

VISIONS of CAMBODIA

ISSUE 91: 16-31 March 2022

CAMBODIA TO CONTINUE WORKING CLOSELY WITH ASEM PARTNERS



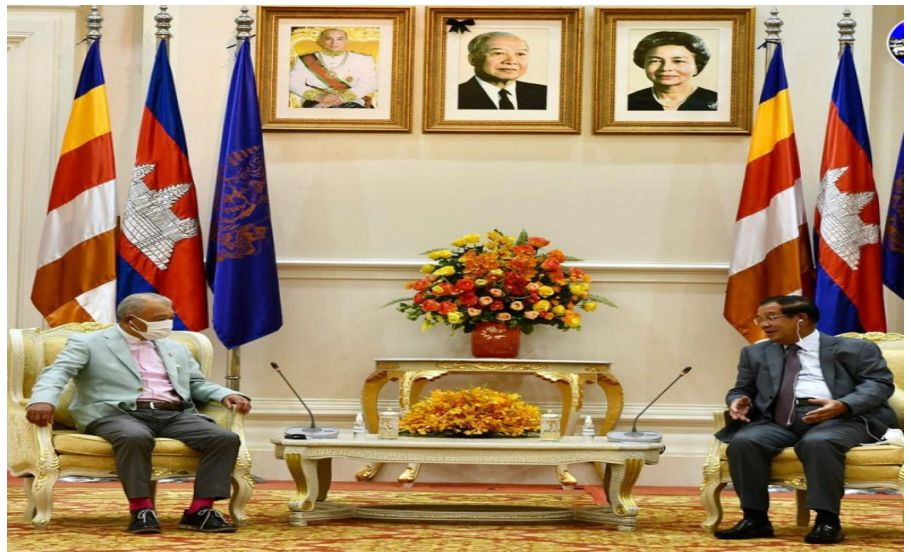
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Prak Sokhonn has reaffirmed Cambodia's readiness to continue to work closely with all ASEM Partners to build a cohesive, competitive, resilient, and sustainable ASEM community.

"[...], Cambodia is ready and looks forward to continuing to work closely with all ASEM Partners and relevant stakeholders to implement the measures set out in our recent ASEM13 outcome documents to further foster ASEM cooperation, address issues of common concern, and elevate the friendly relations among all Partners to a new height," he said in his key message on the celebration of ASEM Day.

ASEM must persevere in the next several decades and beyond to ensure that prosperity and sustainable development are secured for all ASEM Partners and, perhaps, the rest of the world, H.E. Prak Sokhonn added, underlining that its commitment toward building a cohesive, competitive, resilient, and sustainable community for the peoples of Asia and Europe remains a top priority.

To this end, he said, all ASEM Partners are bound together in this common goal to ensure that multilateralism will generate stability and prosperity for shared growth, and that it will address existing and emerging regional and global issues with the aim of attaining the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

CAMBODIAN PM RECEIVES JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S SPECIAL ENVOY



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, received at the Peace Palace on 07 March 2022 visiting H.E. Yohei Sasakawa, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan and Chairman of The Nippon Foundation.

According to H.E. Eang Sophalleth, Assistant to the Cambodian Prime Minister, H.E. Yohei Sasakawa praised Cambodia for its fast development which, he said, reflects the wise leadership of Samdech Techo Hun Sen. The special envoy also spoke highly of Samdech Techo Hun Sen's visit to Myanmar in early January this year, saying that it helped open a locked door and give hope to the Myanmar people.

Besides, he informed the Prime Minister of Exceed Organisation's activities in Cambodia, especially in teaching students to produce prosthetics. He then requested Samdech Hun Sen to allow Myanmar students to come to Cambodia to learn the skill from their Cambodian counterparts.

For his part, Samdech Techo Hun Sen welcomed the request, stressing that it is a honour for Cambodia.

The Cambodian leader also thanked H.E. Yohei Sasakawa for his support for his visit to Myanmar, reaffirming that as the rotating Chair of ASEAN this year, he will continue the work.

CAMBODIA TO CONTINUE WORKING...

The 13th ASEM Summit (ASEM13) was hosted last year by Cambodia under the theme "Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth". At the end of the meeting, the ASEM Leaders adopted three significant outcome documents, namely:

- (1) the ASEM13 Chair's Statement;
- (2) the Phnom Penh Statement on the Post-COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery; and
- (3) the Way Forward on ASEM Connectivity.

CAMBODIA, PAKISTAN TO FOSTER BILATERAL COOPERATION



Cambodia and Pakistan have been committed to foster their bilateral relations and cooperation as their diplomatic ties turn 70 years in 2022. The commitment was made in a meeting between H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, and

H.E. Zaheeruddin Babar Thaheem, Ambassador of Pakistan to Cambodia, at the ministry's office on 10 March 2022.

"Cambodia and Pakistan look forward to celebrating the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations in May this year with a range of joint activities and programmes," said H.E. Prak Sokhonn on his official Facebook page following the courtesy meeting.

In addition, he continued, Cambodia hopes that the official visit by H.E. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Pakistani Foreign Minister, could materialise in order to elevate both countries' bilateral relations to a greater height.

"We concurred that Pakistan can play a bigger role in the region of Southeast Asia, especially through a closer engagement with ASEAN," underlined the Cambodian top diplomat.

CAMBODIAN OFFICIALS, EXPERTS DISCUSS RCEP BENEFITS

Cambodian officials and experts discussed the benefits of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) during an online workshop held on 14 March 2022.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, Consequences, Challenges and Future Economic Growth for East Asia and ASEAN Workshop aims to solve challenges, and promote mechanisms, commitments and other technical aspects with discussions by national experts and international researchers on the relationship between the agreement and the regional-global trade model, with the participation of officials from relevant ministries, embassies, national and international institutions and the private sector.

Signed on 15 November 2020 and entered into force on 01 January 2022, RCEP is a mega trade agreement between 10 ASEAN member states (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and their five major trade partners, namely China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

The RCEP agreement will increase Cambodia's export between 9.4 and 18 percent yearly, said H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce in the workshop.



"Under the RCEP agreement, Cambodia will see a yearly growth of export from 9.4 to 18 percent which will contribute to the national economic growth from 2 to 3.8 percent," he said.

RCEP covers approximately 30 percent of the world's population, accounts for about 30 percent of global gross domestic product, and represents some 28 percent of global trade.

After coming into effect, more than 90 percent of merchandise trade among members that have approved the accord will eventually be subject to zero tariffs.

CAMBODIA, EU COMMITTED TO STRENGTHEN AND ENHANCE COOPERATION

Cambodia and the European Union have been committed to further strengthen and enhance their cooperation in the future.

The commitment was made during a meeting between H.E. Chhieng Yanara, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister, Secretary General of the Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board of the Council for Development of Cambodia (CRDB/CDC) and H.E. Ms. Carmen Moreno, EU Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, at the Council's office in Phnom Penh on 02 March 2022.

On the occasion, H.E. Chhieng Yanara expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the European Union for providing development assistance to Cambodia, particularly the outstanding achievement made by the implementation of the Joint European Development Cooperation Strategy 2014-2020 and the Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2014-2020 which have strengthened partnerships and contributed to the sustainable and inclusive development in Cambodia.

H.E. Minister also expressed his sincere thanks to the European Union for providing substantial support to the Cambodian government in socio-economic recovery after the COVID-19 outbreak.

For her part, H.E. Ms. Carmen Moreno highly praised the RGC for its efforts and achievements in Cambodia's development and also highly valued and appreciated CRDB/CDC for excellent cooperation and partnership. She informed H.E. Minister on the progress of the draft European Joint Strategies 2012-2027 and the new Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) of European 2021-2027.

According to a press release of CDC, the new Multiannual Indicative Programme was recently approved and adopted by the European Commission on 21 December 2021. The budget for the first phase

Continued on page (3)

MINISTER HIGHLIGHTS JOINT EFFORT IN CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGEMENT



Minister of Environment has highlighted joint effort in managing natural protected areas and addressing climate change in Cambodia. The Minister H.E. Say Samal made the note in a dissemination workshop on "natural protected areas and climate change" in Kampot province on 10 March 2022.

EU FULLY SUPPORTS CAMBODIA'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF ASEAN

The European Union (EU) has expressed its full support for Cambodia's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2022 as well as for the appointment of H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, as the Special Envoy of ASEAN to Myanmar. The support was underlined during the 11th Cambodia-EU Joint Committee Meeting held in Phnom Penh in a hybrid format, according to a joint press release issued on 10 March 2022. The EU further underlined that the appointment of H.E. Igor Dreismans as the EU Special Envoy for Myanmar highlights the strong support of the EU to ASEAN and UN Special Envoys in the implementation of the ASEAN Five Point Consensus, it added. The Meeting reviewed the progress made since the 10th Cambodia-EU Joint Committee Meeting held in Brussels in 2018 and saw the

H.E. Say Samal continued that the workshop will provide further inputs for the ministry to report and update its work to the National Assembly's third commission on management and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity and solutions on any challenges related to climate change.

Cambodia's environmental sector has been progressing remarkably particularly because of better public awareness and shared responsibilities, making it a driver for economic growth, emphasised the minister. He also outlined the ministry's institutional reform including decentralisation and deconcentration policy, and the preparation of policies, plans, strategies and initiatives on environmental and social impact assessment.

exchange of views on a wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues, including the latest political developments in both Cambodia and the EU, the same source pointed out.

The Meeting also discussed the situation in Ukraine, the global economic situation, climate change, as well as Cambodia's Chairmanship of ASEAN, the situation in Myanmar, EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, it continued.

Besides, said the press release, the EU commended Cambodia for the successful convening of the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in 2021, which demonstrated the shared efforts and commitment in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring that multilateralism remains relevant and effective in addressing region and global issues.

CAMBODIA-EU TRADE TOPS US\$4.98 BILLION IN 2021

The bilateral trade between Cambodia the European Union rose by 4.6 percent to US\$4.98 billion (4.5 billion euros) last year, according to a joint press release issued on 10 March 2022.

The figures were mentioned in the 11th Cambodia-EU Joint Committee Meeting, held in a hybrid format and co-chaired by Cambodian Foreign Ministry's Secretary of State H.E. Luy David and H.E. Ms. Paola Pampaloni,

CAMBODIA, EU COMMITTED

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of implementation from 2021-20214 amounts to EUR 155 million, equivalent to US\$ 172 million. The MIP is an operation tool between European Union and Cambodia to implement the Joint European Development Cooperation Strategy and supported the three main priority areas including: Green growth and decent jobs (EUR 62 million), Education and skills development (EUR 48 million), and Good governance (EUR 37 million).

An additional package of EUR 8 million is set aside to support the preparation and implementation of various projects in the three priority areas. For the next phase of implementation from 2025-2017, the budget will be defined based on the evaluation of the first phase implementation.

Meanwhile, concerning the next phase implementation, H.E. Minister suggested the EU to provide support for digital economy development, which is one of the priorities for the Royal Government of Cambodia.

H.E. Ms. Ambassador also emphasised that the EU plans to propose a consultation meeting between CDC and EU and its member states in April to review and discuss the Joint European Development Cooperation Strategy 2021-2027.

CAMBODIA-EU TRADE TOPS...

Deputy Managing Director for Asia and Pacific of the European External Action Service.

In the meeting, both parties discussed economic recovery measures, bilateral trade and investment relations, technical cooperation, market access issues, and the ongoing efforts to further improve the business environment, including the new Law of Investments, and diversify Cambodia's economy.

The two sides also committed to further strengthen cooperation to ensure that Cambodia's investment climate remains open, well facilitated, competitive, and conducive to sustainable socio-economic development.

Cambodia generally exports agricultural products, including milled rice, textiles, footwear, travel goods and bicycles to the EU, and imports construction materials, food and beverage, electronics and pharmaceutical products, among others from the EU.

CAMBODIA, UNESCO JOINTLY PROMOTE SAFEGUARDING OF KOH KER CULTURAL HERITAGE SITE

The National Authority for Preah Vihear, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, and UNESCO have produced a short video on Koh Ker Cultural Heritage Site, on the occasion of the National Culture Day in Cambodia 03 March 2022, according to a press release from UNESCO.

The short video sheds light on the richness of the site of Koh Ker and featuring some of the most iconic landscapes, sculptures, man-made pond called Rahal, and temples such as Prasat Srut and Prasat Prang of the Prasat Thom complex, it pointed out.

Koh Ker, Archaeological Site of Ancient Lingapura or Chok Gargyar is one of the most significant cultural heritage sites in Cambodia, which comprises 169 archeological remains and 76 temples while continuing to be a place of worship for the local community, the same source said, adding that this footage also showcases joint efforts made by the Royal Government of Cambodia and the local community to protect and maintain the value of the site.

UNESCO has been working actively with the Royal Government of Cambodia and civil society to leverage cultural heritage – sites and objects as well as intangible and underwater heritage – and the creative and cultural industries for sustainable development.

Home to a rich collection of diverse cultural heritage and dynamic creative sectors, Cambodia has three World Heritage Sites (Angkor, Preah Vihear, and Sambor Prei Kuk), and five Intangible Cultural Heritage elements (Royal Ballet of Cambodia, Sbek Thom, Tugging rituals and games, Chapei Dang Veng, and Lkhon Khol of Wat Svay Andet) inscribed on the UNESCO lists.



In 2021, Cambodia successfully submitted the nomination dossier of Koh Ker for potential inscription on the World Heritage list, which shall be evaluated by the World Heritage Committee in June 2022.

A NEW-BORN DOLPHIN SPOTTED IN A DEEP POOL IN KRATIE

The research team of the Fisheries Administration and WWF has found a new-born dolphin calf swimming together with a group of eight adult dolphins in Koh Phdao water deep pool in Sambo district of Kratie province.

The new calf was spotted on 6 March 2022 during the population survey of Irrawaddy dolphins in the Mekong river in 2022, according to the Department of Fisheries Conservation of the Fisheries Administration.

This is the first dolphin calf recorded during the first three months in 2022, the source underlined.

The Fisheries Administration took the opportunity to call on local fishermen to protect this dolphin calf and immediately stop illegal fishing practices, especially gill net and electro fishing, so as to ensure that this animal survives to adulthood.

Six dolphin calves were recorded in 2021.

Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) is classified as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list, as well as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Irrawaddy dolphins are commonly found in two sections of Cambodia's Mekong River: one is the River span between Kratie and Stung Treng provinces, and the other one at Anlong Chheuteal which is the border between Cambodia's Stung Treng and the Champasak province of Laos.



Despite efforts made to save it, the sole dolphin inhabiting in Anlong Chheuteal section has died last month, while the Cambodia's Mekong River between Kratie and Stung Treng is home to only 89 Irrawaddy dolphins.