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CAMBODIAN SENATE PRESIDENT HOLDS BILATERAL TALK WITH JAPANESE COUNTERPART

Cambodian Senate President Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei Say Chhum held a bilateral talk with H.E. Masaaki Yamazaki, President of the House of Councillors of Japan, in Tokyo on 24 February.

According to the Cambodian Senate, in the meeting H.E. Masaaki Yamazaki expressed warm welcome to the official visit of Samdech Say Chhum and congratulated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Japan.

Continued on page (2)

KAMPOT PEPPER SUCCESSFULLY REGISTERED AS GI IN EU

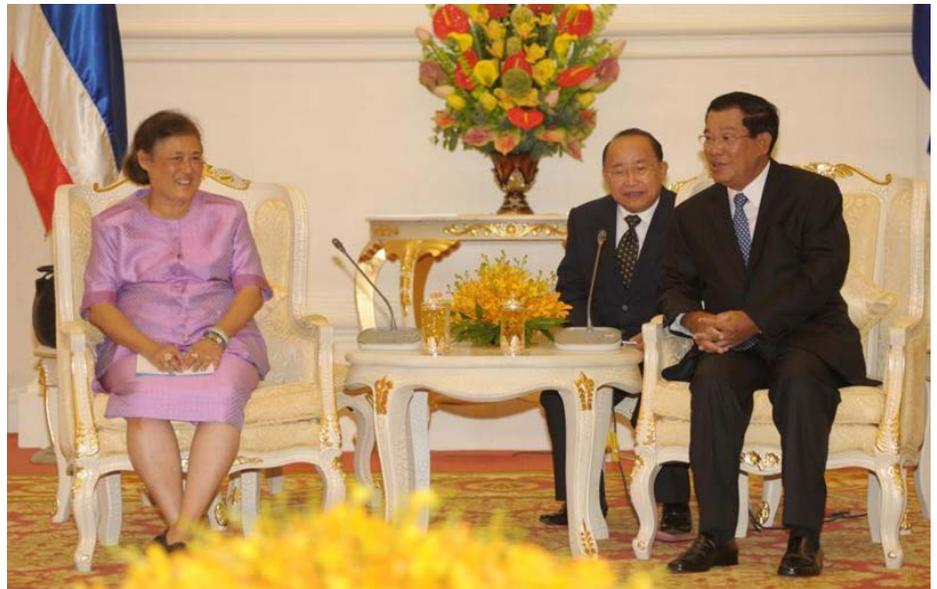
Kampot Pepper has been successfully registered as a Cambodia's geographical indication, affirmed the Ministry of Commerce.

The EU Official Journal has confirmed this registration recently, said the ministry in a news release.

"Mrech Kampot/Kampot Pepper is also proudly the first GI product in ASEAN to receive protection," it underlined.

Continued on page (2)

THAI PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN IN CAMBODIA TO BOOST TIES



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen meets with visiting Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 22 February, 2016

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand arrived on 22 February 2016 for a three-day royal visit in Cambodia until 24 February, at the invitation of Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.

The Thai princess was warmly welcomed upon her arrival by H.E. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Cambodian Ambassador to Thailand, Thai Ambassador to Cambodia, and many other high-ranking officials.

According to a press release of the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, during the royal visit, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn received in a Royal Audience by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, and meet with Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

During the meeting at the Peace Palace, Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed his profound thanks to the Thai princess for her support to the education and health sectors in Cambodia saying that the princess has visited Cambodia 13 times since 1992 to assist the country in the two sectors.

For her part, H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn thanked the Cambodian premier for the warm welcome and spoke highly of the Cambodian students who have got scholarships to study in Thailand.

According to the press release, the Cambodian premier and the Thai princess presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Kampong Speu Institute of Technology in Kampong Speu province.

Continued on page (2)

THAI PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI



The institute is located on the parcel of 200 hectares in Kampong Speu province, some 115 km west of Phnom Penh capital.

According to the press release, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and Cambodian Minister of Education, Youth and Sports H.E. Hang Chuon Naron also presided over the handover ceremony of the Solar Cell Building at the Kampong Chheuteal Institute of Technology in Kampong Thom province.

Besides, the Thai princess attended the inauguration ceremonies of the Medical Health Center in Rattanakiri province and the new nameplate of Kampong Chheuteal Institute of Technology in Kampong Thom province, as well as visited some primary schools in different provinces. ■

The construction is expected to be completed by 2018 which is funded by Sirindhorn. The institute will produce associate's degrees and bachelor's degrees in 15 majors, ranging from agriculture to business management, engineering and computer science.

"The ground-breaking ceremony is a new symbol of continued cooperation between our two neighboring countries," H.R.H Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn said.

CAMBODIAN SENATE PRESIDENT HOLDS



For his part, Samdech Say Chhum thanked the Japanese side for the warm hospitality, adding that his visit will contribute to further deepening the friendship and cooperation between the two countries, especially the two legislative bodies, at the present time and in the future.

Samdech Say Chhum also recalled Japan's key role in Cambodia's national reconciliation, political stability, and development.

The Cambodian senate president welcomed the direct flight between Tokyo and Phnom Penh by All Nippon Airways (ANA) to be launched in September and the opening of Kitahara Hospital in Phnom Penh in May this year.

Samdech Say Chhum has been on a four-day official visit in Japan since 23 February.

Beside H.E. Masaaki Yamazaki, he is also scheduled to meet with H.E. Tadamori Shima, Speaker of the House of Representatives; and H.E. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister; as well as representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). ■



PM EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES OVER THE DEMISE OF FORMER UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen has sent a condolence message to H.E. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, over the loss of H.E. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Egyptian Foreign Minister and former Secretary-General of the United Nations.

"In this regard, I would like to express, on behalf of the Cambodian people and myself, our most sincere condolences to the grieved family and the Egyptian government for the loss of their beloved one and the most outstanding diplomat of Egypt, who had contributed tremendously to the international peace and security in the world and as well as the peace in Cambodia," said Samdech Techo Hun Sen in his message dated 20 February.

"While always remembering within our hearts his tireless and invaluable dedication to Cambodia's peace and development, the Cambodian people and I pray for his spirit to rest in peace," added the Cambodian premier.

H.E. Boutros Boutros-Ghali passed away on 16 February, 2016 at the age of 93. ■

KAMPOT PEPPER....

A geographical indication (GI) is a sign that identifies a product as originating from a particular location which gives that product a special quality or reputation or other characteristic. Well-known examples of other GIs include Bordeaux (wine) and Darjeeling (tea).

This GI designation legally protects Kampot pepper from other non-Kampot grown pepper claiming to be Kampot Pepper, and as such also protects and potentially increases the value of Kampot pepper within the global market, said the ministry.

This year, Kampot pepper's yield is expected to reach about 70 tons. ■



CAMBODIA PREMIER AND BUDDHIST MONKS PRESIDE MEAK BOCHEA CELEBRATION

Cambodia celebrated on 22 February the Meak Bochea Day on the top hill of Preah Reachtroap (Oudong), Ponhea Leu district, Kandal province, where a stupa of Buddha's relics is located, under the presidency of Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakei Say Chhum, President of the Senate.

Many high-ranking officials, civil servants and thousands of Buddhist followers also participated in this annual celebration.

Some 300 Buddhist monks, including Venerable Tep Vong, Supreme Patriarch General of the Dhamma Mahanikaya Order of Cambodia, and Venerable Bour Kry, Great Supreme Patriarch General of the

Dhammayuttikanikaya Order of Cambodia, were offered food, drink and cash.

Cambodia, as well as other Buddhism-practicing countries, holds the event annually. It is a public holiday and an occasion where the Buddhist followers are reminded of Buddha and his teachings.

Meak Bochea commemorates a great meeting of Buddha and 1,250 disciples and it is the day where Buddha announced his passing away, which would happen three months later.

He correctly predicted his death and it is now remembered as Visak Bochea Day (which also happens to be his birthday and enlightenment day). ■



ANGKOR AIR TO EXTEND ITS FLIGHT TO SEOUL

Cambodia's flagship carrier Angkor Air will extend its flight to South Korea, with regular flights between Phnom Penh and Seoul from 17 April. The regular service will offer four weekly flights – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday – using a 178-seat Airbus A321 jets.

From July 2016, Angkor Air will increase to five flights a week and expand to daily service next year.

The expansion to Korea follows the airline successfully launching services to Laos and Vietnam in October last year.

According to Cambodia Angkor Air vice CEO, Mr. Lim Kao, he said the flights will help strengthen Cambodian and South Korean relations, including business ties and tourism.

Angkor Air has officially appointed Global Aviation Alliance (GAA) as its new general sales agent for passenger and cargo services to South Korea.

South Korea is the third largest source countries for foreign tourists, according the government figures. ■

CONSTRUCTION OF WIN-WIN POLICY MEMORIAL LAUNCHED

Royal Government of Cambodia officially launched the construction of a memorial on 25 February dedicating to the win-win policy that ended the civil war in the country.

Located in Sangkat Bakheng, Khan Chroy Changvar of Phnom Penh capital, the win-win policy memorial will stand on the land surface of about 15 hectares.

Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Gen. Tea Banh, Minister for National Defense, presided over the ground breaking ceremony.

According to the Cambodian DPM, the construction of the memorial does not only intend to commemorate national heroes, but also to build awareness of the next generations on the hard work in the past leading to current peace, stability and growth.

Key historical documents relevant will be also placed at the site for reference and studies. ■

U.S. PURCHASED US\$3 BILLION GARMENT PRODUCTS FROM CAMBODIA

The United States of America purchased garment products equivalent to US\$3 billion last year, 2015.

The highlight was published lately on the official website of the United States Embassy in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The published information also underlined the appreciation of the U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. William A. Heidt for two garment factories he has recently visited.

The visited factories, Cambodian Textiles Worldwide in Phnom Penh and Pactics in Siem Reap contributed significantly to the said purchase by the U.S. from Cambodia. ■



The Mangrove Forest



Mangrove forests provide shelter for salt water fish, shrimp and crabs to reproduce themselves and they represent natural barriers between land and sea, while protecting the coast from winds, storms, hurricanes or even tsunamis by absorbing wave energy. They protect the coasts from erosion and retain sediments. They allow for a type of micro-climate stabilization and act as a natural water filter contributing to cleaning.

Mangroves are spread along the coast from Kep to Koh Kong, and it covers an area of over 50,000 hectares in Koh Kong.

For the keen eco-lover, come visit the mangrove forest of Koh Kong where you will be rewarded by hours of awesome thrills just by observing these natural wonders and the lives that evolve in their moist.

