

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

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## CAMBODIA, NEPAL APPRECIATE BILATERAL COOPERATION



Cambodia and Nepal have shared the same ideas over the good relations and cooperation between the two nations.

During their courtesy meeting here on 25 January 2022 Samdech Kralahom Sar Kheng, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and H.E. Genesh Prasad Dhakal, newly appointed Ambassador of Nepal to Cambodia acknowledged that the strong relationship between both countries are based on the exchange of visits between their leaders, which led to the signing of cooperation deals on major sectors, including economy and trade.

They noted that religious cooperation also contributed significantly to the strengthening of relations between the two peoples as Buddhism is the state religion of Cambodia and the second-largest religion in Nepal.

They agreed to further boost the bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas under the jurisdiction of the Cambodian Ministry of Interior and the Nepali Ministry of Home Affairs. Samdech Kralahom Sar Kheng was convinced that the through H.E. Genesh Prasad Dhakal's diplomatic mission, both countries will reach more key areas of cooperation for mutual interest.

For his part, H.E. Genesh Prasad Dhakal thanked the Royal Government of Cambodia, especially the Ministry of Interior, for helping solve difficulties faced by the Nepalese people in Cambodia and wished the Kingdom success in its role as the rotating Chair of ASEAN for 2022.

## CAMBODIAN PM WINS 2022 SUNHAK PEACE PRIZE



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has won the 2022 Sunhak Peace Prize Founder's Award, according to Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, Chairman of the Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation's message on 25 January 2022.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen have been selected to receive the 2022 Sunhak Peace Prize Founder's Award, which is to be presented during an award ceremony on 12 February in Seoul, Republic of Korea, he wrote in his message to the Cambodian Prime Minister.

Dr. Thomas G. Walsh explained the selection for the award by Samdech Techo Hun Sen's steadfast leadership over many years as Prime Minister of Cambodia, contributing to stability, economic development and peace in Cambodia and in the Southeast Asian region at large.

In addition, the chairman continued, the committee recognises Samdech Techo Hun Sen's efforts to promote peace in the wider region of the Asia Pacific, including his call for the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Union. "Therefore, the Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation respectfully offers to Your Excellency the Sunhak Peace Prize Founder's Award in recognition of your contributions to peace and human development," he underlined.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister was invited to be a nominee for the Sunhak Peace Prize in July last year for his active involvement in many activities contributing to world peace.

The Sunhak Peace Prize is an international peace prize established in 2015 to honour the peace vision of its founders, the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han Moon. The award was established to recognise individuals and organisations that have served humanity in exemplary ways, making the world better for future generations.

The first award ceremony focused on the issue of "climate change" and was presented to former President of Kiribati, H.E. Anote Tong, and Dr. Modadugu Gupta, a fisheries scientist from India. The second award ceremony focused on the issue of the global refugee crisis and the laureates were, Dr. Gino Strada, founder of the medial relief NGO EMERGENCY, and Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, an educator in Afghanistan.

The theme of the third award ceremony was human rights and development in Africa. The laureates were Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, president of the African Development Bank, who made great strides in development of agriculture in Africa, and Waris Dirie, a women's rights activist who raised awareness about FGM to the international community.

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## CAMBODIA, FRANCE EXTEND MUTUAL SUPPORT

Cambodia and France have expressed their mutual support as this year Cambodia takes over the role as the Chair of ASEAN while France assumes the EU Presidency.

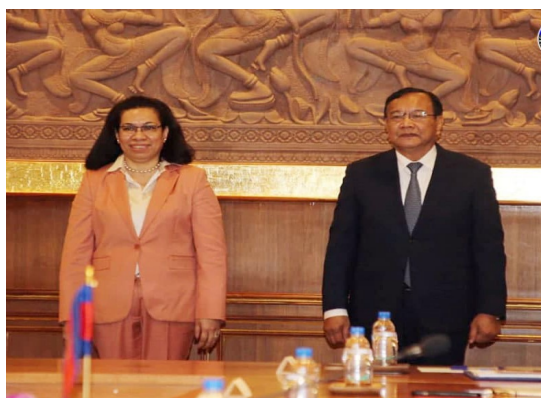
"2022 is a significant year for both countries – Cambodia assumes the Chairmanship of ASEAN while France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union," wrote Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Prak Sokhonn on his Facebook page about a phone call with H.E. Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France.

"We assured one another of full support as we shoulder these responsibilities to upholding peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," underlined the Cambodian top diplomat



France is a key development partner of Cambodia. In 2021, France has provided approximately 20.30 million Euros of cooperative financing for development projects covering agriculture, clean water access, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## CAMBODIA REITERATES SUPPORT FOR TIMOR-LESTE TO BECOME THE 11TH MEMBER OF ASEAN



The Kingdom of Cambodia has once again expressed support for Timor-Leste to become a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Prak Sokhonn made the reaffirmation in a bilateral meeting on 27 January 2022 with H.E. Dr. Adaljiza Albertina Xavier Reis Magno, Minister Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste.

"This year marks the 20th anniversary of our diplomatic relations, where we have witnessed steady growth of our friendship and spirit of cooperation. I took the opportunity to wish Timor-Leste great success for the upcoming presidential election and reaffirmed Cambodia's support for Timor-Leste to become the eleventh member of ASEAN," H.E. Prak Sokhonn wrote on his official Facebook page.

While receiving the visiting foreign minister of Timor-Leste at the Peace Palace on 27 January 2022, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said Cambodia will push for the ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Fact-Finding Missions to Timor-Leste as soon as possible to be the basis for assessment and preparation of a roadmap as well as a precise timeline for the country to join the ASEAN family.

ASEAN comprises Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

## CAMBODIAN PM WINS...

In 2020, the President of Senegal, H.E. Macky Sall, and Bishop Munib A. Younan, former President of the Lutheran World Federation, were the laureates. President Macky Sall was recognised for his contribution towards establishing principles of good governance in Africa, and Bishop Younan for his contribution towards interfaith harmony in the Middle East and beyond. In addition, in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the founder's birth, the Founder's Award was awarded to H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, former Secretary-General of the UN.

## JAPAN LOOKING TO INVEST IN CAMBODIA'S SILK PRODUCTION

A Japanese company is interested in the investment on Cambodia's silk production to serve the textile and cosmetic sectors.

The interest was underlined by a delegation of Japan-owned iL BRILLE led by H.E. Fumiaki Takahashi, President of the Japan-Cambodia Association and Former Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia, in a meeting with H.E. Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Phnom Penh on 26 January 2022.

Noting Cambodia's potential, the company will invest in the production of silk for the textile sector and process silk product into proteins for cosmetic sector, through the creation of "Cambodia Golden Silk (CGS)" working group, said Mr. Kazunori Kato, CEO of iL BRILLE.

CGS will bring about many benefits – increase income of rural silk weavers, add value to silk production, create a silkworm breeding and hatching centre, and request to list Khmer silk as a UNESCO's world heritage, he added.

From his end, H.E. Veng Sakhon welcomed and voiced his firm support for the investment project, stressing it will restore and promote Khmer silk production, reduce imports, create jobs, and provide added value for Cambodian silk.

In addition, he continued, it will not only help ensure the sustainability of silk weaving handicraft, but also enhance the silk weaving tradition.

The minister pledged to cooperate with the firm for the success of the project.



## CAMBODIA, CHINA TO BOOST COOPERATION ON MINE SECTOR

Cambodia and the People's Republic of China have agreed to further boost cooperation on mine clearance in Cambodia.

The agreement was made in a meeting between Cambodian Senior Minister and First Vice President of Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) H.E. Ly Thuch and H.E. Wang Wentian, Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia at the embassy in Phnom Penh on 25 January 2022.

H.E. Ly Thuch highly valued the Government and people of China for on-going support for Cambodia in all circumstances through human resources development, technical assistances, and financing supports.

H.E. Wang Wentian said mine clearance is very important for development and to save lives, and China appreciated the work of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority so far.



China will continue to such humanitarian activity in Cambodia, so that country can achieve its mine-free status in 2025.

## CAMBODIA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES EYING POSSIBILITY OF BILATERAL FTA ESTABLISHMENT



Cambodia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will conduct a study on possibility of establishing a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) in the near future.

The plan was unveiled during a bilateral meeting between H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of

Commerce of Cambodia, and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade of UAE, in Dubai early this week, while the former was attending Cambodia's National Day at Expo 2020 Dubai.

Both sides briefed each other on the economic, trade and tourism situation as well as investment potential in their respective countries.

They agreed to invite each other's delegations for an official visit to study joint investment opportunities in potential sectors, and to create a working group to study the possibility of establishing an FTA between Cambodia and UAE.

Cambodia has so far reached bilateral FTAs with China and South Korea, and been negotiating for more FTAs with major partners such as Japan, India, Mongolia, Canada and the United Kingdom to diversify markets and boost exports.

## CAMBODIA'S EXPORTS TO CHINA NET US\$1.5 BILLION IN 2021

Cambodia exported over US\$1,510 million to the world's second largest nation, a year-on-year increase of 39 percent, according to figures from the Ministry of Commerce.

The total imports from China were valued at US\$9,633 million, up 37 percent compared to a year before.

The bilateral trade between Cambodia and China reached US\$11,144 million last year, a year-on-year increase of 37.28 percent.

Cambodia exported mostly agricultural products including milled rice, mangoes, cassava to China, while imported industrial products, raw materials for the garment industry and construction materials.

The two countries started implementing the bilateral free trade agreement which came into effect earlier this year, paving ways for more trade activities and investment opportunities.

## CGCC INVESTS IN CAIC'S US\$2 MILLION GUARANTEED BOND

State-owned Credit Guarantee Corporation of Cambodia Plc. (CGCC) has bought 8,000 million Riels (approximately US\$2 million) in the Cambodia Airport Investment Co. Ltd. (CAIC)'s bond to support the development of Techo International Airport.

The signing ceremony was held on 27 January 2022 between Mr. Charles Vann, Director of CAIC and Mr. Wong Keet Loong, CEO of CGCC, under the presidency of Neak Oknha Pung Kheav Se, Chairman of Overseas Cambodian Investment Corporation Ltd. (OCIC), and H.E. Mey Vann, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Economy and Finance and member of CGCC's Board of Directors.

The coupon rate of CAIC bond is 5.5 percent per annum with three-year tenor and guaranteed by OCIC.

The funds raised from Techo International Airport Guaranteed Bond will be used for the construction and development of Techo International Airport in Kandal province.

CAIC is a joint venture between the Royal Government of Cambodia represented by the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation and OCIC. The Royal Government has granted CAIC the rights to own, design, construct, finance, operate, maintain and manage Techo International Airport Project

## **ADB APPROVES TWO GRANTS TO BOOST TOURISM AND RICE PRODUCTION IN CAMBODIA**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved two grants totaling US\$6.8 million to help revive tourism in Cambodia, boost the country's rice quality and production, and repair the rice supply chain damaged by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

One grant, at US\$3.7 million, is expected to benefit 4,000 villagers through the Community-Based Tourism COVID-19 Recovery Project, which covers the areas near the heritage Temple of Preah Vihear in Preah Vihear province and the Temple of Phnom Da in Takeo province. Most of the funding, US\$3 million, is provided by the Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific.

The other grant, at US\$3.9 million, will benefit about 22,000 smallholder rice farmers by providing additional financing for the Climate Resilient Rice Commercialisation Sector Development Programme in the provinces of Battambang, Kampong Thom, and Prey Veng. Most of the funding, US\$3.8 million, comes from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme, a global fund aimed to reduce hunger and improve nutrition in low-income countries.

"The first grant will help communities improve tourism infrastructure and customer service, which can attract more tourists and boost the local economy," said ADB Acting Country Director for Cambodia Anthony Gill. "The second grant will help Cambodia's rice producers increase incomes and climate resilience by addressing logistics and supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19."

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.

## **CAMBODIA EXPORTS OVER 366,000 TONNES OF RUBBER IN 2021**

Cambodia exported 366,300 tonnes of rubber latex in 2021, an increase of 8 percent compared to the same period in 2020.

According to the figures from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the export generated over US\$610 million.

Currently, Cambodia has a total of 404,044 hectares of rubber plantations, of which 310,193 hectares or 77 percent can be harvested.

The main markets for Cambodia's rubber latex export are Vietnam, Malaysia, China and Singapore.



## **CAMBODIA EARNS OVER US\$1.7 BILLION FROM FISHERY CATCHES IN 2021**



Cambodia counted about 856,400 tonnes of fishery catches generating more than US\$1.7 billion in national income in 2021, according to a report of the Fisheries Administration.

Of the total catches, around 383,050 tonnes were from freshwater, 125,000 tonnes from seawater and 348,350 tonnes from aquaculture. Cambodia's fishery production export in the same year was 3,469 tonnes, added the source.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the annual meeting of the Fisheries Administration early this week, H.E. Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, spoke highly of the Fisheries Administration's achievements.

He also laid stress on the team's key efforts including in conservation of natural resources, prevention of fisheries crimes, and fishing communities.

He encouraged the administration to continue strengthening the strategic implementation in line with current national socio-economic context.