



# INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## **CAMBODIA-JAPAN BILATERAL RELATIONS**

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**DPM. HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs, congratulates Japan’s new Foreign Minister**



Upon the assumption of H.E. Koichiro GEMBA as Japan’s new Foreign Minister, DPM. HOR Namhong, Cambodia Foreign Minister, sent a congratulatory message to his Japanese counterpart, which was quoted as follow:

“I am very pleased to warmly congratulate Your Excellency on your appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

I look forward to working in close collaboration with Your Excellency to enhance closer ties of friendship between the peoples of Cambodia and Japan and further promote productive cooperation to serve the mutual benefits of our two nations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and my best wishes for your great success in the fulfillment of your noble duties ahead”.

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### **Cambodian Professor received Fukuoka Prize Award 2011**

On September 15, H.E. Mr. HOR Moniroth, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia, attended the Awarding Ceremony of the Asian Fukuoka Cultural

Prize honoring outstanding achievement in preserving cultures. This year Grand Prize was awarded to Mr. Ang Choulian, the second Cambodian scholar awarded this Prize after Professor Chheng Phon received it in 1997.



Mr Ang is an expert in Khmer Studies and Professor of Archaeology of the Royal University of Fine Arts, Cambodia. He is also a leading in ethnologist in Cambodia who rendered great service to revive Cambodian culture after the destruction by decades of civil war.

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## **INTERNATIONAL RELATION & COOPERATION**

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### **Prime Minister meets U.S. investors**



On September 01, Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen met U.S investors led by Ms. Frances Zwenig, the Counselor of the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council delegation in Phnom Penh, during which



the premier asked U.S’s delegation to further boost more investment in the country, particularly in agricultural sector such as processing plants for corn, rice, cassava and rubber.

The premier also suggested to the U.S’s delegation to provide more tariff incentive treatment to Cambodia’s goods for export to the U.S. as it will help the country to reduce poverty.

During the meeting, the U.S. investors informed that the US’s RM Asia car will soon set up assembly plant in Cambodia. Responding to this proposal, the Premier stressed that he welcomed the news and indicated that he will be the first person to buy Ford car once it is assembled in Cambodia.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, in the first semester of 2011, bilateral trade between the two countries was around US\$ one billion, mostly Cambodia’s garment exports to the U.S.

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**NATIONAL POLICY & SOCIETY**

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**Cambodia expects to resin 245,500 tons of Rubber by 2020**



Early this month, at the consultation meeting on the draft law of rubber, Agriculture Minister Chan Sarun, said that by 2020 the rubber plantation in the country will be expanded to 365,000 ha and is

expected to resin around 245,500 tons of rubber for export and manufacturing.

According to the Agriculture Ministry, up to June 2011, the rubber plantation was 181,040 ha, which only 34,922 ha can resin with 35,000 to 40,000 tons of rubber.

In the first semester of the year, Cambodia exported rubber up to US\$ 102.2 million.

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**ECONOMY, TRADE & INVESTMENT**

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**Minister wants e-trade by end of year**



On September 02, during the meeting with the Council Ministers, Commerce Minister Cham Prasidh called for the US delegation to help finalise the Kingdom’s e-commerce law by the end of this year, stressing further that the law will assist SMEs to sell their products around the world, without having to go through large companies. However, while this system is new for Cambodia, external expertise is required to help draft the law and also implement subsequent technology.

Since joining the WTO in 2004, Cambodia has committed to enact some 47 laws or regulations, in order to strengthen the investment climate in the Kingdom and to meet the organisation’s requirements.

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### Rice exporters eyes for the Middle East



On September 06, Commerce Minister Cham Prasidh announced in a press conference that around 15 Cambodian Rice Exporters or producers will participate in the Rice International Conference to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on November 03-05, 2011.

He is optimistic that this participation will showcase Cambodian rice to the Middle Eastern countries which is a main potential market for rice export in the future.

The figure of the Commerce Ministry shows that the first half of 2011, rice export volume reached US\$45.6 million and the Government is determined to push rice export to 1 million ton by 2015.

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### Foreign Companies to invest over US\$20 Millions in Exploration of Mines and Rice-Mill

Two foreign companies, Kuwait’s Pima International Ltd and India’s D&D Pattnaik Ltd have made a joint venture to invest over US\$20 millions in gold, steel mines and rice-mills in Cambodia.

Mr. K.P.R Raja, Chairman of Pima International Ltd, said on September 08 that starting in October the companies will invest between US\$10 millions to US\$25 millions in mines exploration in Kompong Chhnang, Kratie and Mondulkiri. He also added that

the companies have already invested between US\$10 millions to US\$15 millions in rice-mills in Prey Veng province.

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### CULTURE, TOURISM, EDUCATION & SPORT

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### Tourism stronger than predicted



According to investment firm Cambodia Capital, in 2011 the Kingdom’s tourism industry will perform much better than the government expects thanks in part to Cambodia’s growing popularity as a vacation destination. The number of tourist arrival will reach 2.85 million and total revenue is expected at US\$1.98 billion.

The firm also projects that arrivals growth for 2012 and 2013 will be 3.17 million and 3.53 million, with the total revenue at US\$ 2.16 billion and US\$ 2.35 billion respectively.

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### Cambodia to host World Ecotourism Conference 2011

H.E. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, announced during an inter-ministries conference on August 31 that Cambodia will hold the 3rd World Ecotourism Conference “Seek Better Future for Ecotourism in Asia” from October 03-05, in Preah Sihanouk province.



The Conference, unprecedented in Cambodia before, will be attended by ministers from Asian-Pacific region and some 400 international investors from 30 countries.

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