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PM CALLS FOR MORE PUSH FOR CAMBODIA'S DIGITAL EDUCATION

Cambodia Prime Minister has urged the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and stakeholders to continue promoting digital education in Cambodia responsive to the national, regional and global development.

The Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen made the call in his message to mark the start of the academic year 2022-2023 on 02 January 2023.

Paying attention to teachers, building a stronger and more vibrant education system, and reforming education services and programmes to build human resources are the must, said Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen further encouraged the media to help promote children's schooling and the importance of education, and produce educational programmes and videos for the students and teachers.

He also thanked all level leaderships, relevant ministries-institutions, authorities, parents, development partners, administrators of education institutions, professors and teachers for their high responsibility to ensure efficient and effective learning and teaching process so far.

Addressing the beginning of the new academic year at Hun Sen Prasoth High School, Svay Rieng province on 02 January 2023, H.E. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, underlined the ministry's commitment to further promote education, especially the digital education.

He outlined the ministry's priorities in response to the education transformation including safe reopening of school, school reform, teacher capacity development, digital education, STEM education, and youth's skill development for the 21st century.

PM: INCREASED TAX INCOMES REFLECT CAMBODIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN POST COVID-19



Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen said that the income collection from all kind of taxes has exceeded the plan in 2022, reflecting Cambodia's better economic situation in the post-COVID-19 period.

Addressing to the groundbreaking ceremony for the reconstruction and upgrading of National Roads No. 31 and 33 in Kampot province on 30 December 2022, the Prime Minister pointed out that the General Department of Taxation collected over US\$3.43 billion as tax income this year, exceeding nearly 122 percent of the yearly plan, while the customs income collected by the General Department of Customs and Excises were recorded at US\$2.67 billion, reaching 104 percent of the plan.

The figures did not include the non-tax revenue, underlined Samdech Techo Hun Sen,

taking for example the non-tax revenue from visa fees of estimated 2 million foreign tourists, which would be about US\$60 million this year.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister stated that the tax revenue will provide an opportunity for the government to invest in building roads and other key infrastructure and to contribute to projects supported by development partners.

Cambodia has two institutions responsible for collecting taxes. One is the the General Department of Taxation, which focuses on interior taxes such as income tax, salary tax, value added tax, and property tax, and the other is the General Department of Customs and Excise, which collects taxes on goods entering and leaving the country.

6TH DOSE TO BE ADMINISTERED TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN HERD IMMUNITY

Cambodia is going to administer the 6th dose of COVID-19 vaccine to its frontline civil servants, authorities and the general public so as to further tighten the herd immunity, as the pandemic still exist in the world, including Cambodia.

The announcement was made by Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen in a special voice message shared on 29 December 2022. Besides, he continued, children aged from 3 to under 5 years old will receive the 4th shot,

CAMBODIA, AUSTRALIA REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO FURTHER PROMOTE TRADE AND INVESTMENT TIES



Cambodia and Australia have reaffirmed their commitment to continue to work closely to further strengthen, expand and promote the bilateral relations in the areas of trade-economy and investment.

The reaffirmation was made by H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, and H.E. Pablo Kang, outgoing Ambassador of Australia to Cambodia, during their farewell meeting on 22 December 2022.

H.E. Pan Sorasak applauded H.E. Ambassador on his successful diplomatic mission in Cambodia, and appreciated his active role and contribution to promoting the bilateral cooperation and relations between both countries, particularly in the field of trade.

On the occasion, the minister congratulated the 70th Anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries, and thanked the Government and people of Australia for their continued support for Cambodia's economic and social development, including the provision of COVID-19 vaccines contributing to the success of the Kingdom's vaccination campaign against the pandemic.

H.E. Pan Sorasak also expressed his gratitude to the Australian side for its assistance under the Cambodia-Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAP-RED), and Regional Trade for Development (RT4D), from which Cambodia will benefit greatly.

H.E. Minister further praised Australia for its support to competition and consumer protection work, and hoped that the country would continue to support this area.

Both sides welcomed the significant achievement of negotiations on the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement Upgrade, one of Cambodia's key deliverables as the Chair of ASEAN this year.

A FAMOUS JEWELRY COMPANY INTERESTED TO INVEST IN CAMBODIA

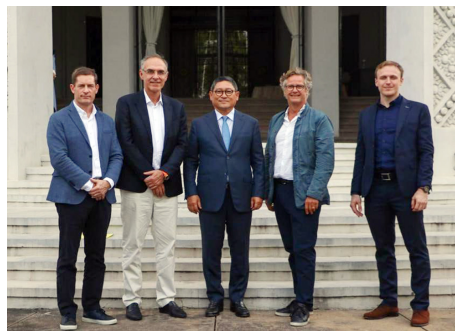
A well-known jewelry company, which reserves the right to remain anonymous, has expressed its interest to Cambodia as an investment destination.

A visiting delegation of the company was received on 02 January 2023 by H.E. Sok Chenda Sophea, Minister Delegate Attached to the Prime Minister, Secretary-General of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC).

The delegation said their company has decided to choose Cambodia as a jewelry production base to supply companies with world-renowned brands.

They explained their decision by the fact that Cambodia has long-standing culture and civilisation, which is the key to harmonising with their products planned to be produced in the Kingdom.

According to the delegation, the company has conducted a study on investment potential in Cambodia since early 2019, before deciding to



invest in a jewelry factory in Cambodia, which is scheduled to kick-start in January 2024.

The Royal Government has been working hard to promote Cambodia as an investment hub by assuring all investors of a conducive environment, especially peace, security and political stability, as well as macroeconomic stability, effective legal and institutional framework, transparency, accountability and predictability.

6TH DOSE TO BE ADMINISTERED...

while those from 5 to under 12 years old will get the 5th jab.

"This is to ensure the safety and health of our citizens," the Prime Minister underlined. "Vaccine is the only choice to help us reduce the risk of infections and the severity of illness."

Samdech Techo Prime Minister added that he agreed with the principle to continue the vaccination every six months after the last dose and instructed the National Ad-hoc Commission for COVID-19 Vaccination to work on the plan.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also reaffirmed that Cambodia has enough COVID-19 vaccines, indicating that there are currently 7 million doses of vaccines in the national stock without counting the 20 million others that have not arrived in Cambodia yet. He thus re-appealed to his compatriots to get the booster doses.

According to a report of the National Ad-hoc Commission for COVID-19 vaccination, as of 28 December 2022, more than 90 percent of the total Cambodian population of 16 million have received the basic doses. Over 10.4 million received the 3rd dose, while around 4.7 million and 1.2 million got the 4th and 5th shots, respectively.

NORWAY PROVIDES US\$250,000 FOR MINE CLEARANCE PROJECT IN CAMBODIA

Norway has provided more than US\$250,000 in grant aid to support Cambodia's humanitarian mine action project in Banteay Meanchey province.

The partnership and cooperation agreement was signed here on 29 December 2022 by H.E. Heng Ratana, Director General of Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) and Mr. Rune Kristian Dale-Andresen, Country Director of Norwegian People's Aid Cambodia.

The grant will be used for the survey and clearance of landmines/explosive remnants of war (ERW) in the north western province.

According to CMAC, under this project, supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through NPA, CMAC will mobilise eleven demining teams to continue the current project, which ended in June 2022 for another three months in 2023, starting from 01 Jan to 31 Mar 2023 with a target of releasing 2,520,000 square metres

Continued on page (3)

ALMOST 640,000 TONNES OF MILLED RICE EXPORTED LAST YEAR



For the full year of 2022, Cambodia exported some 637,000 tonnes of milled rice to international markets, generating US\$414.29 million, according to a report of Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF). The Cambodian milled rice was shipped by 61 Cambodian rice exporters to 59 international destinations, said the report, adding that China (including Hong Kong and Macau) was the largest market accounting for 45 percent or 288,830 tonnes.

Furthermore, it added, 25 countries in Europe purchased 221,504 tonnes or 35 percent, while 4 ASEAN Members 64,733 tonnes or about less than 10 percent and other 27 destinations including Africa, USA, Australia, Russia, Ukraine and island's territory, etc. 61,937 tonnes or over 10 percent.

Among the exported milled rice, 277,739 tonnes or 44 percent were premium aromatic rice, 179,070 tonnes or 28 percent were fragrant rice (Sen Kra-Ob), while white rice accounted for 24 percent or 153,428 tonnes, parboiled rice about 2 percent or 15,781 tonnes, organic rice less than 2 percent or about 10,963 tonnes, and glutinous rice 23 tonnes.

Cambodia also exported 3,477,886 tonnes of paddy rice to Vietnam at a total value of US\$841.09 million during the 12 months of 2022.

CAA RESUMES SIEM REAP-HANOI ROUTE

Cambodia Angkor Air (CAA) has resumed its commercial flight services between Siem Reap, Cambodia and Hanoi, Vietnam.

On 22 December 2022, the inaugural flight, K6 852 with 68 passengers on board departed Siem Reap at 14:30 pm and took around 2 hours to arrive Noi Bai International airport in Hanoi. The flight returned to Siem Reap at 17:15 on the same day with 81 passengers.

The return of CAA on this route after more than two years break due to COVID-19 pandemic promotes travelling demand between Siem Reap and Hanoi, especially the motivation of international inbound to those both destinations. According to its news release, CAA will regularly operate the Siem Reap-Hanoi route — on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Besides this route, there are roundtrip flights between Siem Reap-Ho Chi Minh City, Siem Reap--Ho Chi Minh City, Siem Reap-Da Nang, Phnom Penh-Hanoi, Phnom Penh-Ho Chi Minh City, and Preah Sihanouk-Ho Chi Minh City, run by CAA.

Cambodia Angkor Air is the National flag carrier and is also the first and only IOSA registered Operator in the Kingdom of Cambodia (the prestigious operation safety certificate by IATA audit).



NORWAY PROVIDES ...

of contamination in Banteay Meanchey province.

Besides, the Government of Germany is committed to support CMAC through NPA with some US\$2 million for 18-month demining operation project on Survey and landmines/ERW Clearance.

H.E. Heng Ratana thanked the Government of Norway, and particularly NPA for their assistance and support for Cambodia's efforts to achieve its mine-free goal in 2025.

CAMBODIA'S EXPORTS TO RCEP COUNTRIES TOP US\$5.6 BILLION IN JAN.-NOV. PERIOD

Cambodia exported a total of US\$5,671 million worth of goods to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) countries in the first eleven months of 2022, an increase of 5 percent compared to the same period last year, a data from the Ministry of Commerce showed on 03 January 2022.

From January to November this year, Cambodia's top three export RCEP destinations were Vietnam, China, and Japan with shipped products worth US\$1,894 million, US\$1,109 million, and US\$1,069 million, respectively.

At the same time, China is the biggest market for goods imported to Cambodia with a total value of US\$9,470 million, followed by Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore with US\$3,617 million, US\$3,542 million, and US\$3,169 million, respectively.

The RCEP free trade agreement entered into force on January 1, 2022.

The regional trade pact comprises 15 Asia-Pacific countries including the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam— and their five trading partners, namely China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. The mega-regional pact will eliminate as much as 90 percent of the tariffs on goods traded among its signatories over the next 20 years.

Cambodia expects to see a yearly export growth between 9.4 and 18 percent, that will contribute to the national economic growth between 2 and 3.8 percent, stated the Ministry of Commerce.

ALMOST 3,000 INDIVIDUALS OF YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTINGS COUNTED IN CAMBODIA IN 2021

Some 2,780 individuals of yellow-breasted buntings (*Emberiza aureola*) have been recorded at Boeung Prek Lapouv Protected Landscape (BPL) in Cambodia, the highest number in recent years, according to the Cambodian Journal of Natural History.

“Our surveys recorded a maximum count of 2,780 individuals in March 2021, the highest count of the species from Cambodia in recent years (higher counts were reported by Goes (2013) from other sites), which possibly involved congregations of birds prior to spring migration,” the source said.

The findings suggested that BPL is potentially important as a wintering site for yellow-breasted buntings and that it is particularly important as a site where the species aggregates in high densities when the landscape is at its driest during the wintering period.

In Cambodia, yellow-breasted buntings occur as regular winter visitors and have been recorded from November to May, although the species may arrive earlier based on observations from Laos and Vietnam.

Several parts of Cambodia are known to include wintering sites for yellow-breasted buntings, especially in the Tonle Sap floodplain and in the Eastern Plains along the lower Mekong floodplains, and these may form important wintering sites for the species in Southeast Asia given the large numbers counted, and the presence of relatively intact floodplain wetlands. Where found, the species typically occurs in flocks from tens to several hundred individuals in recent years.

The known wintering habitat of the species in Cambodia largely occurs in cultivated areas such as rice fields and natural grasslands, and the species is known to use scrubby margins of paddy fields for foraging, and dense reedbeds, grassland and associated scrub for roosting.



Boeung Prek Lapouv Protected Landscape was established on May 9, 2016 on a total land surface of 8,035 hectares in Takeo province.

It is a potential zone where over 40 species of wild and endangered bird species are inhabiting and feeding.

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PREAH SIHANOUK, SIEM REAP, PHNOM PENH, THE MOST VISITED DESTINATIONS LAST WEEK



The coastal province of Preah Sihanouk was crowned the most famous tourist destination in the last week of December, followed by the cultural province of Siem Reap and Phnom Penh capital.

According to a report of the Ministry of Tourism released this morning, nearly 440,000 tourists were counted during the said period, of them 402,347 were national tourists and 36,699 were foreign visitors.

Preah Sihanouk alone received 190,015 of the total registered tourists, while Siem Reap and Phnom Penh welcomed 76,022 and 32,175 visitors respectively, the source pointed out.

The provinces of Kampot, Battambang, Kampong Cham, and Kep were also among the most popular tourist destinations last week, said the report.