

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

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## CAMBODIAN PASSPORT CAN BE APPLIED AT EMBASSIES IN FOREIGN NATIONS

Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, said Cambodian passport can now be applied at the Cambodian embassies in foreign nations, starting with South Korea.

At a get-together with some 18,000 workers and employees in Samrong Torng district, Kampong Speu province on 9 September, Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet said the Royal Government of Cambodia is committed to providing better services to the people.

“Cambodian passports now are allowed to be issued abroad, starting by South Korea, to solve the difficulties for the migrant workers there. There is no need for the Cambodian people there to travel to their home country to apply for their passport,” he said.

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## ASEAN PUSH TO RESOLVE MYANMAR CRISIS

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers have urged Myanmar to create a conducive environment towards peaceful dialogue among all stakeholders for the benefit of its people.

Cambodia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation released a statement on 8 September, saying that “The ASEAN Foreign Ministers encouraged further progress in the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus (5PC).”

“They underlined that the consensus, including the ASEAN Leaders’ Review and Decision on the Implementation of the 5PC, remains the key reference to help Myanmar return to normalcy,” it said.

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## CAMBODIAN PRIME MINISTER: ASEAN SUMMIT SUCCESSES ARE ALSO CAMBODIANS’ BENEFITS



Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet said that the accomplishment of the ASEAN mission in Indonesia benefits all Cambodians, not just him.

“This accomplishment belongs to all Cambodians, and all of the nations that attended the meeting there, including the United States, Japan, Australia, India, and other nations, have shown their warm support and welcome,” he said when addressing about 18,000 factory workers in Kampong Speu province on 9 August 2023.

Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet detailed three major tasks he accomplished at the ASEAN Summit.

The first was diplomacy as the head of the Cambodian government, especially as Cambodia’s new prime minister to connect and continue diplomatic relations, he said.

The second was holding bilateral meetings to strengthen ties and cooperation.

The third, he added, was economic work, which included increasing trade and investment in Cambodia. This included increasing rice exports to Indonesia, agricultural cooperation with the Philippines, and small and medium-sized firms, and attempting to raise the quota for Cambodian workers going to South Korea.

“Our mission is intended to convey Cambodia’s political stance and resolve to actively contribute as a positive member of the international community to uphold peace, stability, and the improvement of human interaction across every sector,” he said.

Government spokesman H.E. Pen Bona said Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet’s presence and activities at the ASEAN Summit was a major test to measure the level of leadership of Cambodia’s young prime minister in politics, diplomacy, regional and international, as the new government was just two weeks old.

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## CAMBODIAN PASSPORT CAN BE APPLIED...

Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet took the opportunity to remind the Royal Embassies of Cambodia in foreign nations of two important points: first, be responsible for the country's political and economic relations, and second, protect the interests of the Cambodian nationals in accordance with the constitution, even though they hold another nationality.

"This is the duty of our embassies abroad and this is what the government must do for the public interest," he said.

Besides, Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet affirmed that the letter of a criminal record can be now applied online, but once issued, we need to personally get it at the Ministry of Justice.

## CAMBODIAN PRIME MINISTER: ASEAN...

During the four-day mission, Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet attended 13 ASEAN Summits and Related Summits and delivered 12 keynote addresses, and held trilateral working breakfast with his counterparts from Vietnam and Laos, and 32 bilateral talks, from 4 to 7 September 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

## ASEAN PUSH TO RESOLVE MYANMAR ...



growth, and ensure full and effective implementation of free-trade agreements, especially the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP).

Noting with satisfaction the growing prestige and capacity of ASEAN, which have attracted engagement by countries outside

The meeting further stressed that the 5PC has served as the necessary instrument to create a conducive environment towards peaceful dialogue among all stakeholders for the benefit of all people of Myanmar," it said.

The call came during the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Jakarta on 4 September 2023.

H.E. Sok Chenda Sophea, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation reaffirmed Cambodia's support for Indonesia's efforts in promoting dialogue among the stakeholders concerned and reiterated the need to maintain ASEAN unity and perseverance to address the highly complex issue of Myanmar.

He underlined that ASEAN has clearly displayed the spirit of unity in navigating multifaceted challenges and has become the beacon of peace, stability, and prosperity for the region. In this regard, he stated that ASEAN needs to continue to strengthen the effectiveness of its main institutions to address emerging complex geo-strategic challenges.

H.E. Sok Chenda Sophea also encouraged other member states to continue to further promote intra-ASEAN trade, explore new sources of

the region, he stressed the importance for it to continually augment its institutional capacity to manage these partnerships for the interests of all the bloc's peoples through fostered fruitful collaboration in myriad areas with external partners, the statement said.

H.E. Sok Chenda Sophea also reaffirmed Cambodia's determination to contribute to a nuclear-weapon-free Southeast Asia and commended China's readiness to embrace the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty without reservation.

This, if concluded, will encourage other Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to follow suit.

President of Indonesia Joko Widodo, who opened the Retreat Session of the 43rd ASEAN Summit on 5 September, said that two issues will be the focus this time, namely the review of the implementation of the 5PC and the implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.

Regarding the evaluation of the 5PC, Widodo emphasised that the collective agreement of

The Cambodian Premier had bilateral talks, both official and unofficial, with different world leaders, including China, India, the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Cook Islands, ASEAN leaders, and so on as well as heads of some regional and international institutions and organizations.

Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet is the youngest leader in the summits but has shown outstanding diplomatic talent and excellence way, especially in high-level international dialogues with different leaders.

## CAMBODIA, CHINA TO SIGN 6 MORE MOUs TO ENHANCE INVESTMENT COOPERATION

The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) and China's Ministry of Commerce are expected to sign six more memoranda of understanding (MoUs) to enhance comprehensive investment cooperation that covers the promotion of investment in the digital sector, new types of industrialisation, green development, and industrial development corridor building.

Both sides had signed an MoU earlier to set up a mechanism to strengthen investment and economic cooperation.

Economic and trade adviser with the Chinese embassy in Phnom Penh Zhong Jie recently told Chea Vuthy, secretary general of the CDC's Cambodian Investment Board that she would help raise bilateral trade by encouraging Chinese investors to invest in all sectors in the country.

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## EIU RANKS CAMBODIA AMONG BEST INVESTMENT DESTINATIONS FOR CHINESE



London-based Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has ranked Cambodia as the world's sixth most attractive investment destination for market expansion by Chinese companies.

In a recent report on China's Belt and Road Initiative released on 7 September, it also ranked Cambodia as the tenth best destination for Chinese investment in supply-chain development.

Expansion is likely in consumer electronics, information technology services, telecommunications, renewable energy and automotive products.

## IN FIRST EIGHT MONTHS CAMBODIA'S MILLED RICE EXPORT REACHES OVER 400,000 TONNES

Cambodia exported a total of 401,699 tonnes of milled rice in the first eight months of this year, generating over US\$278 million in revenue, a Cambodia Rice Federation report said on 09 September.

The January-August export accounted for 58 percent of the planned export amount of 700,000 tonnes this year, the same source added.

Exported milled rice varieties included premium aromatic rice, fragrant rice, long grain white rice, parboiled rice, and organic rice, it pointed out.

According to the report, Cambodian rice has

been shipped to 56 countries and regions around the world during the said period.

European Union countries remained the top buyer of Cambodia's milled rice, purchasing 164,682 tonnes, followed by China and its autonomous regions and ASEAN members with 143,818 tonnes and 36,692 tonnes, respectively, it said.

In 2022, Cambodia exported over 630,000 tonnes of milled rice to 59 countries, earning US\$414 million, while the revenue from paddy rice export was around US\$841 million. The Cambodia Rice Federation has set an ambitious goal to export at least a million tonnes of milled rice by 2025.

## AN ELECTRIC SUBSTATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY CDC

A project to develop a substation and a 230-kilovolt high-voltage electricity transmission line from Kampong Cham province to Kratie province has been approved by the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC).

According to a press release from the CDC made public 07 September, with an investment capital of USD 92.2 million, the project is invested by Cambodian Transmission II Co., Ltd. and could create some 464 jobs for the locals.

At the same time, the CDC also gave the green light to nine other investment projects covering the production of pet food, toys and clothing, hats, bags, shelves, and so on.

The newly approved projects, amounting to US\$54.25 million, would generate a total of nearly 14,000 job opportunities.

## ASEAN PUSH TO RESOLVE MYANMAR ...

ASEAN leaders in 2021 will remain the primary guideline for the regional bloc.

He revealed that Indonesia has engaged in very intensive communication, totaling more than 145 engagements with 70 stakeholders on the Myanmar issue.

"This has been done in nine months, and Indonesia sees that trust has begun to emerge among one stakeholder and another, except with the Military Junta," the President explained.

He also stressed that ASEAN needs to push for an inclusive national dialogue to resolve the conflict in Myanmar.

## CAMBODIA, CHINA TO SIGN 6 MORE MOUs ...

In the first seven months this year, bilateral trade volume rose by 1.8 percent year on year to around USD 7 billion, the Cambodian General Department of Customs and Excise said.

China is Cambodia's largest international trading partner, accounting for 25.6 percent of Cambodia's international trade volume in the first seven months of 2023, amounting to USD 27 billion.

## CHEVENING SCHOLARSHIP OPEN FOR APPLICATION

Chevening, the UK government's international scholarship programme is now open for application.

The British Embassy in Cambodia said applications for the one-year fully funded master's degree course close on November 7. Chevening Scholarships are awarded to individuals from all backgrounds who can demonstrate that they have the commitment and skills required to become future leaders, and can show how a UK master's degree will help them to create positive change in their country.

The scholarship offers full financial support for scholars to study for any eligible master's degree at over 150 UK universities whilst also gaining access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional, and cultural experiences. Applications are to be submitted via the online application form at [chevening.org/apply](https://chevening.org/apply).

# CAMBODIA RECORDS 180 PERCENT RISE IN AIR PASSENGERS IN FIRST EIGHT MONTHS

Cambodia registered 3.4 million air travelers during the first eight months of 2023, a year-on-year increase of 180 percent, according to a report released by the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation on 11 September.

The report said international and domestic airlines had operated a total of 33,146 flights to the Southeast Asian kingdom's three international airports during the January-August period this year, a year-on-year rise of 114 percent.

State Secretariat of Civil Aviation's Undersecretary of State and Spokesman Sinn Chanserey Vutha said Cambodia is forecast to attract around 4.6 million air passengers this year, an expected increase from 2.38 million last year.

"For 2023, we predict that the number of air passengers will be doubled thanks to China's reopening earlier this year, which has injected fresh impetus into the development of the aviation industry," he said.

According to the report, in contrast to the rise in air passengers, Cambodia saw a 10-percent drop in air cargo volume to 34,881 tonnes during the first eight months of this year.

Tourism remains one of the core economic pillars of Cambodia and thus is a key focus of the Cambodian government's socio-economic development strategy.

Cambodia's Ministry of Tourism has set a target to receive 6.4 million international tourists in 2025 and seven million by 2026.

H.E. Sok Soken, the new Minister of Tourism, has also set new strategic goals to promote the Cambodian tourism industry, which he wants to be more competitive, sustainable, and inclusive.

