

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

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## UKRAINE CONSIDERS CAMBODIA AS MODEL PRO-PEACE COUNTRY

Ukraine has considered Cambodia as a model country for the world to pursue peace by peacefully ceasing war.

H.E. Korniyenko Oleksandr, First Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, made the note during a meeting with Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of Cambodia and President of the 43rd General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) in Phnom Penh on 23 November 2022 on the sidelines of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly.

H.E. Korniyenko Oleksandr thanked the Cambodian NA for inviting Ukrainian parliament to participate the 43rd AIPA General Assembly and the Royal Government of Cambodia for supporting peace in Ukraine. Ukraine is ready to negotiate to end war in the country to bring back security and peace for its people, said Ukrainian first deputy speaker. The Cambodian NA president underlined that Cambodia always adheres to the principles of the UN Charter and international laws. Cambodia extremely hates war because the country had gone through decades of the bitter wars in its history.

War cannot stop war and Cambodia is ready to help Ukraine demine unexploded ordnance (UXO).



## AIPA PRESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS FIVE KEY OUTCOMES OF 43RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The 43rd General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) was wrapped up on 24 November 2022 under the presidency of Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of Cambodia and President of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly, after five days of meetings.

In his closing remarks, Samdech Heng Samrin highlighted five major outputs made by the 43rd AIPA General Assembly:

“First, AIPA’s relevance is rising, and its external partnership building is gaining new momentum. It is an important milestone in AIPA history that we welcomed three new observer parliaments at the same time.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to congratulate the National Assemblies of Nepal, Azerbaijan and the Congress of the United States for recognising and approving the full AIPA observer conditions, and we strongly believe that AIPA’s relevant partner organisations will continue to play an important role in further enhancing relationships and cooperation with AIPA.

Second, our mutual trust and understanding within AIPA and between AIPA and observer parliaments have been remarkably enhanced. We had 16 dialogue panels with our partners from various parts of the world. These dialogues reflect their shared interest, common objectives, and collective efforts to address challenges together.

Only by acting together can we effectively solve increasingly complex international issues and challenges.

Third, we have adopted many resolutions under the frameworks of WAIPA, YPA, political matters, economic matters, social matters, and organisational matters. Cambodia has proposed two new initiatives this year, including the first meeting of young parliamentarians and the establishment of an AIPA digital law library. The digital law library will play an important role in promoting legal harmonisation and knowledge and information sharing.

Fourth, we have demonstrated a spirit of unity and solidarity. ASEAN’s unity and centrality have been enhanced. We have come together to share ideas, come up with solutions and policy proposals, and express our collective political commitment to build a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient ASEAN Community.

Fifth, we have proven that the principles of consultation and consensus-based decision making remain fundamental to ASEAN’s unity and centrality. We have also observed that the four principles of mutual respect, mutual understanding, mutual trust, and mutual interest for peace and prosperity (M4P2) are vital to regional integration and community building.”

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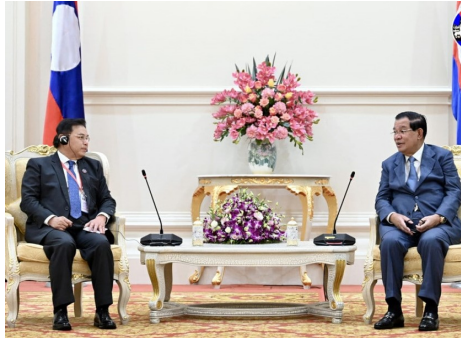
## PM HUN SEN RECEIVES LAO NA PRESIDENT

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, received at the Peace Palace on 25 November 2022 visiting H.E. Saysomphone Phomvihane, President of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

According to H.E. Eang Sophalleth, Personal Assistant to the Cambodian Prime Minister, H.E. Saysomphone Phomvihane congratulated Cambodia on its rapid development and its success in preventing the COVID-19 spread as well as in hosting the ASEAN Summits and Related Summits as well as the 43rd ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).

The Lao NA president also expressed his delight with the outcomes of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly, which will contribute to boosting peace, stability and sustainable development in the region as well as the world.

H.E. Saysomphone Phomvihane showed his satisfaction with the growing bilateral relations and cooperation between the two neighbouring countries, and thanked Cambodia



for its donation in budget, COVID-19 vaccines and refrigerated vaccine transport vehicles to Laos to contribute to its fight against the pandemic.

For his part, Samdech Techo Hun Sen thanked H.E. Saysomphone Phomvihane for his physical participation in the 43rd AIPA General Assembly in Cambodia, which has contributed significantly to the success of this regional gathering.

The Prime Minister also briefed his guest on the COVID-19 vaccination strategy set forth by the Royal Government of Cambodia, leading to the country's success in controlling the pandemic.

## MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT LAUNCHES NEW EV CHARGING STATION, URGING EV USES



Ministry of Public Works and Transport on 29 November 2022 put into use a new electric vehicle charging station, urging the public to use EVs in a bid to contribute to reducing CO2 emissions and save economically compared to the fossil fuel vehicles.

## CAMBODIA-KOREA FTA TO COME INTO FORCE NEXT MONTH

The Ministry of Commerce and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Phnom Penh on 24 November 2022 co-organised a workshop on dissemination of the benefits and export procedures to local exporters under the Cambodia-Korea Free Trade Agreement (CKFTA).

The presence of new EV charging stations contributes to encouraging the use of EVs in Cambodia, said H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister, Minister of Public Works and Transport at the inauguration ceremony of the new EV charging station at the ministry.

H.E. Senior Minister reaffirmed the Royal Government of Cambodia's commitment to combating environmental pollution and to protecting the environment that makes our lives healthier.

"One of the few things we need to do to reduce pollution is by switching to electric vehicles," H.E. Sun Chanthol underlined.

The ministry registered 556 EVs in January-October 2022, an 11-time increase over the same period last year.

The workshop was opened under the presidency of H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, and H.E. Hyuk-Sang Lee, First Secretary of the Korean Embassy in Cambodia, with some 200 representatives from Cambodia Chamber of

## AIPA PRESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS FIVE KEY OUTCOMES ...

AIPA, the legislative body representing the will and interests of more than 650 million people in Southeast Asia, plays a critical role in realising a truly people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN, continued Samdech Heng Samrin, underlining that AIPA can help build the ASEAN community through legal development and harmonisation, oversight over the governments, and budgeting to further align national policy and action plans with those of ASEAN.

On the occasion, three outstanding figures, including Honorable Kittisaghabindit Khuon Sudary, Vice President of the National Assembly of Cambodia, and Chairwoman of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarian of AIPA; Honorable Rose Marie J. Arenas, Former Speaker of the Republic of the Philippines; and Honorable Pehin Orang Kaya Serilela Dato Seri stia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohammed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Brunei Darussalam, were presented with the AIPA Distinguished Service Award in recognition of their valuable service, excellent contribution, and tireless efforts in pursuing the goals and objectives of AIPA.

The 44th AIPA General Assembly will take place in Indonesia in 2023.

## CAMBODIA-KOREA FTA...

Commerce, Textile, Apparel, Footwear & Travel Goods Association in Cambodia, and Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency in attendance.

The CKFTA is scheduled to come into force next month, H.E. Pan Sorasak said in the workshop.

"The CKFTA, which will enter into force on 01 December 2022, will increase trade volume between the two countries and create more new export opportunities," he said.

The workshop is aimed to disseminate the export procedures among the private sector to promote exports and maximise the benefits of implementing the CKFTA.

According to a report by the Ministry of Commerce, in the first nine months of 2022, the trade volume between Cambodia and South Korea was recorded at more than US\$600 million, an increase of 3 percent compared to the same period in 2021.



## NBC ORGANISES MACROECONOMIC CONFERENCE TO BOOST CAMBODIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The National Bank of Cambodia (NBC), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (Cambodia) organised on 24 November 2022 the 9th NBC Annual Macroeconomic Conference, giving floor for discussion for the development of Cambodian economy.

Under theme "Towards a Post-COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience", the daylong conference was aimed to gather inputs for policy formulation in the context of Cambodia's economic recovery and to promote research culture, said H.E. Dr. Chea Serey, Assistant Governor and Director General of Central Banking.

Currently, she continued, the situation of COVID-19 in Cambodia is well under control, resulting in the gradual recovery of economic activity in key sectors and necessitating the development of suitable policies to promote swift economic recovery.

However, to recover inclusively and sustainably in the aftermath of COVID-19 requires addressing not only the scarring effects of the pandemic, but also the new emerging challenges, in particular, higher inflation, global economic slowdown, and climate change, she added.



"The conference was organised with the aim to strengthen and build the culture of research in Cambodia and provide a forum for dialogue among researchers, experts and relevant stakeholders on topics that are important for and relevant to the development of Cambodian economy," she stressed in her opening remarks.

The conference featured key presentations and panel discussion sessions on various economic development-related topics.

The conference was expected to provide a lively discussion among all participants to exchange views and experiences, which will yield valuable inputs for policymakers to consider in their agendas, H.E. Dr. Chea Serey said.

## KUN BOKATOR GRABS A GOLD MEDAL AT IMAC IN SOUTH KOREA



Cambodia has won 5 medals – 1 gold and 4 silver, for Kun Bokator at the International Martial Arts Contest (IMAC) in South Korea.

## CAMBODIAN PEPPER AND NATURAL FISHERIES...

Cambodia exported more than 2.4 million tonnes of its agricultural products worth US\$1,942 million to Chinese market from 2019 to the first half of 2022.

The good news was shared by Mr. Ou Dara, Deputy Secretary General of Bokator Federation of Cambodia (BFC), adding that the gold medalist is Ms. Phithy Chanchhorvy competing in Weapons Single Female.

Taking place from 18 to 20 November 2022, the competition attracted athletes from 10 countries.

The Cambodian SEA Games Organising Committee (CAMSOC) sent 10 Cambodian Bokator athletes and coaches to the competition, according to Mr. Ou Dara.

The achievement implies improved capacity of Cambodian athletes, reassuring their readiness for the 32nd SEA Games 2023 to be hosted by Cambodia, he added.

Cambodia major agricultural products exported to China include fresh banana, milled rice, dried cassava chips, cassava flour, rubber latex, fresh mangoes, mango jam, processed cashew nuts, and cocoa powder.

## US\$168 MILLION HOTEL PROJECT IN SIHANOUKVILLE APPROVED

A five-star hotel project has recently received green light from the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC).

With an investment capital of US\$168 million, the 957-room hotel project will be developed in village 4, Sangkat 4, Sihanoukville, Preah Sihanouk province by Huan Hai Bo Lai International Investment Co., Ltd., according to a CDC's news release.

The new project is expected to generate nearly 1,000 jobs for the locals, it added.

At the same time, CDC approved five other investment projects with a total capital of US\$87.6 million, creating some 4,000 job opportunities.

The newly approved projects concern the processing of planted trees; construction, installation and operation of telecommunication towers; manufacture of footwear and auto spare parts; and construction of yarn factory.

## CAMBODIAN PEPPER AND NATURAL FISHERIES TO BE SHIPPED TO CHINA

Cambodia will be able to directly export its pepper and natural fisheries to Chinese market, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Cambodia said on 22 November 2022.

The direct shipment is possible after the PRC's General Administration of Customs has issued separate announcements on the phytosanitary requirements for the two Cambodian products.

Cambodia's pepper and natural fisheries will complete all export procedures to be shipped to China soon.

Since early 2022, the PRC side has completed the risk assessment of Cambodian Pra fish, sweet corn and longan, said the embassy, stressing that to date three Cambodian fruits – banana, mango and longan – can be shipped directly to China.

## ANGKOR THANKSGIVING TO BE ORGANISED IN MID-DECEMBER

Royal Government of Cambodia has decided in principle to allow APSARA National Authority to organise an event of "Angkor Thanksgiving" in mid-December.

The decision was announced in a press release from the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts issued recently.

To take place in Siem Reap province from 14 to 16 December 2022, the event aims at commemorating Cambodia's ancestors, previous kings and queens who had built many temples, as well as all generations of the conservation teams of those temples.

It will feature range of achievements resulted by the collaboration between national and international stakeholders in conservation work.

The event is also expected to give an opportunity for the public to visit and learn about the restoration work at the sites where the APSARA National Authority is operating.



## LUMPHAT WILDLIFE SANCTUARY MOVING TOWARD SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION

Lumphat Wildlife Sanctuary of the Eastern Highlands, established by a Royal Decree in 1993, covering a total land area of 250,000 hectares, about 80 percent of which is located in Rattanakiri province and the rest 20 percent in Mondulakiri province, is moving towards sustainable conservation under the REDD+ project.

Mr. Bou Vorsak, the CEO of NatureLife Cambodia, said that the organisation started the project in 2019 and has already registered it with VERRA, so it took them two years to write a project description to submit to the company to find a third party to audit how much carbon dioxide they can sell in the voluntary market.

"According to our study, we think that in early 2024 or mid-2024 we will know the exact amount of carbon dioxide that we can sell. And I hope that we can get carbon credits in the early or mid-2024 too," he said.

From the preliminary assessment, he continued, we estimated that in the first five years we could at least absorb about 576,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide, or some 115,000 tonnes per year from an area of more than 130,000 hectares in the entire Lumphat Wildlife Sanctuary.

"This is an estimation at a minimum level, but at this stage, we are conducting a detailed study on the stockpile measurement, so we will be able to see the exact amount and the price which is currently between US\$10 to US\$15 per tonne on the voluntary carbon market," he said.

Regarding the benefits of the REDD + project, Mr. Bou Vorsak said so far, the conservation work at Lumphat Wildlife Sanctuary needs about half a million dollars a year to manage and implement these conservation programmes, therefore when the carbon credits are collected, we will be able to maintain the financial sustainability of the project in the long run and we will also be able to expand the project activities for the sustainability of conservation.

H.E. Choup Paris, Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Environment and National Redd+ Focal Person said at the global level, within the framework of UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), recent Cambodian REDD+ projects have been acclaimed for standing out for their success in implementing projects and delivering carbon credits to the market. He also declared that Lomphat REDD+ project is the first REDD+ project of Rattanakiri province and requested support from all stakeholders to ensure its success.

Ms. Vaneska Litz, the Chief of Party for USAID Morodok Baitang said that USAID Morodok Baitang decided to support this project in recognition of NatureLife Cambodia/BirdLife's long-standing commitment to the conservation of Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, and assured participants that USAID Morodok Baitang is equally committed to conservation and future of the sanctuary.

The Lumphat Wildlife Sanctuary is an important site for the conservation of wildlife and bio-diversity resources, especially rare and endangered bird species, including the Giant Ibis, the national bird of Cambodia. The bird population is estimated to be around 300 in the world, and about 30, equivalent to more than 10 percent, are found in Cambodia.

