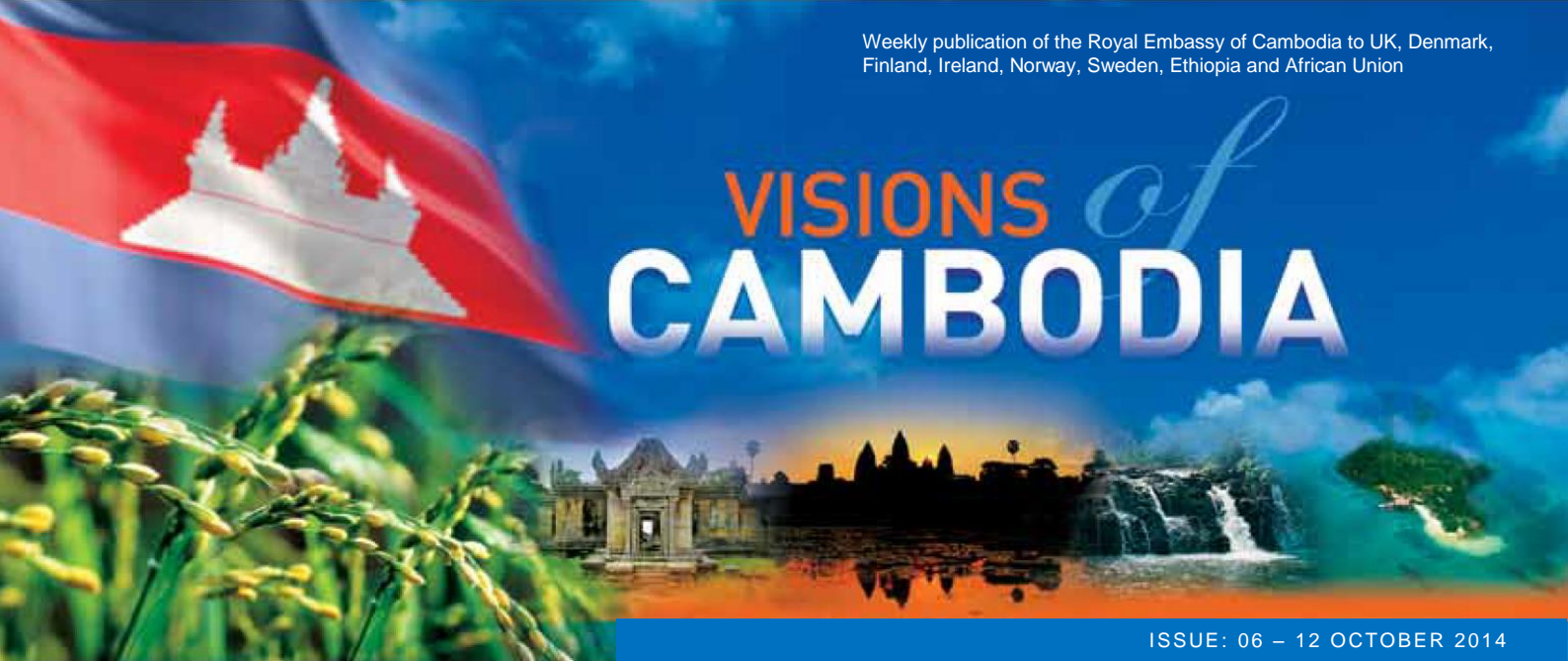


VISIONS of CAMBODIA



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CAMBODIA'S TRADE TO REACH OVER US\$19 BILLION IN 2014

In 2014, Cambodia's trade volume is expected to reach some US\$19.29 billion, according to the World Bank's East Asia Pacific Economic Update report.

The country's export would rise to about US\$8.19 billion this year, up nearly 19 percent from US\$6.89 billion in 2013, while the import would be around US\$11.10 billion, up 17 percent from US\$9.48 billion last year, pointed out the report.

In 2015, added the report, the export value is predicted to reach some US\$9.7 billion and the import value to some US\$12.65 billion. ■

BRITISH PM'S TRADE ENVOY TO VISIT CAMBODIA TO PROMOTE TRADE, INVESTMENT

The Lord Puttnam CBE, British Prime Minister's Trade Envoy, will visit Cambodia on October 13-14 to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties, according to a statement from the British embassy.

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PRIME MINISTER HUN SEN URGES FOR MORE REFORM



Prime Minister Hun Sen presides over the graduation ceremony of 6,748 graduates from Cambodian University for Specialties (CUS).

Prime Minister Hun Sen said it is necessary for Cambodia to conduct more reform in order to meet the development need and the regional and international competitiveness.

Cambodia has been facing many challenges, but in this development process, no country says it is enough, even developed countries like the U.S., Japan and the EU, they still mention about reforms, underlined the Premier while presiding over a graduation ceremony of Cambodian University for Specialties (CUS).

Therefore, he added, all stakeholders, including state institutions and individuals such as civil servants, youths have to contribute to the reform in order to maintain the speed of economic growth as well as the sustainability of development.

Cambodia is different from other countries in the world, said Samdech Techo Hun Sen, explaining that in other countries, after changes, either through elections or forces, they still have human resources, infrastructures, but Cambodia had to re-organize everything even currency, after the liberation from the genocidal regime on 7 January 1979.

"Over 35 years later, Cambodia is currently in the equal situation as other countries. Cambodia did not only settle its own issues, but also took part in dealing with issues in other countries," he underlined.

The first-ever gold medal in the final of the women's under-73 taekwondo competition at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, the Republic of Korea, is the evidence of Cambodia's reform, added the Premier. ■

BRITISH PM'S TRADE ENVOY.....



The Lord Puttnam CBE addressed his speech during his first visit to Cambodia in March 2014.

"I am delighted to be returning to Cambodia for my second visit in my role as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Cambodia," he said in the statement before the visit.

"The United Kingdom is committed to deepening the trade relationship between our two countries, and exploring ways in which to share expertise in areas including creative industries and corporate and social responsibility of the private sector."

During his visit, Lord Puttnam will call on senior government and business representatives. Government calls will include: Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen, Commerce Minister HE Mr Sun Chanthol, Education Minister HE Dr Hang Chuon Naron, Health Minister HE Dr Mam Bun Heng, and on leaders of the Parliamentary opposition. He will meet representatives of British businesses in Cambodia and address

two public events: a seminar on global branding of Cambodian products and a major conference on Corporate Social Responsibility.

Britain is the fourth largest investor in Cambodia. According to the report of the Council for the Development of Cambodia, Cambodia had received Britain's promised investment of 2.4 billion U.S. dollars in the last two decades.

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) office has been fully functional in Cambodia since January 2013. Bilateral trade between the UK and Cambodia has steadily grown and surpassed USD 1 billion in 2013.

Lord Puttnam, an Oscar-winning film producer, has been trade envoy to Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar since November 2012. His first visit to Cambodia was in March, 2014. ■

PM HUN SEN RECEIVES CHAIRMAN OF PRUDENTIAL CORPORATION ASIA



Prime Minister Hun Sen recently received at the Peace Palace visiting Mr. Donald P. Kanak, Chairman of Prudential Corporation Asia.

In the meeting, Mr. Donald P. Kanak informed the Cambodian premier of his company, saying that it was established in Britain in 1884, and it had been present in Asian countries for 90 years.

His company set up its representative office in Cambodia in 2010 and also had good connection with the Ministry of Economy and Finance and ACLEDA Bank Plc, he added.

For his part, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said the company's representative office reflected the trust in Cambodia. Concerning the prioritized sector, he said, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) changed its guidelines from the attention paid to the water, road, electricity, and human in 1987 into human, road, and electricity.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister, thus, asked for the lesson learnt that the company could share with the RGC in developing the potential human resources in the country. ■

DFID GRANTS US\$750,000 TO CAMBODIAN MINE ACTION AND VICTIM ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) has decided to provide US\$750,000 to the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) through the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) in Cambodia.

The Memorandum of Understanding on the financial assistance was signed between CMAA Secretary General Chum Bunrong and NPA Director Tang Sunhav.

The Memorandum reflects the commitment for a new partnership between CMAA and NPA in their endeavours to gather resources for mine action in Cambodia, Chum Bunrong told after the signing ceremony, adding that this is the second project related to the strengthening of CMAA's capacity for its three-year project (2015-2017).

In reply, Tang Sunhav said the donation will help improve the capacity in mine action

management of provincial and municipal authorities in Cambodia.

Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Prak Sokhonn, who presided over the signing ceremony, expressed his appreciation in the joint efforts, and thanks the UK government for its assistance to Cambodia, especially in the field of mine clearance and CMAA's capacity enhancement. ■

CAMBODIA EXPORTED 269,370 TONS OF MILLED RICE IN 9 MONTHS

Cambodia exported 269,370 tons of milled rice in the first nine months of 2014, according to official data released.

Seventy-seven companies have brokered Cambodian rice for 57 countries and regions around the world, said the data compiled by the Secretariat of One Window Service for Rice Export.

The five major buyers of Cambodian rice are France, Poland, Malaysia, the Netherlands and China.

During the first nine months of this year, the country had exported 49,670 tons to France, 45,850 tons to Poland, 25,900 tons to Malaysia, 24,440 tons to the Netherlands, and 20,920 tons to China.



Cambodia produced 9.4 million tons of paddy rice last year. With the amount, it has over 3 million tons of milled rice left over for exports this year. Last year, the Kingdom exported some 379,000 tons of milled rice, up 84 percent year-on-year. ■

NEW AIRLINE BEGINS DOMESTIC FLIGHTS IN CAMBODIA

Apsara International Air, jointly owned by Chinese and Cambodian investors, recently started to operate daily domestic flights from the Cambodian capital to the tourist resort of Siem Reap. The airline operates with an Airbus-320 aircraft.

Apsara received an Air Operator Certificate (AOC) from the Cambodia's Civil Aviation last month. According to the airlines, the company will launch an international route between Cambodia and China by the end of 2014 and extend wings to Japan, South Korea and Russia within five years.

Recently Cambodia's Civil Aviation approved operations for another Chinese-invested



Bassaka Air, which is expected to take to the skies by mid-October.

Some 27 airlines are operating domestic and international routes in the country. ■

ONLINE REGISTRATION OF FACTORIES AND HANDICRAFTS TO BE LAUNCHED

The Ministry of Industry and Handicraft is planning to put into service the online registration of factories and handicrafts in six months, said Senior Minister and Minister of Industry and Handicraft H.E. Cham Prasidh.

Currently, the registration of factories and handicrafts is conducted at the One Window Service Office at the ministry, but in six months, they would register online

instead, he said.

According to the ministry's data, in the first nine months of 2014, some 1,257 factories and handicrafts have been registered, up by 21 percent from 1,043 during the same time last year.

The number of workers in this field has also seen an increase in the nine-month period, from 650,000 to 760,000. ■

IMF MAINTAINS CAMBODIA'S GROWTH AT 7.2 PERCENT IN 2014

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Friday kept its projection for Cambodia's economic growth rate at 7.2 percent this year and 7.3 percent next year.

The country's economic activity remains strong, driven by garment exports, tourism, agriculture and construction.

IMF's 2014 growth forecast for Cambodia was the same as the World Bank's, but higher than the 7- percent projection by the Asian Development Bank.

Prime Minister Hun Sen said in his recent statement that the country's economic growth will exceed 7 percent this year as inflation was projected to remain low at 3-4 percent.

"Currently, garment, tourism, construction and agriculture sectors are the pillars of economic growth in Cambodia; therefore, we need more investment in other sectors to help drive our economic growth," he said at an international investment conference.

"For 2014 and in the medium term, Cambodia's economic growth is expected to exceed 7 percent per annum, and inflation is expected to be contained within 3 to 4 percent in spite of high inflation in the region and increase in food and oil prices," he said. ■

GARMENT, FOOTWEAR EXPORTS UP OVER 7 PCT IN 8 MONTHS

Garment and footwear exports earned \$3.92 billion over the first eight months of 2014, up more than 7 percent year-on-year, according to new figures from the Ministry of Commerce. ■



MOON CAVES

of Kampot Province

In the mouth of a cave overgrown with vines and moss, men and women splashed in a clear emerald pool. As the cool water sparkled in beams of sunlight, it was easy to see how locals came to dub this twinkling corner of Kampot the “moon cave”.

A little way off National Road 3, the highway that connects Cambodia’s capital with sleepy Kampot province, lies the town of Kampong Trach.

Most visitors come to explore the series of caves carved into the stone, and especially the watery “moon cave”, the daytime dip spot that is becoming increasingly popular.

