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UK MAY OPEN A UNIVERSITY IN CAMBODIA

The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, has announced that the United Kingdom may open a university in Cambodia, which would provide a good opportunity for students to study at international schools.

The Cambodian Prime Minister made the announcement while presiding over a graduation ceremony of Vanda Institute held at Koh Pich Convention and Exhibition Centre in Phnom Penh on 22 March 2023.

“The British Ambassador and delegations who have come to meet with me always told me that in the near future, the UK may open a university in Cambodia, which is an opportunity for those who cannot afford to study abroad,” he said.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen underlined that studying in the country will cost less than studying abroad, and having a British university in Cambodia gives students the chance to study in good schools.

CAMBODIA RECEIVES 2023 “WORLD LITERACY AWARD”

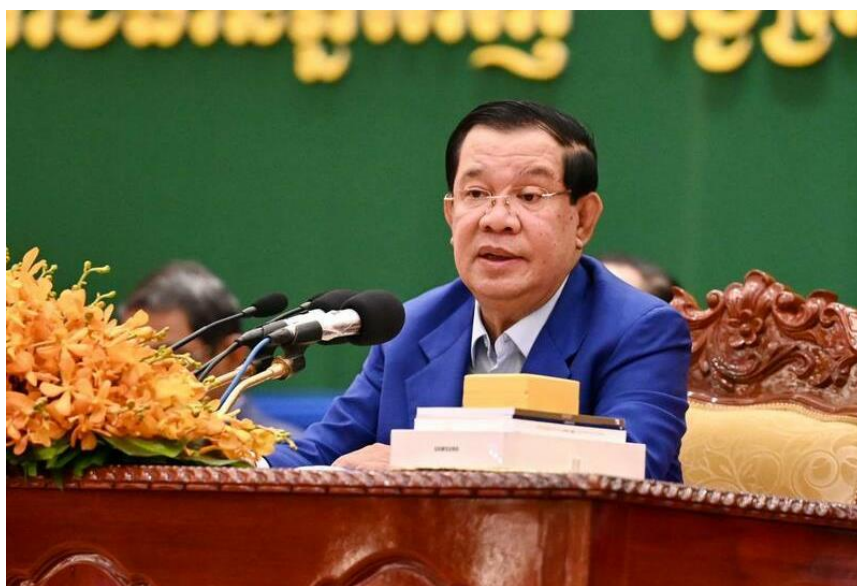
Cambodia is the proud recipient of a new award – ‘For an Important Contribution to Literacy by a Nation’.

The prize is bestowed on nations which have demonstrated excellent progress towards improving literacy by the World Literacy Foundation.

The award was accepted by H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and

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PM’S KHMER NEW YEAR MESSAGE WITH THE COUNTRY’S FIVE-YEAR MILESTONES



Cambodian Prime Minister has sent out a Khmer New Year message to his fellow country people, noting numerous milestones and achievements guided by the Rectangular Strategy phase 4 during the 6th legislature of the National Assembly.

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen delivered the message in an open letter released recently.

He underscored that voted by and for the people, the Royal Government has gained immense confidence from the people and is continuing its historic mission with firm commitment.

While working hard to build internal and human resources especially through comprehensive reforms, effective public institutional capacity, and governance; the government is committed to protect the constitutional monarchy, peace, political stability, national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

According to the Prime Minister, with all invested efforts, the government secured 5.5 percent economic growth in 2022 and the growth is expected to accelerate to 6.6 percent this year.

Cambodia's international trade volume has reached US\$48,151 million with US\$20,460 million worth export and US\$27,691 million worth import, and the country's inflation is well manageable.

The exchange rate remained stable, while the international reserves rose to US\$17,805 million in 2022, up from US\$14,629 million in 2018, and is expected to reach US\$22.149 million this year.

Cambodia's gross domestic product per capital increased to US\$1,785 in 2022 from US\$1,730 in 2021 and is expected to rise to US\$1,924 in 2023.

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PM'S KHMER NEW YEAR MESSAGE WITH ...

The Royal Government has built and rehabilitated various roads across the country to ease transport, trade, and economy; is promoting renewable and clean energy transition while securing 88.4 households with access to electricity.

On agriculture, Cambodia harvested a total of 11.62 million tonnes of paddy rice, with a surplus of 6.29 million tonnes of paddy rice or 4 million tonnes of milled rice and exported 637,000 tonnes of milled rice to international markets.

Despite the COVID-19 threat in the past years, there are still 1,982 factories, mostly for garment and footwear, and 43,997 small and medium enterprises operating in Cambodia.

The public health, service and construction sectors are also accelerating, and the government

is also managing effective its foreign affairs and contributing remarkable to the world's peacebuilding mission under the United Nations umbrella.

He also reminded that although the government's COVID-19 response and containment has been prove to be very effective, keeping the situation under control, the people need to stay vigilant and continue to practice necessary safety measures.

Sending New Year best wishes to His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni and Her Majesty Queen-Mother Norodom Monineath Sihanouk, Samdech Techo Prime Minister also called on all competent authorities to ensure public security and safety during the in-coming Khmer New Year on April 14-16 as well as the SEA Games and ASEAN Para Games to follow.

CAMBODIA RECEIVES 2023 "WORLD ...



Sport, during the World Literacy Summit, which held on 2-3 April at Oxford University in the United Kingdom.

H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron said winning the prize was a great achievement for the education sector and made the ministry proud.

"Cambodia today has been recognised for its literacy developments. The Cambodian government has launched many educational initiatives to eradicate illiteracy in the Kingdom," he said.

He said the progressive initiatives include programmes for re-enrolment of older students at vocational literacy schools, post-literacy programmes, equivalent degrees, language learning initiatives for income generation, and life skills improvement training.

He added that the award recognises the positive results of reform programmes the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) has initiated in recent years to improve the quality of education.

The minister noted that new training programmes have improved the capacity of teachers and all stakeholders, enhancing the quality and efficiency of student learning.

The World Literacy Foundation congratulated Cambodia and emphasised the significant steps the Kingdom has made towards achieving universal literacy.

In 2020, the literacy rate among Cambodian adults aged 15 was 87.8%, rising considerably from 77.6% in 2008.

The World Literacy Foundation is the world's leading global literacy charity, and it sponsors the annual award for literacy education.

Each year, the World Literacy Foundation and the World Literacy Council recognise both individuals and institutions for outstanding progress towards achieving literacy for all.

CAMBODIA'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE VALUED AT OVER US\$11 BILLION IN FIRST Q1



The total trade volume between Cambodia and its partners around the world reached more than US\$11 billion in the first three months of 2023, down 14.5 percent if compared to the same period last year.

Figures from the General Department of Customs and Excise at the Ministry of Economy and Finance showed that Cambodia exported nearly US\$5.4 billion worth of products to foreign markets, a year-on-year decline of 5.7 percent.

At the same time, the Kingdom's imports saw a decrease by 21.3 percent to almost US\$5.8 billion.

Cambodia's largest markets during the said period were China, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, China's Taiwan and Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, and Malaysia.

The main exported items include garments, footwear, travel goods, bicycles, rice, electrical equipment, rubber, furniture, and vegetables and fruits.

The country imported mostly raw materials, construction materials, automobiles, pharmaceutical products, electronics and electrical equipment, fertilisers, and pesticides.



UK LAUNCHES NEW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TRADING SCHEME IN THE KINGDOM

The United Kingdom on 28 March officially launched its Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) in Cambodia, which would enable the Kingdom to improve access to the UK market, said a Ministry of Commerce (MoC) release.

DCTS was launched at a ceremony presided over by MoC's Secretary of State Samheng Bora and Dominic Williams British Ambassador to Cambodia and attended by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, MoC and private firms at Himawari Hotel Apartments in Phnom Penh.

H.E. Mr. Samheng Bora said that the DCTS scheme would enable Cambodia to keep gaining benefits and export goods to the UK market with zero-tariff incentives, simpler procedures, more liberalised rules of origin requirements and simplify the conditions attached to the scheme and ability to participate in value chains involving materials from 95 countries.

"The trading scheme would help boost bilateral trade and increase high-quality goods that would be exported from Cambodia to UK," said H.E. Mr. Samheng Bora, adding that Britain is still

one of the key trading partners of Cambodia even though this country has exited European Union (EU).

Bilateral trade volume between Cambodia and UK has reached \$121 million for the first two months of 2023 after it increased 23.98 percent to \$977 million in 2022 as a whole from \$788 million in 2021, while the former gained the surplus from its exports of \$886 million and imports of \$91 million.

The main export goods that Cambodia has exported to the UK include apparel, textiles, foot wears and bicycles, while the UK has imported many types of goods such as automobiles, animal feeds and beverages, said the release. The developing countries trading scheme is a major milestone in growing free and fair trade with developing nations.

The DCTS demonstrates Britain's commitment to building long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with emerging economies that are home to more than 3.3 billion people and going beyond what is offered by the EU. "We are launching the developing countries trading scheme to harness the power of trade to help developing countries grow and prosper," said a UK policy paper.

CAMBODIA NEEDS USD 9 BILLION INVESTMENT IN POWER SECTOR

Cambodia will need investment of around USD 9 billion through to 2040 to develop new power plants and expand the national grids, the Master Power Development Plan 2022-2040 said.

Of the amount, over USD 2.5 billion is the investment that has been approved between 2022 and 2025.

Another USD 6.5 billion will be for renewable energy investment -hydropower dams (not project directly on the Mekong River), solar power projects, battery energy storage systems, natural gas-fired power plants, and biomass power plants, it added.

The Cambodian government has forecasted that the Kingdom's electricity demand will increase to 24 billion kilowatt hours by 2025, to 36 billion kilowatt hours by 2030, to 50 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) by 2035 and 66 billion kWh in 2040.

Currently, the total power generation capacity increased from 3,990 MW by the end of 2021 to 4,495 MW by the end of 2022, while the amount of energy consumed from the power source increased from 13,097 million kWh in 2021 to 15,455 million kWh in 2022.

REFORMS AIMED AT OVERCOMING FDI CHALLENGES

The Cambodian government has continuously implemented reforms to overcome challenges to attract more foreign direct investment, according to H.E. Mr. Vongsey Visoth, Permanent Secretary of State of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Shortage of skilled labour, limited inputs for production, high cost of energy and logistics, and limited commercial facilitation procedures are among the issues the government needs to address, said H.E. Mr. Vongsey Visoth.

He added that Cambodia's economy returns to a strong, sustainable growth path but it continues to face some major structural problems. Cambodia is also facing a more complex regional and global environment.

"For investment / foreign direct investment (FDI), Cambodia is absolutely necessary to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) to serve the goal of sustaining growth, creating jobs, increasing income and adding more value to the economy to support the development of the country and the building of our Cambodian state to be stronger and able to stand for a long time in an environment that is difficult to predict in the future with equality and equality," he said.

The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) approved fixed asset investment projects worth over \$4.685 billion in 2022, up 7 per cent as compared to a year before.

The sectors that foreign investors come to develop in Cambodia are mostly the garment industry, footwear, bags, and most recently real estate.

In October 2021, Cambodia launched the new investment law, which is a law to provide specific advance incentives and protection for investors in order to attract investments to Cambodia.

CAMBODIA EARNS WORLD RECORD TITLE FOR LARGEST DISPLAY OF ORIGAMI HEARTS

On 11 April 2023, Cambodia won another world record for the Largest Display of Origami Hearts.

A total of 3,917,805 origami hearts have been being displayed in the compound of Angkor Wat Temple in Siem Reap province for the Angkor Sankranta 2023 to be held from April 14 to 16.

The last record was made by the United Kingdom in 2019 with only 53,704 origami hearts.

H.E. Hun Many, President of the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC), expressed his delight and pride over the record-breaking of Cambodian display of origami hearts.

Cambodia also planned to break another world record for the largest Madison dance during the Angkor Sankranta 2023.

In the Angkor Sankranta 2015, Cambodia earned the Guinness World Record for the largest Madison dance with 2,015 participants, and for the giant Nom Ansorm, Cambodian sticky rice cake, weighing 4.04 tonnes.

In July 2018, Cambodia's 1,149-metre-long Krama (scarf) won the Guinness World Record as the longest Krama, and in November of the same year, Cambodia's longest dragon boat of 87.3 metres long and 1.94 metres wide, named "Kambojikaputtakhemaratar," literally meaning the boat of Khmers in Cambodian territory, was listed as a Guinness World Record.

