

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

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## PM CONGRATULATES CAMBODIAN 2ND GOLD MEDALIST AT 11TH ASEAN PARA GAMES

Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen has extended his congratulations to the Cambodian second gold medalist at the 11th ASEAN Para Games 2022 in Solo, Indonesia.

"Congratulations to athlete Vith Chantha for winning a gold medal in women's long jump event at the 11th ASEAN Para Games in Solo, Indonesia in the morning of 01 August 2022," said the Prime Minister in a Facebook post on 01 August 2022.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister also wished the Cambodian athlete more success.

As of 01 August 2022, Cambodia has earned three medals including two gold in wheelchair basketball and long jump; and a bronze, according to the Cambodian SEA Games Organising Committee (CAMSOC).

Cambodia has sent 115 athletes to compete in 11 sport disciplines including athletics, swimming, men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's wheelchair basketball, blind basketball, Seven-a-side football, table tennis, badminton, weightlifting, chess, and boccia.

In the 9th ASEAN Para Games in Malaysia, Cambodia got 5 silver and 5 bronze medals. The 10th games, scheduled to be hosted by the Philippines, were cancelled due to the COVID-19 threat.



## THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN-MOTHER GRANT US\$1.5 MILLION FOR GOVERNMENT'S DEMINING ACTIVITIES



His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, and Her Majesty Queen-Mother Norodom Monineath Sihanouk have granted in total US\$1.5 million to the government's mine-clearance operations. In two separate royal messages dated July 23 to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Majesty the

King donated US\$500,000 and Her Majesty the Queen-Mother US\$1 million for demining activities in the country.

Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen has recently launched a national movement – Project for Mine Action (STP-MA) themed "Providing Safe Ground, Creating smiles" – to mobilise resources from donors across the country and beyond to achieve mine-free Cambodia in 2025.

## 55TH AMM AND RELATED MEETINGS UNDERWAY

The 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (55th AMM) and Related Meetings, hosted by Cambodia in Phnom Penh, are underway, while senior officials of ASEAN member countries and dialogue partners have arrived and are going to arrive successively.

The participants of the meetings are 9 ASEAN countries, 11 ASEAN dialogue partners, 4 sectoral dialogue partners, 4 development partners, member countries of the ASEAN Regional Forum, and ASEAN Chair 2022's guest countries.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said the 55th AMM and Related Meetings began on July 29 in Phnom Penh.

"It will be a hectic week for all professionals and support staff involved. During this historic event, we seek kind understanding from our local residents for the traffic congestion and other protocol arrangements," he said.

This once-in-a-decade duty will be yet another milestone for Cambodia as a member of ASEAN as well as an active contributor to this region, he added.

Since July 29, 2022, a number of related meetings have begun, including the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) chaired by H.E. Mrs. Eat Sophea, Secretary of State at

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## 55TH AMM...

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, SOM Leader of Cambodia to ASEAN; the Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR), led by H.E. Ambassador Yeap Samnang, Permanent Representative of Cambodia to ASEAN; and the SOM Drafting Committee Meeting chaired by H.E. Sim Virak, Director General of the ASEAN General Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Besides the host country – Cambodia, the delegations that have arrived and are scheduled to arrive in Phnom Penh include Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Other countries are Timor-Leste, South Korea, India, the United States, New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates, the European Union,



Qatar, Türkiye, Denmark, China, Canada, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Russia, Japan, Australia, Pakistan, Mongolia, Bangladesh, North Korea, Azerbaijan, Morocco, Greece, Sri Lanka, the Netherlands, Oman, and Papua New Guinea.

## CAMBODIA SHARES INSIGHTS TO UN-ESCAP'S POLICY DIALOGUE



Cambodian senior official on 28 July 2022 shared some insights to the Policy Dialogue on the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2022 organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP).

This policy dialogue also serves as a venue to discuss major development challenges that Cambodia is currently facing and available policy options to address them, said H.E. Ly Thuch, Senior Minister and President of National Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (NA-ESCAP).

Over the past two years, he continued, the Covid-19 pandemic crisis has damaged the socio-economic progress in developing countries achieved under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

H.E. Ly Thuch said at present, the region and the world are continuing to face increasingly

acute challenges with complicated and unpredictable manner to the development, including geo-political rivalries, military, trade and technological wars, climate change, monetary policy tightening etc. These factors have been causing changes in the global economic architecture and disrupting the globalisation trend, which has significantly reduced the global value chain and productivity.

"In this circumstance, we must adhere to the spirit of openness and support for the multilateral trading system as well as strengthen multilateralism, especially promote the openness for international trade and reduce trade barriers, particularly on strategic commodities such as food, medicine, and energy, in order to foster sustainable economic growth and enhance the resilience of regional and global value chains," he underlined.

Taking this rare opportunity, H.E. Ly Thuch briefly informed the participants about the Covid-19 situation and recent economic development in Cambodia. Under the guidance and leadership of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, as of 25 July 2022, the Royal Government has achieved the vaccination rate of more than 94 percent of the total population of 16 million. On socio-economic front, the Royal Government of Cambodia has been formulating and implementing concrete policy measures to attract

## CAMBODIA SHARES INSIGHTS...

additional foreign investments by building infrastructure and improving the transportation system – both soft and hard, improving trade facilitation, developing human resource, setting up IT and digital system as well as developing financial sector.

In particular, he stressed, the Royal Government of Cambodia has expanded wider exporting markets by establishing various free trade agreements, namely: (1). Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP), (2). Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement, and (3). Cambodia-Korea Free Trade Agreement, which will come into effect soon.

Thanks to these openness policies of Cambodia's total export to other member countries of RCEP totalled US\$3.28 billion in the first half of 2022, up 10 percent year-on-year. I, he said.

Overall, these positive developments have transformed Cambodia into a more important and potential centre for production, businesses, and investments in the region, with larger and more competitive exporting markets for investors from all over the world, H.E. Ly Thuch underlined.

## MINISTER: GENDER MAINSTREAMING NEEDS PARTICIPATION FROM ALL PARTIES



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## SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS SEEKS MORE TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CAMBODIA



A delegation of Samsung Electronics led by its President and CEO for Southeast Asia and Oceania Mr. Sangho Jo has sought more trade and investment opportunities, and cooperation in trade promotion in Cambodia. The delegation paid a courtesy call on Cambodian Minister of Commerce H.E. Pan Sorasak at the ministry office on 27 July 2022. On the occasion, H.E. Minister briefed the delegation on the Royal Government's endeavours in improving business environment

in the country and boosting the economic recovery in the post-COVID-19 crisis.

H.E. Pan Sorasak further reaffirmed the readiness of Cambodia to implement Cambodia-South Korea Free Trade Agreement, and asked the Korean side through Samsung company to speed up the ratification process for common benefits.

He also emphasised Cambodia's stance to support the candidacy of Busan of South Korea to host the World Expo in 2030.

For his part, Mr. Sangho Jo lauded the fast development of Cambodia, and informed the minister about background and business as well as social activities of Samsung Cambodia, a Branch of Thai Samsung Electronics.

Mr. Sangho Jo said that the company would introduce Samsung Innovative Campus programme at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) and invited H.E. Pan Sorasak to preside over the event.

## ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING IN PHNOM PENH KICKS OFF



The ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) hosted by Cambodia began officially on 01 August 2022 (Phnom Penh time), during which participants are expected to develop innovative solutions to address interconnected global issues.

The ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mrs. Eat Sophea, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, SOM Leader of Cambodia to ASEAN.

H.E. Mrs. Eat Sophea will brief the meeting on key deliverables to be achieved during Cambodia's Chairmanship under the theme "ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together", in responding to the strategic challenges facing the region, including effective control of the Covid-19 pandemic and inclusive recovery process,

geo-political rivalries, existing traditional and non-traditional issues, and strengthening ASEAN's cohesiveness, centrality and resilience. Cambodia is hosting the 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (55th AMM) and Related Meetings from July 29 to Aug. 5, 2022. According to a press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the 55th AMM and Related Meetings include the Meeting of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free-zone (SEANWFZ) Commission, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Interface Meeting with ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Representatives, the 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (55th AMM), the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC+1) with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, the 23rd ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the 12th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and the 29th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, will preside over the opening ceremony of the 55th AMM and receive a joint courtesy call by the Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

## MINISTER: GENDER MAINSTREAMING NEEDS PARTICIPATION...

Gender mainstreaming requires participation from all parties, including role model women who can inspire other women to take part in social activities and change negative mindset for women.

H.E. Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs, made the note in a meeting with H.E. Mrs. Folakemi I. Akinleye, Manila-based Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Cambodia here in Phnom Penh on 27 July 2022.

The minister underlined the situation of Cambodia's women and children, as well as key policy frameworks supporting gender equality, such as rectangular strategy phase IV, national development strategic plan, 5th Neary Rattanak strategic plan, national action plan on prevention of violence against women and regional mechanisms.

She also laid stress on key achievements by the government, especially the increasing number of women in politics, education, vocational training, economy and beyond.

H.E. Mrs. Folakemi I. Akinleye appreciated the achievements and the effort of Royal Government of Cambodia as well as the Ministry of Women's Affairs in promoting gender equality in Cambodia.

## ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING...

On the margins of the 55th AMM, the Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN will witness the signing of the Instruments of Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) by the Kingdom of Denmark, the Hellenic Republic, the Netherland, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. They will also attend the ASEAN Prize 2021 Award ceremony.

There will be three separate trilateral meetings of Cambodia, and the ASEAN Secretariat with three ASEAN Dialogue Partners, namely Norway, Türkiye and Switzerland.

Apart from the above-mentioned ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partners and the six countries acceding the TAC, four other countries have been invited as Guests of the Chair of ASEAN 2022, namely Papua New Guinea, Morocco, Timor-Leste and Azerbaijan.



## OVER 2.4 MILLION TONNES OF CAMBODIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE EXPORTED TO CHINA

Cambodia exported more than 2.4 million tonnes of its agricultural produce worth US\$1.942 million to the Chinese market from 2019 to the first half of 2022.

The figures were shared at an online Forum on Cambodia-China agricultural cooperation within the “Belt and Road” framework, hosted yesterday by China Central Radio and Television and Cambodia-China Friendship Radio, with the participation of representatives of the private sector and other relevant parties.

Cambodian agricultural produce exported to China include fresh banana, milled rice, dried cassava chips, cassava flour, mango jam, rubber latex, fresh mangoes, processed cashew nuts, cocoa powder, and so on.

At the forum, H.E. Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, highlighted the contribution of the “Belt and Road” Initiative to the agricultural development in Cambodia, through cooperation on rice farming, growing of cassava, vegetables, tropical fruits, corn and natural rubber, and fish and animal raising; agricultural product processing; improvement of investment environment for Chinese investors; and technical and financial support and construction of supporting infrastructure.

## NBC: CAMBODIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH EXPECTED AT 5.3% THIS YEAR

Cambodia's economy is expected to continue to grow at 5.3 percent, mainly supported by growth in manufacturing exports, construction and real estate, agriculture, and gradual recovery of tourism sector, according to the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC).

The projected economic growth this year is higher than in 2021, at 3 percent, said H.E. Chea Chanto, Governor of NBC in the closing ceremony of a meeting to review the NBC's work achievements in the first semester of 2022 and set new objectives for the second semester held here this week.

With the optimistic growth, Cambodia is also expected to be hit by the uncertain conditions of the economy slowdown in the European Union and in China, he added.

“The Cambodian economy may face some uncertainties, such as the risk of a slowdown in the EU economic growth, which could affect Cambodian exports and a slowdown in China's economic growth, which could slow growth in investment and the recovery of tourism and real estate,” the NBC governor said.

Additionally, although the U.S. Federal Reserve raises the benchmark interest rate, it does not directly affect that in Cambodia, however it could put pressure on the exchange rate due to the appreciation of the U.S. dollar in international markets, he underlined.

With oil prices predicted to decrease, inflation – at its highest in a decade fueled by rising global oil and food prices – looks to follow suit in the second half of this year, H.E. Chea Chanto said.

## TIGER REINTRODUCTION REMAINS CAMBODIA'S LONG-TERM CONSERVATION GOAL

Tiger reintroduction in Cambodia remains a long-term conservation goal for the Royal Government, the Ministry of Environment (MoE), WWF-Cambodia and partners.

It's important for Cambodia to reintroduce tigers in the forests they once inhabited in, which is the eastern plain landscape, said WWF-Cambodia in statement released today on the occasion of the International Tiger Day (July 29).

The effort will involve recovering tiger's prey base and creating favorable conditions for a reintroduction of the ‘big cat’ in the future, it added.

In Cambodia, the last Tiger was photographed by camera trap in 2007 in Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary of Mondulkiri province, the same source pointed out, continuing that in 2016, wildlife scientists declared the big cat is functionally extinct in the Kingdom.

Sanctuary of Mondulkiri province, the same source pointed out, continuing that in 2016, wildlife scientists declared the big cat is functionally extinct in the Kingdom.

“As the world's largest cat and an apex predator, tigers play a significant role in the structure and function of the ecosystem on which both humans and wildlife rely. Securing tiger landscapes has far-reaching benefits, including the protection of forests which help prevent drought, reduce flooding and mitigate climate change,” said WWF-Cambodia. “They are a ‘landscape’ species, needing large areas with diverse habitats, free from human disturbance and rich in prey. Success or failure means more than securing the future of a single iconic species – it sets a precedent for how we will consider.

