



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

Outcomes of the 9th Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Summit, the 10th Cambodia-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Viet Nam (CLMV) Summit and the 11th Cambodia-Lao PDR-Viet Nam (CLV) Summit on Development Triangle Area

9th December 2020



On 9th December 2020, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, chaired the 9th ACMECS Summit and attended the 10th CLMV Summit and the 11th CLV Summit via video conference, which the two latter were chaired by H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR. The key outcomes of the three Summits are as follows:

I- 9th ACMECS Summit

Under the theme "Partnership for Connectivity and Resilience", ACMECS Leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment to fully capitalize the enormous economic potential of the sub-region as well as to chart out the path for future cooperation for a more connected, smart, sustainable and resilient ACMECS community, based on the spirit of good neighbourliness and traditional friendship to achieve peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

The Leaders commended Cambodia's Chairmanship in the past two years in advancing the shared goals of member countries in realizing prosperity and wellbeing for our peoples, amidst the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and other non-traditional security issues on the livelihood and socio-economic development in the sub-region.



In combating COVID-19, the Leaders agreed to reinforce the ongoing national efforts and to strengthen cooperation within ASEAN-led mechanisms, with external partners and international organizations, especially the World Health Organization (WHO), to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines will become public goods and that essential medical services will be available, accessible, and affordable for all. On socio-economic recovery, the Leaders discussed the collaborative means and principles on which member countries can safely and securely promote multi-dimensional connectivity, and address setbacks caused by the COVID-19 on the mobility and global value chains, while ensuring adequate social protection for all the people affected.

On the future direction, the Leaders underlined the importance of effective and sustainable cooperation among member countries and ACMECS Development Partners, in which Japan offered to host the ACMECS Special Summit in 2021 on the margin of the 13th Mekong-Japan Summit, and looked forward to the operational mechanism of the ACMECS Development Fund as well as the effective functioning of the ACMECS Coordinating Committees to accelerate the implementation of key priority projects in line with the ACMECS Master Plan (2019-2023) that can deliver tangible benefits and address the real needs of the people in the sub-region.

During this Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister shared the view that ACMECS should pro-actively work with the Development Partners in promoting the notion of Vaccine Multilateralism in order to ensure equitable and safe access to COVID-19 vaccines. In addition, Samdech Techo Prime Minister encouraged ACMECS member countries to join Cambodia and Thailand in voluntarily pledging contributions to the ACMECS Development Fund, in which Cambodia is willing to commit the amount of USD 7 million, in order to ensure the smooth implementation of all prioritized projects. In this regard, Samdech Techo called all member countries to support the establishment of the ACMECS Secretariat. He also stressed the importance of the digital economy as a key factor to open unlimited market potentials for local Micro, Small and Medium-Enterprises (MSMEs) that can expand their business through e-commerce and other online activities without traveling or relocating. ACMECS should explore its diversification strategy to promote additional



complementarities in trade and investment, especially in light of new market opportunities under the recently signed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement. Samdech Techo Prime Minister further highlighted the needs for enhanced people-to-people connectivity through close collaboration to ensure travel bubbles among the ACMECS countries.

The Leaders concluded the Summit by adopting the Phnom Penh Declaration of the 9th ACMECS Summit, which has three documents as its annexes, namely (1) Terms of Reference of the ACMECS Development Fund, (2) Concept Paper on Working Mechanism for ACMECS Coordinating Committees under ACMECS Master Plan (2019-2023) and (3) List of ACMECS Prioritized Projects.

II- 10th CLMV Summit

With the theme "Enhancing Effective Connectivity for Regional Integration", CLMV Leaders expressed with satisfaction the implementation of the outcomes of the 9th CLMV Summit, reaffirming the long-standing traditional relations of friendship, good neighbourliness and mutual benefits among the four member countries, as well as exchanging views on future directions of CLMV Cooperation as an integral part of the ASEAN Community Building process.

The Leaders reiterated the importance of CLMV Cooperation in bridging the development gap within ASEAN, ensuring peace, stability, prosperity, and improved livelihoods for the people in the region, as well as constituting a crucial element in the multilateral efforts to combat and fully recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Leaders took stock of the progress made and the challenges encountered during the implementation of the CLMV Action Plan (2019-2020), which has served as an essential stepping stone for member countries to harmonize national development efforts and promote regional integration. The Leaders also recognized the setbacks caused by the pandemic in multiple aspects and further stressed the need to adapt, recover, and move CLMV cooperation forward in a comprehensive manner.



In addressing the future challenges, the Leaders stressed the importance of the CLMV Action Plan (2021-2022) endorsed by the CLMV Economic Ministers on 24 August 2020, which specifies clear directions in trade and investment cooperation, human resources development, implementation of regional commitments, COVID-19 recovery, and a framework for transforming the sub-region into an Advanced Global Business Hub.

Underpinned by the mechanism's primary purpose to deepen and accelerate ASEAN's integration efforts, the Leaders attached great importance to the effective implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, which focuses on infrastructure, institutional, economic, and people-to-people connectivities, as well as the Fourth Action Plan of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) 2021-2025.

At the Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister emphasized the need to enhance policy coordination among CLMV countries to remove obstacles facing cross-border trade by ways of simplifying processes and procedures for customs clearance in border areas that can ensure the operational of the supply chains by improving our transportation and logistics connectivity. Samdech Techo Prime Minister further stressed the importance of situating CLMV cooperation activities in the context of the Fourth Action Plan of the IAI and other relevant mechanisms, in order to effectively channel resources and support into priority areas such as energy, information communication technology, human resources, and infrastructure.

The 10th CLMV Summit adopted three documents, including (1) Joint Statement on the 10th Cambodia-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Vietnam Cooperation Summit, (2) Framework for CLMV Development and (3) List of CLMV Priority Projects.

III- 11th CLV Summit

The CLV Leaders expressed their firm commitment to strengthen the CLV Development Triangle Area (CLV DTA) with a view to accelerate economic growth, alleviate poverty, and promote socio-cultural progress by capitalizing on each member country's potentials, strengths, and resources.



The Leaders recognized that the COVID-19 has brought forth extensive public health and socio-economic disruptions, for which comprehensive and enhanced cooperation between the three nations is crucial and needs to be further strengthened on the basis of traditional relations, solidarity, understanding, trust, mutual benefits and sustainable developments.

The Leaders took positive note of the work of the CLV Joint Coordination Committees in implementing the Revised Master Plan for Socio-Economic Development of the CLV DTA for 2010-2020. They further encouraged close and effective collaboration among the CLV countries in advancing cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, tourism, religion, agriculture, information communication technology, education, research, and skills development, defense, as well as cooperative relations between CLV national legislative assemblies and those between sub-national authorities.

During the Meeting, Samdech Techo Prime Minister stressed the need for the three countries to continue collaboration in combating against human and drug trafficking, transnational crime, forestry crime and other international crimes, as well as mines clearance; while facilitating travelers' border crossing.

The 11th CLV Summit adopted the following documents: (1) Joint Declaration of the 11th CLV Summit, (2) Tourism Development Plan in the CLV-DTA, and (3) The Development Plan for Sustainable Rubber Industry in the CLV-DTA. 8.

Phnom Penh, 9th December 2020

