



The Royal Embassy of Cambodia
to United States of America

ព្រឹត្តិប័ត្រព័ត៌មាន

WEEKLY INFORMATION BULLETIN

News in Cambodia

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Cambodian Peacekeeping Forces To Depart for Mali

Some 30 Cambodian peacekeeping forces will be dispatched to Mali as an advance team at the end of the first week of February.

The information was made known here on Feb. 6 by Director-General of the National Center for Peacekeeping Forces, Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance (NPMEC) Gen. Sem Sovanny in a pre-departure meeting chaired by H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Chairman of National Coordination Committee for Sending Troops to UN Peacekeeping Operations.

This 30-member advance team will leave the country on Feb. 9 and their tasks are to prepare for the next Cambodian team of about 309 forces, said H.E. Sem Sovanny.

Since 2006, Cambodia has sent over 1,600 troops to take part in the UN peacekeeping missions in Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, Central Africa and Lebanon.

Cambodian Premier Pays Courtesy Calls on Lao Leaders

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, paid yesterday in Vientiane, Laos, separate courtesy calls on H.E. Choummaly Sayasone, President of Laos, and H.E. Ms. Pany Yathortou, President of the National Assembly of Laos.

According to the National Television of Cambodia (TVK), the two Lao leaders valued Samdech Techo Hun Sen's visit in Laos, stressing that it will further deepen the bilateral ties and cooperation between both neighboring countries.

They also congratulated the Cambodian People's Party on its victory at the national election last July and

Samdech Techo Hun Sen on his reappointment as Prime Minister of Cambodia for another five-year term.

In addition, they lauded the rapid development in Cambodia and expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful cooperation between the two nations.

For his part, Samdech Techo Hun Sen briefed the Lao leaders of seven documents signed during this visit. He suggested the Lao side to promote the land and air connectivity between Cambodia and Laos so as to boost the bilateral trade and tourism.

On the same day, Samdech Techo Hun Sen also met with 57 Cambodian students who are pursuing their graduate studies in Laos in different majors including literature, economy and trade, civil engineering, IT, rural economy and so on.

The Cambodian premier arrived in Vientiane yesterday morning for a two-day official visit. After his arrival, he held a bilateral talk with his Lao counterpart H.E. Thongsing Thammavong, and after that both premiers presided over the signing ceremony of seven cooperation documents related to the fields of diplomacy, education, health, culture, security, etc.

Cambodia and Laos established their diplomatic ties on June 15, 1956.

Cambodia, USAID Sign an Amendment to a Grant Agreement on Health

Cambodia and USAID signed here yesterday the Amendment No. 13 to the Strategic Objective Grant Agreement between Cambodia and the United States of America for Improved Health Services in HIV/AIDS, Infectious Diseases as well as in Maternal, Child and Reproductive Health up to the amount of US\$27,458,985.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA-IC)'s press release, the document was inked by H.E. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of MFA-IC, and Ms. Rebecca Black, Mission Director of USAID to Cambodia.

U.S. Embassy's Small Grants Program 2014 Calls for Proposals

The U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh announced a call for proposals for its 2014 Small Grants Program, according to its press release issued yesterday.

The program will provide up to US\$20,000 to non-governmental, not-for-profit organizations based in Cambodia for projects that promote the themes of multilateral engagement; human rights, democracy, good governance, rule of law; engagement with the United States through culture or sports; and expanding economic opportunity.

The submission deadline is Mar. 15, 2014, said the press release, adding that the U.S. Embassy will notify organizations in July or August of successful proposals.

U.S. Appreciates the RGC's Restraint during Opposition-led Mass Demonstrations

The United States of America has appreciated the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) for having exercised utmost restraint during the recent mass protests led by the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP). The remarks were made by visiting H.E. Scot Marciel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary to the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, during a meeting here this morning with Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Hor Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, H.E. Koy Kuong, Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, told reporters after the meeting.

Meanwhile, H.E. Scot Marciel underlined that the U.S. criticized any protest which caused violence, and urged both sides to resume their negotiations to resolve their dispute peacefully, as well as supported the Cambodians to solve their problem by themselves, added the spokesperson.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry To Visit Cambodia

U.S. Secretary of State H.E. John Kerry will visit Cambodia and other Lower Mekong countries, including Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam this year, said

Spokesperson for Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Koy Kuong.

Briefing to reporters upon the meeting here this morning between H.E. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and visiting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary to the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs H.E. Scot Marciel, H.E. Koy Kuong said this visit is part of the cooperation between the U.S. and the lower Mekong countries where the US. has paid attention on six pillars including health, education, safety of energy, environment and water, regional connectivity, and food and agriculture.

H.E. Scot Marciel affirmed the U.S.' intention to strengthen cooperation with the Southeast Asian countries, said the spokesperson, adding that both H.E. Hor Namhong and H.E. Scot Marciel also exchanged views on regional cooperation as well as regional issues, including the South China Sea, and East China Sea issues.

In reply, H.E. Hor Namhong confirmed that Japan, the Republic of Korea and China are Cambodia's close friends as well as ASEAN's strategic partners, therefore Cambodia always urges all sides to settle the issues peacefully and to respect the international law.

IMF: Cambodia's GDP Growth To Reach 7.2% This Year

The Cambodia's GDP growth this year will be more positive than the previous year, according to a report released after the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded the 2013 Article IV Consultation with Cambodia.

The Cambodia's GDP growth in 2014 was projected at 7.2 percent, up from 7 percent last year, it pointed out.

Economic activity remains strong driven by robust exports, tourism, and construction despite recent floods and some slowdown during the election, therefore the growth is projected to pick up to 7.2 percent this year, it underlined.

Last year's inflation rate at 4.1 percent would go down to 3 percent this year; while the export would increase from US\$6.7 billion to some US\$8 billion, and the import would rise from US\$9.7 billion to US\$11.13 billion.



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U.S. Embassy To Host U.S.-Cambodia Education Fair 2014

U.S. Embassy will host the U.S.-Cambodia Education Fair 2014 tomorrow afternoon at the Grand Ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel in Phnom Penh with an aim to enhance the quality of education and expand educational and career opportunities for Cambodians, according to the embassy’s press release.

It is the largest ever event directly promoting U.S. higher education opportunities to Cambodian students, it underlined.

More than 30 representatives from U.S. colleges and universities will be available to speak with Cambodian students about degree programs, admission requirements, and scholarship opportunities in the United States, said the press release, adding that other exhibitors at the fair will provide information about transfer programs, student loans, student visas, U.S. government exchange programs, and Education USA advising.

All Cambodian high school and university students with an interest in university study in the United States are welcome to attend. Parents of students are also welcome and encouraged to participate.

CPP Welcomes Opposition Party’s Statement on Election Reform

The ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) issued this afternoon a statement, welcoming the main opposition Cambodia National Rescues Party (CNRP)’s statement released yesterday over the establishment of a government’s commission to conduct studies and researches on election reform.

“CPP welcomes and requests CNRP to appoint its representatives to negotiate with the CPP’s representatives to prepare a mechanism for the reform of future elections in the spirit of the CPP-CNRP summit on Sept. 16, 2013,” said the statement.

Election reform is a process that has been implemented continuously and it is a complex and time-consuming reform, which could not be postponed anymore, it said.

In the past [CPP-CNRP] talks, CNRP has successively changed the topics and conditions of their demands, that is why the discussion on election reform process has been delayed until now, it added.

The establishment of the government’s commission issued from CPP to carry out studies and researches on different choices in the election reform process reflects its true will in continuing this significant reform process, underlined the statement.

Vietnamese DPM Pays a Courtesy Call on Cambodian PM





Visiting H.E. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (L), pays a courtesy call on Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh this afternoon.

The 13th Meeting of the Cambodia-Viet Nam Joint Commission



Cambodia’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Hor Namhong (R) and his Vietnamese counterpart H.E. Pham Binh Minh, hold in Phnom Penh this morning the 13th Meeting of the Cambodia-Viet Nam Joint Commission for Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

ADB To Grant US\$773 Million to Cambodia for 2014-2016

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is planning to provide US\$773 million to Cambodia for 2014-2016, of which some US\$573 million are concession loan from ADB and US\$200 million are co-financing from different development partners through ADB.

The plan was made known here last Friday during a meeting between Cambodian Minister of Economy and Finance H.E. Aun Porn Moniroth and visiting Mr. James Nugent, Director General of ADB’s Southeast Asia Department.

Besides, ADB is also planning to grant some US\$22.3 million to Cambodia as technical financing cooperation.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on partnership strategy to support the implementation of the Rectangular Strategy (phase III) and the National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018 of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

The Cambodian minister highly valued the ADB for its support and cooperation with Cambodia in all sectors including the implementation of Cambodia’s railway restoration project.

He also expressed profound thanks to ADB for having played key roles in developing Cambodia’s economy and for having been a good and equal development partner of Cambodia.