

# **THE 5<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS OF THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER PROVINCES**

**Bangkok, 26 – 28 August 2015**

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## **AGREED MINUTES**

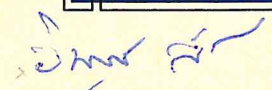
1. The Fifth Meeting of the Governors of the Thai – Cambodian Provinces was held from 26 – 28 August 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, at the invitation of General Anupong Paojinda, the Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Thailand.

2. The meeting was co-chaired by Samdech Krolahom Sar Kheng, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Cambodia, head of the Cambodian delegation, and General Anupong Paojinda, the Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Thailand, head of the Thai Delegation. The lists of the Thai and Cambodian delegations appear as ANNEX I and II respectively.

3. The meeting expressed congratulation on and satisfaction with the good cooperation and progress made on various areas of mutual interests between the governments of both countries.

4. The meeting extensively reviewed the results of the implementation of the Agreed Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governors of the Thai – Cambodian Border Provinces, held between 26 and 27 April 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission (JC) for Bilateral Cooperation between Thailand and Cambodia, held from 15 to 16 January 2015 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Also, both sides welcomed the result of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Thai – Cambodian General Border Committee held on 24 – 25 December 2014, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

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





6. In order to promote better living conditions and sustainable development along the Thai – Cambodian border areas, both sides agreed to cooperate closely on various projects and plans of action under the framework of the Ayeyawady – Chao Phraya – Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) and the resolutions of the 4<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Summit which held on 16 – 17 February 2010 at Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the 5<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Summit held on 12 – 13 March 2013 at Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the 6<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Summit held on 23 June 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

7. The head of Cambodian Delegation expressed sincere satisfaction according to the result of the official visit of the Prime Minister of Thailand, General Prayut Chan-o-cha, to the Kingdom of Cambodia during 30 – 31 October 2014, as the visit has strengthened the relationship of both countries.

8. The meeting has discussed on various issues as follows:

8.1 Implementation of the Agreement on Border Crossings

- Both sides congratulated on signing on Border Crossing Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on 11 July 2015, at the Kingdom of Thailand, and reiterated the importance of effective implementation of the Agreement.

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

8.2 Cooperation on Border Trade and Investment

The meeting acknowledged the result of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Working Group Meeting of Thailand – Cambodia Special Economic Zone development on 13 July 2015, in Bangkok, Thailand. The result of the development will encourage border trade for mutual interests of the people of both countries in the border area particularly in Sa Kaeo – Banteay Meanchey Special Economic Zone Development and Trat – Koh Kong Provinces. Besides, the meeting agreed to task the related agencies, both public and private sectors of the two countries, to promote and facilitate trade and investment in the border area of Thailand and Cambodia, particularly on transportation of goods and products, the establishment of Special Economic Zone Development, and promotion of cross border trade.

8.3 Transportation

- The meeting expressed great satisfaction for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the construction of a rail link between the two countries, signed during the official visit of General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, to the Kingdom of Cambodia, during 30 – 31 October 2014. Under the MOU, both sides acknowledged the progress of the construction of railroad linking between Aranyaprathet in Thailand and Poipet in Cambodia, including the remaining six - kilometres missing link of the railway in Cambodia.



- The meeting agreed to support the related agencies of both sides to arrange the initial meeting for bilateral agreement on cross border transportation by road and agreement on cross-border transportation by railway. These agreements will facilitate border crossing of goods and people in Thai – Cambodian border areas, and also establish ASEAN transportation connectivity which is in accordance with the Record of Discussion of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Thailand and Cambodia.

#### 8.4 Trade of Agricultural Products between People at the Border Area

- Both sides agreed to facilitate trade of agricultural products between people living in Thai – Cambodian border area. The two countries will expand the scope of agricultural cooperation and processing of agricultural products such as rubber, timber, fishery, as well as environmental protection, and also the prevention of crimes along the Thai – Cambodian border area. In addition, the meeting have emphasized on the cooperation on livestock development so as to prevent illegal import of animal and animal products as well as to quarantine contagious diseases from animals in the border area. Moreover, Thailand and Cambodia have agreed to expedite the implementation on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement.

#### 8.5 Labour

- Both sides agreed to task the authorities to prevent and arrest ringleaders who smuggled Cambodian workers crossing border illegally into Thailand. In addition, in order to support the economic development along the border, both sides agreed to implement the Labour Skills Development project in 2015. Thai government in collaboration with Cambodian provincial authorities aims to enhance skills of Cambodian workers legally working in the border area of Thailand.

- Both sides welcomed 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 July 2015 that allows workers from both countries to use border pass for work on daily and seasonal bases in the border area.

#### 8.6 Management of the Border Point of Entry

8.6.1 Border Point of Entry: In accordance with the discussion between the two Prime Ministers and the outcome of the First Meeting of the Joint Commission on Border Development and Connectivity (JCBD) held on 11 June 2013 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and without prejudice to the demarcation of boundary by the JBC of the two countries, both sides urged the JBC to expedite the procedures of the opening/upgrading the four agreed border checkpoints from bilateral to International Border checkpoints, namely:

- (1) An Mah (Ubon Rachathani 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)
- (4) Sai Taku (Buri Ram Province) – Chup Koki (Oddar Meanchey Province)



In addition, Both sides agree to expedite the opening of new international Point of Entry at Ban Nong Ian (Sa Kaeo Province) – Stung Bot (Banteay Meanchey Province) along with Ban Pa Rai (Sa Kaeo Province) – O'neang Special Economic Zone (Banteay Meanchey Province). The opening of these International Points of Entry will promote relationship between peoples, and facilitate trade, investment, and tourism in the border area.

Thailand and Cambodia agreed to arrange discussion on the operation of their Points of Entry to promote border crossing and process of goods and agricultural products exchanges. The Thai side proposed to upgrade Ban Mamuang (Trat Province) – Chhoak Roka (Battambang Province) to a new International Point of Entry.

Both sides took note with satisfaction the approval of the Technical Instruction for the Joint Details Survey at the Point of Entry at An Ses, Chomksan District, Preah\_Vihear Province, Cambodia - Chong An Mah, Amphoe Nam Yuen, Ubon Ratchathani Province, Thailand.

Both sides took note with satisfaction that the Joint Survey Team of the JBC has started the Joint Detailed Survey at the said Border Point of Entry since 20 June 2015.

Thailand and Cambodia agreed that either country will not close the border point of entry without the recognition from the other side. The closure of border point of entry should be done under the reasonable principle under the agreement of related authorities from both countries.

#### 8.6.2 Survey and Demarcation of Land Boundary

Both sides agreed to support the work from Thai – Cambodia Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC), and enforce the provision No.5 of the Memorandum of Understanding on Survey and Demarcation of Land Boundary, signed in 2000.

Both sides also encouraged the JBC to convene its next meeting at the earliest opportunity to, inter alia, approve the outcome of the survey works and to take necessary measures to facilitate the development of the border area for the benefits of the people of both countries.

#### 8.7 Public Health and Social Affairs

- Both sides acknowledged the necessity in cooperation on prevention and quarantine via exchanging of information between operational authorities in the border area of the two countries. Also, both sides welcomed the ongoing cooperation on prevention and control of infectious diseases in the border area, especially in the border provinces, under both bilateral and multilateral frameworks.



- Both sides support the continual of the community development projects, which are (1) the project for the improvement of the quality of life of villagers on Highway No. 67 (Sa Ngam – AnlongVeng – Siem Reap) and (2) the project for the improvement of sufficiency economy village on Highway No. 48 (Koh Kong – SreAmbel) and (3) the model community for sustainable development projects (Dambok Village, Banteay Meanchey Province). The Meeting agreed to further enhance cooperation to ensure implementation on the existing projects and expand cooperation to other areas along the Cambodian – Thai border afterwards.

#### 8.8 Disaster Management

- Both sides agreed to strengthen collaboration on disaster management by sharing information and setting up joint early warning system in order to prepare for and prevent future calamities. The Area of cooperation includes putting in place a proper response and recovery strategy through bilateral and regional mechanisms which are in accordance with the agreement of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission (JC) for Bilateral Cooperation between Thailand and Cambodia, held from 15 to 16 January 2015 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

#### 8.9 Illegal Logging

- The Meeting was pleased with Article VIII of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JC) between Thailand and Cambodia and agreed to take both preventive and law enforcement actions to address the problem of illegal logging along the Thai – Cambodian border with most self-restraint in using weapons against illegal loggers.

- Both sides agreed to further educate their citizens and to make them aware of the consequences of participating in the illegal trade of forest products, as well as the effects on the environment. Both sides also agreed that law enforcement would need to increasingly focus on the ringleaders who organize, manage, finance and profit from the illegal logging. The Meeting also encouraged the national committees on suppression of illegal logging of both countries to convene a meeting at the earliest opportunity.

#### 8.10 Crime Prevention and Suppression in the Border Area

- The meeting agreed to further cooperate on the prevention and suppression of all illegal activities in the border area by exchanging information between relevant authorities in the border area.

- Both sides agreed to support and strengthen the cooperation on anti-human trafficking across the border and acknowledged the signing of the Memorandum of Understandings on bilateral cooperation for eliminating trafficking in person and protecting victims of trafficking on 30 October 2014 during the official visit of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

- Thailand and Cambodia welcomed the decrease in cross border smuggling of illegal and prohibited goods, vehicles, and other illegal activities such as smuggling of cultural properties which are the outcomes of the coordination after the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governors of Thailand and Cambodia Border Provinces, held during 26 – 27 April 2012, in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia.



- Both sides welcomed the outcomes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Cambodia – Thailand Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation held during 4 – 7 February 2014 in Kep Province, Cambodia. During the said meeting, it was agreed that the official meeting between the heads of authorities of the two countries via Thai – Cambodian Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) will be arranged once a year. The meeting also acknowledged that Thailand will host the 9<sup>th</sup> Thailand – Cambodia Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation at Rayong Province, Thailand, in 2015.

- Both sides agreed to strengthen their cooperation in prevention and suppression of narcotic drugs trafficking through exchanging information. This includes the exchange of real-time information for arresting drug dealers, drug traffickers, seizure of narcotic drugs by Thai – Cambodian authorities, including airport interdiction and cooperation. Besides, both sides agreed that narcotic drugs is a common problem which both Thailand and Cambodia must promote and support the existing Thai - Cambodian cooperation mechanisms to address this specific problem, as a result of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Thai – Cambodian General Border Committee held on 24 – 25 December 2014, in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia.

- The Thai side supported the establishment of Border Liaison Office in Choam Khsant district, Preah Vihear province, Cambodia, in order to coordinate with Border Liaison Office in Amphoe Nam Yuen, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand.

#### 8.11 Cooperation on Tourism

- Both sides welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation of Tourism during the official visit of Prime Minister of Thailand to the Kingdom of Cambodia, on 30 October 2014 and also expressed their appreciation on the progress in the pursuance of the objectives of the MOU, especially the 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group Meeting under the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation of tourism, hosted by Thailand on 27 March 2015, in Chiang Rai Province, Kingdom of Thailand. Both sides took note of the importance of tourism in the economy and reduction of poverty. In 2014, the number of tourists from Cambodia to Thailand has increased by 14.99%, and that from Thailand to Cambodia rose by 26.3%.

- Both sides agreed to promote cooperation on tourism through developing the tourism products, tourism along economic corridors, eco-tourism, community tourism, sport activities, propagandas, and marketing.

- The Thai side agreed to provide technical assistance on human resource development to Cambodia and was also pleased to cooperate on exchanging relevant experiences in order to enhance *Healthy Tourism*. Besides, both sides agreed to follow the action plan on tourism for 2015 – 2016.

#### 8.12 Implementation of the Projects under the ACMECS Framework

The meeting acknowledged the results of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ACMECS Summit held on 12 – 13 March 2013 at Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic and the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ACMECS Summit held on 23 June 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, as follows:



#### 8.12.1 The Implementation of VISA-ACMECS

-Thailand and Cambodia encouraged the rest of ACMECS Member Countries to support the ACMECS Single Visa under the vision of “FiveCountries, One Destination”.

#### 8.12.2 Cooperation on Tourism

- The meeting agreed to support the development of Tourism Corridors (Pegan - Chiang Mai - Luang Prabang - Vientiane - Siam Reap - Hue).

#### 8.12.3 Sister Cities

Both sides supported the establishment of Sister Cities between the two countries by encouraging the establishment of dialogue mechanisms between Public and Private sectors of both sides in the border area. In addition, the meeting welcomed the establishment of “Sister Cities” between Surin – Oddar Meanchey, signed during this meeting and witnessed by the Heads of delegation of both sides. The meeting agreed to support the sister cities to jointly organize activities in order to enhance relations, cooperation as well as development.

#### 8.13 Provincial and Local Coordination Mechanism

- To enhance the cooperation between border provinces and municipalities/districts of the two countries, the meeting encouraged governors of border provinces, municipalities and districts to conduct regular meetings by rotating the hosting of the meeting at 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 communication between those authorities to enhance effectiveness of bilateral cooperation in the border areas.

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

#### 8.14 Other Matters

- Both sides agreed to promote mutual confidence and respect between each other on the dissemination of information by presenting factual and constructive information to enhance understanding, trust, and good neighbourliness between the two countries, to be part of the strong ASEAN Community in the late 2015.

- 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 exhibition of agricultural products of the border provinces. Both sides supported youth living in the border provinces to be able to gain benefits from socio-economic development and the improvement of standard of living of the peoples along the border area of the two countries.



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

The Cambodian side agreed to host the 6<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 Cambodian delegation also expressed their gratitude to Thai delegation for the warm welcome and hospitality during the visit as well as the excellent preparation and arrangement of the Thai side for this meeting.

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

Done and signed in Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015, in duplicates in the English language.

For the Ministry of Interior  
of the Kingdom of Thailand

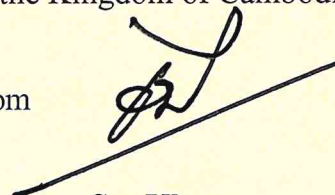
General



**Anupong Paojinda**  
Minister of Interior

For the Ministry of Interior  
of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Samdech Krolahom



**Sar Kheng**  
Deputy Prime Minister  
and Minister of Interior





**Joint Press Release**  
**THE 5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS OF**  
**THE THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER PROVINCES**  
**Anantara Siam Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand**  
**26 - 28 August 2015**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governors of the Thai – Cambodian Border Provinces was held between 26 - 28 August 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was co-chaired by General Anupong Paojinda, Minister of Interior of Thailand, and Samdech Krolahom. Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of Cambodia. The Meeting proceeded in a productive and friendly atmosphere. Both sides expressed their satisfaction on the closer relations between the Thai and Cambodian border provinces, and their commitment to enhance cooperation and relations in various aspects.

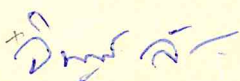
During the meeting, both sides insisted on strengthening cooperation among each other, and also signed on the Agreed Minutes by the co-chairman of both sides, which includes the cooperation matters as follows:

**1. Cooperation on Border Trade and Investment** : Both sides discussed on the development of Special Economic Zone in Sa-Kaeo - Banteay Meanchey Provinces, and Trat – Koh Kong Provinces, and the construction of railroad linking between Aranyaprathet and Poipet, which includes the expedition the development to open the new international points of entry at Ban Nong Ian, Sa Kaeo Province, and Banteay Meanchey International Point of Entry along with the new international point of entry at Ban Pa Rai, Sa Kaeo Province and Oneang International Point of Entry, Banteay Meanchey Province. The discussion also incorporated with the opening / upgrading four International Points of Entry, which are: (1) An Ma (Ubon Rachathani 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) (4) Sai Taku (Buri Ram Province) – Chup Koki (Oddor Meanchey Province). These areas will be upgraded/ opened to be the new International Points of Entry which would help to strengthen the relations between peoples of the two countries, and promote trade, investment, and also tourism along the border area.

The Cambodian side agreed to review the Thai proposal to upgrade Ban Mamuang (Trat Province) – Ban Chrok Roka (Battambang Province) Border Point of Entry to International Point of Entry.

**2. Cooperation for improving standard of living of people in the border of Thailand and Cambodia** : For instance, labour skill development, agriculture, public health, community development, tourism, and disaster management.

**3. Cooperation on security and peace in the border area** : This included the management of Cambodian workers legally working in Thailand. Both sides welcomed the signing of the Agreement on Border Crossing between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Kingdom of Cambodia during the Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia on 11 July 2015 which allows workers from both countries to use border pass for work on daily and seasonal bases in the border area.





**4. Crime prevention and suppression in the border area :** For example, illegal logging, human trafficking, cross border smuggling of illegal and forbidden products, and other illegal activities in the border area. The cooperation will be on the basis of law enforcement and humanity.

**5. Cooperation through Provincial and Local Coordination Mechanism:** Both sides supported founding of new Thai – Cambodian sister cities by establishing local mechanism for discussion and cooperation between authorities and private sectors in the border provinces of the two countries. Additionally, both sides welcomed the signing on the MOU to establish Sister Cities between Surin - Oddar Meanchey. Meanwhile, the meeting agreed to support Thai – Cambodian Sister Cities to develop collectively, by organizing activities and projects together to maintain good relations.

In addition, both sides agreed to exchange reliable and productive information to enhance understanding, trust, and closer relationship, since the two neighboring countries are moving towards becoming a part of the ASEAN Community in the late 2015.

The meeting was successful and reached its goal in promoting friendship, mutual understanding, and closer cooperation between border provinces of the two countries. It is an important mechanism for Thailand and Cambodia to closely cooperate on solving various matters and to ensure that mutual goals are achieved with concrete outcomes for the benefits of people of the two countries.

Cambodia will host the next Meeting of the Governors of the Thai – Cambodian Border Provinces. The date and venue of the meeting shall be communicated through diplomatic channel thereafter.



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