



The Royal Embassy of Cambodia  
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**Cambodian Delegation on Mission to Russia**



On May 17, 2016 the high level Cambodian delegation led by Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen to attend the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit

During this visit, there are eight important documents will be signed to strengthen the cooperation between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of Russia, according to H.E. Sry Thamrong, Delegate Minister Attached to the Prime Minister H.E.

Those documents include the Treaty on Extradition, Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Cambodian Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation, Memorandum of Understanding on Telecommunication and IT

Cooperation, Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the National Olympic Committee of Cambodia and the Russian Federation, Joint Declaration on Cooperation Proposals in the fields of trade, economy, investment until 2020, Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Nuclear Information Center, Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Cambodia-Russia Joint Working Group on Cooperation in Nuclear Applications for Peaceful Purposes, Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministry of Interior of Cambodia and the Russian Federation, said the delegate minister.

On May 20, 2016, Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen met with H.E. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation in Sochi, Russia.

President Vladimir Putin told Samdech Techo Hun Sen that Cambodia is a good old friend of Russia.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen is a reliable friend for making relations and cooperation at present and in the future, added the Russian leader.

In reply, the Cambodian premier thanked H.E. Vladimir Putin for

regarding Cambodia as an old friend and himself as a reliable friend.



Samdech Techo Hun Sen took the opportunity to thank the former Soviet Union for its assistance to Cambodia after the country was liberated from the Khmer Rouge genocidal regime, stressing that it is an unforgettable historical truth.

In addition, the Cambodian leader expressed his gratitude to the Russian government and people for their continued support to the reconstruction and development of Cambodia.

In efforts to promote the two-way trade was also part of the discussion on the occasion.

“The meetings with the Russian premier and president were made in a spirit of friendship, solidarity and cooperation,” said Samdech Techo Hun

Sen in a Facebook post. "We're happy to work with a partner who is a superpower of the multi-polar world and who has established diplomatic ties with Cambodia for already 60 years and always provides us with assistance for the country's defense and construction."

Presiding over the celebration of the World Intellectual Property Day under the theme "Digital Creativity: Culture Re-imagined."

Therefore, he added, Cambodia needs to observe closely on the TPP development and ensure our trading catch up the trend.

TPP agreement is a comprehensive regional agreement initiated by the U.S to promote economic integration to liberalize trade and investment, bring economic growth and social benefits, create new opportunities for workers and businesses, contribute to raising living standards, benefit consumers, reduce poverty and promote sustainable growth.

### **Cambodia Celebrates Royal Plowing Ceremony in Siem Reap Province**

May 24, 2016 -The Royal Plowing ceremony was held in Siem Reap province, home to the Angkor temples, a UNESCO's World Heritage Site under the presidency of His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni. Also attend the ceremony the National Assembly President Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, Senate President Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei Say Chhum, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Samdech Kralahom Sar Kheng, and many high-ranking officials as well as foreign diplomats accredited to Cambodia were also present on the occasion.

During the ceremony, H.E. Khem Bunsong, Governor of Siem Reap

province, played the role of "King Meak" by guiding the royal oxen and plowing around the Royal Field, while his spouse played the role of "Queen Mehua" by walking behind scattering seeds on the furrowed ground at the Terrace of the Elephants, located in the Royal Square of Angkor Thom.



After the plowing, two royal oxen were driven to the seven trays containing paddy, beans, corn, sesame, water, wine and grass. The oxen ate a lot of beans, followed by rice and corn.

This is a good sign for bean, rice and corn growing in the country this year, said a Royal Brahmin, calling on Cambodian farmers to be ready to do their farming.



The Royal Plowing ceremony is the annual and traditional ceremony to mark the beginning of the crop planting season in Cambodia.

Last year, the Royal Plowing ceremony was held in Battambang province.

According to the tradition, the Royal Plowing ceremony is celebrated to predict the upcoming distribution of rainfall, thus rice harvesting, in the country through the oxen's appetite of

paddy, corn, bean, grass, sesame, water, wine.

### **Cambodian PM To Attend 25th World Economic Forum on ASEAN in Malaysia**

Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen will lead a high delegation to attend the "25th World Economic Forum on ASEAN" to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on June 1-2, 2016.

Given Cambodia's steady growth over the past decades and its openness to integrate into the global economy, this "25th World Economic Forum on ASEAN" will provide a good opportunity for Cambodian leader to share experience and views with other leaders from government, international organization, business and civil society on how to overcome the current regional challenges in order to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth in the region, especially on how to advance the ASEAN Community, said a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation AKP received this morning.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen will join other important leaders in addressing the Forum under the theme "Shaping the ASEAN Agenda for Inclusion and Growth", and together with other ASEAN leaders he will have discussion with the world trade leaders on the "4th ASEAN Industrial Revolution", it added.

According to the press release, after attending this event, Samdech Techo Hun Sen will pay an official visit to Malaysia on June 3-4 to further enhance and deepen the long-lasting friendship and multifaceted cooperation between the two countries and peoples.



During the official visit, Samdech Techo Hun Sen will hold official talks with H.E. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia. After the talks, the two premiers will preside over the signing ceremony of two documents – MoU on Information and Broadcasting Cooperation, and MoU on International Volunteer Program of MYCORPS in Cambodia.



The Cambodian delegation will include H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; H.E. Aun Porn Moniroth, Senior Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance; H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Public Works and Transport, and other members of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

**Cambodia - US Boost Cooperation in Garment Sector**

Cambodia and United States of America continue to discuss cooperation to further improve the supply and demand sides of garment sector between the two countries.

On May 19, 2016, H.E. Ith Samheng, Minister of Labor and Vocational

Training, represented Cambodia to talk on the issues with U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. William A. Heidt at the ministry office here in Phnom Penh.

In his media interview right after the meeting, H.E. Ith Samheng highlighted mutual appreciation between Cambodia and the U.S. for the growth of the sector despite some concern over Cambodia's competitive advantage and the implementation of Trade Union Law.

From the supply side, Cambodia is expecting health and retirement insurances for garment factory workers next year and the following year respectively.

As for the demand, the U.S. has been ranked the second largest market for Cambodia's garment products.

According to the minister, since the 1999 bilateral agreement, garment manufacturers has increased from about ten to more than one thousand – employing 720,000 workers and exporting US\$6 billion worth products.

**Cambodian PM Highlights the Necessity of Peace**

May 13, 2016 — Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen has once again laid stress on the significance of peace for the country development.

At a graduation ceremony of the IIC University of Technology held here at the National Institute of Education on Thursday, the Cambodian premier said we cannot reduce the wealth gap, but the intellectual gap through first of all establishing, then maintaining peace.

“That’s why we had done our best to maintain peace and will not tolerate anyone who wants to destroy it. S/he has to face the legal action,” he added.

Moreover, infrastructure construction such as roads, bridges and schools is

another main factor to minimise the intellectual gap, said Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister further underlined that the development of Cambodia has been made in accordance with the country's real situation, not by following the model of any developed country.

**Cambodia Marks 153rd Anniversary of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day**

Phnom Penh, May 08, 2016 –The Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) celebrated the 153rd Anniversary of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day this morning at the CRC headquarters in Phnom Penh under the theme “Cambodian Red Cross is Everywhere for Everyone.”

The celebration was presided over by Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and his spouse Samdech Kittiprittbandit Bun Rany Hun Sen, President of CRC, with the participation of members of CRC, members of Parliament and government, charitable people and CRC's youth volunteers.



Some US\$13.43 million were collected on the occasion as humanitarian contribution from local and overseas charitable people.

Taking the opportunity, Samdech Kittiprittbandit Bun Rany Hun Sen expressed thanks to all the charitable people for their whole-hearted support

to the CRC, adding that this year's theme reflected the CRC's role and duties, and attracted more attention to the CRC.

For his part, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said the contribution of charitable people shows the solidarity and mutual assistance, and he wished that this act of sharing becomes a good culture in the Cambodia society.

On behalf of the royal government, Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed his gratitude to CRC, mainly its youths, for their active participation in the nationwide water distribution campaign he launched last month.

The Cambodian premier also affirmed that the royal government has been considering a package solution for climate change issue so as to reduce the vulnerability due to natural disasters and other eventual disasters.

### **Foreign Minister Meets Foreign Ambassadors and UN Representatives**

May 06, 2016, Newly-appointed Cambodian Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Prak Sokhonn met with foreign diplomatic corps and UN representatives to Cambodia.

During the meeting, H.E. Prak Sokhonn informed his guests of Cambodia's irreversible foreign policy, especially independence, permanent neutrality, non-alignment, and strengthening of peace, friendship and cooperation with the neighboring countries, H.E. Chum Sounry, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, told reporters upon the meeting.

With current challenges, mainly terrorism, extremism, cross-border crimes, drug and human trafficking and

climate change, the way of working and communicating between countries in the world need to be changed, H.E. Prak Sokhonn underlined.

The Cambodian top diplomat highly valued the foreign diplomatic corps' endeavors to strengthening and expanding the ties of friendship and cooperation in all sectors with Cambodia, and the friendly countries' active contribution to the development of Cambodia.



H.E. Prak Sokhonn also showed his commitment to further tighten the relations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and foreign embassies in Cambodia; and welcomed all foreign diplomatic corps to discuss any issues for common interests.

In reply, the foreign diplomatic corps and UN representatives congratulated the minister on his appointment; and were determined to work closely with the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to further foster their bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

### **Cambodia, Japan To Exchange Notes on Air Services**

Cambodia's Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Prak Sokhonn and H.E. Yuji Kumamaru, Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia, will exchange the Notes on the Agreement between the Kingdom of Cambodia and Japan for Air Services on May 26 at the Ministry.

According to a news release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation made public this afternoon, the Exchange of Notes marks the entry into force of the above-mentioned Agreement signed in Phnom Penh on Jan. 14, 2015 between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of Japan.

The entry into force of this Agreement will open the way for the two countries to operate direct flights and air transport services, thus contributing importantly in the promotion of economic ties, particularly in tourism sector between the Kingdom of Cambodia and Japan.



Direct flights between Phnom Penh and Tokyo will significantly promote tourism and related sectors of the two countries, especially Japanese tourists to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The remarks were made by Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers at the Ceremony of Conferment of Landing Permit for Direct Flights between Tokyo and Phnom Penh upon Japanese Air Carrier – All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd. held in Phnom Penh on May 26.

The Cambodian DPM expressed his conviction that the direct flights between the two capital cities will play a key role in promoting further growth of air transport, tourism, trade, culture and people-to-people connectivity between the two countries.

The first direct flight will commence on Sept. 1, 2016 with 7 flights per week by using the most advanced aircraft – The Boeing 787, he underlined.



According to H.E. Sok An, air transport has played a significant role in the Cambodia’s economic activities, and it remains one of the fastest growing sectors. Last year, Phnom Penh International Airport welcomed more than 3 million passengers, an increase of 15.5 percent compared to 2014. Siem Reap International Airport welcomed more than 3.3 million passengers, a 9 percent increase compared to 2014. In total, in the year of 2015, Cambodia welcomed 6.3 million air passengers from 119 airports in 43 countries. This is an over 12 percent increase if compared to 2014. It is forecasted that air passengers passing through Phnom Penh International Airport will exceed 4.2 million and Siem Reap International Airport will grow close to 5 million by 2020. In support of the ASEAN Aviation Single Market, Cambodia has completed its extension of both passenger and cargo terminals to accommodate the growing demand for air transport.

At present, he added, Cambodia’s three International Airports, namely Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Preah Sihanouk are serving 29 foreign and 4 local carriers, providing more than 200 flights per day. All Nippon Airways (ANA) will be the 30th foreign airline operating into the Kingdom of Cambodia.

**Cambodian PM Visited Workers in Preah**

**Sihanouk Province during International Labor Day**

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on May 1 visited more than 1,000 workers, employees and officials of Sihanoukville Autonomous Port, Preah Sihanouk province, on the occasion of the 130th International Labor Day.

Speaking on the occasion, Samdech Techo Hun Sen highly valued the progress of the sea port, which is currently the gateway of some 73 percent of imported and exported products.



The Cambodian premier also expressed his intention to change this 130-year international event from “International Labor Day” to “International Human Resource Day” because, he explained, we are now promoting and enhancing human resource development, a very necessary factor for our nation.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also expressed his delight to travel to Preah Sihanoukville by train along with other passengers on April 30, and encouraged people to use this transportation mean because it is safe, comfortable and one of the masterpieces of our late King-Father Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk.

Taking the opportunity, Samdech Techo Hun Sen confirmed the reduction in service fees from 5 to 10 percent of Sihanoukville Autonomous Port, Phnom Penh Autonomous Port and KAMSAP.

**Investment Value in Cambodia’s Construction Sector Reaches US\$1,647 Million in Q1**

During the first three months of 2016, Cambodia has attracted some 473 investment projects in the construction sector worth in total US\$1,647 million, showing an increase of 257.51 percent compared with the same period last year.

The figures were revealed here recently by H.E. Pen Sophal, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, in a workshop on “Development of Phnom Penh Capital: Challenges and Solutions.”

H.E. Pen Sophal expressed his optimism over the continued growth of the construction sector this year, stressing that the ministry has so far received many big construction proposals.

The increase in investment capital in the construction sector is thanks to the country’s high economic growth, political and social stability, open-skies policy, and favorable conditions for investors, he explained.

In 2015, Cambodia received 2,305 construction projects worth some US\$3,338 million in total.

**Cambodia To Build a 5 Million Tons/Annual Oil Refinery**

Cambodia is going to construct a 5 million tons/annual oil refinery soon, pointed out a news release of the Ministry of Mines and Energy.

The signing ceremony on the contract of engineering procurement and construction phase 1 of this refinery took place on May 4 between Cambodian Petrochemical Co., Ltd. and CNPC North East Refining & Chemical Engineering Co., Ltd, under the witness

of H.E. Suy Sem, Minister of Mines and Energy.



This is a positive sign of oil development in Cambodia, underlined the news release, adding that once the construction completed, the factory will produce high quality oil for local demand and export.

According to the Ministry of Mines and Energy, in the 1960s, Cambodia had an oil refinery in Stung Hav, Preah Sihanouk province. The factory began its operation in 1968, but it was postponed three years later and totally destroyed due to civil war.

### **Rubber Producers See Hopes**

Owners of rubber plantation are seeing rays of hope as the price of the product is gradually increasing.



In an interview with a local media, Mr. Seang Sarath – Deputy Director of Memot Family Rubber Development Association shared that Vietnamese rubber buyers are ordering the products. As a result, the price of frozen, raw rubber has increased to between 1,800 and 2,500 Riel (approximately US\$0.45 and 0.62) per kilogram.

The positive market pricing for rubber plantation owners emerges as the product is undergoing its harvest season, from April to February.

According to the same source, H.E. Eang Sophalleth – Secretary of State and Spokesperson of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries – observed the same trend.

Cambodia, as added the spokesperson, will chair a meeting with other rubber producing countries in India in September this year to address pricing and other issues.

### **No Vehicle in Front of Angkor Wat Temple**

There will be no vehicle is allowed to pass in front of the famous Angkor Wat Temple, except fire engines and ambulances, said Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.

“From now on, only pedestrians and bicycles can go in front of Angkor Wat Temple,” underlined the Cambodian premier, explaining that this move is aimed to ensure traffic order and safety as well as to improve the beauty at the area, and thus to enhance the prestige of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Angkor Wat is the symbol of Cambodia. Located among the lush tropical forests of Cambodia, Angkor was a 9th-15th century Khmer capital as well as an artistic and architectural icon.

The Angkor Archeological Park is one of the main tourism attractions in

Cambodia beside the coastal areas in the southwestern part and the eco-tourism sites in the northeastern part of the country.