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DPM HOR NAMHONG HOLDS A GET-TOGETHER WITH RUPP'S STUDENTS

At the Royal University of Phnom Penh on 4 January, Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong held a get-together with the university students and explained the key challenges and significant opportunities that come with the newfound ASEAN integration slated at the start of this year.

During the meeting, Mr. Namhong said that the ASEAN Community has a common goal of encouraging its people, fostering peaceful dialogue, providing stable security and, more deeply, enhancing populations and regional architecture.

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NETFLIX LAUNCH IN CAMBODIA

Netflix, a popular internet television network, launched in Cambodia on 7 January as part of a global rollout across 130 new markets allowing Cambodians now being able to access the network's original programming and other shows and movies.

The launch was announced by Netflix CEO Reed Hastings at electronic and technology tradeshow CES 2015, letting consumers around the world – from Singapore to St Petersburg, from San Francisco to Sao Paulo – able to enjoy TV shows and movies simultaneously.

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THE THIRTY SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JANUARY 7 VICTORY DAY COMMEMORATED



The commemoration of the 37th anniversary of January 7 Victory Day held at the CPP headquarters.

The ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) has highlighted achievements of the country at the celebration of the 37th anniversary of January 7 Victory Day held at the CPP's headquarters in Phnom Penh, since the country's liberation from the Khmer Rouge genocide regime.

According to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and CPP's President, the people of Cambodia have realized major social transformation beyond one can only imagine from a country with genocide and protracted war to a nation of peace, freedom, unity, stability and development which has obtained in the past 37 years.

"This is the first time in the history of more than 500 years, after the prosperous time of Angkor,

that Cambodia has realized full peace, national and territorial unity as well as lived in harmony under one Constitution," said Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

"We have realized these achievements thanks to correct political leadership, sacrifice of our combatants and officials of all levels in performing their duties, and people's strong-will participation in the whole country, whether they may belong to different political tendency, racial birth, religion, and social rank. We are taking note on faithful assistance of friendly countries and international community," stressed Samdech Techo Hun Sen showing his respects to those who have scarified their lives for this national cause.

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THE THIRTY SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY



take part in the commune/Sangkat council election in 2017 and the national election in 2018, explained the Cambodian premier.

In the process of economic development, the premier said, 2015 is the year that Cambodia is marching forward leaving its status of low-income country to lower middle-income country, and making steps to become higher middle-income country by 2030.

As of this moment, he continued, people are stepping into 2016 with optimism, as they are satisfied with achievements we have realized in 2015. We have defended firmly foundation of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and peace, while taking care of political stability, security and social order, though there have been some disruptions by some political actions. This has ensured favourable condition for fruitful socio-economic development.

Meanwhile, the prime minister vowed to continue promoting democracy, rights, and freedom of people, while strengthening rule of law and opposing resolutely actions to use fake democracy and human rights to create chaos.

Worth pointing out that Samdech Techo Hun Sen said in order to promote more political participation, the president of each political party is allowed to have two or more nationalities.

The move is aimed to give opportunity to the Cambodians living abroad to participate in the elections and encouraged all political parties to

According to estimation, in 2015, the Cambodian economy enjoyed around 7 per cent growth because of progress made in fields of industry, services, tourism and agriculture.

Exchange rate has stabilized while external trade has also improved thanks to bigger size of export than import. International reserve has continued to grow. Average income per capita has increased from US\$229 in 1993 to US\$1,138 in 2014 and US\$1,228 in 2015 with proximity of increase to US\$1,325 in 2016. With this achievement, rate of poverty reduction has shrunk from 53.2 per cent in 2004 to just 13.5 per cent in 2015.

The commemoration was participated by some 12,000 party members and supporters as well as foreign diplomats to Cambodia.

Worth noting that in order to render justice to the victims of the genocide regime, senior Khmer Rouge leaders have been brought to justice by the UN-backed hybrid court. ■

DPM HOR NAMHONG HOLDS....



Mr. Namhong also mentioned that as ASEAN integration slowly rolls out, development gaps between member states will become more apparent, thus the ASEAN community will face key challenges, such as a lack of human resources, a lack of skilled labor and poor budget management for connecting with ASEAN institutions and its people.

He added that the ASEAN community will present citizens with a number of opportunities to enhance the country's leading role on the regional stage include job creation, the free flow of skilled workers and business for its youths.

Sor Sopunna, a law lecturer at a university in Phnom Penh, said that even though Cambodia needs to improve its education system and its population's English language skills, it may be ready to compete within the single market of the bloc. ■

ANGKOR ARCHEOLOGICAL PARK WELCOMES 2.1 MILLION FOREIGN VISITORS LAST YEAR

The Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap (APSARA) said Cambodia's Angkor Archeological Park received some 2.1 million foreign visitors in 2015, generating a total income of over US\$60 million.

The figure showed an increase by 1.2 per cent if compared to the previous year.

In 2014, the Angkor Archeological Park attracted almost 2.06 million foreign visitors, earning some US\$59.34 million as revenue while in 2013, about 2.02 million foreign tourists visited the Angkor ancient temples, generating total revenue of some US\$57.6 million. ■



NETFLIX LAUNCH

The company spokesperson said the price in Cambodia is similar to other countries, with subscribers able to choose from three different plans – Basic, Standard and Premium – ranging from \$7.99 to \$11.99 after a first free one-month trial.

According to Anthony Galliano, CEO of local social media marketing firm Dynamo Digital, Netflix would appeal to Cambodian subscribers, given the Kingdom's appetite for entertaining, new and trendy content. ■



MORE THAN \$3 BILLION INVESTED IN CAMBODIA CONSTRUCTION SECTOR LAST YEAR

The investment in the construction sector in 2015 attracted nearly US\$3,500 increased by approximately 30 per cent compared with 2014, which is around US\$2,500.

A spokesman, Seng Lout, of the Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction said on 8 January 2016 that the investment project on the construction in 2015 consist of nearly 2,500 prenatal projects totaling approximately 7.7 million square meters.

He added that investment in buildings with a height ranging from 5 up to 55 -story floor consist of about 700 buildings.

The construction sector is booming in Phnom Penh, Kandal, Siem Reap, Sihanouville and Battambang province, he underlined.

This growth is thanks to the investors who have confidence on the political stability social stability under the Government of Cambodia led by Samdech Techo Hun Sen and the Ministry of Urban Planning and Construction led the Senior Minister Im Chhun Lim.

He also mentioned that Urban Planning and Construction Department has put great efforts to facilitate procedures and legal regulations in the construction sector. ■

PASSENGER TRAIN FROM PHNOM PENH TO SIHANOUKVILLE BEGAN OPERATING IN JAN

Railway from Phnom Penh to Sihanouville has been tested its operation on 8 January, after it had been suspended for many years aiming to increase tourist attraction and decrease the traffic congestion.

According to Russel Tizon, a customer service officer of the Royal Railway, he confirmed that the use of railway has been already tested at a distance of 12 kilometers carrying tourist by three carriages – one for VIP and the other two for normal visitors – that can accommodate 150 people.

He also underlined that the journey from Phnom Penh to Sihanouville Railway and vice versa takes up to 8 hours at a distance of 260 kilometers at a speed of 35 kilometers per hour.



Since the process was good, and the company plans to open more railways for the local people from Phnom Penh to Sihanouville, Takeo and Kampot province, he emphasized. ■

CHINA INVESTS US\$250 MILLION FOR SINO PLAZA CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Chinese investors have planned to invest around US\$250 million to build an integrated complex in Phnom Penh called “Sino Plaza” in Chamcar Mon district, near Boeung Trabek Plaza.

Mr. Zhuang Jian Hua, General Manager of Natural Lucky Real Estate, was quoted as saying by local media that the Sino Plaza project includes a five-star hotel, movie theatre, office buildings, trade and service buildings, shopping mall, restaurants, and residential buildings.

The project is composed of four buildings: a 43-storey building, a 36-storey building and two 42-storey buildings, he added.

Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Yim Chhay Ly, Chairman of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development, welcomed the project, saying that it reflects the participation of private sector in Cambodia’s economic development as well as the good ties of friendship, solidarity and cooperation between the two countries and peoples. ■

538,396 TONS OF CAMBODIAN MILLED RICE EXPORTED LAST YEAR



The total amount of Cambodian milled rice export reached some 538,396 tons last year, up 39 per cent from 387,061 tons in 2014, according to the figures from the Secretariat of One Window Service for Rice Export Formality.

The major markets for Cambodian rice are China (21 per cent of the total rice export), followed by France (14 per cent), Poland and the Netherlands (10.8 per cent each), Malaysia (10.2 per cent), Italy (4.5 per cent), Czech Republic (4.2 per cent), Belgium (3.7 per cent), UK (3.4 per cent), and Germany (2.4 per cent).

In 2013, Cambodia exported only 378,856 tons of milled rice, up from 205,717 tons in 2012 and 201,899 tons in 2011. ■

MORE THAN 400% OF PALM SUGAR EXPORTS INCREASED IN 2015

In 2015, exports of organic palm sugar increase more than 400 per cent than in 2014 and are expected to triple this year, according to Cambodian Sugar Association President Sam Saroeun.

The growth was primarily due to rising demand in South Korea and Europe for the sugar, which has geographic indication certification, he said.

He added that exports from his association were 150 tons in 2015, compared to 35 tons the year before which the rise was due to the sugar’s high standards, quality and flavor; he also expected for his association will export 500 tons this year.

Kampong Speu palm sugar was granted Geographical indication (GI) status in 2010 by the World Trade Organization. ■

458,000 Tourists Visit KRATIE Last Year

More and more national and international tourists visit the northeastern province of Kratie. According to the Provincial Tourism Department, Kratie attracted some 458,000 visitors in 2015, up 78 per cent over the previous year.



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23 JANUARY 2016

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