

VISIONS of CAMBODIA

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EU SEES ASSISTANCE TO NEC AS A KEY TO INCREASED DEMOCRACY IN CAMBODIA

The European Union sees the assistance to the National Election Committee of Cambodia as a building block to further strengthen the country's democracy.

Ambassador of the European Union to the Kingdom of Cambodia H.E. George Edgar told this to local media when handing over primary office supplies to the Club of Cambodian Journalists here in Phnom Penh on 27 January.

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MINISTRY OF INFO LAUNCHES A2I WEBSITE

The Access to Information (A2I) Participatory Citizen Website on Access to Information Law: www.a21.info.gov.kh was launched on 28 January at a press conference organized by the Ministry of Information, in cooperation with UNESCO in Cambodia.

The event was presided over by H.E. Khieu Kanharith, Minister of Information; Ms. Anna Maj Hultgard, Swedish Ambassador to Cambodia; and Ms. Anne Lemaistre, Representative of UNESCO in Cambodia.

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BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND US TO BE STRENGTHENED



Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen greets visiting U.S. Secretary of State H.E. John Kerry, at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh on 26 January, 2016.

Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen met with visiting U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on 26 January at Peace Palace, focusing their talks on bilateral cooperation and regional issues.

According to H.E. John Kerry, he said that his visit to Cambodia was to prepare for the next month U.S.-ASEAN summit in Sunnylands, California and to maximize opportunities for cooperation between the United States and Cambodia.

According to Eng Sophalleth, a personal assistant to the Cambodian Prime Minister, he said the premier underlined the importance of strengthening the bilateral trade by requesting

the U.S. to consider providing quota-free and duty-free for Cambodian products and he also praised the US-Cambodia cooperation in combating terrorism.

For his part, Kerry said U.S. investors saw Cambodia as a potential destination for investment and also promised to take prime's minister request into consideration.

Earlier in the day, H.E. John Kerry also held official talks with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong focused on economic issues and regional and international matters.

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BILATERAL RELATIONS



In the meeting, H.E. John Kerry congratulated Cambodia on her remarkable development as well as the progress of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, affirming that the U.S. will further work with Cambodia in the areas of environment, health, Mekong initiatives, and regional security.

After the meeting, H.E. H. Pen Panha said the visiting U.S. top diplomat mentioned some political issues, especially about the opposition party issue, but it was just a small topic.

H.E. John Kerry arrived in Phnom Penh on 25 January for a two-day official visit in Cambodia. He is not the first U.S. Secretary of State to visit Cambodia. After H.E. Ms. Madeleine Albright, U.S. Secretary of State between 1997 and 2001, cancelled her planned visit to Cambodia in 2000, her successor H.E. Colin Powell landed in Cambodia in June. ■

MINISTRY OF INFO LAUNCHES



Through the bilingual (Khmer & English) website, the public can give their comments or opinions in order to improve the draft Access to Information Law, said the information minister.

According to H.E. Khieu Kanharith, six articles of the draft law have been so far discussed by the A21 Technical Working Group composed of representatives from relevant ministries

and institutions, civil society organizations, journalist associations, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Cambodia.

In May 2014, the Ministry of Information and UNESCO reached a Memorandum of Understanding on the Project to Promote Law Making on the Access to Information with the financial assistance of over US\$1 million from the Government of Sweden.

The drafting process would take three years, during which workshops, both at national and sub-national levels, as well as inter-sectoral workshops will be organized with the participation of relevant institutions, journalist associations, civil society organizations and human rights groups. ■

ICRC APPRECIATES CAMBODIA ON HUMANITARIAN AND PEACEKEEPING TASKS

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Cambodia appreciated Cambodia for her active participation in global humanitarian and peacekeeping missions.

The remarks were made known here on 25 January by ICRC Head of Mission in Cambodia Mr. Bart Vermeiren during his meeting with Cambodian Chairman of Legislation and Justice Commission of the National Assembly H.E. Pen Panha.

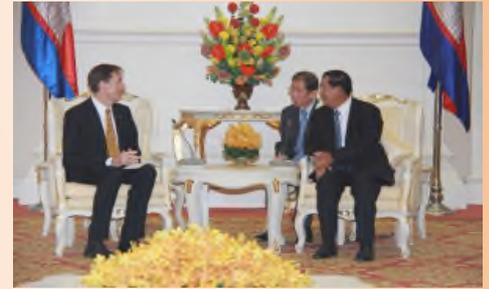
Mr. Vermeiren said that the Royal Government of Cambodia has worked actively with many international organizations,

particularly with the United Nations on humanitarian programs, and the country has dispatched troops to take part in peacekeeping operations under the UN umbrella in many countries around the world.

These activities show that Cambodia is a country that needs and loves peace, he underlined.

In reply, H.E. Pen Panha voiced his support to Mr. Vermeiren's comments, saying that National Assembly, the Royal Government and the entire Cambodian people badly hate war, and absolutely oppose the war. ■

EU SEES ASSISTANCE....



According to the ambassador, the National Election Committee can bring about transparency and promote confidence of voters in a manner that allows them to make an independent decision.

The European Union has been working with the election committee to establish new mechanisms to better register legitimate voters for future elections in Cambodia.

Human rights and democracy are a priority of the European Union's mission in Cambodia, in addition to education, agriculture and financial management.

Cambodia is expecting commune/Sangkat council election in 2017 and national election in 2018. ■

HONG KONG AIRLINE EXTENDS TO CAMBODIA

Launching on 27 February 2016, Hong Kong Airlines will officially takeoff thrice-weekly flight service to Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

According to Johnny Wan, deputy general manager at the airline's business development department, he stated that an all-economy-class Airbus A320 aircraft, with a capacity of 174 passengers, will be operated on the Hong Kong-Phnom Penh route every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

"The direct flight will offer more choices and increased convenience to Cambodians travelling out of their country and connecting to our network in Mainland China, further promoting the tourism and business ties between Hong Kong and Cambodia," he added.

Established in 2006, Hong Kong Airlines is operating 27 new Airbus aircraft, connecting Hong Kong with over 30 major cities across the Asia-Pacific region, Johnny said.

Hong Kong Airlines will be the third Hong Kong to Cambodia service, adding to Dragonair and Hong Kong Express. ■

MoU ON SOCIAL AND LABOR STANDARD IN TEXTILE AND GARMENT SECTOR IN ASIA SIGNED BETWEEN CAMBODIA, GERMANY



Cambodia's Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training and German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Social and Labor Standard in Textile and Garment Sector in Asia, at Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Phnom Penh, on 28 January to further develop the labor sector in Cambodia.

H.E. Oum Mean, Cambodian Secretary of State at the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, and Mr. Adellbert Eberherdt,

Country Director of GIZ Cambodia, were the signatories. The event was witnessed by H.E. Ith Samheng, Cambodian Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, and H.E. Joachim Baron von Marschall, German Ambassador to Cambodia.

It is the first time that Germany is interested in the labor sector in Cambodia, said H.E. Ith Samheng, stressing that the two-year project focuses on the industry and export of garment and shoes.

"It is a good project that helps build capacity of all relevant parties," underlined H.E. Ith Samheng.

For his part, H.E. Joachim Baron von Marschall said that the MoU will provide technical support and strengthen capacity building of factory inspection officials. ■

CAMBODIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMERCE RECEIVES AMCHAM DELEGATION



Cambodia's Secretary of State for Commerce H.E. Kem Sithan has received here recently a delegation from the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (AmCham) led by Mr. Colin Browne.

According a press release of the Ministry of Commerce, the meeting mainly focused on the process of drafting trade union law, minimum wage and the next five-year development plan in the garment and footwear sectors.

H.E. Kem Sithan said that the draft trade union law has been submitted to the National Assembly for discussion. The law

would benefit both employers and employees and contribute to a sustainable garment industry, he stressed.

On the minimum wage, he highlighted the government's efforts to ensure that it would be commensurate with the level of economic development that could be acceptable to relevant stakeholders.

And concerning the development plan, H.E. Kem Sithan referred to the industrial development policy for 2015-2025 recently adopted to upgrade Cambodia industries through economic diversification, enhanced competitiveness, and productivity.

Mr. Colin Browne rose up global trade trend, especially in the new context of some new free trade treaties, including Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP). ■

CAMBODIAN, JAPAN AGREED ON WASTE WATER TREATMENT

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on 25 January at the Peace Palace visiting Major of Kitakyushu city of Japan's Fukuoka Prefecture H.E. Kenji Kitahashi.

According to H.E. Eang Sophalleth, Assistant to the Cambodian premier, in the courtesy meeting, H.E. Kenji Kitahashi briefed Samdech Techo Hun Sen on the establishment of sister city relationship between Kitakyushu and Phnom Penh to boost more cooperation between the two cities, especially on waste water treatment, and the agreement on the establishment will be officially signed on 29 March, 2016.

For his part, Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed his support to the relations between Phnom Penh and Kitakyushu and he requested the Japanese side to help Phnom Penh in treating waste water before being drained to the river and in evacuating rainwater from the capital city to avoid flooding. ■

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CAMBODIA ATTRACTS SOME 222,269 TOURISTS

The National Museum of Cambodia, a main tourism site in Phnom Penh, attracted some 222,269 visitors last year, according to a report of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts.

Of them, 164,607 were foreign visitors, generating US\$576,124 as income for the national budget, it pointed out.

Last week, the Guimet Museum of Asian Art of France returned from its collection the head of Harihara Statue of Phnom Da so that it could be reunited with its torso preserved at the National Museum of Cambodia, after about 130 years of separation.

Between 1996 and 2014, Cambodia has received some 350 returned artifacts from the U.S., France, Thailand, Australia, Switzerland, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Japan, UK, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Canada and Taiwan. ■

Available languages: 한국어 ខ្មែរ 中文 Français 日本語



ANGKOR VISITOR CODE OF CONDUCT

WELCOME TO ANGKOR!

Angkor was the capital of the Khmer Empire (9th to 15th centuries) and once the largest city in the world (12th century). Today, Angkor is still an active spiritual site for Buddhists and citizens who engage in daily worship, prayer and meditation. Angkor is also a living site where over 130,000 inhabitants have lived for many generations.

The APSARA National Authority has been responsible for the conservation and sustainable development of Angkor since 1995. One of our goals is to harmonize tourist experiences with public safety and respect towards our community. This official Visitor Code of Conduct was designed to support this goal. It was developed in cooperation with local communities, visitors, tour guides and restoration teams.

To enhance your experience and to preserve Angkor for generations to come, we kindly urge you to observe the following points:



➤ Dress Code

Revealing clothes such as shorts and skirts above the knees and showing bare shoulders are prohibited in sacred places. Respectful dress is strongly encouraged in Angkor.



➤ Monuments

Touching carvings, sitting on fragile structures, leaning on temple structures, moving or taking archaeological artifacts and graffiti are strictly prohibited. Backpacks, umbrellas with sharp tips, tripods and high heels are discouraged from being brought or worn inside the temples.



➤ Sacred Sites

As Angkor is a sacred site, loud conversation and noise and other inappropriate behaviour in Cambodian culture is considered to be offensive and may disturb other visitors. Please keep calm and be respectful.



➤ Restricted Areas

For your own safety and for the conservation of Angkor, please comply with all signs on the site and be mindful of your steps at all times. Do not climb on loose stones.



➤ Smoking and Littering

As a member of the World Health Organization, Angkor has been a smoke free site since 2012. Smoking cigarettes disturbs others and cigarettes can start bush fires. To protect the environment, please do not smoke and litter.



➤ Candy or Money to Children

Buying items, giving candy or money to children encourages them not to attend school but to beg. If you wish to help the children, please consider donating to a recognised charity.



➤ Monks

Monks are revered and respected. If you want to take pictures, please ask for permission first. Women should not touch nor stand or sit too close to monks.

Any act of looting, breaking or damaging Angkor, or exposing sexual organs and nudity in public area is a crime punishable by law.

In cooperation with:



Your feedback on your Angkor Experience will be a contribution to improve our service. Please feel free to submit them on our website or scan the QR code:

www.apsaraauthority.gov.kh/survey



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