

VISIONS of CAMBODIA

ISSUE 10: 06 – 12 MARCH 2017

CAMBODIAN FM: ASEM STILL FACES SOME CHALLENGES

Even though ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) has seen progress in the past two decades, it is facing some challenges that need to be solved in order to continue strengthening its main role in its 3rd decade to enhance the partnership between Asia and Europe to be more energetic and livelier.

The remarks were made by Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Prak Sokhonn while presiding over the celebration of ASEM

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AUSTRALIA APPRECIATES CAMBODIA'S LABOUR DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES

Australia appreciates Cambodia's progress in labour and vocational training work, and pledged to continue good cooperation with the Kingdom in the area.

The mentioned spirit was highlighted by Mr. Josh Bornstein, Head of Australia's Fair Work Commission delegation when received lately by Minister of Labour and Vocational Training

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CAMBODIAN PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF MYANMAR ARMED FORCES



Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen received visiting Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar Armed Forces, prior to their meeting at the Peace Palace, Phnom Penh on 08 March, 2017.

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, received on 08 March at the Peace Palace visiting Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar Armed Forces.

According to H.E. Eang Sophalleth, Assistant to the Cambodian premier, during the courtesy meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said this is his first visit to Cambodia and congratulated the Kingdom on her full peace and development.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing requested Samdech Techo Hun Sen to share his experience in peace seeking process in Cambodia.

In reply, Samdech Techo Prime Minister highlighted the Royal Government of Cambodia's Win Win strategy and agreed with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to boost the cooperation between Cambodia and Myanmar, especially in the military sector. ■

CAMBODIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MEETS SOUTH KOREAN SECRETARY OF FORESTRY

Cambodian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries H.E. Veng Sakhon received here on 07 March visiting Secretary of Forestry for the Republic of Korea H.E. Shin Won Sop.

Both ministers discussed the progress of existing cooperation agreements, including the Agreement on the Establishment of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation (AFoCO) between Cambodia and the Republic of Korea.

H.E. Veng Sakhon expressed warm welcome to H.E. Shin Won Sop's visit and informed him of the royal government's support to the AFoCO.

For his part, H.E. Shin Won Sop thanked the Royal Government of Cambodia, particularly

the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for its close cooperation with the Korea Forest Service.

According to AFoCO's website, the Kingdom of Cambodia signed AFoCO on February 16 2017 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea in Seoul. Up to date, six countries have signed the Agreement.

The Republic of Korea has deposited its instrument of ratification. The AFoCO will continue on the ongoing activities and also further expand the regional scope as well as strengthen its activities upon official inauguration of AFoCO. ■

THE ROYAL GENDARMERIE OF CAMBODIA TO DISPATCH FOR UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN

A unit of the Royal Gendarmerie of Cambodia is ready to be sent to the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan in April this year, Gen. Sem Sovanny, Director General of the National Centre for Peacekeeping Force Management, Mine and ERW Clearance told local media on 06 March.

Speaking at the Training Institute for Peacekeeping Forces in Kampong Speu province recently, Gen. Sem Sovanny said the dispatch will be made at the UN's request.

Since 2006, Cambodia has deployed a total 3,960 troops – 146 of them are women – for

the peacekeeping operations under the UN umbrella in Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, Syria, Lebanon, Mali and Cyprus. ■



BANTEAY MEANCHEY, VINH LONG SIGN MoU ON TRADE & TOURISM COOPERATION FOR 2016-2020

Cambodia's Banteay Meanchey province and Vinh Long province of Vietnam signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote their cooperation for another five-year period (2016-2020).

The MoU was inked in Banteay Meanchey

province during the recent visit of a delegation from Vinh Long.

The MoU will help boost mutual support and strengthen the ties of friendship, solidarity and good cooperation in all sectors, especially commerce and tourism, between the two sister provinces and countries. ■

CAMBODIAN FM:

Day in Cambodia, under the theme "ASEM in 3rd Decade", held at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia, Phnom Penh on 06 March 2017.

Lack of remarkable results in solving regional and global challenges, connectivity, and limitation of public's awareness on ASEM are some of the main challenges being faced by ASEM, according to the Cambodian top diplomat.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn thus suggested ASEM to set forth concrete action plan aiming to strengthen and expand cooperation in the fields of mutual interests so as to deal with common challenges such as climate change, migration, terrorism and so on; to promote physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity between the two regions; and to raise people's awareness on ASEM through information sharing, workshops, and other events.

Cambodia has valued the integration and connectivity between Asia and Europe and is ready to continue taking part in boosting the fruitful cooperation and partnership between the two regions in the future, he underlined.

ASEM, said H.E. Prak Sokhonn, has expanded its members from 26 in 1996 to 53 at present, making its whole economy cover 50 percent of the world's GDP and more than 60 percent of world's trade, with nearly 60 percent of world's total population. These factors, he added, has precisely reflected the attractiveness and significance of ASEM, and encouraged other countries, mainly in Europe, to show their intention to become members of ASEM. ■

AUSTRALIA APPREC....

H.E. Ith Samheng at the ministry office here in Phnom Penh.

According to H.E. Ith Samheng, the two sides are committed to further improve labour dispute resolution services in Cambodia.

The Australian delegate spoke highly of effort of the Cambodian counterpart in the service delivery and staff capacitation to date.

H.E. Ith Samheng welcomed the good intention of the visiting delegate and look forward to keeping up with the good collaboration. ■

AFI TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM MRO SERVICES FOR CAMBODIA ANGKOR AIR

A leading French aircraft maintenance company won the bidding to provide long-term services for Cambodia Angkor Air's airbus jet airliners.

An official agreement between the two partners, the Air France Industries (AFI) KLM Engineering and Maintenance and the Cambodia Angkor Air, was signed on 07 March at Raffles Hotel Le Royal in Phnom Penh.

Air France Industries' Senior Vice President Commercial Mr. Fabrice Defrance expressed his appreciation of the partnership and was committed to provide quality services.

According to the vice president, AFI offers maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO)

services globally. The company employs a total workforce of more than 14,000 who are experts in aircraft maintenance and is providing services for almost 2,000 aircrafts of its 200 customers.

The Cambodia Angkor Air management is positive that the partnership with AFI will not only improve the functioning of the company's aircraft, but will also ensure safety for passengers.

Established in 2009, Cambodia Angkor Air is providing both domestic flights and international flights. The group currently has seven aircraft and hopes to add more soon. ■

CAMBODIA MARKS FIRST CASSAVA'S DAY

The first ever Cassava's Day was celebrated in Battambang, a northwestern province on 06 March to promote the cassava production, according to the Ministry of Commerce's news release.

Taking place in conjunction with Cassava Showcase and Cassava's Contest 2017, the event was presided over by H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, with 800 participants who are provincial authorities, civil servants, farmers, representatives of private sector and NGOs.

H.E. Pan Sorasak said the celebration is aimed to boost the cassava production and export to international markets.

This event will create market orientation through the establishment of networks between farmers, manufacturers and exporters from one area to another, and provide opportunity for all stakeholders to outline challenges, exchange information and share knowledge, he underlined.

Cambodia expanded the cassava cultivation area from 400,000 hectares in 2011 to some 574,000 hectares in 2015 with a total yield of 13 million tons. Vietnam and Thailand are the biggest markets for Cambodian cassava products. ■

CAMBODIA'S FIRST TRANSNATIONAL TIGER INTRODUCTION PLANNED

Royal Government of Cambodia is planning to import wild tigers from abroad to avoid the extinction of the animal in the country, according to local media report.

Mr. Un Chakrey – a communication official for conservation organisation WWF Cambodia that works with the Ministry of Environment on the issue – was quoted in the source as saying that if the plan succeeds, it will be the country's first transnational tiger introduction.

To start with, he added, six or seven male and female tigers will be imported and released in Sre Pok and Phnom Prech protected forest areas in the northeastern Mondulkiri province where Cambodia's tiger was last seen. The introduction of imported tigers requires well-protected forest as their habitat and assurance of its food at least during the first four to five years.

Tigers were last seen in Cambodia in 2007 and the current number of panthers is not more than five, according to Mr. Un Chakrey. ■

CAMBODIAN ENVIRONMENT MINISTER RECEIVES A JAPANESE BUSINESS DELEGATION

Cambodia's Minister of Environment H.E. Say Samal received a Japanese business delegation led by Mr. Takahashi Fumiaki, President of Japan-Cambodia Association, and Former Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia, in Phnom Penh on 6 March.

According to the Ministry of Environment's news release, both sides discussed the technology and use of small-scale incinerator for medical and industrial waste with less air pollutant emission.

H.E. Say Samal encouraged the Japanese side to further work with the ministry's General Department of Environmental Protection to study the necessity and advantages of the use of this small-scale incinerator. ■

THAI COMPANY INVESTS US\$600 MILLION TO ESTABLISH FACTORY IN CAMBODIA

Thailand-based SVI Public Company Limited has decided to invest some US\$600 million to establish a factory at Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone producing electronic components of camera, computer and phone.

Located on an area of 10,000-meter square, the factory will employ some 7,000 workers once it operates in early 2018, said Mr. Poe Lothongkam, CEO of the SVI at the recent groundbreaking ceremony of the factory construction.

Cambodia is the fourth country in which the company invested, Mr. Poe Lothongkam added, indicating that the company has so far sent some 700 Cambodian workers to get trained in Thailand. ■



Only 300 Tourists Allowed on Top Hill of Phnom Bakheng for Sunset View

The Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap (APSARA) has announced to restrict the number of visitors at the top hill of Phnom Bakheng for sunset view to only 300 at a time.

Mr. Phoeun Sophoan, President of APSARA's Tourism Management Agency, explained that the limitation is aimed to protect the ancient temple.

The APSARA Authority has also arranged places for tourists to see the sunset on the hill without going up to the temple, he added.

Located in Angkor region, Siem Reap province, Phnom Bakheng is a 65-meter-high temple mountain built between the end of the 9th century and early 10th century, during the reign of King Yasovarman I. It is a popular tourist spot for sunset view over Angkor Wat Temple.

