peaceful means, in accordance with international law and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). The Leaders also decided that Timor-Leste would assume the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2029 and reaffirmed ASEAN's full support for its preparations towards this important responsibility.

The Leaders welcomed the newly signed ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA), which makes it easier for businesses, especially MSMEs, to trade digitally across borders, access new markets and benefit from emerging technologies such as AI, while unlocking the potential of ASEAN's growing digital economy and strengthening the region's competitiveness. They also discussed strengthening energy security through the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement and the ASEAN Power Grid,

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and broadening ASEAN's network of partnerships to keep the region open and connected. On this occasion, the Leaders also witnessed the unveiling of ASEAN's updated flag and emblem, now featuring 11 stalks of paddy to represent Timor-Leste.

In his intervention, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** emphasised the importance of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) in advancing economic integration, particularly in the areas of digital trade, investment and innovation, and the support for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). He underscored the need to improve cross-border digital payments and strengthen digital infrastructure. On ASEAN Connectivity, he stressed the importance of improving logistics, promoting smart and sustainable urban development, strengthening people-to-people exchanges and narrowing development gaps.

He also highlighted Cambodia's strengthened national efforts to combat online scams, including the establishment of the Commission to Combat Online Scams in February 2025, the enactment of the Law on Combating Online Scams and a nationwide crackdown on scam operations. He underscored that Cambodia had dismantled all major scam operations and prosecuted hundreds of offenders. He further expressed appreciation to the co-sponsors and participants of the International Conference on Combating Online Scams, held in Phnom Penh in September 2026, which culminated in the adoption of the Phnom Penh Declaration.

On external relations, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** emphasised that ASEAN should continue to engage openly and constructively with all partners, guided by international law, the UN Charter, the ASEAN Charter and the TAC. As ASEAN and the United States will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations and the 5th Anniversary of their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2027, he reaffirmed Cambodia's commitment, in its capacity as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations, to working closely with the United States and Singapore, as the incoming ASEAN Chair, on preparation for these important milestones.

The ASEAN Leaders also reviewed the implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus (5PC) on Myanmar, as well as exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concern and interest, including energy security and resilience.

At the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), the Meeting underscored the importance of strengthening closer cooperation between ASEAN and AIPA in tackling shared regional challenges and ensuring that AIPA makes meaningful contributions to the region. In his intervention,

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister highlighted three key priorities: first, preserving peace as the foundation for development through diplomacy, dialogue and strict adherence to international law; second, promoting gender equality, protecting migrant workers and supporting ageing populations; and third, strengthening regional resilience through deepening cooperation in food and energy security, public health and digital inclusion. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** underscored that around 20,000 displaced Cambodian civilians must be allowed to return to their homes without obstruction, in safety and dignity, without further delay. In this regard, he called for the full and effective implementation of the Joint Statement on 27 December 2025, particularly the prompt resumption of the survey and demarcation work of the Joint Boundary Commission (JBC), in accordance with existing agreements between both countries.

At the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), His Excellency **Deputy Prime Minister** commended ASEAN-BAC for its indispensable role and continued efforts in strengthening public-private sector cooperation and advancing practical recommendations to promote ASEAN's economic integration, competitiveness and inclusive growth. He also highlighted several priorities, including strengthening MSMEs competitiveness and access to regional and global markets; ensuring that ASEAN economic integration delivers greater benefits to businesses; accelerating digital transformation and the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence (AI); enhancing food and energy security through private-sector investment; and diversifying sources of growth to strengthen ASEAN's overall competitiveness.

At the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Youth, His Excellency **Deputy Prime Minister** commended ASEAN youth for their contributions to ASEAN Community-building and underscored that young people are essential partners in advancing ASEAN's present progress and shaping its future. He highlighted three key priorities: strengthening youth participation in peacebuilding under the Youth, Peace and Security agenda; fostering an enabling economic ecosystem that provides young people with relevant skills, mentorship, decent employment opportunities and support for youth-led start-ups; and ensuring that no young person is left behind in the digital transformation, including through the safe and responsible use of AI.

Phnom Penh, 16 November 2026