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CAMBODIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER MEETS DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY OF BELARUS

H.E. Gennady Svidersky, Deputy Minister of Industry of the Republic of Belarus, paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Veng Sakhon, Cambodia's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in Phnom Penh on 26 April to seek more understanding on investment potential in the agricultural sector in Cambodia and to strengthen the bilateral cooperation between both countries, an MAFF's official told local media.

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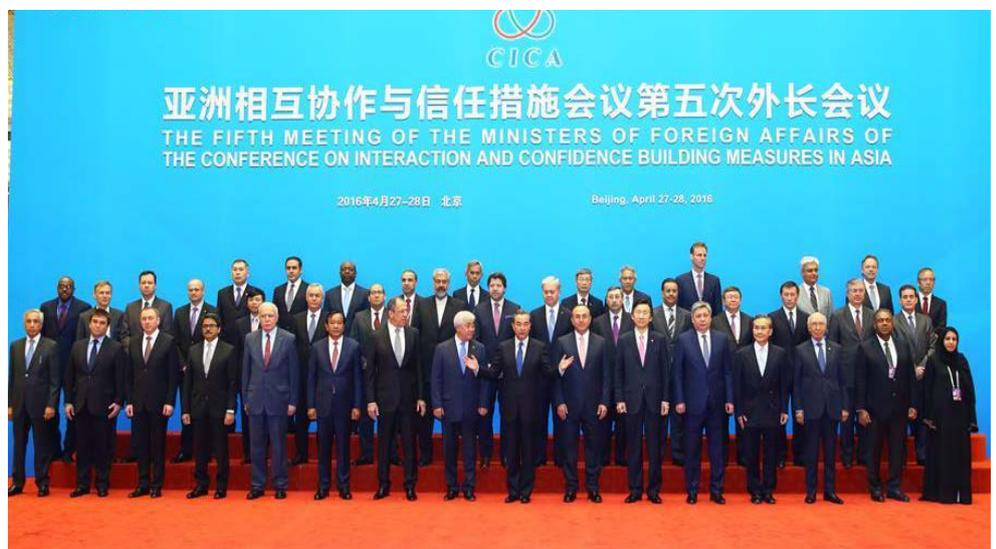
CAMBODIA DISPATCHES PEACEKEEPING FORCES TO MALI

Some 229 blue helmet troops of the Engineering Unit 981 and Mine/UXO Clearance Unit 333, of them 14 women, departed on 27 April to join the peacekeeping operation under the UN umbrella in Mali.

They were seen off at Phnom Penh International Airport by H.E. Gen. Sem Sovanny, Director General of the National Center for Peacekeeping Forces, Mine and ERW Clearance (NPMEC).

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H.E. PRAK SOKHONN ATTENDS 5TH CICA FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN CHINA



Cambodia's Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia H.E. Prak Sokhonn attends the 5th CICA in China on 27-28 April, 2016.

Cambodia's Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Prak Sokhonn led a delegation to attend the 5th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in China on 27-28 April, 2016, at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister H.E. Wang Yi.

According to a press release of the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the meeting, taking place in Beijing, focused on mutual reinforcement of security and development, enhancement of international cooperation on combating terrorism and implementation of Confidence Building Measures in various areas within CICA framework.

In the meeting, H.E. Prak Sokhonn said

Cambodia welcomed the establishment of a link between the CICA Secretariat and ASEAN, and supported China's request to host the 5th CICA Summit in 2018 and the 6th CICA Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2020.

During his stay in China, H.E. Prak Sokhonn also held separate bilateral meetings with H.E. Wang Yanzhi, General Manager of Silk Road Fund, who affirmed to support connectivity projects in Cambodia; and H.E. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, during which he accepted his Thai counterpart's invitation to visit Thailand; as well as H.E. Mevlut Cavusoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, during which they discussed the promotion of bilateral relations and Turkey's candidacy to be a sectorial dialogue partner of ASEAN. ■

INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS WORKSHOP HOLD BY CAMBODIAN AND U.S NONPROLIFERATION EXPERTS

An international workshop on Nuclear Safeguards and the Additional Protocol, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA), concluded on 28 April at Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh, according to a press release from the U.S. Embassy in Cambodia.

The event was hosted by the Cambodian Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) and included the participation of MME Deputy Director General H.E. Dr. Chan Sodovath, as well as representatives of the U.S. Department of Energy, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the U.S. Embassy in Cambodia.

"The U.S. has long considered the international safeguards system to be a central pillar of the nuclear nonproliferation regime's strategy for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. President Obama re-emphasized the importance of safeguards in his 2009 Prague speech, when he called for 'more resources and authority' for international inspections. The DOE/NNSA cooperates with more than 30 countries in this regard, assisting state and regional authorities establish effective systems of nuclear accounting and control," Ms. Anne Harrington, Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation in the DOE/NNSA said.

During the workshop, experts from the DOE/NNSA and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) delivered presentations and conducted interactive exercises designed to provide participants information to prepare

declarations on international nuclear safeguards, which are technical measures applied by the IAEA to verify that a country's nuclear material is accounted for and not diverted for non-peaceful activities.

Discussions during the event also will cover ways to implement the Additional Protocol (AP), an added voluntary international nuclear safeguards measure that provides the IAEA expanded rights to access information and sites, and an overview of Complementary Access, an important component of the AP.

During closing remarks, U.S. Embassy Political Officer Samuel Downing congratulated Cambodia on entering the AP into force on April 23, 2015 as part of its commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. He also noted the importance of continued engagement on this topic as it contributes to understanding the technical elements of the AP that could help Cambodia's implementation. Entering the AP into force is an important milestone for IAEA Member States, and workshops focused on the AP help to ensure that even states such as Cambodia – with small amounts of nuclear material – develop the necessary infrastructure and safeguards-supporting capacity to fulfill their responsibilities.

To date, 147 countries have signed the AP and 126 of those states have entered it into force. ■

CAMBODIA ATTRACTS SOME US\$1 BILLION INVESTMENT IN Q1

In the first quarter of this year, Cambodia attracted some US\$1,007 million investment, pointed out a press release of the Council for Development of Cambodia (CDC) issued on 28 April, 2016.

From January to March 2016, CDC approved 45 investment projects worth in total US\$1,007 million, generating almost 50,000 jobs, it underlined.

Out of the 45 projects, there are 36 industrial projects, 5 tourism projects, 3 agricultural and agro-industrial projects, and an infrastructure project, said the press release.

Local investors were ranked first with 58.8 per cent of the total investment capital, followed by China and Japan. ■

CAMBODIA DISPATCH...

Speaking on the occasion, Gen. Sem Sovanny laid stress on the Royal Government of Cambodia's strong commitment to contribute to the world peace.

It is a pride and a great honor that the Cambodian flag is hoisted along with that of other countries, he underlined.

Since 2006, Cambodia has sent over 3,000 blue helmet troops to take part in UN peacekeeping missions in Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, Lebanon, Mali, Central African Republic, Syria and Cyprus. ■

CAMBODIAN AGRICULTURE...

H.E. Gennady Svidersky said that Cambodia and Belarus have favorable geographical areas for trade, adding that the former is located in the centre of ASEAN Economic Community while the latter is situated in the centre of European Economic Community. Therefore, he continued, direct investment in Cambodia responds not only to the local demand, but also to the export to Belorussian, ASEAN and European markets.

For his part, H.E. Veng Sakhon lauded the good cooperation between the two nations, particularly in the field of agriculture. He also requested H.E. Gennady Svidersky to encourage more Belorussian investors and businessmen to come to invest directly in Cambodia in order to open more markets for the agricultural products of both countries and reduce the production costs, as well as fuel their economic growth.

In addition, H.E. Minister also asked the Belarus' side to provide training on new agricultural techniques for Cambodian agricultural officials.

Taking the opportunity, H.E. Gennady Svidersky invited H.E. Veng Sakhon to visit Belarus in 2017. ■



CAMBODIA HOLDS A NATIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON THE REGISTRATION OF 5 FORESTS AS PROTECTED AREAS

A National Consultation Workshop on the Registration of Prey Lang, Kravanh Khang Tbong, Prey Preah Roka, Prey Siem Pang Khang Lech and Prey Veunsai as Protected Areas was held on 25 April under the presidency of Minister of Environment H.E. Say Samal.

Organized by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the workshop was aimed to examine and assess the new natural protected areas, to discuss their classification, and to synthesize opinions from all relevant institutions for an effective management of those new protected forests.

This is a historical day reflecting the high responsibility and change of mindset of all stakeholders on the protection and preservation of natural resources, said H.E. Say Samal at the workshop's opening ceremony.

The environment minister called on all the participants to actively exchange their views and comments on the five forests in order to protect them effectively.

He also sought cooperation from relevant institutions and local communities in the protection and conservation of natural resources.

In this fifth mandate of government, he said, Cambodia has not granted any new economic land concessions (ELCs), but has revoked 23 ELCs and reduced the investment period from 99 to 50 years.

The Ministry of Environment has transferred 73 ELCs to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry, and got some 13 protected forests back, underlined H.E. Say Samal. ■

MALAYSIA'S GIANT OPENS FIRST CAMBODIA SUPERMARKET



Giant, a one of the largest Malaysia-based retailers in Asia, has launched its first store in Cambodia, opening in Phnom Penh's Grand City Mall as part of a major expansion into the Kingdom on 21 April.

Giant is a wholly owned subsidiary of pan-Asian retailer Dairy Farm International Holdings (DFI) Ltd. Dairy Farm also owns 70 percent of Lucky Private Ltd, the owner of Lucky Supermarkets.

Paul Sheldrake, the CEO of Dairy Farm International in Indochina, said the presence of Giant in Cambodia would offer a new experience and choices to Cambodians.

Heng Hang Meng, the head of DFI Lucky, said it was good to have such a famous brand as Giant in the Kingdom.

Retail supply in the capital is set to rise significantly by the end of 2017, driven by a combination of new international shopping complexes, such as the opening of the 57,000 square meter Parkson's Phnom Penh City Centre in the fourth quarter of this year, and Lion City, a project by Malaysia's Lion Group that will cover 61,000 sq. m.

Other new entrants include HongkongLand's Exchange Square, which is on track to deliver 8,000 square meters of leasable retail space in the first quarter of next year. ■

A JAPANESE COMPANY INVESTS IN CAMBODIA IN GINGER PRODUCTION FOR EXPORT

A Japanese company has set up a production facilities in Pursat province to process ginger for export to Japan, H.E. Kumamaru Yuji, Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia, told Cambodian Minister of Commerce H.E. Pan Sorasak during their meeting here on 25 April.

The Japanese diplomat went on to say that the initial production will be on small scale, but this Fukuoka-based company is looking to expand in the future.

H.E. Kumamaru Yuji also informed H.E. Minister of Japan's commitment to support Cambodia and to strengthen cooperation between the two nations. ■

SKY TREE CONDOMINIUM LAUNCHED IN PHNOM PENH

J&L Property Development Co. Ltd. announced it will invest about \$250 million to develop the 32-floor Sky Tree condominium project in Phnom Penh's Russey Keo district.

The first phase of construction is expected to be completed and ready for handover to unit buyers by 2019, they said.

According to Mr. Wu, General Manager of J & L Property Development, he said that local and international buyers are only required to pay an initial deposit of 10 per cent of the total purchase price, that this would make the units affordable to local buyers. Buyers also have 40 months to pay 20 percent of the cost with no interest, while they can take out 15-year mortgages from banks to pay off the balance, he added.

The Singaporean designed building rises 32 floors above Phnom Penh with about 40 per cent of the total complex dedicated to shared facilities, such as rooftop gardens, a helipad, medical clinic, sky bar, gym, spa, retail outlets, car parking and offices.

Units start from \$89,440 and offer a minimum total rental return of 18 per cent over three years, according to marketing executives.

Combining rental income with property appreciation should give buyers at least a 50 per cent return on investment in the first six years, marketing executives at the company said. ■



PREAH VIHEAR TEMPLE



Set high on a cliff in the Dangrek Mountains, close to the Cambodia-Thai border, Preah Vihear Temple, or Sacred Shrine, enjoys the most spectacular setting of any ancient Khmer temple. It has been built during the six-centuries-long Khmer Empire.

This temple gives its name to Cambodia's Preah Vihear province and is 140 km from Angkor Wat, approximately 320km from Phnom Penh.

Offering breathtaking views across the lush green plains below, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is composed of a series of sanctuaries linked by a system of pavements and staircases over an 800 meter long axis

Dedicated to Shiva, this temple is unusual among Khmer temples in being constructed along a long north-south axis rather than having the conventional rectangular plan with orientation toward the east. However, although the structure of this temple is very different from the temple 'mountains' found at Angkor, it is believed to have been built to serve the same purpose as a stylized representation of Mount Meru, the home of the gods.

Preah Vihear Temple has been listed and declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO on July 8, 2008.

