

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

ISSUE 121: 16 - 31 August 2023

## NEW PRIME MINISTER CONFIRMS CAMBODIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

New Prime Minister Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet has briefed the public on Cambodia's foreign policy for his new administration.

While holding his first get-together with factory workers and employees in Prey Speu area, Phnom Penh on 29 August, Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet said Cambodia will continue to make friend with all nations neutrally and independently based on the benefit of the nation.

At the same time, Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet expressed thanks to all friendly nations who had congratulated him on his assumption of office as the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the National Assembly.

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## CAMBODIAN FM AND U.S. AMBASSADOR FURTHER STRENGTHEN RELATION

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Sok Chenda Sophea, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and His Excellency Patrick Murphy, Ambassador of the United States to Cambodia, shared high appreciation with deep satisfaction vis-à-vis the two-hour "productive" exchange of views and discussion during a meeting on 28 August 2023 between His Excellency Kitti Tesaphibal Bindit HUN MANET, Prime Minister of Cambodia, and the U.S. Congressional Staff delegation led by Mr. Alex Carnes, Majority Clerk for the Subcommittee on State, Foreign

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## NEW ROYAL GOVERNMENT TO PAY HIGH ATTENTION TO SIX PRIORITY POLICY PROGRAMMES



Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has affirmed that the 7th-mandate Royal Government of Cambodia will pay high attention to six priority policy programmes that will be launched immediately in 2023 in addition to the "Political Platform".

The six priority policy programmes were highlighted in his speech after the National Assembly (NA) approved its structure and casted its vote of confidence for the new cabinet members at the NA Palace on 22 August 2023.

According to Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, the six priority policy programmes include:

- (1)- Expanding healthcare services towards achieving the universal health coverage;
- (2)- Providing vocational and technical trainings for youth from poor and vulnerable households across the nation;

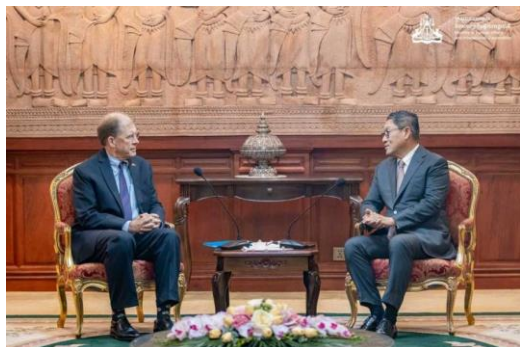
3)- Institutionalising the national social assistance programme for poor households, vulnerable people from poor households, and at-risk households during economic crises and emergencies;

(4)- Formulating and accelerating the implementation of the Informal Economy Development Strategy to enable them to participate in the formal economy, and to grasp the benefits from formal social protection system;

(5)- Introducing coordinating mechanism and financing programme that enhance agricultural products' production, market access, and price stability at a reasonable level; and

(6)- Deploying agricultural technical officers to all communes and Sangkats that have agricultural activities across the nation and forming farmers associations in rural areas.

## CAMBODIAN FM AND U.S. AMBASSADOR ...



Operations and Related Programs of the U.S. Senate, underlining it would lead to the enhancement of understanding between the two countries.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Ambassador reaffirmed, in a courtesy call by the latter on 31 August 2023, their commitment to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between both countries and touched on some aspects of the promotion of bilateral ties. Deputy Prime Minister Sok Chenda Sophea expressed sincere thanks for the assistance provided by the U.S. government in support of the social and economic development in Cambodia while Ambassador Murphy recalled with appreciation the active contribution made by Cambodia during its ASEAN Chairmanship in the elevation of the ASEAN-US Dialogue Partner to "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership". Deputy Prime Minister Sok Chenda Sophea make known to Ambassador Murphy of the Cambodian Prime Minister's tentative schedule to have a business meeting with some American companies

organized by the USASEAN Business Council while attending the upcoming UN General Assembly in New York to explore the business opportunities in the Kingdom.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Ambassador also discussed the arrangement for a meeting between Prime Minister HUN MANET and Her Excellency Ms. Victoria Nuland, U.S. Acting Deputy Secretary of State, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Ambassador also discussed the cooperation in the multilateral platforms, especially in the ASEAN and United Nations frameworks and exchanged views on some regional and international issues of common interests. They shared satisfaction with the smooth process of and the good collaboration under the US-Mekong partnership.

During the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Sok Chenda Sophea expressed his appreciation for the warm wishes and congratulations extended by Ambassador Murphy on his new appointment and assured the Envoy of the continuation of the existing good working relations between the Ministry and the Embassy. They underscored their optimism for the future of the relationship between the two countries.

## NEW GOVERNMENT FORMATION TO BRING MORE NEW INVESTMENTS

The formation of the new Royal Government of Cambodia will bring new investments to the country, generating more jobs and contributing to the economic growth.

Peace, political stability, and free trade agreements (FTAs), as well as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the new investment law have made the country potential for investment, said H.E. Heng

Sokkung, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology, and Innovation.

"In the new mandate of government, there will be new investors to inject investment capital, particularly in the non-garment manufacturing sector," he affirmed.

The RCEP and Cambodia-China FTA entered into force earlier in 2022 while the

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## NEW PRIME MINISTER CONFIRMS ...

Both Russian Prime Minister and Ukrainian President, and South Korean and North Korean leaders are also on the list, he underlined.

Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet said more than 20 world leaders have sent their congratulatory messages to him, including those of China, Japan, ASEAN nations, European Commission, India, Maldives, Tunisia, Ghana and so on.

## CAMBODIA-CHINA TRADE EXPECTED TO REACH USD 15 BILLION IN 2025

Cambodia-China bilateral trade was projected to hit USD15 billion by 2025, up from USD11 billion in 2022.

H.E. Vongsey Vissoth, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, highlighted the projection in his remarks during a cultural show in Phnom Penh to celebrate the 65th anniversary of Cambodia-China diplomatic relations on 28 August 2023.

The outlook, he said, was based on trade pathways paved between the two countries, including the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement, which enables exports, especially of Cambodia's agricultural products, to China. China is one of Cambodia's largest trading partners, with USD20 billion in Chinese investment in 2022 alone, and the volume is building up, he continued.

Cambodia and China also established a Belt and Road Bilateral Cooperation Framework in 2017 to promote economic-trade-investment infrastructure connectivity.

Within the framework, the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone, the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville expressway, and a new international airport in Siem Reap have been constructed, and more are in the pipeline.

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## MONDULKIRI'S PUTANG VILLAGE CONSIDERED FOR ROLE MODEL TOURIST

Mondulkiri provincial administration is considering the transformation of Putang village into a role model cultural and natural tourist attraction.

Mondulkiri Provincial Governor H.E. Thong Savon unveiled the intention when distributing main fruit trees to 100 families in the village located in Romnea commune of Sen Monorom town on 18 August.

To achieve the vision, he called on the community's engagement and contribution to ensure safety, good hygiene, easily accessible roads and other infrastructure, and the supply of clean food as well as natural vegetables and fruits.

Putang village is home mainly to an indigenous population, where tourists can visit and learn from their way of life while enjoying the beautiful scenery and wildlife there, including elephants.

## ANA HIGHLIGHTS WOMEN'S KEY ROLE IN CONSERVATION OF ANCIENT TEMPLES

The APSARA National Authority (ANA) has highlighted the essential role of women in the conservation and restoration of ancient temples.

At the restoration site of Trapeang Lpeou Temple in Siem Reap province, many women and men are busy with their work as temple repairers. One of the workers, Ms. Men Roeun, a 43-year-old resident of Nokor Krao village, Sangkat Kork Chak, Siem Reap provincial city, has been working for the ANA since 2000 as a tourism agent at the temple. In 2013, she was transferred to a brick temple restoration team. She said that when she first started working as a temple repairer, she had a hard time because she had no previous experience in this field. At first, even mixing mortar was not easy. She thought to herself that she had no idea how far she could do this work, but because of her love, she had been working to repair the temple for 10 years and has been involved in repairing the Kork Chak Temple, Kravan Temple, and currently Trapeang Lpeou Temple.

For the past 10 years, Ms. Men Roeun has been proficient in many skills, such as the technique of repairing brick temples, how to make lime mortar, cleaning the site, repairing, sealing, strengthening bricks, and learning to sketch the temple layout, etc.

Another worker, Ms. Che Dy, who lives in Thnal Toteung village, Banteay Srei district, joined the ANA in 2004 as a tourism agent before taking part in the temple restoration in



2013. She has helped repair Phnom Bakheng Temple, Kork Chak Temple, and finally Trapeang Lpeou Temple.

Over the past 10 years, Ms. Che Dy has had as much experience as the rest of the team on the techniques of repairing the brick temple and other tasks assigned by the site manager. Despite her tiring work, she keeps persevering for future generations.

Both Ms. Men Roeun and Ms. Che Dy expressed their excitement as the team, both men and women, worked together to repair the dilapidated brick temple. This also makes their family proud.

As the temple repairers, they want every Cambodian to know that there are repair marks in ancient temples, which proves that this generation of Cambodians has taken care of the restoration and conservation. Therefore, in the future, the next generation would continue the work.

## CAMBODIA-CHINA TRADE EXPECTED ...

The two friends reached a deal on the "Diamond Cooperation Framework" in February 2023 focusing on political cooperation, quality and production capacity, agriculture, energy, security, and people-to-people cooperation.

They also agreed to establish two new economic corridors, namely the "Fish and Rice Corridor" and the "Industrial and Technological Corridor".

## NEW GOVERNMENT FORMATION ...

Cambodia-Korea FTA came into effect in December last year.

Mr. Lim Heng, Vice-President of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, shared his insight over the country's potential for investment.

"The existing trade pacts bilaterally and multilaterally and new free trade agreements with main trade partners provide more momentum in attracting investments in years to come," he said.

Private sector has a firm belief that the new government will drive further economic growth through the existing free trade agreements, he added.

Cambodia attracted 113 fixed-asset investment projects worth USD1.1 billion in the first half of 2023, creating some 122,000 new jobs, said a report of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC).

Foreign direct investment often reflects the confidence of an individual or an organisation of a foreign country in the recipient nation's stability, growth prospect and soundness of political, economic and legal systems.

Under the new investment law, promulgated in October 2021, Cambodia is expected to attract more FDIs in the future, said H.E. Heng Sokkung, underlining that Cambodia welcomes investment from all countries in line with its Industrial Development Policy 2015-2025.

## CAMBODIA ATTRACTS THREE MILLION INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS IN SEVEN MONTHS

Cambodia recorded some 3.03 million international visitors in the first seven of 2023, a sharp increase of 308 percent from 743,459 over the same period last year, a Ministry of Tourism’s report showed on 23 August.

Thailand topped the chart among the international arrivals to the country during the January-July period this year, followed by Vietnam, China, Laos, and the United States, read the report.

The ministry has said that that the number of foreign visitors to Cambodia is predicted to reach 7 million in 2025, surpassing the pre-COVID-19 pandemic level of 6.6 million in 2019.

Tourism is one of the four pillars supporting Cambodia’s economy, in addition to garment export, agriculture, and construction and real estate.

According to the ministry, in 2022, more than 2.2 million international tourists visited Cambodia, an increase of 1,059 percent compared to 2021.

Cambodia is well known for its three world heritage sites, namely the Angkor Archaeological Park in Siem Reap province, the Preah Vihear Temple in Preah Vihear province, and the Sambor Prei Kuk Archaeological Site in Kampong Thom province.

Besides, it has a 450-km pristine coastline stretching across four south-western provinces of Preah Sihanouk, Kampot, Kep and Koh Kong.

