



The Temple of Angkor Wat

1st APA Executive Council Meeting Kicks Off

The 1st Executive Council of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and the APA Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations meetings were officially opened on 26 September 2016 in Phnom Penh.

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AFD To Grant US\$104 Million to MoWRAM

French Agency for Development (AFD) is planning to provide an additional US\$104 million to the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MoWRAM) to develop Cambodia's irrigation system and rehabilitate 27 streams in the provinces of Kandal, Prey Veng, Battambang and Banteay Meanchey.

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Cambodia's economy on growth path: ADB

Despite uncertainty over the global economy, which has been stymied by a continued weak recovery in many developed economies, Cambodia will continue on its projected growth rate for the rest of this year and into 2017, buoyed by sustained growth from China and India, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on 27 September 2016 in

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Cambodian, Vietnamese Legislative Bodies Deepen Relationship and Cooperation



Bilateral meeting between Samdech Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin and H.E. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan Vietnam's NA Chairwoman at the NA Palace, Phnom Penh

Legislative leaders of Cambodia and Vietnam have expressed their appreciation to the current bilateral relations and looked forward to further deepening their cooperation.

This appreciation was made during the bilateral talks between President of the National Assembly of Cambodia, Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, and his visiting Vietnamese counterpart H.E. Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan on 27 September 2016 in Phnom Penh.

H.E. Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan said despite its shortness, her visit to Cambodia this time will contribute to strengthening the traditional ties of friendship, sisterhood and cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

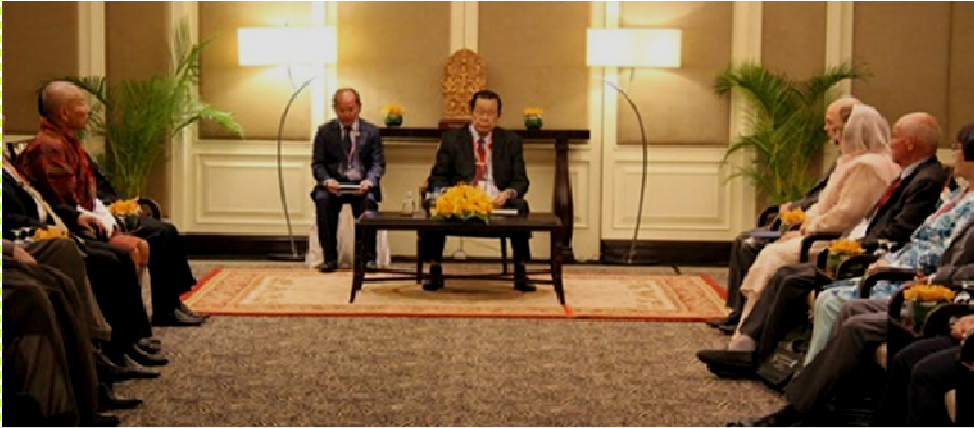
H.E. Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan also expressed her surprise and delight to see the remarkable progress and development in Cambodia.

For his part, Samdech Heng Samrin said this visit reflects the commitment to continue tightening the traditional friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between both nations, especially between their legislative bodies.

Samdech Heng Samrin also congratulated H.E. Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan on her election as the Chairwoman of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

H.E. Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan arrived in Phnom Penh on 27 September 2016 for a two-day official and friendly visit in Cambodia. ●

1st APA Executive Council Meeting Kicks Off



H.E. Nguon Nhil, Chairman of the 9th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Organising Committee, held talks with heads of delegations of APA member parliaments and leaders of the APA Secretariat

Second Vice President of Cambodia's National Assembly (NA) H.E. Nguon Nhil, Chairman of the 9th APA Plenary Session Organising Committee, was presiding over the event with the participation of heads and members of parliament from 21 APA member countries.

On the occasion, H.E. Nguon Nhil expressed warm welcome to all the delegates and distinguished guests, stressing that their participation in the meetings reflect their strong will and commitment to achieve the APA's perspectives and their support to Cambodia as the host country.

H.E. Nguon Nhil raised some issues being faced by Asia as well as the world, including wars, terrorism, natural disasters, Zika outbreak which have claimed many human lives and destroyed many properties. He called on all the participants to share their

views, opinions and experience in order to deal with these above-said challenges.

APA was founded in Iran in 2006. It has currently 42 full member parliaments, including Azerbaijan as the new member, and 17 observers. The APA plenary session is held every year in December. The APA president is elected from the member parliaments for a two-year term of office.

Cambodia's NA President Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin assumed the APA presidency in December 2015 during the 8th APA Plenary Session in Phnom Penh, succeeding H.E. Mian Raza Rabbani, President of the Senate of Pakistan.

Cambodia is going to host the 9th APA Plenary Session in Siem Reap province from 28 November to 01 December 2016. •

Cambodia To Attract Investment and Show Potentialities in WEF 2017

On 26 September 2016 Senior Minister H.E. Sun Chanthol, Minister of Public Works and Transport, was quoted by a local media as saying that Cambodia will host the 26th World Economic Forum on ASEAN on May 10-12, 2017 in Phnom Penh and that the Royal Government of Cambodia will try its best to appeal investment from major businesses as well as to show the potentialities in economic and tourism domains through this Forum.

H.E. Sun Chanthol, who is also Chairman of an Inter-ministerial Commission for Organising the Forum, said the event, which will be attended by leaders of countries and major companies with an estimation of more than 700 participants, is really a hardly ever chance while other nations are lobbying for hosting it.

He added that Cambodia got the opportunity because of peace and stability as well as trust given to foreign leaders

More than 4.5 Million Passengers Travelling by Air for Eight Months of 2016

Cambodia Airports received more than 4.5 million passengers and 47,000 flights movements from January to August 2016, according to the data of Cambodia Airports.

This figure showed an increase of 5.4 percent in the number of passengers and 2.3 percent in the flight movement compared to the same period in 2015, it pointed out.

The Phnom Penh International Airport received almost 274,000 passengers in August 2016, an increase of 4.0 percent, while Siem Reap International Airport handled almost 280,000 passengers, growing 5.5 percent year-on-year. Passenger traffic at Sihanouk International Airport increased by 57.9 percent to 18,004 passengers, spurred by ongoing international flights from China and Vietnam, as well as a growth in domestic flights from Siem Reap.

Phnom Penh International Airport handled almost 2,700 flight movements, falling 4.9 percent year-on-year, as it was hit by airlines scaling back capacity during the summer season, as well as a continued fall in domestic flights against last year. Siem Reap, on the other hand, grew 2.6 percent to more than 3,000 movements as the airport welcomed new flights from China. The Flight movements in Sihanouk International Airport increased by 15.9 percent to 248 movements.

Cargo tonnage in Phnom Penh Cargo Terminal grew by 21.2 percent while Siem Reap Airport Cargo Terminal saw 11.3 percent less cargo compared to August 2015. •

and those companies.

Participants from both ASEAN member countries and other nations outside the region of more than 50 countries in total gathered in the World Economic Forum, held in June 2016 in Malaysia. •

AFD To Grant US\$104 Million to MoWRAM

The financial assistance was revealed by Deputy Director of AFD's Asian Development Department Ms. Françoise Charlier during a recent courtesy visit to H.E. Lim Kean Hor, Cambodian Minister of Water Resources and Meteorology.

On the occasion, H.E. Minister laid stress on the need to rehabilitate streams as well as irrigation infrastructure in Cambodia, adding that the data gathering is a key technical foundation in elaborating the irrigation modernisation plan.

For her part, Ms. Françoise Charlier expressed the AFD's satisfaction to provide both technical and financial cooperation to MoWRAM, underlining that AFD has decided to extend some US\$104 million to support the project of stream and irrigation system rehabilitation in Cambodia for the second phase,



from 2017 to 2019.

Of the amount, US\$95 million is a loan and US\$9 million is a grant aid, she pointed out.

For the first phase, between 2014 and 2016, AFD provided €24 million

and US\$14 million in loan along with US\$9 million in grant aid to MoWRAM to rehabilitate the irrigation system in 9 places and 35 streams in Kandal province.

Cambodia's economy on growth path: ADB

.....a reiteration of its previous growth forecast.

Cambodia is anticipated to retain its growth forecast of 7 percent this year and 7.1 percent in 2017 – anchored by continued growth in the garment and footwear sector, ADB said in an update to its flagship annual economic publication, Asian Development Outlook 2016. “The outlook for Cambodia’s economy, after attaining lower-middle-income status in July, remains robust with exports from the garment and footwear industry rising by 9.4 percent in the first half of this year,” Samiuela Tukuafu,

ADB’s country director for Cambodia, said in a press release accompanying the update.

“While growth in credit sector moderated to 28.1 percent year-on-year in June 2016, it still indicates buoyant domestic demand,” he said, adding that better weather this year should provide a “mild” recovery for the Kingdom’s agricultural sector that has struggled with extended drought.

The announcement also noted that the Cambodian government continued to increase spending by 15.6 percent during the first half of this year, providing higher civil society

wages on the back of increased tax collection.

Meanwhile, inflation forecasts slightly increased due to an expected rise in global oil prices, averaging a projected 3.4 percent in 2017.

The update noted that minimal changes in Cambodia’s account deficit and an increase of exports compared to imports – a gap that is expected to continue to narrow next year – would maintain “Cambodia’s sound external position”.

