



The Royal Embassy of Cambodia
to United States of America

ព្រឹត្តិប័ត្រព័ត៌មាន

WEEKLY INFORMATION BULLETIN

NEWS IN CAMBODIA

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CAMBODIAN PREMIER RECEIVES U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE



Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen held a talk here yesterday with U.S. Secretary of State H.E. Mrs. Hillary Clinton at the Peace Palace.

During the talk, Mrs. Hillary Clinton expressed her appreciation to the Cambodia-U.S.' relations and cooperation and her will to boost more bilateral cooperation, H.E. Ieng Sophalet, Assistant to the Cambodian premier told reporters after the talk.

Ms. Hillary Clinton also stressed on the U.S.' initiatives to further deepen

the U.S.-ASEAN and U.S-Cambodia relations on disaster management, economy, trade, investment and education, especially the English language training, the assistant said.

On the issue of the South China Sea, Mrs. Hillary Clinton said the U.S. hoped that ASEAN would create effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, he said.

U.S. Secretary Clinton also thanked Cambodia for its support to the U.S.’ initiative for the development of the Lower Mekong Region and also informed Samdech Techo Hun Sen that on Friday she will announce the US\$50 million development assistance for the region.

In addition, Mrs. Hillary Clinton also highlighted the security cooperation between the U.S. and Cambodia, saying that the U.S. is willing to expand the security cooperation with Cambodia. She also welcomed the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone initiative.

She further said she brought along a large U.S. businessmen delegation with her and there will be a U.S. business forum on July 13 in the Cambodian province of Siem Reap. She also affirmed that the U.S. will continue to support the Khmer Rouge Tribunal.

For his part, Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed profound thanks to the U.S for its support to Cambodia, especially during the devastating floods in 2011. He highly valued the U.S.’ Lower Mekong Initiative, stressing that it is a just initiative, which will not only help preventing the region from flooding, but also contribute to the ASEAN integration, the ASEAN’s main aim towards the ASEAN Community Building in 2015, according to the premier’s assistant.

Related to the South China Sea issue, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said there is no other better way besides the implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), he said.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed his delight and warm welcome to the U.S. businessmen delegation to Cambodia, and thanked the U.S. side for its continued support to the Khmer Rouge Tribunal.

The Cambodian prime minister shared the same idea with H.E. Mrs. Hillary Clinton over the ASEAN connectivity, in particular in both soft and hard infrastructure, saying that if it fails, the ASEAN will not be integrated.

As scheduled, during her stay in Cambodia from July 11-14, H.E. Mrs. Hillary Clinton attended the ASEAN-U.S. Ministerial Meeting on Wednesday, and will join the 19th ASEAN Regional Forum due to be held today in Phnom Penh. On Friday, she will attend and feature the keynote remarks on the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy Dialogue for the Lower.

CAMBODIA TO ATTRACT 7 MILLION FOREIGN VISITORS BY 2020



Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen has underlined the country’s tourism development and promotion goals.

“Tourism is Cambodia’s green gold,” said the Cambodian premier at the recapitulative meeting of the Ministry of Tourism held here yesterday at Chaktomuk Conference Hall.

On the occasion, Samdech Techo Hun Sen gave key recommendations to the Ministry of Tourism and other relevant institutions in order to ensure Cambodia’s sustainable tourism development including strengthening the quality of tourism products and services, creating new tourism products, organizing tourism events, strengthening human resource, attracting more direct flights from ASEAN, ASEAN+3, Europe, etc.

According to the Ministry of Tourism, in the first five months of this year, Cambodia received around 1.5 million foreign tourists, up 25 percent if compared to the same period of last year.

In 2012, some 3.3 million international visitors are expected to visit Cambodia, and this figure will reach 3,8 million in 2013, and 4.5 million in 2015. By 2020, it is estimated that the country would attract 7 million foreign tourists, generating US\$5billion revenue and creating some 800,000 jobs.

CAMBODIA SENDS LETTER TO ICJ OVER THAILAND'S RECENT UNCONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES



Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Hor Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has sent a letter to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding Cambodia's protest against Thailand's activities in the area included in the Provisional Demilitarized Zone (PDZ), which violated the Order of the International Court of Justice of July 18, 2011.

Cambodia requested the Thai side to put an end to such activities, which could create tensions in the PDZ and to respect the ICJ Order of July 18, 2011, said H.E. Hor Namhong in his letter dated July 4 to Mr. Philippe Couvreur, Registrar of the ICJ based in The Hague, Netherlands.

The Cambodian foreign minister also asked Mr. Philippe Couvreur to bring this information to the highest knowledge of judges, members of the ICJ.

On the same day, the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation sent a note to the Royal Thai Embassy in Phnom Penh to protest

against the activities of Thai Black Uniform soldiers such as placing of barbwire in the area included in the PDZ in late June 2012, which are contrary to the ICJ's Order of July 18, 2011.

CAMBODIA TO WITHDRAW SOME 480 MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM THE PDZ

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Hor Namhong this morning said Cambodia will withdraw some 480 military personnel from the Provisional Demilitarized Zone (PDZ) near the 11th century Khmer sacred Preah Vihear Temple.

"The withdrawal is a sign showing Cambodia's strong will to implement the International Court of Justice (ICJ)'s order of last year," he said.

Cambodia can withdraw all military personnel from the PDZ in 24 hours, but it depends on other side, he said.

On July 18, 2011, the ICJ ordered Cambodia and Thailand to immediately withdraw their arms personnel from 17 kilometers on the disputed border area near Preah Vihear Temple.

The dispute over Preah Vihear flared up in July 2008 after the UNESCO's World Heritage Committee approved Cambodia's request to list the temple as a World Heritage Site on July 7, 2008.

This dispute had led to deadly gun exchanges until Pheu Thai Party, led by Prime Minister Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra, won a landslide victory in July last year.

U.S. CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT IN CAMBODIA



UN APOLOGIZES OVER CAMBODIA'S FLAG DISPLAYED UPSIDE DOWN AT THE UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK



The Protocol and Liaison Service of the United Nations (UN) has apologized to Cambodia over its flag being displayed incorrectly on its flagstaff at the UN headquarters in New York.

“The UN expressed its apologies in writing to Cambodia and pledged ensure that such an incident will not be repeated in the future,” said a press release of the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the UN dated July 9.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia sent a note to the UN Office of the Chief of Protocol and Liaison Service after detecting on the morning of July 3, 2012 that the Flag of the Kingdom of Cambodia was flying upside down at the UN headquarters.

Two days later, the Protocol and Liaison Service of the United Nations responded and reiterated its apologies to the Permanent Mission and informed the Mission that UN will work to ensure that such an incident will not be repeated in the future.

The U.S. has strongly committed to support the development in Cambodia, U.S Secretary of State H.E. Mrs. Hillary Clinton said at a press conference yesterday evening at the Peace Palace after the 19th ASEAN Regional Forum.

“We will continue to do everything we can to help the Cambodian people realize their own future,” she said.

According to U.S. Secretary Clinton, the U.S.’ assistance to Cambodia was more than double in the last decade, it was more than US\$75 million for Cambodia.

The U.S.’ assistance to Cambodia has mainly focused on the health sector, especially on HIV/AIDS, maternal and child health care, and people’s living standard improvement, she said.

“We want more people, especially women and children to be healthy, and have a better life,” she said.

Related to Cambodia’s debt to the U.S., H.E. Mrs. Hillary Clinton said the U.S. will work with the Royal Government of Cambodia to settle the long standing issue.

During her stay in Cambodia from July 11-14, H.E. Mrs. Hillary Clinton has attended the ASEAN-U.S. Ministerial Meeting, the East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, the 19th ASEAN Regional Forum, and paid courtesy call on to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Today, she is scheduled to travel to Siem Reap where she will deliver the keynote remarks on the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy Dialogue for the Lower Mekong Initiative.



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POLITICS

CAMBODIA, INDONESIA SEEK FOR ASEAN'S UNITY ON SOUTH CHINA SEA ISSUE



Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Hor Namhong and his visiting Indonesian counterpart Dr. R. M. Marty M. Natalegawa this morning agreed to seek for the ASEAN's unity on the South China Sea issue.

"We agreed on some points of principle related to the South China Sea issue and I will ask the approval from the other ASEAN foreign ministers," H.E. Hor Namhong said at a joint press conference after the bilateral meeting with Dr. R. M. Marty M. Natalegawa.

“Hopefully tomorrow morning we will get the positive reply,” he said.

H.E. Hor Namhong also promised to meet the journalist’s tomorrow afternoon if his ASEAN’s counterparts agreed on the points of principle.

For his part, Dr. R. M. Marty M. Natalegawa underlined Indonesia’s efforts for the ASEAN’s unity on the South China Sea issue.

The South China Sea issue is a hot topic in the 45th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Phnom Penh last week. Among the ten ASEAN members, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia have partially claimed the sovereignty of the oil and gas-rich South China Sea.

STATEMENT OF ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS ON ASEAN’S SIX-POINT PRINCIPLES ON THE SOUTH CHINA SEA



ASEAN: One Community, One Destiny.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers have issued a statement on ASEAN’s Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea as follows:

“ASEAN Foreign Ministers reiterate and reaffirm the commitment of ASEAN Member States to:

1. The full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (2002);
2. The Guidelines for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (2011);
3. The early conclusion of a Regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea;
4. The full respect of the universally recognized principles of International Law, including the 1982

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

5. The continued exercise of self-restraint and non-use of force by all parties; and

6. The peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with universally recognized principles of International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers resolve to intensify ASEAN consultations in the advancement of the above principles, consistent with the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (1976) and the ASEAN Charter (2008) “

CAMBODIAN RED CROSS(CRC) DONATES US\$1 MILLION TO KANTHA BOPHA HOSPITAL



The Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) has donated US\$1 million to Kantha Bopha Children’s Hospital to help fight against the newly diagnosed Enterovirus 71 (EV-71).

The hand-over ceremony was held here on July 16 under the presidency of CRC President Lok Chumteav Bun Rany Hun Sen, Cambodian Health Minister H.E. Mam Bun Heng, and Kantha Bopha Foundation President Dr. Beat Richner.

The donation was made not only for treatment of the children who suffered from dengue fever, EV-71, and other children’s diseases, but also to improve the children’s welfare as well.

According to a joint statement from Cambodia’s Health Ministry and the World Health Organization

(WHO) issued on July 12, the EV-71, which causes hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD), has killed at least 54 Cambodian children since April this year.

CAMBODIA'S STEP-ONE TROOP REDEPLOYMENT FROM PDZ



Cambodia this morning redeployed 485 troops of the Intervention Division No. 3 and the Intervention Brigade No. 7 out of the Provisional Demilitarized Zone (PDZ) in compliance with the Order of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of July 18, 2011.

The redeployment ceremony was held at Peace Command Headquarter 5 Makara in conjunction with the 4th Anniversary of the Inscription of Preah Vihear Temple as a World Heritage (2008-2012), under the presidency of Gen. Tea Banh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense.

This is the first time that both Cambodia and Thailand decided to redeploy their troops in order to enable the Joint Border Committee to begin its work, H.E. Tea Banh said.

H.E. Neang Phat, Secretary of State for National Defense said the priority areas for Step One of Troop Redeployment in the vicinity of Preah Vihear Temple of the PDZ are the Dragon Stair Market, North Ancient Stair, East Ancient Stair, and Keo Sikha Kiri Svarak pagoda.

Some 255 National Police personnel and 100 Conservation Rangers from National Authority of Preah Vihear will take over the responsibility to maintaining order in the four above-mentioned prioritized areas in the PDZ, which are also part of the World Heritage Zone of the Preah Vihear Temple, according to a press release from the Cambodian

Working Group for Ceasefire Coordination Secretariat issued this morning.

The redeployment was made after a bilateral talk between Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and his Thai counterpart H.E. Mrs. Yingluck Shinawatra, in Siem Reap province last Friday.

The redeployment ceremony was attended by members of Royal Government of Cambodia, members of National Assembly and Senate, military attachés of 11 Friends countries in Phnom Penh, national and international guests.

The ceremony also marks the celebration of Cambodia's Chairmanship of the 37th Session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) in 2013 in compliance with the unanimous decision of the 36th Session of the WHC on July 4, 2012 in Saint Petersburg, the Russian Federation, said the press release.

