

Ambassador's Speech
Mine-Free Declaration of Trapeang Rung Commune, Koh Kong
Province
02 April 2026

Namaskar! Chum reap sur, Good morning,

H.E. Dr. Ly Thuch, Senior Minister and First Vice-President of CMAA

H.E. Mr Lao Bunkheng, Deputy Governor of Koh Kong province

H.E. Major General Sem Ratana, Acting Director General, NPMEC

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here once again in Koh Kong Province. Today, we gather to declare Trapeang Rung Commune as mine-free—an important achievement and a meaningful step forward in Cambodia's humanitarian mine action efforts.

As many of you may recall, during the visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India to Cambodia in 2022, India announced grant assistance for mine clearance in three districts—Botum Sakor, Srae Ambel, and Thma Bang—as well as Trapeang Rung Commune. I am pleased that following the successful declaration of Botum Sakor and Srae Ambel as mine-free, we are here today to declare Trapeang Rung Commune as mine free, building strong momentum in our shared efforts and bringing us closer to the goal of declaring Thma Bang mine-free as well.

In the field of mine clearance, we have also completed two Quick Impact Projects in Koh Kong Province, helping make several villages mine-free.

In addition, another Quick Impact Project is currently underway for landmine clearance in Prey Andoung Village in Pursat Province.

Beyond mine action, our collaboration has expanded into other areas of development in close cooperation with the Koh Kong Provincial Administration. Last year, we inaugurated the Pre- and Post-Partum Maternity Care Centre at Koh Sdach Communal Hospital under the Quick Impact Project, which is already contributing to improved maternal and child healthcare in the province. Building on this partnership, we are now working together on another Quick Impact Project—the construction of a kindergarten at Peam Kay Primary School in Phnhi Meas Commune.

Landmine clearance is not only about removing hidden dangers—it is about restoring hope, enabling safe livelihoods, and unlocking the full potential of communities. The declaration of Trapeang Rung as mine-free will bring lasting benefits by making land safer for agriculture, infrastructure, and daily life.

India remains firmly committed to supporting Cambodia in its mine action efforts. Our cooperation—spanning demining support, training, victim assistance, and capacity-building—continues to grow stronger.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to CMAA, NPMEC, Koh Kong Provincial Administration and all those who have contributed to this achievement. We stand with Cambodia as it moves steadily toward the goal of becoming mine-free.

Thank you.

Orkun Chraen.