



**ប្រតិបត្តិការព័ត៌មាន** **Weekly Information Bulletin**  
 Issued by the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Washington D.C.

**Volume 43 – From 01 to 08 May 2009**

**Cambodia names multilateral peacekeeping exercise in 2010 as “Year of Angkor”**

Cambodia has named a multilateral peacekeeping exercise in 2010 as “Year of Angkor”. The title of “Angkor” can be traced back to the 802-1423 dynasty, when the nationality had its most glorious period in history.

The exercise will have at least 13 participating countries, most of them Asian ones.

The event will be conducted in the framework of the Global Peace Operations Initiatives (GPOI), an annual training event attended by GPOI nations and other regional and international partners.

**Cambodia hosts the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Retreat**

In Siem Reap province, on 04 to 05 May 2009, the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Retreat was held to seek ways to deal with the current global financial crisis and enhance the economic sector of the ASEAN community.

The meeting focused on ASEAN economic community's works foreign

relations of ASEAN economic community and other issues.



According to H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, the meeting will be officially held in August in Thailand.

**Cambodia hosts International Conference of Francophone Pharmacy faculties Deans**



On 04 May 2009, the Ministry of Health hosted the International Conference of Francophone Pharmacy Faculties Deans, in presence of H.E. Mr. Yim Chhay Ly, Deputy Prime Minister, representative of Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen. There were 60 deans from Europe, Africa, America and Asia attending the conference, which aimed at exchanging experiences in order to develop the field of pharmacy training for enhancing the quality of health care services.

### **French Vessel Visits Preah Sihanouk Province's Seaport**



On 05 May 2009, a French logistics-supply vessel anchored at the seaport of Preah Sihanouk for a five-day visit to Cambodia.

The visit by BCR VAR-708 vessel aimed particularly at participating in a counter-terrorism exercise to be conducted jointly by the French naval force and Cambodia's anti-terrorism unit.

Two Cambodian vessels also joined the French naval commandos in a separate counter-terrorism exercise on 09 May 2009.

So far this year, Cambodia has welcomed the visits made by a number of foreign vessels, including an Australian Navy's ship, three Japanese vessels and one U.S. vessel.

### **Finland Government Continues Its Assistance to Cambodia Up to 2012**

On 05 May 2009, during the meeting with H.E. Mr. Long Visalo, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, H.E. Mr. Lars Backstrom, Finnish Ambassador to Cambodia confirmed that his government will continuously assist Cambodia with 18.6 million Euros in aid up to 2012 for conducting three projects including mine clearance, human trading and Tonle Sap Lake development project.

H.E. Mr. Long Visalo added that Cambodia was not seriously affected by the world's economic recession, whereas it had a good harvest in 2008 and three million tones of surplus rice were exported abroad, being attributed to the agricultural policy of the royal government and the construction of irrigation system in the country.

### **More than 2 million local tourists travel throughout Cambodia during the Khmer New Year**

During the Khmer New Year, there were some 2,260,000 local tourists and more than 100,000 foreign tourists visited provinces and cities' resorts across Cambodia.



The number of visitors was a remarkable increased if compared to the previous years. The big result is because of better services and good cooperation between

tourism departments and authorities of all provinces and cities.

According to the Ministry of Tourism, in the first quarter of the year 2009, 622,288 foreign visitors have visited Cambodia or a decrease by 3 percent if compared to the same period of 2008.

### **Cambodia and South Korea to sign bilateral agreements**

Cambodian and South Korean governments will sign six agreements during the official visit of Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen to the South Korea in late May.

The six agreements will include grant to Cambodia, loans for Cambodia's road rehabilitation, waste water treatment, Siem Reap River's development and cooperation in the fields of construction, energy, mines and communications.

Samdech Techo Premier Minister Hun Sen will also attend the ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit and make a speech on the occasion during his stay in South Korea.

### **Royal Government continues to support Cambodian Red Cross**



On 08 May 2009, Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen announced that the Royal Government of Cambodia will continue to support the Cambodian Red

Cross (CRC) for its efforts in assisting vulnerable people through the provision of food, health services and other humanitarian services.

Samdech Prime Minister praised CRC for its efforts in effectively implementing the mission in assisting vulnerable people and victims of natural disasters such as flooding, draught and storm. CRC is facing numerous difficulties in soliciting



funds and gathering labor to help and assist people and victims.

Besides humanitarian activities, CRC has also organized workshops, raising public awareness about healthcare, humanity value, response and prevention of catastrophes.

For her parts, Lok Chumteav Bun Rany Hun Sen, CRC President said that to cope with disasters, CRC has to build up staff's capacity and organize a reliable and well-functioning mechanism to be ready to fight against the disasters.

### **China funds study on construction of ASEAN railway section**

The government of the People's Republic of China has decided to provide fund to conduct feasibility study on the construction of ASEAN railway section linking Cambodia and Vietnam.

During the meeting between Samdech Techo Hun Sen and PRC Government delegation, Mr. Hu Qian Wen, Member of board Director of International Association of China, revealed that China has a grant of 20 million Yuan (roughly US\$300,000).

ASEAN railway will link Singapore to Kunming, city of Yunnan Province in southwestern China. The remaining section extends 253 kilometers long from Phnom Penh to Loc Ninh, Vietnam.

### **France finances the clean-water system project in Phnom Penh city**

French Development Agency has provided 16 million Euros for carrying out the clean-water system project of the first phase in Meanchey district's Niroth commune in Phnom Penh.

The agreement on the project was signed on May 8 by Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority's Director Ek Sunchan and Asia Department Head of French Development Agency Ms. Martha Stensochas in the presence of H.E. Mr. Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mine and Energy, H.E. Mr. Kep Chouktema, Phnom Penh Governor and French Ambassador Jean-François Desmazières.

The construction project of the clean-water system is expected to be completed by 2013, said Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority's official, adding that when completed, it is able to provide up to 130,000 cubic meters of water a day and another 80,000 families of the city's residents will have an access to the clean water.

### **Cambodia hosts intellectual property training for least developed countries**

Cambodian Ministry of Commerce organized a training workshop on Intellectual Property Rights in the Global Economy for the Least Developed countries.



A week-long training, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, ended on 08 May 2009 with official certificates awarded to all trainees.

The workshop aimed to help LDCs build up a copyright institution and system toward global economic integration. The training primarily covered copyright policy plan, copyright as a tool to push national economic growth, legal procedure to implement and monitor copyright, and public interest.

The participants made study tour to Cambodian leading enterprise in terms of copyright implementation.





# ព្រឹត្តិបត្រព័ត៌មាន



# Weekly Information Bulletin

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

Volume 43 – From 18 to 24 May 2009

### King birthday ceremony celebrated in Battambang province

On 14 May 2009, the birthday ceremony of King Norodom Sihamoni was officially held in a pagoda in Battambang province. Thousands of local villagers and scores of government officials and royal family members attended the event.

The celebration was solemnly started with 57 Buddhist monks chanted the religious scriptures and praised for the good health of the King.

After the ceremony, King Norodom Sihamoni provided gifts including rice, mosquito nets, blankets, scarves, T-shirts, sarongs, pants and some money to needy villagers.

### Royal plowing ceremony



The royal oxen ate corn and beans during the Royal Plowing ceremony held on 12 May 2009 at the open square of Veal Preah Merhu in front of the National Museum in Phnom Penh.

This is a good sign for corn and beans growing in the country, said a Royal Brahmin.

His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni presided over the ceremony, which marks the beginning of the crop planting season in Cambodia.

Senate President Samdech Chea Sim, National Assembly President Samdech Heng Samrin and other high-ranking officials as well as foreign ambassadors to Cambodia and representatives of international organizations were also present.



During the ceremony, Supreme Court President Dith Muntty guided the royal oxen and ploughed around the Veal Preah Merhu open square, while his wife walked behind scattering seeds on the furrowed ground.

After the plowing, two royal oxen were driven to the seven trays containing paddy, beans, corn, sesame, water, wine and grass. The oxen ate corn and beans. The fact that they did not eat rice worries the believers, especially the rice farmers.

It is commonly believed that if the oxen drink the wine it may be a harbinger of conflict.

### **Preliminary results: CPP takes the lead**

On 17 May 2009, the election of the councils of capital, provinces, cities, districts and khans was held in the 193 polling stations throughout the country.

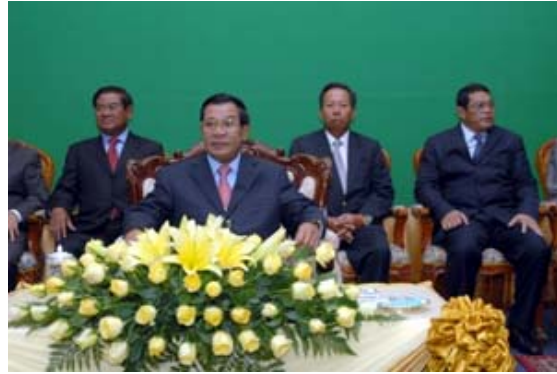
According to the preliminary results, the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) won the majority of the votes followed by the Sam Rainsy Party (SRP), the FUNCINPEC Party and the Norodom Ranariddh Party (NRP).

The official results will be declared on 29 May 2009.

Members of the provincial, municipal and district councils were voted by indirect suffrage by the 11,353 commune councilors who had two votes, one for the provincial/municipal councils, the other one for the councils of cities/districts/khans.

### **Cambodian Premier presents danger of drug uses**

Samdech Techo Hun Sen has presented the danger of drug uses, asking for the cooperation of all enforcement agencies to combat drugs successfully.



He also asked the Ministry of Education to consider adding the anti-drug message in the textbooks from primary to higher education to make an acknowledge of the danger of drug use because the drug matters were adverse to society and public security of the country.

### **Cambodia to Send 52 deminers to Sudan in early June**

Cambodia plans to send 52 deminers to Sudan for UN peacekeeping mission in early June to replace the old ones who is expected to return home in mid-June.

Cambodian soldiers who will be sent to Sudan, as well as other ones who are prepared for being sent to Chad and Central Africa in the near future, were trained in the UN standard by trainers from friendly countries, mainly the United States.

### **U.S. Government assists Cambodia in health care service**

The United States government tries its best to help improve health care service in Cambodia through providing free treatment to Cambodians in rural area and providing aid to various related non-governmental organizations.

The comment was made on 14 may 2009 by Mr. John Johnson, the spokesman of US Embassy to Cambodia during his inspection of the free treatment held in

the Bakan pagoda located in Trapaing Chhornng commune, Bakan district, Pursat province.

The U.S. government gives US\$62 million every year to Cambodia and most of this grant aid is spent on health projects.

A team of 31-strong members of the U.S. military medics in cooperation with doctors of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces treated patients with teeth and eye diseases for free of charge.

### **PM meets WB director to Asia-Pacific region**

On 18 May 2009, Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen received Ms. Annette Dixon, director of World Bank to the Asia-Pacific region.



Ms. Annette Dixon praised Cambodia's rapid development, and sought to learn about the impacts of global financial crisis on the Kingdom as well as what kind of assistance that WB can help develop the country.

In reply, Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed deep thanks to WB for having provided credits to Cambodia and said that the impacts of global financial crisis can be caused by wrong assessment and psychology as well. He added that these two factors should be remarked and reviewed.

The Cambodian premier also asked WB to do its utmost to eliminate the protectionism policy from the developed countries.

### **Cambodian government asks WB to help develop agriculture**

H.E. Mr. Keat Chhon, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Finances asked World Bank (WB) to help develop agriculture in Cambodia.

In reply, WB representative said that in order to develop the country's agricultural field, Cambodia should set up more agriculture centers, reduce the gap between the rich and the poor and extend school curriculum on agriculture.

### **Korean tourist vessel calls on seaport of Preah Sihanouk province**

On 18 May 2009, the Korean tourist vessel, carrying Korean trainees, called on the seaport of Preah Sihanouk province for a four-day training tour.

It is the first visit by the "Hanbada" vessel with 70 maritime navigation trainees on board and a crew of 38. It left the seaport of Cambodia on May 21 after the trainees finished their training schedule.

### **Cambodia to open first-ever jewellery and gem exhibition soon**

According to the announcement of the Ministry of Commerce, Jewellery and precious stones of Cambodia will be on display at an exhibition in Phnom Penh in mid-June 2009.

The exhibition, the first-ever one of its kind, will take place on June 18-21 at the Intercontinental Hotel. It will provide the Cambodian traders and jewellery designers a rare and special opportunity for the business in jewellery and precious

stones at regional and international markets, says the announcement.

At the exhibition on June 18-19, Cambodian models will take part in displaying sets of jewellery designed by well-known local and foreign companies.

### **DPM Hor Namhong meets newly appointed Ambassador of Spain**

H.E. Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister received on 18 May 21, 2009, Mr. Mariano Alonso Buron, newly appointed Ambassador of Spain to Cambodia.



During the meeting, H.E. Hor Namhong informed the country's development and challenges, particularly the economic growth in the last five years.

In 2008, Cambodia's exports to Spain reached more than US\$120 million, and the country imported more than US\$20 million worth of Spanish products.

### **PM to attend the ASEAN-RoK Commemorative Summit**

At invitation of H. E. Lee Myung- back, President of the Republic of Korea, Samdech Techo Hun Sen will lead a high delegation to attend the Commemorative Summit for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-Republic of Korea Dialogue Relation to be held from 1-2 June 2009.

The Cambodian premier will also pay an official visit to the RoK from 3-4 June

2009. During the official visit, Cambodia and Korea will sign several documents.

### **South Korea help Cambodia improve country's navigation industry**

The Republic of Korea has agreed to help Cambodian officers to improve the country's navigation industrial sector.

On 19 May 2009, two MOUs on this cooperation were signed between H.E. Tram Iv Teak, minister of Public Works and Transportation, and Mr. Keo Don Oh, director of the South Korean Navigation University.

These agreements are very important to improve the development of ship transportation as well as international trade of Cambodia.

### **46 LDCs discuss climate change in Siem Reap province**

From 18 to 20 May 2009, the representatives of 46 least developed countries (LDCs) joined the Preparatory Workshop for Climate Change in Siem Reap province.

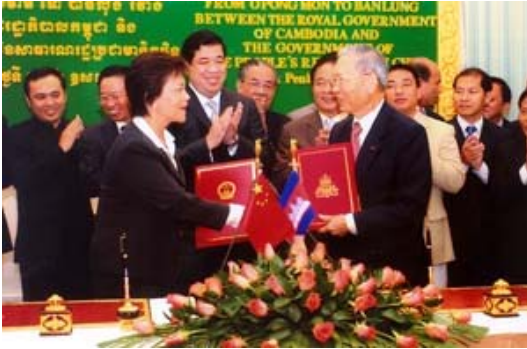
The workshop was conducted under the presidency of H.E. Mok Mareth, senior minister and minister of Environment, with representatives of UN environmental programs, secretariat of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change as well as senior officials from 46 LDCs in attendance.

At the workshop, H.E. Mok Mareth told the participants of the Cambodian government's endeavor to fulfill its duty as a member of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol.

He added that this meeting was very important for all the LDCs to jointly strengthen and find out an appropriate measure and solution as well as to urge

the developed countries to provide funds and transfer new technology to LDCs in order to deal with climate change.

### **China agrees to provide US\$73 million in loan to Cambodia for road building**



The Chinese government agreed to provide US\$73 million in concession loan to Cambodia for building a 121km-long National Road N°78, linking from O Pong Mon, Stung Treng province, to Banlung commune in Rattanakiri province. The aid agreement was signed on 19 May 2009 by H.E. Keat Chhon and Ms. Zhang Jinfeng, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Cambodia.

### **KRT's weekly press conference begins**

From 20 May 2009, the Khmer Rouge Tribunal (KRT) began its weekly press conference in the presence of Kranh Tony, acting head of the KRT administrative office, and his deputy head Knut Rosandhaug.

On the occasion, they told reporters of the KRT's good general evolution, and underlined that the recent function mutation in KRT administration was part of KRT's reform.

It is worthy of note that Reach Sambath, former KRT spokesman, has been promoted to head of public affairs office, in replacement of Ms. Helen Jarvis who has been appointed as head of victims protection's section.

For his parts, Reach Sambath has been replaced by Deum Sovannarom, former deputy head of the Office of the Council of Ministers' press department.

### **Appointments of EU/EC's Ambassadors to ASEAN**

Up to date, the European Commission (EC) and twelve member states of the European Union (EU) have already appointed their ambassadors to ASEAN.

The appointments reflect the EU's commitment to strengthen and deepen their relations with ASEAN, as well as to contribute to the ASEAN Integration and Community Building and will further advance ASEAN-EU enhanced partnership to a greater depth.

Cambodia and ASEAN look forward to the appointments of other EU Member States to ASEAN in the near future.

### **South Korean man charged over Cambodian marriage fraud**

On 19 May 2009, a Cambodian court charged a South Korean man with falsifying official documents as part of an alleged scheme to broker marriages between Cambodian women and South Korean men.

In Phnom Penh, on 18 May 2009 Police arrested Lee Kyung Jun, 40, after another South Korean man accused him of supplying false marriage certificates.

An Interior Ministry official said Lee was accused of supplying at least 14 false marriage certificates to the man, who owns a marriage agency, at a cost of 500 dollars per person.

The official said the certificates carried the signature of a provincial administrator but were proven to be falsified after the recipient checked their authenticity with the administrator.

## PM meets S. Korean President's special envoy



On 21 May 2009, Samdech Techo Hun Sen warmly received Mr. Song Kwnag-Ho, special envoy of the president of the Republic of Korea.

In the meeting, Mr. Song conveyed best wishes from President Lee Myung-bak to the Cambodian premier. He further thanked and praised Samdech Hun Sen's key role in establishing the diplomatic ties between Cambodia and South Korea.

He highly appreciated the wise leadership of the Cambodian prime minister and asked him to continue to consolidate the ties of friendship between both countries.

In reply, Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed his satisfaction to the rapid development of the Cambodia-South Korea relations, and the Korea's contribution to the development of Cambodia.

## DPM Hor Namhong to attend FMM9 in Hanoi

The Asian and European foreign ministers will gather on May 25-26 in Hanoi, Vietnam in the 9<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Foreign Ministerial Meeting (FMM9) to discuss world's challenges.

H.E. Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister will lead a delegation to attend the FMM9 at the

invitation of his Vietnamese counterpart Phan Gia Khiem.



The upcoming meeting will focus on financial crisis, climate change, food security and energy, and Asia-Europe cooperation, he added.

## 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in Brief

The 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) will be held in Phnom Penh on May 27-28, 2009. The AEMM is the gathering of Foreign Minister of 37 AEMM partners. The overarching theme of 17<sup>th</sup> AEMM is 'ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership for Peace, Economic Growth and Development'.

The 17<sup>th</sup> AEMM, FMs will focus their discussion on political and security, economic, energy and climate change/environment, socio-culture, and development cooperation. The 17<sup>th</sup> AEMM will provide a good opportunity for expanding and deepening dialogue on an equal footing and mutually-beneficial cooperation between ASEAN and Europe for the benefit of people of both dynamic regions.





**ព្រឹត្តិបត្រព័ត៌មាន**



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**PM Hun Sen presides over the opening ceremony of the 17<sup>th</sup> AEMM**



On 28 May 2009, the 17<sup>th</sup> AEMM was officially opened under the presidency of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia.



Representatives from the ten ASEAN countries and the 27 European countries as well as delegates from ASEAN Secretariat, EU Council and EU Commission attended the opening ceremony.

In the press conference, the Cambodian deputy prime minister, Minister Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation told the reporters of the outcome of the 17<sup>th</sup> AEMM relating to the promotion of the cooperation between ASEAN and EU, the strong partnership of ASEAN and EU in the future, Myanmar situation, and other issues such as the world economic crisis, food, oil and the climate change.

The meeting also adopted two documents dealing with agenda for the implementation of the ASEAN-EU 2009-2010 plan of action and a joint declaration of co-chairs of the 17<sup>th</sup> AEMM.

**Cambodian and Thai journalists hold a meeting in Thai Province**

On 22 to 23 May 2009, in Ubon Rattchathani province, Thailand, Cambodian Journalist Council and Thai Regional Journalist Association held a meeting. The purpose of meeting is to exchange information and develop intimacy between Cambodian and Thai journalists.

Cambodian Journalist Council’s urged Cambodian and Thai journalists to adhere to the journalism professionals in covering their news information, mainly

the border dispute issue, by avoiding any mention of incitement.

The journalists of the two countries also supported the resolution to border dispute issue made by the governments of the two nations for the interests of the two peoples.

### **PM calls on international community to help Cambodia in maritime security**

On 26 May 2009, at the opening ceremony of the seminar on Maritime Security, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen has expressed the royal government's determination to combat terrorism and piracy, and called on the international community to help strengthen Cambodia's capacity in maritime security.



He also stressed the need to create a national committee for maritime security in the next three months and said that "It is not time for all countries to compete armed forces for maritime to conquer the islands in the sea, but it is time to cooperate each other to combat terrorism and piracy,".

### **EC in Cambodia hosts workshop on EU and ASEAN**

A two-day workshop on bridging the development gap: regional approaches in the EU and ASEAN is hosted by the European Commission (EC) in Cambodia in collaboration with ASEAN Secretariat.

The workshop is co-shared by Mr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary General of ASEAN, and Mr. Stefano Sannino, Deputy Director General, European Commission Directorate General for External Relations.

On 27 May 2009, the workshop began the discussion on the role and principals of EC cohesion policy and the issues facing South East Asia, as well as growth and jobs, urban renewal and territorial cooperation in Europe.

During the workshop, Mr. Surin Pitsuwan encouraged ASEAN to learn about the EU's experience and Mr. Stefano Sannino said ASEAN is a good partner of EU.

### **Siem Reap-Stung Treng optic cable construction completed**

The optic cable construction project in Cambodia under the Great Mekong Sub-region Intercommunication (GMS-IS) has been completed.

The information was made known on May 25 by Mr. Rui Chen, executive director of Hua Wei Company, during his meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Keat Chhon.

In total, 651 km of optic cable have been laid underground, of them 235 km from Siem Reap province to Skun (Kampong Cham province), and 416 km from Kampong Cham to Trapeang Kreal (Stung Treng province).

The Siem Reap-Stung Treng optic cable system has been constructed with a total cost of some US\$18 million, a concession loan from China to Cambodia.

Last year, the Japanese company of Tecotech has invested US\$50 million to establish an optic cable system from

Phnom Penh to Preah Sihanouk city and from Preah Sihanouk to Japan.

### **Regional aid for trade conference to be held in Siem Reap province**

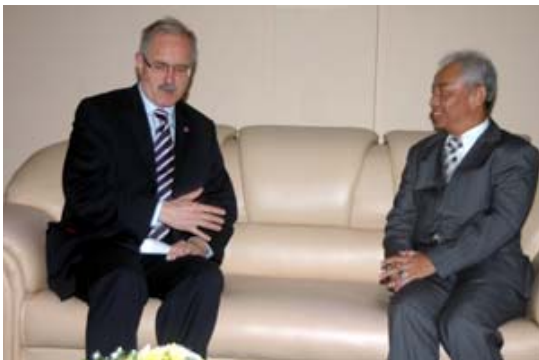
A Regional Meeting on Aid for Trade for Asia and Pacific titled “Global Financial Crisis, Export-led Growth and Aid for Trade: Focus on the ASEAN Experience” was held from May 28 to 29 in Siem Reap province.

H.E. Mr. Cham Peasidh, Senior Minister, Ministry of Commerce, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) co-hosted the meeting.

The two-day meeting was chaired by Cambodian Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce H.E. Cham Prasidh, ADB President Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, and WTO General Director Mr. Pascal Lamy, with Trade ministers from ASEAN countries and representatives from other international organizations in attendance.

This meeting builds upon the recommendations from the First Regional Review in Manila in September 2007 and is a part of preparations for the Second Global Review in Geneva in July 2009.

### **Foreign Secretary of State Long Visalo meets State Minister of German Federal Foreign Office**



On 27 May, H.E. Mr. Long Visalo, Secretary of State of the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation warmly received H.E. Mr. Gunter Gloser, State Minister of German Federal Foreign Office on the sidelines of the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting.

During the meeting, the German State Minister raised some issues relating to the environmental protection, the seeking of method to prevent climate change and the resolution by the cooperation between ASEAN and EU to the current global economic crisis.

Regarding Cambodian-Thai border dispute issue raised by the German side, he said Cambodia wanted peace because the country suffered from the long-lasting internal war and just performed a duty of protecting our sovereignty and territorial integrity.

### **Foreign Secretary of State receives Bulgarian and Spanish delegations**

On 27 May, H.E. Mr. Uch Borith, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation met with H.E. Mr. Konstantin Andreev, Permanent Secretary of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



On the occasion, H.E. Konstantin Andreev said he will further boost the economic cooperation between the two countries and will inform the Bulgarian investors on Cambodia’s economic potential. He also asked Cambodia to

consider what kind of assistance that Bulgaria could provide to Cambodia.

In reply, H.E. Uch Borith thanked Bulgarian government and people for their precious assistance to Cambodia and said Cambodia will continue to enhance the cooperation in all fields between Cambodia and Bulgaria.

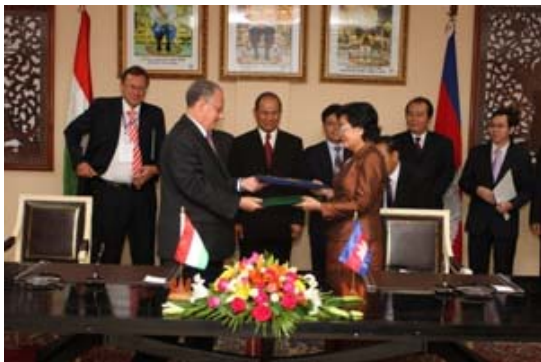
On the same day, the Cambodian secretary of state received H.E. Mr. Angel Lossada Torres-Quevedo, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain.



In the meeting, H.E. Uch Borith briefed his guest over Cambodia's development in political and economic fields

In reply, H.E. Angel Lossada Torres-Quevedo highly valued Cambodia's development in all fields, particularly democracy and the respect of human rights and Spain will continue to provide over US\$27 million to Cambodia for 2009 to 2011.

### **Hungary agrees to cancel half of the debt**



On 28 May, H.E. Mrs. Sun Saphouen, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation met with Secretary of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. László Várkonyi on the sidelines of the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting.

After the meeting, two agreements were signed the first agreement on the consolidation and settlement of Cambodia's outstanding debt towards Hungary and the second agreement on development co-operation.

### **Foreign Secretary of State receives Belgium and Polish delegations**

On 27 May, H.E. Mrs. Sun Saphoeun, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation met with H.E. Mr. Dirk Achten, Secretary General a.i. of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium.

During the meeting, H.E. Dirk Achten told Cambodian secretary of state that Belgium would host the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEM Meeting in Brussels at the end of 2010. Meanwhile, Belgium seeks the supports and cooperation from Cambodia and wished to organize a forum on ASEM's aid to Cambodia if Cambodia can organize it.



On the same day, Ms. Sun Saphoeun also held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister of Poland H.E. Mr. Pawet Wojciechowski on the sidelines of 17<sup>th</sup>

## ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting AEMM.

After elaborating the current political and economic situations in the country and recalling back the bilateral ties between the two countries, H.E. Mrs. Sun, Saphoeun asked Poland to help the development projects in rural area of Cambodia and requested Poland to support Cambodia's candidacy as a non-permanent member of the UN's Security Council for 2013-2014, as well as encourage its investors and tourists to Cambodia.



In reply, the deputy foreign minister of Poland appreciated the Cambodian role for hosting the 17<sup>th</sup> AEMM and the Cambodian royal government for the national development and rehabilitation in the country and wished to put its investment in the country and establish the commercial and economic ties between the two nations.

### **Commerce Minister: roughly 93% of small and medium enterprises in Cambodia**

On 26 May, in a workshop on access to finance for small and medium enterprises Cambodia short-term responses to global economic crisis, H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister, Minister of Commerce said that roughly 93 percent of small and medium-sized enterprises are being now operated across the country.

Access to the finance is one of many obstacles to the good producers and exports; he added that the majority of small enterprises in the country are being affected by the lack of funds as well as faced with the high interest rate and the access to the finance for the enterprises is faced with the challenges due to the influx of the local and foreign credit.

Although the enterprises are small and medium, but they contribute to the economic growth in the country, an economist was quoted as saying. Cambodian sees approximately 60,000 enterprises.

### **U.S.' concern over women's health in Cambodia**

On the occasion of the International Day of Action For Women's Health, the US Government takes great interest in women's health and the Embassy commends all health organizations in Cambodia that are working to further women's health in the country, according to the press release of the US Embassy in Phnom Penh,

USAID programming activities are closely integrated and cover a range of areas, including maternal, reproductive and child health. These programs focus on the HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention as well as concerns related to other infectious diseases such as TB, Avian and human influenza, malaria and dengue fever.

The U.S. Government through USAID continually adapts its programs in order to respond to the needs of Cambodians in rural and urban areas for better health care.

