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SOVEREIGNTY OF CAMBODIA

Cambodia denounces Thai proposal for Preah Vihear

Rebuking Thai PM Abhisit for his interview on June 17, saying that “Thailand will request UNESCO to reconsider its listing of Preah Vihear temple and Thailand is concerned that the moves by UNESCO may speed up conflicts, tensions or a border clash”, Prime Minister Hun Sen said “as a prime minister of one country, his words infringed on the sovereignty of Cambodia. His aim will not be successful, and I hope that UNESCO will not be stupid enough to go along with his gambit”.

A few days later Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya told Thai media that “Thailand's objection to the unilateral World Heritage listing of the 11th-century temple is an issue between Thailand and UNESCO, and does not involve Cambodia”.

To retort the Thai leaders' words of lack of thoughts on the matter of the belongs of Cambodia's Preah Vihea temple, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hor Namhong said that “Cambodia welcomes Thailand militarily, diplomatically, internationally or through peaceful negotiations. If they want to send their troops to Cambodia for a third time, we welcome it”, during the press conference on June 20.

As a result, on Wednesday 24 of June, UNESCO rejected Thai demands to place the Preah Vihear issue on the agenda of the World Heritage Committee's annual meeting in Seville, Spain.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Thai Premier to visit Cambodia

Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva paid an official visit to Cambodia on June 12

at the invitation of Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen and held an official talks with Cambodian premier.



During the visit, Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva was received in royal audience by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia and paid courtesy calls on Samdech Pothisal Chea Sim, President of the Senate, and Samdech Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly.



During the visit, seven Khmer artifacts smuggled to Thailand were handover to Cambodia at the Ministry Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

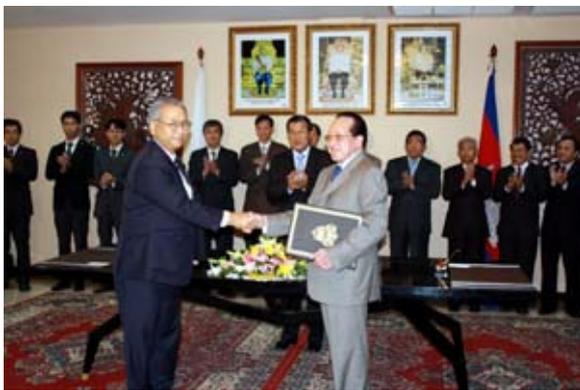
Cambodia welcomes US lifting of loan ban

Cambodian government June 13 expressed support for the recent US decision to remove Cambodia from a trade blacklist that made American companies operating in the Kingdom ineligible for export-financing products.

US President Barack Obama signed a memorandum June 12 stating that Cambodia no longer qualified as "a Marxist-Leninist country" under the terms spelled out in the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, which established the government agency charged with promoting the export of American goods and services.

Japan's grant aid to Cambodia

The Japanese government granted 2,143 million yen to Cambodia to support three development projects.



The Notes to the projects were exchanged June 16 between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia Katsuhiro Shinohara at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Of the total amount, 819 million yen will be used for the Project for Improvement of Rolaing Chhrey Headwork, Kampong Speu province; and 524 million yen for the Project for Construction of Primary Schools in Phnom Penh (Phase III).

The rest will be for the purpose of contributing to promotion of the economic structural adjustment efforts by the Royal Government of Cambodia.

EU/EC to concede to ASEAN Treaty

The « Declaration on the accession of the European Union and the European Community (EU/EC) to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) » and the « Declaration on the consent to the EU/EC accession to the TAC » were signed on May 28 during the 17th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in Phnom Penh. Both sides commit to complete the accession of the EU/EC to the TAC as soon as possible, thereby enhancing EU-ASEAN relations.



The meeting also adopted two documents dealing with Phnom Penh agenda for the implementation of the ASEAN-EU 2009-2010 plan of action and a joint declaration of co-chairs of the 17th AEMM.

MoU for the construction of bridge

Cambodia and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on May 29 signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of a bridge crossing Mekong River, along the National Road N°1, better known as Neak Loeng Bridge.

Both Cambodia and JICA agreed on the design of the bridge – cable mode. With the peak height of 37 meters from the water, the bridge is 13.5 meter wide and 2,200 meter long.



Neak Loeng Bridge will play a key role for the travel and transportation from Cambodia to Vietnam and be helpful for Greater Mekong Sub-region countries.

NATIONAL POLICY

CCP celebrated the party's birth

The ruling Cambodian People's Party (CCP) celebrated the 58th anniversary of the founding of Party (1951-2009) in the central headquarters in Phnom Penh on June 28.



Cambodian People's Party President Samdech Pothisal Chea Sim, Honorary President Samdech Chakrei Heng Samrin, and vice President Samdech Techo Hun Sen presided over ceremony, attending by thousands of members of CPP, foreign diplomats, and representatives of NGOs.

Cambodian government rejects U.S. Ambassador's allegation

Cambodian Foreign Ministry, has rejected U.S. Ambassador Ms. Carol Rodley's allegation that Cambodia loses US\$500 million each year to the corruption, by issue a statement relating to the U.S. ambassador's remarks, saying that "the royal government of Cambodia absolutely refutes the politically motivated and unsubstantiated allegation made by the United States diplomat in contradiction to

good relations between Cambodia and the United States government.

The royal government of Cambodia wishes to remind that all members of the diplomatic corps must maintain their neutrality and refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Cambodia, the statement said, adding that this is the most basic principle of international relations.

It is very much regrettable that a representative of a foreign government has made such an allegation based on a biased assessment and without any proof invented by so-called Economic Institute of Cambodia belonging to the opposition party with the real intention to publicly defame and discredit the royal government of Cambodia", the statement said.

The denial was made in response to a claim made by U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Ms. Carol Rodley at the "Clean Hand" concert at the National Olympic Stadium on May 30.

Hun Sen welcomed a new UN human rights envoy

PRIME Minister Hun Sen welcomed Surya Subedi, the new UN human rights envoy to Cambodia, arrived on June 15 for his first visit to the kingdom.



After the meeting with the new UN envoy, Primer Hun Sen told that "We will

listen to his ideas, and we hope he will listen to our ideas, but I think he would not be ignorant and follow an ignorant person from his team previously.... Working with this rapporteur will not be difficult, but it will be difficult to work with people in [the local UN rights office] if they still have an ignorant stance towards the government.”

During his 10-day visit, Mr. Surya Subedi met a courtesy call on Deputy prime minister and Minister Foreign Affairs HOR Namhong, who said that “he should meet with and collect information from all government officials, not just listen to or get reports from NGOs, civil society groups or the opposition. He has to get reports from all sides,” and later on he held talks with many representatives of Cambodian authorities.

Hun Sen opened new bridge

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen and his spouse presided May 27 over the official inauguration of new 270-meter Preah Monivong Bridge over Bassac River, located 30 meters apart adjacent to the old bridge on the south, in Phnom Penh after 29 months of construction at the cost of more than US\$10.4 million invested by Overseas Cambodian incorporated investment company.



Speaking at the function, Prime Minister Hun Sen called on the development partners and companies to employ human resources

of Cambodia, which could have equal or even better capacity than foreign technicians.

Ministry of Planning releases preliminary figures of enterprises

The National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning released on June 9 the preliminary results of the 2009 Nationwide Establishment Listing of Cambodia.

According to H.E San Sithan, Director-General of the National Institute of Statistics, said the National Institute of Statistics has so far held the observation of economy or enterprises 3 times, firstly in 1993, secondly in 1995 and thirdly in 2000.

According to the preliminary figures, the Kingdom of Cambodia has totally 375,095 enterprises.

The 2009 enterprise listing is very important because it provides fundamental data for the national statistics and also provides information for further research of socio-economic development.

ECONOMICS, TRADE & INVESTMENT

Siem Reap - Stung Treng optic cable construction completed

The optic cable construction project in Cambodia under the Great Mekong Sub-region Intercommunication (GMS-IS) has been completed.

In total, 651 km of optic cable have been laid underground, of them 235 km from Siem Reap province to Skun (Kampong Cham province), and 416 km



from Kampong Cham to Trapaing Kreal (Stung Treng province).

The Siem Reap-Stung Treng optic cable system has been constructed with a total cost of some US\$18 million, a concession loan from China to Cambodia.

Cambodia has also finished the construction of an optic cable system linking Poipet of Banteay Meanchey province and Bavet of Svay Rieng province, with a grant aid of US\$30 million from Germany.

In 2008, the Japanese company of Tecotech has invested US\$50 million to establish an optic cable system from Phnom Penh to Preah Sihanouk city and from Preah Sihanouk to Japan.

Australian company to invest in Cambodia

The Royal Government of Cambodia has granted the license to the Australian Company, Tool, to invest in the country's two railways.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Keat Chhon, Public Works and Transportation Minister Tram Iv Tek and Tool Representative Charles Thompson on June 12 signed a 30-year concession agreement on the development and exploitation of the two railway lines – from Phnom Penh to Poipet and from Phnom Penh to Preah Sihanouk province.

Trade conference held in Siem Reap

A Regional Meeting on Aid for Trade for Asia and Pacific titled “Global Financial Crisis, Export-led Growth and Aid for Trade: Focus on the ASEAN Experience” was held from May 28 to 29 in Siem Reap province.

The two-day meeting was chaired by Cambodian Senior Minister and Minister of

Commerce Mr. Cham Prasidh, ADB President Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, and WTO General Director Mr. Pascal Lamy, with Trade ministers from ASEAN countries and representatives from other international organizations in attendance.

The meeting aimed to monitor the progress of the Aid for Trade initiative in the region, analyzed the impact of global economic slowdown on export-led growth strategies of ASEAN economies, and examined what role Aid for Trade can play, both at the national and regional levels, and discussed innovative approaches to infrastructure development in addressing the challenges of recent events and strengthening regional cooperation.

The meeting has built upon the recommendations from the First Regional Review in Manila in September 2007.

ADB provides more funds to Cambodia

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide US\$574 million to Cambodia for supporting the public investment program for 2009-2012, according to a spokesman of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Of the US\$574 million, US\$429 million will be a concession loan, US\$124 million a grant aid and US\$21 million for a technical assistance.

The fund will be used in the fields of education, transportation and communication, agriculture, water resource and finance.

Later on, ADB Vice President Mr. Lawrence Greenwoods informed Cambodian premier Samdech Hun Sen on June 16 that for the next two years, ADB will add funds US\$59.4 million after it agreed to provide

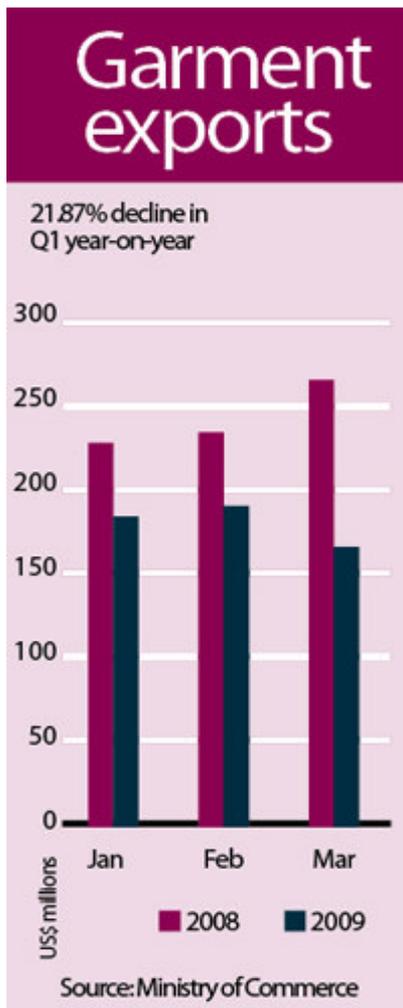


US\$194 million to Cambodia to improve its infrastructure, facilitate trade crossing border among the Great Mekong Sub-region and deal with the global crisis.

Garment exports fall 26pc in first quarter

Ministry of Commerce figures show fifth consecutive month of decline in March as exports fall 38pc, a sharper fall year-on-year than in February

Government and garment sector delegation were led by Minister of Commerce Cham Prasidh and President of Garment Manufactures Association of Cambodia (GMAC) Van Sou Ieng to attend a regional trade fair in China in second week of June in an effort to drum up orders and attract new investors.



As Commerce Ministry figures released June 05 showed exports declined for the fifth straight month in March.

Exports were down 38 percent year-on-year to US\$164.3 million in March, the latest month for which reliable figures were available, dragging exports for the first quarter down 26.4 percent to \$534.6 million.

Nineteen garment factories opened in Q1

NINETEEN Phnom Penh garment factories opened on the outskirts of the capital in the first quarter of this year, according to data from the Ministry of Labour.

The 19 factories, said Oum Mean, Secretary of state at the Ministry of Labour, will employ 6,069 people, helping to offset the closing of 46 garment factories that led to the loss of 21,400 jobs in the first three months of this year.

South Korean firm to invest \$150m

KOGID Cambodia to grow and process corn to produce animal feed for export, it says, as part of long-term investment

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said June 8 that South Korea's KOGID Cambodia plans to invest US\$150 million to grow and process corn for animal feed to be sold overseas.

Chan Tong Yves, secretary of state told June 8 that the company has long-term investment plans and would buy from the four top producing provinces, namely Battambang, Pailin, Kampong Cham and Kandal provinces, and will build corn-drying machines.

National carrier to fly in July

A new national carrier scheduled to make its maiden flight to July 18 will be a



joint venture between the Cambodian government and VN Airlines.

The airline will initially fly two routes linking Preah Sihanouk province's Kang Keng airport to Siem Reap and Phnom Penh using a pair of short haul 72-500 turboprop aircraft from French manufacturer ATR.

Two local products to get legal branding 'soon', official says

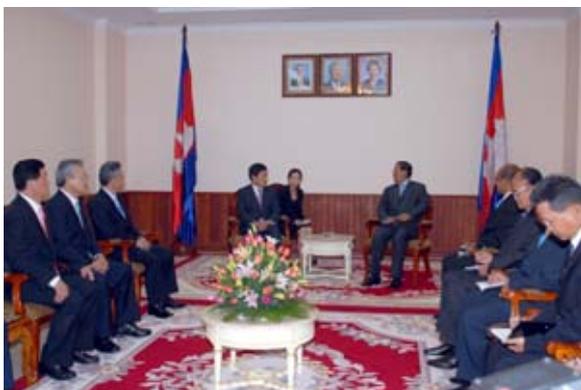
Kampot pepper, Kampong Speu palm sugar to receive geographical indication status

Kampot pepper and Kampong Speu palm sugar will receive geographical indication (GI) protection soon, according to Ministry of Commerce.

The listing of Kampot pepper and Kampong Speu palm sugar has taken about two years to complete. Three other Cambodian products - Kampot durian, Siem Reap prahok (fish paste) and Mondulkiri honey have been targeted for the next stage of GI protection.

TOURISM & CULTURE

Phnom Penh ties alliance with Busan



Cambodia and Korea reached an agreement on the sister cities affiliation between the Municipality of Phnom Penh

and the Busan Metropolitan City for mutual cooperation exchange.

Busan is the second city after Korea's Incheon Metropolitan city signed in late March 2009, the sister cities affiliation with Phnom Penh.

Angkor Wat visitor fees adjusted

After much deliberation, the Apsara Authority has chosen July 1 to launch a new ticketing structure designed to keep tourists longer.

The new ticketing will allow US\$40 passes to be valid for a week instead of a three-day period, while \$60 tickets, once weeklong, will be valid for use over a month.

Tourism groups have intensely lobbied for a change to the ticket structure, saying giving tourists an incentive to extend their stay in the Kingdom would be a significant economic enhancement and stimulus to the tourism sector.

Cambodia hosted ACMECS Meeting

The Kingdom of Cambodia hosted in Siem Reap province on June 9-10 the ACMECS (Ayeyawady-Chaopraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy) Working Meeting on the joint promotion of the tourism potential with the participation of officials from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

A Cambodian tourism official, who attended the meeting, said Cambodia took the initiative to jointly publish tourism brochures of the five countries to distribute to tourists around the world and to continue to promote tourism in the ACMECS region on websites.

American and British art collectors handedover Cambodian Artifacts

American and British art collectors handed over Cambodian artifacts to the royal government in a ceremony held at the National Museum on June 12 in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Council of Ministers' Office Sok An.

The Angkorean artifacts include a small silver pendant, a sandstone sculpture of female divinity and other bronze architectural elements.

Meanwhile, the opening of a use for new electrical wiring and lighting in the art galleries of the National Museum took place.

The installation of the newly electrical wiring and lighting costs nearly US\$200,000 funded jointly by the royal government and foreign charity channeled through British art collector Douglas Latchford.

Choun Nath's Khmer dictionary gets an electronic update

The second edition of an electronic Khmer dictionary based on the work of reversed Cambodian scholar and Buddhist patriarch Chuon Nath was launched on mid-June in a ceremony presided over by the ministry of Cults and Religion.

The new version of the electronic dictionary, which is now available for download on the internet, added 400 words to the program, for a total of 1,800 entries.

Temple Bayon saved from collapse

The Bayon temple has been subject to major work by the Japanese Government

Team for Safeguarding Angkor (JASA), UNESCO and the Apsara Authority. The work started in 2005 and will end in April 2010.

One of the major problems with the Bayon was that the drainage channels had been blocked. This caused water damage and subsidence to the structure.



The southern library was also in very poor condition and near collapse. It needed to be partially dismantled and rebuilt.

Major problems with the 41-metre high central tower were identified by extensive measurement and monitoring. The structure could have become Cambodia's Leaning Tower of Pisa without the efforts of JASA.

The JASA Bayon exhibition hut near the north entrance provides information about the restoration.

Japan agrees to help preserve Tuol Sleng prison archives

Cambodia-Okinawa "Peace Museum" Cooperation Project will also see the training of Cambodian conservation experts.

Representatives from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum, Cambodia's Ministry of Culture and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum signed a three-year agreement to help preserve Tuol Sleng genocide museum, the former

central prison camp for Khmer Rouge detainees, known as the S-21.

"The agreement focuses on the management of the museum, preservation of documents and museum staff would go to study in Japan every year to learn particular preservation methods. Right now we are mostly concerned about the preservation of the building and of documents for the future," said Chey Sopheara, director of Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum.

SPORT

Cambodian youth football team left to Japan

Eighteen (18) youth football players U-15 along with 3 coaches and 1 medical doctor left on May 31 for a 9-day visit to Japan.

The first ever football team was invited to Japan under the JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) Program and was supported by Japan Football Association (JFA) which aims to contribute to the healthy physical and mental development of Japanese people and to promote friendship among world youths through football.

South Korean Paralympic Committee pledges to help Cambodian Paralympic Committee

A visiting South Korean Paralympic Committee Chairwoman Hyang Sook Jang has promised that her Committee will provide sport equipments and technical assistance to Cambodian disabled sportsmen.

The promise was made during her courtesy visit to Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen at Takhmao town, Kandal province on June 8.



Cambodian and South Korean Paralympic Committees have signed an agreement on the sport equipment assistance during Mrs. Hyang's visit to Cambodia.
