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PREAH VIHEAR, WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE JULY 2008

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CAMBODIA-JAPAN BILATERAL RELATIONS

Japanese company donated bicycles

Cambodian Minister of Information Khieu Kanharith met on November 1 with a delegation of Naganuki Umsou Inc. (NUI) of Japan led by Mr. Masahiro Sano.

On the occasion, Mr. Masahiro Sano said that through the Ministry of Information the Japanese company donated 690 bicycles to students in Kampong Cham and Kampong Chhnang provinces.

Information Minister said the donation was designed to help children living in poverty to stay in school because the school is far from their houses, so the bike is very important for them.

NUI has also constructed a school building in Banteay Srey district, Siem Reap province in 1999 and it has so far provided around 3,800 second-hand bicycles to Cambodian students in remote areas.

Japanese rescue equipment to Cambodia

Cambodian rescue team RRC 711 of military brigade E-70 on November received four ambulances and seven firefighter trucks and some rescue equipment from Japan Paramedical Rescue (JPR) under the witness of Gen. Pol Saroeun, commander-in-chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF).

The rescue equipment was handed over after the seven-month training of the Cambodian rescue team by JPR has finished.

Speaking at the hand-over ceremony, Gen. Pol Saroeun thanked JPR for the training course and the equipment, stressing these valuable assistances reflected the good ties

of friendship, fraternity and cooperation between Cambodian military brigade E-70 and JPR.

ITC students made a study tour in Japan

Twenty students from the Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC) made their 9 days study tour in Japan under the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Program.

During their stay in Japan, the students were welcome by Mr. Kazuya ENDO, Director of first Southeast Asia Division of Ministry Foreign Affairs. The program of their visit included universities, technological companies, project sites related to advanced technology and the ROBOCON; a robot contest held among various technical colleges in Japan.

Furthermore, all students received home-stay with a Japanese family in order to experience Japanese culture and tradition.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION & COOPERATION

Cambodia hosted CLV, CLMV and ACMECS Summits

Cambodia hosted the 6th Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam (CLV) Summit and the 5th Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam (CLMV) Summit on November 16 in Phnom Penh, in which the prime ministers from the four countries participated.

During the CLV summit, Cambodian Premier Samdech Techo Hun Sen raised the initiative to create a "CLV Fund" to help develop a triangular region between the three countries. "The Phnom Penh

Declaration”, pertaining to the amendment of the master plan on 2010-2020 socio-economic development for the CLV Development Triangle Area, was adopted by three prime ministers.



Later on, the four premiers from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam participated in the 5th CLMV, which also was attended by ASEAN General Secretary Surin Pitsuwan.



In the opening speech, the Cambodian premier asked the heads government of other three countries to promote the infrastructure projects in the framework of CLMV countries adopted in the recent ASEAN Summit in Hanoi and added that the development project of CLMV will not only reduce the development gaps of the Greater Mekong Sub-region, but also make a contribution to emerging the 2015 ASEAN Community.

On November 17, the 4th Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Summit also was held in Phnom Penh, which all five premiers of ACMECS

member countries attended with the participation of ASEAN General Secretary Surin Pitsuwan.



All five premiers adopted “Phnom Penh Declaration on ACMECS” in a bid to help improve economic coordination across five nations. According to the document, it stated support for investment and trade facilitation, the agriculture sector, the industrial and energy sector, transport links, tourism, human resource development, public health and the environment. They also set out “Action Plan for 2010-2012” to implement projects related to the development of such sectors.



Agricultural development was singled out as a priority sector by Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen, who pushed for increase cooperation on rice production to export and recalled that ACMECS countries export 45 percent of rice to world markets.



The premiers from Laos, Myanmar and Thailand also paid a Royal Audience to His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni.

Cambodia and Thailand signed agreement on visa exemption

On November 17, besides the 4th ACMECS Summit, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen met with Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.



During the bilateral discussion, the two leaders agreed to continue negotiations over the ongoing border dispute near the Preah Vihear Temple through the bilateral Joint Border Committee and should give priority to areas of cooperation where's there's no conflict.



Ahead of the meeting, Cambodian premier said “now is the time to strengthen, to improve the relationship, to minimize the dispute and expand cooperation to be broader, not just in a bilateral, but also in a multilateral framework.

After the meeting, Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Foreign Affairs of Cambodia, and Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya signed an agreement on visa exemption which would be effective in 30 days and would allow visitors to stay 14 days.

Thailand is the 7th ASEAN countries, excluding Brunei and Myanmar, which has signed the agreement on visa exemption from Cambodian and Thai citizens holding ordinary passports.

Cambodia hosted the meeting of MoU's parties of ASEAN on anti-corruption

Cambodia hosted the 6th annual meeting of 9 parties of the Memorandum of Understanding of ASEAN on Cooperation for Preventing and Combating Corruption in Siem Reap province from November 4 to 5. All ASEAN member countries have signed the MoU, except Myanmar.

The meeting aimed at sharing mutual experiences in fighting corruption among nine ASEAN member countries.

In 2010, Cambodia has adopted Anticorruption Law last April and also set up a National Anticorruption Unit In a bid to crack down on graft.

Cambodia to host the 6th ICAPP

Cambodia will host the 6th General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) from 1 to 4 December 2010 in Phnom Penh, in which will participate by more than 100 Asian political parties from some 40 countries, 150 observers, environmental experts from international institutions and the United Nations, members of the Centralist



Democratic International-Asia Pacific (CDI-AP) as well as delegates from the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPAL).

The conference under the theme “Asia’s Quest for a Better Tomorrow” will focus on the issues of economy, energy and environment with the purpose of improving mutual understanding and promoting the cooperation among the political parties from different countries in order to create an environment for sustainable peace and prosperity in the region.

During the meeting, two related workshops will be organized, one “on women as politicians” and another “on Young Politicians”. Both will focus on the roles of women and young politicians in the areas of economy, energy and environment.

Cambodia dispatched troops for UN mission in Lebanon

Cambodia sent on November 17 its 197 troops to participate in the peacekeeping mission under the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) framework.



A total of 219 soldiers, including 21 military engineers who departed last week, will work in heavily-mined areas of southern Lebanon and will also assist in the

construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

Addressing the troops at military airbase in Phnom Penh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense Tea Banh said the government had made a strong commitment to international peacekeeping operations

So far, the number of Cambodian forces sent on peacekeeping missions has reached 845 persons, including the missions in Sudan, Chad and Central African Republic.

NATIONAL POLICY AND SOCIETY

Cambodia celebrated the 57th Independence Day

On November 9, Cambodia celebrated the 57th anniversary of National Independence from France in 1953.



His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni presided over the celebration ceremony and lighted the “Victory Flame” at the Independence Monument in Phnom Penh and three days later His Majesty the King also put out a symbol flame to closing the ceremony celebration of the anniversary of National Independence.



Cambodian National Assembly President Samdech Chakrei Heng Samrin, Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen and other high-ranking officials also participated in both ceremonies with a crowd of Phnom Penh residents and students in attendance.

WB promised \$40m in Ketsana aid

The World Bank has pledged a US\$40 million, of US\$ 20 million as a grant and the rest as loan, to Cambodia towards the recovery from Typhoon Ketsana, which tore through the Kingdom in September last year and left 43 people dead.

The Ketsana Emergency Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project is intended to provide “affected people who are mostly poor and live in rural areas” with transportation and water and sanitation services.

According to Mr. Qimiao Fan, WB Country Manager, “This project will help to restore the damaged infrastructure such as rural roads and provide basic services such as water and sanitation facilities to the affected people in mostly rural areas.”

**ECONOMY
TRADE & INVESTMENT**

First Japanese electronic factory to operate in Cambodia

A Japanese electronic factory, being built in Phnom Penh special economic zone by Minebea (Cambodia) Co., Ltd., will be operational in April 2011.

The company has planned to recruit 280 Cambodian workers and some of them will be sent to train in Japan in a bid to improve

their capacity with excellent and friendly working environment.

This is the first Japanese investment in the electronic devices production in Cambodia.

Minebea (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. is a subsidiary of Minebea Co., Ltd., a Japanese giant manufacturer of miniature ball bearings, precision motor and electronic devices.

**CULTURE,
TOURISM, EDUCATION & SPORT**

Water Festival ended with tragedy

On night of the last day of the Annual Water Festival from November 20 to 22, a tragic stampede occurred on Pich Bridge of Koh Pich (Diamond Island) in Phnom Penh, leaving 351 dead and 395 injured.



On mid night of November 22, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen stated the tragedy was the biggest death toll since Pol Pot regime.

Cambodian premier announced November 25 as the national mourning day to commemorate the people killed in this incident.

Cambodian government provided the military trucks to free transport the corpses to their homes with the donation of



US\$1,250 to each family's deceased and also has appealed to charitable people for their financial or material contribution in the spirit of the solidarity in order to help and share the victim's difficulties.

Cambodia to record history of all pagodas

Cambodian government ordered all provincial and municipal authorities to record the backgrounds of all pagodas such as when they are established, how many monks and how many clergy men and women are staying in those pagodas.

According to the statistics provided by Ministry of Religion and Cult, by April 2010, there were 4,392 pagodas and more than 50,000 monks in all the country.

About 90 percent of 14 million Cambodian populations are Buddhists and the rest shared by Christians, Muslims as well as other ethnic believers.

According to Cambodian constitution, Buddhism is the state religion.

New carnivorous plant discovered

AN international conservation group "Fauna & Flora" on November 15 announced the discovery of a new species of carnivorous pitcher plant native to Cambodia's Cardamom Mountains.

The species, named *Nepenthes holdenii* after British photographer Jeremy Holden, who first stumbled across the plant in 2006, produces pitchers that can reach 30 centimeters in length and can thrive in drought- and fire-prone areas.

According to a statement announcing the discovery of the plant, which was issued by

the conservation organization Fauna & Flora International, "the large red and green pitchers that characterize *Nepenthes holdenii* are actually modified leaves designed to capture and digest insects".



A specimen of the plant photographed in the Cardamom mountains. JEREMY HOLDEN

"The carnivorous strategy allows the plants to gain additional nutrients and flourish in otherwise impoverished soils," and another unusual adaptation is the plants' "ability to cope with fire and extended periods of drought" because of "a large underground tuber which sends up a new pitcher-bearing vine after the fires have passed", the statement added.

Nepenthes holdenii is actually the second new species of pitcher plant to be discovered in Cambodia recently after a 7-metre-tall carnivorous pitcher plant that was officially documented by researchers on Bokor Mountain in Kampot province in 2009.
