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CAMBODIA NOT TO LIFT QUARANTINE REQUIREMENT FOR UNVACCINATED TOURISTS



Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen said that unvaccinated tourists against COVID-19 will not be exempted from quarantine in Cambodia.

At a get-together with Samdech Techo Voluntary Youth Doctor Association (TYDA) at Chroy Changvar Exhibition Centre in Phnom Penh, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said Cambodia welcomes all tourists, but non-vaccinated ones have to be quarantined for 7 days.

"We can win the battles against Alpha, Delta, and Omicron variants, but we haven't won the COVID-19 yet," he underlined.

"We have been putting all efforts and boosting the vaccination campaign against COVID-19, why do we let unvaccinated people in our nation without quarantine?" the Prime Minister asked.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen reconfirmed that quarantine, rapid and PCR tests are not required anymore for all vaccinated people, but a seven-day quarantine is needed for unvaccinated people entering Cambodia.

As of May 16, 93.79 percent of the total population of 16 million in Cambodia have been inoculated against COVID-19 with the basic doses, while some 9 million got the 3rd doses and 2.2 million the 4th doses.

Cambodia registered no new case of COVID-19 for nine consecutive days; the tally thus remains at 136,262. Of them, 133,197 have recovered and 3,056 have lost their lives.

The first COVID-19 case was detected in Cambodia in late January 2020 in Preah Sihanouk province.

PM: FAMILIES ARE FOUNDATION OF PEACE AND GROWTH



Cambodia Prime Minister spoke highly of the inseparable contribution of families and communities to peace and growth of the country.

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen made the highlights in his open letter addressing parents as heads of households, family members, teachers and students in the observance of the International Day of Families which falls on 15 May 2022.

The day themed 'Families as Foundation for Maintaining and Protecting Peace', reflects the role of families as an indispensable cell of peace, social stability, and the socio-economic and cultural development, he wrote.

Guided by the role, the Royal Government has implemented the National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-2025 to promote household livelihood as well as to create jobs, develop professions, ensure health care and finance the vulnerable group in time of shocks, like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister thanked especially all the household heads for their hard work and sacrifice to raise good families for the society.

He also acknowledged the contribution of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, other concerned ministries and government bodies, national and international development partners, and donors to improved family living condition.

He called on all families, communities, competent ministries and government entities and authorities, development partners, religious leaders, and the media to continue cooperating and supporting each other to maintain good social morality and virtue.

This is the 28th observance of the International Day of Families for Cambodia.

OUTCOME OF PM HUN SEN'S WORKING VISIT TO THE U.S. TO PARTICIPATE IN ASEAN-U.S. SPECIAL SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON D.C.

The following is the outcome of Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen's working visit to the United States to join the ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit in Washington D.C. on 12-13 May 2022.

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia,

made a working visit to the United States of America to participate in the ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit which was held from 12th to 13th May 2022, in Washington D.C. He was accompanied by H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, H.E. Senior Minister

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Sun Chanthol, Minister of Public Works and Transport, H.E. Hang Choun Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, and other high-level delegates. The Summit was a milestone event to mark 45 years of dialogue relations between ASEAN and the U.S. and to chart the future direction of ASEAN-U.S. partnership.

As the ASEAN Chair, Samdech Techo Prime Minister co-chaired with The Honorable President Joe Biden the plenary session of the Summit, and along with other ASEAN leaders, attended other programs, including a state dinner, a bipartisan working lunch hosted by The Honorable House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a discussion hosted by Her Excellency Vice President Kamala Harris, and interaction with American business leaders.

The Leaders of ASEAN and the U.S. reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthen and build a more comprehensive ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations, which have long been indispensable to ASEAN and the U.S. as well as for the broader region and the international community. These relations have been the cornerstone for promoting and maintaining peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region.

In celebrating the 45th anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations this year, both sides committed to establish an ASEAN-U.S. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership that is meaningful, substantive, and mutually beneficial at the 10th ASEAN-U.S. Summit to be held in November 2022, in Cambodia.

In the course of two days, the Leaders discussed and exchanged views on many areas of cooperation, ranging from fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery, promoting stronger economic ties, promoting maritime cooperation, enhancing people-to-people connectivity, supporting sub-regional development, leveraging technologies and promoting innovation, addressing climate change, and preserving peace and building trust. They adopted the Joint Vision Statement reaffirming commitment to further enhance ASEAN-US partnership, particularly in these areas.

On maritime cooperation and recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen emphasized that multilateralism and international cooperation are the two essential pillars for ensuring and maintaining security, stability, and regional and global development. He conveyed gratitude to the United States for assisting the fight against COVID-19 in the ASEAN region, which has enabled full re-opening of socio-economic activities in Cambodia, since early November 2021.

At the Capitol Hill, Samdech Techo Prime Minister focused his address on economic cooperation, trade, investment and democracy in Cambodia. He noted with satisfaction the sustained momentum of cooperation under the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Work Plan and the Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Work Plan. He spoke to American business leaders, later during the day, on the immediate priorities to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and to revitalize all sectors, aiming to further boost regional economic growth and promote ASEAN competitiveness, resilience, inclusiveness and sustainable development.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister encouraged the United States to provide stronger supports for the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, promotion of physical and digital infrastructure connectivity. He also called for an enhanced cooperation in the field of public health, and the strengthening of the global health architecture for future pandemics in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO).

During the discussion on Climate Action, Clean Energy Transformation and Sustainable Infrastructure, Samdech Techo Prime Minister welcomed the U.S.'s renewed commitment to the climate change agenda and its much-applauded return to the Paris Agreement. He underscored that Cambodia's desire to deepen cooperation in addressing climate change issues, biodiversity conservation, environment and transition to clean energy, green growth as well as to promote sustainable development in the region. He touched on the importance of the new ASEAN-U.S. Energy Cooperation Work Plan (2021-2025) and lauded the first ASEAN-U.S. Energy Ministerial Meeting held last September. He strongly emphasized that as a low carbon emitter, Cambodia is fully committed to contributing in this global effort.

On infrastructure, Samdech Techo underlined the need for reinvigorating regional and global value and supply chains in order to reboot economic recovery from the detrimental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Samdech Techo Prime Minister stressed the importance of synergizing the ASEAN Master Plan for Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025), the ASEAN-U.S. Connect, the USAID Inclusive Growth in ASEAN through Innovation, Trade and E-Commerce (IGNITE) and the Blue Dot Network. Moreover,

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he expressed Cambodia's enthusiasm in exploring the possibility of an Electric Vehicle Strategy, which could support the development of urban smart transportation systems throughout the ASEAN Community. During the Plenary Session of the Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister and other ASEAN leaders expressed support for the enhancement of ASEAN-US dialogue relations to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and committed to working closely with United States to ensure that the cooperation in all priority fields identified during the two-day deliberations will bring tangible mutual benefits to the peoples of ASEAN and the United States, thereby contributing to regional peace, stability and growing prosperity.

On regional and international issues, Samdech Techo Prime Minister reiterated Cambodia's position in relations to the Ukraine-Russia crisis and urged for the continuation of a comprehensive political dialogue to end hostilities and restore peace. Cambodia fully supports the UN Secretary-General's efforts to resolve the humanitarian crisis and to find a peaceful solution to end the conflict. On the situation in Myanmar, Samdech Techo Prime Minister stressed Cambodia's strong commitment to bring progress on three immediate priorities, namely to end violence, ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all the people in most need, and build a conducive environment to enable a political dialogue among all parties concerned. He also stated Cambodia's consistent position to maintain the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability and cooperation. Samdech Techo Prime Minister took the opportunity to reaffirm Cambodia's commitment to strictly abide by the provisions of the Constitution of Cambodia which does NOT permit any foreign military bases on Cambodia's territory.

In closing the Special Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister thanked The Honorable President Joe Biden for committing to support Cambodia's chairmanship of ASEAN and look forward to welcoming him to the 10th ASEAN-U.S. Summit in Cambodia in November this year. While in Washington, Samdech Techo Prime Minister had a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and a cordial interaction with around 2000 Cambodian-Americans who gathered in Washington to greet him.

CAMBODIAN WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP RISING

Cambodia organised the National Forum on 'Women in Leadership and Governance' acknowledging increasing number of women in key leadership roles in the country.

In her address, National Assembly (NA) Second Vice President and Chairwoman of Women Parliamentarians Caucus H.E. Ms. Khuon Sudary, who presided over the opening of the forum on 17 May 2022, highlighted that the number of female members of the Senate and National Assembly has now risen to 18 and 20 percent respectively.

Women represented 41 percent of the total civil servants in Cambodia, and 26 percent of them are serving in decision making roles, while in the public and private sector, about 36 percent of women belong to the management team.

At the sub-national level, she continued, two of Cambodia's 25 capital and provincial governors are women, and nearly 8 percent of them are commune chiefs.

H.E. Ms. Khuon Sudary spoke highly of the effort of the Royal Government as well as the Ministry of Women's Affairs in promoting women's participation, especially in leadership role.



H.E. Ms. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women Affairs, shared similar insights, noting the government's commitment to further increase the number of women particularly in the civil service to 50 percent.

She also unveiled the government's leadership development programme for women at all levels as they are considered to be the backbone of socio-economic development as well as poverty and vulnerability reduction.

The purpose of the national forum is to allow experience and lesson learned sharing among female leaders as well as other key players including the policy makers to further sharpen women's leadership role, added the minister.

CAMBODIA, U.S. TO BOOST COOPERATION IN ALL AREAS

The Kingdom of Cambodia and the United States of America have expressed shared resolve to work closely together to further promote the relations of friendship and fruitful cooperation between Cambodia and the United States in all areas.

The commitment was made by Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and U.S. Secretary of State H.E. Anthony Blinken, during their bilateral meeting on 13 May 2022, on the sidelines of the ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit Washington D.C., according to a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The meeting aimed to promote Cambodia-U.S. relations, as well as cooperation on regional and international issues of common interest.

On bilateral relations, H.E. Prak Sokhonn and H.E. Blinken noted with satisfaction the good cooperation between Cambodia and the U.S. in many areas, such as increasing economic exchange, health, education, mine clearance, counterterrorism, peacekeeping, cultural heritage protection, MIA/POW, repatriation



programme and people-to-people exchange. H.E. Prak Sokhonn underlined that trade is the best example of the positive cooperation between our two countries and expressed hope that the GSP scheme will be soon renewed to further support the economic development and Cambodian workers in the GFT sectors, the majority of which are women. He also reiterated Cambodia's gratitude to the U.S. for its continued support to Cambodia's development in many sectors and most recently in the fight against COVID-19. H.E. Anthony Blinken

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expressed the U.S. readiness to further support Cambodia's development and to actively work with Cambodia to enhance political-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation.

On the issues of human rights and democracy, responding to the U.S. concern, H.E. Prak Sokhonn reaffirmed the full commitment of the Cambodian Government to an inclusive political process and freedom of expression. He highlighted the multi-party elections held regularly since the early 1990s which have been assessed as free and fair by tens of thousands of local and international observers, the existence of hundreds of media establishments and wide social media penetration in Cambodia, the operation of trade unions for workers' rights protection and thousands of NGOs and civil societies to promote people's rights and welfare. His Excellency Prak Sokhonn sought the U.S. reconsideration on unjustly imposed visa restriction related to repatriation issue, while reassuring his American counterpart of Cambodia's full cooperation on the process.

On international cooperation, regional and international issues, H.E. Anthony Blinken thanked Cambodia for contributing to the successful convening of the ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit and for supporting the elevation of ASEAN-U.S. relations to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The two ministers exchanged views on the crisis in Myanmar, express appreciation for Cambodia's efforts, as the ASEAN Chair, and Special Envoy to expedite the progress on the implementation of the Five-point Consensus, in particular on three urgent priorities, namely ending violence, ensuring delivery of humanitarian assistance to all the people in most need and engendering an inclusive political dialogue among all parties concerned. The two ministers also touched on the Ukraine-Russia conflict, its security and economic implications and efforts to resolve the crisis. On the issue of Ream naval base, H.E. Prak Sokhonn reiterated Cambodia's firm adherence to the Constitution of Cambodia which does not permit foreign military base or presence on Cambodian soil and underlined that the renovation of the base serves solely to strengthen the Cambodian naval capacities to protect its maritime integrity and combat crimes.

AUSTRALIA STRENGTHENS RICE SEED QUALITY IN CAMBODIA

The Australian Government is supporting quality rice seeds through the Quality Declared Seed (QDS) system under the Cambodia-Australia Agricultural Value Chain Programme (CAVAC), according to the Australian Embassy in Cambodia.

In the recent handover ceremony of QDS products in Kampong Svay district, Kampong Thom province with H.E Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mrs. Amber Cernovs, First Secretary of the Australian Embassy in Cambodia, said Australia has been supporting quality rice seeds since the 1980s. “The QDS system supports Cambodia's own initiative for a comprehensive seed certification system,” she added.



For his part, H.E. Veng Sakhon thanked the Government of Australia through the CAVAC programme and the Government of Japan through JICA for their material, technical and financial support for the implementation of QDS project. It is hoped that the project will be strengthened and expanded nationwide, based on the highest quality assurance of all varieties.

Under the QDS, farmers have access to a special labelling system certifying the quality of their rice seeds, the embassy said.

Rice plays a key role as an economic driver in Cambodia, supporting rural development and food security. Ensuring farmers grow paddy from rice seeds of good quality remains a challenge.

CAMBODIA EXPORTS OVER 220,000 TONNES OF MILLED RICE IN FOUR MONTHS

Cambodia exported 221,138 tonnes of milled rice from January to April 2022, netting more than US\$139.4 million.

The update was shared recently by the Cambodia Rice Federation, stressing that the total milled rice export increased by 14.88 percent compared to the same period in 2021.

Of the exported milled rice, 67.12 percent were fragrant rice, while white rice accounted for 30.13 percent, parboiled rice 1.07 percent, and organic rice 1.68 percent.

China remains the biggest market importing 115,255 tonnes of Cambodian milled rice, followed by EU countries and ASEAN nations buying 68,555 tonnes and 21,876 tonnes of the product respectively.

During the period, Cambodia also exported nearly 1.65 million tonnes of paddy rice to Vietnam, generating over US\$376 million.

