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EU PLANS TO DISBURSE €59 MILLION TO SUPPORT CAMBODIA'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA THIS YEAR

The European Union is planning to extend some 59 million euros to support Cambodia's efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in 2016, said the EU Delegation to Cambodia's press kit dated 19 February.

The EU provides funds to Cambodia through two main channels: bilateral cooperation supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and thematic programs supporting civil society organizations and local authorities, it said, adding that there are also regional cooperation projects covering several neighboring countries.

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CAMBODIA-UN JOINT STATEMENT ON ECCC'S ACHIEVEMENTS

The following is the Joint Statement by H.E. Dr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers and Chairman of the Royal Government Task Force on the Khmer Rouge Trials and U.N. Secretary-General's Special Expert on United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials, Ambassador David Scheffer on the progress and achievements of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, released after their meeting in Phnom Penh on 19 February:

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CAMBODIAN PRIME MINISTER ATTENDS ASEAN-U.S. LEADERS SUMMIT IN CALIFORNIA



Cambodia's PM Hun Sen along with other ASEAN Heads of State/Government and U.S. President H.E. Barack Obama, attends the Special ASEAN-U.S. Summit, held in Sunnylands, California, on 15-16 February, 2016.

The two-day summit (15-16 February) between leaders from ASEAN and the US in Sunnylands, California focused on trade and economic issues, maritime security issues and the disputes in the South China Sea, according to a news release AKP.

This initiative will strengthen the United States economic engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the ASEAN Member States (AMS), underlined the press release, adding that strong economic ties are at the core of the United States and ASEAN's decades-long partnership.

Under the U.S.-ASEAN Summit, it pointed out that both sides will build on their existing efforts to support ASEAN's economic integration, because a more integrated ASEAN will strengthen a rules-based and open economic order in the region.

According to the press release, this U.S. initiative has four organizing pillars – Business Connect, Energy Connect, Innovation Connect and Policy Connect – and it will provide strategic focus to ongoing and future U.S. government activities in the region.

Business Connect supports increased commercial engagement between U.S. and ASEAN businesses in a variety of regionally important sectors, including ICT and infrastructure, trade and economic integration under the ASEAN Economic Community. Business Connect will bring U.S. and ASEAN businesses together to capitalize on opportunities created through the ASEAN Economic Community. It will continue to advance efforts including the U.S.-ASEAN Air Transport Working Group Work Plan, and U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) project preparation programs. *Continued on page (2)*

CAMBODIAN PRIME MINISTER ATTENDS



Energy Connect assists in the development of power sectors in ASEAN built around sustainable, efficient, and innovative technologies. It will support the connectivity, clean energy and energy security goals of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2015 – 2025 and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. U.S. programs continuing under Energy Connect include the U.S.-ASEAN Energy Cooperation Work Plan, the U.S.-Asia Pacific Comprehensive Energy Partnership, the Asia Pacific Clean Energy Program, and USTDA clean energy and grid modernization/connectivity project preparation programs.

Innovation Connect supports Southeast Asia’s emerging entrepreneurial ecosystem through policy support and direct engagement with entrepreneurs. Technical assistance under Innovation Connect will include the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Innovation Challenges and economic programs, the Global Entrepreneurship Program, Innovation Roadshows, and support for the ASEAN Science Prize for Women.

Policy Connect focuses on supporting the ASEAN countries in creating a policy environment conducive to trade and investment, digitally enabled innovation, and sustainable and equitable economic growth, which includes providing capacity building, and technical support to member states. Programs under Policy Connect include the U.S.-ASEAN Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement work plan initiatives, such as ACTI SME initiatives, ASEAN Single Window support, Standards Cooperation, and a new series of U.S.-ASEAN Trade Workshops. Policy Connect programs will also focus on broader economic policy engagement, such as the U.S.-ASEAN ICT Workplan and discussions on aviation issues.

To support the implementation of U.S.-ASEAN Connect, the U.S. government is establishing a

network of three Connect Centers (Centers) – in Jakarta, Singapore, and Bangkok. The Centers are responsible for focusing and coordinating U.S. government resources on growing the economic engagement with ASEAN institutions, ASEAN Member States, the U.S. private sector, multilateral development banks, and other regional stakeholders.

ASEAN is now the fourth-largest trading partner for the United States. Two-way trade in goods and services has tripled since the 1990s, topping US\$254 billion in 2014. U.S. businesses have been the largest cumulative source of foreign direct investment in ASEAN and ASEAN countries are increasing their investment in the United States. U.S. goods and services exports to ASEAN supported over 500,000 American jobs in 2014.

Worth noting, Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Cambodian Prime Minister, has expressed the country’s central position over the South China Sea issue during the second retreat session under the theme “Protecting Peace, Prosperity, and Security in the Asia-Pacific.” He also showed Cambodia’s stance to prevent the internationalization of the South China Sea issue.

Cambodia continued to encourage all the concerned parties to settle the issue between them and by peaceful mean and coexistence, based on international laws, without resorting to force and acting unilaterally, which would cause instability in the conflict zones, and by fully implementing the existing regional mechanisms, including the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), the Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea, and the Joint Statement on the 10th Anniversary of DOC, and so on, he underlined.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen affirmed that Cambodia supported joint actions of all concerned parties in order to build mutual trust so as to reduce tensions and confrontations near the conflict areas.

Cambodia also encouraged the continued efforts to the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in South China Sea (COC), said Prime Minister Hun Sen. ■

EU PLANS TO DISBURSE €59 MILLION TO SUPPORT....

According to the press kit, the bilateral cooperation is designed to support the implementation of the RGC’s key national development policies.

The EU has allocated 410 million euros under its bilateral cooperation program with Cambodia for the period 2014-2020. In particular, these funds will help the Government to strengthen agriculture and the management of natural resources, provide better quality education and implement governance and administration reforms such as public financial management (PFM), decentralization, and electoral reform.

The thematic programs, which support directly civil society and non-State actors, cover a great variety of areas, such as capacity building for civil society, human rights, local governance, environment and climate change and gender. The EU provides co-financing to civil society organizations, awarded through competitive calls for proposals procedure.

With these funds, the EU is currently is funding 54 projects, for a total of more than 49 million euros, throughout 23 provinces of Cambodia.

“To ensure the EU funds are used effectively and transparently, regular and detailed monitoring and evaluation of all EU-funded projects is carried out by the EU Delegation, by monitoring missions from EU Headquarters and by independent audit firms,” said Mr. Alain Vandersmissen, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the EU Delegation to Cambodia. ■



CAMBODIA-UN JOINT STATEMENT

“As the Supreme Court Chamber was conducting the final stage of appeal hearings in Case 002/01 — hearings that were broadcast on Cambodian national television throughout the country — a constructive meeting regarding ongoing developments at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) was held yesterday at the Office of the Council of Ministers between Deputy Prime Minister His Excellency Dr Sok An and Ambassador David Scheffer during his latest regular visit to Cambodia.

The parties expressed strong support for the work of the Court, and noted that the Trial Chamber is continuing to adjudicate Case 002/02, that the latest Completion Plan envisages completion of that trial by the fourth quarter of 2016 and a Supreme Court Chamber judgment in the appeal of Case 002/01 by mid-year, and that a number of steps have been taken in recent months regarding Cases 003 and 004.

They recognized the continuing financial support by the Royal Government of Cambodia to the national component, amounting to a total of US\$22.6 million since 2006 as well as further contributions in kind, estimated by the Cambodian government at more than \$13 million. They also noted with appreciation the voluntary funding by foreign donors and further assistance by the United Nations that enables the international and national components of the ECCC to continue to operate with full financial support each year. The parties discussed how to achieve voluntary funding targets for 2016 and appealed for timely foreign contributions to both the

national and international components of the Court, including from ASEAN governments.

Once again this week, the public gallery of the ECCC was filled with observers, a large number of whom were brought to the Court by the Public Affairs Section from throughout the country. A number of the almost 4,000 Civil Parties in Case 002 also attended, brought by the Victims Support Section with support from Germany and from the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women. Such unprecedented public participation in the proceedings of the ECCC is one of its particular accomplishments, also supported over the years by some NGOs. They noted that to date almost half a million Cambodians have visited the ECCC or participated in its outreach events throughout the country — a figure that shows the exceptional importance that the Cambodian people attach to the work of the ECCC and that provides a positive example for other such courts.

These achievements in discharging its judicial mandate, conducting outreach, and providing strong victim participation demonstrate the value of the ECCC and serve to counter misperceptions occasionally circulating in commentary about the Court.

Both parties expressed appreciation for the more than 30 countries that have supported the ECCC financially since its formation and for the continuing support by the Cambodian and international media in projecting coverage of the important work of the Court throughout the country as it moves forward to seek justice for the crimes committed in Cambodia some 40 years ago.” ■

THREE MINISTRIES COLLABORATE TO MAINSTREAM CLEAN ENVIRONMENT & GOOD TOURISM SERVICES



To promote the tourism sector, the Ministries of Information, Tourism, and Environment will further work with the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia and private sector to mainstream awareness on clean environment and good tourism services among the public.

H.E. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, said this mainstreaming plan is to encourage the public to further take part in promoting Cambodia’s clean and green tourism while the ministry has been preparing to participate in an ASEAN tourism competition in 2018. ■

OVER \$332 MILLION FOR CLEAN WATER DEVELOPMENT

Cambodia has received more than US\$332 million as financial assistance for clean water development projects throughout the country, according to local media reports.

The assistance was provided by different organizations and development partners, and under the ASEAN-Japan framework to support clean water development projects in Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Battambang, Kampot, Preah Sihanouk, Pursat, Siem Reap, Stung Treng, Mondulkiiri, Svay Rieng, and so on.

H.E. Cham Prasidh, Minister of Industry and Handicraft, said in early February that this financial assistance will improve the capacity of public water supply authorities in Cambodia, which will contribute to enhancing the people’s health and welfare.

In 2015, clean water production across the nation was more than 220 million cubic meters, equal to 110, 31 percent of the yearly plan, up 11.87 percent compared with 2014’s figure. ■

INDEE CAMBODIA OPENS

The Indian Engineering Exhibition (INDEE) Cambodia, jointly organized by the Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC), was opened on 18 February at Koh Pich Convention and Exhibition Center, in the presence of H.E. Chhuon Dara, Cambodian Secretary of State for Commerce.

Some 80 Indian enterprises have been displaying their products including agricultural machinery, construction machinery, household appliances, vehicle spare parts, electronic devices, medical equipment, food processing machinery, and so on.

The three-day event will make Cambodian and Indian business communities closer and promote the sustainable relations between the two countries, and he appreciated the Government of India for its efforts to boost commercial and investment sectors in Cambodia.

For his part, Indian Ambassador H.E. Naveen Srivastava praised Cambodia for her rapid progress during the last two decades. With low labor cost, generalised system of preferences for export to many developed countries, and her policy to boost the economy and attract more investments, Cambodia provides a better opportunity for the Indian business community, he stressed. ■

4TH ANGKOR SANKRANTA TO FEATURE TWO GIANT TRADITIONAL CAKES

Angkor Sankranta 2016, to be held in mid-April, will feature two giant traditional cakes, Num Treap Bay and Num Ple Ay.

This information was made known in a meeting of the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC) held in Siem Reap province on 16 February in the presence of H.E. Hun Many, UYFC President.

According to the schedule, the Angkor Sankranta 2016, the 4th of its kind, will be officially opened on April 14 under the presidency of Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and his spouse, Samdech Kittiprittbandit Bun Rany Hun Sen.

Angkor Sankranta is organized annually to celebrate the Khmer Traditional New Year in Siem Reap province, home to the famous Angkor temples. It is aimed to show off the solidarity of the Cambodian family as a whole and to contribute to maintaining Cambodian tradition, culture and custom.



Last year, Angkor Sankranta attracted over 1 million national and foreign tourists to visit Siem Reap cultural province and generated a total income of almost US\$70 million.

The Angkor Sankranta 2015 was bigger and more interesting than the previous events. A part from many entertainment programs such as Khmer traditional art performances and games, chess competition, etc., there was a show of the four-ton Nom Anorm, a traditional Cambodian rice cake made from sticky rice, mug bean, and pork, which won on April 13, 2015 a Guinness World Record; a giant palm leaf hat of 191.5 kilograms; a giant Angrot (a fish catching tool) of 5.5 meters height; a giant palm juice container of 15 liters, and so on.

Beside the giant Nom Anorm, Cambodia on April 15, 2015 broke the Guinness World Record for the largest Madison dance with 2,015 participants.

The Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap (APSARA) has cooperated with Cow Cart Community in Siem Reap province to offer the cow cart service for tourists in the Angkor Archeological Park.

The creation of this transportation service is aimed to preserve this traditional Cambodian vehicle as well as to generate income for the local villagers, said the APSARA Authority.

The Cow Cart Community was established in 2010 by the APSARA Authority in cooperation with New Zealand under the Angkor Community Heritage and Economic Advancement Project (ACHA), it added.

Currently, there are about 20 cow carts available for the service, and the fee is only US\$7 per trip, of which US\$5 will go to the cow cart's driver, US\$1 to the management commission, and US\$1 to the community.

APSARA Creates Cow Cart Service for Tourists in Angkor Archeological Park

