

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, received here on Thursday at the Peace Palace visiting ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Surin Pitsuwan.

During the meeting, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan informed Samdech Techo Hun Sen of his fruitful talks with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Hor Namhong, said Ieng Sophalët, assistant to the Cambodian premier.

The ASEAN dialogue partners have expressed their delight and attention and promised to help Cambodia when the country takes over the ASEAN chairmanship in 2012, stressed the visiting ASEAN secretary-general.

He also sought recommendations from Samdech Techo Hun Sen on the role of the ASEAN Secretariat and General Secretariat when Cambodia become Chair of ASEAN next year.

In reply, the Cambodian prime minister said he wanted the ASEAN Secretariat and General Secretariat to play bigger role for the interests of the ASEAN. He further asked Dr. Surin Pitsuwan to prepare documents related to the role of these ASEAN institutions to be discussed in order to expand their role.

During his talks with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Hor Namhong on Dec. 22 in Phnom Penh, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan pledged to help Cambodia fulfilling successfully its role as the ASEAN Chair in 2012.

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan arrived in Cambodia on Dec. 21 for a three-day official visit, at the invitation of H.E. Hor Namhong.

The ASEAN secretary-general has been also granted a royal audience by His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia.