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CAMBODIA TO PROMOTE THE USE OF CLEAN ENERGY TO 70% BY 2030

Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, received Mr. Masayuki Hyodo, President and CEO of Sumitomo Corporation in Tokyo on 16 December, on the sidelines of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

In the courtesy meeting, Mr. Masayuki Hyodo briefed Samdech Thipadei on his company's investment activities in both Cambodia and ASEAN in various fields, including manufacturing of electronic appliances, energy, infrastructure, broadcasting, digital, and so on.

Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister thanked the Sumitomo Corporation for its investment in

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CAMBODIA PROMOTES PARTNERSHIP AT MEKONG-LANGANG COOPERATION FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

H.E. SOK Chenda Sophea, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, took part in the Eighth Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Beijing on December 7 under the theme "Jointly Strive for Modernisation and Cultivate New Strengths in Sub-Regional Development".

According to a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, H.E. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, and H.E. U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign

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CAMBODIA, VIET NAM VOW TO FURTHER CULTIVATE AND EXPAND COOPERATION ACROSS THE BOARD



Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, concluded his two-day official visit to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on 12 December. The visit, at the invitation of His Excellency PHAM Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, contributed to further strengthening and deepening the bonds of friendship and comprehensive cooperation in the spirit of good neighborliness solidarity and mutual understanding.

1. Bilateral Meeting Between Prime Ministers

The Prime Minister of Viet Nam regarded Samdech Thipadei as an outstanding young leader steering the Kingdom towards continued development and achievements in line with its vision of becoming an Upper-middle-country by 2030, and a high-income nation by 2050. Samdech Thipadei expressed appreciation to the Prime Minister of Viet Nam for the warm welcome and excellent hospitality extended during the stay in Hanoi.

Both prime ministers expressed deep appreciation

towards the steady growth of bilateral relations and across-the-board cooperation. To further boost productive cooperation, leaders discussed a course of action in the spheres of trade and investment, tourism, connectivity, health, education, security, border affairs, and defence. Both sides pledged to continue strengthening cooperation and explore potential new areas through frequent exchanges of visits, dialogue, and interactions between leaders at all levels. Leaders set a bilateral trade target of USD 20 billion in the near future. Samdech Thipadei underscored that the Cambodia-Viet Nam relationship has been developing through increased trade and investment and that the two countries have great potential for economic partnership connecting supply chains. The two leaders agreed on the importance of both hard and soft connectivity.

2. Meetings with Key Leaders

In separate courtesy calls, His Excellency NGUYEN Phu Trong, General Secretary of the

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Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, His Excellency VO Van Thuong, President of Viet Nam, and His Excellency VUONG Dinh Hue, President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam, praised the Kingdom's remarkable progress and achievements under the tenure of Samdech Techo HUN Sen. They expressed confidence that under the leadership of Samdech Thipadei, Cambodia will continue witnessing robust development with bilateral relations further cultivated and strengthened. Samdech Thipadei emphasized the continuity and consistency of Cambodia's foreign policy. Both sides highly valued the solidarity, joint struggle, and mutual support during the challenging circumstances of the two countries' history, including the struggle for independence, unification, and the fight against the Khmer Rouge genocidal regime. To further solidify the bonds of friendship and expand productive cooperation, the two sides agreed to pursue dialogue and interactions between leaders at all levels under state, parliamentary and party frameworks, and to further advance trilateral collaboration with Cambodia-Lao PDR-Viet Nam in various sectors.

In courtesy calls by the Viet Nam-Cambodia Friendship Association and the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the two sides highlighted their vital role in people diplomacy, cultural exchanges, humanitarian activities, and business. Talks focused on future directions aimed at maintaining and enhancing the spirit of solidarity, friendship, and mutual understanding between the two peoples, particularly younger generations, contributing to cooperation in areas such as trade, education, and tourism.

3. Interactions with the Private Sector and Academia

Samdech Thipadei and the Prime Minister of Viet Nam delivered keynote remarks at a Cambodia-Vietnam Investment and Trade Promotion Forum. The forum saw the participation of more than 100 Vietnamese companies interested in understanding investment potentials, opportunities, business operations and incentives under Cambodia's

Law on Investment. Highlighting Cambodia's economic resilience and return to path of robust growth, Samdech Thipadei encouraged Vietnamese investors to explore potential manufacturing sectors linked to production chains in Viet Nam, notably advanced agriculture, food processing, automobiles and electronics as well as digital and financial technologies.

Samdech Thipadei received separate courtesy calls by business leaders in the telecoms, aviation, rubber, finance and banking, agriculture, and automobile sectors. Viettel, VietJet, Viet Nam Rubber Industry Alliance, the Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam (BIDV), Truong Hai Group Corporation (THACO) and Vingroup expressed their appreciation towards the Royal Government's attention and support for their operations. The companies provided updates on plans to expand investment and set up new projects in the Kingdom. Viettel intends to increase investment in digital technology and **VietJet announced the launching of direct flights between Hanoi and Siem Reap on 15 December**. BIDV will support scholarships and training for poor students and Vingroup aims to contribute to green development in Cambodia by supplying electric vehicles.

Samdech Thipadei and the Prime Minister of Viet Nam addressed more than 300 scholars, policymakers, professors, diplomats, and students at the Foreign Trade University. Samdech Thipadei's remarks focused on Cambodia's economic development, and the significance of economic cooperation between the two nations. He highlighted the process of rebuilding the country after the Khmer Rouge regime and peace, particularly the successful Win-Win Policy of Samdech Techo Hun Sen which led to full peace in late 1998.

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Cambodia, emphasising that the Royal Government has been focusing on ensuring the sustainability of the business and investment environment through the introduction of policies, mechanisms and legal frameworks as well as necessary support infrastructure to attract more local and foreign investors.

The Premier added that Cambodia is currently consuming up to 62 percent of clean energy, a leading step in the region, with the decision to completely stop the construction of coal-fired power plants, as well as set out the direction of promoting clean energy use up to 70 percent by 2030.

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Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, co-chaired the meeting.

Ministers lauded the steady and concrete progress of the MLC framework over the past seven years through the effective implementation of the Five-Year Plan of Action (2018-2022) and the MLC Special Fund. The fund has supported more than 700 practical projects in multiple sectors such as rural development, poverty alleviation, water resources, agriculture, health, education, air services and tourism, contributing to socio-economic development and enhancing the well-being of the peoples of the sub-region.

Deputy Prime Minister SOK Chenda Sophea expressed satisfaction with the significant progress made under the MLC framework,

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especially the success of 89 projects worth more than US\$33 million in wide-ranging areas in Cambodia. Propelling the Kingdom's in forward, he proposed accelerating the realisation of the MLC Economic Development Belt in cooperation with the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. Emphasising the need for stable prices in agriculture and enhanced food security, he called for increased people-to-people ties, particularly in culture, education, health, science, innovation, and tourism.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister held productive and fruitful talks with H.E. Wang Yi, who reiterated China's firm commitment to continue supporting socio-economic development in Cambodia. The Deputy Prime Minister emphasised China's crucial role in the Kingdom's development and expressed his

appreciation to China for its continued assistance in key infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative, including the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway and Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport. He sought Minister Wang's assistance to encourage direct flights from various provinces of China to the new airport in Siem Reap and additional Chinese tourists in a concerted effort to implement the Year of People-to-People Exchange in 2024, as jointly announced by leaders of the two countries. Minister Wang pledged to help promote the successful implementation of the Year of People-to-People Exchange, including tourism promotion and increased direct flights from China to Siem Reap.

The Deputy Prime Minister also met with H.E. U Than Swe, who expressed deep appreciation to Cambodia for its considerable efforts and support through ASEAN to address the political crisis in Myanmar, contributing to peace, stability and development in his country. Both sides agreed to further strengthen bilateral ties for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

AMBASSADOR LAY SAMKOL PAID A COURTESY CALL ON MS. JOELLE JENNY, DIRECTOR OF SOUTH EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC, FCDO

On 14 December 2023, Ambassador Lay Samkol paid a courtesy call on Ms. Joelle Jenny, Director of South East Asia and Pacific, FCDO. Both sides discussed and expressed their deep satisfaction with the flourishing dynamism in bilateral relations and cooperation in several fields of mutual interest between the two countries. Ambassador Samkol informed Ms. Joelle Jenny of the key strategic objectives and priority policy programs of the Pentagonal Strategy-Phase I and sought the UK's further

engagement and support in these endeavours. Ambassador Samkol also emphasized the need for UK's further support towards achieving Cambodia's mine-free target by 2025. In response, Ms. Joelle Jenny reaffirmed UK's continued commitment to supporting Cambodia's efforts as the two countries mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year.

H.E. GENERAL VONG PISEN, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ROYAL CAMBODIAN ARMED FORCES (RCAF), WAS WARMLY WELCOMED BY GENERAL SIR PATRICK SANDERS, CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE BRITISH ARMY



His Excellency General Vong Pisen, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF), was warmly welcomed by General Sir Patrick Sanders, Chief of the General Staff of the British Army, on the occasion of the closing ceremony of the 231st Session of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, during the General's two-day working visit to the United Kingdom, December 14-16, 2023. This working visit marks another new height of the growing closer cooperation between the two Ministries of Defense. It is also another moment of pride for Cambodia, as for the first time, one young Cambodian officer cadet, Mr. Stephen Dariddh Nall, successfully completed a 44-week training course, and was qualified as an outstanding student among other 131 graduates coming from 25 countries. We would like to warmly congratulate and share our joy with the family of the officer cadet, Stephen Dariddh Nall, on the successful completion of the course on 15 December.

UK SUPPORT KINGDOM TO BOOST INFRASTRUCTURE

The British Government will support Cambodia to boost its infrastructure as part of the growing bilateral relations between both nations.

This came as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) Secretary of State, H.E. Meas Soksensan and British Ambassador to Cambodia, H.E. Dominic Williams recently.

According to the MoU, the British Government will provide technical support and promote investment opportunities in Cambodia. The support will include the mobilisation of the private sector's resources, vocational expertise, and connections to broaden regional and international infrastructure financing platforms, to meet Cambodia's infrastructure needs.

During the signing ceremony, H.E. Meas Soksensan highlighted the importance of the Government's new Pentagonal Strategy-Phase I, which focuses on five key pillars namely Growth, Employment, Equity, Efficiency, and Sustainability, in contributing to Cambodia's public infrastructure development and realising the Cambodia Vision 2050.

"The enactment of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Law in November 2021 and the establishment of Standard Operating Procedures in August 2022 will play a pivotal role in achieving the Cambodia Vision 2050 by diversifying financing sources for public infrastructure development and enhancing the delivery of public services," the official said.

Building on this foundation, the MEF, in collaboration with the Foreign, Development and Common Wealth Office (FCDO) of the UK is committed to deepening the longstanding cooperation between the two nations, he said, adding that the MoU aims to kick-start the flow of UK investments towards infrastructure development in Cambodia.

"This MoU will promote deep collaboration between MEF and FCDO in developing green infrastructures in Cambodia as a PPP Project, by integration of renewable energy, energy-efficiency, and circularity elements into the infrastructure development, while leveraging Cambodia's competitive advantage, creating new value-added proposition, attracting foreign investors."

21 INVESTMENT PROJECTS APPROVED BY CDC IN NOVEMBER

The Council for the Development of Cambodia has approved 21 new investment projects with a total capital of approximately US\$619 million, generating nearly 22,000 job opportunities, according to the council's report released on 8 December.

Some 90 percent of the approved projects last month are in the field of industry while the rest in infrastructure and other fields, the CDC said.

The most interesting projects of November include the 70-megawatt Stung Russey Chrum Kandal hydropower project in Mondul Seima district, Kong Kong province and the 100-megawatt Veal Thmar Kambot hydropower project in Thmar Baing district, Koh Kong province; the 60-megawatt solar-power plant development project in Romduol district, Svay Rieng province; and a footwear factory project in Khan Pursenchey, Phnom Penh, the report pointed out.

Local investment capital covers almost 83 percent of the total investment capital while 17.10 percent is from China, the source added.

NEW PHNOM PENH AIRPORT 55% COMPLETED

The construction of the new international airport in Phnom Penh is 55 percent completed as of November and it is on course to open for operations in 2025 with work progressing as per the schedule, according to the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA).

According to SSCA's Under-Secretary of State, H.E. Sinn Chansereyvutha, he said that the first phase of the Techo International Airport will cost approximately \$800 million.

The airport, named Techo International Airport in Kandal and Takeo provinces, about 20 km south of Phnom Penh, is a joint venture between the Royal Government of Cambodia through the Secretariat of State for Civil Aviation and the Overseas Cambodia Investment Corporation (OCIC). "As planned, the project is expected to be completed by the end of 2024 and we expect the airport to start operations in the first half of 2025," he said. Once it commences operations, the new airport will replace the current Phnom Penh International Airport.

Cambodia's international airports handled a total of 4.11 million air passengers in the January-October period of 2023, a year-on-year increase of 144 percent, an SSCA report stated.

The Kingdom recorded a total of 41,596 flights at international airports during first ten months of 2023, up 93 percent compared to the same period last year.