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HIS MAJESTY THE KING PRESIDES OVER THE NATIONAL ARBOUR DAY 2022



His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia on 09 July 2022 presided over the National Arbour Day at the Sambuor Meas Forest Promotion and Rehabilitation Station in Sambuor Meas village, Snoeng commune, Banan district, Battambang province.

Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei Say Chhum, President of the Senate; Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly; Samdech Krolahom Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior also attended this annual event.

In his royal speech, His Majesty the King expressed his heartfelt appreciation for Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for his wise and skillful leadership which has successfully dealt with the spread of COVID-19 within Cambodia. "Building on this success, all social activities have been revived and all sectors have been recovering. For instance, we have resumed the celebration of the Tree Planting Day after it was skipped for two years," he added.

All of these achievements have provided Cambodian people with opportunities to live with happiness, security and good public order and these also gained international recognition, the monarch said.

Every year, the Royal Government of Cambodia has observed the National Arbour Day at all capital and provinces across the country.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING: CAMBODIA NEVER FORGETS SUPPORT EXTENDED BY LATE SHINZO ABE

Issue 97 (01-15 Jul 2022)



His Majesty Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, has affirmed that Cambodia will never forget the support and assistance provided by the late former Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Shinzo ABE, to the Cambodian people.

"Cambodian men and women will never forget the precious support and aids that H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo ABE had kindly granted, on behalf of Japan, to Cambodia in so many areas of its national construction," wrote the Cambodian monarch in his recent condolence message to His Majesty Naruhito, Emperor of Japan.

His Majesty the King also recalled a vivid memory of his meeting with Shinzo ABE during his visit to Tokyo in October 2019 to attend the Coronation ceremony of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Cambodia observed a day of mourning on 10 July 2022. All public and private institutions in the country lowered the flag at half-mast to show Cambodia's solidarity and mourning with the royal family, government and people of Japan for the loss of Shinzo ABE, a great friend of Cambodia.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING PRESIDES OVER...

"Our Cambodian people truly understand that forests are great natural resources for the life of human beings and animals on our planet," His Majesty the King underlined. "I would like this tree planting day to be embedded in the hearts of all our compatriots and become a tradition of solidarity in which together we plant all trees, preserve, protect and develop our precious forest-wildlife resources for their everlasting existence. Forestation is a green investment in nature which provides numerous benefits for all beings on our planet."

The first National Arbour Day was held in 1952 to reflect the efforts of Cambodian leaders to prevent the loss of forests, and promote accountability to safeguard the motherland and natural resources for future generations.

In 2019, His Majesty the King marked the event at Sre Treng village in Sambor district's Kbal Damrei commune, Kratie province, where 13,135 rare and luxurious wood saplings – including Korkoh, Angkanh, Thnong, Kranhuong and Korki – were planted on 10ha of land on the occasion.

CAMBODIAN HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION PAYS HOMAGE TO LATE H.E. ABE SHINZO



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a high-level delegation to pay his last respects to late former Prime Minister of Japan H.E. ABE Shinzo, at the Embassy of Japan in Phnom Penh on 11 July 2022.

On the occasion, the Cambodian Prime Minister signed the book of condolences, expressing his deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences over the passing of H.E. ABE Shinzo, which is a great loss and indescribable suffering.

"A long-time good friend of mine and Cambodia, the Late Prime Minister ABE Shinzo had worked closely with me in enhancing the bilateral relations between Cambodia and Japan during his premiership, including the elevation of our bilateral cooperation to Strategic Partnership in 2013. His Excellency ABE will be dearly missed, and his legacy will be forever remembered," Samdech Techo Hun Sen wrote.

H.E. ABE Shinzo has passed away at hospital after being shot at twice while giving a campaign speech in Nara city of Japan on 08 July 2022.

CAMBODIA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO SUCCESSFULLY HOST SEA GAMES AND ASEAN PARA GAMES NEXT YEAR

Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen on 11 July 2022 reaffirmed Cambodia's commitment to successfully host the 32nd SEA Games and 12th ASEAN Para Games in 2023.

"Cambodia has been waiting for 64 years before deciding to host the 2023 SEA Games and ASEAN Para Games. We have missed this opportunity many times to be fully prepared and mobilise the necessary resources to organise this large regional sporting event well and smoothly with a high sense of responsibility," Samdech Techo Hun Sen said while presiding over at Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel the ASEAN Para Sports Federation and SEAGF Council Meeting.

As the host of the SEA Games and the ASEAN Para Games in 2023, he continued, Cambodia has the ambition to welcome national and international guests and sports delegates with warmth, good hospitality and good service so as to provide the best experience during the participation in the 2023 SEA Games and ASEAN Para Games in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen underlined that 2022-2023 is an important year for Cambodia as the chair of ASEAN and the host of SEA Games and ASEAN Para Games.



As the rotating chair of the two regional institutions, he continued, Cambodia is highly committed to the principles of peaceful and equitable cooperation, contributing to the resolution of any potential regional challenges to ensure peace, harmonisation and all-round partnership aimed at accelerating the development for common destiny and prosperity.

"Sports sector plays an important role in international relations. The biennial SEA Games and the ASEAN Para Games reflect the close ties, solidarity and close cooperation between the Government and the people of all member countries.

CAMBODIA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO SUCCESSFULLY HOST SEA GAMES...

In addition, sports are also an opportunity to provide both technical and experience exchange in sports, which is the cultural heritage and martial arts of each nation," he said.

This international competition is also to inspire the masses to love and support the sport and also to enhance the sports reputation of each member country to be more famous on the international stage, stressed Samdech Techo Prime Minister.

Cambodia marked the 300-day countdown of the SEA Games and ASEAN Para Games 2023 last Friday.

The 32nd SEA Games and 12th Para Games 2023 will be organised under the motto "Sport: Live in Peace", and Cambodia will host those games from May 5 to 17, 2023 and from June 1 to 10, 2023 respectively. About 10,000 people, including 7,000 athletes, coaches and technical sport officers, are expected to join the event with about 40 kinds of sports to be held in five locations – Phnom Penh capital, and Siem Reap, Preah Sihanouk, Kampot and Kep provinces.

CAMBODIA-UAE BILATERAL TRADE REACHES US\$150 MILLION IN 2021

The two-way trade between Cambodia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has saw a significant increase of 53 percent to reach US\$150 million last year despite the COVID-19 crisis, the Cambodian Ministry of Commerce pointed out.

The figures were highlighted in a recent meeting via videoconference between Cambodia's Minister of Commerce H.E. Pan Sorasak, and H.E. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade at the UAE Ministry of Economy.

According to H.E. Pan Sorasak, the UAE is the 26th largest market for Cambodian products. Most of the products exported to the UAE include textiles, footwear, travel goods, bicycles, milled rice, and so on.

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ASEAN EXTENDS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON LOSS OF H.E. SHINZO ABE



ASEAN
CAMBODIA 2022

ASEAN A.C.T.:
Addressing Challenges Together

The Foreign Ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has issued a statement on the fatal shooting of former Prime Minister H.E. Shinzo Abe of Japan.

"We, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers, are shocked and saddened by the fatal shooting of His Excellency Shinzo Abe, former Prime Minister of Japan, in Nara on 8 July 2022, for which there can be no justification," read the statement.

"We express our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Government and people of Japan and to the family of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has been a beloved and good friend of ASEAN," it added.

H.E. Shinzo Abe was pronounced dead on 08 July 2022 a few hours after being shot at twice while giving a campaign speech in Nara city in western Japan.

MINE CLEARANCE'S PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT IN FIRST SEMESTER REVIEWED

The Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and donor community held a hybrid event for the mid-year 2022 project board meeting of the "Clearing for Results, Phase 4 – Mine Action for Human Development Project" on 07 July 2022.

The meeting was presided over by H.E. Ly Thuch, Senior Minister and First Vice President of CMAA, Ms. Ji Yea Kyung, Deputy Country Director of KOICA Cambodia Office, and Ms. Sonali Dayaratne, UNDP's Deputy Resident Representative in Cambodia, along with CMAA and UNDP colleagues, and the participation of the representatives from DFAT, New Zealand, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Cambodia.

According to a press release of KOICA on 07 July 2022, the meeting was to review project achievements from January to June 2022, key priorities for July to December 2022, implementation challenges, and financial update.



All participants actively participated in the meeting and shared their insights and opinions on the mentioned topics which led to the fruitful result of the meeting.

The Clearing for Results-Phase 4 (CFR-IV) Project is in line with the National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS) of Cambodia and is highly feasible to contribute to the Mine-Free Cambodia, an SDG 18th goal set by the Cambodian government itself, and KOICA has been supporting for mine clearance activities in Cambodia by providing US\$10 million from 2021 to 2025.

OVER 280,000 TOURISTS TRAVEL DURING SECOND WEEKEND OF JULY

A total of 285,808 national and international visitors toured Cambodia in the second weekend of July.

The figure suggested a decline by nearly 4 percent compared to the previous weekend, according to a report of the Ministry of Tourism,

explaining that the decrease is due in part to the rainy season.

Of the tourists, 264,881 were national visitors and 20,927 were internal foreign tourists.

The most visited tourist destination was Preah Sihanouk coastal province, followed by the provinces of Siem Reap, Battambang and

CAMBODIA-UAE BILATERAL...

At the same time, Cambodia particularly imports petroleum, fertilisers, tobacco, ceramic products, etc. from the UAE.

In the meeting, both sides exchanged views and were committed to further promoting the bilateral cooperation between the two countries, especially in the areas of trade and investment.

CAMBODIA'S EXPORTS AMOUNTED TO US\$11.37 BILLION IN FIRST SEMESTER

Cambodia exported a total of US\$11.37 billion in merchandise to foreign markets in the first half of this year, a year-on-year increase of 33.9 percent.

The figures were shared by the General Department of Customs and Excise, adding that at the same time, the Kingdom imported US\$15.86 billion worth of goods, up 11.9 percent.

The U.S. remains Cambodia's biggest market in the January-June period by importing US\$4,648 million worth of Cambodian products, up 54 percent, followed by Vietnam US\$1,174 million, up 3.4 percent.

On the other hand, China is the biggest market of Cambodia's import with US\$5,374 million, up 24.2 percent, followed by Vietnam and Thailand with US\$2,086 million and US\$2,016 million, respectively.

The Royal Government of Cambodia's successful COVID-19 control has enabled the country to resume all socio-economic activities with confidence.

OVER 280,000 TOURISTS TRAVEL...

Kampot, and the capital of Phnom Penh.

The Ministry of Tourism and the Provincial and Municipal Tourism Departments continued to enforce the implementation of safety standard operating procedures (SOPs) introduced by the ministry to prevent possible transmission of COVID-19.

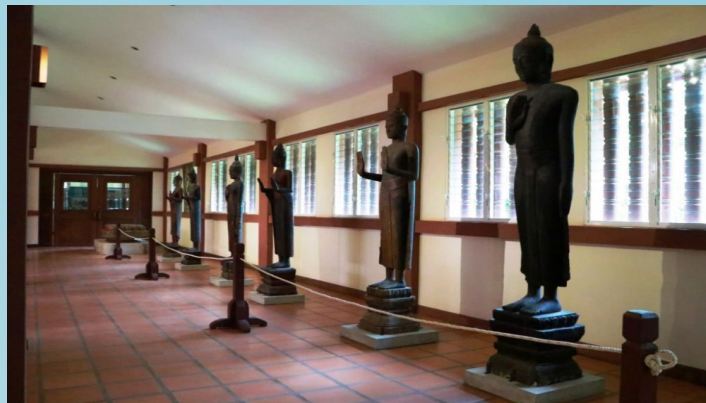
RESTORED SANDSTONE BUDDHA FOOT STATUE AND SIX WOODEN BUDDHA STATUES ON DISPLAY AT PREAH NORODOM SIHANOUK-ANGKOR MUSEUM

The Norodom Sihanouk-Angkor Museum is exhibiting six ancient wooden Buddha statues and one sandstone Buddha Foot statue to show the public after experts have restored those artifacts, said the APSARA National Authority in a news release on 07 July 2022.

According to the same source, those Buddha statues were taken by conservationists from the Angkor Wat's Preah Poan gallery to be preserved, repaired, and maintained for a long time at the Angkor Conservation.

Acting Director of the Norodom Sihanouk-Angkor Museum, Mr. Pen Chamrong, said that those Buddha statues were kept and restored by the Angkor Conservation's experts. Later, the Minister of Culture and Fine Arts and President of the Board of Directors of APSARA National Authority, H.E. Dr. PHOEURN Sackona, visited the Angkor Conservation and found that the six wooden Buddha statues and Buddha Foot statue had been restored. She advised to take those Khmer artifacts to exhibit to the public.

Mr. Pen Chamrong said that following the recommendation of the Minister of Culture and Fine Arts, the Norodom Sihanouk-Angkor Museum cooperated with the Angkor Conservation to organise an exhibition of the six Buddha statues and one sandstone Buddha Foot statue from May 2022 until now. This is the first time the Norodom Sihanouk-Angkor Museum has received a statue from Angkor Conservation to exhibit at the



Mr. Kun Phally, a technical staff and guide at the Norodom Sihanouk-Angkor Museum said that the six wooden statues were built in the post-Angkorian period between the 14th and 18th centuries, resembling the Bayon style. Separately, the sandstone Buddha Foot statue is 13 cm high, 210 cm by 115 cm. Through photographs of old documents from 1906, these statues can be seen mixed with other statues, including the Buddha Foot statue at the Angkor Wat's Preah Poan gallery.

He added that the Norodom Sihanouk-Angkor Museum is the first museum of archeology and Buddhism collection in Siem Reap, a collection of knowledge on the history, art history, and changes of the Khmer religion in the past.

CAMBODIA ENDS QUARANTINE REQUIREMENT FOR UNVACCINATED OR PARTIALLY VACCINATED PASSENGERS

All passengers not yet vaccinated or partially vaccinated against the COVID-19 pandemic are not required to conduct quarantine anymore when entering Cambodia.

The removal of quarantine requirement was announced by the Ministry of Health in a press release made public on 08 July 2022.

But, it underlined, the travellers must do a rapid test upon arrival in Cambodia. If the test result is negative, they are allowed to continue to their respective destinations without being quarantined.

If they were found positive for COVID-19, for mild cases, they must be in isolation at their respective accommodations or at a place designated by the Ministry of Health, said the source, continuing that for serious cases, the patients must be treated at hospital at their own expense.

The rapid test service upon arrival at the airport costs US\$5 per person for foreign passengers, the press release pointed out.

For those who failed to receive COVID-19 vaccines, both the basic and booster doses, for any reasons besides health problems are encouraged to be inoculated free of charge at the vaccination centres across Cambodia, it added.

The Ministry of Health also took the opportunity to call on all travellers to be careful and continue to carry out the "Three Dos, Three Don'ts" measure and to follow up their own health to avoid eventual COVID-19 infection.

PREAH VIHEAR FARMERS HELP TO GROW TURMERIC FOR EXPORT

USAID Greening Prey Lang through a programme by Krassna Management is supporting farmers in Preah Vihear province to grow turmeric for export.

The Krassna Management recently met with agricultural cooperatives in Chhep and Kulen districts to select 51 families to plant the turmeric.

For its pilot stage, the total of about 34 hectares of land surface will be used for the cultivation, according to USAID Greening Prey Lang.

Krassna Management will lend farmers good quality seeds as a loan to be repaid when they purchase turmeric from the contracted farmers' first harvest, and support them with technical soil preparation, growing, cultivation and storage of the harvest, continued the source.

The turmeric development programme will play a crucial role not only in improving community people's living condition, but also in conserving forest and biodiversity, added the source.