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CAMBODIAN MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS ATTENDS ONE BELT ONE ROAD SUMMIT IN HONG KONG

Cambodia's Senior Minister and Minister of Public Works and Transport H.E. Sun Chanthol attended on 18 May the One Belt One Road Summit hosted by the government of Hong Kong, according to the Ministry's news release.

Over 2,000 participants of high-ranking government officials from various countries, investors, and funding agencies participated in the event, it added.

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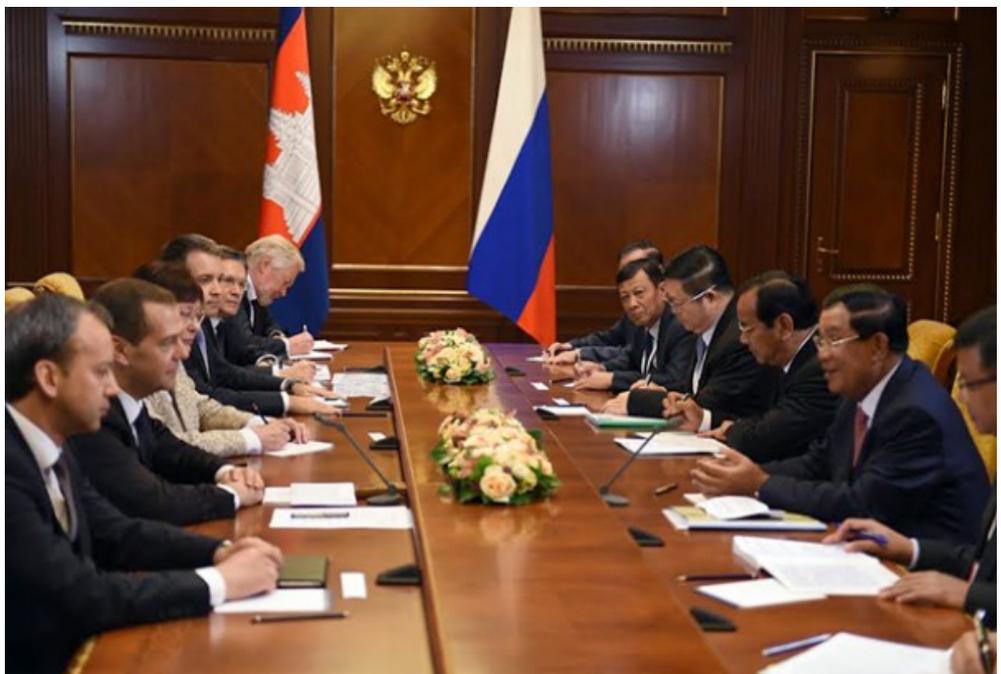
CAMBODIA COMMEMORATES THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

A traditional Buddhist ceremony was held on 20 May at Choeung Ek Killing Field, Phnom Penh to wish for peace for the soul of victims who died during the Khmer Rouge regime from 1975 to 1979.

The event was presided over by H.E. Map Sarin, Chairman of Phnom Penh Municipal Council, and H.E. Pa Socheatevong, Governor of Phnom Penh, with thousands of people in attendance.

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CAMBODIA AND RUSSIA AGREE TO DEEPEN COOPERATION



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Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen held a bilateral talk with his Russian counterpart H.E. Dmitry Medvedev in Moscow, the Russian Federation, on 17 May.

On the occasion, both sides agreed to strengthen their ties of friendship and cooperation particularly in the fields of trade and sports, and H.E. Dmitry Medvedev expressed his appreciation and warm welcome to the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Cambodia and Russia, added Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

According to a special report of the National Television of Cambodia (TVK), the Russian

premier underlined his commitment to boost the trade exchange between Cambodia and Russia and to encourage more Russian investors to invest in infrastructure construction, including railway development, in Cambodia.

H.E. Dmitry Medvedev also promised to help train Cambodian athletes to be ready for the SEA Games in 2023.

Cambodia is putting all efforts to host the SEA Games in 2023 and the country is planning to win at least 30 percent of the total 300 gold medals.

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CAMBODIA, RUSSIA AGREE TO DEEPEN ...



SEA Games or the Southeast Asian Games in a biennial multi-sport event participated by the ASEAN member countries.

After the talks, the two premiers witnessed the signing of eight important documents to further deepen the relations and cooperation between both nations, in addition to the ten documents already signed in November 2015 during H.E. Dmitry Medvedev's visit to Cambodia.

The eight documents include the Treaty on Extradition between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Russian Federation; Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Cambodian Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation; Memorandum of Understanding on Telecommunication and IT Cooperation between Cambodia's Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and Russia's Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications; Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the National Olympic Committee of Cambodia and the Russian Olympic Committee; Joint Declaration on Cooperation Proposals in the fields of trade, economy, investment until 2020; Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Nuclear Information Center between the National Council for Sustainable Development of Cambodia (NCSA) and ROSATOM State Nuclear Energy Corporation of Russia; Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Cambodia-Russia Joint Working Group on Cooperation in Nuclear Applications for Peaceful Purposes between NCSA and ROSATOM; and Agreement on Cooperation between the Cambodian Ministry of Interior and the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In the meantime, Samdech Techo Hun Sen received Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission H.E. Tigran Sargsyan in Moscow, the capital of the Russian Federation.

In the meeting, H.E. Tigran Sargsyan said the presence of the Cambodian premier will

contribute to promoting the economic cooperation in the region.

For his part, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said Cambodia's presence with the Eurasian Economic Commission this time is a contribution to boost the country's economic growth and her competitiveness.

This is a new opportunity to promote Cambodia's economic cooperation with other countries in the Eurasian region.

On the occasion, Samdech Techo Hun Sen and H.E. Tigran Sargsyan signed a memorandum of understanding on the cooperation between the Royal Government of Cambodia and Eurasian Economic Commission.

Cambodia is an old friend of Russia

Cambodia is old friend of Russia, underlined H.E. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, while meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen, in Sochi, Russia on 19 May, on the sidelines of ASEAN-Russian Commemorative Summit.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen is a reliable friend for making relations and cooperation at present and in the future, added the Russian leader.

In reply, the Cambodian premier thanked H.E. Vladimir Putin for regarding Cambodia as an old friend and himself as a reliable friend.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen took the opportunity to thank the former Soviet Union for its assistance to Cambodia after the country was liberated from the Khmer Rouge genocidal regime, stressing that it is an unforgettable historical truth.

In addition, the Cambodian leader expressed his gratitude to the Russian government and people for their continued support to the reconstruction and development of Cambodia.

Efforts to promote the two-way trade were also part of the discussion on the occasion.

"The meetings with the Russian premier and president were made in a spirit of friendship, solidarity and cooperation," said Samdech Techo Hun Sen in a Facebook post. "We're happy to work with a partner who is a superpower of the multi-polar world and who has established diplomatic ties with Cambodia for already 60 years and always provides us with assistance for the country's defense and construction." ■

CAMBODIAN MINIS....

On the sidelines of the meeting, H.E. Sun Chanthol held talks with H.E. Paul Chan, Secretary for Development of Hong Kong, H.E. Gregory So, Secretary of Commerce and Economic Development of Hong Kong, Ms. Margaret Fong, Executive Director of Hong Kong Trade Development Council, and other participants to discuss ways to finance infrastructure development in Cambodia.

Secretary Paul Chan invited H.E. Sun Chanthol to lead a delegation to visit and study how Hong Kong developed its efficient infrastructure.

China's Belt and Roads Initiative is designed to promote economic cooperation of over 60 economies in Asia, Europe and Africa.

The initiative was proposed to increase cooperation in policy coordination, connectivity, trade and investment, financial integration and culture exchange. ■



CAMBODIA COMME ...

May 20 is a historical day of Cambodia which marked and incurred in the heart of Cambodian people the barbarous atrocities committed by the Khmer Rouge regime against its own people.

A stage of drama was performed on the occasion to recall the past atrocities and food offering to 205 Buddhist monks was made afterward.

Choeung Ek Killing Field is located in the southwestern outskirts of Phnom Penh where there are 129 graves in total.

Most of the victims were sent from the S-21 prison known as the Museum of Genocide. ■

CAMBODIA, U.S. BOOST COOPERATION IN GARMENT SECTOR



Cambodia and United States of America continue to discuss cooperation to further improve the supply and demand sides of garment sector between the two countries.

H.E. Ith Samheng, Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, on 18 May represented Cambodia to talk on the issues with U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. William A. Heidt at the ministry office here in Phnom Penh.

In his media interview right after the meeting, H.E. Ith Samheng highlighted mutual

appreciation between Cambodia and the U.S. for the growth of the sector despite some concern over Cambodia's competitive advantage and the implementation of Trade Union Law.

From the supply side, Cambodia is expecting health and retirement insurances for garment factory workers next year and the following year respectively.

As for the demand, the U.S. has been ranked the second largest market for Cambodia's garment products.

According to the minister, since the 1999 bilateral agreement, garment manufacturers has increased from about ten to more than one thousand – employing 720,000 workers and exporting US\$6 billion worth products. ■

MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY RECEIVES A GROUP OF THAI INVESTORS

Cambodian Minister of Mines and Energy H.E. Suy Sem received a delegation of Thai investors led by Mr. Darm Boontham, senior official of Royal Thai Embassy in Cambodia and Dr. Wichai Thavornwattanayong, CEO of IFEC (Cambodia) Company Limited on 16 May.

According to a news release of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, on the occasion, the IFEC (Cambodia) Company Limited gave a presentation on its experience on renewable energy projects using wind and solar power and biomass.

Currently, IFEC (Cambodia) Company Limited has been investing in a 10-megawatt renewable energy project in Kampong Speu province.

For his part, H.E. Suy Sem expressed his support to this investment project, saying that it will contribute to the Royal Government of Cambodia's policy of lowering the electricity price by 2020. ■

NUMBER OF FOREIGN ARRIVALS UP 2.6% IN Q1

In the first quarter of this year, the number of foreign visitors to Cambodia reached some 1.34 million, up only 2.6 percent from 1.30 million in the same period last year, a senior official of the Ministry of Tourism told local media.

The Vietnamese remained at the top of foreign tourists to Cambodia, followed by the

Chinese, Koreans, Thais, Americans, Laotians and Japanese.

Cambodia expected to attract about 5 million foreign visitors this year, up from 4.8 million the previous year. Terrorism and heat wave could be the main challenges for tourism growth.

CAMBODIA HAS NEARLY 3 MILLION TONS OF MILLED RICE SURPLUS FOR EXPORT IN 2015

Cambodia had over 4 million tons of paddy rice (equivalent to nearly 3 million tons of milled rice) for export in 2015, said Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries H.E. Veng Sakhon, during an annual meeting last week.

"Phka Romdoul" of Cambodia has been considered the world's best seed for three years in a row from 2012, he claimed.

Last year, Cambodia exported some 538,000 tons of milled rice to 60 countries around the world, mainly to the EU, China and ASEAN countries, H.E. Veng Sokhon said.

According to his report, in 2015, the country also exported up to 66 kinds of other agricultural products, up from 47 kinds the previous year. ■

NEWLY PURCHASED FIRE ENGINES ARRIVED

Cambodia has currently some 560 firefighters with 128 fire engines, said Gen. Khieu Sopheak, Spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior, after the handover-receiving ceremony of 113 new fire engines, held on 19 May at Koh Pich Convention and Exhibition Center.

With the newly purchased ISUZU-branded fire engines, the country has now 241 fire trucks, he added.

The 113 fire engines cost approximately 40,000 million Riel (Cambodian currency roughly US\$10 million), pointed out Gen. Khieu Sopheak.

According to Director of Fire Department of the Ministry of Interior, Brigadier General Neth Vantha, 99 fire engines will be distributed shortly to all provinces across the country, mainly to far flung cities and towns while 14 others will be kept for intervention in Phnom Penh capital.

The fire engines will ensure timely and effective response to fire incidents and to minimize the losses, he underlined. ■



MONDUL KIRI PROVINCE

To the south of Rattanak Kiri is Mondul Kiri, the most sparsely populated province in Cambodia, despite being the largest in land area. This province is known for its thickly-forested hills, verdant landscapes, and cascading waterfalls. Its capital is Sen Monorom.

Though remote, Mondul Kiri will awe visitors who make the trip with its otherworldly tranquility and beauty. To truly appreciate this province, one should arrange for a trek (or an elephant ride!) through the area's lush jungles to enjoy unspoiled scenery and the bracing fresh air, not to mention some of the country's most spectacular waterfalls. Few visitors will pass up the chance to soak in the rare and dramatic beauty of a waterfall tucked in the thick of the Mondul Kiri jungle.

Mondul Kiri also offers a handful of unforgettable cultural attractions.

Many visitors enjoy a stop at the Phnong minority villages where they can observe the rich culture belonging to local hill tribes. There are even opportunities to experience cultural community life on the edges of the forest through 'home stay' arrangements in the corridor zone of Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary and the Mondul Kiri Protected Forest.