

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

ISSUE 49: 07 - 13 DECEMBER 2015

## ANGKOR PANORAMA MUSEUM INAUGURATED

Angkor Panorama Museum was officially inaugurated in Siem Reap province on 7 December, under the presidency of H.E. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers and H.E. Hong Ki Chol, Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to Cambodia.

This construction project is a 100 per cent investment by Mansudae Newtech Corporation Ltd. of DPRK in cooperation with APSARA Authority, in the B.C.T (Build, Cooperate, and Transfer) form.

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## THE EIGHTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY CONVENED IN CAMBODIA



Cambodia's National Assembly President Heng Samrin marked his presidency of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) for the next two years, at the 8th APA plenary session held on 9 – 11 December 2015.

Cambodia hosted the Eighth Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in Phnom Penh from 9 -11 December under the theme "Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia."

The meeting was chaired by Cambodia's President of the National Assembly Samdech Akka Moha Ponchea Chakrei Heng Samrin, the presidency of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), succeeding H.E. Mian Raza Rabbani, President of the Senate of Pakistan.

According to the statement released at the 8th Plenary Session of APA, Samdech Heng Samrin will be the President of APA for two years.

Speaking on the occasion, Samdech Heng Samrin expressed his appreciation to the achievements of APA during the past two years under the leadership of H.E. Mian Raza Rabbani, and Cambodia's pride to assume the APA presidency.

"It is a great honor for the Cambodian parliament, government and people to receive the gavel that symbolizes the Asian nations. At the same time, the support from all APA member parliaments is a key factor contributing to the achievement of our common aspiration," he said. The Eighth Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was wrapped up on 11 December with the adoption of the Phnom Penh Declaration as stated below:

**"DENOUNCE** the use of violence, force and war in the settlement of differences and disputes in international relations;

**UPHOLD** the principles of peaceful coexistence and negotiations in solving international disputes;

**COMBAT** all forms of terrorism and occupation through international cooperation and law;

**STRESS** the importance of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SDGs);

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## NEW ONLINE BUSINESS REGISTRATION PLATFORM LAUNCHED

Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce launched the new online business registration platform and the automation system for issuing Certificate of Origin (C/O), according to the ministry's news release.

The launching ceremony was presided over by H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce with the attendance of some foreign guests, including H.E. George Edgar, Ambassador of EU delegation to Cambodia, H.E. Allassane Sow, Country Manager of the World Bank, representatives of the relevant ministries, and representatives of some private sectors in the country.

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## ANGKOR PANORAMA MUSEUM ...



The investment by Mansudae contributes not only to the socio-economic development in Cambodia, particularly the development of tourism industry in Siem Reap-Angkor region, but also to the further strengthening of the friendship and cooperation between the two nations, said H.E. Sok An at the inauguration ceremony.

The investment will boost job creation for local community and especially the diversification of tourist services and creation of a new tourism product, he added.

H.E. Sok An also underlined that the museum is a testimony of the support and encouragement by the Royal Government for the investments by the private sector, which is considered an indispensable partner and an engine of the economic growth and sustainable development in Cambodia. This further illustrates the high confidence of foreign investors in Cambodia.

Art work in the Angkor Panorama Museum has been meticulously conceived and realized with high creativity, reflecting various themes through paintings and 3D movies depicting the evolution of the Khmer Empire, war scenes, temple constructions, and daily life of the people, according to H.E. Sok An.

For his part, H.E. Hong Ki Chol said, "I am confident the museum will make a positive contribution to giving a comprehensive understanding of ideas about all the Angkor temples and promote tourism,"

"Moreover, I believe that Angkor Panorama Museum, one of the symbols of friendship and cooperation between the DPRK and the Kingdom of Cambodia, will contribute to further consolidate our traditional friendship established by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung of the DPRK and His Majesty the late King-Father of Cambodia, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk," he added.



H.E. Yim Nolla, Chairman of Economic, Social and Cultural Council and Chairman of the Cambodian Technical Committee for Angkor Panorama Museum Investment, said the museum, located on an area of 6,115 square meters, has been built following Khmer architecture style at a total investment cost of over US\$24 million. The project began in July 2011 and completed in September 2015.

### More Tourism Facilities

H.E. Sok An said apart from the museum, there are a number of tourism facilities, already or being constructed, within this city, such as the Tourist Welcome Center, Preah Norodom Sihanouk-Angkor Museum, the Southeast Asian Textile Museum, the Angkor Convention and Exhibition Center, and Sokha Siem Reap Resort.

"These are the long-term visions of tourism development in Siem Reap-Angkor, which we contemplated 20 years ago that Angkor would become one of the most popular tourist destinations and the number of tourists would increase so dramatically that the existing infrastructure and facilities within the Siem Reap city may not accommodate," he underlined.

In fact, he added, the number of foreign tourist arrivals to Cambodia has been increasing exponentially from merely 120,000 in 1993 to around 4.5 million in 2014, most of whom are cultural tourists heading for the Angkor World Heritage Site.

The 4.5 million tourists generated national income of about US\$3 billion, accounting for some 17 per cent of the GDP, said H.E. Sok An, stressing that if the current favourable conditions are maintained, Cambodia would welcome up to 7-8 million foreign tourists by 2020.

The Historic Site of Angkor was inscribed as a UNESCO's World Heritage Site in 1992. ■

**ENHANCE** moderation agenda and deradicalization initiatives, involving every level of society including youth and the private sector, while addressing and combating the root causes of radicalism, violent extremism and terrorism;

**ADHERE** firmly to the relevant principles of international law enshrined in the United Nations Charter, instruments and other Conventions pertaining to the solution of international conflicts;

**EMPHASIZE** the need to promote peace, reconciliation and dialogue in Asia, hereby promoting democracy, the rule of law and the role of Parliaments; and

**SET UP** a regional protocol which can serve as a legal tool for implementation and protection in the event of any sub-regional, regional and international crises. "

APA was founded in Iran in 2006. It has currently 42 full member parliaments, including Azerbaijan as the new member, and 17 observers. The APA plenary session is held every year in December. The APA president is elected from the member parliaments for a two-year term of office.

The 8th APA Plenary Session was attended by delegates from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, North Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, and the host country Cambodia. ■

## NEW ONLINE ...

H.E. Sun Chanthol said this new platform will reduce the time to register the company from 5-7 days to 1 hour; change from paper base to fully automated registration; cut down the human interface between official of the ministry and applicant; allow the applicant to register the company from anywhere in the country and in the world without coming to the Ministry of Commerce, to pay the application fee by Electronic Payment, and to print his own certificate of incorporation.

"All existing registered companies in Cambodia are kindly requested to re-register using the online registration system, by 31 March, 2016," he underlined.

They can register their companies at [www.businessregistration.moc.gov.kh](http://www.businessregistration.moc.gov.kh) and pay the fee of 1,720,000 riel (about 430 U.S. dollars) via e-payment service. ■



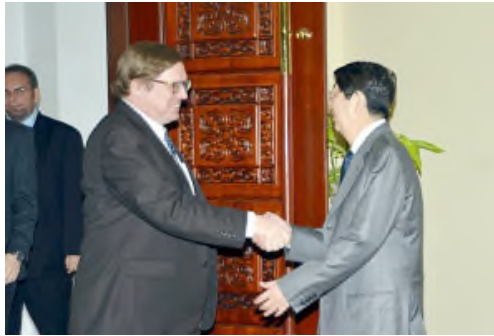
## DPM SOK AN HOLDS TALKS WITH UN EXPERT ON THE KHMER ROUGE TRIALS

Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers H.E. Sok An, Chairman of the Royal Government Task Force on the Khmer Rouge Trials, held a constructive meeting with visiting H.E. Ambassador David Scheffer, UN Secretary-General's Special Expert on United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials, regarding ongoing developments at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) on 8 December.

According to a joint statement, both sides noted that the ECCC continues to make steady progress on the discharge of its caseload, including at this time the Trial Chamber conducting its examination of the facts relating to the charges of genocide in Case 002/02.

The parties reaffirmed the Joint Statement between the Deputy Prime Minister and UN Assistant Secretary-General Stephen Mathias on 17 November, 2015 and the commitment therein to full implementation of the cooperation agreement between the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and the United Nations, including for the two cases under judicial investigation. The RGC indicated that relevant steps are being taken towards a satisfactory solution.

Regarding the financial situation of the ECCC, they recorded positively recent significant contributions to the ECCC, including US\$1.2 million from Japan to the international side, and a commitment from the Cambodian government for US\$4.15 million, amounting to 62 per cent of



ECCC's 2016 national budget. Further contributions are urgently required to fulfill the financial needs of the Court.

In this regard, the RGC supports the subvention request made by the UN Secretary-General for the international component of the budget and, in turn, the Special Expert expressed his commitment to work with the Cambodian government in the search for contributions to support the national component.

The parties recognized the importance of the ECCC trials and jurisprudence and how they are creating a fulsome historical record of the years of the Pol Pot regime, as well as aiding the long process of national reconciliation in Cambodia. The voices of the victims are being heard and the events requiring judicial scrutiny are being presented in an open courtroom. The parties noted that to date more than 193,000 individuals, the overwhelming majority being Cambodian citizens, have witnessed the trial proceedings of the ECCC since 2009. That number exceeds the totality of spectators of the other international and hybrid criminal tribunals created since 1993. ■

## ANGKOR RESORT'S INCOME REACHES OVER US\$53MM IN FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 2015

During the first eleven months of 2015, the number of foreign tourists visited the Angkor Archeological Park was some 1,877,437, up 2.21 per cent compared with the same period of 2014, generating US\$53,556,480 as income from the Angkor ticket sales, up 1.15 per cent.

The figures were released by the Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap (APSARA) in a press release issued on 8 December.

In November alone, some 200,085 foreign tourists visited Angkor temples, showing an increase by 3.54 per cent over the same period last year, while the revenue from ticket sales was about US\$5,875,400, up 5.71 per cent, it pointed out.

In 2013, the Angkor Archeological Park attracted 2,021,715 foreign visitors, earning some US\$57,687,680 as revenue, while in 2014 some 2,059,702 foreign tourists visited the ancient temples, generating total revenue of US\$59,342,000.

In early November, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has decided to end the contract on the collection of revenue from ticket sales to visit Angkor temples with Sokha Hotel Company. A public enterprise will take over the revenue collection responsibility from early January 2016 onward and the company's staff in charge of revenue collection will continue their work under the management of the new enterprise.

The Angkor Archeological Park is one of the world attractive cultural sites in Cambodia beside the coastal areas in the south-western part and the eco-tourism sites in the north-eastern part of the country. ■



## CONSTRUCTION SECTOR ATTRACTS NEARLY US\$3 BILLION INVESTMENT

Senior Minister and Minister of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction H.E. Im Chhun Lim said in the first 11 months of this year, Cambodia attracted nearly US\$3 billion investment in the field of construction.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of Cambodia Biggest International Building and Construction Exhibition (CAMBUILD 2015) held here recently, H.E. Minister said from January to November 2015, the construction sector received a total of US\$2,936 million investment capital, up 27 per cent compared

to the same period of the previous year.

Of the total amount, he added, some US\$1,581 million or 54 per cent have been invested in the construction of 56 buildings from 10 to 55 floors.

H.E. Im Chhun Lim expressed his optimism that Cambodia will attract more construction projects thanks to the country's political and macroeconomic stability as well as security and social order. ■



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