

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Hor Namhong has stressed on the necessity for Cambodia and Thailand to solve their border dispute peacefully.

H.E. Hor Namhong told newly-appointed Thai Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Sompong Samguanbun in a meeting here yesterday, adding that Cambodia's complaint to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague is a peaceful solution.

H.E. Hor Namhong also reiterated Cambodia's stance to minimize the conflict, but maximize the cooperation and not to let the border dispute between the two countries spread to other fields, according to H.E. Koy Koung, undersecretary of state and spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

He further explained to the Thai new diplomat of the "package solution" agreed by Cambodian, Thai and Indonesian foreign ministers on May 9, 2011, and called on the Thai side to accept this solution as Cambodia has already responded positively, and to respect the recommendations of the UN Security Council on Feb. 14, 2011.

The Cambodia-Thailand Joint Commission on Demarcation of Land Boundary (JBC) and the General Border Committee (GBC) meetings can be held only if the Thai side agrees or positively responds to the "package solution", he underlined.

In reply, the newly-appointed Thai ambassador shared the same idea with H.E. Hor Namhong that both countries must solve their border conflict peacefully and expressed his government's policy to make the two peoples live in prosperity, peace, stability and good cooperation.

He said he has noted the similarity between the two peoples in terms of language, culture, religion, custom and tradition, and he therefore wished that they live in harmony. He also pledged to do his best to reduce the tension and to ameliorate the cooperation and the ties of friendship, especially the mutual understanding between both countries.