

# Press Release



## High-level delegation calls on Singapore to join the anti-landmines Convention

*Singapore, 4 October 2011* – A delegation led by senior Cambodian Minister H.E. PRAK Sokhonn, President-Designate of the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, was in Singapore today to encourage Singaporean authorities to increase their engagement in the international movement to eradicate anti-personnel mines.

At meetings with Singapore's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. K. Shanmugam, and Minister for Defence, Dr. Ng Eng Hen, PRAK Sokhonn recalled that, at the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit leaders' retreat in Jakarta, Cambodian Prime Minister H.E. HUN Sen expressed the hope that ASEAN Member States would send high level delegations to the 11MSP, which will take place in Cambodia later this year.

"As the 11MSP will take place in Southeast Asia, a region that has seen many countries affected by the challenges of past conflicts, this important gathering presents an opportunity for the Member States of the ASEAN to demonstrate solidarity to address these challenges," said H.E. PRAK Sokhonn. Together we represent the diversity of this movement, as mine-affected states and those that have been spared this scourge, and, as states at various stages of development. Together, as an ASEAN family, we can join hands, united in our commitment to continue our efforts."

H.E. PRAK Sokhonn also expressed the hope that Singapore would one day join the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, or *Ottawa Convention*.

"Accession to the Convention by yet another South East Asian State would help strengthen the international movement to eradicate anti-personnel mines," said PRAK Sokhonn, who serves as Minister Attached to the Prime Minister of Cambodia and Vice-President of the Cambodia Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority.

Although Singapore is not part of the Convention, it has since 1998 placed a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel mines. It has repeatedly voted in favour of a United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for the universalization and implementation of the Convention and attended the landmark 2009 *Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World*, which took place in Colombia.

H.E. PRAK Sokhonn has spent the year leading up to the 11MSP actively promoting the Convention in South East Asia. In August, the Minister led a mission to Hanoi to engage Vietnam's leaders on the matter of accession to the Convention. In September, Cambodia hosted a regional seminar on the human costs of anti-personnel landmines which saw the participation of 11 Asian states.

The 11MSP will feature over 1,000 delegates representing over 100 States descending on the Cambodian capital from 27 November to 2 December 2011. With such a large international gathering taking place in what remains one of the most mine-affected countries, the world will again be reminded of the human tragedy caused by anti-personnel mines.

AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

## **The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

The AP Mine Ban Convention was adopted in Oslo in 1997, opened for signature in Ottawa the same year and entered into force in 1999.

To date 157 States have joined the Convention, 153 of them no longer hold stocks. The most recent country to accede was Tuvalu on 13 September 2011 bringing almost near universal acceptance of the Convention in the Pacific.

More than 44.5 million mines have been destroyed by the States Parties. 34 of 50 States that at one time manufactured anti-personnel mines are now bound by the Convention's ban on production. Most other parties have put in place moratoria on production and / or transfers of mines.

Demining has resulted in millions of square metres of once dangerous land being released for normal human activity.

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For interviews or more information regarding any aspect of the Convention kindly email: [ISU@APMineBanConvention.org](mailto:ISU@APMineBanConvention.org) or contact Laila Rodriguez at +41 (0) 22 906 1656. Connect with the Convention through our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#) or [Twitter](#).