

AGREED MINUTES
THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS OF
THAI - CAMBODIAN BORDER PROVINCES

Video Conference, 16 September 2022

1. The Seventh Meeting of the Governors of Thai - Cambodian Border Provinces was held via video conference on 16 September 2022 by the invitation of General **Anupong Paojinda**, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Thailand.

2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Samdech Krolahom **Sar Kheng**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Cambodia and head of the Cambodian delegation, and General **Anupong Paojinda**, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Thailand and head of the Thai delegation. The lists of the Cambodian and Thai delegates appear in ANNEXES I and II, respectively.

3. The Meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship, unity, fraternity and mutual understanding. Both sides recognized the importance of close relations and cooperation between the Thai - Cambodian border provinces and were willing to maintain peace, friendship, collaboration and sustainable development between the two countries, and to further enhance the relationship and solidarity between the two countries.

4. The Meeting took note with satisfaction of the result of the 3rd Joint Cabinet Retreat (JCR), held on 7 September 2017 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, and the result of the 11th Meeting of the Joint Commission (JC) for Bilateral Cooperation between Cambodia and Thailand, held on 18 December 2021 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. Both sides also looked forward to the 15th Meeting of the Thailand - Cambodia General Border Committee (GBC), to be held this year.

5. The Meeting highly appreciated the progress and the development of close relations and cooperation between the Thai - Cambodian border provinces since the 6th Meeting of the Governors of the Thai - Cambodian Border Provinces, held during 23 - 25 August 2017 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, with the aim to strengthen the relations and cooperation between the two countries.

6. The Meeting welcomed and acknowledged the key outcomes of the exchange of visits by high-ranking officials, working groups, and officials at all levels, especially the provincial governors and military personnel from the provinces along the Thai - Cambodian border. The exchange of visits has contributed to peace and stability along the border areas and strengthened cooperation, relationship, and mutual understanding between provincial officials, local authorities, and military forces stationed along the border areas of the two countries.

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7. The Meeting discussed a broad range of matters, as follows:

7.1. Implementation of the Agreement on Border Crossing

- Both sides acknowledged the need to implement the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Border Crossing between the Two Countries, signed on 11 July 2015 in Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand. The Meeting also encouraged relevant agencies and peoples along the border areas to comply with the said agreement, and their respective laws and regulations to facilitate the border crossing between the two countries.

- Both sides agreed to continue educating and disseminating information to their people and competent authorities in the border areas to effectively and fully implement the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Border Crossing between the Two Countries. Meanwhile, both sides encouraged their people to use border pass for border crossing through international points of entry and border area points of entry, in accordance with the said agreement, as well as laws and regulations of each country in order to facilitate the border crossing of the people living in the border provinces of the two countries and to prevent illegal border crossing.

- Both sides encouraged close cooperation between relevant authorities of the border provinces in exchanging information for effective management of cross-border issues at the local level.

- The Meeting agreed to cooperate on the prevention of illegal border crossing based on mutual understanding and their respective laws and regulations, as well as human rights principles and internationally recognized norms.

- Both sides agreed to facilitate border crossing procedure for cross-border tourism.

7.2. Management of Border Crossing during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Both sides welcomed the full resumption of cross-border travels at the international points of entry between the two countries since 1 May 2022, after the temporary suspension of all border points of entry due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Both sides encouraged relevant agencies of the two countries to further coordinate to synchronize their border-crossing procedure and measures, including public health measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, in order to facilitate cross-border travels and further resumption of other border area points of entry which remain closed.

- They also encouraged relevant agencies of the two countries to discuss possible continuity plan to ensure that cross-border travels and transportation of goods remain unimpeded in the event of any outbreak of infectious diseases in the future.

7.3. Cooperation on Border Trade and Investment

- The Meeting emphasized the importance of accelerating and facilitating cross-border trade and economic activities between Sa Kaeo - Banteay Meanchey and Trat - Koh Kong Provinces in order to promote linkage and complementarity between special economic zones along the border areas of the two countries. They also emphasized the development of border points of entry and transport networks as well as effective management of daily and seasonal workers to promote more efficient management of cross-border supply chains.

- Both sides agreed to cooperate and facilitate trade and commercial activities along the Thai - Cambodian border areas for promoting sustainability and prosperity of the people living in the border provinces of the two countries.

7.4. Transportation

- The Meeting supported the implementation of the Addendum Two of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the Exchange of Traffic Rights For Cross-Border Transport Through the Poipet – Aranyaprathet Border Crossing Points, signed on 16 December 2016, which increases the quota of border crossing vehicles from 40 to 150 at Aranyaprathet - Poipet International Point of Entry. The Meeting also supported the relevant agencies of both sides to revisit the negotiation of a Bilateral Agreement on Cross-border Transportation by Road between Thailand and Cambodia to enhance transport connectivity between the two countries.

- The Meeting supported the development of road connectivity between Phu Sing District, Si Sa Ket Province, and Anlong Veng District, Oddar Meanchey Province, which further connects to Siem Reap Province, especially the upgrade of Road No. 67 (Sa Ngam - An Long Veng - Siem Reap) to asphalt - concrete standard to support the increasing volume of traffic and further enhance tourism, trade and transportation of goods between Si Sa Ket and Siem Reap Provinces.

- The Meeting supported the development of rail linkage between Aranyaprathet District, Sa Kaeo Province, and Poipet District, Banteay Meanchey Province, and welcomed the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Cross-Border Railway, signed on 22 April 2019. Both sides agreed to encourage relevant agencies to concretely implement the Agreement in order to facilitate rail transportation between the two countries.

7.5. Cooperation on Agriculture in Border Areas

- Both sides encouraged the border provinces of the two countries to facilitate cross-border trade of agricultural products between peoples living along the border areas.

- Both sides urged their competent agencies and border provinces of the two countries to take turns to regularly convene consultative meetings on the plant and animal quarantine cooperation.

- Both sides agreed to further cooperate on the sanitary and phytosanitary measures, the control of animal and plant diseases outbreaks, and cooperation on capacity building, information exchange, and research and development.

7.6. Industrial Cooperation

- Both sides agreed to strengthen industrial cooperation to provide possible support to investors of the two countries operating in the border provinces of the two countries.

- Both sides encouraged the exchange of visits of officials and experts in the industrial sector to share best practices and know-how and to further explore industrial development potential in the border provinces.

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7.7. Labor Cooperation

- Both sides emphasized the importance of an effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Labor Cooperation between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, signed on 19 December 2015 during the 2nd Cambodian - Thai Joint Cabinet Retreat (JCR).

- Both sides agreed to support the relevant ministries, agencies, and officials of the two countries in facilitating workers from both countries to utilize border passes for working in the border areas on a daily and seasonal basis under the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Border Crossing between the Two Countries, signed on 11 July 2015.

- Both sides agreed to advise their provincial and relevant officials to cooperate closely in preventing and arresting the ringleaders of networks involving in the smuggling of Cambodian workers across the border into Thailand.

7.8. Management of Border Points of Entry

7.8.1. Border Points of Entry

- The meeting welcomed the completion of Joint Detail Survey (JDS) by Joint Survey Team (JST) at border area points of entry which the two countries had agreed to upgrade to international points of entry, namely: (1) An Mah (Ubon Ratchathani Province) - An Ses (Preah Vihear Province), (2) Ban Khao Din (Sa Kaeo Province) - Phnom Dei (Battambang Province), (3) Ban Tha Sen (Trat Province) - Thmor Da (Pursat Province), and (4) Sai Taku (Buri Ram Province) - Chup Koki (Oddar Meanchey Province).

- The meeting welcomed the official opening of Ban Khao Din (Sa Kaeo Province) - Phnom Dei (Battambang Province) International Points of Entry, on 30 March 2018 and presided by the provincial governors of both sides (Battambang - Sa Kaeo). The meeting encouraged relevant authorities of both countries to cooperate on expediting the upgrading and opening of the three remaining border area points of entry in order to strengthen and facilitate cross-border trade, travels and transportation between the two countries, namely:

- (1) An Mah (Ubon Ratchathani Province) - An Ses (Preah Vihear Province)
- (2) Ban Tha Sen (Trat Province) - Thmor Da (Pursat Province)
- (3) Sai Taku (Buri Ram Province) - Chup Koki (Oddar Meanchey Province)

- Both sides agreed to explore the possibility of upgrading the Border Area Point of Entry at Ban Ma Muang (Trat Province) - Chhoak Roka (Battambang Province) to International Point of Entry in order to strengthen and facilitate cross-border trade, travels and transportation between the two countries.

- Both sides welcomed the ceremony marking the completion of Thailand - Cambodia Friendship Bridge (Ban Nong Ian - Stung Bot) on 22 April 2019 presided by the Prime Minister of both countries. The meeting also encouraged relevant agencies of both sides to work closely towards the opening of Ban Nong Ian - Stung Bot International Point of Entry as soon as possible.

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- Both sides welcomed the approval of the Report of Joint Detail Survey (JDS) by the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) of the two countries of the road construction across Ban Ma Muang (Trat Province) - Chhoak Roka (Battambang Province) Border Area Point of Entry and encourage the relevant authorities to enhance transport connectivity and improve trade facilitation.

- Both sides took note with satisfaction of the approval of the Report of the Joint Detail Survey (JDS) of the Joint Survey Team (JST) by the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) of both countries at Prom (Pailin Province) - Ban Pak Kard (Chanthaburi Province) International Point of Entry for the negotiation on construction of Chanthaburi – Pailin Friendship Bridge. They also encouraged Chanthaburi and Pailin provinces to conclude negotiation of the Agreement on the Construction of Chanthaburi – Pailin Friendship Bridge and other agreements that may be needed, at the earliest, to be submitted to their higher authorities for approval.

- The meeting encouraged the relevant authorities of both countries to continue their discussion on the possibility of the establishment of a new border area point of entry at Non Mak Mun Village, Sa Kaeo Province and Prey Chan, Banteay Meanchey Province, including the conduct of a Joint Detail Survey (JDS) as the first step.

- The meeting urged competent authorities at Thai - Cambodian border provinces to closely coordinate in preventing illegal crossing through the unauthorized border points of entry. Meanwhile, they encouraged their people to cross border through authorized border points of entry in line with agreements between the two countries, as well as laws and regulations of each country.

- Both sides agreed not to unilaterally close any border point of entry. The closing of any border point of entry should be done with clear reasons and necessity, and agreed upon by the authorities concerned of both countries.

7.8.2. Survey and Demarcation for Land Boundary

- The meeting congratulated the completion of joint survey and demarcation works by the Joint Survey Team (JST) and the signing of the Reports of the Joint Field Survey for Fact Finding Mission on the Condition and Locations of the 73 Boundary Pillars of the Thai – Cambodian Operational Group in September 2019 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

- Both sides welcomed the results of the 9th Meeting of the Cambodian-Thai Operational Group on 22 - 26 November 2021 via Video Conference.

- Both sides welcomed the significant progress of the joint survey and demarcation works by the Joint Survey Team (JST) and also the approval of the revised instruction of GPS measurement and the work plan of the Joint Survey Team (JST) by the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) of the two countries.

- Both sides encouraged the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) to convene its next meeting at the soonest in order to approve the outcome of survey and demarcation works to facilitate development of the border area for the benefit of the peoples of both countries.

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- Both sides agreed to support the works of the Thai - Cambodian Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) and comply with Article 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Survey and Demarcation for Land Boundary, signed on 14 June 2000.

- Both sides reaffirmed their commitment not to let the boundary issues affect the good relationship between the two countries, and agreed that both sides should refrain from any activities that violate the existing boundary. In the event that a conflict arises along the border, both sides agreed to exercise utmost restraint with a view to preventing an escalation of the conflict and use all means to resolve the conflict at the local level peacefully and expeditiously. If the issue cannot be resolved at the local level, both sides will report to their respective higher authorities.

7.9. Public Health and Community Development

- Both sides agreed to promote the exchange of study visits, workshops and seminars with the aim to share knowledge and skills as well as progress on health services, including the exchange of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases to prevent and protect peoples from the spread of communicable diseases, especially at border points of entry.

- Both sides welcomed the success of the projects as follows:

(1) The Establishment of the Learning Center for Sustainable Development on Road No. 67 (Sa Ngam - Anlong Veng - Siem Reap), bordering Si Sa Ket Province, which the Thai side handed over to the Governor of Oddar Meanchey Province in 2016.

(2) The Development of Sufficiency Economy Village on Road No. 48 (Koh Kong - Sre Ambil), bordering Trat Province, which the Thai side handed over to the Governor of Koh Kong Province in 2016.

(3) Sustainable Community Development Project based on the Application of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) in Dam Bok Vil, Banteay Meanchey, bordering Sa Kaeo Province, which had proceeded as planned and, during 2017 - 2019, had been continually participated by public officials and community leaders in Malai District, Banteay Meanchey Province. The Meeting took note that the project has temporarily been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and relevant agencies are coordinating with the relevant Cambodian agencies in planning for resumption of the project.

7.10. Disaster Management

- Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation on disaster management through exchange of information and experience among relevant officials along the border areas. The Thai side expressed its readiness to further discuss with the Cambodian side on possible cooperation on the development of cross-border early warning capability, disaster relief and rapid deployment in providing assistance.

- Both sides also agreed to explore the possibility of having a memorandum of understanding on the provision of disaster relief and rescue response. The Thai side also expressed its commitment to cooperating with the Cambodian side under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER).

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7.11. Illegal Logging

- Both sides expressed great appreciation for the efforts of officials and forces in the border provinces of the two countries in educating their peoples not to be deceived into illegal logging along the border areas, and in implementing measures to prevent and suppress illegal logging in an effective and timely manner.

- Both sides also agreed to continue exchanging information and raising public awareness on the legal penalties of illegal trade of forest products and its impact on the environment.

- Both sides agreed that their respective law enforcement agencies should put more emphasis on taking actions against the real perpetrators, who manage, fund and benefit from illegal logging.

7.12. Maintenance of Border Environment

- Both sides agreed to task the border provinces in enhancing cooperation to maintain environment including the improvement of solid waste and waste water management along the border areas.

- Both sides acknowledged the MoU on Cooperation on Protected Areas and Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Landscape Management signed on 31 January 2018.

7.13. Prevention and Suppression of Cross-Border Crimes

- Both sides highly appreciated the competent forces and authorities of the two countries for making efforts in preventing and suppressing transnational crime, especially terrorism, illegal drug trafficking, human trafficking and people smuggling, trafficking in firearms, ammunitions and explosives.

- Both sides encouraged relevant officials to conduct more thorough patrols along the border areas and promptly exchange information. Both sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation on prevention, suppression and taking legal action against all types of transnational crimes especially drug trafficking, human trafficking, human smuggling, terrorism, illicit excavation and trafficking of cultural property, telephone scams, and other criminal offenses.

- Both sides supported the establishment of drug free zone, drug free village/ "white village", and to reinforce the operation of the Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) and related action plans to drive forward the cooperation on the prevention and suppression of drug trafficking along the Thai - Cambodian border.

7.14. Collaboration in Mine-Clearance

Both sides agreed to continue working together to facilitate the humanitarian demining operations in areas along the Thai - Cambodian border, with the objective of fulfilling their respective obligations under Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

7.15. Tourism Cooperation

- Both sides agreed on the development of joint tourism routes under the theme "Two Kingdoms, One Destination" and supported the development of tourism linkage between the eastern provinces of Thailand and coastal provinces of Cambodia.

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- Both sides reiterated their commitment to continue the tourism promotion cooperation under the theme of "Two Kingdoms, One Destination" in the Post-Covid-19 global pandemic era. The Meeting encouraged the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Ministry of Tourism of the Kingdom of Cambodia to set out joint activities in restarting tourism of both sides through encouraging more direct flights, water gateways, maritime travel, and on land travel especially self-driving tour with enhanced cross-border facilitation and tourism private sector networking.

- Both sides encouraged the related authorities and private sectors of both countries to consider connecting international tourism ports in Thailand to international tourism ports in Cambodia aiming at further connecting the tourism destinations of both countries through sea route and creating the joint cruise tour packages as part of Southern Tourism Corridor Cooperation.

7.16. Sister Cities/Sister Provinces Cooperation

- Both sides agreed to support the establishment of Sister Cities/Sister Provinces relationships between the two countries and encouraged regular joint activities to advance the Sister City partnerships in a concrete and sustainable manner.

- Both sides also encouraged their Sister Cities/Sister Provinces to increase exchange of visits between their departments, in order to discuss and share lessons on tourism, culture, commerce, education, investment and other relevant sectors in accordance with each country's laws and regulations.

- Both sides encouraged the Thai - Cambodian border provinces to enhance cooperation in preventing and suppressing the looting activity, illegal trafficking of cultural properties of both countries. As good neighbors, both sides agreed to work together following the 11th Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Cambodia and Thailand on 18 December 2021, Phnom Penh, Cambodia; to strengthen our commitment in protecting and safeguarding cultural heritage and to work closely together in raising greater public awareness, mutual understanding and mutual respect for each other's cultural and national identity.

7.17. Cooperation Mechanisms at the Provincial and Local Levels

The meeting encouraged the governors of border provinces and leaders of border municipalities and districts of both countries to organize regular meetings, taking turns as host at intervals agreed by the border governors of the two countries.

7.18. Other Matters

Both sides were pleased with the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2020, for which a series of commemorative activities were organized throughout the year. They encouraged more regular activities to further strengthen the close relations and cooperation between the two countries.

8. The Eighth Meeting of Governors of Cambodian-Thai Border Provinces

- The Cambodian side agreed to host the Eighth Meeting of the Governors of the Cambodian - Thai Border Provinces. The date, time and venue of the meeting shall be communicated through diplomatic channels.

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- The Cambodian delegation expressed their appreciation to the Thai side for the latter's excellent preparation and organization of this meeting.


- The Thai delegation commended the Cambodian delegation for their friendly cooperation, which contributed to success and achievement of the Meeting's objective to foster friendship, unity, mutual understanding, as well as even closer cooperation between the border provinces of the two countries.

Signed virtually on 16 September 2022, in duplicate in the English language.

For the Ministry of Interior
of the Kingdom of Thailand

For the Ministry of Interior
of the Kingdom of Cambodia

General


Anupong Paojinda
Minister of Interior


Samdech Krolahom

Sar Kheng
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Interior