The Royal Embassy of Cambodia
to United States of America

ព្រឹត្តិប័ត្រព័ត៌មាន

WEEKLY INFORMATION BULLETIN

News in Cambodia

Vol. 002/2011 | January 10-14, 2011 | ww.embassyofcambodia.org

## CONTENTS

2-Groundbreaking of Stung Tatai Hydropower Dam

-Cambodian PM: Nobody Can Interfere in Court's Competence

3-DPM Hor Namhong To Attend ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Indonesia

-Cambodia To Host 30th ATF This Week

-ECCC: Case 002 Sent for Trial

4-Sweden Decides to Set Up Embassy in Cambodia

-United States Awards New Food Security Program

5-Cambodia Demands Bangkok Post to Publish Correction to Misquoted Article

# POLITICS

## PM Gives Donation to Blind and Mute-deaf Children from NGOs

Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen along with his wife and government officials have given a donation to Kruosar Thmey (New Family) Organization and ASPECA Organization.

The donation was given during his visit on Jan. 6 to blind and mute-deaf children and teachers from Phnom Penh Thmey blind and mute-deaf school and Chbar Ampov mute-deaf school run by New Family Organization; and another school by APSPECA.

Each school received two tons of milled rice, 50 boxes of instant noodle, 10 big boxes of fish cans, 100 kilograms of sugar, five kilograms of the seasoning and two million riel in cash (Cambodian currency roughly US$500), at a total estimated cost of US$25,995.

On the occasion, the Cambodian premier declared to provide monthly starting from January 2011 one ton of milled rice and three million Riel (about US$750) to the two schools of New Family Organization, and 500 kilograms of rice and one million Riel (about US$250) to ASPECA's school.

## *Groundbreaking of Stung Tatai Hydropower Dam*

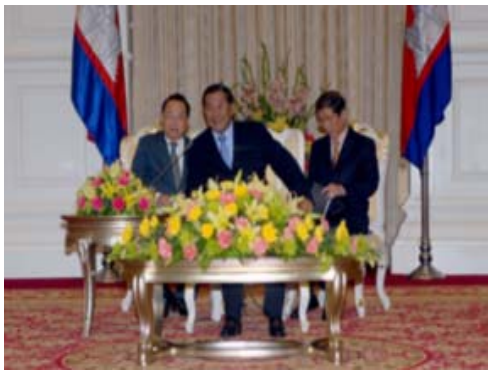
The construction of "Stung Tatai" Hydropower Dam, in Thmar Baing District, Koh Kong province, begun Wednesday in a groundbreaking ceremony presided over by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

This is the second largest project after the building of 338-megawatt "Russey Chrum Krom" Hydropower Dam started two weeks ago in Mondul Seima district.

China National Heavy Machinery was granted with a 42-year investment concession with five years projected for the construction of 246-megawatt "Stung Tatai" Hydropower Dam at the estimated cost of US$540 million, and the rest 37 years for business operation.

The construction of "Stung Tatai" Hydropower Dam is a large investment in electricity production in Cambodia, Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen said, adding that it reflects not only the confidence of the foreign firms in the political stability of Cambodia, but also the correct development strategies of the Royal Government of Cambodia, especially in the field of energy development.

## *Cambodian PM: Nobody Can Interfere in Court's Competence*



Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen said nobody can interfere in court's competence in response to seven Thais entering illegally in Cambodia and being now held in prison awaiting trial.

Speaking at a graduation ceremony held at the National Institute for Education in Phnom Penh on Jan. 10, the Cambodian prime minister said "no matter what the governments or foreigners and the royal government or Cambodians are, it is a judicial procedure," asking not to make any comments leading to the impact on the trial.

"Let the court continue with the legal procedure," he said, citing the penal court, the Supreme Court and afterwards the reconsideration of the case.

This second statement of the Cambodian premier was made following those made by Thai leaders including Thai Premier Abhisit Vejjajiva. And there is also a rumor that Puea Thai Party and former Thai Premier Thaksin Shinawatra get involved in freeing the arrested Thais.

"I would like to say this case is related to legal procedure, nobody intervenes, law is a law, court is a court and government cannot order the court to be arranged politically," he stressed.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also warned any groups from the United Nations not to intervene with the case, saying "Don't say too much, be quiet better than talking and eating green banana better than nothing."

The Thais had been arrested by Cambodian border protection army at the border pole No. 46 in Chok Chey village, O Beichuan commune, O Chrov district, Banteay Meanchey province.

After inquest on the arrested Thais, the Cambodian court decided to charge them two cases. The former is the illegal entry into Cambodian territory according to the article 29 of the Cambodia's immigration law and the latter is on the bandit deed to enter military base based on the article 473 of the penal code.

For the first case, they could face between 3 and 6 months in prison, and the second case from 6 to 12 months in prison and fine from one million to two million Riel (about US$250 to US$500).

## *DPM Hor Namhong To Attend ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Indonesia*

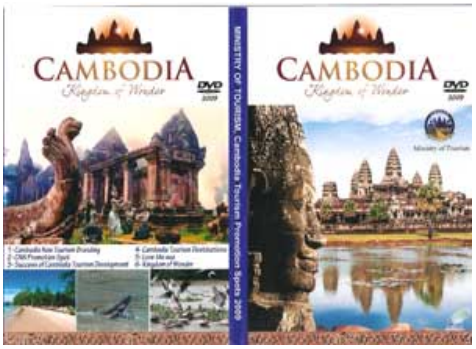
Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Hor Namhong will lead a delegation to attend the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat to be held on Jan. 15-17 in Lombok, Indonesia at the invitation of his Indonesian counterpart Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa.

The meeting will discuss a number of issues, including Exchange of Views on International and Regional Issues, ASEAN Community Building, East Asia Summit, and ASEAN Connectivity, according to a press release of the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation dated Wednesday.

On the sidelines of this Retreat, there will be a special meeting of ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) to review the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, which was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders in October 2010, and to adopt Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee.

In addition, the Cambodian deputy prime minister will hold bilateral talks with his Indonesian counterpart and ASEAN Secretary General Dr. Surin Pitsuwan.

## *Cambodia To Host 30th ATF This Week*




Cambodia will host the 30th ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) in Phnom Penh from Jan. 15 to 21, according to the Home Page of the Ministry of Tourism.

As many as 1,600 delegates, including 100 international media, will attend the ATF 2011 under the theme of "ASEAN-A World of Wonders and Diversity".

Cambodian Tourism Minister H.E. Thong Khon will chair the week long forum, the home page added.

Phnom Penh first hosted ATF in 2003, said the home page, stressing that Siem Reap province, home of world heritage and the archaeological sites, and Preah Sihanouk province, the most beautiful and pristine beach, have been selected for pre- and post-tours.

ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) is a cooperative regional effort to promote the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region as one tourist destination. This annual event involves all the tourism industry sectors of the 10 member nations of ASEAN: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

## *ECCC: Case 002 Sent for Trial*

Today, the Pre-Trial Chamber of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) has confirmed and partially amended the indictments against the Accused Persons Ieng Sary, Ieng Thirith, Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea, said an ECCC press release.

The Pre-Trial Chamber has ordered the Accused Persons to be sent for trial and to continue to be held in

provisional detention until they are brought before the Trial Chamber, it said, adding that the indictments include charges of crimes against humanity, genocide, grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and murder, torture and religious persecution as defined by the 1956 Cambodian Penal Code.

The Co-Investigating Judges issued a Closing Order with the initial indictments of the Accused Persons on 15 September 2010. All four Accused Persons filed appeals against the Closing Order to the Pre-Trial Chamber.

The Pre-Trial Chamber found that the appeal filed by Khieu Samphan was inadmissible, whereas the appeals filed by Ieng Sary, Ieng Thirith and Nuon Chea were found to be admissible in part. Of the admissible parts, the Pre-Trial Chamber dismissed all the grounds of appeal with two exceptions. First, the Pre-Trial Chamber ordered that the Closing Order be amended with a specification for the requirement of the existence of a link between the underlying acts of crimes against humanity and an armed conflict.

Secondly, the Pre-Trial Chamber also found that rape did not exist as a crime against humanity in its own right in the period 1975-1979, but that rape could be considered as "other inhumane acts" within the legal definition of crimes against humanity. The Closing Order was amended accordingly.

The Pre-Trial Chamber will issue reasoned decisions on the appeals at a later date, said the press release.

## *Sweden Decides to Set Up Embassy in Cambodia*

The Royal Government of Sweden has decided to set up an Embassy in Cambodia to boost up the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries – Sweden and Cambodia.

Newly appointed Ambassador of Sweden to Cambodia Mrs. Anne Hoglund told Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance H.E. Keat Chhon during their meeting here last Thursday, according to the spokesman of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

In the meantime, Sweden and Cambodia have been working on drafting a development strategic plan for year 2011-2015, which will be completed every soon, said Mrs. Anne Hoglund, adding that many Swedish companies are interested in doing business in Cambodia.

Sweden is a development partner, which has played an active role in the national development of Cambodia and has been providing grant aid to Cambodia since 1979 by starting from a humanitarian aid, he said.

Up to the end of 2009, Sweden provided US$280 million in grant aid to Cambodia to support the fields of education, good governance, human rights and environment.

## *United States Awards New Food Security Program*

The United States Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has awarded a five-year, US$56 million contract designed to improve food security through enhanced agricultural development and rational management of natural resources.

The five-year, US$56 million contract was awarded to Fintrac Inc., a highly respected U.S.-based agribusiness consulting firm that develops agricultural solutions to end hunger and poverty, according to a press release of the U.S. Embassy dated Jan. 10.

This U.S. Government award will now serve as USAID's flagship food security activity in Cambodia, Helping Address Rural Vulnerabilities and Ecosystem STability (HARVEST) Project, will work with public, private and civil society to strengthen food security by increasing agricultural productivity; raising the incomes of the rural poor; preparing the country to adapt to climate change; and reducing the number of

Cambodians, especially women and children, suffering from malnutrition.

HARVEST is supported by Feed the Future (FtF), a U.S. Presidential Initiative for food security, as well as other U.S. Government priority initiatives, including global health and climate change. Cambodia is one of twenty priority countries receiving FtF support, and the only country in Southeast Asia.

U.S. Government Feed the Future investments will address key determinants of food security:

- Investments in agricultural productivity, agribusiness and market development, and equitable distribution of and control over productive resources.
- A multifaceted approach to nutrition
- A long term perspective to foster permanent solutions to chronic food insecurity

Investments will build on existing successes, U.S. and Cambodian expertise and strengths, and be concentrated in strategic areas based on U.S. and Cambodian comparative advantage. They will be designed in close coordination with the Royal Government of Cambodia and with other development partners in order to maximize the collective impact on sustainably reducing hunger and poverty.

## *Cambodia Demands Bangkok Post to Publish Correction to Misquoted Article*

The Press and Quick Reaction Unit of the Office of the Council of Ministers of Cambodia has sent a letter to the editor of the Bangkok Post Newspaper, demanding for a correction to its misquoted article published on Jan. 11, 2011.

The full letter reads as follows:

Letter to the Editor
BANGKOK POST NEWSPAPER
136 NA RANONG ROAD,
KLONG TOEY, BANGKOK 10110
Fax: +02 2403666,
Email:
postbag@bangkokpost.co.th

Dear Editor,

The Press and Quick Reaction Unit (PRU) of the Office of the Council of Ministers (OCM) of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) demands vigorously that the Bangkok Post, which is a professional newspaper, to publish immediately a correction to the misquoted article under the title: "Court slaps 2 Thais with spying charge," published on 11 January 2011 at 12:00AM in the Newspaper section: News, stating that "…… Hun Sen said that on the night of December 29, Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya called him about 10 times, but he did not answer the phone." This was in fact wrong, misleading, and speculative, which led to create confusion and misunderstanding between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Thai Royal Government.

The truth is that Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in his address during the degree conferment at the National Institute of Education on the 10th January, 2011, had clearly stated that "… He had found about 10 missed international incoming calls in his mobile phone on the night of December 29, 2010. He failed to answer those calls given the fact that he had earlier set his cell phone on silent mode". Prime Minister Hun Sen did not reveal who were trying to call him, especially he did not say even a single word referring to the name of Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya.

To put the record straight, the Press and Quick Reaction Unit (PRU) insists that a correction must be published immediately the clarified article on the same page so that the Thai and international public could obtain the factual situation on the ground in order to help them to make their proper opinions concerning the arrests and charges of the 7 Thai trespassers who had illegally intruded into Cambodian territory on December 29, 2010.