



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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US Grant Aid to Cambodia

☞ The United States of America donated US\$ 4.5 millions to support an anti-human trafficking three-year project in Cambodia.

The US granted US\$ 5 million in 2003 to fight human-trafficking. Now, the government of the US has decided to provide USD 4.5 millions through Asia Foundation in Cambodia to support actions against the human trafficking, according to Joseph A. Mussomeli, American Ambassador to Cambodia, stated in Phnom Penh on September 12.

☞ H.E Long Visalo, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Ms Erin Soto, Mission Director of USAID/Cambodia, signed on 18 September, 2006 an amendment 4 of an agreement on a grant in order to increase services of family health and prevent HIV/ Aids by adding US\$ 30,509,000 in aid and an amendment 5 of an agreement on aid to improve the qualities of the basic educations by adding US\$ 1,980,000.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation affirmed that the added grants will be used to continue supporting programs and actions implemented by Non- Government Organizations.

☞ The United States has granted USD 45,000 to the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts for the conservation of Hanchey Temple in Kompong Cham province. On September 27, Mr. Joseph A. Mussomeli, US Ambassador to Cambodia said that Cambodia is among eleven countries of the 76 developing countries that granted by US on cultural and traditional conservation project.

Prince Sisowath Panara Sirivudh, Minister of Culture and Fine Arts thanked US Embassy which provided grant aid to Cambodia for the conservation of Hanchey Temple in Kompong Cham Province.

Japan Grant Aid to Cambodia

On 30 August 2006, at 09:00 a.m., at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **HOR Namhong**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and His Excellency Mr. **Fumiaki TAKAHASHI**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia, signed **the Exchange of Notes on the extension of a Grant Aid** up to the amount of **¥ 927,000,000** (nine hundred and twenty seven million Yen) for the purpose of the execution of the project for the Improvement of Security Facilities and Equipment in Main International Ports.



*His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister HOR Namhong
Signs the Exchange of Notes with the Japanese Ambassador*

The Japanese government's grant aid is to implement and improve a project of security equipments. The security equipments will be used to tighten the security in international ports in Cambodia, according to the source of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Joint Efforts in Natural Resources Management in Cambodia

☞ Cambodian, Danish and English governments have commenced a natural resource management program for the year 2006-2010 under the sponsorship of Denmark and Great Britain.

The Natural Resource Management and the Living Standard of the Villagers Program worth US\$ 60 million will be implemented for 4 years and 6 months by starting from August 2006 to December 2010. The programs will be implemented in 707 communes in Cambodia, the purpose of the programs is to help reduce the poverty of people who lives in the countryside for both long-term and short-term and to improve 4.5 million villagers' living conditions, according to the joint press release of three countries.

☞ Cambodian government and Asian Development Bank (ADB) started the discussion on a Tonle Sap Lake development project on 18th September, 2006 at the Council of Ministers in Phnom Penh with the participations of the Deputy Prime Minister Sok An, Minister in charge of the Council of Ministers and a delegate of Asian Development Bank led by Mr Urooj Malik, director of agriculture, environment and natural resources for ASEAN region of ADB.

The talks focused on some topics including an awareness-raising of vital Tonle Sap Lake project and other issues related to the implementation of the Tonle Sap lake development project. So far, 10 of 27 projects related to a management development and conservation of Tonle Sap Lake has been completed. At the sametime, 10 projects are being implemented and 7 other projects are under studying with financial and technical support from ADB.

☞ The Government of Japan has granted 1.76 million USD to the Royal Government of Cambodia in order to support a new project in the capacity building in forestry and land management to be implemented in five provinces.

The Japanese grant aid to Cambodia was donated through World Bank and was signed on 11th September, 2006 by HE Keat Chhon, Minister of Economy and Finance and Mr. Ian Porter, director of World Bank in Cambodia

HE Fumiaki Takahashi, Japanese ambassador to Cambodia who witnessed in the signature ceremony said that the project of capacity building on forest and land management was supported by Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF) will contribute in defending the forest and improving the living standards of people that live by depending on the forest.

Foreign Investment in Cambodia

☞ During the meeting with French delegation, headed by Dominique Perben, Minister for Public Works, Transports and Maritime Resource, on August 26, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen has requested France to encourage French companies to operate more investments in Cambodia. He also sought France's assistance in the preparation of the master plans for the capital city of Phnom Penh and the seaport city of Sihanoukville, according to Sry Thamrong, private advisor to the Prime Minister, who told the reporters after the reception.

Cambodia is now encountering the difficulties due to the rapid development, and master plans are needed for sustainable and controllable development, said Prime Minister Hun Sen. He pointed out that "with the master plans, it is easy to identify which area is suitable for factories, industry, special economic zone, and tourist centers".

The Prime Minister thanked the Republic of France for providing the technical assistance in developing the draft Criminal Code for Cambodia, which the Council of Ministers has already examined and approved.

The Prime Minister asked France to encourage French companies to invest in railroad transport, and especially VINCI Company to develop the airport in Sihanoukville as soon as it can to help promote tourism and the national economy of Cambodia.

For his part, Dominique Perben said Cambodia and France have good relationship and cooperation, and expressed his appreciation at the approval of the draft Criminal Code, which, according to him, can gain confidence of investors.

He further said that Cambodia has numerous potentialities, but lacks infrastructures, and that he would encourage more investment in Cambodia.

☞ The Royal Government of Cambodia has decided to grant Sihanoukville Airport concession officially to VINCI, a French investment company which is now operating Phnom Penh and Siem Reap International Airports, for renovating by its subsidized company, Societe Concessionnaire des Aeroports.

ATR aircraft will touch Sihanoukville Airport in early January next year, whereas Boeing 737 and Airbus 320 will be landed in 2008.

☞ A new international terminal at Siem Reap International Airport has been inaugurated by HE Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of Council of Ministers and visiting French Transport Minister Dominique Perben on August 28.

HE Sok An said this new terminal is a very high quality achievement for the Kingdom. It is a new gateway to promote tourism and a new investment in civil aviation infrastructure that clearly demonstrated the efforts of the government to attract foreign tourists.

“Besides Angkor Wat, I strongly believed that it will act as a new entrance for foreign tourists to explore the kingdom’s territory such as river dolphin in Kratie and Stung Treng, magnificent beaches in Kampot, Sihanoukville and Koh Kong, and green forest in northeastern of Cambodia” he said.

With 12,000 m² new international terminal, Siem Reap International Airport is capable of facilitate some 1.5 million passengers a year, Chairman of Vinci Mr. Yves Thibault de Silguy said at the inauguration ceremony.

☞ The Royal Government of Cambodia has awarded the investment of Hawaii beach and Koh Pos in the seaport city of Sihanouk Ville to a Russian company for development into an international standard tourist zone.

The signing ceremony of the investment agreement, held in Siemreap province Monday, was presided over by Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen.

Keat Chhon, Senior Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance; and Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, representing the Cambodian government, signed the agreement with Trofimov Alexander, director, representing the Russian investors of Koh Pos INVESTMENT Company.

According to Trofimov Alexander, a 99-year contract was awarded for a US\$ 300-million investment to develop Hawaii beach and Koh Kos into a tourist zone. The major infrastructure establishment, he said, would include the construction of a bridge from Hawaii beach to Koh Pos, hotels, guesthouses, resorts, parks and water-skiing. He said the development project had been started step-by-step under a company known as Koh Pos INVESTMENT Company established by a group of Russian investors.

International Assistance to Cambodia

☞ Cambodian Senior Minister Keat Chhon, Minister of Finance and Economy met with Roger Godia, director of French Aid Agency for the development in Asian region on 18th September, 2006. During the meeting, the two parties discussed a financial cooperation promoted by the Aid Agency recently in Cambodia.

According to the agreement on the financial cooperation in partnerships between the Cambodian Government and the French Aid Agency for Development, the French Aid Agency has provided Cambodia with the grant and loan aids worth Euro 42 million to support 12 development projects including the fields of agriculture, healthcare, infrastructures, agricultural hydraulic and improvement of living standards of the villagers.

The French Aid Agency will provide Euro 11.1 million in loan aid to Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority to build a drinking water factory and other facilities for clean water supplying for the suburb of Phnom Penh.

☞ A Hong Kong-Macau circus troupe had presented their three-day performance for raising fund to support the humanitarian activities from 5 to 7 September, 2006 at Chaktomuk Theater Hall in Phnom Penh with the participation of Mrs. Bun Rany Hun Sen, Spouse of Cambodian Prime Minister and President of the Cambodian Red Cross, on the first performance.

A 43-member Hong Kong-Macau circus troupe of the People's Republic of China presented their performance to raise fund in order to support the humanitarian activities of the Cambodian Red Cross. The Circus performance collected 278,050 US Dollars and more 12 million Riels. The collected fund was donated to the Cambodian Red Cross to help victims throughout Cambodia.

☞ Two bridges across two main big streams spanning from Koh Koh to Sre Ambel town was being built under the assistance of Thai government to the Cambodians after very long awaited process.

The Deputy director of the department of public affairs of Koh Kong province stated that one bridge across Tatai Stream located in Dong Village and another one across Sre Ambil Stream are being built by Thai Company Navarath. Until now, they have been accomplished by 30 percents. According to the Company, the construction of these two bridges will be finished in late this year despite facing with flood during this rainy season. The bridge across Tatai Stream is 13 meters wide and 390 meters long that will cost 72,317,000 Thai Bahts while another one is 13 meters wide and 420 meters long which is worth 78,834,000 Thai Bahts. Each bridge has one meter wide for pedestrians.

The deputy director added that besides these two bridges, another bridge across Trapeang Ruong stream is being concreted. There is another bridge that is yet to be built

due to having lots of rocks at the bed of the stream. The Thai company is now on the process on making decision to conduct a feasibility study to build on another new place.



More Tourists Visit Cambodia

☞ In the first 8 months of 2006, more than 1 million foreign tourists visited Cambodia, according to HE Thong Khon, Secretary of State of Tourism Ministry. He continued that the political stability is necessary for the tourists to visit Cambodia. The foreign tourists have increased from 20 to 25 percents yearly.

☞ More than six hundred foreign tourists together with three hundred and eighty crews enjoyed Sihanoukville Beach upon Pacific Princess; a Bermuda ship anchored at Sihanoukville International Port on Tuesday 22 August. Another Bermuda tourist ship (Pacific Friend Ship) carrying more than 530 tourists has called at Sihanoukville on September 17. There are 534 tourists from 21 countries including 272 Americans, 141 English, 42 Bermudians, and other nationals.

The Ship Movement Director said that beside enjoying at Sihanoukville Beach, some of mix-national tourists have visited Royal Palace, National Museum, and Wat Phnom in Phnom Penh before their proceeding to Ho Chi Minh city, southern of Vietnam.

☞ A Super Star Gemini Panama ship carrying 248 tourists has called at Sihanoukville International Sea Port on August 25, 2006. A Sea Port official told AKP that this was the fifth of its kind in the first 7 months of 2006. The Ship has started carrying tourists to visit Cambodia since a time per month. The mission started from April and will end in October. Of the tourists, 176 are Australians, 30 New Zealanders and the others nationals, have cruised across Thailand and Cambodia before proceeding to Singapore.

☞ More and more tourists have visited and bought dolphin sculptures at Kampi Pit, Kratie province, where a rare river dolphin are habitation.

Kampi Pit dolphin area was reserved by the royal government of Cambodia in 1996. Nowadays, river dolphins were only seen in Mahakam River in Indonesia, Ayeyaravady River in Vietnam, and Kampi in Mekong River in Cambodia.

Mr. Yun Sarin, a sculptor said that he brings grey stones from the Kampi Pit and carves dolphins. Other villagers carve dolphins on valuable

woods. Everyday, more and more tourists come to visit Kampi Pit and buy dolphin sculpture from the local villagers.

Besides Kampi Pit Mekong dolphin, there are other resorts that attract more tourists to visit such as Sambuk Mountain, a hundred- pillar pagoda, and others.

☞ The Ministry of Tourism will build two Tourist Information Centers in the northeastern provinces of Stung Treng and Ratanakiri in order to facilitate more favorable conditions for tourists who wish to visit these two northern provinces. The Tourist Information Centers will provide in detail of information related to tourism services such as natural resorts, ancient temples and cultural sites, departure places and accommodations. The Tourism Information Centers will be equipped with computers, internets and telephone systems to serve in a field of tourism services including tour brochures. As the results, during the first seven months of this year, more than 900,000 tourists visited the above-mentioned provinces.

☞ The Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) countries opened their second meeting in Phnom Penh on September 11 to discuss the preparation for the Sustainable Tourism Development Projects. Attending the meeting organized by the Asia Development Bank (ADB) were the representatives from Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. The first such meeting was held in Kunming, China, in August 2006, according to the organizer of the meeting.

The Sustainable Tourism Development Projects for the GMS countries are under the ADB technical assistance. At present, the ADB technical teams are working to finalize the project designs and to estimate the funding for the projects by focusing on the development of natural and cultural resorts and environments for each country. Moreover, there are also other projects for developing tourism and human resources which are aimed at contributing to the reduction of poverty in the GMS member-countries.

Under the ADB-funded projects, Cambodia will choose to develop the eco-tourism in Koh Kong province; cultural resorts in the area of the ancient Prasat Sambo Prey Kob and the urban environment project in Kratie province. Cambodia also has selected Siem Reap province and Pailin City for the tourism development projects linked to poverty reduction, and a number of other provinces including Koh Kong, Kampot, Banteay Meanchey, Oddar-Meanchey and Kampong Cham to develop routes for tourism facilitation.

World Culture Expo in Siem Reap



Siem Reap is preparing to receive hundreds of thousands visitors to the Angkor – Gyeongju World Culture Expo which is jointly organized by Cambodia and South Korea and will be held from 21 November 2006 to 9 January 2007. The opening of Angkor-Gyeongju World Culture Expo will be presided over by the South Korean President and Cambodia Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen.

The World Culture Expo is expected to attract some 300,000 local and foreign visitors with several events and shows by Cambodian and South Korean artists together with other participants from several countries in the region.

The demonstrations for the events including Khmer Wedding, Khmer New Year, Khmer popular games, ox-cart racing, Khmer martial art, and many Korean shows, especially Andre Kim Fashion. There are 1,600 Khmer artists and 300-500 South Korean artists will be joined in the events.

The Angkor International Tourism Exchange (AITEK), held from the 12-15 December 2006, is timed to coincide with the Angkor-Gyeongju World Culture Expo. AITEK will be held at the new exhibition building in Siem Reap and is expected to attract over 400 booths from over 20 countries, covering an area of 8,000 square meters. Among the organizations supporting AITEK 2006 are the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Apsara Authority, the Ministry of Tourism, Cambodia Hotel Association, Cambodia Association of Travel Agents and the hosts of the Angkor-Gyeongju World Culture Expo from Korea.

AITEK 2006 shall have components of an international travel exhibition, including trade meetings between buyers and sellers in the tourism industry. Through participation, attending seminars and conferences, delegates can establish new business

contacts and update themselves on the latest tourism products and services. AITEX provides an excellent opportunity to network with travel industry experts and gather the latest information, trends and updates for all those involved in the tourism sector, exchanging business ideas and exploring other untapped travel industry markets in this region of the world. Exciting side events include a FAM Trip during AITEX for all organizations involved in the travel industry with Cultural Festivals, Food Fairs planned including the Angkor International Golf Invitation (16-17 December).



Cambodia is the fastest growing tourism hub in South East Asia and growth is expected to surpass 50% this year due to the Cambodian Government's "Open Skies" policy inviting major international airlines to fly in directly from around the world to its new international airport in Siem Reap opened this year.

South Korea aviation official has said that his country plans to increase the number of passenger flights to Cambodia as the Angkor-Gyeongju World Culture Expo 2006 is close to take place. An Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) would be concluded soon between the Civil Aviations of the two countries to multiply the passenger flights to Cambodia from 6 to 26 per week.

The number of South Korean tourists visiting Cambodia, he said, has been leading with some 200,000 in 2005 and is expected to further increase in 2006 as the Angkor-Gyeongju World Culture Expo will be held in Cambodia from November this year.

The open skies policy and globalization are beneficial to all countries. South Korea is going to negotiate with China in 2007 and then with Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Cambodia as well on the globalization of aviation, and Cambodia will also have a chance to compete with South Korea.

Cambodian Museum Rejoins the World

After a period of near ruin in the 1970's under the Khmer Rouge, when the Phnom Penh city, capital of Cambodia was forcibly emptied, and then years of struggle to raise money and hire staff members, the National Museum of Cambodia has made a comeback. Visitors are coming in droves, catalogs of the permanent collection have been prepared, and conservation is now a major priority.

Best of all, officials say, valuable Khmer pieces that were spirited out of the country for the European, American and Asian art markets are starting to trickle home. "There is a trend, with a lot of people willing to give back pieces to Cambodia now we have peace," said Roland Eng, a former Cambodian ambassador to the United States. "I know personally people who are willing to give back their own collections." So far, though, most of the objects have been returned by museums abroad, not by private collectors.

In a workshop adjacent to the galleries one recent morning Sok Soda, a conservator, supervised a team of eight as they prepared to reattach the head of a 10th century Shiva that was returned to Cambodia in the late 1990's by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Amid the clutter of the workshop, the severed head lay atop two black pillows like a precious jewel. The torso, broad and muscular, stood nearby, wrapped in green tape and chains after an overland journey by truck from the Angkor Conservation Office at Siem Reap, where curators keep special pieces safe from looters at the Angkor Wat temple complex nearby.

When the head and torso are joined, the reassembled figure will be a star of a show featuring 140 Khmer treasures — stone sculptures, bronze figures, silver objects, paintings — that are to be sent from the museum to Germany for "Angkor — Sacred Heritage of Cambodia," an exhibition that opens at the Art and Exhibition Hall in Bonn in December.

The Met returned the Shiva head in 1997, four years after one of its curators recognized a photo on a most-wanted list of missing Khmer art circulated by a UNESCO agency, said Helen Jessup, a Khmer-art historian and the founder of Friends of Khmer Culture, an American nonprofit group that supports arts organizations. From the black color of the stone and its granular quality it was obvious that the head and the torso were a perfect fit.

After long international detective work, the Cleveland Museum of Art returned body parts of a 12th-century Krishna from Phnom Da, the source of some of the most stunning Hindu sculptures in the Angkor region.

The Cleveland museum had acquired a sixth-century Krishna from the Belgian art collector Adolphe Stoclet in 1973. Fragments were unearthed later in the Stoclet garden in Brussels and shipped to the museum, which reattached many of them to the Krishna. But nine fragments that did not fit the Cleveland museum's Krishna proved to belong to a Krishna in the museum here in Phnom Penh. They were cleaned and pieced onto the Krishna torso and head last year in the workshop, and the sculpture — still missing a few parts, and showing some exposed steel struts that keep the fragments in place — is now on view.

A tranquil mood reigns at the National Museum, with overhead fans whirring and the soft pad of feet on tiled floors. Saffron-robed monks wander through, leaving stalks of fragrant jasmine at the base of statues of various Hindu divinities.

Built in 1917 by George Groslier, a French archaeologist and enthusiast of all things Khmer, the museum was designed in the Khmer style, with steeply pitched roofs and a flamingo pink exterior. The light in the galleries shifts with the position of the sun, as it does in the temples where the statues once stood.

Opened with much pomp in 1920 — a vintage photograph shows King Sisowath arriving under the shade of many ornate umbrellas — the museum had an art school attached. Students played an integral role in construction, carving the massive wooden front doors and painting gilded mythological figures on the walls of the front room that remain intact.

The permanent collection is arranged in chronological order, allowing visitors to follow the evolution of styles from the pre-Angkor art of the 6th century, on through the many phases of Angkor, which flourished from the early 9th to the mid-15th centuries.

And when the 140 Angkor statues leave for Bonn, 140 almost equally precious pieces will be taken up for display from the storeroom, another reflection of the museum's return to normalcy.

(Excerpt from The New York Times of September 26, 2006)

Cambodia gets tough on child sex trade

Cambodia police this year have arrested at least 12 foreigners on charges of sexually abusing children - more than twice amount snagged all of last year. In addition to three Americans, they have caught four Germans, an elderly Swiss man, a Belgium national, and at least three Vietnamese nationals who helped the foreigners procure children.

“They are more reactive, more willing to work on this,” says Beatrice Magnier, Director of Action Pour Les Enfants, (APLE), a French nongovernmental organization that works to combat the child sex trade. Mr. Khieu Sopheak, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, says, “The authorities have increased their knowledge and skills after cooperation with NGOs. The implementation of the law gets better from one day to the next”.

It is a trend that has been in the offing since at least 2000, when Cambodia first launched a major initiative funded by foreign donors aimed at targeting the exploitation of women and children and set up hotline to receive tips. In 2002, Cambodia established a department in the Ministry of Interior specifically devoted to combating human trafficking and protecting at-risk juveniles.

In 2003, the US Congress passed the Child Protect Act, which allows the US to prosecute American citizens in the US for crimes against children committed overseas. Penalties can reach 30 years in prison. Canada, among others, recently enacted a similar law.

Since 2003, Cambodia has arrested and deported at least six Americans to face charges there, under the new law. “Cambodia has become a valuable ally in arresting the worst of all sexual predators, pedophiles,” US Ambassador Joseph Mussomeli said “We are very pleased with the excellent cooperation we have received.”

And there are other encouraging sings. For years, pedophiles flocked to Svay Pak, the brothel village on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, bragging about exploits at coffeehouses and bars. NGOs and foreign governments tried in vain to convince Cambodia to do something about the child prostitution, which operated impunity there. The government shut it down in 2004. Nowadays in the countryside, even in remote areas, signs abound bearing the hotline number and the slogan: “Turn a sex tourist into an ex-tourist.” The signs show a white hand holding the hand of a child in one picture, and the white hand in hand cuffs next.

(Excerpt from the Christian Sciences Monitor of September 27, 2006)