

Record of Discussion
The Tenth Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation
between Cambodia and Thailand
25 – 26 August 2016
Bangkok, Thailand

* * * * *

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Prak Sokhonn, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a delegation to attend the Tenth Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Cambodia and Thailand during 25 – 26 August 2016, in Bangkok, Thailand.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by His Excellency Mr. Prak Sokhonn, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and His Excellency Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. The lists of members of the Cambodian and the Thai delegations appear as ANNEXES I and II, respectively.
3. The Joint Commission discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest, with a view to enhancing and expediting the on-going cooperation between the two countries as agreed by the two Leaders during the official visit to Thailand of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the outcome of the Second Cambodia – Thailand Joint Cabinet Retreat during 18 – 19 December 2015 in Thailand. The texts of the Opening Remarks by the Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand appear as ANNEXES III and IV, respectively.
4. It was also noted that this Meeting represented a milestone of the 65th anniversary of Cambodia and Thailand diplomatic relations. Both sides looked forward to the Third Cambodia – Thailand Joint Cabinet Retreat which will be hosted by the Cambodian side in 2017 with a view to maintaining the momentum of constructive cooperation going for the better livelihood of peoples and prosperity of the two nations.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

5. The Meeting of the Joint Commission was preceded by a preparatory meeting at the Senior Officials level on 25 August 2016 under the co-chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Ung Sean, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and His Excellency Mr. Apichart Chinwanno, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. The Joint Commission Meeting and the Senior Officials Meeting were held in a constructive atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. The issues agreed upon by Cambodia and Thailand at the Joint Commission set clear directions for further cooperation to promote prosperity and stability in the region and wellbeing of their peoples.
6. The Meeting adopted the Agenda as appears in ANNEX V

ទីស្តីការគណៈរដ្ឋមន្ត្រី 30/8/2016 រៀន 16:45 ល

15. The Thai side expressed its willingness to continue its support to the Cambodian side on public health facilities improvement at Andong Tuek Health Centre, Malai Hospital, and Koh Kong Hospital. The Thai side was also ready to help improve other public health facilities upon request by the Cambodian side.

Social Affairs

16. The Meeting took note with appreciation of the conclusion of the MOU on the Establishment of Transit and Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking and Other Vulnerable Groups in Poi Pet, Banteay Meanchey Province, signed on 26 August 2016.
17. The Meeting welcomed the conclusion of and agreement reached for Plan of Action of the Memorandum of Understanding of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on Bilateral Cooperation for Eliminating Trafficking in Persons and Protecting Victims of Trafficking. The Meeting encouraged both sides to expedite the implementation of the said Plan.
18. The Meeting emphasized the importance of the community development projects in Cambodia: namely (1) the project for the improvement of the quality of life of villagers on National Road No. 67 (Sa Ngam – Anlong Veng – Siem Reap), (2) the project for the improvement of sufficiency economy village on National Road No. 48 (Koh Kong – Sre Ambel) and (3) the project for the improvement of quality of life in Banteay Meanchey province. The Meeting also encouraged concerned authorities of both sides to continue the afore-mentioned projects as well as to extend the same kind of assistance to other areas upon request by the Cambodian side.

Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation

19. The Meeting welcomed the proposal of the Thai side to promote cooperation on science, technology and innovation (STI) under six clusters, namely: (1) Human Resource Management and Basic Education on Science and Technology, (2) STI Infrastructure, (3) STI Awareness (raise public awareness and strengthen STI enculturation to enhance science and technology cooperation), (4) Research and Development (enhancing mobility of scientists and researchers, people-to-people connectivity, capacity building in basic research and applied research and strengthen engagement of women and youth in STI), (5) Technology Transfer and commercialization including Intellectual Property Right (copy right, industrial property and trade mark), and (6) Scientist exchange and Information sharing. The Thai side also proposed areas of cooperation to include biotechnology, renewable energy, electronics and computer, astronomy, geo-informatics and space technology, metrology and standardization, innovation for SMEs, water resource management, nuclear technology, environment, climate change, and STI policy. In this connection, the Meeting requested relevant authorities/responsible ministries of both sides to assign contact persons and arrange Senior Official Meetings to further discuss the STI cooperation at the earliest.
20. The Cambodian side appreciated the invitation extended to its delegation to participate in the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-EU Cooperation: ASEAN-EU international Conference on STI Cooperation and the 50th Founding Anniversary of ASEAN: ASEAN STI Capacity Building Programs in February 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Technical Cooperation

21. The Meeting took note of the readiness of Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) to host the 14th Consultation on Technical Cooperation in Thailand between the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) and TICA at the earliest date to further discuss their cooperation on education, public health,

Environment (MOE) of Cambodia and Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand.

29. As agreed by the two leaders at the official visit of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Kingdom of Thailand during 18 – 19 December 2015, the Thai side expressed its readiness to further discuss in detail with the Cambodian side on bilateral cooperation for capacity building, transboundary hazard early warning, disaster relief and emergency response operation, including the possibility of having a Memorandum of Understanding to help facilitate the works of dispatching the disaster relief and response team. In the meantime, the Thai side was willing to work with the Cambodian side under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) framework.

Illegal Logging

30. The Meeting encouraged the Cambodian National Permanent Secretariat on Prevention and Suppression of Logging, Transportation, Collection, Storage and Exportation of Rosewoods and the Thai National Committee on the Suppression of Illegal Logging along the Joint Border of Thailand and Cambodia, to convene their first joint meeting at the earliest opportunity to put in place the mechanism of coordinated patrol and enhance cooperation on the prevention and suppression of illegal logging. Both sides shall also enhance coordination in sharing information regarding the investigation of the incidents involving injury and loss of lives.
31. Both sides agreed to take both preventive and law enforcement actions to address the problems of illegal logging, wildlife crime and deforestation along the border areas. The Meeting took note of the reduced number of the incidents involving the loss of lives and encouraged the local authorities to continue to react with utmost self-restraint in using weapons against illegal loggers.

Narcotics and Drugs Control

32. Both sides welcomed the outcomes of the Tenth Cambodia –Thailand Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation on 25 July 2016 in Siem Reap province, Cambodia. It also noted that the Eleventh Meeting would be held in Thailand by 2017.
33. Both sides agreed to develop the cooperation in the drug free “White Village” along Cambodia and Thailand border area as well as to strengthen the Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) for enhanced cooperation in Cambodia –Thailand border area.
34. The Cambodian side agreed to cooperate in the interception and suppression of traffic in drug, precursors and chemical substance under the Safe Mekong Operation Project. The Thai side expressed its readiness to provide equipment, vehicles, training courses, and share knowledge, especially on drug asset forfeiture, drug suppression of West African syndicates, and drug case report for Cambodian agencies under the Letter of Agreement (LoA) on the Cooperation on Law Enforcement and Narcotics Control between National Authority for Combating Drugs of the Kingdom of Cambodia (NACD) and Office of the Narcotics Control Board of the Kingdom of Thailand (ONCB).

C. Economic Issues

Trade

35. The Meeting welcomed the results of the 5th Meeting of the Cambodia –Thailand Joint Trade Committee (JTC) held during 3 – 4 December 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, where both sides saw a potential to increase bilateral trade between

44. The Cambodian side expressed appreciation to the Thai side for extending the validity of the Non-Thai Identification Card (Pink Card) for two years until 31 March 2018 to Cambodian undocumented workers who had not yet completed national verification process and obtained passports/Travel Documents and Overseas Cambodian Worker Card (OCWC) within previous timeframe.
45. The Meeting encouraged more extensive implementation of the revised Agreement on Border Crossing between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand on 11 July 2015, allowing residents living along border provinces to use the border pass for work on daily or seasonal basis in the border areas.
46. The Thai side expressed appreciation to the Cambodian side for the hospitality extended to His Excellency General Sirichai Distakul, Minister of Labour of Thailand during his official visit to Cambodia on 6 – 7 April 2016. The visit had led to the setting up of the Post-Arrival and Reintegration Centre for Migrant Workers in Sa Kaeo Province which had been approved by the Thai Cabinet on 26 July 2016. The Cambodian Sending and Receiving Centre which will be established in Poi Pet, Banteay Meanchey Province, was being considered by the competent authority of Cambodia.
47. Both sides agreed to urge agencies concerned to accelerate the distribution of the remaining 214,708 passports/Travel Documents and Overseas Cambodian Worker Cards (OCWC) to Cambodian workers who already completed the national verification with the Cambodian side.
48. The Cambodian side requested the Thai side to allow the Cambodian Team to resume the national verification of Cambodian workers. The Thai side will consider the Cambodian's request favorably.
49. The Cambodian side expressed appreciation for Thailand's assistance in the construction of dormitory and sport arena at the Cambodian-Thai Skill Development Centre in Poun Phnom, Dangkor district, Phnom Penh. The construction started in November 2015 and was expected to complete by the end of 2016. The Cambodian side also suggested that the Thai side consider providing other facilities, such as one library, two workshop buildings, one seminar building, and capacity building for instructor and manager. In this connection, at the Project Coordinating Committee (PCC) held on 18 August 2016 at the Center, both sides agreed to meet again to jointly consider the requests and formulate the 3 Years Work Plan to enhance the capacity of the Center as soon as possible.

Connectivity

Opening of the New International Point of Entry at Ban Nong Ian – Stung Bot

50. The Meeting welcomed the signing of the 928 million Baht worth Loan Agreement on the Construction of Stung Bot Border Crossing Facility (BCF) and Access Road to National Road No.5 Project on 19 February 2016 in Phnom Penh.
51. The Meeting agreed to expedite the signing of the Agreement between Cambodia and Thailand on the Construction of the New Border Bridge at Ban Nong Ian – Stung Bot at the earliest opportunity.
52. The Meeting encouraged relevant authorities of both sides to work closely to open this new International Point of Entry by 2018.

Transportation

a. Road

53. The Meeting welcomed that the two sides could agree on the increase of quota of trucks and non-scheduled buses entering each country at the Aranyaprathet – Poi Pet International Point of Entry under the GMS – IICBTA from 40 to 150 vehicles. The Meeting urged both sides to sign the Addendum II to the IICBTA to enable the implementation of this increased number of vehicles at the earliest opportunity. Both sides also agreed to expedite the negotiation on the Bilateral Agreement on Cross-Border Transportation by Road between Cambodia and Thailand.
54. The Thai side informed the Meeting that it assigned the Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA) to discuss with the Cambodian side regarding the potential project for the improvement of section of provincial road connected to National Road No. 62 (An Ses – Choam Ksan).

b. Coastal Shipping

55. The Meeting welcomed the results of the first meeting of the Tripartite Coastal Shipping Task Force held in March 2016 in Bangkok and encouraged the parties to assess needs and preferences of the respective private sectors of possible ports and routes of the coastal shipping along the Eastern Region of Thailand to the South of Cambodia and Vietnam as reference for future consultation. Both sides supported the early convening of the 2nd meeting of the Task Force in Vietnam within the second half of 2016.

c. Rail

56. The Meeting welcomed the progress of rail construction in the Cambodian side from the Aranyaprathet – Poi Pet Railway Bridge to Poi Pet City. Both sides encouraged relevant authorities to expedite the negotiation of the Agreement for Cross Border Transportation by Railway between the two countries as directed by the two Prime Ministers during the Second Joint Cabinet Retreat in December 2015.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) along the border of Thailand and Cambodia

57. The Thai side informed the Meeting that the promoted industrial sectors in the Sa Kaeo and Trat SEZs will include logistic services, garment and textiles, and food processing. Once completed, Sa Kaeo and Trat SEZs would help create supply chain between the two countries along the global value chain.

Tourism

58. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to continue cooperation to promote the Implementation of ACMECS Single Visa and tourism under the theme "Two Kingdoms, One Destination". The Meeting encouraged both sides to consider possible tourism campaign, such as Cambodia travel mart, Thailand travel mart, joint destination package, joint cultural programme, sports tourism activities, facilitation of travel and border crossing/use of border pass and tourism private sector networking.
59. The Meeting took note the success of the Mega Joint Familiarization Trip between Cambodia and Thailand during 15-23 May 2016 in jointly promoting Cambodia and Thailand tourism connectivity along the southern corridor route to European and Middle East media.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

60. The Meeting welcomed the First Bilateral Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Contract Farming Cooperation under the Ayeyawady - Chao Phraya - Mekong