

The high-ranking Cambodian delegation led by Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen returned home yesterday from Indonesia where it attended the 19th ASEAN Summit and related summits held from Nov. 17 to 19 in Bali. The meeting touched on many issues including natural disasters due to climate change, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Hor Namhong told reporters at Phnom Penh International Airport upon arrival of the Cambodian delegation.

The ASEAN leaders focused on water management and supported the establishment of the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Center, he said. The meeting also voiced its support to the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty, said H.E. Hor Namhong, stressing that the U.S. and China, two of the five main nuclear superpower countries, have already signed the protocol of the treaty. The ASEAN leaders further welcomed the positive changes in Myanmar and said the new measures taken by the country will strengthen the democracy, and the U.S. will send its secretary of state to Myanmar, the Cambodian deputy prime minister said. They also welcomed Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2012 and at the official closing ceremony of the summit, President of Indonesia H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono handed over the ASEAN Chairmanship to Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, he said. In his acceptance speech, Samdech Techo Hun Sen gave many recommendations for the success of the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015, H.E. Hor Namhong pointed out. ASEAN's integration is a main challenge for the establishment of the ASEAN Community, and in the meeting, the Singapore prime minister announced to donate S\$50 million to improve the capacity building and ASEAN integration from 2012 to 2015, he added. Regarding the Mekong's water management, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam agreed to propose to Japan to conduct a Mekong's water use study to prevent future devastating floods, he said. Food security, ASEAN connectivity, marine security navigation, especially the South China Sea issue, were also discussed on the occasion, he indicated. In the ASEAN-China Summit, China announced to reserve US\$10 billion for infrastructure investment in ASEAN, and 3 billion Yuan for a research on China-ASEAN maritime link, said H.E. Hor Namhong, underlining that China regarded 2012 as the ASEAN-China Friendship and Cooperation Year, and it will be very important for Cambodia as the ASEAN Chair. In the ASEAN-Japan Summit, Japan also reserved US\$20 billion for the ASEAN connectivity perspective and some funds for the ASEAN-Japan Youth Exchange Program for 3,000 participants in 2013. According to H.E. Hor Namhong, in the ASEAN-South Korea Summit, the leaders promised to further boost trade.