

If Cambodia and Thailand can not solve the border dispute at Ta Moan and Ta Krabey Temples in Oddar Meanchey province, Cambodia will bring the issue to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen said yesterday.

Speaking at a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of National Road No. 41 in Kampong Speu province, Samdech Techo said Cambodia desires to have a border of peace, friendship and cooperation with Thailand as it has with Vietnam and Laos.

“If the conflict at Ta Moan and Ta Krabey Temples can not be settled soon, we can invite each other to the ICJ. It will be the peaceful way, or the fighting will be endless,” he stressed.

Regarding the border dispute near the Preah Vihear Temple, the Cambodian premier said the interpretation of the 1962 verdict by the ICJ is the only way to solve the issue.

Cambodia has in late April this year submitted its request to the ICJ to interpret its 1962 verdict and to take an urgent measure to prevent Thai aggression on Cambodia’s territorial integrity.

The Cambodia-Thailand border conflict has occurred just a week after Cambodia’s Preah Vihear Temple was enlisted as a World Heritage Site on July 7, 2008, due to Thai’s claiming of ownership of the so-called 4.6 square kilometers of scrub next to the temple.

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