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CAMBODIA, EU HAPPY WITH GOOD COOPERATION



Cambodia and the European Union have shown their satisfaction with their good cooperation. The appreciation was made by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and H.E. Charles Michel, President of the European Council, in their meeting in Tokyo on 27 September 2022, during their stay in Japan for the State Funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister H.E. ABE Shinzo, according to H.E. Kao Kim Hourn, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister. Samdech Techo Hun Sen invited H.E. Charles Michel to attend the East Asia Summit (EAS) as well as the ASEAN Global Dialogue to be hosted by Cambodia in the near future. The Cambodia Prime Minister said he would attend the ASEAN-EU Summit in December this year in Brussels, Belgium. As the ASEAN Chair this year, he stressed, Cambodia has been facing many regional and global challenges, including the Myanmar and South China Sea issues, anyway Cambodia will do its utmost to dealing with them.

JAPAN TO OPEN TOYOTA FACTORY IN CAMBODIA

Japan will establish a Toyota car factory in Cambodia, affirmed H.E. Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan in a bilateral meeting with Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

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HIS MAJESTY THE KING WELCOMES REOPENING OF 8TH PARLIAMENTARY SESSION



His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath, Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, has sent a royal message on the auspicious occasion of the reopening of the National Assembly (NA) of 8th Session of the 6th legislature.

In his royal message, the monarch also extended his congratulations on the country's reopening and return to normal functioning in all sectors and activities.

His Majesty the King highly commended and profoundly thanked Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, NA President and other NA senior leaders and all lawmakers, who have tirelessly fulfilled their noble leadership duties of the legislature in the enactment of numerous pieces of law so as to ensure their consistency with current political and social environment, as well as with the nation's constitution.

In addition, the NA has been vigorously involved in conducting its research on positive and negative points, including methods to be used in successfully combating Covid-19, he said, adding that these achievements reflect the true wills and aspirations of every citizen who are now living with smile of satisfaction, happiness and steady progress.

His Majesty the King also spoke highly of steadfast efforts and wisdom expended by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister, in his sound leadership of the Royal Government, which has enjoyed relentless support from the whole nation, partners, along with the NA in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic over nearly three years.

After in-depth consideration, he continued, the Royal Government has laid out crucial social protection policies to be implemented during the time of the plague, which include the launching of nationwide vaccination programme so that the herd immunity has been fully achieved, with the entire population enjoying the state of excellent health and spirits as they resume their work and livelihood in a safe and confident atmosphere.

Taking this opportunity, the monarch also congratulate the huge turnout in the Commune/Sangkat Council Election, with constituents going to the polls to elect their leaders at respective localities in a free and democratic manner.

JAPAN TO OPEN ...

According to H.E. Kao Kim Hourn, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister, in their bilateral talks in Tokyo, Japan on 28 September 2022, on the sidelines of the State Funeral of H.E. Abe Shinzo, former Japanese Prime Minister, both Prime Ministers discussed the bilateral cooperation between the two countries, mainly in the areas of security and economy.

H.E. Kishida Fumio thanked Cambodia for receiving the visit of Japanese naval ships in Sihanoukville and planned to set up a Toyota plant in Cambodia. He also asked for the Royal Government of Cambodia's continued support to Japanese investment in the country.

For the ASEAN framework, he continued, Japan has highly valued the cooperation with ASEAN, and both sides will mark the 50th anniversary of their friendship and cooperation next year.

For his part, Samdech Techo Hun Sen thanked Japan for its support to Cambodia's ASEAN chairmanship this year. He took the opportunity to invite H.E. Kishida Fumio to attend the ASEAN-Japan Summit and East Asia Summit (EAS) in Cambodia in coming



Moreover, Samdech Techo Hun Sen spoke highly of H.E. Kishida Fumio's speech at the 77th Session of the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly, highlighting Japan's contribution to the peace process in Cambodia and the latter's contribution to the peacekeeping missions under the UN umbrella. The two Prime Ministers also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest such as the Korean Peninsula issue, Myanmar crisis, South China Sea issue, and Ukraine war. They were determined to continue working together to deal with these challenges.

DPM PRAK SOKHONN LAUDS CAMBODIA-ROK COOPERATION



Cambodia and the Republic of Korea (RoK) have seen enhanced bilateral ties and friendship, leading to greater cooperation in advancing their mutual development agenda.

The remarks were made by H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation at the reception on the celebration of the National Foundation Day of RoK and the 25th Anniversary of the Re-establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Cambodia and RoK, held on 29 September 2022 evening.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn said that over the past 25 years, Cambodia and RoK have had a close cooperation and it is getting better and stronger by day. With the Covid-19 raging throughout the world in the last two years, he continued, the countries have managed to maintain high-level relations between both legislative and executive branches, including Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen's visit to Seoul in September 2021 and Senate President Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei Say Chhum's visit in February and April this year.

At the operational level, the two countries have had a wide range of delegation visits covering a broad spectrum of economic sectors, which have delivered tangible benefits for the countries in key areas of education, public health, agro-industry, infrastructure, the securities market, and civil aviation, he added. "As we mark this commemorative year, I am confident that our friendly relations will further lead to greater cooperation in advancing our mutual development agenda,"

DPM PRAK SOKHONN ...

mutual development agenda," H.E. Prak Sokhonn said. The RoK is one of Cambodia's key economic partners and ranks second in FDI in Cambodia.

The Cambodian top diplomat also spoke highly of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and Cambodia-Korea Free Trade Agreement, recently ratified by the Korean National Assembly, which will give a big impetus to bilateral trade in the post pandemic era.

SOUTH KOREA RATIFIES FTA DEAL WITH CAMBODIA

South Korea's National Assembly on Tuesday ratified the free trade agreement (FTA) with Cambodia, the South Korea's state news agency -Yonhap reported on 27 September 2022.

The ratification came as South Korea signed an FTA with Cambodia in October last year.

The Korean government will notify Cambodia of the completion of all due domestic procedures and have a consultation with them on when to have them go into effect, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy was quoted as saying.

Cambodian Minister of Commerce H.E. Pan Sorasak and his South Korean counterpart H.E. Yeo Han-koo signed the Cambodia-Korea Free Trade Agreement on 26 October 2022 via video link.

The CKFTA will become effective 60 days after both sides have completed their internal procedures and deposited their respective instrument of ratification.

Under the CKFTA, coupled with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the Kingdom will lift tariffs on 93.8% of goods traded, with South Korea scrapping duties on 95.6%, according to Yonhap.

Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia H.E. Penn Sovicheat has said that the CKFTA will provide more than 10,000 Cambodian items duty-free access to South Korea.

According to the General Department of Customs and Excise, in the January-August period of 2022, bilateral trade between the two countries totalled US\$550 million, marking a 6.4% rise year-on-year.

Of that, Cambodian exports were recorded at US\$156 million, up by 21%, and imports were US\$393 million, an increase of 1.5% percent.

CAMBODIA ASKS FRANCE TO PROVIDE MORE TRAINING CAMBODIAN PEACEKEEPERS



Cambodia has asked France to continue providing training to Cambodian peacekeepers to strengthen their capacity before departure to South Sudan.

The request was made by H.E. Gen. Sem Sovanny, Director General of the National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces, Mine Clearance and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance (NPMEC), during a meeting with Lt. Col. PARDIEU Thomas, Military Professor of the Ministry of Armed Forces of France, on 27 September 2022 in Phnom Penh.

H.E. Gen. Sem Sovanny said that there are currently 73 Cambodian gendarmerie forces operating under UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan.

Cambodia plans to send 46 more blue helmet troops to South Sudan and training on necessary skills before their deployment will be very helpful for them to fulfil their work.

According to Lt. Col. PARDIEU Thomas, France is conducting a four-week-long training course on observation and demonstration prevention skills at the Training Centre for Peacekeeping Forces in Oudong district, Kampong Speu province, starting from 27 September 2022.

Since 2006, Cambodia has deployed 8,302 forces (580 are women) to carry out UN peacekeeping missions in nine countries – Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Lebanon, Cyprus, Syria, Mali, and Yemen.

REGISTRATION REQUEST OF BOKATOR AND NUM BANCHOK ON UNESCO HERITAGE LIST ONGOING, MORE IN THE PIPELINE

Cambodia is filing support documentation to request the registration of Bokator, a Cambodian ancient martial art, and Num Banchok, Khmer traditional rice noodles, on UNESCO world heritage list; and more of the country's intangible and tangible heritages are in the pipeline for similar process.

The preparation was unveiled by H.E. Long Bonna Sirivath, Secretary of State and Spokesperson of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts at a press conference at the Royal Government Spokesperson Unit of the Council of Ministers on 22 September 2022.

The Water Festival and Koh Ker archaeological site are next for the request, he added.

The Secretary of State continued that the ministry is also examining other cultural heritages such as Banteay Chhmar temple complex, Angkor Borei and Phnom Da, Kulen national park, Beng Mealea temple complex, and Preah Khan Kampong Svay temple complex for the registration request.

Oudong resort, Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, Choeung Ek Killing Field, and former “M-13”



detention centre are also in the pipeline for consideration.

Cambodia has so far registered Angkor Archaeological Site, Preah Reach Troap Dance (Royal Ballet); Lakhon Sbek Thom (big shadow puppet); the 11th-century Preah Vihear Temple; Teanh Prot (tug-of-war), a popular recreational game; Chapei Dang Veng, a Cambodian two-stringed, long-necked guitar; Sambor Prei Kuk temple complex; and Lkhon Khol Wat Svay on the World Heritage List.

MEDIA REGISTRATION FOR 40TH AND 41ST ASEAN SUMMITS AND RELATED SUMMITS OPENS

The media registration for the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits is opened today and will last until 31 October 2022.

Interested local and international media personnel can register via www.Asean2022.inb.gov.kh, said an announcement of the Ministry of Information released on 03 October 2022.

According to the source, media personnel is required to attach necessary documents, including recent passport photo (4x6 or 400x514 pixels in colour against plain white background without shadow) in .jpg format, valid national identity card or passport, valid press card, letter of assignment, and COVID-19 vaccination card or certificate.

The accredited media personnel shall collect their media badge at the International Media Centre located at M-Floor of Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel on 07 November 2022, the announcement added.

Cambodia is going to host the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits in Phnom Penh from 08 to 13 November 2022.

SOME US\$24 MILLION INVESTMENT PROJECTS APPROVED

Cambodia Special Economic Zone Board under the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) has approved four new investment projects with a total capital of US\$23.9 million.

Located in the provinces of Svay Rieng and Preah Sihanouk, these new projects belong to HOME STYLE LIVING CO., LTD., MCL HANDBAG FACTORY (CAMBODIA) COMPANY LIMITED, GREEN LINK ELECTRIC CO., LTD. and RAINBOW LIGHTING CO., LTD., said a CDC's press release issued on 29 September 2022.

The four companies will invest in the manufacture of furniture and mattresses, handbags, light bulbs and light bulb assembly parts, it pointed out. The newly approved projects are expected to create about 2,900 jobs for locals, the same source said.

FEARED EXTINCT, THE 'MEKONG GHOST' RESURFACES

An adult giant salmon carp, a fish species that can grow as large as 66 pounds (30 kilogrammes), has been documented in the Mekong River for the first time in 18 years through a USAID-funded project, according to the Wonders of the Mekong.

One of the world's most threatened fish species has been re-discovered unexpectedly in northern Cambodia. Since 2004, no adult giant salmon carp (*Aptosyax grypus*) has been officially recorded, but earlier this year a 13-pound specimen was found at a local wet market along the Mekong River, the only river on Earth where the species lives.

So rare is the giant salmon carp, it has been referred to as a "Mekong Ghost." It is listed as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Although the fish was not found alive, cause of death unknown, its discovery has raised hope that the species still prevails in the Mekong.

"After more than two decades of working on this topic, I'm so happy to confirm the existence of this unique animal," said Mr. Chan Sokheng, a Deputy Director of the Fisheries Technology Research office with Inland Fisheries Research and Development Institute (IFReDI) of the Cambodian Fisheries Administration.

"This year has been a grand slam for wildlife surprises on the Mekong, but the game is far from over and victories for biodiversity are still hard to come by," said Mr. Zeb Hogan, a University of Nevada, Reno fish biologist who leads the USAID-funded Wonders of the Mekong research project.

The Mekong River, which runs through six Asian countries, is a global biodiversity hotspot and home to almost 1,000 different species of fish, including some of the world's largest freshwater fishes. The river sustains the livelihood of tens of millions of people and has come under increasing pressure in recent years from dam building, overfishing, and climate change, with the largest fish species at particular risk.



"The recent discoveries along the Mekong have been the result of outreach to local people, many of whom have a deep knowledge and dependence on the river and its wild creatures", said Ms. Chea Seila, Wonders of the Mekong project manager.

The salmon carp's revival was confirmed after the three-foot-long specimen appeared in the market. The merchant then contacted Sokheng and from the photos, Sokheng was able to identify it as a giant salmon carp based on its sharply curved jaw, yellow stripe on its head, and fusiform shape reminiscent of a salmon. Scientists will use the DNA of the dead fish to develop various tools for studying the distribution of the species. They hope to find more specimens alive that can be tagged and released for further study.

"The discovery of yet another amazing, but highly endangered animal, in an area that supports the livelihoods and food security of millions of people, shows plain as day the urgent need for conservation programmes and the potential benefits of government, scientists, and local communities coming together to safeguard the wonders of the Mekong," said Mr. Hogan.

TWO NESTS OF SARUS CRANE FOUND IN LOMPHAT WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IN SEPTEMBER



In September this year, two nests of Sarus Crane have been discovered in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, according to NatureLife Cambodia on 27 September 2022.

The two nests have 2 chicks each, aged about 4 days and 30 days, respectively, it pointed out, recalling that in early July 2022, its team also found a nest of Sarus Crane, unfortunately it was destroyed.

Raining season is the breeding period of Sarus Crane, and the biodiversity team of NatureLife Cambodia has conducted nest searching and monitoring the nest of Sarus Crane according to protocol.

For the 2022 breeding season, by 27 September 2022, a total of 3 nests of Sarus Crane were discovered. This result proves that Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary is playing important role in supporting and providing the nesting habitats for this vulnerable species.