



PRESS RELEASE

Cambodia-China Think Tanks and Public Diplomacy Forum

Wednesday, 15th May 2024

Jaya Suites Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

On 15th May 2024, the Asian Vision Institute (AVI) and the Charhar Institute co-organised “Cambodia-China Think Tanks and Public Diplomacy Forum” under the theme “Strengthening Cambodia-China Think Tanks Cooperation in Promoting Friendship and Building a Community of Shared Future” at Jaya Suites Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The opening session was presided over by **H.E. SUOS Yara**, Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Information of the National Assembly of Cambodia; **H.E. WANG Wentian**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Republic of China to Cambodia; **Dr. HAN Fangming**, Chairman of the Charhar Institute and Vice-Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the 13th CPPCC National Committee; and **Dr. CHHENG Kimlong**, President of AVI. The forum was also attended by about 30 scholars and experts from think tanks and government institutions of both countries.

In the opening session, **Dr. CHHENG Kimlong** highlighted the long-standing and interactive relationship between Cambodia and China, which has evolved into an ironclad friendship through deepening mutual understanding and strengthening cooperation across various fields. He also stressed the importance of “Diamond Hexagon Cooperation,” which signifies the depth and breadth of the bilateral ties at a higher level. In the opening remarks, **H.E. WANG Wentian** emphasized that the strong friendship between Cambodia and China has been progressing towards building a Community with a Shared Future. He highlighted that think tank cooperation can play a vital role in China-Cambodia cultural exchanges and academic research by being a steadfast supporter and active promoter of the construction of a Community with a Shared Future between the two nations. Following the keynote address, **H.E. SUOS Yara** underscored the increasing role of think tanks in providing a wealth of knowledge and expertise to shape effective public diplomacy strategies. He noted that this involves exploring innovative approaches, exchanging best practices and fostering deeper collaboration between think tanks, ultimately strengthening the ties that bind the two nations.

Alongside the event, the Asian Vision Institute and the Charhar Institute signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening the amicable ties between the two think tanks and facilitating vibrant exchanges, fostering a deeper level of collaboration and knowledge-sharing between the institutions of both nations.

The event continued with presentation and panel discussion sessions in which several topics were discussed, largely focusing on think tank cooperation in public diplomacy between Cambodia and China and the role of action-oriented think tanks in serving the “Diamond Hexagon” cooperation framework. After a full day of friendly discussion, scholars and experts from both countries reached a broad consensus on the following points: (1) bilateral cooperation between Cambodia and China has a long history and a concrete foundation; (2) think tanks play an important role in bilateral cooperation by not only addressing current practical issues of cooperation but also considering the long-term deepening and solidification of Cambodia-China relations in the future; and (3) public diplomacy is one of the key factors in bridging and promoting bilateral cooperation for future development.

AVI and the Charhar Institute will jointly release a report titled “Cambodia-China Think Tanks and Public Diplomacy: Development and Prospects” by integrating all the views discussed during the forum and further soliciting inputs from scholars of both institutions. The report will serve as a key document by providing policy recommendations on think tank cooperation in public diplomacy and identifying the characteristics of openness, diversity and intersectionality of the bilateral cooperation. Last but not least, both sides expressed a stronger commitment to jointly carry out capacity building, create opportunities for ideas exchanges and deepen their cooperation and partnerships on practical research in the future.



Phnom Penh, 18th May 2024
Asian Vision Institute