



THE MALAYSIAN JUDICIARY

PRESS STATEMENT

COURTESY VISIT BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF MALAYSIA AND DELEGATION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF CAMBODIA AND THE ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION (ALA) CAMBODIA NATIONAL COMMITTEE

24 – 26 April 2025

The Right Honourable Tun Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat, as the President of ALA, led a delegation on a courtesy visit to His Excellency Chiv Keng, President of the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the ALA Cambodia National Committee. Held in Phnom Penh from 24 to 25 April 2025, this marks the first official visit by the Malaysian Judiciary to the Kingdom of Cambodia and signifies ALA's enduring commitment to fostering judicial cooperation, promoting legal understanding, and deepening institutional ties among ASEAN Member States. Continuing the tradition of ALA Presidents engaging with their counterparts across the region, this visit also reaffirmed ALA's leadership in promoting regional collaboration.

The meeting commenced with a courtesy call to the Chair of ALA Cambodia and President of the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia (BAKC), Atty. Saing Vannak, who warmly welcomed the President of ALA and the ALA Malaysia delegation. Key members of ALA Cambodia were present, including Atty. Kim Socheat (Secretary-General of BAKC), Atty. Dany Channraksmeychhoukroth (Secretary-General of

ALA Cambodia), Atty. Iv Poly, Atty. En Sopheap, Atty. Srun Thirith, and Atty. Ke Chhardaphas.

The ALA Cambodia Chair expressed appreciation for the visit and reflected on Cambodia's active involvement in previous ALA initiatives, including hosting the 42nd Governing Council Meeting (GCM) in 2021. ALA Cambodia reaffirmed its support for the *Standing Committee on Women in Law (SCWL)*, an initiative proposed by The Right Honourable Tun Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat, President of ALA, to promote inclusive and gender-responsive dialogue within the legal community. Additionally, ALA Cambodia reaffirmed its support for the ALA Lecture Series, another initiative proposed by the President of ALA aimed at advancing the organisation's broader objectives.

The President of ALA expressed gratitude to ALA Cambodia for its continued commitment to the regional legal community and acknowledged its support for the SCWL and the ALA Lecture Series. She expressed confidence in ALA Cambodia's contributions, particularly in advancing gender equality within the legal profession, and welcomed their participation in the inaugural ALA Lecture Series, tentatively scheduled for August 2025.

The delegation also discussed about the upcoming ALA GCM 2025 that would be held in Singapore and the hosting challenges faced by member jurisdictions. ALA Cambodia expressed its strong support for the GCM and indicated its willingness to consider hosting a future meeting, potentially in 2027. ALA Cambodia also pledged its support for the proposal by the President of ALA for the establishment of the Standing Committee on Equitable Access to Justice and Legal Pro Bono Services legal aid.

The courtesy visit concluded with mutual reaffirmation of ALA's mission to strengthen the rule of law and access to justice across the region. Both delegations recorded their appreciation for the spirit of collaboration and looked forward to sustained and fruitful engagement.

In the afternoon, President of the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Chiv Keng, warmly welcomed the Malaysian delegation and expressed appreciation for their presence. He was joined by several senior members of the Cambodian Judiciary, including Deputy President Ottara You, Deputy President Seng Neang, Deputy President Chaing Sinath, Justice Synn Sovannrath, Secretary General of Administration Mao Thyda and Ms. Tor Moly.

During the meeting, both Chief Justices exchanged insights on the structure, jurisdiction, and challenges of their respective judicial systems. Special emphasis was placed on the need for judicial transparency, safeguarding national security and upholding public trust in the courts.

A key focus of the discussion was on judicial digitalisation. The Cambodian Judiciary expressed a keen interest in sending judges and technical personnel to Malaysia to gain insights from the Malaysian Judiciary's digital transformation initiatives. The Chief Justice of Malaysia welcomed this initiative and proposed to facilitate the visit through the Office of the Chief Registrar of the Federal Court.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of commitments by both judiciaries to strengthen bilateral judicial cooperation, enhance capacity building, and facilitate the exchange of best practices.

Thank you.

**Office of the Chief Registrar
Federal Court of Malaysia
Palace of Justice
Putrajaya**

Date: 26 April 2025