

The Royal Embassy of Cambodia
to United States of America & Mexico

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INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Inaugurates New Passenger Terminal of Phnom Penh Airport

Phnom Penh, March 16, 2016 – Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen inaugurated the new passenger terminal of Phnom Penh International Airport.



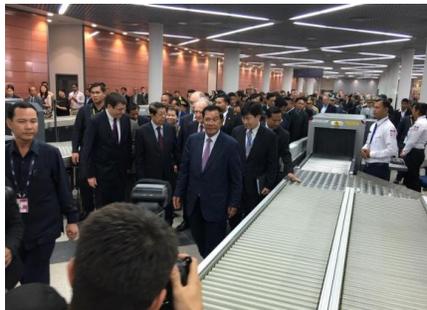
Outside of the new passenger terminal at Phnom Penh International Airport

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed his appreciation to this new achievement, stressing that it will further boost the airport’s capacity to welcome 5 million passengers a year and to respond to the increase in foreign arrivals in 5 to 8 years.

Last year, the number of foreign visitors to Cambodia reached some 4.7 million thanks to full

peace under the Win Win policy, underlined the Cambodian premier.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also highly valued the progress of Phnom Penh International Airport which started from zero due to civil war, but now can welcome big aircrafts, including the U.S. President’s Air Force One.



PM Hun Sen tours the new passenger terminal

In February this year, Cambodia Airports handled close to 685,000 passengers and almost 14,000 flights movements, an increase of 7.1 percent and 12.5 percent respectively compared to last year. Phnom Penh International Airport received more than 288,000 passengers, an increase of 15.2 percent. Cargo tonnage in Phnom Penh Cargo Terminal grew by 14.1 percent.

Sandstone Sculpture Returns to Cambodia

Phnom Penh, March 29, 2016 – A 10th century Khmer sandstone sculpture was returned to Cambodia by the Denver Art Museum (DAM) in a ceremony held here yesterday at the Office of the Council of Ministers (OCM).



Apsara’s dance to bless the statue

According to the OCM’s press release, the piece, Torso of Rama, had been in the museum’s collection for nearly 30 years. During the course of research into works in the Museum’s collection and following conversations with colleagues in Cambodia, the DAM became aware of new facts related to the piece about its provenance that were not available to the museum when the object was acquired in 1986.

The Torso of Rama is a monumental sandstone sculpture of Rama with a quiver behind his right shoulder. The piece dates to the early 10th century, and stands 62 inches high and is missing its head, arms and feet. The Torso of Rama was acquired by the Denver Art Museum in 1986 from the Doris Weiner Gallery in New York, NY. The Torso of Rama sculpture was on display in the Asian Art gallery at the museum.

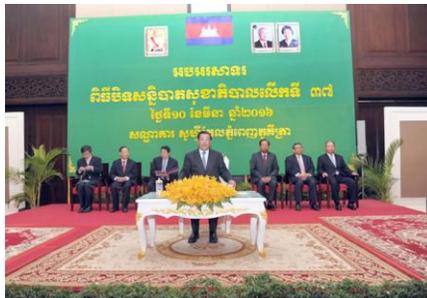
Addressing to the event, H.E. Yim Nolson, Vice Chairman of Economic, Social and Cultural Council, Representative of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of OCM, expressed the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC)'s gratitude to DAM for its good cooperation in returning the Torso of Rama to Cambodia, stressing that it will reunite with other statues once located in Prasat Chen of the Koh Ker archaeological site. The return clearly reflects the RGC's successful efforts in protecting national heritage, he underlined.

Between 1996 and 2014, Cambodia has received some 350 returned artifacts from the U.S., France, Thailand, Australia, Switzerland, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Japan, UK, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Canada and Taiwan.

Graduate Medical Specialist Will Become Civil Servants Automatically

Phnom Penh, March 10, 2016 –

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has asked the Ministries of Health and Civil Service to include all graduate medical specialists as civil servants automatically in order to fill up the lack of medical specialists at the state-run hospitals across the country.



PM Hun Sen at the closing ceremony of the annual meeting at Ministry of Health

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the annual meeting of the Ministry of Health this morning, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said a medical specialist is at least 35 years old when they finished their studies while the requirement age to be a civil servant is not more than 30 years old, that's why medical specialists could not work at state-run hospitals.

For the medical specialists who are currently working for any hospital, he added, the Ministry of Health should promote them to a political post when they are retired so that they can continue to contribute to the development of the health sector.

In addition, the Cambodian premier appealed once again to the Ministry of Health, medical doctors and health practitioners to further pay attention to the code of medical ethics and their behavior so that the country's

health service becomes a reliable and effective public service.

USAID Launches New Effort to Protect LGBTI Rights in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, March 23, 2016 – The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) launched here today a new project to protect and advance lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) rights in Cambodia, according to a press release from the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh AKP received this afternoon.

“We are the Same” – awarded to Media for Education and Development in Action (Media One) – will support a variety of advocacy and awareness raising activities to strengthen LGBTI rights in Cambodia. The project underlines the U.S. government's commitment to LGBTI rights as key components for supporting human rights both in Cambodia and worldwide.

“I am very proud that the U.S. government is supporting efforts to protect the rights of the LGBTI communities at home and abroad,” said U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Ms. Julie Chung.

“Projects such as ‘We are the Same’ reflect our commitment to eliminating barriers to equality, and fighting discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity,” she added.

Because of stigma and fear, almost one third of LGBTI Cambodians have never come

out and more than one-fifth wish they were straight, according to survey results released in December 2015 by the Rainbow Community Kampuchea.

The two-year “We are the same” project will improve LGBTI individuals’ and groups’ access to information and communication resources. It will also support the LGBTI community through social media and a mobile service directory platform.

Cambodian PM Sends Condolence Message to Belgian Counterpart



Phnom Penh, March 25, 2016 – Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has expressed his deepest condolences over the recent terrorist blasts in Belgium.

“I am deeply shocked by the recent terrorist blasts, which hit Zaventem Airport and Maelbeek metro station in Belgium on Mar. 22, 2016. I strongly denounced this barbaric act of terror and violence, which claimed the life of more than 30 and seriously injured many others,” said on Mar. 23 Samdech Techo Hun Sen in his condolence message

to his Belgian counterpart H.E. Charles Michel.

“On this very sad moment, on behalf of the Royal Government and People of Cambodia, I would like to convey, through Your Excellency, to the bereaved families and the Government of Belgium our deepest sympathy and profound condolences for the loss of innocent lives in the inhumane attacks,” added the Cambodian premier.

Some US\$96 Million Collected as Tax Income in February
AKP Phnom Penh, March 14, 2016 –

In February 2016, Cambodia collected over 383.7 billion Riel (approximately US\$96 million) as tax income, said H.E. Kong Vibol, General Director of the General Department of Taxation (GDT) of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, at a monthly meeting held in Siem Reap province last Friday.

During the first two months of this year, he added, the total tax income reached nearly 850 billion Riel (about US\$212 million), representing 14.9 percent of the target set in the national budget law for 2016.

On the occasion, H.E. Kong Vibol highly appreciated the tax officials at all levels for their efforts in collecting tax and advised them to do their best in providing better and effective services for people.

Last year, the GDT collected almost US\$1,300 million in tax revenue, up 21.76 percent over a year earlier.

2016 Angkor Sentinel Bilateral Military Exercise



Cambodian and US troops at 2016 Angkor Sentinel

Phnom Penh, March 15, 2016 – Angkor Sentinel 2016, an annual bilateral military exercise hosted by the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and sponsored by the U.S. Army Pacific, was officially opened during a ceremony held on Mar. 14 at the Training School for Multinational Peacekeeping Forces in Kampong Speu province.

This year marks the seventh iteration of the exercise designed to strengthen the two countries’ humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) capabilities and improve military-to-military cooperation, said a press release of the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh dated Monday.



The two-week exercise brings together Cambodian forces from the Royal Cambodian Army (RCA), National Center for Peacekeeping Forces, Mine, & Explosive Remnants of War

Clearance (NPMEC), and Gendarmerie Royale Khmère (GRK), with U.S. forces from U.S. Army Pacific, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, 130th Theater Engineer Brigade, 8th Military Police Brigade, 303rd EOD Battalion, the Idaho Army National Guard, 18th Medical Command, Asia Pacific C-IED Fusion Center (APCFC), and 413th Contracting Brigade, it pointed out.

Ms. Julie Chung, Chargé d'affaires, U.S. Embassy Phnom Penh, expressed her conviction that Angkor Sentinel exercise showcases some of the best kinds of things militaries accomplish for their nations and citizens.

“Angkor Sentinel’s activities will include training and exchanges covering humanitarian assistance, disaster response, first aid, engineering, explosive ordnance disposal, countering improvised explosive devices, transporting people and supplies, and developing leaders. Any country – including both Cambodia and the United States – will be a better, safer place to live with military people who are skilled in these functions,” she said.

Major General Edward F. Dorman III, the commander of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command, encouraged the more than 150 participants to enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to learn from each other’s expertise and absorb each other’s rich cultures and traditions.

“Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief are priorities for

both of our countries, and as we operate together in this complex, ever-changing region, exercises like this one are critical to our regional stability and security,” he said. “When we join together, train together, and grow together now, we ensure that we are prepared together for whatever the future may bring.”

The concentrated training agenda includes intense academics, team-building events, and practical exercises intended to foster exchange and opportunities for the two countries’ militaries to learn about each other’s tactics, techniques and procedures, while strengthening relationships and building the foundation for future HA/DR exercises.

Angkor Sentinel’s expert academic exchanges and training events will culminate in a combined situational training exercise on Mar. 25, concluded the press release.

WFP To Provide US\$46 Million More to Cambodia



DPM Hor Namhong shakehand with Mr. Gianpietro Bordinon, WFP Country Director

Phnom Penh, March 11, 2016 – The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has decided to extend its programme until 2018; and

provide an additional budget of some US\$46 million to Cambodia for child nutrition and schooling.

The decision was made known here on Mar. 9 by Mr. Gianpietro Bordinon, WFP Country Director, during the meeting with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Hor Namhong, H.E. Chum Sounry, Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, told reporters after the meeting.

Mr. Bordinon also informed H.E. Hor Namhong of the WFP’s main goals in Cambodia, which mainly focus on child nutrition and schooling at rural areas through school meals programme.

For his part, H.E. Hor Namhong recalled the WFP’s assistance to Cambodia since 1979. He also called upon WFP to continue helping Cambodia in child nutrition and schooling, and climate exchange issue as Cambodians depend mostly on agriculture.

Tour to Cambodia Wins Mekong Tourism Award 2015
AKP Phnom Penh, March 09, 2016 –

The tour product “Teaching physical education to elementary school pupils in Cambodia” has won the Exchange Program Award of Mekong Tourism Award 2015, said a press release of ASEAN-Japan Center dated Mar. 8.

Organized by Peace In Tour Co., Ltd., it pointed out, this is a program to enroll tour participants to teach physical education to pupils at schools in

remote areas in Siem Reap. The program provides two-way interaction among tour participants and school pupils and ideally promotes win-win relationship among them. 13,000 customers joined the program vs. initial target number of 8.

The award was organized by the ASEAN-Japan Centre and was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Japan Tourism Agency, the Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA) and the Overseas Tour Operators Association of Japan (OTOA), said the press release, stressing that five excellent tour products to destinations in CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) have been selected as winners of the Mekong Tourism Award 2015. Travel agents as well as land operators and airline companies of the selected tour products were awarded in Tokyo on Tuesday.

The purpose of this award is to encourage Japanese travel industry to produce unique and diversified quality tour products to CLMV and to entice outbound travel from Japan to destinations in CLMV, it underlined.

According to the press release, other awardees of the Mekong Tourism Award 2015 are Two major ruins in Myanmar: Bagan and Kakku Pagoda in 6,7 days by H.I.S. Co., Ltd. (New Destination Award); Five days in Luang Prabang & stay at Kamu Village (Laos) by Jumping Tour Co., Ltd. (Ecotourism Award); Relaxing and peaceful journey to Laos and Mekong River cruise to

unexplored places by Asahi Sun Tours, Inc. (Unique Tour Award); and Travel across Vietnam – Six World Heritage sites in 7 days by Hankyu Travel International Co., Ltd. (Jury’s Special Award).

The ASEAN-Japan Centre is an intergovernmental organization established by the ASEAN Member States and Japan in 1981. It has been promoting exports from ASEAN to Japan while revitalizing investment, tourism as well as people-to-people exchanges between the ASEAN Member States and Japan through various activities.

***Infrastructure,
Transport and Logistics
Are Key for Industrial
Development***

Phnom Penh, March 07, 2016 – Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen has underlined that infrastructure, transport and logistics are key to achieving the goals of the Industrial Development Policy (IDP) and national socio-economic development.

The remarks were made at the opening ceremony of the 2016 Cambodia Outlook Conference held in Phnom Penh this morning under the theme “Getting Things Moving – Regional and National Infrastructure and Logistics for Connectivity, Growth and Development.”

The IDP 2015-2025, which focuses on Market Orientation and Enabling Environment for Industrial Development, was

adopted by the Royal Government of Cambodia in March 2015, said Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

The policy embraces 4 key strategies: reducing the price of electricity and increasing power supply coverage for industrial and agricultural sectors to promote business confidence, productivity and investment; developing transport and logistics infrastructure across Cambodia but especially along three prioritized transport routes essential for industrial development, connectivity, competitiveness and private sector needs – Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville, Phnom Penh to Bavet, and Phnom Penh to Poipet; developing a mechanism to strengthen labour market and technical skills to ensure adequate labour supply and improved productivity; and transforming Sihanoukville into a multipurpose special economic zone and future green industrial development zone for ASEAN, he pointed out.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen affirmed that Cambodia has been striving to develop and implement master plan on transport and logistics in close consultation with the private sector and its peak bodies in these key sub-sectors – infrastructure, finance, transport and logistics together with trade and tourism.

“We have witnessed a remarkable progress in the development of both hard and soft infrastructure, logistics and broader connectivity over the past two decades. These include the restoration, maintenance and building of national roads,

bridges, railways, seaports, river ports, water ways, airports, telecommunication and internet network, border facilities for processing cross-border movement of goods and people and so on,” said the Cambodian premier.

According to Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Cambodia achieved a remarkable improvement in its ranking in the World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index, rising 46 places between 2010 and 2014. This is a testimony to the concerted effort of the government and key agencies and the dynamism of the private sector in the transport and logistics industry.

Cambodian PM Encourages Local Salt Consumption

Phnom Penh, March 05, 2016 — Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Kingdom of Cambodia, has encouraged people to use the salt produced in Kampot and Kep provinces.

“In this ASEAN integration period, Cambodia cannot prevent or ban the import of products such as salt. Therefore, we should further support our local products,” said the Cambodian premier while presiding over the inauguration ceremony of the SOS Children’s Village in Kampot province this morning.

Local salt is naturally produced from the sea water, it is good for health, Samdech Techo Hun Sen underlined.

Cambodian salt farmers have some 260,000 tons of salt in their stocks. Last year, they

produced about 170,000 tons of salt, in addition to the 90,000 tons in stock.

The salt yield in 2015 saw a double increase compared with that of the previous year.

Cambodian Commerce Minister Meets EU Trade Commissioner

Phnom Penh, March 05, 2016 — Cambodian Senior Minister H.E. Sun Chanthol, Minister of Commerce and ASEAN Economic Minister for Cambodia, met with H.E. Mrs. Cecilia Malmström, the EU Trade Commissioner, on Thursday evening, on the sidelines of the Fourteenth AEM-EU Trade Commissioner Consultations in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

According to a news release of the Cambodian Ministry of Commerce, both sides discussed ways to expand trade and investment between Cambodia and the EU.

H.E. Sun Chanthol expressed his appreciation to the EU for granting EBA to Cambodia that greatly helps promote Cambodian exports, create job, and reduce poverty of Cambodian people.

H.E. Mrs. Cecilia Malmström raised the issue of land concession related to cane planting and urged the Cambodian government to solve this issue as soon as practical.

H.E. Sun Chanthol informed her that the Royal Government of Cambodia has established an Ad-hoc committee to address this issue.

H.E. Minister requested that the EU should extend the derogation for another three years period from 2016 for the Bicycle’s part importing from Malaysia to ensure the continuity of the Bicycle industry in Cambodia.

In response, the EU trade commissioner said she will consider this request and revert back to Cambodia in due course.

H.E. Sun Chanthol also invited H.E. Mrs. Cecilia Malmström and her colleagues to visit Cambodia to explore business and investment opportunities for EU investors.

Cambodia Signs US\$70 Million Deal of Submarine Cable Construction

Phnom Penh, March 04, 2016 – The Royal Government of Cambodia and Cambodia Fiber Optic Communication Network (CFOCN), a subsidiary of Shenzhen-based HyalRoute Group, have signed an agreement of 25-year concession to build and operate US\$69.7 million submarine cables and a landing station in Preah Sihanouk province.

The contract was signed here on Mar. 2 by Minister of Posts and Telecommunications H.E Prak Sokhonn and HyalRoute Group Chairman Mr. Huang Xinglong.

H.E. Kan Chan Meta, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, said that the Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) contract would contribute to the IT development in Cambodia.

“This project will contribute to increasing the percentage of Internet users in Cambodia from the current 45 percent, or 6.5 million people, to about 80 percent in 2020,” he said at a press conference after the signing ceremony, adding, “I’m sure that the project will significantly contribute to the development of information and communication technology in Cambodia.”

According to H.E. Kan Chan Meta, the submarine cables would have the capacity of 1.8 Terabits per second.

Cambodian Commerce Minister Participates in 22nd ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Retreat in Thailand

Phnom Penh, March 04, 2016 — Cambodian Senior Minister H.E. Sun Chanthol, Minister of Commerce and ASEAN Economic Minister for Cambodia, joined his ASEAN counterparts, in the 22nd ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Retreat in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in the morning of Mar. 3.

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR, and attended by the ten ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Secretary General of ASEAN, said a news release of the Cambodian Ministry of Commerce.

On the occasion, it pointed out, the Ministers discussed and endorsed the Lao PDR’s priorities during her ASEAN

Chairmanship, and the recommendations put forward by High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) in advancing regional integration process. They exchanged views on the way forward for unimplemented measures under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2015, and the implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2025.



The Ministers discussed and provided guidance on the progress of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations, said the news release, adding that the meeting also noted and discussed the outcomes of the U.S.-ASEAN Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement Joint Council Meeting (TIFA JC Meeting), which was held on Feb. 17, 2016, in San Francisco, United States of America.

Coca Cola wants to build a new bottling factory in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, March 16, 2016, at the Ministry of Commerce, H.E. Sun Chanthol met with representatives from Cambodia Beverage Company, Mr. David Wigglesworth, General Manager, Mr. Ngo Van Hai, Chief Finance Manager, Mr.

Ros Sophea, Legal and PAC Manager, and Ms. Lim Lina, Pac Manager.



H.E. Sun Chanthol shake hand with Mr. David Wigglesworth, GM of Cambodia Beverage Company

Mr. Wigglesworth updated the Senior Minister on their new multi-million dollar Coca-Cola bottling factory construction project and took the opportunity to seek the Minister’s advice on the QIP and illegal transshipment of Coca Cola products from across Cambodia’s borders.

Senior Minister thanked the delegation for the positive update on the company construction and took note of the issues raised by the CBC, as well as recommending that the company’s work now actively and directly with CamControl to enforce the issue of illegal cross border transshipments.