



# INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## **CAMBODIA-JAPAN BILATERAL RELATIONS**

### **A meeting to review the arsenic substance work**

Cambodia-Japan Cooperation Center held on June 29 a meeting to review the arsenic substance work in the past four years and to set objectives for its work plan in the next five years.

Mr. Chea Sophara, Minister of Rural Department, who presided over the meeting, said the royal government paid attention to water supplies and hygiene in the remote area to improve the people’s well-being and also create a national standard to define arsenic for preventing the impact of the substance.

The Ministry of Rural Development, cooperated with the development partners, raised awareness of the arsenic substance impacting on an area where the people live through the publication of books and leaflets being distributed to them.

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### **Japan contributed US\$2.26 million for ECCC’s Cambodian staff**

The government of Japan donated the sum of US\$2.26 million for supporting Cambodian staff’s payment of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), after the pledging conference held in New York last May.

The handover ceremony was made on July 2 at the ECCC headquarters in Phnom Penh by Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia Mr. Masafumi Kuroki to Mr. Kranh Tony, ECCC acting chief of administration.

Japan decided to fund because “the ECCC was facing a critical financial shortage at a

very important stage of the judicial process”, while the tribunal sentenced the former Khmer Rouge chief jailer Kaing Guek Eav alias Duch on July 26 to 35 years in prison and the closing order of case 002 scheduled in September.



“The Khmer Rouge Trials are the completing stage of the Cambodian peace process as measures to prevent the recurrence of atrocities committed during the Khmer Rouge regime, give justice to the victims and consolidate the rule of law in the country,” said Mr. Kuroki.

To date, the Japanese government has provided financial aid about US\$ 55.89 million, or 45.3 percent of the total budgetary contributions by donor nations.

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### **JMAS provided over US\$470,000 to CMAC**

The Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) provided US\$ 478,497.97 to Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) to support its mine clearance activities from July 15, 2010 to July 14, 2011 in two districts of Battambang province, which is one of the most heavily mine affected provinces in Cambodia with the largest number of casualties.

The financial assistance was signed on July 15 by Secretary General of the



Cambodian Mine Authority Mr. Chum Bunrong, General Director of CMAC Mr. Heng Ratana, and Resident Representative of JMAS Mr. Eiki Watanabe.

Since 2002, the Government of Japan has provided over US\$12.3 million to the Japanese NGOs for 54 projects in the field of primary education, health, and explosive ordnance disposal.

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### INTERNATIONAL RELATION & COOPERATION

#### Cambodia hosted the first large-scale multinational peacekeeping exercise

The first large-scale multinational peacekeeping exercise “Angkor Sentinel 2010”, co-organized by Cambodia and the United States from July 12 to 30, is part of the 2010 Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPIO) under UN-US peacekeeping-training program for strengthening peace and security around the world.



The Angkor Sentinel 2010 is divided into the Command Post Exercise (CPX), which conducted on July 12 and the Field Training Exercise (FTX), which started on July 17 in Phnom Sruoch district, Kampong Speu province under the presidency of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The exercise involve more than 1,000 military personnel from 26 countries, aims at enhancing capacity for both the RCAF and military from various countries through the process of multinational operations exercise to fulfill the requirements of the UN standards in the purpose of serving the UN Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO).



Multinational peacekeeping military exercise under the GPOI program has been organized four times in the past with other countries since 2007.

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#### Cambodian premier visited Singapore

Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Foreign Affairs HOR Namhong and Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce Cham Prasidh, paid an official visit to the Republic of Singapore from July 25 to 27.

During the visit, the Cambodian premier paid a courtesy call on Singapore President S.R. Nathan and held a bilateral meeting with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to discuss on the tax reductions that could facilitate the export of Cambodian agricultural products, according to Samdech Techo Hun Sen’s adviser Sry Thamrong.

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### **Cambodian Delegation participated in the 34<sup>th</sup> WHC Session**

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Minister Sok An led delegation to participate in the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee (WHC), which has been held from July 25 to August 3 in Brasilia.

Cambodia was elected as a WHC’s member in 2009.

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### **Cambodia seeks UN support for heritage conservation**

UNESCO and French embassy in collaboration with the Cambodian Ministry of Tourism organized on July 5 the round table under the theme of “the modernity and contribution to sustainable tourism”, in which western professors and experts exchanged their views and experiences on how to preserve and conserve Cambodian heritage.



Speaking at the opening meeting, Mr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, said Cambodia needs technical and financial support from UNESCO to preserve and conserve the country’s heritage, given the country’s limited resources, adding that national and international developers should also consider the balance between

conservation and development in order to ensure the economic benefits and social-cultural values.

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### ***NATIONAL POLICY AND SOCIETY***

### **Cambodia is optimistic about achieving MDG**

Cambodian health minister Dr. Mam Bunheng assured that Cambodia will be successful in achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing the maternal mortality rate.

Speaking at a press conference held on July 14, Dr. Mam Bunheng said the maternal mortality rate had dropped from 472 for 100,000 live childbirths in 2005 to 461 in 2008.

As the maternal mortality remains a challenge, Cambodia has drafted a roadmap to accelerate the works so as to achieve the MDG in 2015 by further developing health infrastructure, providing safe pre-delivery, delivery and abortion services, providing emergency service and health education across the country as well.

About 1,600 Cambodian women died annually due to the complications during pregnancy and in childbirths.

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### **2010 health and population survey launched**

Cambodia launched the 2010 health and population survey on July 22 with the financial and technical support from UNFPA, USAID, UNICEF and JICA.



This is the third survey which will last until January 5, 2011 and cost some US\$1.8 million.

About 16,344 of the total 2.8 million families throughout the country will be interviewed during the survey, said Hor Darith, deputy director general of the National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning.

Around 120 well-trained officials have conducted this week a four-day trial in data collection in Kandal province's Kandal Stung district.

The survey, conducted every five years, will collect information and data about people, health, family relations, domestic violence, family planning, HIV/AIDS and other diseases related to people and health.

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## ***ECONOMY TRADE & INVESTMENT***

### **Trade up as garments recover**

Cambodia's exports increased nearly 16 percent in first half this year, compared to the same period in 2009, thanks to the global economic recovery and the administrative facilities for the Cambodian export.

Total values of exports were more than US\$1.5 billion from January to the end of June this year compared with more than US\$1.32 billion the same period in 2009.

The global downturn has impacted the country's biggest export earners of garment and textile to lowered US\$2.65 billion in total for the whole year in 2009.

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### **The 21<sup>st</sup> Angkor modern city to be built in Siem Reap**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Angkor modern city, the Angkor Hill Resort, will be built in Siem Reap province, house of thousand ancient temples, by local investor in cooperation with international company.

Mr. Soth Sambath, Chairman of Sambath Investment Group, said the Angkor Hill Resort is the first complex resort that will promote the tourism sector in Siem Reap and Cambodia as a whole.

This construction project has been revealed by Sambath Investment Group in cooperation with Agostine and Raphael Group, an international architecture company, in a ceremony held at Le Royal Hotel in Phnom Penh on July 16 with the participation of foreign investors from China, Vietnam, South Korea, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Canada and Switzerland.

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## ***CULTURE, TOURISM, EDUCATION & SPORT***

### **Cambodia still lacks school buildings**

In 2010, Cambodia still lacks many school buildings due to the growing number of students, according to a report of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

The report stated that some 186 communes throughout the country have no lower secondary school yet, while 14 districts do not have high school and due to the lack of school buildings, many schools (82 in total) require students to take turn to study (three turns a day) and each classroom has from 50 to 60 students.



For the 2008-2009 academic year, there were 1,894 kindergartens, 6,664 primary schools, 1,172 lower secondary schools and 383 high schools around the country, the report pointed out.

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### **Cambodia's foreign tourist arrivals rise 12 percent in first six months**

According to Ministry of Tourism's report, the foreign tourist arrivals in Cambodia increased by about 12 percent in the first six months of this year, compared to the same period last year.

In the first half of 2010, Cambodia received a total of 1,221,156 foreign tourists, up from 1,086,518 tourists in the same period of 2009.

Tourists from Vietnam reached 208,667 in the first half of this year, up a massive 46 percent on the first six months of last year.

South Korea stood at number two, with 136,498, up around 35 percent annually. Japan was third with 71,107 tourists, a modest rise of about 7 percent.

The growth in tourism was due in part to a gradual recovery of the global economy and an easing of vehicle restrictions at Cambodia's border frontiers, said Tourism Minister Thong Khon, adding that the ministry planned to arrange more direct flights to countries in the region to attract visitors.

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### **VN visa exemption boosts Bavet crossings**

The Cambodia-Vietnam visa exemption is helping to boost tourists crossing through the Bavet border point, with visitors up more than 20 percent in the first six months, compared to the same period of last year.

According to statistics provided by officials at the Bavet international checkpoint, a total of 335,468 foreign tourists crossed in and out of Cambodia from January to June this year, increased 22 percent from 274,954 tourists who used the crossing during the first half of 2009.

Mr. Khun Bophan, chief of the Bavet checkpoint, said that visitors had increased since the Cambodian government implemented a visa-exemption policy with Vietnam last December and eased the regulations on cars and buses using the border crossing.

Bavet is the most popular among 10 official border crossings with Vietnam.

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### **Crossings at Lao border rise by 67pc**

International tourists entered the Kingdom through the Cambodia-Laos Trapaing Kriel crossing increased 67 percent totalising 19,893 foreigners in the first six months of 2010, compared to the same period of last year.

Mr. Chao Mony Ra, Trapaing Kriel checkpoint chief, said that the increase resulted from the easing of rules on vehicles, allowing tourism buses and cars to transport more visitors, and from the exemption allowing more Laotians to travel without a visa, which lifted last year.

Trapaing Kriel International border crossing, locating in Stung Treng province, was opened in 2003.

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### **First Universal Khmer Song Festival 2010**

The Universal Khmer Song Festival 2010 was introduced for the first time in



Cambodia with 20 Cambodian participants from oversea and the local contestants.

The contest with classical and modern songs, whose final stage held from July 22 to 23, aims to strengthen Cambodian national identity in a transparent and just manner in addition to its primary purpose of identifying the best singer.

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