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**Cambodian PM Attends the ASEAN-US Leaders Summit**



Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen led the Cambodian Delegation included H.E. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce; H.E. Aun Porn Moniroth, Minister of Economy and Finance; H.E. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports; and other members of the Royal government of Cambodia attends the Special ASEAN-U.S. Summit, taking place in

Sunnylands, Rancho Mirage, California, on Feb. 15-16, 2016.

This Special U.S.-ASEAN Leaders Summit was the first to be held in the United States and the very first Summit following the establishment of the ASEAN Community.

The Summit marked a watershed year for both ASEAN and for the increasingly close U.S-ASEAN strategic partnership. In 2015, ASEAN Member States celebrated the establishment of the ASEAN Community, working together toward an ASEAN that better serves the people of Southeast Asia.



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen,

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, said the Special ASEAN-U.S. Leaders Summit will contribute significantly to strengthening the strategic partnership of cooperation between ASEAN and the U.S.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen said ASEAN and the U.S. have worked together in a partnership for almost 40 years to promote peace, prosperity, and stability in Asia and the world.



ASEAN and the U.S have been committed to build a strong, stable, politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible and people-centered ASEAN Community, he underlined.

Prime Minister Hun Sen also made some key suggestions to boost information sharing and networks in order to promote innovations and talents in higher education and trade sectors, connectivity between ASEAN-U.S. research and development networks, and so on.

In the summit, both the ASEAN and U.S. leaders exchanged views in a close and understanding manner on key issues in order to boost the regional prosperity through the promotion of innovation, entrepreneurship, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) development, trade and investment, people-to-people connectivity, especially among the youth, and through the strengthening of friendship and strategic cooperation between the two big regions.

ASEAN and the U.S. were committed to protect peace and security, and boost prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region by ensuring maritime security, combating terrorism, preventing human trafficking, and cooperating in climate change issue, etc., Samdech Techo Hun Sen added.

During his stay in California, the Cambodian premier also held a get-together with some 500 Cambodian-Americans living across the U.S., during which he called on the

Cambodian-Americans to tighten their friendship and solidarity and to continue to contribute with the Royal Government of Cambodia in the country development.

***500 Plus Cambodian-American Welcomed PM Hun Sen in the US***



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, was welcomed by 500 Cambodian-Americans living across the U.S., at a get-together held at Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa, Rancho Mirage city, California on Feb. 14 afternoon.



H.E. Chum Bunrong, Cambodian Ambassador to the U.S., said up to now, there are more than half a million Cambodian people living in the U.S. and the majority of them migrated to the U.S. during the civil war in the 1970s and after

the country's liberation from the genocidal regime in January 1979.

On the occasion, Samdech Techo Hun Sen called on the Cambodian-Americans to strengthen their friendship and solidarity and to continue to contribute with the Royal Government of Cambodia in the country development.

The Cambodian premier also laid stress on the relations between ASEAN and the U.S, and highlighted the progress in the relations between Cambodia and the U.S., particularly the two-way trade, which has reached over US\$3 billion.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen went on to say that on his way from Palm Springs International Airport to Rancho Mirage, he did not notice any demonstrators (against him) blocking the road and if there was a demonstration, he would get off and shake hand with the demonstrators.

***ASEAN Foreign Ministers Conclude Retreat in Vientiane***

The Foreign Ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) concluded their retreat in Vientiane, Laos in late February.

According to a press release of Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International cooperation issued

yesterday evening, the meeting discussed the implementation of ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025, and the South China Sea, Korean Peninsula and extremist groups (ISIS-IS) issues.



Cambodian Foreign Minister H.E. Hor Namhong suggested attention to the ASEAN connectivity, poverty reduction, youth participation in the ASEAN Community Building, preparedness and response to climate change, and implementation of Work Plan III of Initiative for ASEAN Integration to be approved by the ASEAN Leaders in September 2016.

Besides, the Cambodian top diplomat underlined the importance of ASEAN central role which needs to be preserved and strengthened, but ASEAN must not take part in any global strategy of any powerful country.

Regarding regional and international issues, H.E. Hor Namhong, also a Deputy Prime Minister, urged for law enforcement, confidential

information exchange, and border management through the effective implementation of ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism 2016-2018.

Concerning the South China Sea issue, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers agreed to hold a future meeting with their Chinese counterpart to discuss the ASEAN-China relations and South China Sea issue, especially to find appropriate measures to mitigate the tension and solve the dispute.

***PM Hun Sen Reconfirms Cambodia's Foreign Policy***



February 05, 2016 – Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen reaffirmed here this morning the neutrality of the country's foreign policy.

Speaking in front of some 4,900 graduates of the National University of Management at Koh Pich Convention and Exhibition Center, Samdech Techo Hun Sen rejected some comments over the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E.

Hor Namhong's trip to China saying that he went there to console China not to be angry of the U.S. State Secretary H.E. John Kerry's recent visit in Cambodia and Samdech Techo Hun Sen's upcoming presence at the ASEAN-U.S. Summit.

"I would like to confirm that Cambodia's foreign policy is independent, and Cambodia is a sovereign state, therefore she does not need any recommendation from others," the Cambodian premier underlined.

***U.S. Secretary of State Two Days Official Visits to Cambodia***

On January 25, 2016, Secretary of State of the United States of America, H.E. John Kerry, arrived in Phnom Penh for a two-day official visit in Cambodia.

On January 25, 2016, H.E. John Kerry paid a courtesy call on Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Both sides discussed the ASEAN-U.S. Summit to be held in mid-February, Cambodia-U.S. trade cooperation, and South China Sea issue.

Regarding the South China Sea issue, he added, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said it has to be settled by international laws, especially by the existing ASEAN-China

mechanisms including the implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the early conclusion of Code of Conduct in South China Sea (COC).



The Cambodian leader requested H.E. John Kerry to help enhance more trade exchange between the two countries, particularly to provide more preferential conditions for the Cambodian products, while H.E. John Kerry appreciated Cambodia for her rapid progress, potentials for American investments and participation in the UN peacekeeping operations.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also expressed his satisfaction with Cambodia-U.S. cooperation in the fields of anti-terrorism, health, education, mine clearance, and thanked the U.S. side for the return of Khmer artifacts.

On the same day, Secretary John Kerry also had an official meeting with H.E. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.



H.E. John Kerry congratulated Cambodia on its remarkable development as well as the progress of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, affirming that the U.S. will further work with Cambodia in the areas of environment, health, Mekong initiatives, and regional security.

After the meeting, H.E. Hor Namhong said the visiting U.S. top diplomat mentioned some political issues, especially about the opposition party issue, but it was just a small topic.

### ***U.S. Purchased US\$3 Billion Garment Products from Cambodia***

The United States of America purchased garment products equivalent to US\$3 billion last year, 2015. The highlight was published lately on the official website of the United States Embassy in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The published information also underlined the appreciation of the U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. William A. Heidt for two garment factories he has recently visited. The visited factories, Cambodian Textiles Worldwide in Phnom

Penh and Pactics in Siem Reap contributed significantly to the said purchase by the U.S. from Cambodia.

### ***Cambodia Earns Nearly US\$9 Billion from Industrial Sector***

Last year, Cambodia earned some US\$8,873 million from the Industrial sector, up 20 percent over the previous year, said a report of the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft.

At a recent recapitulative meeting, Senior Minister and Minister of Industry and Handicraft H.E. Cham Prasidh underlined the Royal Government of Cambodia's efforts to develop the industrial sector through promoting industrial diversification, supporting competitiveness enhancement as well as increasing productivity of factories, enterprises and handicrafts.

According to the report, some 1,450 factories and 38,831 small and medium-sized enterprises have registered at the Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts, generating a total of 1,053,599 jobs.

Up to now, Cambodia has in total 859,546 workers, of them 754,188 have been working in the garment, textile and footwear sector, said the report.

## *The Landscape of ASEAN in 2016 and the Vision for 2025*



February 17, 2016, H. E. SUN Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce of Cambodia and ASEAN Economic Minister for Cambodia participated in the Panel Discussion under the theme of “The Landscape of ASEAN in 2016 and the Vision for 2025” in San Francisco, California, U.S.A. The Panel Discussion was moderated by Ambassador Michael Froman, the U.S Trade Representative and attended by many U.S. investors.

The panelists exchanged views on the efforts of ASEAN Member States to be made in 2016 and the trade and investment priorities in the post 2015 AEC agenda. They also discussed on how AEC can support the nations in the Lower Mekong Sub-Region like Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar for their development objectives. The strengthening of ASEAN as a global trade and investment hub and the most important things that the U.S. business people and entrepreneurs should consider before investing in ASEAN were also raised during this panel discussion.

Senior Minister also briefed the meeting on the recent economic development and key reforms which have been completed and are being implemented at the Ministry of Commerce.

He highlighted the importance of the new automation systems for issuing the Certificate of Origin and Business Registration which were publicly available for application on 4th January 2016.

He also noted the benefits of investing in Cambodia such as Everything But Arms (EBA) (granted by the European Union) and the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) offered by many countries to Cambodia and the importance of the newly-adopted IDP Strategy in moving the country forward to the next level of development.