

**AGREED MINUTES
OF THE THIRD MEETING
OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION BETWEEN
THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**

19-20 October 2022, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The Third Meeting of the Joint Economic Commission between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Türkiye was held in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia on 19-20 October 2022, in accordance with the Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Republic of Türkiye signed on 3 January 2002.

The Cambodian Delegation headed by H.E. Mr. PAN Sorasak, Minister of Commerce of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Turkish Delegation headed by H.E. Prof. Dr. Vahit Kirişçi, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye, welcomed the holding of the Third Meeting of the Joint Economic Commission, as well as the work done by the two sides during the intersessional period.

The Agenda of the Meeting and the composition of the Delegations of both sides are attached as Annex I and Annex II, respectively.

The deliberations of the Third Meeting of the Joint Economic Commission took place in a cordial atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding, reflecting the bilateral friendly relations and the aspiration of both sides to further strengthen, develop and diversify their bilateral trade and economic cooperation on the basis of mutual benefits.

With immense satisfaction, both sides acknowledged that the continued intensification of the bilateral interactions in the last decade, which was attested by sequence of high-level meetings and the implementation of the signed agreements as well as memoranda of understanding, have further enhanced and strengthened the diplomatic and economic relations.

Both sides welcomed the official inauguration ceremony of the Royal Embassy of Cambodia to the Republic of Türkiye in Ankara on 27 February 2022, and emphasized that the existence of respective resident embassies in the two countries will further elevate bilateral relations between Cambodia and Türkiye.

Both sides placed great emphasis upon the importance of deepening cooperation through direct dialogues in accordance with the prioritized sectors including trade and investment, private sector, industrial cooperation, halal affairs, standardization, technical barriers to trade and technical regulations, agriculture, transportation such as shipbuilding, railway and civil aviation, health, education, and tourism.

In this respect, both sides agreed to the extent possible and applicable to establish sub-committees relative to each prioritized sectors being a catalyst for development of closer multi-sectoral cooperation as stipulated in Article VIII of the signed Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation, and through which to initiate a joint action plan for effective implementation of the main sectors of cooperation set forth.

In agreement with the articles of the Agenda of the Meeting accepted by both sides, the following decisions and recommendations of common interest were adopted.

I. MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

Both sides expressed commitment to multilateralism, rules-based order, regional peace, security and stability, mutual respect, equality, political independence and non-interference as the fundamental bases for inclusive growth and shared prosperity. The Cambodian side has adhered to these principles during her ASEAN Chairmanship 2022, endeavoring to maintain peace and stability, to promote sustainable development and prosperity, as well as to enhance the ASEAN Community building efforts by reinvigorating and expanding partnerships with external partners through ASEAN-led mechanisms while maintaining ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture.

Both sides acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic is a common crisis causing immeasurable disruption and impacts upon global linkages and mobility, and noted that the concerted commitments and efforts in combating this pandemic is essential to achieve a swift post-pandemic economic recovery.

The Cambodian side presented its compliment to the Turkish side's steadfast commitment to joining the world in the effort to develop COVID-19 vaccine of Turkovac. In tandem with that effort, the Royal Government of Cambodia has successfully contained the outbreak with high-rate administration of vaccination across different age groups, thereby enabling the country to fully reopen for travels, businesses, investment and tourism.

The Cambodian side acknowledged the importance of the past training programs in relation to diplomacy and WTO issues organized by the Turkish side in the past few years, which equipped the Cambodian trainees with practical knowledge beneficial to their professional endeavors, enabling them to address real-world problems.

II. TRADE AND INVESTMENT COOPERATION

1. Bilateral trade

Both sides welcomed the momentum of bilateral trade, signifying a fruitful consequence of strenuous efforts and concerted cooperation for mutual benefits. Both sides acknowledged that while the trade turnover between Cambodia and Türkiye has grown noticeably for the last decade, the volume of trade in absolute terms remains moderate, leaving untapped potentials and more room for maneuver.

Both sides, in this connection, agreed to leverage joint efforts and formulate strategy to substantially increase bilateral trade in goods and services.

Both sides further agreed to exchange lists of export companies and potential export commodities and facilitate joint trade promotional activities such as joint business matching, investment fora, exhibitions as well as roadshows of potential products, which can immediately produce amplitude of business and investment opportunities. In this connection, the Cambodian side would like to extend invitation to the Turkish side to the 15th Cambodian & Import-Export Goods Exhibition 2022 to be held in Phnom Penh during 15-18 December 2022.

Both sides agreed to facilitate the arrangement of business trips and seminars between the two countries in order to present the updates on the trade and investment environment and regulations of each country.

2. Investment

Both sides agreed to further step-up bilateral investment promotion through the exchange of focal contacts of competent authorities concerned, the sharing of information pertaining to investment, and the facilitation of economic, business and investment events, exhibitions, and trade fairs for either the Cambodian delegations visiting Türkiye or the Turkish delegations visiting Cambodia.

The Cambodian side informed of the new Law on Investment of the Kingdom of Cambodia, which aims to increase its competitiveness and attractiveness; generate openness, transparency and predictability; enhance administrative procedures, and provide smart incentive schemes together with investment guarantees.

Along with her sound macroeconomic policies, political stability, regional economic growth and broad market access derived from bilateral and regional FTAs such as Cambodia-China FTA, Cambodia-Korea FTA, ASEAN FTA with Dialogue Partners and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (“RCEP”), the Cambodian side therefore strongly encouraged the Turkish business community to set up production and participate in the regional value chain for exports particularly in the areas of agro-industry, food processing, manufacturing products and agricultural commodities such as rice, mango, banana and cashew nuts.

3. Cambodian-Turkish Business Council

Both sides underscored an important role of the Cambodian-Turkish Business Council in bridging the gap between the business communities of the two countries through closer contacts, business matching and networking events. For effective communication and implementation of joint activities, both sides hereby assigned H.E. Mr. MENG Nimol, Deputy Director General of Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. *****, as the focal points, respectively from the Cambodian and Turkish sides.

In the effort to further strengthen cooperation with the private sector in Türkiye, Cambodia Chamber of Commerce on 25 February – 01 March 2022 organized a business trip to Ankara, Türkiye, whereby both parties agreed to encourage business trips between the two countries and explore joint projects in the field of construction, energy, mining and technology.

Both sides expressed congratulations and gratitude on the successful implementation of the virtual Cambodian-Turkish Business Forum which convened on 15 September 2021, and agreed to jointly organize another momentous business forum in 2024 in commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In alignment with the common aspiration of expanding bilateral trade volume, the Cambodian-Turkish Business Council agreed to scale up its efforts in developing a pragmatic action plan, as well as putting forward or formulating investment projects either through Business-to-Business (“B2B”) or Public Private Partnership (“PPP”) in accordance with potential areas of the two countries.

III. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

1. Industrial cooperation

Both sides agreed on exchanging information and expertise in industry related issues, and stepping up efforts to initiate joint investment projects between the two governments, business circles or both as means and ways to diversify composition of bilateral trade especially in the following priority industries:

- agro-processing industry;
- heavy and high-tech industry;
- parts and assembly industry;
- electrical and electronics industry;
- mechanical and machinery industry; and
- latest digital technology such as artificial intelligence, cloud, big data, and IoT.

Both sides agreed to explore the possibility of arranging a study visit to industrial zones in Türkiye in due course, and to support and facilitate future study visits of either Cambodian business delegation to Türkiye or Turkish business delegation to Cambodia, as well as keeping each side informed of business and investment opportunities in their respective countries.

2. Science, Technology and Innovation (“STI”)

Both Sides expressed their willingness to:

- enhance cooperation in the areas of Science, Technology and Innovation;
- share best practices and experiences in Science, Technology and Innovation;
- organize activities to bring technology firms and entrepreneurs of both countries together;

- jointly conduct research on industrial technology, including agro-industry, food and biomedical; and
- develop cooperation regarding the best practices and lessons learned in digital transformation, particularly in the field of digital government, digital economy, and digital society.

The Cambodian side proposed to establish a Memorandum of Understanding on Science, Technology and Innovation between the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation of Cambodia and the competent institution of Türkiye concerned.

The Cambodian side proposed for the Turkish side's consideration to have a study visit to STI parks in Türkiye on a mutually agreed date in order to gain insights to a greater extent possible for the future development of Cambodian STI parks.

3. Postal Telecommunications and ICT

Both sides agreed to cooperate on and identify the following fields of common interest for both the medium and long run:

- Strengthening the communication and mutual support between the two countries in postal sector within the framework of the Universal Postal Union,
- Strengthening collaboration in sharing experience in policy management, and technology in relation to information security and data protection, and in promoting capacity building of National Emergency Response Team (National Cert).

4. Halal cooperation

Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in the halal affairs through establishment of a Joint Working Group for improving the cooperation in Halal accreditation and certification. To assist in the establishment and its related arrangements, both sides thereby agreed to exchange their respective contact persons at their earliest convenience.

Further, in a bid to reinforce concerted halal cooperation between the two countries, both sides agreed to expedite the conclusion of draft Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Halal Quality Infrastructure between the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation of Cambodia and the Halal Accreditation Agency of Türkiye.

5. Standardization

Both Sides agreed to jointly explore mechanisms to foster the implementation of the MoU on Technical Cooperation Between the Turkish Standards Institution ("TSE") and the Institute of Standards of Cambodia ("ISC") which was signed 19 September 2017.

ISC and TSE reiterated their renewed assurances and steadfast commitment to supporting one another at international platforms such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

6. Technical cooperation in metrology

Both sides underlined the paramount importance of metrology to ensure conformity, thereby reaffirming their keenness to expedite the conclusion of a MoU on Metrology, and develop cooperation between national Metrology Center (“NMC”) of Cambodia and the Scientific Technological Research Council of Türkiye – National Metrology Institute in the fields of metrology, calibrations, measurement systems and quality control in the following topics:

- bilateral comparisons;
- exchange of personnel;
- development of metrological equipment/instruments;
- joint research projects in metrology;
- organization of joint meetings and conferences; and
- providing traceability.

7. Micro, small and medium enterprises (“MSMEs”)

Both Sides agreed to explore mechanisms to foster the implementation of the MoU on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Cooperation between General Department of Small and Medium Enterprises & Handicrafts (“GDSMEH”) of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization of the Republic of Türkiye (“KOSGEB”), which was signed 18 October 2019.

The Cambodian side appreciated the Turkish side’s renewed willingness to share its knowledge and experience pertaining to KOSGEB models and MSMEs incentive models, digital support, business and technology incubators, developing entrepreneurship culture and training for development of MSME related organizations, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs.

The Cambodian Side underscored the importance of improving productivity and innovation and enhancing capacity of its MSMEs, particularly through promoting financial literacy, providing capacity-building programs and digital support, and promoting technology and knowledge transfer mechanisms.

8. Contracting and engineering consultancy services

Noted the vital importance of cooperation on contracting and engineering consultancy services as mutually emphasized during the Second Meeting of the Joint Economic Commission, the Cambodian side welcomed the relevant Turkish companies and institutions to explore the investment opportunities.

9. Agriculture

Acknowledging the important role of agriculture in maintaining food security amidst the impacts posed by the climate change and the increased food price, both sides reiterated their commitment to expediting the implementation of the MoU between the Government of the

Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Republic of Türkiye on the Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture, which was signed on 21 October 2018.

Both sides agreed to promote cooperation in the following fields:

- strengthening cooperation on plant and animal health and SPS;
- cooperation on combating desertification, land degradation and drought; and
- encouraging investment of Turkish companies in processing and marketing of agricultural products.

10. Transportation

10.1. Cooperation in shipping industry

Considering the untapped potentials in the field of shipping industry as highlighted in the second JEC meeting, both sides endeavored to explore cooperation in the areas of technical capacity building, engineering technology, search and rescue, ship safety, and marine environment prevention.

10.2. Cooperation in railway sector

Both sides reiterated their collective desire to cooperate on:

- maintenance and modernization of the towing vehicles;
- provision of technical cooperation, training and consultancy services; and
- sharing of experience and information in the railway area.

10.3. Civil aviation

In accordance with the existing Air Service Agreement and MoU between the Republic of Türkiye and the Kingdom of Cambodia, Both Sides acknowledged that air connectivity is very important for the promotion of tourism cooperation and people-to-people contact and agreed to encourage the respective civil aviation authorities and their own airlines to explore the possibilities to have direct flights between the two countries.

The Cambodian side expressed gratitude for the Turkish side's reassertion of providing the short courses and or higher education scholarships in civil aviation for Cambodian officials, as well as cooperation in areas related to all aviation issues such as maintenance, ground handling, airport operations and other similar topics.

11. Health

Both sides reiterated their common interest in the area of public health cooperation through exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices on public health issues especially in strengthening health systems and communicable diseases.

Further, both sides encouraged to sign a MoU which serves as a legal basis for procedural initiation of more pragmatic cooperation in health. For this purpose, the Turkish side agreed to provide a draft text of the agreement for the Cambodian side's review in due course. Both sides agreed to establish a technical working group as well as focal points for effective coordination.

12. Education

Both sides attached great importance to the augmentation of cooperation in the field of education for broader development of human resources and school quality, in parallel with strengthening the economic relations. Both sides thereby reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to:

- implementing the Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Education, and the Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Sports, which were signed on 21 October 2018 in Türkiye;
- exploring a MoU regarding the establishment of legal personality and conducting educational activities of Turkish Maarif Foundation in Cambodia, with its draft text to be prepared by the Turkish side;
- establishing school partnership for joint education programmes and student activities between the schools and relevant institutions of the two countries; and
- cooperating in the field of STEM education.

The Cambodian side proposed the Turkish side to cooperate in capacity building in Science, Technology and Innovation through exchange of experts and scientists and provision of scholarships for tertiary education as well as technical courses in Türkiye.

13. Tourism

Both sides appreciated the intensification of mutual support and cooperation on tourism sector. With bona fide goodwill of collaboration and cooperation, Cambodia is strongly committed to frequently participating in East Mediterranean International Tourism and Travel Exhibition and International Cooperation Platform held in Istanbul, Türkiye aimed to increase number of Turkish tourists and investors to Cambodia.

To pave the way forward the optimized level of cooperation in tourism, both sides further agreed to exploit every mechanism possible particularly in the following forms:

- Organize study visits, technical tours and FAM-trips for government officials, tour operators, travel agents and media of the two countries;
- Seek the Turkish side to augment more schedule direct flights to Cambodia or triangle flight operations;
- Seek the Turkish side to assist in tourism human capital development through provisions of fellowships and scholarships;
- Conduct exchanges of information, expertise and best practices;
- Encourage the Turkish investors to invest in tourism projects; and

- Help promote and market tourist destinations of the two countries vice-versa through all means of marketing and promotion.

In accordance with the Agreement on Tourism Cooperation between Cambodia and Türkiye signed on 21 October 2018 in Istanbul, Türkiye, both sides welcomed the organization of the inaugural meeting of the Joint Tourism Working Group, which was adjourned in 2021 due to the unprecedented global pandemic of COVID-19, and is rescheduled to be organized in Cambodia by 2023.

IV. The preparation for the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Economic Commission

Both sides agreed that the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Economic Commission between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Türkiye will be held in Ankara on the date to be specified mutually through diplomatic channels.

Signed in Phnom Penh on 20 October 2022 as two originals in English Language.

**FOR
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

**FOR
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**

**PAN SORASAK
MINISTER OF COMMERCE**

**VAHIT KIRIŞCI
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND FORESTRY**