



NATIONAL BANK OF CAMBODIA

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Remarks by

H.E. Dr. Chea Serey, Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia,

at the Welcome Dinner

on the Occasion of the Bilateral Meeting Between

the National Bank of Cambodia and the Banco Central De Timor-Leste

Phnom Penh, 21 July 2024



- **His Excellency Helder Lopez, Governor of the Banco Central De Timor-Leste,**
- **Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,**

Good evening!

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to you, Governor, and your delegation from the Banco Central De Timor-Leste to Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia, where we are honored to host this evening's dinner. Whilst I understand that your journey here may have been tiring, I hope it was a pleasant one.

Before starting our meal, I would like to take this opportunity to offer a glimpse into the essence of our city. Phnom Penh, which translates to 'Grandma Penh's Hill' in English, holds a rich historical significance as a former Khmer capital in the 15th century and has continued to serve as the nation's capital since the French protectorate period in the 19th century. Nowadays, it has grown to become the nation's primary city, thriving as an economic, industrial, and cultural centre, home to over two million inhabitants. Geographically, the city is situated at the confluence of three rivers, the Mekong, Tonle Sap and Bassac, forming the iconic 'four arms' shape in front of the Royal Palace. A fun fact about our river system is that during the wet season, the Mekong river swells so much that the course of the Tonle Sap river would reverse and flow back upstream into the great Tonle Sap Lake. This is of course in contrast to the proverb that says "a river never flows backwards".

I hope that you will have the chance to explore Phnom Penh, learn more about the history of Cambodia, as well as discover our rich culture and traditions. Most importantly, may your visit be full of warm and extraordinary memories for you to carry home.

Tonight, as a small introduction, we would like to share a bit of our culture through the grace of our traditional dances and melodies of our songs. I hope you will enjoy the dinner and entertainment that awaits you this evening.

With that, may I offer a toast, first to the success of our meeting tomorrow, and second to extend my wishes for your continued good health and prosperity.

Cheers!