

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

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## MEKONG WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT WORK REVIEW AND PLANNING

Ministry of Public Works and Transport in cooperation with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) organized late last week a workshop to review the achievements and plan the next step of its project to improve Mekong River waterway of Cambodia.

Taking place at Hotel Le Royal here in Phnom Penh, the gathering was partaken by not only the public works and transport officials, but also representatives from involved ministries, such as the water resources and meteorology, mines and energy, and environment, as well as KOICA.

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## CAMBODIA ACHIEVED MDG EARLY IN FIGHTING AGAINST TB

The World Health Organization has recently acknowledged Cambodia as a country that achieved the millennium development goal in fighting tuberculosis, reported a local media.

Cambodia was among Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Uganda, the Philippines, Vietnam and Zimbabwe that obtained such accomplishment.

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## CAMBODIA AND CHINA AGREE TO DEEPEN FURTHER COOPERATION



Cambodia's DPM H.E. Hor Namhong meets with H.E. Yu Zhengsheng, Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, during his visit to China to co-chair the 3rd Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Coordination Committee between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of China, taking place in Beijing on 3-5 February 2016.

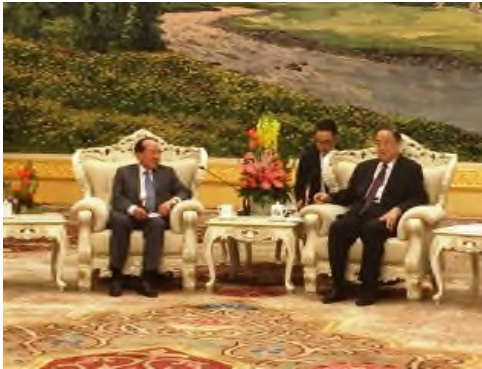
Senior officials of Cambodia and China discussed and agreed on numerous points to expand more cooperation in different fields at the 3rd Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Coordination Committee between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of China, taking place on 3-5 February in Beijing.

According to the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation's press release, the meeting was co-chaired by Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Hor Namhong and Chinese State Councillor H.E. Yang Jiechi.

In the meeting, both sides exchanged views and agreed on more than ten points of cooperation – to speed up the signing of document on governmental cooperation in cracking down on human trafficking and combating terrorism; to further promote the two-way trade to US\$5 billion by 2017 and to continue supporting the development of special economic zone in Preah Sihanouk province; to prepare and sign the document on "One Belt, One Road" cooperation; and to boost for the Phnom Penh-Preah Sihanoukville Highway Construction Project.

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## CAMBODIA AND CHINA AGREE ....



of people's living standard and major cooperation projects between the two countries such as national stadium and hospital construction projects, etc., to increase cooperation in agriculture, to organize the 3rd Joint Working Group Meeting on Bilateral Agricultural Cooperation, and to establish an inter-governmental mechanism on forestry cooperation.

The Chinese side will continue to promote the bilateral cooperation on agricultural technology.

Besides, the meeting also agreed on the expansion of cooperation in the fields of connectivity, water resource management, flood management, disaster risk reduction, education, tourism, ancient temple restoration, and so on.

In January 2014, the first meeting of the China-Cambodia Inter-governmental Coordination was held in Beijing. The second meeting was held in Phnom Penh in

In addition, the Chinese side welcomed the import of more Cambodian agricultural products, and will continue to provide development assistance and concessional loans to Cambodia.

The two sides continued to boost the cooperation financing to support different projects as stated in the five-year cooperation plan 2015-2019 proposed by Cambodia.

Both sides also agreed to increase China's assistance in areas related to enhancement

## MEKONG WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT....



"This is a great opportunity for all relevant stakeholders to look into our work progress so far as well as the challenges we faced to improve our work next step," said Secretary of State for Public Works and Transport H.E. Sokhom Pheakavornmony when chairing the event.

According to Country Director of KOICA Cambodia Office Ms. Baek Sook Hee, the project is financed by US\$5.5 million grants aid from the Government of the Republic of Korea.

The project covers 215 kilometers of Mekong River from Phnom Penh capital to Kratie province with key activities including, protection of the river bank against the erosion, waterway clearing and support for policy to sustain the work.

Kick-started since December 2014, the project runs for the period of 26 months. ■

## CAMBODIA ACHIEVED...

In his interview with the local media, Director of National Center for Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control (NCTLC) Dr. Mao Tang Eang highlighted that the goal was met earlier than its set timing.

According to the NCTLC's record, the death rate caused by tuberculosis declined from 157 cases among 100,000 populations in the 1990s to 58 in 2014.

For the same time line, tuberculosis prevalence went down from 1,670 to 668 among 100,000 populations.

These are the decreases of about 60 percent against the set objective of 50 per cent – thanks to the hard work of the national team. ■

## ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR SMES LAUNCHED

The Ministry of Industry and Handicraft launched the online registration portal for the small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

H.E. Cham Prasidh, Minister of Industry and Handicraft, said this new system will encourage the SMEs which have not yet registered to apply for the legal status.

"The online system will ease the SMEs' application for registration," said H.E. Minister, stressing that at least 10,000 enterprises would be registered through this newly-launched portal this year.

"Enterprises, especially those in provinces, do not need to come directly to the ministry to ask for registration, they can now go online and fill in the application form," he added.

Currently, there are some 500,000 enterprises throughout Cambodia, about 95 per cent of them are believed not to register yet.

H.E. Cham Prasidh further underlined that the online registration system of the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft will link with that of the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the General Department of Taxation.

According to the ministry's report, last year Cambodia had 38,831 registered manufacturing SMEs, up 372 from 38,459 in 2014. The increase in new manufacturing SMEs has created up to 4,793 new jobs, bringing employments at SMEs nationwide to 194,053 in 2015, up from 189,260 in the previous year. ■

## ADB AND PARTNERS PLEDGE US\$880 MILLION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA FOR 2016-2018



Asian Development Bank (ADB) and its development partners have pledged to provide financial assistance of about US\$880 million for the development of Cambodia in 2016-2018.

The commitment was made by Mr. James Nugent, the bank's Director General, Southeast Asia Department, when leading a delegation to meet with Minister of Economy and Finance H.E. Aun Porn Moniroth at the ministry office here in Phnom Penh on 2 February.

As highlighted by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Economy and Finance to the local media, among the mentioned assistance, around US\$728 million from ADB alone and

the rest US\$153 million is the support from the bank's development partners.

The Asia Development Bank also planned to provide technical cooperative financial assistance of US\$25 million.

Impressed with on-going economic growth of Cambodia, Mr. James Nugent said that the average annual income of Cambodians will increase from US\$1,228 in 2015 to US\$1,325 in 2016.

H.E. Aun Porn Moniroth reconfirmed that ADB continue to play a role as good and equal partner in the process of poverty reduction and social development of Cambodia.

The finance minister also welcomed Mr. Samiuela T. Tukuafu's appointment as ADB Country Director for Cambodia.

The 2016-2018 strategic development of Cambodia will concentrate on key areas, including the linking of rural and urban areas, social and human resource development and public sector management. ■

## 2015: CAMBODIA EARNS 7.1 BLN USD FROM GARMENT, FOOTWEAR EXPORTS



Last year, garment and footwear products are exported from Cambodia is equal to 7.1 billion U.S. dollars, up 14.5 per cent from a year earlier, Industry Ministry reported.

According to the ministry's annual meeting, the figure for 2014 stood at 6.2 billion U.S. dollars.

European countries, the United States, and Canada are the main markets for the products.

According to Deputy Prime Minister Keat Chhon, he said the growth clearly showed the strength and competitiveness in the country's garment and footwear industry.

"Cambodia's economic growth was estimated at around 7 percent last year, and the garment industry played an important role to maintain this growth," he said, adding that the government would try to seek new foreign markets for the products.

The garment and footwear sector, the country's largest foreign currency earner, has 1,007 factories employing 754,188 workers. ■

## CAMBODIA ATTRACTS US\$4.64 BILLION INVESTMENT PROJECTS LAST YEAR

In 2015, Cambodia attracted a total of US\$4.64 billion investment projects, up some 18 per cent over the previous year, a senior official said on 2 February.

H.E. Chea Vuthy, Deputy Secretary General of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC), said at the Cambodia-Korea Investment Forum, that local businessmen invested some US\$3.2 billion, followed by China with US\$864 million investment capital; UK, US\$139 million; Singapore, US\$101 million, Vietnam, US\$89 million; Malaysia, US\$74 million; and Japan, US\$59 million.

Between 2011 and 2015, US\$22.3 billion investment projects were approved by CDC, added H.E. Chea Vuthy, pointing out that most of the projects focused on the fields of infrastructure, industry, agriculture and tourism. ■

## THAI SMILE AIRWAYS EXPANDS ROUTE TO CAMBODIA'S SIEM REAP



Thai Smile Airways, a regional subsidiary of Thai Airways, launched its new route from Bangkok, Thailand to Cambodia's Siem Reap province, home to the famous Angkor temples, according to the company's press release on 1 February.

The new Bangkok-Siem Reap flight, using Airbus 320-200, will be operated five days a week and two flights a day, it pointed out.

Woranate Laprabang, CEO of Thai Smile Airways Co., Ltd, explained his company's decision to launch this direct service between the Thai capital and Cambodian tourism province by the growing number of tourists to Siem Reap, the biggest tourism hub in Cambodia and home to the UNESCO-listed Angkor temples. ■

# *Cambodia's Coastal Areas Expect to Attract 6 Million Visitors by 2020*

Cambodian Minister of Tourism H.E. Thong Khon said the country's coastal provinces would attract at least 6 million visitors by 2020.

According to the tourism minister, the coastal areas welcomed a total of 650,000 foreign visitors and 2 million domestic tourists last year.

Cambodia's coastline stretches about 450 kilometers in four provinces – Preah Sihanouk, Koh Kong, Kampot and Kep. It became member of the Club of the World's Most Beautiful Bays in mid-2011.

In 2015, over 4.8 million foreign tourists visited Cambodia, generating around US\$3,200 million income and creating direct jobs to some 620,000 people.

