

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

ISSUE 06 : 15-30 March 2018

## CAMBODIAN PM ATTENDS ASEAN-AUSTRALIA SPECIAL SUMMIT IN SYDNEY

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, along with other ASEAN Heads of State/Government and Australian Prime Minister attended this afternoon the opening ceremony of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in Sydney, Australia, according to the National Television of Kampuchea (TVK).

The ASEAN leaders and secretary-general were warmly welcomed by Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull. This ASEAN-Australia Special Summit is aimed to strengthen the contribution of ASEAN and Australia to enhancing regional security and prosperity as well as to reflect their commitment to deepen their strategic partnership through continued cooperation in the fields of security, politics, economy and connectivity.

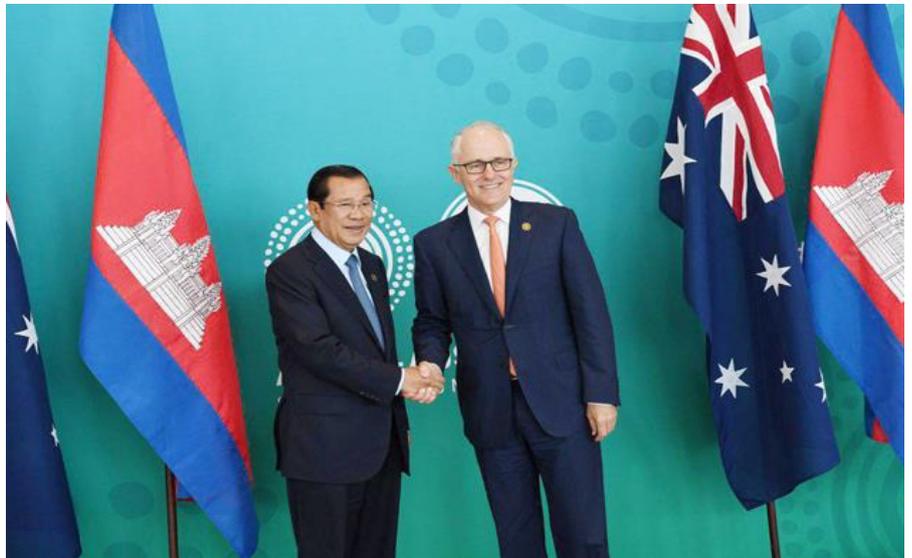


Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen (3rd L, Pic. 1) together with other ASEAN leaders and Australian Prime Minister H.E. Honorable Malcolm Turnbull pose for a photo session at the Opening Ceremony of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in Sydney, Australia today.

ASEAN and Australia started building their dialogue relations in 1974 which were upgraded to the strategic partnership 40 years later. Then in 2015, ASEAN and Australia agreed on the organisation of their summit every two years.

On the occasion, the leaders of ASEAN and Australia met with three Australian students who have studied in ASEAN countries under the New Colombo Plan and an ASEAN student who is studying in Australia under Australia's scholarship. *Continued on page (2)*

## CAMBODIAN PM MEETS AUSTRALIAN COUNTERPART



Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen (L, Pic. 1) shakes hands with Honourable Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister of Australia, prior to their bilateral meeting in Sydney, Australia, this morning, on the sidelines of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit.

The Government of Australia has decided to extend AUD 87 million (over US\$67 million) development assistance to Cambodia for 2018.

This is a fruitful outcome of the bilateral talk between Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Honourable Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister of Australia, in Sydney, Australia this morning, on the sidelines of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit.

At the same time, the Australian side pledged to boost its investment in Cambodia and assist Cambodian blue helmet troops in their peacekeeping missions under the UN umbrella, added the delegate minister.

Besides, he said, Honourable Malcolm Turnbull affirmed Australia's strong will to strengthen the relations between both countries and expressed warm welcome to Samdech Techo Hun Sen's presence at the upcoming ASEAN-Australia Special Summit.

According to H.E. Kao Kim Hourn, on the ASEAN-Australia relations, the Australian Prime Minister said their cooperation and partnership are very important for the regional security and stability.

For his part, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed his sincere condolences over the loss of an Australian trainer due to a mine explosion in Kampong Speu province yesterday afternoon, and thanked Australia for its support to the development, rice seed research, human resource training, and mine clearance in Cambodia.

The Cambodian Premier proposed the Australian side to send its observer team for the National Election in July this year, after dispatching 26 observers for the Commune/Sangkat Council Election in Cambodia last year. Samdech Techo Hun Sen reaffirmed his support to Australia's New Colombo Plan, and invited Honourable Malcolm Turnbull to pay a visit to Cambodia at his convenient time.

## PM HUN SEN URGES FOR DIRECT FLIGHT BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND CAMBODIA



Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen (2nd L, Pic. 1) holds talks with Mr. Jeremy Johnson (C, Pic. 2), President of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in Sydney, Australia this morning, on the sidelines of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit.

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen has called on the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to help boost the direct flight between the two countries.

The appeal was made when the Premier received Mr. Jeremy Johnson, President of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in Sydney, Australia on the sidelines of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit, the National Television of Kampuchea (TVK) quoted H.E. Kao Kim Hourn, Delegate Minister Attached to the Cambodian Prime Minister, as saying after the meeting. *Continued on page (2)*

## CAMBODIAN PM ATTENDS ASEAN ...

Besides, they presided over the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ASEAN and Australia for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism.

This summit marks a new era in the ASEAN-Australia partnership. It builds a deep legacy of economic cooperation, political dialogue, and the natural interweaving of their people to establish a contemporary, outward-looking partnership for the rapidly changing world.

The Special Summit strengthens the joint contribution to regional security and prosperity, including by addressing shared security challenges and securing greater opportunities for businesses.

## PM HUN SEN URGES FOR...

Samdech Techo Hun Sen explained that the direct flight between the two countries will further promote their trade, tourism and bilateral relations as some 60,000 Cambodian people are currently living, studying and working in Australia.

At the same time, Samdech Techo Prime Minister asked Mr. Jeremy Johnson to help boosting the Australian investment in Cambodia, and highlighted the country's potential investment opportunities. He also invited Mr. Johnson to visit the Kingdom.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed his appreciation to the growing bilateral trade between both nations, hoping that their two-way trade will see further increase.

## CAMBODIA, CHINA LAUNCH ...

For his part, Maj. Gen. Zhang Jian spoke highly of the relations between both countries' armies, affirming their continued collaboration for security in their respective countries and in the region.

About 280 Cambodian soldiers and 190 Chinese soldiers took part in this two-week drill held under the theme "Counter-Terrorism and Humanitarian Work".

The first Golden Dragon military drill was conducted in December 2016, focusing on humanitarian rescue and disaster relief.



## CAMBODIA, CHINA LAUNCH JOINT MILITARY DRILL



The 2nd joint military drill between the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) and Chinese People's Army (PLA) dubbed "Golden Dragon 2018" kicks off at a mountainous area in Kampong Speu province, Kingdom of Cambodia this morning. The two week-long (March 17-30) military exercise is being conducted under the theme "Counter-Terrorism and Humanitarian Works". The Golden Dragon 2018 is also aimed to mark the 60th Founding Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between Cambodia and China and to boost the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Cooperation between the two Nations.

Golden Dragon 2018, the joint Cambodian-Chinese military exercise, began on Mar. 17 at the live-fire training field of Infantry Brigade 70 located in Samrong Tong district of Kampong Speu province.

The military drill, the 2nd of its kind, was launched under the presidency of H.E. Gen. Pol Saroeun, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) and Maj. Gen. Zhang Jian, Army Commander of the Southern Theatre Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA).

H.E. Gen. Pol Saroeun said Golden Dragon 2018 is a historical event of Cambodia and China to mark the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. It will strengthen the traditional ties of friendship and political confidence between the two nations.

This military exercise will boost experience exchange and cooperation in the fight against terrorism and humanitarian work, added the RCAF commander-in-chief, expressing thanks to the Government of China for its support, both financial and material, to the Cambodian military sector. *Continued on page (2)*

## CAMBODIAN PM CONGRATULATES CHINESE PRESIDENT ON HIS REELECTIO

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has sent a congratulatory message to H.E. Xi Jinping who was unanimously re-elected by the National People's Congress as the President of the People's Republic of China and Chairman of the Central Military Committee on Mar. 17.

"On behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, it is my great pleasure to express warmest congratulations to Your Excellency on this auspicious and happy occasion," said the Cambodian Premier in his message dated yesterday.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also applauded H.E. Xi Jinping's great achievements to have won complete trust of the Chinese people in moving China forward under his wise leadership for years to come. "I firmly believe that, with your far-sighted and tireless endeavour, the Chinese Government and people will make steady progress toward realizing the Two Centenary Goals and develop China into a great modern socialist

country which is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful," he said.

Cambodia and China have been enjoying growing excellent bonds of traditional friendship and very close cooperation in many fields, said Samdech Techo Prime Minister, underlining that cordial contacts and frequent exchanges of visits at all levels in recent years have significantly strengthened the spirit of solidarity between the two nations.

Moreover, he added, various activities to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries this year will further deepen their fraternal ties and expand the scope of their fruitful cooperation to serve the mutual interests of their two peoples.

## CAMBODIAN PM RECEIVES AN ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, received here yesterday afternoon at the Peace Palace visiting Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan H.E. Kentaro Sonoura.

According to the Cambodian Premier's official Facebook page, H.E. Kentaro Sonoura's visit was made when the two countries are celebrating the 65th anniversary of their diplomatic ties.

The advisor told Samdech Techo Hun Sen of his visit, saying that he attended a Seminar on Mekong-Japan Cooperation where new ideas on the strengthening and expansion of the relations between Japan and the Mekong countries as well as between Japan and ASEAN were raised.

H.E. Kentaro Sonoura thanked Cambodia for its support to Japan's proactive contribution to peace and Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy.

H.E. Kentaro Sonoura also affirmed Japan's support to the rule of law implementation, national unity and peace maintaining, and economic growth in Cambodia.

For his part, Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed thanks to Japan for its attention and support to the ASEAN integration through different mechanisms, including the Mekong-Japan framework, which contributes to minimising the development gap between the new and old ASEAN member countries.

If nothing changes, His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, will pay a state visit to Japan, another sign showing the good relations between the two countries, he added.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen requested Japan to consider assisting the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre based in Cambodia for regional and global training.



Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan H.E. Kentaro Sonoura will pay a visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia on Mar. 23, said the Embassy of Japan in Phnom Penh in a press release AKP received this afternoon.

During his visit, it pointed out, H.E. Sonoura will make a keynote speech at the Opening Session of Seminar on Japan-Mekong Cooperation organised by Cambodian Institute of Cooperation and Peace (CICP) in Raffles Le Royal Hotel.

He is also scheduled to meet high dignitaries of the Royal Government of Cambodia to exchange views on bilateral cooperation and regional issues, it added.

"This year marks the 65th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Cambodia and we hope that, through his visit, the relation and cooperation of both countries will be strengthened in various sectors," underlined the press release.

Regarding the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said all the nations in the region, including Indonesia, Australia, China, and India, have their own ideas and policies. "In this sense, we should gather all initiatives and look for the common areas that we can complement each other so that the policies of each country are more effective," he underlined.

## CANADA HAS PLEDGED TO CONTINUE AND INCREASE THE IMPORT OF CAMBODIA'S TEXTILES AND GARMENTS INTO THE COUNTRY.

The commitment was made by Ms. Donica Pottier, the Bangkok-based Canadian Ambassador to Cambodia, during a meeting with Minister of Labour and Vocational Training H.E. Ith Samheng here in Phnom Penh recently.

Ms. Donica Pottier stressed that Cambodia is considered as a role-model country with favourable labour condition for investments.

The Canadian Ambassador added that although import volume of the product from Cambodia to Canada remains small, Canada is interested in the business with Cambodia toward bigger scale.

She also spoke highly of the Royal Government of Cambodia's implementation of supportive labour policy, especially the provision of social protection for Cambodian workers pushed by the Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.

According to Ms. Donica Pottier, Cambodia has exported garment products to Canada with the scope equivalent to more than US\$90 million to date.

## 5,234 NGOs AND 36 POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTERED IN CAMBODIA

About 5,234 associations and NGOs, of which 2,117 associations and 3,117 NGOs, have been so far registered at the Ministry of Interior, according to the data released at the ministry's annual meeting in Phnom Penh on Wednesday.

Up to last year, there were in total 36 political parties, but one of them has not registered yet after being established, it pointed out.

In 2017 alone, 128 associations, 130 NGOs, and eight ethnic minority communities were registered while 6 associations and 14 NGOs were erased from the list, it said, adding that at the same time, the ministry authorised the creation of three political parties, recorded four others and removed 36 political parties from the list.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Samdech Kralahom Sar Kheng said the ministry has done its best to coordinate, strengthen and support the registration and activities of the associations, NGOs and political parties in accordance with the existing laws in order to promote the democratisation process and enhance the freedom of expression.

## FRENCH EMBASSY HOLDS 'ART IN THE PARK'

The park of the French Embassy in Cambodia, one of the largest green areas of Phnom Penh, will host an open-air art gallery called 'Art in the Park' on Mar 24-25, 2018, announced the embassy in a press release issued this morning.

This remarkable location has been the scene of much of Cambodia's contemporary history and it has a special place in everyone's imagination, it said.

The event, which is part of 'Phnom Penh French Fortnight', which will be open to the public from 08:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m, it pointed out.

"Seven Cambodian artists of international renown, some of whom studied in France, will each present a work of contemporary art specifically created for this event that fit perfectly into the environment of the park," underlined the source.

According to the press release, adopting varied esthetic approaches, Mr. Em Riem, Phe Sophon, Mr. Thang Sothea, Mr. Nou Sary, Mr. Philong Sovan, Mr. Ou Vandy and Mr. Tor Vutha created artworks that lead to a poetic and silent dialogue between the natural elements of the park and the materials, objects, volumes or artistic installations.

The forthcoming event is an opportunity for France to promote the work of contemporary Cambodian artists and underline the importance of its cultural cooperation with Cambodia. After this event, the artworks will be exhibited for a month at the French Institute of Cambodia.

'Art in the Park' is an initiative of the 'French Fortnight in Phnom Penh' organised by the French Embassy in Cambodia, the French Cambodian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the French Institute of Cambodia to promote the cultures of both countries and showcase the savoir-faire of French companies to the Cambodian public.

# Tunle Celebration in Kandal Province, Cambodia

The 4th River Festival organised in Takhmao town of Kandal province on Mar. 10 evening under the theme “River of Peace, Friendship and Sustainable Tourism.”



