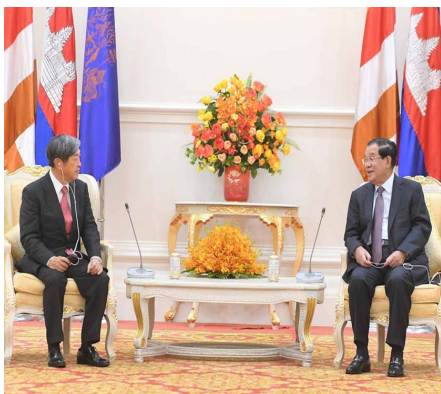


VISIONS of CAMBODIA

ISSUE 102: 16-30 September 2022

CAMBODIAN PM RECEIVES FORMER JICA PRESIDENT



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, received at the Peace Palace On 16 September 2022 a courtesy call from visiting Dr. KITAOKA Shinichi, Former President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

According to H.E. Eang Sophalleth, Assistant to the Cambodian Prime Minister, during the meeting, Dr. KITAOKA Shinichi, current Special Advisor to the JICA President, spoke highly of the good relations, cooperation and partnership between Cambodia and Japan.

He also highly valued Cambodia's ASEAN chairmanship, particularly its efforts in finding solution to the Myanmar issue.

Dr. KITAOKA Shinichi thanked Samdech Techo Hun Sen for his condolence message on the passing of former Japanese Prime Minister H.E. Abe Shinzo.

For his part, Samdech Techo Hun Sen recalled H.E. Abe Shinzo's key contributions to the development of Cambodia as well as the region, especially in the Japan-Mekong framework.

The passing of Abe Shinzo is the loss of a friend who assisted Cambodia in difficult time, he underlined.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister is scheduled to attend the state funeral of H.E. Abe Shinzo on 27 September 2022, after delivering his speech at the 77th session of the UN General Assembly and paying an official visit to Cuba.

CAMBODIAN PM: DEMISE OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II, A GREAT LOSS TO THE WORLD



The demise of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II not only causes a great loss to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Commonwealth, but also to the world at large.

The comments were made by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in his condolence message dated on 09 September 2022 to The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

"It is with profound grief to have learnt of the passing of Her Majesty Elizabeth II, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on the 08th of September 2022 in the Balmoral Castle, Scotland," he said.

"Her Majesty Elizabeth II, who has emerged as a beloved public figure through her reign, discipline and inspiration, will forever be remembered in the heart of all the British people and many others around the world," he added.

"In this moment of deep sorrow, please allow me to extend my deepest sorrow, sympathy and condolences on behalf of the Royal Government and the People of Cambodia to Your Honorable and especially through you to the bereaved families of the Royal Households for this immense loss. May her soul rests in peace," the Cambodian Prime Minister concluded.

CAMBODIA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT AS ASEAN CHAIR FOR 2022

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has reiterated Cambodia's commitment to assure all duties and role as the Chair of ASEAN for this year.

"As the Chair of ASEAN in 2022, Cambodia has been actively involved in expanding and strengthening cooperation and partnership in all forms and fields, including socio-economy, trade, investment and politics with friendly countries, development partners and

international communities, in both national and regional frameworks, particularly, by organising dialogues with participation from all stakeholders," he said on 12 September 2022 while presiding over the opening ceremony of the 2022 ASEAN Leadership and Partnership Forum under the theme "Partnerships for a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN". Cambodia wants to see the ASEAN region as well as the whole world having true

Continued page (2)

CAMBODIA COMMITTED TO HOST RCEP SECRETARIAT

The Kingdom of Cambodia has expressed its commitment to host the secretariat of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

In his remarks at the opening ceremony of the 54th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings in Siem Reap provincial city on 14 September 2022, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chair of ASEAN for 2022, laid stress on the need to maximise the benefits of RCEP, which was generally entered into force on 01 January 2022, and existing ASEAN plus one agreement with further upgrading in order to promote the regional economic growth.

Regarding maximising the benefit of RCEP agreement, he said, member states should make the utmost effort in implementing commitments and continue the negotiations on opening up the markets, aimed to attract other big economies to participate in this agreement. In this regard, this agreement should have its independent and authoritative secretariat that plays a key role in coordinating, promoting, and monitoring the implementation of this agreement.

"Cambodia remains interested and offers all possibilities and concessions to host this secretariat," the Prime Minister underlined.

Besides, Samdech Techo Hun Sen called on ASEAN to devote more attention is to timely respond to the new trends in global trade architecture. Certainly, new issues include: rising oil price crisis, high inflation rate, environment, climate change, pandemics, etc.



has triggered the trend of regional and global trade to move toward the new normal; however, this does not mean that all these challenges require countries across the world to use them as protectionism tool, create trade barriers, and disrupt the regional and global supply chains, or establish law and international agreements that serve its own interests or small group of their allies, he explained.

"In this regard, ASEAN should continue to work in unity to coordinate and intensify the establishment of global framework for international trade which is transparent, non-discriminatory and serve the interest of all countries," he said.

On the other hand, Samdech Techo Hun Sen mentioned once again about Cambodia's initiative to establish ASEAN Green Deal, which, he believed, will enable the ASEAN region to gradually transform toward green future with sustainability, resiliency, efficient utilisation of resource, and economic competitiveness.

WIPO APPRECIATES CAMBODIA'S DEVELOPMENT

Visiting H.E. Daren Tang, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), has lauded and congratulated Cambodia on its rapid development.

While paying a courtesy visit to Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh on 16 September 2022, H.E. Daren Tang said he had visited Cambodia many times and each time he witnessed the country's rapid development, H.E. Eang Sophalleth, Assistant to the Cambodian Prime Minister told reporters after *the meeting*.

Continued on page (3)



CAMBODIA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT ...

sustainable and inclusive peace, stability and prosperity, with respect for the sovereignty of each country, compliance with international laws, especially the United Nations Charter, and adherence to multilateral mechanisms that are based on dialogues with participation from stakeholders and joint efforts to address challenges in a peaceful, open, understanding and patient manner, the Prime Minister underlined.

On the occasion, Samdech Techo Hun Sen also shared some of his own views to give additional inputs for the discussion in today's forum as follows:

First, Socio-economic development cannot be achieved, unless there is complete stability and peace. In this sense, ASEAN must avoid the fire of war, where there is no winner or loser, but only destruction and loss of people's lives. Cambodia, as a country that had experienced many bitter histories because of wars, would like to insist that peaceful settlements of disputes, in a spirit of mutual understanding, and the setting of the well-being of the people as a top priority are win-win policies, leading to true peace and prosperity;

Second, In the context where geopolitical competition is heating up, ASEAN must act as a role model and work together to ensure regional peace, stability and prosperity, by strengthening ASEAN Unity and Centrality and strictly adhering to partnerships and multilateral mechanisms to address challenges. Furthermore, ASEAN must also play a central role and serve as a platform for dialogues and cooperation, while reinforcing an open, transparent, inclusive, and rules-based regional architecture;

Third, To achieve a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery, we must continue to promote economic integration and turn ASEAN into an attractive and dynamic trade and investment hub, particularly by reducing tax and non-tax barriers, and providing mutual supports to accelerate the implementation, and take full advantage of free trade agreements, especially the RCEP Agreement, which is the largest free trade agreement in global history.

Continued on page (3)

CAMBODIA, ADB HIGHLY APPRECIATE CLOSE COOPERATION PARTNERSHIP



Cambodia and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have lauded their close partnership and cooperation and looked forward to further strengthening them.

The appreciation was made during a meeting here on 13 September 2022 between H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Ms. Jyotsana VARMA, newly appointed ADB Country Director for Cambodia.

According to a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, during the courtesy call, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister extended his warm welcome and congratulations to Ms. Jyotsana VARMA for her appointment. He underlined the importance of close cooperation partnership between Cambodia and ADB and thanked ADB, as one of Cambodia's main development partners, for its assistance and financing toward Cambodia, which has contributed significantly to the socio-economic development in Cambodia.

Particularly during the critical time of global health threat, he continued, ADB assisted the Royal Government of Cambodia in its immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic through programmes to strengthen the country's health care system, increase social assistance to the poor and vulnerable, and provide economic stimulus to businesses, including SMEs.

Ms. Jyotsana VARMA was pleased with the close partnership and good cooperation between both sides. While expressing her optimism on Cambodia's economic outlook, she further congratulated Cambodia, as the Chair of ASEAN, on the recent successful convening of the 55th AMM and Related Meetings in early August 2022, which highly reflected Cambodia's stature in the international community.

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister and Ms. Jyotsana VARMA looked forward to working together during this challenging year to further promote the inclusive and sustainable post COVID-19 growth.

Taking this opportunity, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister also informed Ms. VARMA that Samdech Techo Prime Minister has extended an invitation to the President of ADB, as Guest of the ASEAN Chair, to attend the 2nd ASEAN Global Dialogue to be held on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summits and Related Summits on 10-13 November 2022 in Phnom Penh.

WIPO APPRECIATES CAMBODIA'S DEVELOPMENT...

H.E. Daren Tang informed Samdech Techo Hun Sen of WIPO's work and said that his visit to Cambodia this time is to attend an ASEAN ministerial meeting and to learn more about which area WIPO can provide its assistance for Cambodia.

In reply, Samdech Techo Prime Minister asked WIPO to help Cambodia in registration of its GI crops.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen shared with the WIPO director general about his remarks on increasing regional trade, for example the trade between Cambodia-Vietnam, Cambodia-Thailand and Cambodia-Laos, during the COVID-19 crisis, which reflects the active operation of ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

He also noticed that the war in Ukraine is one thing, but excessive sanctions lead to economic crisis not only in Europe, but also in other countries, including Cambodia.

EIB TO HELP DEVELOP CAMBODIA'S...

development of the sector to boost economic growth is crucial and requires cooperation with different players.

H.E. Veng Sakhon welcomed and supported the intention to help develop Cambodia's agriculture at present and in the future.

The Minister shared that to develop the agriculture in line with the agricultural development policy and plan 2022-2030, all projects need to link to agricultural modernisation, infrastructure development, supportive value chain, and human resources development.

He also briefed Mr. Kris Peeters on the progress of Cambodia's agriculture, transforming from food insecurity to food surplus in the country.

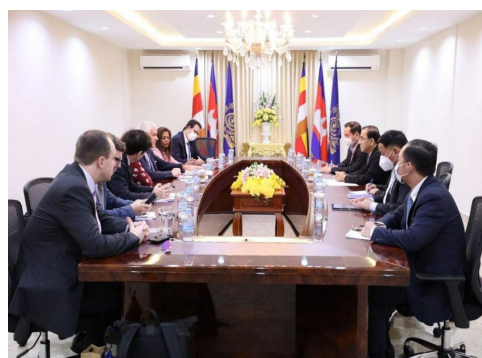
Cambodia has exported its agricultural products to the international markets in the region and the world including the EU, he added.

EIB TO HELP DEVELOP CAMBODIA'S AGRICULTURE AND AQUACULTURE

European Investment Bank (EIB) in Asia and the Pacific and EU have pledged to help develop Cambodia's agriculture and aquaculture.

The commitment was made by Mr. Kris Peeters, Vice President of EIB during his meeting with H.E. Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries here in Phnom Penh on 13 September 2022.

Mr. Kris Peeters underlined that agriculture is the backbone of Cambodia's economy and the



14-DAY KAN BEN FESTIVAL BEGINS

The two-week-long Kan Ben Festival kicks off on 11 September 2022 in the pagodas throughout Cambodia and will run until 24 September 2022.

As usual, Cambodian people go to pagodas to offer foodstuff to the monks. They believe that the monks will then convey the offering to their late ancestors.

“This is a time when Buddhist followers have the opportunity to perform meritorious deeds and gather with relatives in near and far places, especially in pagodas,” wrote Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen on his official Facebook page on 11 September 2022.

The Prime Minister called on the authorities at all levels to tighten security, safety and public order and to facilitate traffic during the festival.

Kan Ben is part of “Pchum Ben” Festival or the Festival for the Dead, one of the biggest festivals in Buddhism. This religious festival, which falls on the fifteenth day of Kan Ben, is to celebrate this year on 25 September 2022.



CAMBODIA’S INTERNATIONAL TRADE SURGES TO US\$37 BILLION IN JANUARY-AUGUST



Cambodia’s total international trade rose by 21.5 percent to US\$37.4 billion in the first eight months of this year, the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE)’s report showed on 12 September 2022.

From January to August 2022, Cambodia exported US\$15.61 billion worth of goods, up 26.3 percent compared to the same

period last year, the report said, adding that the country’s import amounted to US\$21.76 billion, a year-on-year increase of 18.3 percent.

China remained the biggest trading partner of Cambodia, followed by the United States, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore, it pointed out.

In term of exports, the U.S. remains the biggest market for Cambodia’s products, stated the report, stressing that the exports to the U.S. amounted to US\$6,421 million, a year-on-year increase by 37 percent, accounting for 41 percent of the total exports.

Vietnam and China are the second and third markets with the export value of US\$1,469 million and US\$804 million, respectively, it said.

Cambodia’s exports have significantly increased due to the successful and efficient Covid-19 control by the Royal Government, leading to the resumption of all kinds of economic activities, said Mr. Lim Heng, Vice President of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce.

“The government has controlled the Covid-19 situation, reopened borders to tourists, and resumed socio-economic activities, which have maintained the production chains in factories,” Mr. Lim Heng added.