

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) Retreat held in Siem Reap province, home to Angkor temples was concluded yesterday with numerous agreements on regional and international issues, according to the press release issued after the meeting.

Korean Peninsula, the implementation of the declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DoC), the progress of democratization in Myanmar, and so on were discussed by the ASEAN foreign ministers, it said.

Regarding the Peninsula issue, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Hor Namhong said as the ASEAN Chair, Cambodia will do its best to lobby the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and encourage the DPRK's foreign minister to join the upcoming ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial meeting in Phnom Penh in July 2012, as well as the early resumption of the six-party talks about the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula.

"Cambodia will try to lobby the DPRK to return to the six-party talks," H.E. Hor Namhong said at the press briefing upon the meeting.

He went on to say that Cambodia had no intention to host the future six-party talks as the initiative of the six-party talks was made by China and the meetings were always held in China. As ASEAN Chair, Cambodia would like only to see the resumption of the talks, he added.

On South China Sea issue, the ASEAN foreign ministers stressed on the need to intensify efforts to ensure the effective and full implementation of the Declaration on the DoC in order to maintain peace, security and stability in the South China Sea, added the press release.

For the issue of Myanmar, the ASEAN foreign ministers agreed to appeal for the lifting of economic sanctions against Myanmar, which contributes an important part to Myanmar's socio-economic development.

Besides, ASEAN foreign ministers agreed to push for the functioning of the Indonesia-based ASEAN Co-ordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), said H.E. Hor Namhong.

They also approved Cambodia's request to convene the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Development Cooperation Forum in Jakarta in the first semester of 2012 in order to gather funds for the implementation of IAI Work Plan II and to hold a conference on ASEAN Connectivity in Phnom Penh on September 2012.