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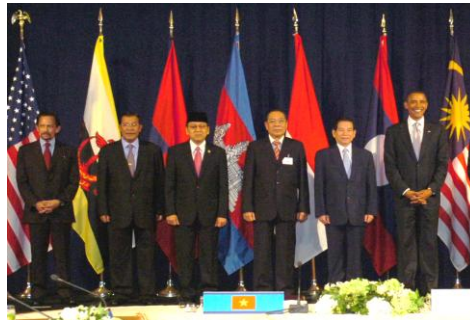
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POLITICS

ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Meeting in New York City



Leaders' Meeting discussed a wide range of issues related to mutual interests, including trade cooperation, investment, agriculture, food security, culture, education, science and technology development, health care, environment protection, climate change, exchanges between peoples, fight against terrorism and cross-border crimes, etc.

The Second ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Meeting, held on Sept. 24 in New York, was very fruitful.

Delegate Minister attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Council of Ministers H.E. Prak Sokhon told reporters at a press conference at Phnom Penh International Airport on Sept. 26 upon the arrival of the Cambodian delegation led by Samdech Techo Hun Sen from the meeting.

According to H.E. Prak Sokhon, the Second ASEAN-U.S.

The ASEAN and U.S. leaders agreed to resolve peacefully all disputes based on the principle of international law, he said.

They also reached a consensus on promoting their relations to a new height, which is to the strategic level, stressed H.E. Prak Sokhon.

The Third ASEAN-US Leaders' Meeting is scheduled to be held in 2011 on the sidelines of the Sixth East Asia Summit (EAS) in Indonesia.

PM Hun Sen To Join ASEM 8 Summit in Brussels in Early October

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, will lead a high delegation to attend the ASEM 8 Summit to be held on Oct. 4-5 in Brussels, Belgium.

The visit will be made at the invitation of President of the European Council H.E. Herman Van Rompuy and Prime Minister of Belgium H.E. Yves Leterme, said a press release of the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation dated today.

The delegation will include Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Hor Namhong, Senior Minister and Commerce Minister H.E. Cham Prasidh and other high-ranking officials of the Royal Government of Cambodia, it said.

As Cambodia is the country coordinator for the ASEAN group of the ASEM, Samdech Techo Hun Sen will deliver his Opening Remarks on behalf of ASEAN group during the Opening Ceremony on Oct. 4 and during the Plenary Sessions on Oct. 5, he will also make his intervention on "Sustainable Development", the press release pointed out.

ASEM 8 Summit under the Theme "Quality of Life", will issue two important outcome documents – ASEM 8 Chair's Statement and Declaration of the ASEM 8 Summit on the Global Economic Crisis.

On the sidelines of the ASEM 8 Summit, Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Hor Namhong will

hold bilateral talk with his Pakistani counterpart H.E. Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

DPM Hor Namhong Meets UN Secretary General

On the morning of Sept. 27, on the sidelines of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Hor Namhong and Secretary General of the United Nations H.E. Ban Ki-moon, held a bilateral meeting in which they exchanged views on various issues of common interest.



During this meeting, H.E. Hor Namhong briefly informed H.E. Ban Ki-moon on the general situation in Cambodia, including its socio-economic progress, in particular Cambodia's remarkable achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which has earned its place among twenty countries making the most progress on MDGs, according to a press release of the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation dated Monday.

H.E. Hor Namhong touched upon the new development in the Cambodia-Thailand relations as well, it said.

The Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister also praised the smooth cooperation between Cambodia and the United Nations,

through its twenty-three agencies in Cambodia.

He also touched on Cambodia's participation in the United Nations' Peace Keeping Operation in Sudan, Chad, Central Africa and Cambodia's readiness to send an engineering unit of 212 men for peace keeping mission in Lebanon.

H.E. Hor Namhong and H.E. Ban Ki-moon also discussed the process of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) to try top leaders of the Khmer Rouge and the ECCC's lack of financial support to proceed further. In this regards, the Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister has asked the UN secretary-general to help to secure funding in order to address the budget's shortfall of the ECCC in 2010 and 2011, added the press release.

Cambodia To Send Peacekeeping Forces to Lebanon



Cambodia will dispatch its troops to join the UN peacekeeping forces in Lebanon in early October, a senior government said yesterday.

More than 90 trucks together with demining equipments departed Kampong Speu province's military base yesterday to Preah Sihanouk Ville Autonomous Seaport, where the

UN vessel is scheduled to ship them to Lebanon in early October, said H.E. Prak Sokhon, delegate Minister attached to the Prime Minister and chairman of the National Committee for Coordinating Affairs with UN Peacekeeping Mission.

Twenty-Cambodian advanced mission team will leave here for Lebanon in mid October to prepare for 219 Cambodian blue beret troops, who will join UN Peacekeeping Mission there.

PM Calls for End of Legal Action against Union Leaders

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen has urged the courts to drop legal action against workers and union leaders and the factories to accept back the workers involving in the recent strikes.

While presiding over a graduation ceremony held here yesterday at the National Institute of Education, Samdech Techo Hun Sen also called on the workers and union leaders to respect the labor law.

It is a win-win solution, he stressed, asking the workers and union representatives to consider factories as a common rice pot. If something happens to the factories, the workers are the first to lose, he said.

But at the same time, employers also have to think about the workers' welfare, he added.

In mid September, thousands of garment workers were on strikes to ask for more raise in minimum wage, while factories' owners affirmed that

they lost around US\$15 million due to the strikes and pursued lawsuits against union leaders and workers.

American Assistance Helps Cambodia Achieve MDGs

The U.S.' assistance to Cambodia has contributed to help the country in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially in fighting against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases.

Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia H.E. Long Visalo said at the signing ceremony of amendments to two bilateral agreements that will provide US\$35.10 million in 2010 funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to support the fields of health and education in Cambodia.

The amendments were signed here on Sept. 28 by H.E. Long Visalo and USAID Mission Director Mr. Flynn Fuller in the presence of U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Mrs. Carol A. Rodley.

Of the total amount, over US\$33.5 million will be used to support and strengthen the health sector and the rest to the basic education sector, said Undersecretary of State and spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Koy Kuong.

The U.S. has pledged to assist the field of health until 2011 and the field of education until 2013 with the total amount of US\$277 million, said the spokesman, adding that up to now, some US\$235 million have already provided to Cambodia.

He further recalled that on Sept. 19, 2010, Cambodia was presented with a Millennium Development Goals Awards for its national leadership, commitment and progress towards achievement of Goal 6 – Combating HIV, malaria and other diseases, he recalled.

According to a study of the Overseas Development Institute and the United Nations Millennium Campaign, Cambodia has been among other 20 countries making great progress on MDGs.

Acting Foreign Minister H.E. Long Visalo expressed profound thanks to the American government for its contribution to the strengthening of Cambodia's priorities in health and education, the main factors to alleviate poverty and to develop human resource for the socio-economic development.

In addition to health and education activities, USAID supports a broad range of programs designed to benefit all Cambodians in areas such as human rights, rule of law, local governance and decentralization, anti-corruption, natural resource management, economic growth, and combating trafficking in persons, said a news release of the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, indicating that USAID expects to commit a total of US\$69 million in assistance to Cambodia in 2010.

New Peace Corps Volunteers Take Oath

The new Cambodia's Peace Corps Volunteers have taken an oath after being trained in Khmer language and culture, health care and teaching skills.

The swearing-in ceremony was held on Sept. 23 at the National Institute of Education under the presidency of Acting Prime Minister H.E. Sar Kheng and U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Mrs. Carol A. Rodley.

The 50-member group, the fourth of its kind, has lived nine weeks with Cambodian families in local communities, said John Dara, Peace Corps country director, adding that the group is going to spend another two years living with Cambodian families.

U.S. Ambassador Mrs. Carol A. Rodley said Peace Corps is proud to work with Cambodian side in English teaching, health care, construction of school libraries, etc.

For his part, H.E. Sar Kheng highly evaluated Peace

Corps' determination and activities, considering them as an important contribution to Cambodian government's endeavors in alleviating poverty.

"The presence of Peace Corps Volunteers in Cambodia does not only contributes to the country development and experience exchange between Cambodian and American peoples, but also to the dissemination of Cambodian culture and tradition, as well as the real situation in Cambodia to the American community," he underlined.

On the occasion, H.E. Sar Kheng called on Peace Corps to expand its aid program to the fields of agriculture and trade.

The asset declaration will begin on Jan. 1, 2011, said Keo Remy, spokesman for the National Council for Anticorruption.

Individuals are required to declare their assets from Jan. 1, 2011, Mr. Keo Remy said at a press conference here yesterday to present the report on the three-month activities of the Anticorruption Unit.

Under the corruption law approved earlier this year, members of the Parliament and government officials appointed by royal decree or sub-decree are the target groups. Judicial and civil society leaders will be also required to declare their assets and debts.

Asset Declaration To Begin in January 2011

Economy

More U.S.' Funds for USAID Economic Growth Program



Cambodia and the U.S. have signed an amendment to their bilateral agreement that will provide US\$16.44 million in 2010 funding from the U.S. Agency for

International Development (USAID) to support Cambodian priorities in economic growth, food security, and global climate change.

The amendment was signed here yesterday by Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Sok An and USAID Mission Director Mr. Flynn Fuller in the presence of U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, Mrs. Carol A. Rodley.

Under the amendment, the Royal Government of Cambodia will provide US\$425,000 of in-kind support.

According to a press release of the U.S. Embassy, the funds will be used to support USAID's ongoing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises 2/ Business Enabling Environment (MSME 2/BEE) program, which will continue support for alleviating poverty in rural areas by increasing the productivity of family businesses.

This bilateral agreement also provides funds to support USAID's new Helping Address Rural Vulnerabilities and Ecosystem Stability (HARVEST) Program that will support the

Royal Government of Cambodia's national development strategy by enhancing agricultural production, developing post-harvest management capacity, increasing access to food, and preparing the country to adapt to climate change, said the press release.

"Today's event marks another important phase of improvement in cooperation between Cambodia and the U.S.," said H.E. Sok An, also minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers.

This program is not only about economic cooperation but also about strengthening of friendship between Cambodia and the U.S., he said, believing that the contribution of the U.S. will offer mutual benefits and will make the bilateral relationship between both countries even more important.

H.E. Sok An urged for closer, direct cooperation between USAID and the Royal government of Cambodia, with the latter assuming ownership and responsibility for the implementation of the program in the near future.

The Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister also expressed appreciation and thanks to the American government and people for providing valuable assistance that contributes to the socio-economic development of Cambodia.

Earlier on Sept. 28, Cambodia and the U.S. also signed amendments to two bilateral agreements that will provide US\$35.10 million in 2010 funding from USAID to support the fields of health and education in Cambodia.

In addition to economic growth, health and education, the

United States supports a broad range of programs designed to benefit all Cambodians, including programs in human rights, rule of law, anti-corruption, and combating trafficking in persons. The United States, through USAID, expects to commit US\$69 million in development assistance to Cambodia in 2010.

Korean Company to Invest in Jatropha Plantation in Cambodia

The Korean Company of Del Sol has signed a MoU on the investment in jatropha plantation with the Buddhist Association for Saving the Poor.

The MoU was signed here on Sept. 26 at Phnom Penh Hotel by Mr. Sok Sony, honorary chairman of the Buddhist Association for Saving the Poor, and the representative of Del Sol.

Del Sol has planned to invest in the plantation of jatropha on an area of 16,000 ha in Cambodia, but for the first phase, only 6,000 ha of jatropha will be grown in Romeas Hek district of southeastern Svay Rieng province, said Mr. Sok Sony.

The first phase will begin in early 2011, he added.

According to Mr. Sok Sony, jatropha's oil can be processed into diesel, fragrant products and soap, and the leftover will be used as natural fertilizer.

