



The Royal Embassy of Cambodia  
to United States of America

ប្រតិបត្តិការព័ត៌មាន

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POLITICS

**Cambodia Calls All Diplomatic Missions Not To Interfere in Its Internal Affairs**

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and International Cooperation

NATION - RELIGION - KING

N° ១០៧ MFA-IC/DC

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation presents its compliments to all diplomatic missions accredited to the Kingdom of Cambodia, and has the honour to call to mind the stipulation of Article 41.1 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations which clearly states that:

*"Without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, it is the duty of all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State. They also have a duty not to interfere in the internal affairs of that State."*

Likewise, according to the international practice, this is also the very first obligation of any diplomatic Envoy to a foreign country to avoid interfering in the internal affairs of the host country regardless of the power of his/her home country.

The Ministry has further the honour to point out that there have been many occasions, in which some Heads of diplomatic missions behaved like a "Proconsul" of his/her country to the Kingdom of Cambodia. They indulged themselves to criticize or to give lessons to the Royal Government of Cambodia. Such behaviours are not acceptable for Cambodia as a sovereign country and a member of the United Nations. Cambodia is not a "BANANA REPUBLIC".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all diplomatic missions to the Kingdom of Cambodia the assurances of its highest consideration.



All Diplomatic Missions accredited to the Kingdom of Cambodia

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The full message dated April 26 reads as follows:

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**PM To Attend the Opening Ceremony of the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai**



**S**amdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a high delegation to attend the Opening Ceremony of the World Expo 2010 Shanghai China from April 29 to May 2 in Shanghai.

The visit is made at the invitation of H.E. Ambassador Hua Junduo, Commissioner General of

the World Expo 2010 Shanghai China.

The delegation will include H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; H.E. Senior Minister Cham Prasidh, Minister of Commerce; and other members of the Royal Government of Cambodia, according to a press release of the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation dated April 26.

During his visit, Samdech Techo Hun Sen will hold official talks with H.E. Hu Jintao, President of the People’s Republic of China on May 1 at Shanghai Xijiao State Guest Hotel, it pointed out.

**Samdech Hun Sen Becomes Member of the Royal Academy**



**P**rime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen officially became a member of the Royal Academy of Cambodia in a ceremony held here on April 28.

On April 3, His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni appointed Samdech Techo Hun Sen as a full member of the Royal Academy of Cambodia in recognition of his competence in leading the country.

Reestablished in 1999, the Royal Academy of Cambodia, the country’s leading research and training institution, has currently 18 full members.

**Cambodian Lawmaker Meets First Secretary of U.S. Embassy in Cambodia**

H.E. Cheam Yeap, chairman of the Committee for Economics, Financing, Banking, and Auditing of the National Assembly met here on April 27 with Mr. Lawless Sweeney, first secretary of U.S. Embassy in Cambodia.

The Cambodian lawmaker told the U.S. embassy’s official of a series of general elections in Cambodia.

He said the Cambodian royal government’s economic policy focused on agriculture, garment and footwear industry, tourism and construction.

He also asked for helping the trading sector, mainly the provision of U.S. market for Cambodian products like garment, and footwear and U.S. investments in Cambodia.

In reply, Mr. Lawless Sweeney appreciated the Cambodian royal government as well as the National Assembly for the efforts in the national rehabilitation and development in Cambodia, mainly the development of economy and democracy.

For the country’s law, he said, the National Assembly adopted recently several laws, including the penal code procedure, the anti-corruption law and others.

He said in the past the U.S. has provided US\$65 million a year in aid and US\$4 million in technical aid,

and promised to continue its assistance to Cambodia.

### First International Buddhist Commemoration in Cambodia

Thirteen Asian countries along with thousands of Buddhist monks will commemorate critical day of Buddha, known as Visakh Bochea, at the culturally rich Siem Reap province of Cambodia.

For the first time of its kind that ritual commemoration of Buddhism was organized as an international event in Cambodia from April 27 to 29. Nine ASEAN member countries, China, India, Japan, and Korea staged different cultural performances in the historical event to be called “The Trial of Civilization and Art Performance”.

The event will show religious processions and artistic performances about Biography of Buddha, our Supreme Teacher, while he was born, achieving Enlightenment and attaining Nirvana, by Cambodian and foreign artistic performance groups.

Cambodia will gain a lot from this celebration because it will raise world’s awareness on Cambodian culture and civilization, thus promote tourism in the country, said Secretary of State to the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts H.E. Khim Sarith.

### PM Explains BHP Billiton’s Fund to Cambodia

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen has said the Australian BHP Billiton did not provide illegal fund to Cambodia.

Speaking at the 15<sup>th</sup> Government-Private Sector Forum on April 27, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said the fund provided by BHP Billiton to Cambodia has stated clearly in the agreement.

“I would like to clarify that this fund is not ‘under table money’, but it was stated in the contract,” he said.

According to the contract, there are two kinds of fund. The first one is reward fund of the registration and the other one is social fund, which is applied to all companies, he explained.

The agreement defines that US\$2.5 million social fund is for school and infrastructure construction, said the Cambodian premier, adding that while he was in Canberra, Australia in 2006 for the signing ceremony, he asked the Ministry of Water Resource and Meteorology to use the fund to build a hydro dam in Pursat province, but later on BHP Billiton asked a part of the fund for school and hospital development in Rattanakiri and Mondulakiri provinces.

The premier’s explanation was in response to the Cambodia Daily’s article on April 27 criticizing the government over BHP Billiton’s contract.

BHP Billiton was licensed for bauxite exploration in the northeastern province of Mondulakiri in 2006, when Samdech Techo Hun Sen made an official visit to Australia.

### PM: Workers Are Not Banned from Holding Demonstration on May Day

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has clarified that he did not object to the trade unions to hold demonstration on the International Labor Day (May 1).



The prime minister made the clarification here on April 27 at the 15<sup>th</sup> Government-Private Sector Forum.

On the occasion, Samdech Techo Hun Sen appealed to employers and trade unions to cooperate and obey the labor law, stressing that the union law is expected to come into force by mid 2011.

Some 7,000 workers led by garment trade union president Mr. At Thon will rally on May 1 to march to the National Assembly to demand for the respect of the labor law and wage raise for the workers in garment and tourism sectors.

# Economics

## Cambodian Premier's Optimism about Cambodia's Economic Growth in 2010

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen was optimistic about Cambodia's economic growth of around five percent in 2010.

The Cambodian premier presided over the 15<sup>th</sup> Government-Private Sector Forum held at the government palace in Phnom Penh on April 27, saying that by this growth, the Cambodian royal government will lead the country's economy to avoid the difficulty of the economic crisis.

Like other economy in Asia facing the difficulty, Cambodia could maintain the financial, micro-economic and social stability, mainly the balance of the Cambodian people's lives, he added.

In his address at the forum, Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Keat Chhon, minister of Economy and Finance, said that under the clear-sighted leadership of Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen, the Cambodian royal government placed a policy in response on time to the impacts of the world financial crisis and the global economic recession affecting Cambodia's financial and economic sector.

Cambodia maintained the economic growth, not going to below zero, he said.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen said even though Cambodia faced the world economic crisis, drought, flooding, typhoon Ketsana and insect destruction, the country achieved the remarkable results in promoting agricultural productivity, mainly intensive rice farming.

He also asked for Cambodia's rice export for the demand for the world market.

The Cambodian prime minister gave some recommendations to the Supreme National Economic Council on implementing a policy of rice export.

# Tourism

## Trail of Civilization and Art Performance Event Held at Bayon Temple

The "Trail of Civilization and Art Performance" was kicked off on April 28 at Bayon Temple, Siem Reap province under the presidency of

Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister H.E. Sar Kheng.

Fifteen countries – ASEAN countries plus China, Czech Republic,



India, Japan, and Republic of Korea – participated in this tourist and religious event.

Religious processions and artistic performances about Biography of Buddha, our Supreme Teacher, while he was born, achieving Enlightenment and attaining Nirvana, were shown by Cambodian and

foreign artistic performance groups on the occasion.

“It is a big honour and pride for Cambodia to host this event,” said H.E. Sar Kheng, stressing that the eminent event showed the joint global step towards peace and global harmonization within ASEAN and Asia as a whole.

It also showed the importance and key role of cultural and religious tourism in further strengthening and expanding the ties of friendship, solidarity and good cooperation between the six State Parties to the Borobudur Plan of Actions (Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar) et other friendly countries, he said.

More importantly, he added, this historical event proved that Cambodia has been on the right track towards peace, prosperity and development under the clear-sighted leadership of Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.





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POLITICS

Cambodian PM Presides over  
the Inauguration of the  
National Committee of Anti-  
Terrorism

Cambodian prime minister and  
charity.



A newly built  
secretariat for  
the National  
Committee of  
Anti-Terrorism  
was officially  
opened on  
April 21 in the  
presence of  
Prime Minister

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei  
Techo Hun Sen and his wife, Lok  
Chum Teav Bun Rany Hun Sen.

Present at the ceremony  
were senate, national assembly and  
government dignitaries, foreign  
ambassadors to Cambodia and  
local authorities.

The construction work of the  
building complex took 11 months  
to complete with a total cost of 1.6  
million US dollars funded by



The building complex is  
composed of an administration, a  
radio service, a hospital, a  
warehouse, an armored building  
and a 580-seat meeting room.

The construction of the  
secretariat reflected a commitment  
made by the royal government  
leaders and armed forces of the  
secretariat of the National  
Committee for Combating  
Terrorism to contributing to  
implementing a policy of the  
national development of the royal  
government, which will move to a  
spirit of the rectangular strategy of  
the royal government for the

increase of the jobs, the equity and the effectiveness in Cambodia.

Speaking at the opening of this ceremony, the Premier said Cambodian personnel are ready to cooperate with other countries as part of joint operations to fight terrorism.

“If necessary, Cambodian forces could join in operations with international partners in fighting against terrorism. Cambodia is ready to join in all operations,” Samdach Techo Hun Sen said.

“The government of Cambodia considers terrorism to be most cruel; it causes the deaths of all races of human beings.”

Cambodian police officials have received counterterrorism training in recent years, but so far have not participated in specific operations. Hun Sen compared such a step to Cambodian armed forces’ demonstrated willingness to participate in United Nations-led peacekeeping missions.

Hun Sen also called on authorities to boost training in counterterrorism measures as well as efforts to prevent domestic attacks, though he acknowledged that the Kingdom is not considered a “major destination” for such strikes.

“Cambodia is prepared to fight against terrorism for the protection of the Cambodian people,” he said.

Hun Sen’s comments provide further evidence of his continued public eagerness to participate in international counterterrorism efforts.

## Czech Premier to Visit Cambodia Soon



Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Jan Fischer will pay an official visit to Cambodia from April 25 to 28, according to the ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

During his four-day stay in Cambodia, the Czech prime minister will be granted a royal audience by His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni.

He will meet with Cambodian Senate President Samdech Akka Moha Thamma Pothisal Chea Sim and National Assembly President Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin.

He will hold a talk with Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.

He will visit Tuol Sleng and National Museums, and other places of historical interests in Phnom Penh, as well as visit Ta Prum Temple in Siem Reap province.

The Czech premier is expected to be back home on April 28, 2010.

## Deadly Lightning in Cambodia

Six Cambodian have been killed by lightning that struck in two separate villages in Pursat province, Chinese News Agency Xinhua quoted a provincial police chief as saying Wednesday.



Sarun Chanth, Pursat provincial police chief said the six victims with five men aged 15 through 57 and a woman aged 47 were killed by lightning that struck on Sunday.

He said the first incident occurred in Rong Village, killing three villages who were watching television, and the second incident occurred on the same day in Kampang Village while three people were roofing a house with zinc.

Both cases happened in Pursat province, located about 200 kilometers northwest of Phnom Penh.

Lightning which occurs every year in Cambodia, normally starts in rainy season which begins from May through October.

Last year, more than 100 Cambodian died by lightning

# Economics

**ECCC' s Budget for 2010-2011 Reaches US\$87.1 Million**

2010-2011



Budget \$87.1 Millions USD

The approved budget for the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) for 2010 and 2011 amounts to US\$87.1 million in total.

Of the total amount, US\$42.9 million for 2010 and US\$44.2 million for 2011, said the ECCC, adding that the international component of the ECCC accounts for US\$65.4 million, of which US\$32.2 million for 2010 and US\$33.2 million for 2011.

The national component accounts for US\$21.7 million, of which US\$10.7 million for 2010 and US\$11 million for 2011, it pointed out, stressing that all figures are exclusive contingency.

The donor countries endorsed the final version of the budget early last week, and it contains only minor changes from the original budget request presented to the Steering

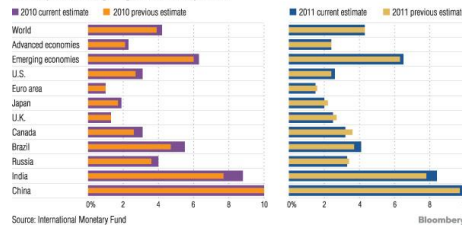
Committee of UNAKRT and the Group of Interested States to the ECCC in December 2009, it said.

**IMF Increase GDP forecast**

### A Brighter Outlook for the Global Economy

The International Monetary Fund raised its forecast for global economic growth this year to 4.2 percent from 3.9 percent. Emerging economies including China and India are leading the world out of its worst recession since World War II, the fund.

Annual percent change in gross domestic product



Source: International Monetary Fund

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised its forecast for GDP growth in Cambodia this year to 4.8 percent, following signs of recovery in foreign direct investment and tourism.

Abdul Abiad, senior economist at IMF's research department, told the Post at the sidelines of a press briefing at the World Economic Outlook conference in Washington on Wednesday that the IMF predicts a GDP rise of 4.8 percent in 2010, with a 6.8 percent rise forecast for 2011.

In September, the international body predicted 4.25 percent GDP growth in the Kingdom this year.

Abdul Abiad said IMF expects Cambodia's inflation rate to be

about 5.2 percent in 2010, and 7.7 percent in 2011.

The new IMF estimate is one of the most positive predictions made for GDP growth in the Kingdom so far. It also echoes other major financial organisations, which have reconsidered initial estimates as Cambodia exits the worst of the global economic crisis.

Earlier this month, the World Bank redrew its forecast for GDP growth to 4.4 percent for 2010, up from a 4.2 percent prediction in November. It expects a 6 percent increase in GDP for next year.

The World Bank estimates Cambodia's foreign direct investment will grow to US\$725 million in 2010, up from \$515 million in 2009. This would mean a revival nearly matching 2008's FDI levels, when investments came in at \$795 million.

On Tuesday, the Asian Development Bank projected growth of 4.5 percent and 6 percent for 2010 and 2011 respectively. But its analysts warned that Cambodia must become more competitive to make the most of a strong Asian economic resurgence.

All estimates are, so far, behind government predictions. Government officials, speaking in March, hoped for 5 percent growth in 2010, driven by development in

Cambodia's agricultural sector.

The IMF prediction follows a week in which the business community has welcomed early indicators that Cambodia may be stepping out of the crisis.

On Monday, the Council for the Development of Cambodia stated that government-approved investment rose by 53 percent in March to \$691 million, from \$452 million in the same period of 2009. FDI declined 35.2 percent to \$514.7 million in 2009, from \$794.7 million in 2008, according to a central bank annual report.

**Cambodia's FDI Reaches US\$116.5 Million**

During the first two-month of 2010, foreign direct investment in Cambodia has reached some US\$116.5 million, according to the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC).

In January alone, the foreign direct investment worth US\$75 million has been licensed to nine projects and in February, another US\$41.5 million for six projects have been agreed, CDC said.

Those investment projects concern mostly agricultural sector.

CDC said it is a positive sign for Cambodia's economic recovering. In 2008, Cambodia's FDI was around US\$10,889 million, while in 2009 it dropped to US\$5,859 million.

Last week, World Bank re-forecasted that due to the positive sign in late 2009, Cambodia's economic growth would be at 4.4 percent for 2010 and around 6 percent in 2011 while the last forecast is contracted 2 percent.

**Ministry of Commerce Holds a Working Session of Exported Processing Production and Trading Transaction**

The Ministry of Commerce held a working session of exported processing production and trading transaction on April 20 in the presence of Senior Minister H.E Cham



Prasidh, minister of Commerce.

The session was conducted to listen to reports presented by the private sectors, hold the discussions and deal with the raised problem for finding an appropriate mechanism for trading transaction and the promotion of exportation trading.

Senior Minister H.E Cham Prasidh, also co-chairman of working group of exported processing production and trading transaction, briefed the participants in the session on a procedure of trading registration, a procedure of exportation and the edition of the book.

The minister asked for promoting the exportation of Khmer home-made products.

He also urged the enterprise owners to make a commitment with their own partners through the recognition from Garment Manufacturing Association of Cambodia (GMAC) and International Labor Organization (ILO)

**Cambodia Growth Projected 4.5 pct this year, 6 pct for 2011: ADB**

The Asian Bank said on Tuesday that Cambodian growth is project 4.5 percent for 2010 and higher to 6 percent for next year thanks to good crops, increasing services, tourism and constructions, according to Chinese News Agency Xinhua.

"If the weather allows for reasonable crops in Cambodia, GDP is projected to rebound by 4.5 percent in 2010," said the Bank release.

"In 2011, a return to higher through still below trend growth in garment exports and tourism, together with some expansion of non-garment manufacturing and a pickup in other services sub-sectors, is projected to raise GDP growth to around 6 percent," it said.

Agricultural output is projected to expand by 4.7 percent assisted by efforts to increase

irrigation and the greater availability of high-yield seeds, it said.

The Bank also detailed that the growth in services is projected to resume at around 5 percent for

this year and construction activity will likely grow at a moderate rate of about 4 percent, as appetite for bank credit gradually recovers and inflows of foreign direct investment, particularly from South Korea, resume for some projects.

Cambodia received 2.2 million tourists last year. The kingdom produced 7.3 million tones of rice for 2009-2010 of which the country saw another surplus of rice of 3.1 million tones available for export, according to the agriculture ministry. ADB also said that Cambodian growth was almost double digits from 1998 to 2008, but the country's growth was estimated contracted 2 percent in 2009 due to the global downturn in 2008.

The World Bank on April 7 said that Cambodian growth is projected at 4.4 percent for 2010, expects 6 percent for next year.

### Cambodia to Send Its Officials to East-Timor

Cambodia will send its officials with expertise in economy, trading and agriculture to conduct a survey on a potential for Cambodian rice being imported to East-Timor.

The remark was made known during a meeting on April 21 between Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and President of East-Timor Mr. Jose Ramose-Horta, who is on visit to Cambodia.

Mr. Jose told the Cambodian premier of his country's situations and his visit to the Kingdom, the purpose of which he said was to make a bilateral cooperation on economy and commerce between the two nations, Ieng Sophalet, assistant to the prime minister told reporters following the meeting.

He also asked Cambodia to support East-Timor to become a full member of ASEAN countries, he said.

### More Hospitals will Be Built in Cambodia

Three Modern Hospitals will be constructed in Cambodia under the collaboration between Samdech Chea Sim's Khmer Development Foundation and Besteam Advisory Services, Ms. Kuntear Borey, the foundation chairwoman said.

Those hospitals will be built in Phnom Penh Capital city, Kampong Cham and Siem Reap provinces.

The hospital development projects has been signed here on April 13 by Mr. Hou Ponlak, Samdech Akka Moha Thamma Pothisal Chea Sim's advisor and Mr. Ben Son, General Director of Besteam Advisory Services.

### Up 10% in Siem Reap

The number of tourists visiting Siem Reap province in the first three months of this year increased by 10 percent, compared with the first quarter of 2009, an official said Monday. An estimated 667,068 international and domestic travellers visited the province home to Angkor Wat in 2009, compared with 605,862 last year. Ghov Seng Kak, president of the provincial tourism department, said that 336,102 of visitors were foreigners, an increase of 12.7 percent on last year. He added that the number of tourists who visited the province during the three days of Khmer New Year dropped by 6.1 percent year-on-year, to 106,245 from 113,180. But of those, he added, foreign visitor numbers increased 16.6 percent to 8,061 from 6,916.



*News in Cambodia*

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**First Mekong Mekong River Commission Summit**



The four member countries of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) – Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam – are committed to develop sustainably the Mekong basin, aiming at increasing the living standards of some 60 million people living along this river.



The commitment was made known by Water Resource and Meteorology Minister H.E. Lim Kean Hor at a press conference held here on April 5 at Phnom Penh International Airport upon the arrival of the Cambodian delegation from the First Mekong

River Summit in Hua Hin, Thailand.

The four nations also recognized the development during the past 15 years of the International Mekong River Commission and they are determined to do their best to increase their joint cooperation in the sustainable development of the Mekong River basin, he said.

For its part, China promised to strengthen cooperation with the International Mekong River Commission and supported the good cooperation between China and the commission in information exchange on water change at the upper parts.

The International Mekong River Commission was established in 1995. It has four members; the upper-Mekong basin countries – Myanmar and China – have not joined the commission yet, but remained its dialogue partners. They also sent their participants to the summit.

Regarding the negative impacts on Mekong's water due to the construction of hydroelectric dams, Lim Kean Hor, also president of the National Mekong

River Commission of Cambodia, said hydroelectric dams are very necessary, especially for Cambodia. "But, we also think about the development and the sustainability of the environment and nature," he underlined.

Cambodian Premier Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen on April 4-5 led a high-ranking delegation to participate in the First Mekong River Commission Summit, which will be held every four years according to the alphabetic order of the member countries.

### Construction Project of a Hydroelectric Station Starts in Koh Kong Province

Construction project of a hydroelectric station started in a groundbreaking ceremony held in Koh Kong province on April 1 in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Keat Chhon, minister of Economy and Finance.

The power plant with a capacity of 338 MW is built at an investment of some 558 million US dollars provided by China Huadian Corporation.

The construction is due to be completed in 2014.

Speaking at the ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister H.E Keat Chhon said the power construction is Cambodian government's priority.

"We congratulated the start of Cambodia's downstream hydropower project in Stung Russey Chrum Krom which was invested and will be constructed by

China Huadian," he said, adding that "we firmly believe that the successful development of the project will increase power supply capacity and power safety of Cambodia, and make an important contribution to the overall economic development of the country."

Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy H.E. Suy Sem said when completed the plant will serve energy demands in Phnom Penh and provinces of Koh Kong and Preah Sihanouk, and several others in the western country, mainly improving the livelihood of Cambodian people.

### Typhoon Ketsana Costs 130 mln USD in Cambodia

Typhoon Ketsana that hit Cambodia last year cost total damages worth 130 million US dollars, a reverse of about half from earlier estimate, Chinese News Agency Xinhua quoted a new figure released by the government as being showed on Thursday.

The new figures said damages to agriculture and industry cost a total of 60 million US dollars; damages to the housing, healthcare and education were 42 million US dollars, and damage to infrastructure was 28 million US dollars.

According to the figure, 14 provinces out of the country's total 24 provinces and cities were hit by Ketsana, and as many as 57,568 hectares of rice fields were damaged along with 43 people drown to dead and another 67 people injured.

In December, Cambodia estimated the damages cost about 284 million US dollars.

Following Typhoon Ketsana hitting this country in late September, the international aid agency Oxfam has warned several times of food crisis due to the flooding that affected the communities in Cambodia.

Oxfam estimated that 100,000 people were affected by the floods and 15,000 households are in need of immediate food assistance.

Keo Vy, communication officer of the National Committee for Disaster Management said that the Cambodian government is preparing a report on these damages and will present to foreign donors for more assistance.

### Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia to Sign Transport Agreement



A three-way road transport agreement between Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia will be signed in June, Vietnamese News Agency VNA quoted a Vietnamese transport official, as saying.

This was announced by Deputy Transport Minister Le Manh Hung at the first working-level meeting on the tripartite agreement held in the southern province of Binh Phuoc on April 1.

The agreement will build a legal framework for the flow of the transport of goods and commodities among the three countries, said Hung.

At the meeting, the three countries' transport leaders agreed that the negotiating and bringing the agreement into reality will facilitate transport, trade and investment as well as stimulate local and regional economies in the development triangle of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The three countries' representatives agreed in principle to the content of the agreement and laid out steps for future negotiations.

They also considered special preferential mechanisms for commodities, people and vehicles in the development triangle.

Vice Chairman of the Binh Phuoc Provincial People's Committee Bui Van Thach said that once the agreement becomes effective, it will also facilitate tourism from Binh Phuoc to Cambodia and Laos.

Vietnam has provided preferential credits to help Laos build Highway 18B connecting Attapu province with the Vietnam-Laos border and to help Cambodia's Highway 78 linking Ratanakiri province to the Vietnam-Cambodia border.

Vietnam signed bilateral road transport agreement with Laos and Cambodia and the three countries signed a number of regional agreement in the field.

### **Cambodia: Do Not Use Uighurs Issue As a Pretext**

Cambodia has respected the U.S. government's decision to postpone its military assistance to Cambodia, but it should not have used the Uighurs issue as an excuse.

The reaction was made here on April 2 by Cambodian government's spokesman H.E. Khieu Kanharith after Mr. Philip Crowley, U.S. Secretary of State's spokesman said his government has decided to postpone its 200-truck military assistance to Cambodia in response to the sending of a group of 20 Uighurs back to China.

"If the U.S. gives us [the trucks], we thank. If it postpones, we have nothing to do. But we do not accept that the U.S. used the Uighurs issue as a problem," said H.E. Khieu Kanharith, also minister of Information. Even the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia could not solve the problem, he added.

"Thailand has sent back thousands of Hmongs [to Laos], why is there no problem?" he asked.

For his part, H.E. Koy Kuong, undersecretary and spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said it is the U.S.' right and foreign policy to postpone or give [those trucks] to Cambodia. The Kingdom has also implemented its foreign policy and its own law under its sovereignty, explaining that regarding the Uighurs issue,

Cambodia has only implemented its immigration law without discrimination.

### **RCAF Makes its First UN Mission to Lebanon**

The Royal Government of Cambodia has decided to send an engineering troop to Lebanon on the UN peace-keeping force mission and the departure is expected to be made in July this year, according to an officer of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF).

It is another pride for the RCAF after its prestige is well known for the successful mine clearance mission in Sudan, said Gen. Sem Sovanny, general director of the National Center for Peace-keeping Forces, Mines and ERW Clearance (NPMEC).

The upcoming departure of the RCAF's engineering troop estimated from 200 to 210 soldiers, was agreed upon at a meeting held last Wednesday at NPMEC headquarters between the RCAF led by Gen. Sem Sovanny and the United Nations led by Col. Rustan Patnaik who is in charge of the UN peace-keeping mission.

A four-member UN delegation made a visit to Cambodia to assess the capacity of the RCAF and to thoroughly supervise the forces and equipments for the upcoming mission to Lebanon.

Through a week-long visit of inspection tour from Mar. 27 to April 2, the engineering troop and the equipments are qualified to the UN standard, said Col. Rustan Patnaik.

Col. Rustan Patnaik also praised the royal government and army for the readiness to send the troop equipped with the sophisticated equipments which had already been painted with the UN label in a short period.

During the trip to Cambodia, the UN delegation had also visited the NPMEC headquarters located in Kampong Speu's Oudong district and visited the provinces of Preah Sihanouk and Siem Reap.

### Cambodia's Membership in the ASEAN Anti-Terrorism Convention

The National Assembly adopted yesterday a draft law accepting Cambodia's membership in the ASEAN Anti-Terrorism Convention.

A total of 89 out of 90 lawmakers present at the NA session voted in favor of the two-article draft law.

The 23-article ASEAN Anti-Terrorism Convention was first signed by heads of the ten states and governments of ASEAN during the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit held from Jan. 12 to 15, 2007 in the Philippines.

The convention was adopted to strengthen the security cooperation in the region and prevent terrorism, through training human resources, exchange information and experiences among the ASEAN countries.

On the same day, 85 of the 96 lawmakers present voted for the draft law on foreign property ownership, allowing foreigners to

own property in co-owned buildings.

### PM: 2009 Is the Successful Year of Agriculture

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen said 2009 is the successful year of agriculture.

The data of the rice output we got in 2009 is the data that the Ministry of Planning has estimated for 2012, so it was the successful year of the agriculture, Samdech Techo Hun Sen made known at the annual meeting of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries yesterday.

Premier Techo Hun Sen said in 2009 Cambodia suffered various natural disasters such as typhoon Ketsana, Mekong River's flood, but with our own rice stock preparedness we can timely control the situation.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, in the 2009-2010 Cambodia planted rice on 2.71 million ha and got 7.58 million tones of paddy, up from 7.17 million tones in 2008-2009.

The two-day meeting was also attended by the government officials, the representatives of foreign embassies in Cambodia, development partners and other international organizations.

In the meantime, many items including home-made agricultural machines, rice products, subsidiary food crops, animal husbandry, forestry product, fishery products and other

services were displayed in an exhibition.

In a report presented at the meeting, Agriculture Minister H.E. Chan Sarun said although there is an irregularity of national phenomenon happening repeatedly three times in 2009, the situation of the agricultural production is still better in the country.

In term of forestry, the minister said in early 2010, there is anarchy in log transportation and logging activities due to a lack of the management of forest administration, which prompted the Cambodian premier to issue an order to take a strict measure against the criminal offenders.

In his speech, the minister also set a plan to be implemented in agriculture for 2010-2011 periods.

### Law on Foreign Property

Law on foreign property ownership was passed Monday April 05, 2010, a development that drew positive reactions from the subdued real-estate sector, according to Phnom Penh Post.

The law – passed with 85 lawmakers in favour and 11 opposed – now awaits approval from the Senate and King Norodom Sihamoni, both steps that are considered formalities.

“This law provides for economic interests, social interests, legal interests and also the integration of Cambodia's investment [environment] within a global and regional framework,”

Minister of Land Management Im Chhum Lim said Monday, adding that it would stop the practice of foreigners' buying property in the Kingdom under the names of Cambodians.

The new law – which allows foreigners to own property so long as it is not on the ground floor of a building, even as owning land outright remains prohibited – is significant for a number of reasons, and expressed optimism that it will provide a boost to the sector after a difficult 18-month slide.

### PM Hun Sen Rejects Construction of Reservoirs in Inundated Forests of Tonle Sap

Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen has said that the building of reservoirs in the inundated forests of Tonle Sap is problematic and disaster would occur in the future.

Speaking on Tuesday at the closing of the conference on 2009-2010 activities in agriculture, forestry and fisheries and the objective for 2010-2011, Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen advised the participants not to touch that area and not to consider only the short-term benefits.

He said he would not accept that problem and would oppose it, and no matter who he is, a prime minister or a member of parliament or a citizen, he would disagree with the building of reservoirs in the inundated forests.

Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen asked all the

lakeside provinces of Tonle Sap to take appropriate measures on the matter, saying that he would not accept any explanation although a hectare of land could produce 5 tons of rice or more.

He suggested the consideration on long-term benefits rather than short-term ones and recommended that the development and conservation should go together to ensure the sustainable development.

### Cambodian Premier's Message to Cambodian Compatriots on Khmer New Year



Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen has sent a message to Cambodian compatriots across the country and in foreign countries on Khmer New Year, pointing up some objectives to be achieved in the year to come.

In the message, he said in the next year, the royal government will make a further effort to strengthen the stability, security and peace in the country for promoting the socio-economic development and making a deep reform in conformity with the good governance and transparency with the spirit of the high responsibility, as well as continuing to enhance the relation of international cooperation for the benefit of the nation and the Cambodian people.

In addition, Cambodia's important role and contribution in

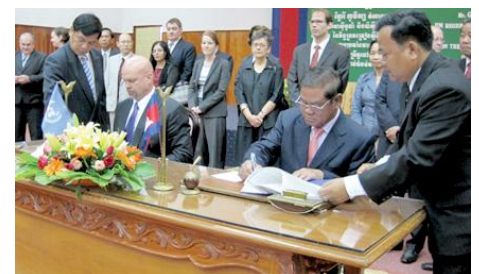
ASEAN will be further strengthened as well, he said.

The Cambodian premier also elaborated all achievements made by the royal government in the national development in the past year, in particular the success in listing the Preah Vihear Temple as a World Heritage Site and Cambodia's membership in the World Heritage Committee.

In spite of being affected by typhoon Ketsana, the international financial crisis and the global economic recession, Cambodia could achieve positive economic growth and maintain peace, security, political stability and social order, he said.

The Cambodian premier also extended best wishes to His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, King-Father Norodom Sihanouk and Queen-Mother Norodom Monineath Sihanouk the best of health and longevity.

### Cambodia and UNODC: Agreement on Combating Migration Trafficking



Cambodia and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) signed here on April 8 an agreement on implementing the regional project for combating migration trafficking.

The agreement was reached after a talk was held between Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Sar Kheng, minister of Interior and visiting Mr. Gary Lewis, Representative for UNODC Regional Centre for *East Asia* and the Pacific.

Mr. Lewis highlighted a view on preventing migration trafficking, saying that a move was seriously abusive to the law and those who run migration trafficking are treated as promoting human trading.

The Cambodian deputy prime minister elaborated on all efforts made by the royal government under the leadership of Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen in fighting against drug abuse and human trafficking, mainly child and minor trading.

He hoped that the agreement will contribute to preventing migration trafficking.

**PM's Condolence Letter for Polish President's Death**



Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has sent a condolence letter to his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk for the death of Polish President Lech Kaczynski in a plane crash.

“I am extremely shocked and saddened to receive news that His Excellency President Lech Kaczynski and the First Lady, along with many other Polish dignitaries were killed in a plane crash in Western Russia today,” said Samdech Techo Hun Sen in his letter dated April 10.

“On this very sad moment, on behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, allow me to convey to Your Excellency and through you to the Government and people of Poland as well as the bereaved families, my deepest sympathy and profound condolences for such a huge loss in this most unfortunate and tragic accident,” he added.

**Cambodia Proposes to Hold ASEAN Summit to Help Defuse Thailand's Situation**



Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Hor Namhong has asked Vietnam, current Chair of ASEAN, to issue a Declaration on the situation in Thailand, or to convene an urgent ASEAN Summit to help defuse Thailand's extremely tense political situation.

His full letter dated April 10 to his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Gia Khiem reads as follows:

“Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the current extremely tense political situation in Thailand, which has already claimed many human casualties.

In light of this very grave development which no one knows when it will end and whether it will lead to more bloodshed, I think that we, as fellow ASEAN member states cannot idle and leave ASEAN image at stake any further.

Therefore, I would like to propose that Vietnam as Chair of ASEAN should issue a Declaration on the situation in Thailand, or convene an urgent special ASEAN Summit in order to help looking for any appropriate ways to defuse such an extremely explosive situation in our friendly Thailand.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.”

**U.S.' Commitment to Consolidate Partnership with Cambodia**

U.S. Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton has affirmed the U.S. determination to strengthen the partnership between the two countries – Cambodia and the U.S. – and the ties of friendship between the two peoples.



The affirmation was made in her statement dated April 11 to the Cambodian people on the occasion of the Khmer New Year. The full statement reads as follows:

“On behalf of President Obama and the American people, I congratulate the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the occasion of Khmer New Year.

This is an opportunity to honor Cambodia's culture and its accomplishments. This past year, Cambodians marked a historic milestone when, for the first time in three decades, a former Khmer Rouge official was held accountable for his crimes before an internationally recognized court.

And over the last year, the partnership between our two nations has grown stronger and deeper. Together we have expanded cooperation on law

enforcement issues, food security, the environment, and international peacekeeping.

On this festive occasion, let me reaffirm our commitment to both the partnership between our governments and the friendship between our people. We especially look forward to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our bilateral relations this coming July, a testament to our enduring bonds.

I offer best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous new year.”

USA Provides USD 5 Millions to ECCC

The United States of America's Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues, Mr. Stephen J. Rapp said US government plans to provide USD 5 millions to the Extraordinary

Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

Mr. Stephen made known here recently during his meeting with H.E. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers.

“US government had donated only USD1.8 millions to ECCC in the past, but in 2010 it plans to donate USD 5 millions”, he said.

Mr. Stephen also highly valued the progress of the ECCC's process.

In reply, H.E. Sok An thanked the US government for its commitment and encouraged Mr. Stephen to continue his support and cooperation with the Khmer Rouge's tribunal.



Former Malaysian Minister Wishes To Invest in Halal Food in Cambodia

Former Malaysian Foreign Minister Mr. Ahmad Rithaudeen is willing to invest in halal food production in Cambodia.

During a meeting here on April 2 with Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Mr. Ahmad Rithaudeen said halal food

has been very popular in the world, especially in Europe. He therefore wished to invest in halal food production in Cambodia to export to Muslim countries around the world, Ieng Sophalet, assistant to the Cambodian premier told reporters after the meeting.

On the occasion, he introduced to Samdech Techo Hun Sen his son, president of an IT company, which has been organizing and maintaining the Malaysian government's IT

system. He said his son would contribute to helping the Royal Government of Cambodia in this field.

In reply, Samdech Hun Sen expressed deep thanks to Mr. Ahmad Rithaudeen's good will and asked his group to continue to work with the national authority in charge of IT in order to establish cooperation in the IT field.

He also welcomed the investment project of the former

Malaysian foreign minister, stressing that it will contribute to Cambodian policy in expanding its relations with the Middle East countries.

**WB: Cambodia's Economic Growth To Reach 4.4 Percent in 2010**

Cambodia will get 4.4 percent of economic growth this year and 6 percent in 2011, according to the World Bank (WB)'s report issued yesterday.

WB has estimated that Cambodian GDP in 2010 will grow to 4.4 percent and it will reach 6

percent in 2011 due to "positive signs" in late 2009.

The main sector leading to positive growth is agriculture. At the end of 2009, Cambodia's rice and rubber exportation have risen more than twofold. Moreover, the foreign tourist arrivals have stopped decreasing, the importation of consuming goods has been stable, while the foreign direct investment (FDI) has started to recover, the report said.

Mr. Huot Chea, WB economist, said agriculture and tourism are the main positive signs for the growth.

Last year, as the country was affected by the global financial crisis, Cambodia achieved only 2 percent GDP growth.



**Foreign Tourists Increase by 10 Percent in 2010**



Cambodia welcomed more than 450,000 foreign tourists in the first two months of this year,

showing an increase of 8 percent as compared with the same period of last year, said Tourism Minister H.E. Thong Khon.

The number of foreign tourists is expected to reach 2.4 million this year, an increase of 10 percent, which is the highest increasing rate in the ASEAN region, he said at an award ceremony of the most leading travel agencies and companies held on April 10 at Le Royal Hotel in Phnom Penh.

flight directly to Cambodia and the aviation of Indonesia is also expected to flight directly to Siem Reap province, said the tourism minister, adding that the royal government has been studying the visa exemption for the Japanese and Korean visitors.

By the end of this year, the aviation of the Philippines will