

**THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS OF  
CAMBODIAN-THAI BORDER PROVINCES  
Phnom Penh, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2017**

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**AGREED MINUTES**

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1. The Sixth Meeting of the Governors of Cambodian-Thai Border Provinces was held from 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> August, 2017, in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, at the invitation of Samdech Krolahom **Sar Kheng**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

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 delegation appear as ANNEX I and II respectively.

3. The Meeting smoothly proceeded as per planned agenda and schedule in the atmosphere of friendliness, unity, brotherhood and mutual understanding. Both sides expressed their view on the importance of relationship and cooperation between the Cambodian-Thai border provinces which significantly contributed to strengthening the traditional friendly relationship and solidarity of the two countries in a stronger and deeper manner. The two sides expressed their satisfactory willingness in maintaining good neighborliness relationship as well as establishing and safeguarding the border of peace, friendship, cooperation and sustainable development.

4. The Meeting took note with satisfaction on the development of cordial relationship and cooperation in all sectors of the two countries which render the mutual benefits for the nations and people of the two countries. Namely, both sides highly appreciated the outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Cabinet Retreat (JCR), held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, and co-chaired by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo **Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and General **Prayut Chan-o-cha**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand. Meanwhile, both sides welcomed the results of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission (JC) for Bilateral Cooperation between Cambodia and Thailand, held on 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand; and the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Cambodian-Thailand General Border Committee (GBC), held on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 in Siem Reap Province, Kingdom of Cambodia.



5. The Meeting highly appreciated the good relationship and cooperation between Cambodian-Thai border provinces since the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governors of the Cambodian-Thai Border Provinces, held from 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, which importantly contributed to the betterment of a closer and more active relationship and cooperation of the two countries.

6. The Meeting welcomed and acknowledged the importance of exchange of visits between the two countries at all levels including high-ranking officials, working groups, other concerned officials, and in particular, the governors and regional military officers in the provinces along the Cambodian-Thai border areas. The meeting agreed that these exchange of visits have contributed to the maintenance of peace and stability along the border areas and enhanced the cooperation and strengthened relationship between provincial authorities, local authorities and military forces stationed along the border areas of both countries.

7. In order to promote better living conditions and sustainable development along the Cambodian-Thai border areas, both sides agreed to cooperate closely on various projects and action plans under the framework of the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) and to implement the Declaration of the 7<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Summit which was held on 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 in Hanoi, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

8. The Meeting has discussed and agreed upon various issues as follows:

8.1. Implementation of the Agreement on Border Crossing

- Both sides acknowledged the importance of effective implementation of the Agreement between the Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand on Border Crossing, signed on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2015. Both sides agreed to continue educating and disseminating the information to the people and concerned authorities in the border areas in order to effectively implement the said agreement. Herein, both sides agreed to promote the utilization of border pass among relevant authorities and the people of respective country in accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on Border Crossing and the laws and regulations of respective country in order to facilitate the border crossings of the people living in the border provinces of the two countries and to prevent illegal border crossings.

- Both sides encouraged the relevant authorities along the border provinces to mutually cooperate in exchanging information and to take preventive measures in preventing illegal border crossings into respective country's territory.





- The Meeting agreed that the problem of illegal border crossing into one country's territory shall be handled in a mutually understanding way and humanly manner in accordance with the internationally recognized norms and based on the laws and regulations of each respective country.

#### 8.2. Cooperation on Border Trade and Investment

- The Meeting expressed satisfaction with the increasing value of bilateral trade, amounting to more than 5 billion USD since 2014, in which 70% of this amount resulted from cross border trade. Meanwhile, both sides agreed to encourage the relevant ministries, agencies, provincial authorities, and private sectors to contribute to increasing the trade value up to 15 billion USD by 2020 in order to reach the goal set by both governments of the two countries. Both sides agreed to convene the Working Group on Agricultural Cooperation to discuss measures to strengthen cooperation on agriculture at the earliest opportunity. The Thai side reaffirmed the intention to import more products from Cambodia to improve trade imbalance between the two countries.

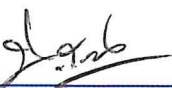
- The Meeting extended its congratulations to the signing of the Agreement on the Business Council Cooperation between Cambodian-Thailand and the Business Council Cooperation between Thailand-Cambodia, held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand. The meeting encouraged each country to take turn in holding bilateral trade fair and exhibitions, exchange the investment information and study tours in order to promote better trading and investment.

- The Meeting agreed to support the trade and investment linking the special economic zones (SEZs) of the two countries in Banteay Meanchey - Sa Kaeo and Koh Kong - Trat which will serve the mutual benefits of the two countries. The trade and investment promotion in the SEZs will contribute to enhancing other sectors such as transportation, garments and textiles, electrical and electronic equipment, vehicle spare parts, and food processing. The trading and investment activities in those SEZs will increase the supply chain of the two countries.

- The Meeting encouraged the Council for the Development of Cambodia and National Committee for Economic and Social Development of Thailand to hold meetings aiming at promoting the development of the SEZs along the Cambodian-Thai border provinces as well as improving the importing and exporting procedures and simplifying customs procedures.

#### 8.3. Transportations

- The Meeting congratulated the signing of the complementary document of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand on Cross Border Transportation on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, which



increased the quota of border crossing vehicles from 40 to 150 vehicles at Poi Pet – Aranyaprathet International border checkpoint.

- The Meeting welcomed the rail link between Cambodia and Thailand at the connecting point Poi Pet – Aranya Prathet on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 and the progress of railway construction from Poi Pet, Banteay Meanchey province, Kingdom of Cambodia to Aranyaprathet, Sa Kaeo province, Kingdom of Thailand. Both sides will urge the technical working groups of both countries to expedite the finalization of the draft Agreement on Cross Border Railway Transportation between the two countries to facilitate the railway transportation.

- Both sides agreed to expedite the bridge construction at the Prum (Pailin Province) – Ban Pak Kard (Chanthaburi Province) international border checkpoint as soon as possible. In this regard, both sides agreed to recommend the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) to task the Joint Survey Team to conduct the Joint Detail Survey at this area as soon as possible.

#### 8.4. Trade of Agricultural Products between People at the Border Areas

- Both sides agreed to promote the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand on the Cooperation in Promoting Contract Farming, signed on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, in order to facilitate and enhance the agricultural products trading between the two countries.

- Both sides encouraged the border provinces of the two countries to discuss and cooperate in facilitating the exchange of trade, agro-products and agricultural products of the people living along the border areas.

- The Cambodian side highly appreciated the Thai side for the technical assistance in the agricultural sector such as capacity building, livestock development, fisheries and aquaculture, crops, quarantines and inspection in accordance with the project-based basis from 2016 to 2018.

- The Meeting continued supporting the use of existing mechanisms in strengthening the cooperation on agricultural development, covering plants, livestock and fisheries as well as the cooperation on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) in order to protect human, animals, and plants and quarantine communicable diseases and pests in animals and plants, respectively.

#### 8.5. Labour

- Both sides agreed to reiterate the effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Labor Cooperation and the Agreement on the





Employment of Workers between the Government of Cambodia and the Government of Thailand, signed on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cambodian-Thai Joint Cabinet Retreat.

- Both sides encouraged the relevant ministries and agencies of both countries to cooperate in speeding up legal procedures necessary for Cambodian workers working in the Kingdom of Thailand so that they can be guaranteed the rights to stay and work legally in the Kingdom of Thailand as soon as possible.

- Both sides agreed to support and coordinate with the relevant ministries, agencies, and authorities of the two countries to help workers from both countries utilize border pass for daily and seasonal working purposes along the border areas in accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on Border Crossing between the Two Countries, signed on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.

- Both sides agreed to advise provincial and relevant authorities to closely cooperate in preventing and arresting ringleaders who illegally smuggled Cambodian workers across the border into the Kingdom of Thailand.

- The Thai side agreed to provide technical supports to develop vocational skills for the Cambodian migrant workers who are legally employed in Thailand's border provinces; and to dispatch experts for providing training at the Cambodian-Thai Vocational Training Center at Poun Phnom, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.

- Both sides welcomed the outcomes of the Cambodian-Thai Technical Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Labour Cooperation and the Agreement on the Employment of Workers, which was held on 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.

- Both sides agreed to promote and strengthen the cooperation between competent authorities and arm forces along the border of the two countries in handling illegal migrant workers back to their own countries in a safe and secure way.

#### 8.6. Management of the Border Checkpoints

##### 8.6.1. Border Checkpoints

- Both sides welcomed the completion of Joint Detail Survey by the Joint Survey Team at the 4 border checkpoints in which the two countries had agreed to upgrade into international border checkpoints, namely:

- (1) An Ses (Preah Vihear Province) - An Mah (Ubon Rachathani Province),
- (2) Phnom Dei (Battambang Province) - Ban Khao Din (Sa Kaeo Province),
- (3) Thmor Da (Pursat Province) - Ban Tha Sen (Trat Province),
- (4) Chup Koki (Oddar Meanchey Province) - Sai Taku (Buri Ram Province).



- Both sides encouraged concerned authorities of both countries to speed up the opening of international border checkpoints at the above-mentioned border checkpoints as soon as possible.

- Both sides agreed to expedite the process of the construction of border-crossing bridge, buildings, connected road, and other related infrastructure at the Stung Bot (Banteay Meanchey province) - Nong Ian (Sa Kaeo province) international point of entry.

- Both sides agreed to encourage the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) of the two countries to set an appropriate time to conduct joint detail survey at Chhoek Roka (Samlot district, Battambang province) – Ban Mamuang (Borai district, Trat province) border checkpoint area prior to the new road construction for enhancement of transportation connectivity and trade facilitation.

- Both sides agreed to commence the discussion on the opening of another international point of entry at O'Neang (Banteay Meanchey province) – Ban Parai (Sa Kaeo province) at the earliest opportunity.

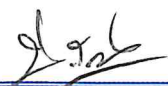
- The Meeting agreed to encourage Banteay Meanchey province and Sa Kaeo province in continuing their ongoing discussion on the possibility of the establishment of a new border checkpoint at Prey Chan village, Banteay Meanchey province, and Non Mak Mun village, Sa Kaeo province.

- Both sides agreed not to unilaterally close border checkpoints. The closing of any border checkpoints should be done with clear reason and upon mutual agreement between the authorities concerned of the two countries.

#### 8.6.2. Survey and Demarcation for Land Boundary

- The Meeting welcomed the progress of the Joint Field Survey on Fact Finding Mission on Conditions and Location of the 73 Boundary Pillars in accordance with Step 1 of Terms of References and Master Plan for the Joint Survey and Demarcation of Land Boundary between Cambodia and Thailand (TOR), which was adopted by the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2003.

- The Meeting welcomed the signing of the 14 Reports in English of the Cambodian-Thai Joint Field Survey for Fact-Finding Mission on the Conditions and Location of Boundary Pillars during the Special Discussion of Cambodian-Thai Technical Officers on 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at Aranyaprathet District, Sa Kaeo province, Thailand and encouraged the technical officers of both countries to finish the remaining Reports at the earliest opportunity for signing and submit to the Cambodian-Thai Joint Technical Sub-Commission (JTSC) and the Cambodian-Thai Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) respectively for consideration and approval.





- Both sides encouraged the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) to convene the next meeting (the 6<sup>th</sup> JBC meeting) as soon as possible to approve the outcome of the survey works and to take necessary measures to facilitate the development of the border areas for the benefits of the people of both countries.

- Both sides agreed to support the work of the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) of Cambodian-Thai and to implement the Article 5 of the MoU between the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on the Survey and Demarcation for Land Boundary, signed on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2000.

- Both sides upheld the intention not to let border conflicts affect the good relations between the two countries and agreed that both sides should refrain from acts that would violate the existing boundary. Both sides also agreed that where conflicts arise along the border, both side should exercise restraints with a view to preventing the escalation of conflicts and use all means to settle the conflicts peacefully and expeditiously. In case the issues cannot be settled, both sides should report to their respective higher authorities.

#### 8.6.3. Maintenance of border environment

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

#### 8.7. Public Health and Social Affairs

- Both sides agreed to promote the exchanges of study tour, workshop, and seminar to share experiences, know-how, and the progress of health care service; as well as to inform each other of the epidemics and to collaborate in prevention and quarantine of the contagious disease that may threaten the people's life and health, particularly, at the border checkpoints. Furthermore, both sides will closely cooperate in preventing and suppressing the trading of counterfeit and disqualified medicine as well as its production sites and informing each other of the mentioned issues as soon as possible and in a timely manner.

- Both sides agreed to support and implement the results of the Second Cambodian-Thai Joint Cabinet Retreat (JCR) in which both sides will cooperatively enhance and simplify the border-crossing-patient transferring system, and agreed to establish sister hospitals along the border, called Friendship Hospital, in the border provinces. The Thai side agreed to provide technical assistance to physicians and public health care workers as well as the control of contagious diseases.

- Both sides agreed to support the project of improvement of public health care in Banteay Meanchey – Sa Kaeo and Koh Kong – Trat provinces by focusing on



raising the awareness of the contagious diseases, providing capacity building to hospital staffs, creating a patient transferring system, and establishing a model sister hospital.

- Both sides agreed to continue supporting the implementation of the following three projects:

- Establishment of Learning Center for Sustainable Development along National Road 67 (Anlong Veng – Siem Reap – Sa Ngam) adjacent to Sisaket province.
- Development of sustainable economy sufficiency villages along National Road 48 (Koh Kong – Sre Ambel) adjacent to Trat province.
- Development of a model community for sustainable development in Dombok Vil, Banteay Meanchey.

#### 8.8. Border Crossing Electricity Transmission:

- Both sides agreed to support the implementation of point 63 of Agreed Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Cambodian-Thai, held on 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, which discussed the initiative of feasibility study of Stung Meteuk – Stung Menam hydropower plant and tasked relevant authorities to further discuss the details of the project, utilization of the water and the sale of electricity produced by the said hydropower plant.

- Both sides encouraged the relevant authorities to discuss ways to promote the electricity transmission in the area of Chup Kor Ki (Oddar Meanchey province) - Sai Taku (Buriram province) in accordance with laws and regulations of respective country.

#### 8.9. Disaster Management

- Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation on disaster management by sharing necessary information and experiences among the relevant authorities along the border areas. The Thai side expressed its readiness to further discuss in detail with the Cambodian side on the bilateral collaboration 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 rescue team. In the meantime, the Thai side expressed its willingness to work with the Cambodian side under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Framework.





#### 8.10. Illegal Logging

- Both sides highly appreciated the efforts of provincial authorities and competent forces in the border provinces of both countries in the collaboration in having educated people to be away from being deceived by ringleaders to illegally log along the border areas, as well as in having taken measures to effectively prevent and suppress illegal logging in a timely manner.

- Both sides agreed to apply applicable laws in dealing with the problems of illegal logging along the Cambodian-Thai border with maximum restraints and refraining from using weapons against illegal loggers. Both sides agreed to further educate and raise awareness among their citizens on the consequences of participating in the illegal trade of forest products, as well as the effects on the environment. Both sides also agreed that competent law enforcement authorities would need to increasingly focus on the ringleaders who organize, manage, finance and profit from the illegal logging.

- Both sides welcomed the result of the Second Cambodia – Thailand Joint Cabinet Retreat (JCR) during 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 during which both sides agreed to encourage 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 a patrol coordinating mechanism and enhance cooperation in 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.

#### 8.11. Crime Prevention and Suppression in the Border Areas

- Both sides highly appreciated the authorities and competent forces along the border provinces of the two countries for making efforts in maintaining and protecting the security and public order along the border of the two countries, as well as the cordial and timely cooperation in preventing and suppressing all forms of illegal activities along the border areas which ensure the strong foundation of social peace, security, and stability along the border of the two countries. To continue promoting the cooperation in protecting the security and public order along the border areas, both sides agreed to the following:



- Encourage the competent forces stationed along the border areas to maintain and protect the better security and public order along the border areas in order to strengthen peace, friendship, cooperation, and development along the border areas.
- Encourage relevant authorities to increase more thorough inspections of all border crossings, and to strengthen their cooperation in effectively preventing and suppressing any forms of illegal activities as well as to coordinate in handling issues along the border areas in accordance with the laws and agreements signed by both countries, so as not to aggravate the issues.
- Promote closer relationship and cooperation as well as prompt exchange of information in order to prevent and suppress all illegal activities along the border areas, especially drug trafficking, human trafficking, trans-border crimes, and terrorism.

- Both sides encouraged the General Commissariat of National Police, Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Royal Thai Police Headquarter to convene the next meeting to hold discussion on strengthening of relationship and cooperation in maintaining social order and security of the two countries.

- Both sides agreed to enhance the cooperation in the establishment of the drug free zone, "White Village", along the Cambodian-Thai border areas, as well as to reinforce the border liaison offices (BLOs) in order to promote the cooperation in the Cambodian-Thai border areas.

- 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).

#### 8.12. Cooperation on Tourism

Towards the tourism goal of "two kingdoms, one destination" both countries agreed as follows:





-To mutually cooperate in attracting the buyers and sellers to attend the international tourism exhibitions of the two countries and agreed to exchange the entertaining performers in the said exhibitions.

-To organize the tourism road between eastern Thailand to Cambodian coastal provinces.

-To produce the leaflets and tourism destination books of the two countries, as well as to cooperate with the private sector in creating special tour packages to strengthen the cooperation of the tourism exhibitions along the border areas or sister cities.

-To promote the connectivity by sea, land and air in order to promote the dissemination of beautiful coastal destinations of the two countries.

-To study and inform the development, diversification and investment of tourism products.

#### 8.13. Implementation of the Projects under the ACMECS Framework

- The Meeting acknowledged the results of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ACMECS Summit held on 24-26 October 2016 at Hanoi, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, "Toward a Dynamic and Prosperous Mekong Sub-region: strengthening the regional connectivity to enhance the ACMECS economic integration and ACMECS cooperation for the sustainable development of the Mekong Sub-region." To implement this framework, both sides agreed as follows:

##### 8.13.1. The Implementation of VISA-ACMECS

- Both sides encouraged the rest of ACMECS Member Countries to support the ACMECS Single Visa under the vision of "Five Countries, One Destination".

##### 8.13.2. Cooperation on Tourism

- Both sides agreed to promote the implementation of the ACMECS Tourism Action Plan 2016-2018 and to enhance the green tourism in a responsible manner among the ACMECS members.

##### 8.13.3. Sister Cities

- Both sides agreed to support the establishment of Sister Cities between the two countries by encouraging the close relationship and discussion on cooperation in various sectors which provide mutual benefits for the sister cities and provinces of both countries. The meeting congratulated the signing of the Memorandum of



Understanding on Sister Cities between Oddar Meanchey – Buriram, and Kampong Thom – Surin provinces during this Meeting with the esteemed participation of the heads of delegation of the two countries as witnesses of this signing ceremony. The Meeting encouraged the sister cities and provinces of both countries to work together more actively in strengthening the relationship and cooperation in all relevant sectors in order to promote development and enhance people's living conditions.

#### 8.14. Provincial and Local Coordination Mechanism

- In order to enhance the cooperation between border provinces and municipalities/districts of the two countries, the Meeting encouraged the governors of border provinces, municipalities and districts to conduct regular meetings by taking turn in hosting the meeting in an appropriate time as agreed by concerned provincial, municipal and district governors of the two countries.

- Both sides agreed to exchange the updated lists of local competent authorities at various levels together with their telephone/facsimile/mobile phone numbers, which will increase channels of communications between those authorities to enhance effectiveness of bilateral cooperation along the border areas.

- To enhance cooperation on the protection of each country's citizen and consular matters, both sides agreed to immediately inform each other in a timely manner whenever the authority of one side arrests any citizen of the other side who commits offences in one's territory.

#### 8.15. Other Matters

- Both sides agreed to promote mutual trusts and respects on the dissemination of information by presenting factual and constructive information to enhance understanding, trusts, and good neighborliness between the two countries as part of the strong ASEAN Community.

- The Meeting exchanged views extensively on the basis of close relations between the Thai and Cambodian border provinces, and encouraged promotion of cooperation on culture, tourism, education, health, rural development, exhibitions of goods (One Tambon-One Product Project of Thailand, and One Village-One Product Project of Cambodia), and exhibitions of agricultural products of the border provinces. Both sides supported tour exchanges for youth living in the border provinces to be able to gain benefits from socio-economic development and the improvement of living standards of the people along the border areas of the two countries.





9. The Seventh Meeting of the Governors of the Thai-Cambodian Border Provinces

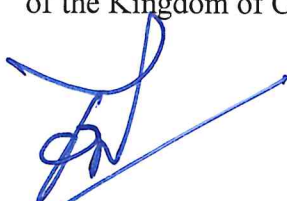
The Thai side agreed to host the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governors of the Thai-Cambodian Border Provinces. The date and venue of the meeting shall be communicated through diplomatic channel.

The Thai delegation also expressed their gratitude to the Cambodian side for the warmest welcome and hospitality during the visit as well as the excellent preparation and arrangement by the Cambodian side in this meeting.

The Cambodian delegation extended its appreciation to the Thai delegation for their friendly cooperation which made the meeting a success and fulfilled its objective to strengthen friendship, solidarity, mutual understanding and close cooperation between border provinces of the two countries.

Done and signed in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2017, in English language for two original copies.

For the Ministry of Interior  
of the Kingdom of Cambodia



Samdech Krolahom

**Sar Kheng**

Deputy Prime Minister  
and Minister of Interior

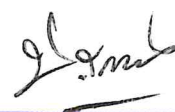
For the Ministry of Interior  
of the Kingdom of Thailand

General



**Anupong Paojinda**

Minister of Interior



# THE 6<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS OF CAMBODIAN-THAI BORDER PROVINCES

Phnom Penh, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2017

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## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

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At the invitation of Samdech Krolahom **Sar Kheng**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Cambodia, General **Anupong Paojinda**, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Thailand, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia and led the Thai Delegation for the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governors of Cambodian-Thai Border Provinces in Phnom Penh, Cambodia during 23-25 August 2017.

During the visit, General **Anupong Paojinda**, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Thailand, paid a courtesy call on Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo **Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and visited National Museum.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governors of Cambodian-Thai Border Provinces smoothly proceeded as per planned agenda and schedule in the atmosphere of friendliness, unity, brotherhood and mutual understanding. Both sides expressed their view on the importance of relationship and cooperation between the Cambodian-Thai border provinces which significantly contributed to strengthening the traditional friendly relationship and solidarity of the two countries in a stronger and deeper manner. The two sides expressed their satisfactory willingness in maintaining good neighborliness relationship as well as establishing and safeguarding the border of peace, friendship, cooperation and sustainable development.

The meeting placed high emphasis on strengthening cooperation between Cambodian-Thai border provinces on wide range of issues of mutual interests as follows:

**1-Border Crossing:** Both sides acknowledged the importance of effective implementation of the Agreement between the Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand on Border Crossing, signed on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2015. Both sides agreed to promote the utilization of border pass among relevant authorities and the people of respective country in accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on Border Crossing and the laws and regulations of respective country in order to facilitate the border crossings of the people living in the border provinces of the two countries and to prevent illegal border crossings.





**2-Trade and Investment:** The Meeting expressed satisfaction with the increasing value of bilateral trade, amounting to more than 5 billion USD since 2014, in which 70% of this amount resulted from cross border trade. Meanwhile, both sides agreed to encourage the relevant ministries, agencies, provincial authorities, and private sectors to contribute to increasing the trade value up to 15 billion USD by 2020 in order to reach the goal set by both governments of the two countries. The Meeting agreed to support the trade and investment linking the special economic zones (SEZs) of the two countries in Banteay Meanchey-Sa Kaeo and Koh Kong - Trat which will serve the mutual benefits of the two countries.

**3-Connectivity:** The Meeting welcomed the rail link between Cambodia and Thailand at the connecting point Poi Pet – Aranya Prathet on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 and the progress of railway construction from Poi Pet, Banteay Meanchey province, Kingdom of Cambodia to Aranyaprathet, Sa Kaeo province, Kingdom of Thailand. Both sides agreed to expedite the bridge construction at the Prum (Pailin Province) – Ban Pak Kard (Chanthaburi Province) international border checkpoint as soon as possible.

**4-Agricultural Cooperation:** In order to facilitate and enhance the agricultural products trading between the two countries, both sides encouraged the border provinces of the two countries to discuss and cooperate in facilitating the exchange of trade, agro-products and agricultural products of the people living along the border areas.

**5-Labor Cooperation:** Both sides encouraged the relevant ministries and agencies of both countries to cooperate in speeding up legal procedures necessary for Cambodian workers working in the Kingdom of Thailand so that they can be guaranteed the rights to stay and work legally in the Kingdom of Thailand as soon as possible. Both sides agreed to advise provincial and relevant authorities to closely cooperate in preventing and arresting ringleaders who illegally smuggled Cambodian workers across the border into the Kingdom of Thailand.

**6-Border Checkpoint:** Both sides agreed to encourage the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) of the two countries to set an appropriate time to conduct joint detail survey at Chhoak Roka (Samlot district, Battambang province) – Ban Mamuang (Borai district, Trat province) border checkpoint area prior to the new road construction for enhancement of transportation connectivity and trade facilitation. Also, The Meeting agreed to encourage Banteay Meanchey province and Sa Kaeo province in continuing their ongoing discussion on the possibility of the establishment of a new border checkpoint at Prey Chan village, Banteay Meanchey province, and Non Mak Mun village, Sa Kaeo province.



**7-Border Management:** Both sides also agreed that where conflicts arise along the border, both side should exercise restraints with a view to preventing the escalation of conflicts and use all means to settle the conflicts peacefully and expeditiously. In case the issues cannot be settled, both sides should report to their respective higher authorities. Both sides agreed to task the border provinces in enhancing cooperation to maintain environment including the improvement of solid and liquid waste management along the border areas.

**8-Electricity Cooperation:** Both sides encouraged the relevant authorities to discuss ways to promote the electricity transmission in the area of Chup Kor Ki (Oddar Meanchey province) - Sai Taku (Buriram province) in accordance with laws and regulations of respective country.

**9-Illegal Logging Cooperation:** Both sides agreed to apply applicable laws in dealing with the problems of illegal logging along the Cambodian-Thai border with maximum restraints and refraining from using weapons against illegal loggers. Both sides agreed to further educate and raise awareness among their citizens on the consequences of participating in the illegal trade of forest products, as well as the effects on the environment.

**10-Crime Prevention and Suppression:** Both sides highly appreciated the authorities and competent forces along the border provinces of the two countries for making efforts in maintaining and protecting the security and public order along the border of the two countries, as well as the cordial and timely cooperation in preventing and suppressing all forms of illegal activities along the border areas which ensure the strong foundation of social peace, security, and stability along the border of the two countries.

**11-Tourism Cooperation:** Both sides agreed to promote the implementation of the ACMECS Tourism Action Plan 2016-2018 and to enhance the green tourism in a responsible manner among the ACMECS members.

**12-Sister Cities:** Both sides agreed to support the establishment of Sister Cities between the two countries by encouraging the close relationship and discussion on cooperation in various sectors which provide mutual benefits for the sister cities and provinces of both countries. The meeting congratulated the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Sister Cities between Oddar Meanchey – Buriram, and Kampong Thom - Surin provinces during this Meeting with the esteemed participation of the heads of delegation of the two countries as witnesses of this signing ceremony.





**13-Coordination Mechanism:** The Meeting encouraged the governors of border provinces, municipalities and districts to conduct regular meetings by taking turn in hosting the meeting in an appropriate time as agreed by concerned provincial, municipal and district governors of the two countries.

The Thai delegation also expressed their gratitude to the Cambodian side for the warmest welcomed and hospitality during the visit as well as the excellent preparation and arrangement by the Cambodian side in this meeting.

The Cambodian delegation extended its appreciation to the Thai delegation for their friendly cooperation which made the meeting a success and fulfilled its objective to strengthen friendship, solidarity, mutual understanding and close cooperation between border provinces for benefits of nation and people of the two countries.

Both sides agreed that the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governors of Cambodian-Thai Border Provinces will be held in the Kingdom of Thailand at mutually convenient time. The date and venue of the meeting shall be communicated through diplomatic channel.

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