



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

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Senior Minister Attends ASEAN Meetings



ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the 33rd AMM

His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, led a delegation to attend the 33rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), ASEAN + 3 (China, Japan, the Republic of Korea), 7th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC) 10 + 10 held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 23 - 29 July 2000.

After the AMM, Senior Minister HOR Namhong joined other ASEAN Foreign Ministers in signing four documents, namely, the Revised Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the ASEAN Foundation, the Joint Declaration for a Socially Cohesive and Caring ASEAN, the ASEAN Declaration on Cultural Heritage, and the ASEAN-EC Cooperation Agreement extended to Cambodia and Laos.

During the PMC, Senior Minister HOR Namhong signed the Protocol for the Accession of Cambodia to the 1980 ASEAN - European Commission Cooperation Agreement that would allow the country to benefit from the European Community Economic Cooperation Projects and Programs provided under the Agreement.

On 28 July 2000, Cambodia began to succeed the Philippines as the country coordinator for ASEAN - Canada Dialogue Relations for a period of three years.

Apart from the programs for AMM, ASEAN + 3, ARF, and PMC, Senior Minister HOR Namhong had separate meetings with Ministers of Foreign Affairs of some Dialogue Partners.

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Statement by Senior Minister at 33rd AMM

Following is the text of the Statement made by His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, at the opening of the 33rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok, on 24 July 2000:

*Mr. Chairman,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is my great honor to attend the 33rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, the beautiful city of Angels. May I thank the Government and People of Thailand for the gracious hospitality accorded to my delegation and for the excellent arrangements made for this gathering.

This Meeting comes at a time when ASEAN as a whole has regained strength and confidence after having overcome the worst economic and financial crisis that hit the Southeast Asian Region in the past three years.

I would like to sincerely join my colleagues to congratulate His Excellency Dr. Surin Pitsuwan and His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien on their elections as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively of the 33rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. I am confident that with their rich experiences, our meeting will be crowned with success.

We are now in the age of globalization, which can be a powerful and dynamic force for strengthening cooperation and accelerating growth and development. However, globalization presents not only opportunities but also risks and challenges. It has increased the vulnerability of the developing and least-developed countries, which are in the process of being integrated into the world economy. For this reason, to cope with those risks and challenges, we, in ASEAN, have to make every possible efforts to ensure that the whole ASEAN is marching forward on the same pace.

Since the 32nd AMM in Singapore and the 3rd Informal Summit in Manila, we have identified a number of opportunities and challenges arising in the midst of the age of globalization and the revolution of the information technology brought by this new millennium. ASEAN should gather its resources to materialize the ultimate goal of the *Vision 2020*. In this sense, our commitment is to continue to exert greater efforts to transform the *Hanoi Plan of Action* into reality. ASEAN's unity, cohesion and solidarity are of great importance that will keep ASEAN relevant, strong and focused on realizing the goals set by the Founding Fathers of the Association, namely a prosperous, equitable and caring society.

Mr. Chairman,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The process of regional integration will not succeed unless there is a balance of development within ASEAN. This should be addressed in a timely manner to ensure the global competitiveness of ASEAN. I am of a view that it is essential to set up strategies and programs to eliminate or substantially reduce such a disparity within ASEAN as soon as possible. In doing so, we will be able to integrate the economies of ASEAN as a whole, to cope with the globalization phenomenon.

In this regard, the following efforts should be focused:

First, Mekong Basin Development. The Development will help not only the development of the riparian countries, but also the whole region, and will pay a great contribution to the economic integration within ASEAN. For this purpose, I wish to urge the Steering Committee on ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation to be convened as soon as possible. The setting up of an ASEAN-Mekong Feasibility Fund is of the utmost importance for feasibility studies of all projects in connection with the Mekong Basin development.

Moreover, I am of a view that to accelerate the Mekong Basin Development, a Mekong Basin Development Fund (MBDF) to implement the Mekong Development Projects should also be set up. Certainly, the realization of these projects will need further supports from our Dialogue Partners, in particular Japan which has already promised to help in this regard.

Second, Human Resources Development (HRD). HRD is the key to ensure sustainable development, in particular for the new members. Thus, ASEAN must make efforts to establish as soon as possible the ***ASEAN Human Resources Development Fund*** as agreed upon at our last Ministerial Meeting in Singapore and endorsed by the Informal Summit in Manila last November.

During this same meeting in Manila, Japan has pledged to help *Mekong Basin Development, Human Resources Development, and to eliminate the gap in ASEAN*. The Republic of Korea and China have also made their promises to help. For those reasons, I think we should make every efforts with our dialogue partners to transfer these objectives into concrete actions.

Mr. Chairman,

Cambodia, like other nations around the Asia Pacific, is interested in a stable environment. The regional and international security architecture can be characterized as overall stable, thus facilitating political dialogue and economic cooperation, enhancing mutual understanding and trust. The stable relations existing between the major powers should be maintained and further strengthened to help ensure mutual trust and confidence, which constitute the vital foundation for peace and security. The stability of the US-China-Japan triangular relationship is a vital factor underpinning regional security, and by extension, regional economic development. ASEAN welcomes the series of exchange of visits at different political levels, which have helped smooth out any potential source of misunderstanding.

We have also observed with keen interest, the rapid diplomatic movements during the last few months in the Korean Peninsula. Cambodia welcomes the holding and the outcomes of the recent Summit between the two Koreas and the accession of the DPRK to the ARF. This positive development would contribute to a further improvement of the security environment in Asia-Pacific.

We must also recognize that we are living in an era of global changes. Although ASEAN economies are on the road of recovery, the challenges for ASEAN now is to maintain political stability and to ensure sustainable socio-economic growth. For this purpose, it is important that we make every effort to realize all current economic integration initiatives of ASEAN such as the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA), the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation (AICO) scheme, the liberalization of the services sectors etc.

However, Intra-regional liberalization and globalization open not only opportunities for free movement of people, materials and goods, necessary and good goals in themselves, but also provide an increased scope for cross-border crimes and illegal activities including money laundering, drug and human trafficking, smuggling of artifacts as well as dumping of toxicant hazardous wastes. To be pro-active in our efforts to contain and prevent such crimes, ASEAN need to strengthen our individual and regional capacities to deal with these issues and move rapidly towards harmonizing our laws to enable both prevention and law enforcement.

In this 3rd Millennium, when globalization, more than ever, poses constraint on us, ASEAN should strengthen its structures, so that it can be more assertive economically and politically. We, in ASEAN, should try our best also to ensure ASEAN step forward with unity and common purpose on all important world's matters.

In order to increase the role of ASEAN in the international arena, ASEAN should try to have one voice and one stand on all international issues.

*Mr. Chairman,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Although there are challenges ahead posed by the world today, I am convinced that ASEAN will further develop into a more resilient, robust and even more influential regional body. Our unity within diversity is strong foundation for further success in our common journey leading to a bright future for ASEAN.

Thank you



Senior Minister HOR Namhong addresses the 33rd AMM.

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Statement by Senior Minister at 7th ARF



Foreign ministers of ASEAN Regional Forum country members attending the 7th ARF.

Following is the text of the Statement made by His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, at the 7th ASEAN Regional Forum held in Bangkok, on 27 July 2000:

Mr. Chairman,

Your Royal Highness,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to attend this 7th Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Allow me, first of all, to sincerely thank H. E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Foreign Minister of Thailand, and, through him, to the Royal Thai Government for the excellent arrangements provided for our delegation.

I would also like to warmly welcome H. E. Mr. PAEK Nam Sun, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to join ARF as a new member. Cambodia also hails the recent Summit between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, which contributes to the building up of confidence and the strengthening of peace and stability in the peninsula.

Since her participation in the ARF in 1995, Cambodia has spared no efforts in helping build Southeast Asia and the Asia Pacific into a zone of peace, stability and security for all. We have closely observed the development of the ARF and have acted in favour of confidence building among the member countries. Cambodia notes with satisfaction that the consultations and cooperation in the field of security environment for the past one year have grown positively.

Mr. Chairman,

The success of the ARF depends on how well the ARF members can cooperate with each other based on mutual trust. We wish to see the ARF with ASEAN as its primary driving force continues to strengthen its cohesion and capacity to address all issues affecting the region. The free flow of discussions in this meeting on topics like the overview of the ARF, the continuation and enhancement of the role of the ARF Chair, and transnational crimes, should be encouraged, enabling the comfortable exchange of views among the ARF participants, thus contributing to enhance mutual trust and understanding.

However, Cambodia believes that the free flow of discussions should push the ARF to step forward to strengthening CBMs and reaching the concept and principles of PD. Otherwise the ARF will remain just a forum for discussions only.

Cambodia hails the development of the process of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which has been signed and ratified by 155 states, including the recent ratification by the Russian Federation. We also hail the recent ratification by the Russian Federation of the START II. However, we sincerely regret that some Nuclear Weapon States have not ratified it yet.

Cambodia considers the expansion of SEANWFZ as a very important step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament. Since the remaining issues of major concern to the Nuclear Weapon States have been clarified and narrowed down to the question of zone of application, negative security assurance, sovereignty and transit rights and ports of visits, Cambodia further reiterates its appeal to all Nuclear Weapon States to accede to the Treaty for the sake of maintaining peace and security in this large Asia-Pacific area. Cambodia highly appreciates the intention of China to accede to the Protocol of the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

The increasing scope and intensity of transnational crimes have broadened the regional security agenda. Of particular concern are issues such as piracy, illegal trafficking of drugs, small

arms and light weapons and children and women. A better management of these issues requires greater regional coordination in information exchanges, and cooperation between national law enforcement agencies.

Cambodia expresses its full support to the convening by the UN of an international conference on illicit arms trade in all aspects in 2001. On its part, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has taken practical measures to strictly control the use and circulation of small arms and ammunitions, eliminate their illegal procurement and sales by destroying those illegal small arms. The Royal Government of Cambodia has so far confiscated more than 80,000 pieces of assorted small arms and light weapons, out of which more than 40,000 pieces were destroyed. Furthermore, the RGC has decided to downsize the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces to 100,000 by 2002, and less later on from the existing 140,693 which presently exist.

As one of the worst victims of landmines, Cambodia, a signatory State of the Ottawa Convention on Landmines, strongly appeals to all landmine producers and exporters to sign and ratify the Convention, thus banning the production, distribution, sale, transfer, and use of landmines. We also call upon the international community to provide necessary assistance to landmine clearance operations as well as rehabilitation of victims and their social and economic reintegration.

Cambodia hails the recent positive development made by concerted efforts of parties concerned in the region in various meetings. The recent development of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with Australia also reflects the positive development of the CBMs, contributing to peace and stability in the region. Cambodia warmly welcomes the tremendous success of the recent historical first Summit held between the Leaders from the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which was a significant step to bring into an end the long era of confrontation and instability, which lasted since 1953.

Cambodia takes note of the on-going efforts between ASEAN and China to establish a regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea. Cambodia welcomes the positive outcome of the discussions of the ASEAN-China Working Group to that effect. We urge the claimant States in the South China Sea to continue exercise self-restraint while addressing the issues of mutual concern pending the setting up of the Code of Conduct. Cambodia believes that once it is finalized, the Code of Conduct would be an important step of confidence building measure among claimant states.

Cambodia maintains its support for the process of deepening Confidence Building Measures. The concept of Preventive Diplomacy should strictly adhere to the code of conduct spelt out by the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), which laid out fundamental principles governing the relations between States in the region. Above all, the ARF members should further explore all possible avenues of confidence building as they represent by themselves the best and most efficient ways to prevent conflicts from emerging, thus securing durable peace and long term security.

Thank you.

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Remarks by Senior Minister at Signing Ceremony

Here is the text of the Remarks delivered by His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, at the Signing Ceremony of the Protocol on the Extension of the Cooperation Agreement between the Member Countries of ASEAN and the European Community to Cambodia, held in Bangkok, on 28 July 2000:

Mr. Co-Chairmen

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and an honour for me to sign, on behalf of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Protocol on the Extension of the Cooperation Agreement between the member countries of ASEAN and the European Community to Cambodia at this significant event.

On behalf of my Government, I would like to express my profound thanks to the member countries of the European Community for their consent to accept Cambodia as a party to the ASEAN-EC Cooperation Agreement. My profound thanks also go to the Governments of ASEAN member countries for their support to Cambodia in this matter.

The extension of this Agreement to Cambodia will contribute to the improvement of our economy. Moreover, I believe that the inclusion of the Kingdom of Cambodia into the ASEAN-EC Economic Cooperation Agreement will help Cambodia to further enhance cooperation in the industrial, technical, commercial, and development cooperation fields with EC and also for the benefits of both the EU and ASEAN as a whole. The Agreement would promote contacts and

business deals between the private sector in various bilateral and regional projects in an enhanced favorable investment climate.

Allow me to take this opportunity to reiterate Cambodia's commitment to the goals of ASEAN-EC cooperation in order to promote this cooperation more extensively.

Thank you.

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Remarks by Senior Minister HOR Namhong at PMC ASEAN-Canada Session

Here is the text of the Remarks delivered by His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, at the Post Ministerial Conference ASEAN- Canada Session, held in Bangkok, on 28 July 2000:

*Mr. Co-Chairmen,
Excellencies, Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It gives me great pleasure to address this Meeting as an incoming Country Coordinator for the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations. Last year Cambodia became a member of the ASEAN-Canada Economic Cooperation Agreement. This year, we are honoured to take over the responsibilities for coordinating the activities between ASEAN and Canada from the Philippines. This is the first time that the Kingdom of Cambodia assumes the role of an ASEAN Country Coordinator with a Dialogue Partner.

I am pleased to note that over the last twenty-three years, ASEAN and Canada have enjoyed fruitful cooperation. Canada's support for the development in the region has greatly benefited ASEAN in terms of transfers of knowledge, expertise technology and English Language training. In a wider scope, Canada's financial support in extending the South China Sea Workshop series for another five years since 1999 and Canada's cooperation in the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crimes have contributed to the strengthening of mutual understanding and stability in the region. In the meantime, Canadian interest in the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action is highly appreciated.

Mr. Co-Chairmen,

Since the convening of the first ASEAN-Canada dialogue relations in 1977, the world has dramatically changed. Globalization is now the hallmark in international economic relations. To keep pace with regional and global changes, the ASEAN Leaders at the Third ASEAN Informal Summit in November 1999 in Manila, agreed to accelerate the process of economic integration and to enhance their cooperation in order to reach the ASEAN Vision 2020. Pursuant to their decisions, at our 33rd Meeting which just concluded three days ago, ASEAN Foreign Ministers agreed to divert part from the ASEAN Solidarity Fund for the development of human resources, which is critically important for long term and comprehensive development in the region, especially for the newer member countries of ASEAN. ASEAN also agreed to reactivate the Mekong Basin Development Cooperation or AMBDC in order to overcome the gap in the developmental level among ASEAN Countries. We believed that the AMBDC would benefit ASEAN as a whole as well as all participating parties from the public and private sectors.

In this light, I believe it is important that Canada continues to contribute resources to ASEAN while ensuring mutual benefits. Although during the last three years, some questions have remained unresolved, we might seek new initiatives for the ASEAN-Canada dialogue relations to prosper again.

ASEAN would welcome the collaboration by Canada's private sector in business and investment opportunities, which in turn will strengthen the economic links between ASEAN and Canada.

Mr. Co-Chairmen,

I highly appreciate the productive results of the ASEAN-Canada Informal Discussion held yesterday between officials from the Philippines, Cambodia, Canada and the ASEAN-Secretariat. I firmly hope that in the spirit of cooperation, ASEAN and Canada can convene its Joint Cooperation Committee as early as possible.

As ASEAN's country coordinator, the Philippines has done significant work. Cambodia as in-coming country coordinator, after this session, will make every endeavours to enhance the close links between ASEAN and Canada.

Based on the firm foundation in our relations, I am convinced that ASEAN-Canada dialogue relations will continue to move forward for the benefit of both sides, contributing to our common prosperity.

Thank you.

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DPR Korea Foreign Minister Visits Cambodia



Official meeting between Cambodian delegation led by Senior Minister HOR Namhong and DPR Korea's delegation led by Foreign Minister PAEK Nam Sun.

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, His Excellency Mr. PAEK Nam Sun, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, led a delegation to pay an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 29 - 31 July 2000.

During the bilateral meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Senior Minister HOR Namhong and Minister PAEK Nam Sun had an exchanged of information on the current situation in each country. Senior Minister HOR Namhong highly appreciated the fruitful results of the Summit between the two Koreas as well as the participation of Minister PAEK Nam Sun in the recent ASEAN Regional Forum in Bangkok. Senior Minister HOR

Namhong and Minister PAEK Nam Sun agreed to have an exchange of economic and trade delegations in the future.

While in Cambodia, His Excellency Mr. PAEK Nam Sun was granted a Royal Audience by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, King of Cambodia. The Foreign Minister also paid courtesy calls on Samdech CHEA Sim, President of the Senate, Samdech Krom Preah NORODOM Ranariddh, President of the National Assembly, and Samdech HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The discussions with all the Cambodian leaders focused mainly on the further strengthening and broadening the relations between the two countries.

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Secretary of State Meets with Belgian Delegation



*Official meeting between Cambodian delegation led by Secretary of State UCH Kiman
and Belgian delegation led by Secretary of State Eddy BOUTMANS.*

On 27 July 2000, His Excellency Mr. UCH Kiman, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, had a meeting with a Belgian delegation led by His Excellency Mr. Eddy BOUTMANS, Secretary of State in charge of the International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, who paid an official visit to Cambodia from 26 July - 2 August 2000 to promote cooperation between Belgium and Cambodia.

Secretary of State UCH Kiman briefed the delegation on the Royal Government of Cambodia's economic development policy in the condition of the prevalence of peace and stability in all over the country and the reintegration of Cambodia in the international community. He also touched on the reforms undertaken in economy and finance, armed forces, civil administration, and judiciary as well as the Government's priorities, namely poverty alleviation through rural development, infrastructure, energy, development of human resources, light industry, and tourism. He also made known to the delegation the attention attached to the strengthening of the democracy and the rule of law by the Government.

Both delegations had a frank discussion and explored possibility of promoting bilateral cooperation in a wide range of fields, among them rural development, democracy, commune elections, human resources development by providing scholarship to Cambodian officials and students, demining, culture, demobilization of the armed forces, fight against the spread of HIV / AIDS, etc. They also shared the views on the importance of creating in the near future the Joint Commission for bilateral cooperation.

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