



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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ព្រឹត្តិប័ត្រព័ត៌មាន

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The 30th Anniversary of the Victory Day over Khmer Rouge Regime (7-1-1979 – 7-1-2009)

After the establishment of the United Front for National Salvation of Cambodia on December 2, 1978, Cambodia has totally gained the victory over Khmer Rouge genocidal regime on January 7, 1979.

A mass meeting on January 07, 2009 to mark the Victory Day over Khmer Rouge genocidal regime is to commemorate of the 30th anniversary of Cambodian people's liberation. The January 7 victory day had timely survived Cambodian motherland and people from the Khmer Rouge genocidal regime.

Through the win-win policy of the Royal Government of Cambodia, the country has totally gained peace and all achievements were subsequently achieved.

A photo exhibition on various achievements during the past 30 years after the topple of Khmer Rouge regime was displayed at Watt Phnom's exhibition hall in Phnom Penh by Cambodian Photographers' Association on January 5 to mark the 30th anniversary victory day over the Khmer Rouge genocidal regime on January 7, 1979-2009.



Sihanoukville Seaport



Oil Exploration Station

Bio-Diesel Plant



Se Kong Bridge in Stung Treng province



Kizona Bridge in Kampong Cham province



Khmer Power Plant at Mean Chey district



Power Plant in Siem Reap province



Senate President Samdech Akka Moha Thomma Pothisal Chea Sim visit Tack Fat garment factory in Phnom Penh



University in Banteay Meanchey Province



A new building at the Royal University of Law And economy in Phnom Penh



Soriya Department Store in Phnom Penh

Cambodian Rice Production Increases



Kandal provincial authorities of all level together with its civil servants, police, military police and students, help harvest rice crop of local people at Kandal province's Kandal Stung district.

Cambodia's production of unmilled rice increased 12 percent this year, which would create a surplus of 2.8 million tons in 2008, up 300,000 tons over last year's figures. "This surplus has come from the use of better seeds and improved farming practice," said Agriculture Minister H.E. Chan Sarun, "We hope the quantity of rice production will continue to increase next year," he added. The Cambodian government expects total production of unmilled rice to hit 6.8 million tons, which would represent a million-ton gain over last year, according to a preliminary evaluation conducted by the agriculture ministry. The government is negotiating with several countries to secure additional markets for Cambodian rice. "I expect that Cambodia will export at least 2 million tons of rice in 2009 to countries in the region, in the Middle East, the European Union and in Africa," he said.



Cambodia's Achievement in Preventing HIV/AIDS



Cambodian Red Cross President Lok Chumteav Bun Rany Hun Sen chats with around 300 orphan children and donates some donations to them while she was presiding over the ceremony held in Phnom Penh on December 1 to remark the World Aids Day 2008.

The ceremony was attended by Cambodian top officials, foreign diplomats to Cambodia, Buddhist venerable monks and students. Addressing the ceremony, Lok Chumteav Bun Rany Hun Sen appealed the people to fight against HIV/AIDS through the education and the understanding of the disease. She also asked all people not to discriminate against people living with HIV/AIDS. For over one decade, Cambodia has made prideful achievement in preventing the widespread of HIV/AIDS, she added.

Cambodia has led the way in reducing prevalence and achieving the millennium development goal for Aids under the guidance of the National Aids Authority with the meaningful engagement of people living with HIV and with the strong commitment of partners, said Ms. Alice Levisay, UNFPA country representative.

HIV prevalence has been reduced to 0.9 percent in 2006 among the adult population from a high of 2 percent in 1998, she said, adding that the millennium development goal for Aids has been achieved and intensive work is underway to ensure that Cambodia reaches its ambitious - achieving universal access targets for HIV prevention treatment and care by 2010.



Cambodia – US Cooperation



Cambodia and the U.S. have affirmed their mutual support and the continuation of their good cooperation in combating terrorism, cross-border crimes and other crimes. The affirmation was made on December 19 at a decoration handover ceremony to 22 officials of the Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI) and Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Cambodian officials, witnesses and victims participating in the trial of the Cambodian Freedom Fighters terrorist group's head held from April 2-16, 2008 in the U.S.

On behalf of the Cambodian government, the Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister thanked FBI, IRS and the American government for their good cooperation with Cambodia to arrest CFF head Chhun Yasith and to do the victims justice. The event of

December 24, 2000, he continued, was a terrorist act led by the CFF group, which killed a lot of innocent people and destroyed public property.

The minister of Interior was convinced that the Cambodia-U.S. cooperation will continue to be further strengthened to respond to both people's needs and to contribute to assuring peace, security and order in the region as well as in the world.



U.S. Agency of International Development (USAID) has announced the extension of smallest-, small- and medium-sized enterprise's development project for four years to promote the economic development. In a workshop on implementing the smallest, small and medium-sized enterprise's development project in Cambodia in the second phase held in Svay Rieng on Dec 19, Reed Aeschliman, an official of USAID, said USAID thought that the provincial economy of Svay Rieng was in progress following the first step of the three-year project implementation, so the four-year project in the second step will be offered so as to boost economic development in the province stronger.

In the second phase, the project will be extended to 12 provinces in Cambodia, including pig farming, aquatic plant farming, tile-roof and brick-produced kilns, water treatment and bee rising. In the first phase from 2005 to 2008, the project focused on the provinces of Kratie, Kampong Cham, Kampong Speu, Kandal, Prey Veng and Svay Rieng.



U.S. army provided a 19-day-long training course in how to keep the order to the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) at the technical-training school of mine and UXO clearance in Oudong district, Kampong Speu province on Dec. 1. In the course, sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command, the Cambodian troops will be trained in how to confiscate the weapons, cut down the armed forces, how to patrol and so on. It was a third course to which U.S. Pacific Command gave an assistance including fund and technical materials so that the Cambodian soldiers have a capacity for UN peacekeeping missions.

Cambodia has sent three batches of peacekeepers to Sudan under the UN umbrella in the past three years. Cambodia has also participated in two international military exercises held in Mongolia and Bangladesh respectively.



Donor Countries' Financing Aid to Cambodia for 2009



☞ Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen presided

over the 2nd Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum (CDCF) held in Phnom Penh on December 4 with the participation of foreign diplomats and NGOs representatives. ☞ Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Keat Chhun, Minister of Economy and Finance hold a press conference following the conclusion of the 2nd CDCF Penh on December 5.

During a press conference on December 05, H.E. Keat Chhon told reporters that according to official figure, Cambodia will receive US\$ 951.5 million from donor countries for 2009 including US\$ 257 million from China, US\$ 214 million from EU and 113 from Japan.

Donor countries have pledged about one billion U.S. dollars of aid to Cambodia in 2009, he affirmed, so far, they have pledged about 951.5 million U.S. dollars, But Belgium needs the approval from parliament first and the United States is in the transition of a new president. So they have not pledged yet," he added.

The country manager of the World Bank in Cambodia, applauded the government for achieving a more than 30 percent increase in revenue collection this year over last, and for faster disbursement of funds for public services, according to tabs kept by the bank.

The Cambodian Prime Minister told the Second Cambodian Development Cooperation Forum that the government is committed to *effectively managing the revenues from the exploitation of the minerals, oil and gas, and also well aware that the anti-corruption law is an indispensable legal instrument to fight corruption with good result,*" In this context, the Cambodian government is strongly committed to ensuring rapid conclusion and adoption of this law in close consultation with all concerned parties on the basis of all other fundamental laws that must be adopted first, he said.



World Bank Helps Cambodia to Strengthen Good Governance

The World Bank Group approved on Dec. 3 a US\$20 million grant for the Demand for Good Governance (DFGG) Project in Cambodia to help enhance citizens' engagement in development and governance processes, and government responsiveness to their demands. This innovative Project will seek to enhance the demand for good governance in priority reform areas in Cambodia by strengthening institutions, supporting partnerships, and sharing lessons. It will do so by promoting so called "demand-side" approaches, which strengthen the ability of citizens, civil societies, and other non-state actors to work constructively with the government and to hold it accountable. These approaches also enhance the capacity of the government to become more responsive to citizens.

"This project is part of the Bank's response to calls for broader engagement in governance reform in Cambodia. The Bank has provided leadership on supporting the public sector governance reform in the past. Now it is a great time to work with a broad range of stakeholders such as the government, private sector, civil society, donors, parliamentarians, and media, to create a stronger demand for good governance," said Qimiao Fan, the World Bank Country Manager for Cambodia.

The Project will provide institutional support to the following four state agencies that have implemented successful DFGG programs and shown commitment to improving governance: the Arbitration Council, the Ministry of National Assembly-Senate Relations and Inspection, the Ministry of Interior for the One Window Services Office and District Ombudsman, and Radio National of Kampuchea for their Talk Back Radio program.

“The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) welcomes and appreciates the World Bank’s support for the governance reform agenda in Cambodia,” said His Excellency Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. “This Project is consistent with the RGC’s *Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency*, which has good governance at its core. The DFGG project will provide the opportunities to strengthen capacity of both state and non-state institutions and foster their partnerships in order to enhance effectiveness in policy implementation and service delivery, as response to the aspirations of the Cambodian people.”



ADB Extends Assistance for Cambodia's Financial Sector Development



The Financing Agreements between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Asian Development Bank for financing development project stage II worth US\$10.3 million, public finance management project and program for rural development worth US\$10.81 million and the promoting program for various fields of economy worth \$20 million was signed in Phnom Penh on December 08 by Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister H.E Keat Chhon (right), Minister of Economy and Finance and Mr. Arjun Thapau (left), ADB Director General to Southeast Asia.

👉 The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is extending a US\$10.3 million loan to assist in the ongoing development of Cambodia's financial sector and ensure a sound, efficient, and market-oriented financial system. The loan will fund the implementation of the second subprogram under the Financial Sector Program II (FSP II) Cluster that was approved in December 2007. The program cluster comprises four subprograms to be implemented over a four-year period to 2010, said an ADB press release adding that a separate US\$300,000 grant will help implement some of the key triggers of the third subprogram.

👉 The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is providing a loan and grant financing for a program that supports the Cambodian government's drive to expand the private sector and diversify its economic base beyond garments, tourism, and construction.

ADB is extending \$20-million loan to be sourced from its concessional Asian Development Fund to finance reforms designed to improve the business climate and trade facilitation for the private sector. It is also providing a US\$2 million grant to build up the capacity of the country's sanitary and phytosanitary management systems, said an ADB press release dated December 05.

The loan is for the first subprogram of the Promoting Economic Diversification Program - a cluster of three subprograms that will help roll out a series of government policy reforms and measures to create a more stable macroeconomic environment, to lower the cost of doing business for private firms, to expand trade, and to improve food safety standards. The Program also helps implement ADB's Greater Mekong Subregion technical work on trade facilitation at the national level.

The Program supports the government's own efforts to diversify the economy. Based on ADB estimates, reforms planned under the full Program could add 2.4% to Cambodia's gross domestic product, boost employment levels by 4.3% for males and 6.3% for females, and cut the incidence of poverty by a further 2.7%.



International Assistance for Development in Cambodia

👉 Malaria laboratory rebuilt under the cooperation between Cambodian and American governments was officially inaugurated on Dec. 17. Cambodian Minister of Health H.E. Mam Bun Heng, and Representative of the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh Mrs. Piper Campbell were present at the inauguration ceremony.

The Cambodian government has spent US\$30,000 to rebuild the laboratory, while the U.S. government US\$300,000 to equip the laboratory, Director of the National Center for Malaria Dr. Duong Socheat said. This laboratory will help enhance the capacity of the center, and the blood test can be done in Cambodia from 2009, he added.

👉 Seven development partners, including Agence Française pour le Développement (AFD), AusAid, Belgium Technical Cooperation, DFID Institution of England, World Bank, UNFPA and UNICEF have provided nearly US\$150 million in aid to promote health in Cambodia. A signing ceremony on the aid for a five-year program of the second health sustenance was recently held at the Ministry of Health. The aim of the program is to support the 2008-2015 development strategic plan of Cambodia's Health Ministry to ensure that Cambodian people be given the medical care service with equality and equity, said Alice Levisay, chairwoman of the development partners' group.

👉 Japan has decided to grant some US\$908,075 to five local authorities and NGOs in Cambodia to support their development projects, through KUSANONE program. The aid agreement was signed on Dec. 11 by Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia Katsuhiro Shinohara, and representatives of the five recipient local authorities and NGOs. Since the presence of KUSANONE program in Cambodia in 1991, US\$42 million have been provided to support 420 projects related to education, agriculture, rural development, health and mine-clearance.

The grant aid will be used for the restoration of irrigation systems in Kandal and Takeo provinces, the construction of a scientific laboratory in Regional Center of Pedagogy in Prey Veng province, mine-clearance in Pailin city and Battambang province, and the construction of emergency aid's building in a referential hospital of Kratie province.

👉 The Development Bank of Germany KfW has extended 11,710,000 euro (roughly US\$15 million) grant aid to Cambodia to support three development projects. The grant aid agreement was signed on December 22 in Phnom Penh. Of the total sum, US\$9.2 million will be used for the Rural Infrastructure Program in Siem Reap and Kampong Thom, US\$5.2 million for the Rural Electrification of Southern Cambodia Project Phase II, and US\$793,000 for the ASEAN Regional Microfinance Center Project.

Up to now, Germany has granted about 107 million euro (US\$140 million) through KfW to Cambodia to support 20 projects focusing on rural development and health.



Celebration of International Human Rights Day in Cambodia



Cambodian dancers perform a blessing dance during the celebration of International Human Rights Day in Phnom Penh, Dec. 10. 2008. Hundreds of Cambodian marked 60th anniversary

The United States of America has expressed its congratulation upon the contribution of civil societies and human rights groups for their works toward the democracy in Cambodia, said a press release issued on Dec. 9 by the U.S. Embassy to mark the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Cambodian drum dancers perform as they head a march at the International Human Rights Day

