



ISSUE 08 : 15-30 April 2018

SENATE PRESIDENT PRESIDES OVER THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF VISAK BOCHEA DAY

Thousands of Buddhist followers from all walks of life participated in the celebration of Visak Bochea Day held this morning on the top hill of Preah Reachtroap (Oudong), Ponhea Leu district, Kandal province, where a stupa of Buddha’s relics is located.

His Holiness Buddhist Supreme Patriarch General Tep Vong, Buddhist Supreme Patriarch of Dhamma Mahanikaya; His Holiness Samdech Preah Abhisiri Sugandha Mahasangharajah Dhipati Bour Kry, Great Supreme Patriarch of Dhammayuttikaya of Cambodia; and Senate President Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei Say Chhum presided over the ceremony.



Cambodia’s Senate President Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei Say Chhum offers foods and other necessary stuff to Buddhist monks while he was presiding over the celebration of Visak Bochea Day held on the top hill of Preah Reach Troap (Oudong) in Ponhea Leu district, Kandal province this morning.

Meanwhile, some 300 Buddhist monks invited to the event were offered foods, drink, and cash in order to praise the soul of death for the peaceful lives.

Visak Bochea Day, which is a birth, enlightenment, and nirvana day of Master Buddha, for the Buddhist countries, including Cambodia, was internationally recognised by the United Nations in 2000. It is a public holiday and an occasion where the Buddhist followers are reminded of Buddha and his teachings.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING APPEALS TO SENATORS TO CONTINUE STRENGTHENING THEIR RILES



His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, chairs the inaugural session of the 4th legislature of Senate, held at the Senate Palace, Phnom Penh.

His Majesty Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, called on this morning the senators to strengthen their roles in order to bring more development to the country.

While presiding over the inaugural session of the 4th legislature of Senate held at the Senate Palace, Phnom Penh, the monarch said, “The Senate of the 4th legislature shall continue to strengthen national and local democratisation, achieving progressive socio-economic development that supports general interests and enhances the people’s quality of life.”

“As the representatives of commune/Sangkat councils, the Senate of 4th legislature shall also continue to push for the effective implementation of decentralisation and de-concentration policies in order to reduce poverty and to ensure that socio-economic development and national culture continue to prosper with equity, transparency, and accountability in accordance with good governance and the rule of law.

At the same time, the Senate shall strive to promote justice and respect for human rights in order to nurture long-lasting harmony in our society,” he underlined.

His Majesty the King continued that as recorded in history, Cambodian civilisation was one of the most prosperous. Hence as descendants, the Cambodians must join in solidarity to protect the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and to drive Cambodia’s national development forward and to catch up with the new world development reality.

“Our liberal multi-party democracy is purely based on national interests and national reconciliation. In this sense, it is vital for us to preserve peace and to promote sustainable development,” he said.

His Majesty the King asked all senators to perform their respective duties with full respect for the disciplines, internal regulations, and code of ethics of the Senate for the Constitution and for other existing laws in order to raise confidence among the Cambodian people, who place their trust in the Senate to behave in a responsible manner.

CAMBODIAN PM DEPARTS FOR 32nd ASEAN SUMMIT IN SINGAPORE



Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen (Pic. 1) leaves here this morning for Singapore to attend the 32nd ASEAN Summit taking place on April 27-28.

A high-level Cambodian delegation led by Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, left here this morning for Singapore to participate in the 32nd ASEAN Summit from April 27-28, 2018.

Samdech Prime Minister and his entourage were seen off at Phnom Penh International Airport by many high-ranking officials as well as Singapore Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Michael Tan Keng Siong.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA-IC)'s press release, themed "Resilient and Innovative ASEAN", the 32nd ASEAN Summit will reflect the core approaches taken by ASEAN in order to remain relevant as the trusted regional body in the maintenance and promotion of peace, stability, and prosperity.

(Continued page (2))

FOREIGN MINISTRY RELEASES OUTCOMES OF 32nd ASEAN IN SINGAPORE

Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation issued this afternoon a press release on the outcomes of the 32nd ASEAN Summit held on April 27-28, 2018 in Singapore.

The full press release reads as follows:

ROYAUME DU CAMBODGE
KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Department of Information

Press Release
Outcomes of the 32nd ASEAN Summit
27-28 April, Singapore

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a high-level delegation to attend the 32nd ASEAN Summit under the theme "Resilient and Innovative ASEAN" held in Singapore on 27-28 April 2018, as the guest of His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and Chair of the ASEAN Summit.

At the Summit, the Leaders reaffirmed the importance of maintaining ASEAN centrality and unity in ASEAN's Community. Building efforts and engagement with external partners and welcomed initiatives that would view to reinforce an ASEAN-centric regional architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive, and would build upon ASEAN-led mechanisms. They are committed to maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law including 1982 UNCLOS.

The Leaders had a fruitful discussion and committed to intensify their close cooperation on building a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN, establishment of an ASEAN Smart Cities Network, Cybersecurity Cooperation and ASEAN Extraterritorial Treaty. The Leaders agreed to further promote innovation and e-commerce, trade and investment integration, cross-border electronic commerce and the initiative to develop the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework.

The Leaders also discussed in depth and exchanged views on recent development on a wide range of common concerns. The Leaders were pleased on the moving forward on the drafting of the Code of Conduct which is conducive on building trust and confidence for all parties concerned and they looked forward to the early conclusion of the CCK. On the Korean Peninsula, the Leaders were encouraged by the Inter-Korean Summit between H.E. Moon Jae-in and H.E. Kim Jong-un and expressed hope that this milestone Summit would lead to security in the region and beyond. On the Rohingya issue in Myanmar, the Leaders are concerned on the humanitarian aspect. They expressed their readiness to mobilize assistance through ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance to Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and encouraged Myanmar and Bangladesh to jointly implement the voluntary return of those affected.

The Summit issued Chairman's Statement of the 32nd ASEAN Summit (as attached herewith) as well as adopted the ASEAN Leaders' Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN, Concept Note on ASEAN Smart Cities Network and ASEAN Leadership/Initiative on Cyber Cooperation. The Summit also noted a number of documents related to the overall work of ASEAN and the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security

Singapore, 28 April 2018

and suggested "ASEAN should continue along that principle, if we are to find convergence on delicate issues like the mechanisms for disputes settlement".

The Senior Minister also touched on the emerging "Indo-Pacific Initiative" that seem to point to the increasing geo-strategic significance and acceptance of the Indo-Pacific concept, and was of the view that if not properly managed, this development could potentially undermine the unity and centrality of ASEAN. He stressed on the need to maintain ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN leadership in the regional architecture against the backdrop of these realities.

The 17th ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council Meeting

The Foreign Ministers were briefed by the ASEAN Secretary-General on the recent developments in the sectoral bodies under APSC and on the progress of the implementation and review of the APSC Blueprint 2015. The Meeting adopted the APSC Report to the 32nd ASEAN Summit.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn announced that Cambodia was willing to be a lead shepherd for Action Line "Promote ASEAN Member States' active participation in peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts in accordance with the capacity of ASEAN". He also informed the meeting that Cambodia would organize an APSC (ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation) Research Study and Symposium on "Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Cambodia's Experiences and its Role in Policy towards National Reconciliation" in October 2018 in Siem Reap.

The 11th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting

The Foreign Ministers were briefed by the Chair on the preparations for the 32nd ASEAN Summit and by the ASEAN Secretary-General on the follow-up to the 31st ASEAN Summit. The Foreign Ministers considered a number of reports and endorsed the outcome documents for the 32nd ASEAN Summit.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn sought active financial and technical assistance to boost ARMAC's mandates and operations. "For the 2017-2018 Annual Operational Budget, Cambodia has already contributed in full", he said, appealing to other ASEAN Member States for contribution. On IAL, the Senior Minister commented that "I am quite pleased to see that the rate of implementation of the IAL Work Plan III (2016-2020) for the first two years is on track with a passing grade of 53.8% of the actions in the five strategic areas. As Cambodia takes the Chair of the IAL Task Force this year, we will endeavor to maintain this positive momentum". He then proposed "the ASEAN Development Fund (ADF) be also open to IAI projects or activities, particularly for project/infrastructure projects".

The Senior Minister proposed the nomination of H.E. King Phasak, Under Secretary of State at the Office of the Council of Ministers of Cambodia, to be the next Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community for the term of October 2018-October 2021. He thanked all Foreign Ministers for their endorsement of the nomination.

CAMBODIAN PM.....

In this important opportunity, the Leaders will also discuss and exchange views on building a resilient and Innovative ASEAN, establishment of an ASEAN Smart Cities Network, Cybersecurity, Samdech Cooperation, ASEAN's external relations and its future directions as well as regional and international issues of common interests.

At the conclusion of this summit, a number of important documents will be issued/adopted or noted.

On the sidelines of the summit, Samdech Techo Hun Sen will hold bilateral meetings with heads of delegation of some countries.

The Premier is accompanied by H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Senior Minister and Minister of MFA-IC; H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce; H.E. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport; as well as other members of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

All PFMRP STAKEHOLDERS REVIEW THEIR 5-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS

Cambodian economists, foreign experts and other stakeholders of the Public Financial Management Reform Programme (PFMRP) gathered here this morning in a meeting to review their annual and five-year achievements under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.

The Premier expressed his full satisfaction with the progress achieved by this reform during the past more than 13 years, particularly those recent achievements made in the last five years.

"I used to call the PFMRP 'an action or moving situation'. This has allowed us to press on with our reform efforts, and to test the 'responsiveness' of our Public Financial Management (PFM) system particularly in responding to the newly emerging development needs and growing aspirations of the Cambodia people, after this reform has passed two critical stages in supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia's achievement of newly emerging policy priorities that have become more difficult and sophisticated," Samdech Techo Hun Sen said in his keynote address.

The implementation of PFMRP, launched by the Cambodian Premier on Dec. 5, 2004, was divided into four stages: Budget Credibility, Financial Accountability, Budget-Policy Linkages, and Performance Accountability.

According to the Ministry of Economy and Finance, for Phase I (2005-2008), the main goal is "Increasing the Budget Credibility", giving priority to strengthening the collection and management of revenues, strengthening financial management and improving the implementation of the budget. In line with this goal, Cambodia has put forward and promoted a number of measures that will lead the country to solve the debt and debt problems. Regarding Phase II (2009-2015), the main goal is "to improve financial accountability," with emphasis on the design improvements and consolidation of records and accounting and financial reporting to be more accurate and in a timely manner in accordance with international standard, meanwhile, it is needed to strengthen the credibility of the budget to grow further, particularly on strengthening the asset Projected income and expenses to be more accurate. Cambodia has spent over six years preparing the components for building the "Fundamentals of the New Budget System," which is "the core of the overall public financial management system."

FOREIGN MINISTRY ATTENDED 32nd ASEAN SUMMIT IN SINGAPORE



Cambodia's Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Prak Sokhonn (2nd R, Front Row, Pic. 1) along with his ASEAN counterparts attends the 21st ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting and the 17th ASEAN Political-Security Community Council Meeting, in Singapore on April 27 in preparation for the 32nd ASEAN Summit.

The ASEAN member countries have vowed to strengthen and promote their regional trade, investment and security cooperation and to create ASEAN Smart Cities Network.

"Cambodia can start from Phnom Penh, Battambang and Siem Reap along with the ASEAN integration process,"

Cambodia must boost human resource training for more qualified labour force in order to work in the ASEAN framework. Cambodia's Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Prak Sokhonn joined other ASEAN leaders in the plenary and retreat sessions of the 32nd ASEAN Summit Singapore and visited the Smart Nation exhibition which showcases Singapore's model city.

Smart Nation is the Singapore's vision to be an economically competitive global city and a liveable home. It is a whole-of-nation movement to harness digital technologies to build a future Singapore, to improve living and build a closer community, empower citizens to achieve their aspirations through good jobs and opportunities, and encourage businesses to innovate and grow.

WB PROVIDES US\$90 MILLION TO SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN CAMBODIA

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved US\$90 million in financing to support Cambodia's efforts in improving the quality of higher education and research in the country and broadening access to higher education for disadvantaged students.

"We welcome World Bank support in higher education and research, which is well aligned with the priorities of our Industrial Development Policy for 2015-2025," said Senior Minister, H.E. Aun Pornmoniroth, Minister of Economy and Finance. "This project will help us establish a holistic strategy for higher education development and enable Cambodian graduates to meet the rapid demands and increasing opportunities – for mobility and technology transfer – of the ASEAN Economic Community and beyond."

Over the next six years, the Higher Education Institutions Capacity Improvement Project will strive to improve the quality of education and research at targeted institutions, broaden access to higher education, and improve governance in the sector.

The focus on science, technology, engineering, mathematics – otherwise known as STEM – as well as agriculture, is expected to equip Cambodian graduates with more relevant and transferrable skills that can support the country transition from a labour-intensive economy to one driven by knowledge.

The project's five key activities include: providing research funds in the priority subject areas; expanding classrooms and laboratories; building dormitories for disadvantaged students (such as students from poor households and remote areas, as well as female students); strengthening quality assurance and information systems; and working with international partners to improve the curriculum and methodology of the priority subject areas.

The dormitories are planned for Phnom Penh, and the schools that will be expanded are in Battambang and Svay Rieng provinces.

"Building high-quality research capacity and preparing a critical mass of highly-skilled graduates of tertiary education is a priority for both Cambodia and the Bank. Actions taken now can help Cambodia advance in human capital and strengthen the effectiveness of higher education," said Ms. Inguna Dobraja, the World Bank's Country Manager for Cambodia. "This project follows significant recent gains by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in building Cambodia's capacity to meet the needs of labour markets in a rapidly changing environment."

Financed by the International Development Association, the project also follows the Higher Education Quality and Capacity Improvement project, which from 2010 to 2017 built a foundation of sectoral capacity and created a policy environment conducive to more investment.

Education sector remains a priority of the Royal Government of Cambodia. Up to now, the country has 116 higher education institutions, 486 high schools, 1,240 lower secondary schools and 7,144 primary schools. In the 2017-2018 academic year, over 400,000 children under five years old and more than 200,000 children aged 5 years old had access to all forms of education services. In the same period, there were some 2 million students registered at the state-owned primary schools, 600,000 students at lower secondary schools, and 300,000 students at high schools across the country. Moreover, 20,000 students have been pursuing their associate's degree; 160,000 students, their bachelor's degree; 20,000, their Master's degree; and 1,000 students, their doctorate degree.

CAMBODIA, UK COMMITTED TO DEEPEN BILATERAL COOPERATION

The Kingdom of Cambodia and the United Kingdom have vowed to bolster their cooperation in the fields of tourism, health, education, and trade among others.

The commitment was made during the celebration of the 92nd birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II held in Phnom Penh yesterday evening. Speaking on the occasion, Cambodian Senior Minister H.E. Ly Thuch lauded the good relations and cooperation between the two countries and recalled the UK government's assistance to Cambodia in the areas of health, poverty reduction, mine clearance and so on.

Around 170,000 British tourists visited Cambodia last year, he said, adding that the volume of two-way trade over the last three years was in a steady rise reaching US\$1.5 billion. He also noted the presence of British businesses and brands in Cambodia.

For the education sector, he pointed out, UK awarded scholarships to more than 130 Cambodian students between 1993 and 2017. British Ambassador H.E. William Longhurst said that UK has actively supported the Khmer Rouge trials and that his government looked forward to "continuing to work on promoting the outreach and legacy of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) through TV and film". UK remains committed globally to combat the illegal wildlife trade, as well as continues supporting demining activities in Cambodia through HALO Trust, said the outgoing ambassador who arrived in Cambodia in 2014 and has enjoyed his diplomatic mission. "Of what he described as a "fruitful and productive" experience in Cambodia cooperation.

All PFMRP STAKEHOLDERS...

Preparation of Phase III "Budget-Policy Linkages" (2016-2020) showed that Cambodia's reforms are in an important step to start to change in part by one of the current budget through the budget for implementing the contents new accounting standard layout and a new accounting unit budget and the new budget enforcement procedures, along with an information system Math for Public Financial Management Phase I and start expanding and strengthening financial systems to complete the steps of the ministries and institutions at all levels, both national and sub-national level, starting from 2015 until 2018, in accordance with the "concept of the strategic directions of the 2013-2020 budget reforms" for the purpose of stepping layered. This is to change the entire budget system from the "Input and Outreach Budget System into the Income-Based Budgeting and Decentralisation System" by 2020. Making this change is the core task of the third phase of our PFMRP, which identifies key budget linkages.

Then, as planned, from 2020, Cambodia will continue to strengthen and expand the programme system gradually towards the "acceleration of accountability" of the entire public financial management system in 2025, which is the main objective of the final stage, Phase IV of the PFMRP.

Local and foreign visitors (Pic. 1) relax at the beaches in Preah Sihanoukville, Preah Sihanouk province during the celebration of Khmer New Year (April 14-16). During the three-day event, the coastal province attracted over 150,000 local and foreign tourists, up by some five percent if compared with the same period of 2017, according to the Provincial Tourism Department.

CAMBODIA TO DISPATCH 3 UNITS ITS BLUE BERETS OF BLUE BERETS TO JOIN UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) will dispatch 428 more Blue Berets to take part in the UN peacekeeping operations in Mali and South Sudan, according to the Ministry of the National Defence's press release.

Of them, 165 from the Airfield Engineering Unit 198 and 144 from the EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Unit 132 will fulfil their mission in Mali, while 119 others from the Royal Gendarmeries Unit 681 will go to South Sudan.

The send-off ceremony will take place on May 3, 2018 under the presidency of H.E. Gen. Pol Saroeun, Commander-in-Chief of the RCAF.

To date, Cambodia has sent over 5,000 troops – 200 of whom are women – for the UN peacekeeping operations in Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, Cyprus, Lebanon, Mali and Syria.

Local and Foreign Visitors Visit Beaches in Preah Sihanoukville

Local and foreign visitors (Pic. 1) relax at the beaches in Preah Sihanoukville, Preah Sihanouk province during the celebration of Khmer New Year (April 14-16). During the three-day event, the coastal province attracted over 150,000 local and foreign tourists, up by some five percent if compared with the same period of 2017, according to the Provincial Tourism Department.



Over 5 Million Visitors Tour Cambodia's Different Tourist Destinations during Khmer New Year

Some 5,175,000 local and foreign tourists visited different attraction sites across Cambodia during the recent celebration of Khmer Traditional New Year, according to a report of the Ministry of Tourism.

The figure showed an increase by 23 percent compared to the same period last year, it added.

Of the tourists, 5,086,964 are national visitors, up 23 percent, and the rest, 88,042, are foreign tourists, up

