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May 10, 2015 21:37 UTC

As It Is

# Cambodia Supports China's Position on South China Sea

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Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015. Hun Sen has publicly endorsed China's position on disputes in the South China Sea. (AP Photo/Heng Sinith)

03/27/2015

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Cambodia Supports China's Position on South China Sea

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Cambodian prime minister Hun Sen has publicly **endorsed** China's position on territorial disputes in the South China Sea. Chinese officials say the disputes cannot be solved through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN.

Prime Minister Hun Sen said Wednesday that the issue should be solved by the countries directly affected by the disputes.

"Ultimately, it is not an issue for ASEAN as a whole. It is a bilateral issue between the concerned countries, which need to talk between themselves," he said.

Chinese officials said China will only negotiate territorial disputes in **one-on-one** negotiations. The country refuses to work **multilaterally** to deal with the issues.

The Philippines and Vietnam both want a more regional and multi-lateral way to deal with the problem.

This is the first time Cambodia's leader has openly stated his position on the South China Sea issue. Cambodia has faced criticism for its handling of the

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claims do not honor the U.N. Law of the Sea treaty. Also, a teenage suicide bomber kills at least one person in an attack in Kabul, Afghanistan. And, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announces the nominees for Golden Globe awards.

matter during a meeting of the ASEAN countries in 2012. Hun Sen said Cambodia should not be the only country criticized for continued problems in the area.

"After Cambodia, Brunei also could not find a solution; Myanmar failed as well. Now I am waiting to see if Malaysia will be able to solve the problem," said Hun Sen.

The regional leaders failed to issue a joint declaration during the 2012 ASEAN meeting. Critics said no agreement was reached because Cambodia protected China's position on the South China Sea issue.

The ASEAN countries include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. In addition to Vietnam and the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei also have territorial disputes with China.

I'm Jonathan Evans.

*Kong Sothamarith reported this story from Phnom Penh. Jonathan Evans adapted it for Learning English. Mario Ritter edited it.*

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## Words in This Story

**endorse** – *v.* to publicly or officially say that you support or approve of (someone or something)

**one-on-one** – *adj.* involving two individuals, groups or countries

**multilateral** – *adj.* involving more than two groups or countries

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## Comments

by: **Anh** from: **VietNam**

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03/30/2015 4:10 PM

I do not like this new. How we-vietnam can solve this conflict about coastal boundaries alone? China with their predominant and domineering power are more and more unreasonable to Vietnam Life. We have enough war to suffer and struggle. I do not know why Cambodia do not want to help us? Why we help them from discrimination of Red Khmer. Yes, of course, it is a personal problem from a one side, we all know that we do not possess the power of the most flourish economy and strongest troops and military, so we just base on and cling to the peaceful foundation of equality and endorsement from supporting of other company. Now, one is gone. how soar it is .

by: **Cherry** from: **Philippines**

[Report](#)

03/30/2015 2:57 PM

Okay!!! China is a very powerful dragon economy in the world. Philippines is no match against this nation. South China sea is really a part of our territory in terms of geography and history. Now we are about to lose this territory because China is the most powerful nation. US and UK are no match against China and They need China very much. It is our fault, we Filipinos did not work and strive hard to become a giant economy. We fight one another and we are very selfish. It is our punishment. If all Filipinos will work hard I mean very hard we can be like a robot country that will defeat China. But it is impossible, we Filipinos are jerks and selfish, that's why China take this opportunity to take what ours.

by: **Nos** from: **Phnom Penh**[Report](#)

03/30/2015 2:17 PM

The Cambodian government chose China money in preference to ASEAN's. It seems that this position do not have an insignificant effect, but the government need to appeal something advantages to ASEAN countries, too. Because I think almost Asian countries is more or less caring for both, China and neighboring counties coinstantaneously.

by: **Donizetti Alves** from: **São Paulo - Brasil**[Report](#)

03/28/2015 5:39 PM

The region Asia / Pacific is likely to dominate the production of manufactured goods and the consumer market in the coming decades. Having said this will be something impescindível create a strong organization as the Americas and Europe to cooperate in the interests of these countries and with avoiding conflicts between them.

by: **Carlos** from: **Spain**[Report](#)

03/28/2015 3:49 PM

In my opinion, South China sea is a rich area in gas, oil, and fishing resources. Therefore it's increasingly a breeding ground for disputes. It involves multilateral countries and first of all is preferebly needed to focus one-on-one in order to find a fair solution.

by: **Sam Hill**[Report](#)

03/28/2015 12:15 PM

It is a regional dispute, let them solve it one-on-one or multilaterally , important thing no war there .

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