

Laos and Cambodia praise development achievements

Laos and Cambodia are appreciative of the progress made in border demarcation between the two countries, which ensures peace and facilitates travel between the people of both nations.

Following his arrival in Vientiane on Friday, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen met with Lao Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh to discuss their relations, friendship and cooperation.

Border demarcation was one of the issues under discussion and the two prime ministers expressed their satisfaction with the progress made. So far 121 border markers, 86 percent of the total, have been installed along the countries' shared 465-km border.

The two leaders agreed to encourage their respective ministries to implement the Memorandum of Understanding signed on January 5 last year between the ministries of Public Works and Transport of Laos and Cambodia to build a regional road linking Road No 13 in Laos with Road No 7 in Cambodia. This was considered to be beneficial for the promotion of trade, investment and tourism between the two countries.

They also congratulated the deputy prime ministers and foreign ministers of Laos and Cambodia on laying the foundation stone for the establishment of an international border checkpoint between the two countries on October 17 last year.

The two sides also praised moves towards an agreement for the purchase of electricity, under which Cambodia will buy electricity from Laos.

The Lao side requested Cambodia to speed up the installation of a transmission line to the border to facilitate the supply of electricity by Laos.

During the bilateral talks, the two sides expressed the need to enhance cooperation on regional and international issues that the two countries are party to, to advance the cultures of the two nations, Asean and the world.

Prime Minister Bouasone congratulated the great achievements accomplished under the leadership of the Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen in national protection and development, and expressed confidence that the relationship, friendship and cooperation between Laos and Cambodia would continue to strengthen.

The two sides also discussed future cooperation possibilities for the benefit of the people of both countries.

After the talks, Mr Bouasone and Samdech Hun Sen witnessed the signing of an agreement on border passes between Laos and Cambodia as well as a Memorandum of Understanding to implement various agreements and sub-agreements on land transport between the two countries.

Laos and Cambodia have a long tradition of trade on a daily basis, mainly in fish and household items.

The two nations have also exchanged visits by delegations at many levels including heads of state and government.

The official welcoming ceremony for the Cambodian prime minister took place on Friday at the esplanade of the National Assembly where Samdech Hun Sen inspected the guard of honour of the Lao People's Army.

On the same day, Samdech Hun Sen called on Lao President Choummaly Sayasone at the Presidential Palace to further discuss cooperation.

The Cambodian prime minister is also attending the Third Greater Mekong Subregion Summit taking place in Vientiane from March 30 to 31.