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CAMBODIA, EU SIGN COOPERATION DEAL TO BOOST TRADE

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Cambodia and the European Union (EU) on 12 February to boost their trade and investment ties.

The deal was inked between Cambodian Kith Meng, president of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the European Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia (EuroCham) Emmanuel Menanteau.

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3RD JOINT COUNCIL MEETING ON TIFA HOLD BETWEEN CAMBODIA, U.S

Senior Cambodian and American officials gathered in Phnom Penh on 5 February in the 3rd Joint Council Meeting on the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United States of America, according to the Ministry of Commerce's news release.

The Cambodian side was headed by H.E. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State for Commerce, and the U.S. side was led by Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Ms. Barbara Weisel, it pointed out.

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CAMBODIA, UNICEF REACH COUNTRY PROGRAMM ACTION PLAN 2016-2018



H.E. Chhay Than, Minister of Planning, and Debra Comini, UNICEF Representative to Cambodia signing the new Country Program Action Plan covering 2016-2018 on 10 February, 2016.

The Royal Government of Cambodia and UNICEF Cambodia officially signed the new Country Programme Action Plan covering the period from 2016 to 2018 on 10 February.

The signing ceremony was held at the Ministry of Planning, with the presence of H.E. Chhay Than, Senior Minister, Minister of Planning, representing the Royal Government of Cambodia, and Ms. Debra Comini, UNICEF Representative to Cambodia.

According to a UNICEF's statement, the plan identifies and addresses the key barriers that impede the realization of children's rights in Cambodia and outlines areas of collaboration for the coming three years.

The new country programme consists of four programmatic components: Integrated Early

Childhood Survival, Care and Development; Inclusive Quality Education; Child Protection; and Social Inclusion and Governance.

It stated that the estimated funding requirement for the three-year programme is US\$65million.

"Our previous programme of cooperation with UNICEF has contributed to improving the lives of many children and women through the development and enforcement of policies and legislation, as well as improving our systems and service provision," said H.E. Chhay Than.

"But we also recognize that many children are still left behind. We are pleased that the new country

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CAMBODIA, EU SIGN COOPERATION



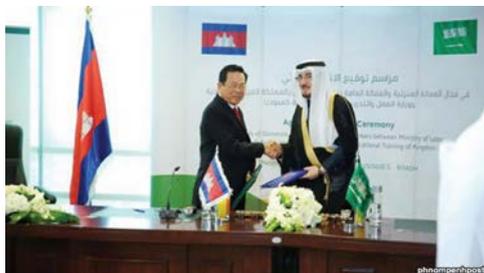
According to Kith Meng, the MoU will contribute to promoting trade and investment relations between Cambodia and the EU.

"I believe that the EuroCham will help attract more European companies to Cambodia," he said.

Emmanuel Menanteau promised to encourage European companies to invest in Cambodia and also to help facilitate Cambodian companies who seek to expand their businesses to the EU.

"The EuroCham will help promote Cambodia as an investment destination for European firms," he said. ■

CAMBODIA, SAUDI ARABIA SIGN AGREEMENTS ON RECRUITMENT OF CAMBODIAN WORKERS



The pacts aimed "to increase bilateral cooperation between Cambodia and Saudi Arabia in labor and human resources development, especially to protect the rights and interests of Cambodian laborers working legally in Saudi Arabia," it said, adding that the deals will also oversee recruitment, work standard, and repatriation of laborers.

According to the statement, the two countries will also set up a joint technical committee to settle challenges in regard to the implementation of the agreements.

Currently, the Southeast Asian country has dispatched laborers to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, and Japan. ■

Cambodia and Saudi Arabia have signed two agreements on the recruitment of Cambodian laborers and maids for working in the Arab country, said a statement released by the Cambodia's Labor Ministry on 12 February.

The agreements were inked by Saudi Arabia's Labor Minister Mofarrej S. Al-Hoquabani and Cambodia's Labor Minister Ith Samheng in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Thursday, the statement said.

BORDER RESEARCH GROUP: THMAR BEI DOM IS IN CAMBODIA'S TERRITORY

Head of the Border Research Group of the Royal Academy of Cambodia Dr. Sok Touch has affirmed that Thmar Bei Dom (Three Rocks) area is in Cambodia's territory.

Thmar Bei Dom, situated in Thmar Bei Dom village, Kampong Krasing commune, Borei Chulsar district, Takeo province, at the border with Vietnam, is not in Vietnam's territory as claimed by some politicians, Dr. Sok Touch told local media.

A delegation of the Border Research Group led by Dr. Sok Touch paid a field visit to Thmar Bei Dom area on 10 February.

The area has been being under the management of Cambodia, he underlined, calling on people not to fall into tricks of some politicians which would create social crisis.

In a recent press conference in Phnom Penh, Dr. Sok Touch said after conducting a field research for more than seven months and traveling some 500 kilometers along the Cambodia-Vietnam border, his team has found 1,000 border poles, some of which have been planted during the French Protectorate, some in 1885, and those planted recently by the Governments of Cambodia and Vietnam have also been found. ■

CAMBODIA, UNICEF

programme will put more emphasis on the most disadvantaged children, so that more children in Cambodia will have a chance to thrive and grow up to become healthy and productive adults," he said.

Cambodia has a large number of children and adolescents, with 45 per cent of the total population aged 19 years or younger. Eleven per cent is under the age of 5.

Debora Comini said, "While children in Cambodia today are growing up in a time of significant social and economic transformation, the progress is not experienced equally by all."

"Inequity can be passed down from one generation to another, in an endless cycle that will impact the whole society. That's why investing in children is the best investment that Cambodia can make for its future." added Ms. Comini.

UNICEF has been working in Cambodia for decades to promote and protect the rights of children. The organization began its work in the country in 1952, and opened its first country office in Cambodia in 1973.

The program will be implemented in collaboration with Cambodian government agencies at the national and local level, with NGOs and development partners, private sector, academic institutions, the media and other UN agencies. ■

3RD JOINT COUNCIL

In the meeting, it added, the two sides discussed the bilateral, regional and multilateral trade issues such as the implementation of Cambodia's World Trade Organization (WTO) obligations, intellectual property rights, labor, investment, trade capacity building, information communications and technology, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Cambodia and the U.S. will continue joint work under the TIFA and are developing a follow-up work plan, including how best to support momentum for continued trade-related reforms in Cambodia, said the press release.

TIFA is the main forum for trade and investment discussions between Cambodia and the U.S. Officials from both countries meet regularly to discuss ways to build bilateral economic relationships and coordinate ASEAN and WTO issues. In 2014, the two-way trade between both countries totaled US\$3.2 billion. ■

KAS CONTINUES SUPPORT TO NA COMMISSIONS ON LEGISLATION & EDUCATION



**Konrad
Adenauer
Stiftung**

Legislation and Justice, and H.E. Yem Ponharith, Chairman of Commission on Education, Youth, Sports, Cults, Religious Affairs, Culture and Tourism, at the NA Palace on 8 February.

Mr. Rene Gradwohl pointed out that KAS' assistance to the Cambodian NA focused mainly on law amendment, elaboration, and examination.

For his part, H.E. Pen Panha informed his guest of the NA's legislation work, saying that the NA is now studying and doing research on the draft Trade Union Law developed by the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training to serve the interest of workers and business owners.

KAS has already assisted the two above-mentioned NA commissions for about four years. ■

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) will continue to support the Commission on Legislation and Justice and the Commission on Education, Youth, Sports, Cults, Religious Affairs, Culture and Tourism of the National Assembly (NA) of Cambodia.

The affirmation was made by Mr. Rene Gradwohl, newly appointed KAS Country Representative, in a meeting with H.E. Pen Panha, Chairman of the Commission on

MAFF RECEIVES UNESCO DELEGATE TO SHARE WORK PROGRESS

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries H.E. Ouk Rabun has recently received in Phnom Penh UNESCO senior delegate who shared the progress of the conservation of Preah Vihear area on the 8 February.

According to the meeting update from the ministry's official, Mr. Azzedine Beschaouch, Special Advisor to the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Culture for Cambodia, the Balkans and Palestine, indicated that the conservation areas have increased from 300 hectares in the beginning to the current size of 23,000 hectares.

More trees have been planted and an ecological museum established as part of the conservation work for about eight years.

Conservation team has also trained the locals on priority household aquaculture – the practice that will not only encourage them to be part of the safeguard, but also promote their living condition.

H.E. Ouk Rabun welcomed the progress of the UNESCO work and will support future cooperation to further smoothen the conservation activities. ■

CAMBODIA POST AND KERRY EXPRESS TO EXTEND REACH

Kerry Express, the delivery service for Kerry WorldBridge Logistics, signed a memorandum of understanding with state-owned Cambodia Post, agreeing to invest \$17 million to expand the coverage of its Express Mail Service (EMS) and increase the use of the country's post offices on 10 February.

According to Sear Rithy, director of Kerry Worldbridge Logistics, he said that the partnership will help to "kill three birds with one stone," which are developing postal services in Cambodia, increasing confidence in postal services and helping develop the company's online shopping service.

"We don't want to compete with each other, [so this partnership agreement] is a win-win policy and this cooperation will also help serve our [e-commerce service] MAIO Mall to distribute packages to customers," he said.

According to Ork Bora, director general of Cambodia Post, he said that they decided to partner with the private sector to fill gaps in the postal service's coverage.

Bora also stated that the two firms would pay a fee for using the other's service. ■

THREE JAPANESE MARITIME SELF-DEFENSE FORCE VESSELS TO VISIT CAMBODIA NEXT WEEK

The Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Vessels "AKEBONO", "HATAKAZE", and "YAMAYUKI" led by Captain Kazuhiko MIZOE, Commander of the Escort Division 11 of JMSDF, will be visiting Cambodia from 17 to 20 February, 2016 on the way of their training cruise, according to a press release of the Embassy of Japan.

The four-day visit is aimed to strengthen friendship between Cambodia and Japan through various exchange programs as well as to give opportunities for approximately 110 cadet school graduates to learn about culture and military in Cambodia, it pointed out.

During the stay in Cambodia, Captain Kazuhiko MIZOE plans to visit Phnom Penh to pay a courtesy call on Commander of Cambodian Royal Navy on 18 February, said the press release, adding that he will also visit Ream Naval Base, Preah Sihanouk Provincial Office and Port Authority of Sihanoukville on 17 February. ■

CAMBODIA PREPARING TO ATTRACT SENIOR VISITORS

The Cambodian Ministry of Tourism and relevant institutions began working on a strategic plan to attract more elderly tourists as the number of senior travelers is increasing around the world, H.E. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, told reporters after a meeting on 9 February.

According to the ministry's study, elderly tourists are mostly interested in natural tourism, that's why Cambodia is planning to build houses at the coastal and mountainous areas so that they can enjoy their lives after they are retired, he added.

The majority of the elderly visitors come from China, Korea, Japan and European countries, pointed out H.E. Thong Khon.

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. Of the total number of foreign arrivals, some 800,000 were Chinese visitors, ranking them at the 2nd place. ■

Upcoming Handicrafts and Souvenirs Trade Fair in April, 2016



The Ministry of Commerce and its partners will host a Handicrafts and Souvenirs Trade Fair in Siem Reap cultural province in April this year, according to the ministry's press release.

The trade fair will be held as part of the 4th Angkor Sankranta from April 13 to 16, 2016 in the compounds in front of the Angkor Wat Temple.

The purpose of this four-day event is to promote and raise Khmer handicraft and souvenir products, it added.

