

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

ISSUE 120: 01 - 15 August 2023

## CAMBODIA'S FM MEETS WITH CHINA'S FM

His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and His Excellency WANG Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, held a productive bilateral meeting on 13 August 2023 at the Ministry.

During the meeting, Minister WANG Yi reaffirmed China's unwavering commitment to respecting Cambodia's sovereignty and conveyed China's resounding support for the Kingdom's emerging government leadership and development path. The mandate received from 82% of the Cambodian voters underscored the responsive governance approach of the Cambodian People's Party, attending to the exigencies and aspirations of the citizens.

*Continued on page (2)*

## CAMBODIAN TOP DIPLOMAT EMPHASISES ASEAN'S STRENGTH

Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. PRAK Sokhonn on 8 August highlighted the strength of ASEAN allowing the bloc to overcome a myriad of challenges, big and small, over the past decades.

"The strength of ASEAN lies in our capability to leverage on our diversity as a force, an advantage to produce remarkable achievements over the years. We have embraced a rules-based approach undergirded by our ASEAN Charter which upholds the principles of consultation and consensus-building, non-interference in

*Continued on page (2)*

## HIS MAJESTY THE KING APPOINTS H.E. DR. HUN MANET AS NEW PRIME MINISTER OF CAMBODIA



His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, has appointed H.E. Dr. HUN Manet as the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the 7<sup>th</sup> legislature of National Assembly and has bestowed the highest title of the Royal Academy of Cambodia, "Kitti Tesaphibal Pundit".

The appointment was made in a royal decree signed by His Majesty the King on 7 and 8 August 2023.

The newly appointed Prime Minister is responsible for preparing the composition of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia for a vote of confidence from the

National Assembly, the royal decree stated.

H.E. Dr. HUN Manet, former Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, and Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army, gained support from the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) that won a landslide victory during the July National Election as the future Prime Minister candidate in December 2021.

H.E. Dr. HUN Manet was born on Oct. 20, 1977 in Koh Thmar village, Memut district, Kampong Cham province (now Thbong Khmum province) during the Khmer Rouge rule of Cambodia. He married to Pich Chanmony with two daughters and one son.

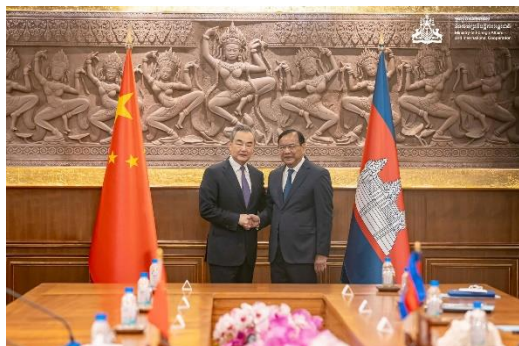
## CAMBODIA, U.S. STRENGTHEN TRADE COOPERATION

Ministry of Commerce and the U.S. House of Representatives have discussed the strengthening of cooperation on trade between the two countries.

The talks were held here on 2 August between Cambodian Minister of Commerce H.E. PAN Sorasak, and a delegation of the U.S. House of Representatives led by H.E. Jason Smith,

*Continued on page (2)* 1

## CAMBODIA'S FM MEETS WITH ...



Against the backdrop of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations and the Friendship Year between the two countries, both Foreign Ministers deliberated a course of action to further foster multifaceted cooperation encompassing political ties, parliamentary diplomacy, trade enhancement, investment facilitation, tourism promotion, educational exchange, infrastructure advancement, and security cooperation. They expressed satisfaction with the robust and dynamic momentum of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Cooperation.

While reassuring Cambodia's steadfast adherence to the One-China policy, Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn reaffirmed the Kingdom's firm commitment to further reinforcing a high-quality, high-level, and high-standard Community with a Shared Future, and fostering the Diamond

Cooperation Framework, thus mutually benefiting both countries and peoples.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister extended deep gratitude for China's substantial support and development assistance, including the provision of the COVID-19 vaccines and scholarships, which have significantly contributed to Cambodia's socio-economic development, and infrastructure. In commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) this year, Cambodia supports China's hosting of the 3rd Forum on the BRI, an event of importance for international cooperation.

The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual interest. China reaffirmed its support for Cambodia's initiatives within international frameworks. The official visit of His Excellency Kittti Tesaphibal Bindit HUN Manet to Beijing and his participation in the 20th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Nanning, and the 3rd Forum on the Belt and Road Initiative were also discussed.

## CAMBODIAN TOP DIPLOMAT ...



the internal affairs of ASEAN Member States and peaceful resolution of conflicts. Amidst some glitches here and there along the way, our region continues to enjoy peace, security, stability and development," said H.E. PRAK Sokhonn in his message at the ASEAN Day celebration in Phnom Penh.

The Cambodian top diplomat added that the other strength of ASEAN is its peoples. "At the heart of every initiative, project, or programme we seek to improve and advance the well-being of our peoples through a full regional integration. Our vibrant economies that are highly competitive and integrated are the sources of our growth. Our ASEAN Community is truly people-oriented, people-centred and we aspire to leave no one behind," he explained.

## CAMBODIA, U.S. STRENGTHEN TRADE ...



Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means and H.E. Patrick Murphy, U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia.

In the meeting, H.E. PAN Sorasak briefed the delegation on Cambodia's business and investment environment, especially the free trade agreements with China and Korea and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement, offering large market access for Cambodia-made products.

He asked the U.S. side to accelerate the renewal of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) expired in late 2020, aimed to further strengthen the trade collaboration between the two countries for more mutual economic benefits.

Cambodia's travel goods and bags are exported to the U.S. under the GSP while other goods including garment and footwear under the World Trade Organisation's Most Favoured Nation (MFN) scheme.

The bilateral trade between Cambodia and the U.S. was amounted to US\$4.35 billion in the first half of this year, a 9.6 percent decrease compared to the same period last year, according to the General Department of Customs and Excise's report.

"Rapid changes in the global geopolitical landscape and the resulting uncertainties over the recent years have presented new and complex challenges for ASEAN. However, our efforts to act and respond as one family to address challenges together have enabled us to develop effective and appropriate responses to these difficult issues on the principles of equality, mutual respect, mutual interest. This dynamic has allowed us to further strengthen ASEAN Centrality and elevate our stature when engaging with our Dialogue Partners and other external friends. In the face of any obstacle, ASEAN has, without fail, managed to show our resilience and adaptiveness by tackling them with our own unique and effective approach, the ASEAN Way," he said.

## TURKMENISTAN INTENDS TO CONNECT A DIRECT FLIGHT WITH CAMBODIA

Turkmenistan is interested in strengthening tourism cooperation, especially in establishing a direct flight to Siem Reap cultural province, a key tourism destination in ASEAN, making it the first among the Central Asian countries to have a direct flight with Cambodia.

The intention was made by H.E. Muhammetnyaz Mashalov, Malaysia-based Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Cambodia during his meeting with H.E. THONG Khon, Cambodian Minister of Tourism here in Phnom Penh on 14 August.

H.E. Muhammetnyaz Mashalov congratulated the Ministry of Tourism as well as the Royal Government of Cambodia on their achievement in restoring and promoting the tourism sector after the COVID-19 crisis.

The Turkmenistan ambassador suggested the organisation of tourism events in Cambodia and Turkmenistan to further promote the tourism potentials and destinations between the two countries to tourism operators, and national and international visitors in the world.

From his end, H.E. THONG Khon supported Turkmenistan's intention to tighten the tourism cooperation between the two countries. He suggested the preparation of a MoU, a roadmap for the implementation of action plan related to tourism cooperation and a solid witness of the tie of friendship and cooperation between both nations.

According to H.E. Minister, Cambodia received over 3.04 million foreign tourists during the first seven months of 2023, and the figure is expected to rise to some 5 million by the year end.

## ELECTRIC MOBILITY SHOWCASE ENCOURAGES USE OF EVS IN CAMBODIA



The Electric Mobility Showcase 2023 was held in Phnom Penh on 11 August with an aim to encourage the use of electric vehicles (EVs) in Cambodia as the government is working to build infrastructure support – EV charging stations – across the country.

The day-long event, organised by EnergyLab Cambodia at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC), attracted the participation of 16 auto companies to display the latest EV models and e-bikes.

Visitors had the chance to test drive their favorite EV and learned about the latest developments in electric mobility, and network with industry leaders.

Ms. Odam Pisey, EV Manager of Car For You, an auto company joining the showcase, said that her company's EVs have attracted visitors who sought understanding about the advantages of using EVs and spare part services.

"People are interested in using EVs thanks to their benefits such as saving the cost of gasoline and spare parts compared to normal vehicles, and contributing to reducing emissions to the environment," she pointed out.

Mr. Yann Vaudin, Founder and CEO of Green e-Bike, said that the showcase allowed people to experience e-bikes. "The number of e-bikes is growing at a low level, which requires further public awareness of using EVs, including e-bikes in Cambodia," he added.

EnergyLab Cambodia is an innovative and efficient not-for-profit organisation working to support the growth of Clean Energy markets. Its initiatives have made a positive impact on the clean energy industry, contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, job

## CAMBODIAN TOP DIPLOMAT ...

H.E. PRAK Sokhonn also recalled the success of Cambodia in assuming the ASEAN Chairmanship last year despite so many "hot stones", and expressed his optimism that under Indonesia Chairmanship and its theme "Epicentrum of Global Growth" this year, ASEAN will continue to matter as we move forward to implement our ASEAN Community building process, including speeding up the delivery of our Community Blueprints, strengthening ASEAN's capacity and institutional effectiveness, and formulating our Post-2025 Vision that ensures ASEAN becomes a future-ready, future-proof Community.

He also reiterated the imperative of maintaining ASEAN Centrality and Unity. Its core principle of consensus must be adhered to, regardless of the vagaries of circumstances.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on Aug. 8, 1967. It consists of ten members, including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Last year, it agreed in principle to admit Timor-Leste as the bloc's 11th member.

---

creation, diversification of Cambodia's energy sources, and overall economic development and community poverty reduction.

The royal government is committed to reducing pollution through the use of fuel-efficient vehicles and the switch to EVs, at least to 40 percent of total vehicles and 70 percent of motorcycles by 2050.

As of January, the number of registered EVs in Cambodia reached more than 700, a ten-fold increase compared to a year before, according to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

The ministry will further encourage the use of EVs, affirmed recently H.E. SUN Chanthol, Senior Minister, Minister of Public Works and Transport, underlining, "The number of people using EVs has increased significantly as users started realising their benefits."

## “DEU LENG SROK YOEUNG” MOBILE APPLICATION LAUNCHED



The Ministry of Environment officially launched a mobile application called “Deu Leng Srok Yoeung”, which literally means “Visit our country”, to provide information about Cambodia’s eco-tourism destinations to facilitate visits to those areas.

The official launching ceremony took place here at the ministry on 14 August under the presidency of H.E. SAY Samal, Minister of Environment.

On the occasion, H.E. Minister appreciated and thanked all stakeholders who worked hard to develop this app which provides convenience for tourists and contributes to increasing income of local community.

The App also reflects the Cambodian people's better living conditions allowing them to travel across the country with their family members and their friends, he added.

The “Deu Leng Srok Yoeung” mobile app is part of the Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project, designed to support the promotion of ecotourism destinations and make it easier for tourists to find accurate information and ease their travel through key functions such as navigation maps, travel planning and information sharing via photos and text messages.

## OVER 500% INCREASE IN ANGKOR TICKET SALES

Cambodia earned more than USD 20 million from more than 430,000 international tourists who bought tickets to Angkor in the first seven months of 2023, an increase of more than 500% over the same period in 2022.

According to a press release from the Angkor Institute, in the first seven months, 439,365 foreign tourists bought tickets to Angkor Resort. Revenue was USD 20,317,345, an increase of 502.79% compared to the same period in 2022.

More than 2.6 million domestic and international tourists visited Angkor in Siem Reap in the first seven months of this year, including 2,203,696 nationals and 439,365 foreigners.

Report from the Ministry of Tourism show that in the first half of 2023, Cambodia received about 2.57 million international tourists out of a total of 11.1 million tourists, an increase of 409% compared to the same period in 2022.



H.E. TOP Sopheak, a spokesman for the Ministry of Tourism, said recently that the main markets were Thailand, Vietnam, China, Laos, the United States, South Korea, Indonesia, France, the United Kingdom, Malaysia and Australia.

According to the latest forecast in 2023, Cambodia can receive about 5 million international tourists, an increase of 120% compared to 2022.