



**ព្រឹត្តិបត្រព័ត៌មាន**



**Weekly Information Bulletin**

Issued by the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Washington D.C.

Volume 46 – From 01 to 07 June 2009

**S. Korea, ASEAN Agree to strengthen ties, security cooperation and investment**

On 02 June 2009, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and leaders of Southeast Asian countries agreed to increase economic cooperation and expand ties to include security and other global issues.



South Korea and ASEAN signed an investment treaty. They have already enacted trade agreements on goods and services.

To further boost trade, investment and tourism exchanges, the leaders agreed to begin discussions for an agreement on air services by early 2010 that will lead to freer transportation of both passengers and air freight.

Lee said his country will work closely with ASEAN states to improve their ties

in all areas, including economic, cultural and security issues.



Leaders of the Republic of Korea (RoK) and 10 Southeast Asian countries have signed a free trade agreement (FTA) on investment, capping years of negotiations aimed at removing tariffs and bolstering bilateral trade between the two regions. The investment deal aims to provide protection for investments and investors.

**MOU for the construction of Neak Loeng Bridge signed**

On 29 May 2009, Cambodia and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the construction of a bridge crossing Mekong River, along the National Road N<sup>o</sup>1, better known as Neak Loeng Bridge.

The signatories acknowledged the four-month feasibility study result of the

bridge construction. Both sides agreed on the design of the bridge – cable mode. With the peak height of 37 meters from the water, the bridge is 13.5 meter wide and 2,200 meter long.

Neak Loeung Bridge will play a key role for the travel and transportation from Cambodia to Vietnam and be helpful for Greater Mekong Sub-region countries.

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### **Cambodian Government rejects U.S. Ambassador's allegation on corruption**

The spokesman office of the Council of Ministers, Cambodian Foreign Ministry and government's Anti-corruption Unit have rejected allegation of Mrs. Carol Rodley, US Ambassador to Cambodia that Cambodia loses US\$500 million each year to the corruption.

Meanwhile, Cambodian Foreign Ministry issued a statement relating to the U.S. ambassador's remarks, saying that the royal government of Cambodia absolutely refutes the politically motivated and unsubstantiated allegation made by the United States diplomat in contradiction to the good relations between Cambodia and the United States government.

Here is the full Diplomatic Note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Embassy of the United States of America in Phnom Penh:

“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America in Phnom Penh, and with reference to the allegation about the loss of US\$ 500 million revenue due

to corruption made by H.E. Ambassador Carol Rodley at the “Clean hand” concert at the National Olympic Stadium, on 30 May 2009, has honour to communicate to the latter as follows:



It is very much regrettable that a representative of a foreign government has made such an allegation based on a biased assessment and without any proof invented by so-called Economic Institute of Cambodia belonging to the opposition party with the real invention to publicly defame and discredit the Royal Government of Cambodia.

The Royal Government of Cambodia wishes to remind that all members of the diplomatic corps must maintain their neutrality and refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Cambodia. This is most basic principle of relations.

The Royal Government of Cambodia absolutely refutes to politically motivated and unsubstantiated allegation made by the United States diplomat in

contradiction of the good relation between Cambodia and the United States Government.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration”.

Phnom Penh, 02 June 2009

### **ADB pledges to provide US\$574 million for 2009-2012**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide US\$574 million to Cambodia for supporting the public investment program for 2009-2012. The announcement was made known on 01 June 2009, during a meeting between H.E. Mr. Keat Chhon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and and Mr. Arjun Goswam, ADB Country Director.

The fund will be used in the fields of education, transportation and communication, agriculture, water resource and finance.

### **Cambodia destroys nearly 4,000 kg of illegal drug ingredients**

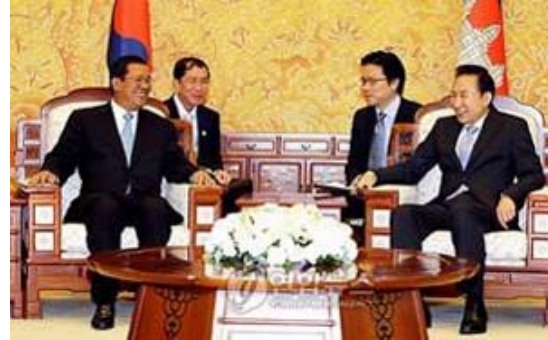
On 02 June 2009, the illegal drug ingredients of 4,000 kg ingredients which comprise of 16 items were destroyed at Phnom Penh's Sen Sok district.

Those substances were seized by Cambodian authorities from Phnom Penh Municipality, Kampong Cham and Takeo provinces.

The destruction ceremony was presided over by H.E. Ke Kim Yan, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Cambodian National Authority for Combating Drugs, H.E. Kep Chuktema, Governor of Phnom Penh, and Ms. Magaret Adamsom, Ambassador of Australia to Cambodia.

### **Cambodia, S. Korea agree on large-scale economic projects**

On 04 June 2009, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen and South Korean President Lee Myung-bak agreed to significantly boost their countries' economic ties following the signing of a number of deals on aid and joint economic projects.



RoK will provide US\$60-million in loans from its Economic Development Cooperation Fund for the construction of new roads and sewerage in Cambodia.

South Korea also agreed to start providing Official Development Aid (ODA) to Cambodia in a framework agreement signed shortly after a summit between the two leaders.

“President Lee said South Korea will actively share its development experience with Cambodia as part of its new diplomatic campaign toward Asia and agreed to provide ODA for Cambodia's agricultural, medical, industrial and educational development,” the statement said.

The South Korean president offered his gratitude for Cambodia's support for a joint press statement issued at the end of the Korea-ASEAN summit, in which the leaders condemned North Korea for its latest nuclear test and urged the immediate resumption of dialogue to resolve the issue.

## Cambodian Ambassador presents his Letters of Credence to the US President



On May 20, 2009, **H.E. HEM HENG** presented to **Hon. Barack Obama**, President of the United States, his Letters of Credence accrediting him as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United States of America.

## Cambodia celebrates international Children's Day

On 01 June 2009, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Children's Day and the 8<sup>th</sup> World Day for Anti-Child Labor were held under the topic of "Opportunity providing to the Children for 9-year Basic Education" and "Opportunity providing to the Children for End of Child Labor".



Cambodia has been achieved some goals related to children's rights. Under the strategy, the government has determined to provide equal rights and opportunity for all of Cambodian children and work hard to stop violence against children, child trafficking, and all kinds of discrimination on children, etc.

Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen in his statement for the annual International Children's Day also stressed the royal government's determination to increase the intervention on social affairs through increasing the national budget subsequently on education, health, agriculture, and rural development, as well as improving children's health and helping other victims.





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**Volume 47 – From 08 to 14 June 2009**

**Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong:  
Premier’s visit to RoK is very  
successful**

H.E. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation told the reporters on 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2009, upon his arrival that the visit of Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen to the Republic of Korea was crowned with success.

Seven agreements – a framework agreement on Korea’s grand aid to Cambodia for 2009-2012; a US\$30-million loan agreement for the rehabilitation of roads N°31, 33, 117 and the Kampot’s bypass; and a US\$30-million loan agreement for water treatment facilities construction and Siem Reap River development; and four cooperation memoranda on construction, energy and natural resources, transportation, science and agricultural techniques.

The two loan agreements are part of the US\$127-million loan that RoK has agreed to extend to Cambodia, and the Korean side has further agreed to consider another Cambodia’s request for US\$380 million in loan for road and irrigation system construction.

**Vietnam: co-operation with Cambodia  
to grow**

H.E. Mr. Gia Khiem, Vietnames Deputy Prime Minister said in Ho Chi minh City on 05 June 2009 that relationships between Cambodian and Vietnamese border provinces have been consolidated for the prosperity and development of both countries. He added “Co-operation between these provinces has progressed significantly in various fields including economics, trade, investment and national defiance”.



He also called on Vietnamese and Cambodian authorities from border provinces, ministries and sectors to review their co-operation and analyse advantages and disadvantages, as well as opportunities and challenges, in order to come up with measures to make their co-operation sustainable and efficient.

## **Cambodia to promote tourism and investment with Japan**

A group of Cambodian government officials departed for Japan to promote tourism and investment on 06 June 2009.

The group was led by H.E. Sun Chanthol, senior minister in charge of the Council for Development of Cambodia and H.E. Thong Khon, minister of Tourism.

Before the departure, H.E. Mr. Thong Khon said that from 6-14 June 2009, the government officials will attend workshops on investment policy and tourism in Tokyo, Nagoya and Fukuoka to be organized by ASEAN-Japan Center.

## **Regional meeting on climate changes in Cambodia**

On 04 to 05 June 2009, the regional meeting on climate change law and policy took place at Naga World Hotel with the participation of 60 climate experts.

H.E. Mr. Mok Mareth, Minister of Environment presided over the meeting aiming at seeking more understanding on the implementation of law and policy as well as international conventions to brake down climate change.

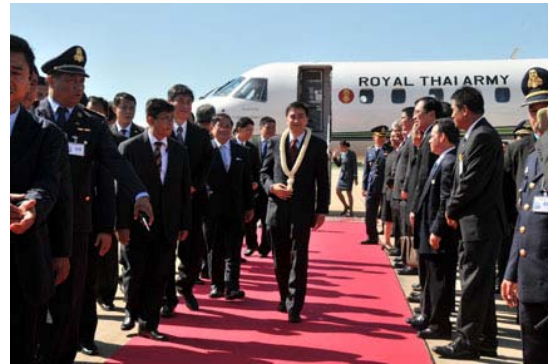
Specialists in climate from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam participated in the meeting organized by United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Hanns Seidel Foundation.

The meeting serves as a forum for experience and technology exchange to reduce greenhouse gas emission by 2012.

## **Thai Premier visits Cambodia**

At invitation of Samdech Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of Cambodia, Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva paid an

official visit to Cambodia on 12 June 2009.



During the visit, Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva was received in royal audience by His Majesty Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia.

Thai premier also paid courtesy calls on Samdech Chea Sim, President of the Senate, and Samdech Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly.

Besides, Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva also holds official talks with Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

## **Keat Chhon receives a group of American professors**

On 04 June 2009, H.E. Mr. Keat Chhon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance received a visiting group of American professors.

The seven-member American delegation led by Prof. Jeffrey A. Sheehan, Associate Dean of The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania made a visit to Cambodia in a purpose to learn about Cambodian people and the current economic situation in the Kingdom.

During the meeting, H.E. Keat Chhon informed his guests that the Royal Government of Cambodia had carried out reforms in all aspects, including public financial management, financial development, private sector improvement and good governance reform in an

attempt to improve business and investment environment.

For the economic development, the royal government has successfully achieved a stable progress on the national economy in the past recent years. H.E. Mr. Keat Chhon said that in the past decade, Cambodia's economic growth has reached an average of 9.4 percent, in which 13.3 percent in 2005, and 10.8 percent and 10.2 percent respectively in 2006 and 2007. Despite a sharp economic plummet due to the global financial crisis, in 2008, Cambodia got about 7 percent of economic growth.

On the occasion, he asked the American delegation to help build Cambodian officials' capacity in the fields of economy and finance.

### **Cambodian military officers leave for Garuda Shield 09 in Indonesia**

Cambodia has sent a first batch of 18 military officers to join multi-national peacekeeping exercise Garuda Shield 09 in Indonesia, while the second batch will leave for the event on 13 June 2009.



The event was conducted in the framework of the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), an annual Capstone training event attended by GPOI member nations and other regional and international partners.

Cambodia will host a large-scale ASEAN-US military exercise in 2010.

### **ADB, PRC help Mekong countries address human resource development concerns**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and People's Republic of China (PRC) are helping countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) address human resource development issues such as migrant labor concerns, cross-border recognition of technical skills and social inclusion.

ADB has approved US\$750,000 grant from its Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund for technical assistance to support GMS countries carry out a strategic framework and action plan for human resource development in the sub-region, said an ADB press released issued on June 8.

Co financing of US\$500,000 is being provided by the PRC's Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund, administered by ADB. A further US\$150,000 worth of in-kind contributions will come from the participating GMS countries themselves, it added.

The GMS drew up its 2002 to 2012 strategic framework; it has made huge strides in improving cross-border transport connections, giving trade and tourism a major boost.

### **Cambodia and Vietnam combat drug crime together**

On 09 June 2009, H.E. Mr. Truong Vinh, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister assured Cambodia of stronger links to combat drug-related crimes during a meeting with the country's senior narcotics squad in Ho Chi Minh City.

H.E. Mr. Trong told H.E. Mr. Ke Kim Yan, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and President of the National Committee for Drug Control, that the two countries

should enhance their channels of information as well as provide each other with regular assistance in drug control, drug detox facilities, and rehabilitation and in the management of former drug addicts.

In response, the Cambodian Deputy PM sounded satisfied with the assistance Vietnam was providing in the fight against drug lords and Cambodia was looking for more information and help from Vietnam to train up its drug squads and open drug detoxification centres as well as joint initiatives in the fight against cross-border drug crime.

### **Cambodian dispatched 52 peacekeeping soldiers to Sudan**

On 10 June 2009, Cambodia sent 52 soldiers to clear mines in Sudan for UN peacekeeping mission to replace the old ones.



This group is the fourth batch of troops that Cambodia has sent for humanitarian affairs under the UN mission to Sudan. H.E. Mr. Pol Saroeun, General Commander in Chief said in farewell ceremony that “besides helping mines and UXOs clearance for UN peacekeeping operation in Darfur region, you all have to help other humanitarian affairs in Sudan like purified clean water, digging wells and housing for local people and you all to display good image of Cambodia in this operation”.



Cambodia soldiers who were sent to Sudan, as well as other ones who are prepared to be sent to Chad and Central Africa in near future, have been trained with the UN standard by trainers from other countries, mainly the United States of America.

### **Second National Midwifery Forum opened**

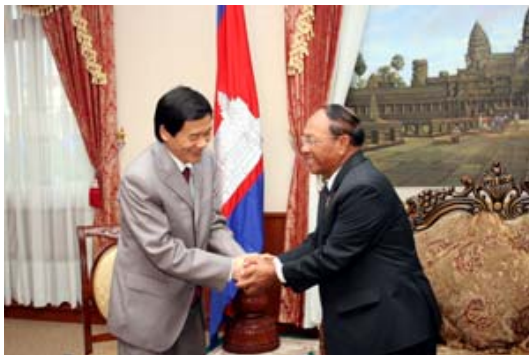
On 10 June 2009, the Second National Midwifery Forum on the theme of “No Woman Should Die Giving Birth” was opened under the presence H.E. Mrs. Men Sam An, Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Tao Seng Hour, Senior Minister, Chairman of the National Commission of People and Development and H.E. Mr. Mam Bun Heng, Minister of Health, as well as officials from concerned institutions were present at the opening ceremony of the two-day forum with the support from German Government channeled through the United Nations Population Fund.



The forum will update the progress since the 1<sup>st</sup> Midwifery and foster dialogue between midwives, policy makers and stakeholders on strengthening midwifery and the provision of midwifery care and improvements in reproductive, maternal and neonatal health. It will also give the opportunity to identify key recommendations and steps to improve performance, deployment, competency and status of midwives for the well-being of the mother and the child.

### **Cambodia and Vietnam to finalize border demarcation by 2012**

On 10 June 2009, H.E. Mr. Ngo Anh Dung, newly appointed Vietnamese Ambassador to Cambodia said Cambodia and Vietnam will finalize their border demarcation by 2012, during his meeting with Samdech Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly.



Meanwhile the Chairmen of the Cambodia-Vietnam Joint Committee for Border Demarcation and Marker Planting also agreed to end the border demarcation between both countries in their meeting on June 8-9 in Siem Reap province, Cambodia.

According to Cambodian Senior Minister and Chairman of the Cambodia-Vietnam Border Committee Var Kim Hong, the kingdom shares some 1,270 kilometers of border with Vietnam to the east and as of today, 109 border poles have been marked and 205 more will be placed by 2012.

### **Japan to encourage a special economic development zone among Greater Mekong Sub-region and India**

Japan wishes to encourage a special economic development zone and a joint trade among Greater Mekong Sub-region countries and India, an official at the Ministry of Finance and Economy was quoted as saying yesterday.

On 10 June 2009, in the meeting between H. E. Mr. Keat Chhon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economy and H. E. Mr. Ushighe Hiroyuki, Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan said that Japan wishes to encourage a special economic development zone and a joint trade among Greater Mekong Sub-region countries and India.

The two sides' discussion focused on promoting the special economic development zone in a comprehensive framework for making a strategy to build the infrastructure and conducting a joint trading.



The discussion also involved in the Greater Mekong Sub-region countries and India, together with several economic corridors and Cambodia, he said, adding that the development of Greater Mekong Sub-region countries and India required a strong participation of private sectors..

Cambodia does not want to be a transit country, but become a part of economic integration in the region, the minister

said, adding that Cambodia wished to participate in equity emulation.

Japan had provided a fund of US\$20 billion for the development of Greater Mekong Sub-region countries and India.

Japan will hold a meeting of the Greater Mekong Sub-region countries and India in the near future.

### **Thailand returns ancient artifacts to Cambodia**

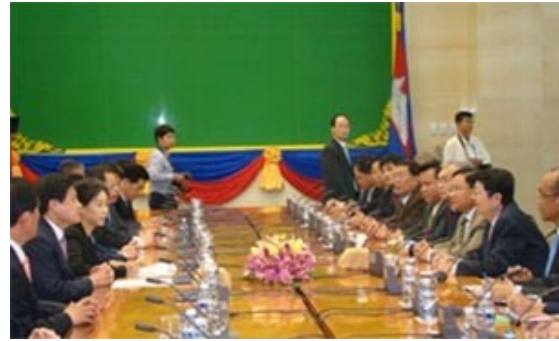
On 12 June 2009, the official handover ceremony of the seven pieces of Khmer artifacts was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, under the presidency of Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister and his visiting Thai counterpart Abhisit Vejjajiva.

In April 2009, in their meeting on the sideline of ASEAN related summits at Pattaya Beach resort, Thailand, Thai premier presented a Khmer ancient artifact to Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, saying that other pieces will be returned to Cambodia during his official visit to the country.

### **Phnom Penh ties alliance with Busan**

On 11 June 2009, the agreement on the sister cities affiliation between the Municipality of Phnom Penh and the Busan Metropolitan City for mutual cooperation exchange, was signed by Phnom Penh Governor H.E. Kep Chuktema and Busan Mayor H.E. Hur Nam-sik.

The alliance is very important to further strengthen the ties of friendship between both countries, through the cooperation exchange in the fields of administration, economy, tourism, culture and education between Phnom Penh and Busan.



Busan is the second city that tied alliance with Phnom Penh Municipality. In late March 2009, Phnom Penh and Korea's Incheon Metropolitan City also signed the sister cities affiliation.

The visiting Korean Delegation led by Mr. Hur Nam-sik also met with H. E. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers to seek his support for the direct flights between Busan and Siem Reap.

### **United States donates medical equipment to Sihanouk Hospital Center of HOPE**

On 09 June 2009, H. E. Dr. Mam Bun Heng, Minister of Health and U.S. Ambassador Carol A. Rodley presided over a ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate the medical equipment that the United States donated close to US\$500,000 worth of medical equipment to Phnom Penh's Sihanouk Hospital Center of HOPE. The 85 pieces of equipment support the life-saving treatment and diagnosis of patients, including the 3,000 HIV-positive patients under the hospital's care.

During the inauguration, Mrs. Carol Rodney, Ambassador praised the hospital's staff. "Not only is this one of the busiest adult hospitals in Cambodia, it is one of the best. The hardworking staff here provides the poor with health care of the highest standard at no charge".

The United States has supported the hospital since 2003 American individuals and corporations also contribute support, making it a model of cooperation between the public and private sectors.

**Taiwanese private companies hold an exhibition for selling their products**

In Phnom Penh, an exhibition of 25 private companies from Taiwan was held on June 11 for selling their products, in which about 40 items were displayed to nearly 300 Cambodian businessmen.



The exhibition is aimed at finding the market in Cambodia for their products and accelerating the trading relations with local businessmen. Electronic equipment, cosmetics, vehicle spare parts ... are among the products being displayed at that time.

Although Cambodia does not have diplomatic relations because the country adhered to “one-China policy”, about 3,000 Taiwanese run their business in Cambodia, mainly garment and footwear.





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**Japan’s grant aid to support three development projects in Cambodia**

On 15 June 2009, the Japanese government decided to grant 2,143 million yen, approximately US\$21.43 million, to Cambodia to support three development projects.



The notes to the projects were exchanged between, H. E. Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and H. E. Mr. Katsuhiro Shinohara, Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia, of the total amount, 819 million yen will be used for the Project for Improvement of Rolaing Chrey Headwork, Kampong Speu province; and 524 million yen for the Project for Construction of Primary Schools in Phnom Penh (Phase III).

The rest will be for the purpose of contributing to promotion of the economic structural adjustment efforts by

the Royal Government of Cambodia as well as mitigation of the economic difficulties, including indebtedness, of the Kingdom of Cambodia (Non-Project Grant Aid).

**Australian company to invest in Cambodia’s railways**

The Royal Government of Cambodia has granted the license to the Australian Company, Toll (Cambodia), to invest in the country’s two railways.

H. E. Mr. Keat Chhon, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Finance and H. E. Mr. Tram Iv Tek, Minister of Public Works and Transportation and Mr Charles Thompson, the Toll representative, on 12 June 2009 signed a 30-year concession agreement on the development and exploitation of the two railway lines – from Phnom Penh to Poipet of Banteay Meanchey province and from Phnom Penh to Preah Sihanouk province.

With the Asian Development Bank’s loan and the government’s budget of US\$73 million, the Cambodian Royal Railways were rehabilitated and launched, yet it needs to be privatized to ensure smoother services.

## **Cambodian deminers back home**

On 12 June 2009, 139 Cambodian deminers returned after one-year UN's peacekeeping mission for humanitarian operation in Sudan.

H. E. Mr. Tea Banh, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense said the successive duties performed by the Cambodian deminers in Sudan prompted the Cambodian Royal Armed Forces' prestige to be regarded in the region and the world as the ones who contributed to seeking peace for the people in the world.

Cambodia has since 2006 sent four batches of deminers to Sudan for UN peacekeeping mission. Cambodia respectively sent 44 soldiers to Mongolia and 48 to Bangladesh to take part in multi-national military exercises, as well as recently a group of soldiers to Indonesia to join GPOI exercises.

## **ADB representative awarded by the RGC**

H. E. Mr. Keat Chhon, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Finances, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, awarded Mr. Arjun Goswami, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Cambodia with *Saha Metrei* medal, who has been played crucial role in the enhancement of the partnership between Cambodia and ADB.



Mr. Arjun Goswami has been serving this role since 2006 and is supposed to work at the ADB head office in Manila of the Philippines after finishing his term in Cambodia this year.

## **Cambodia hosts ACMECS meeting on tourism**

On 09 to 10 June 2009, in Siem Reap province, Cambodia hosted the ACMECS working meeting which focused on the joint promotion of the tourism potential in the ACMECS member countries, with the participation of officials from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

The meeting also agreed to encourage each member country to seek development partners, donor countries as soon as possible in order to invest in projects in the field of tourism and urged Myanmar to establish programs on tourism package to guide tourists through religion as soon as possible as the country has many cultural areas like Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

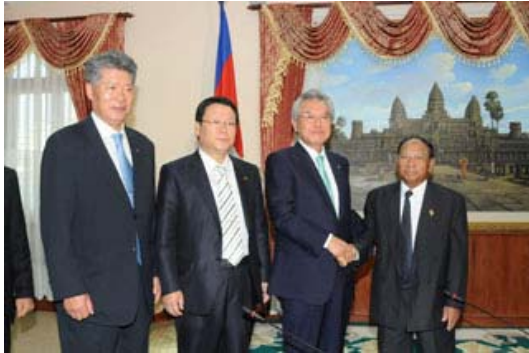
A Cambodian tourism official, who attended the meeting, said Cambodia took the initiative to jointly publish tourism brochures of the five countries to distribute to tourists around the world and to continue to promote tourism in the ACMECS region on websites.

Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam are the five member countries of ACMECS (Ayeyawady-Chaopraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy).

## **National Assembly President Awards medals to Korean investors**

On 12 June 2009, Samdech Chakrei Heng Samrin, the President of National Assembly awarded medals to four Korean delegates from South Korea's Busan City and a Cambodian

businessman for their contribution to the national development and he said at the ceremony that the recipients were recognized by their engagement in the investment in Cambodia and for their contribution to fostering the mutual relations between the Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Cambodia.



In his reply, Mr. Jung Taek Shin, president of the Chamber of Commerce of South Korea's Busan city, said the recent visit to the Republic of Korea by Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen reflected the friendly and good cooperation between the two countries, prompting better business environment of all aspects.

### **American and British Art Collectors Hand Over Cambodian Artifacts to Cambodia**

In the ceremony held in the National Museum on 12 June 2009, American and British art collectors handed over Cambodian artifacts to the royal government in the presence of H.E. Mr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Council of Ministers' Office.

The Angkorean artifacts include a small silver pendant, a sandstone sculpture of female divinity and other bronze architectural elements.

Meanwhile, the opening of a use for new electrical wiring and lighting in the art

galleries of the National Museum took place.

The installation of the newly electrical wiring and lighting costs nearly US\$200,000 funded jointly by the royal government and foreign charity channeled through British art collector Douglas Latchford.

The National Museum opened officially in 1920, the purpose of which is regarded as a storehouse to maintain, protect and display publicly the cultural heritages and Khmer arts which are collected from archaeological ancient stations and other temples in the country.

### **Cambodian PM welcomes U.S. decision to remove Cambodia from a trade blacklist**

Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen has welcomed the U. S. decision to take Cambodia off a trade blacklist. It was good news about the relations between the countries and also a process of global integration.

The Cambodian premier told the reporters that what U.S. President Barack Obama said was a point to start going into the global integration to sort out the restriction of black and white and a way to enhance the relationship between the two nations.

The United States removed the Southeast Asian nations of Laos and Cambodia from a trade blacklist, opening the door for U.S. loans to companies doing business in the two counties.

### **ADB provides more funds to Cambodia**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide US\$59.4 million to Cambodia to improve its infrastructure, facilitate trade crossing border among the

Great Mekong Sub-region and deal with the global crisis.

The budget project will be implemented for the next two years from now and it is an additional budget from the ADB after it agreed to provide US\$194 million for the next two years.



On 16 June 2009, Mr. Lawrence Greenwoods, the ADB vice-president met with H.E. Mr. Keat Chhon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance to discuss additional financial aid to develop the railway project.

ADB has extended some US\$73 million to Cambodia to support railway project and will continue to provide another US\$45 million for the same project.

### **UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights visits Cambodia**

Mr. Surya Subedi, the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights arrived on 16 June 2009 for his first visit to the kingdom of Cambodia. He was appointed by the United Nations in March as a special rapporteur for human rights in Cambodia, and hold talks with many representatives of Cambodian authorities, including H.E. Ang Vong Vathana, minister of Justice, H.E. Im Chhun Lim, minister of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, H.E. Om Yintieng, chairman of the Human Rights Commission of the Cambodian

government as well as representatives of the UN agencies to Cambodia.

The UN special rapporteur met Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen on June 18.

### **ASEAN officials meet in Cambodia for disaster management**

On 16 June 2009, 30 officials from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) met in Phnom Penh for disaster management and cooperation of mutual benefits with the support from Asia disaster reduction center.

The three-day conference focused on the capacity building for government officials on disaster management. The participants will help each other if in case of necessary events and will share information to prevent disaster.

According to the Cambodia's National Committee of Disaster Management (NCDM) Disaster hazards have increased sharply compared with the same period of last year.

### **Cambodian Premier expresses "regret" over Thai temple plan**

On 18 June 2009, Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed 'deep regret' over suggestions by his Thai counterpart that an 11th-century Hindu temple ruin in a disputed border region be jointly administered by the neighboring countries.

Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said on 17 June 2009 that he would ask UNESCO, which administers the Preah Vihear temple under Cambodian supervision, to launch a review into the administration of the World Heritage-listed site.

The Thai Prime Minister's visit to Cambodia was viewed as an attempt to

soothe relations after the clashes at the temple, which has been at the centre of disputed claims between Thailand and Cambodia since the 1950s.

The temple was granted to Cambodia in a 1962 International Court of Justice ruling, but Thailand claims the land around the site.

UNESCO in July granted Preah Vihear World Heritage Site status, despite Thai objections.

In response to journalists' questions on June 18 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cambodian Premier said, "I think his ambition is not successful. I am so regretful for his comment and ambition."

A local Thai newspaper quoted on 16 June 2009 that the Thai Premier as saying that the Thai government is convinced that Preah Vihear Temple would be registered jointly as a World Heritage Site by Cambodia and Thailand, not only by Cambodia.

### **Cambodia shows a ten-year-ago mystery of a UN official attempting to bring Duch abroad**

Cambodia has sent a file to the United Nations to reveal a ten-year-ago mystery of a UN official who attempted to bring Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch, to abroad while the royal government and UN were then talking the setting up of Khmer Rouge leaders' court.



On 18 June 2009, at the meeting with Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen the Cambodian premier recommended that visiting new UN human rights envoy Surya Subedi to meet with chairman of Cambodia's human rights committee Om Yintieng with the purpose of understanding a cause of the country UN human rights official Christophe Peschoux in the past 10 years for making an effort to take Duch from Cambodia, via Thailand, to Belgium.

The discussion also involved the sending of documents in connection with the arrangement of the Duch's papers to abroad by the country UN human rights official Christophe Peschoux to the United Nations in charge of Human Rights in New York and the Human Rights institution in Geneva.





# ព្រឹត្តិបត្រព័ត៌មាន



# Weekly Information Bulletin

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## PM presides over Veterans’ Day

On 20 June 2009, Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen presided over the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Cambodian Veterans’ Day and said “The veterans are our hero. They have devoted their life and their fresh blood to protect the sovereignty of the country in the past and present.



On the occasion, Samdech Techo Hun Sen decided to remain chairman of the Cambodian Veteran Association, which was set up in 2007 and called on the whole society to participate in helping the veterans and their families.

The Veteran Day is aimed at enhancing the prestige and role of Cambodian veterans who have sacrificed their lives to defend the country sovereignty and national development.

The government has been subsidizing some 87,875 families of veterans including 50,795 families of fallen combatants, 28,436 families of disabled people, 4 913 families of retired people and 1,072 families who lost capacity to work.

## Council of Ministers approved penal code draft law

During the weekly meeting held at the Council of Ministers under the presidency of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, on 19 June 2009, the new penal code was approved.

With 15 chapters of 672 articles, the draft law was prepared by the Ministry of Justice in response effectively to new forms of infractions and crimes in order to ensure people’s freedom, dignity, social security and public order.



The new penal code has been drafted based on tradition, Cambodian penal code, existing penal dispositions and new challenges.

### **Cambodia's reaction to Thailand's recent stand over Preah Vihear temple**

Cambodia On June 20, 2009, Cambodia reacted to the recent stand of Thai senior leaders over Cambodia's border temple, Preah Vihear.



At the press conference, H. E. Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, made a key point on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia that, "Cambodia is completely ready for either military action, diplomatic mean, legal mean or peaceful talks. If Thailand would like to send troops into Cambodia for the third time, we welcome that."

The reaction followed the latest groundless affirmation of Thai senior leaders, as mentioned by the deputy prime minister, that the UNESCO's July 2008 decision to list Preah Vihear Temple as a World Heritage threatened Thailand's effort to resolve border conflict with Cambodia and that Thailand's request UNESCO to withdraw Cambodia's Preah Vihear Temple from the World Heritage List, is the issue between UNESCO and Thailand.

Following on the same day, a Cambodian delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Sok An, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers left here for Seville, Spain to attend the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of World Heritage Committee to be held from June 22-30.

### **Mekong nations to expand energy cooperation beyond electric power sector**

On 19 June 2009, six ministers from the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) nations have endorsed a comprehensive plan of action to expand and strengthen cooperation in key areas, including energy and human resource development.

In the energy sector, the ministers endorsed a road map for the expansion of the existing cross-border energy, trade, and for broader integration in the power sector, beyond electricity. The plan seeks to extend modern energy access to all GMS communities, not just through rural electrification schemes and off-grid power systems, but by enhancing cross-border energy integration, allowing countries to tap the sub-region's diverse energy resource base that includes hydro, oil, gas and coal.

The ministers also endorsed a new human resources development plan that includes measures to promote safer labor migration; to strengthen communicable disease control; to bolster education and skills development across the sub-region, and to combat human trafficking.

### **Samdech Hun Sen meets Chairman of Board of Directors of SACOM Bank**

On 22 June 2009, Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister received Mr. Pham Van Thanh, chairman of the Board of Directors of SACOM Bank.

In the meeting, Mr. Pham told the Cambodian premier of the inauguration

ceremony of SACOM Bank's branch in Phnom Penh taking place on June 23.



Mr. Pham further said that the purpose of SACOM Bank's presence in Cambodia is to contribute to promoting and facilitating foreign investors, and developing the Kingdom. He also attributed his bank's presence to the rapid development and investors' confidence in the Kingdom.

In reply, Samdech Techo Hun Sen warmly welcomed the investment of SACOM Bank in the country, which will help facilitate investors, thus contributing to Cambodia's development.

### **Municipality to mark one-year anniversary for Preah Vihear temple registration as World Heritage Site**

On 08 July 2009, Phnom Penh Municipality will mark a one-year anniversary of Preah Vihear Temple's listing as a World Heritage Site. The anniversary ceremony, jointly organized by Phnom Penh City Hall, Phnom Penh TV 3 and Bayon TV, aims at congratulating the Khmer ancient temple's registration into the World Heritage List.

The Municipality of Phnom Penh is also planning to mark the 575<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Phnom Penh Capital City to be held from December 13-15.

### **Cambodia-France Agreement on Prehistoric Research of Laang Spean**

On 19 June 2009, the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts has concluded an agreement with France's Institute of Development Research and the National Museum of Natural Science of Paris on the research of "Laang Spean" Prehistoric Site in Battambang Province. The agreement was signed in Phnom Penh by H. E. Mr. Chuch Phoeun, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, and the representative of the two French institutions.

It provides a four-year research cooperation funded by France's Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

### **Brunei to buy 1,500 tons of Rice from Cambodia**

H. E. Mr. Pegiran Seri Indera Haji Ismail, appointed Ambassador of Brunei to Cambodia said that his country will buy about 1,500 tones of rice from Cambodia.



The announcement was raised during the meeting with Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia.

In reply, Samdech Prime Minister supported the plans and encouraged Brunei to further promote the trade relations between the two nations.

## **Cambodian Government officials and Japanese Embassy's Officials Held Consultative Meeting**

On 22 June 2009, Cambodian government officials and Japanese Embassy's officials held a consultative meeting on the development cooperation to view on the Japanese aid proposal for projects in Cambodia.

Since early 2009, Japan has given over US\$142 million in aid for the application of eight new projects in Cambodia, with six of grant and two of credit.

## **Influenza A (H1N1): PM's appeal to be vigilant and remain calm**

Samdech Techo Hun Sen has called on people to keep vigilant of the contamination of the influenza A (H1N1). The Cambodian Premier further called on people to remain calm and asked the Ministries of Health and Agriculture and concerned institutions to continue their best to prevent the spread of influenza A(H1N1), cure the infected patients and cooperate with neighboring countries to fight against this fast spread epidemic.



On 23-24 June 2009, Cambodia's first four cases of the new influenza A (H1N1) were confirmed. All the infected people are U.S. citizens and part of a student group which arrived in Phnom Penh on 19 June 2009. They are currently being isolated. They are in a stable condition and recovering well without any

complications, said a joint declaration of the Ministry of Health and WHO.

## **Cambodia, Brunei to sign rice import agreement**

Cambodian and Brunei diplomats have expressed their satisfaction over the relationship of trade cooperation between the two countries. Both countries will sign an agreement on rice import from Cambodia some 1,500 tones for the first year. The rice export from Cambodia to Brunei will start at the end of 2009.

During the meeting, H.E. Mr. Hor Namhong highly valued the trade exchanges between Cambodia and Brunei and confirmed that the trade volume between the two countries have increased continuously.

For his part, the appointed Brunei Ambassador praised Cambodian rice and fruits for their high quality and taste. The peace, political stability and development in Cambodia have attracted Brunei tourists and investors.

## **DPM Hor Namhong to attend ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council Ministerial Meeting in Bahrain**

H. E. Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister will lead a delegation to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council Ministerial Meeting to be held on June 29-30 in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Cambodian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation will sign a Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

## Japan granted US\$13.4 million to Cambodia

Japan has granted US\$13.4 million in aid to Cambodia to support two development projects. On 25 June 2009, the agreement was signed by H. E. Mr. Keat Chhon, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Finance and H. E. Mr. Kazuhiro Yoneda, JICA Representative to Cambodia.



Of the 1,343 million yen, 819 million yen will be used to improve the Rolaing Chhrey Headwork, Kampong Speu province and 524 million yen to construct the primary schools in Phnom Penh (Phase III).

In the meeting, H.E. Keat Chhon said this fund project is very important for Cambodia's development in the fields of irrigation infrastructure, the 2003 government's action plan for "Education for All", the 2006-2010 strategic plan for education and the national strategy development plan.



## UN HRs Envoy acknowledges improvement in HRs practice in Cambodia

On 25 June 2009, in the press conference, Mr. Surya Subedi, UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Cambodia said the human rights practice in Cambodia has been improved. Some sectors have been developed such as culture and prison, etc. while some points are needed to be developed. The royal government is committed to improve them.



Mr. Surya Subedi pledged to work with the Royal Government of Cambodia and other non-governmental organizations to improve the sector.

