

VISIONS of CAMBODIA

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PRESIDENT OF VIET NAM KICKS OFF TWO-DAY STATE VISIT IN CAMBODIA

President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam H.E. TO Lam began on 12 July his two-day State Visit in Cambodia, at the invitation of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM Sihamoni, King of Cambodia.

The high-level Vietnamese delegation was warmly welcomed upon their arrival at Phnom Penh International Airport by H.E. Kuy Sophal, as High Privy Councillor and Senior Minister in Charge of the General Affairs to the Ministry of the Royal Palace, and H.E. Sok Soken, Minister of Tourism, as Minister-in-attendance.

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JAPAN-CAMBODIA TO BUILD MORE COOPERATION IN DIFFERENT SECTORS

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Sok Chenda Sophea, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and visiting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan H.E. Ms KAMIKAWA Yoko, held a constructive bilateral talk on some keys of cooperation.

Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Sok Chenda welcomed H.E. Ms. Minister Kamikawa's visit to Cambodia and showed her a Cambodian banknote depicting a bridge built with Japanese assistance. He expressed his gratitude for Japan's support for Cambodia since the peace process as well as his desire to further develop cooperation between the two countries under the "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership."

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CAMBODIA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD PEACE



Cambodia is committed to continuing to contribute to the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security in countries facing conflict and insecurity, as well as in humanitarian work.

The commitment was reiterated by Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia when he received at the Peace Palace a courtesy call from visiting Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations on 5 July 2024.

The Premier spoke highly of the good relations and cooperation between Cambodia and UN and thanked the UN side for its attention and support for the safety and security of the Cambodian peacekeeping forces in various countries.

Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet also emphasized Cambodia's readiness to continue deploying peacekeepers under the UN umbrella in other countries as well as to host the 5th

Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty, the Siem Reap Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free World.

The Royal Government of Cambodia continues to pay attention to demining, and to date, 15 Cambodian provinces have been officially declared mine-free, he underlined.

For his part, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix lauded Cambodia's achievements and success in turning from a war-torn country into a country contributing to the deployment of peacekeepers under the UN umbrella to ensure peace and security for other countries, which is a good example for other countries around the world.

The UN under-secretary-general also praised the Cambodian peacekeeping forces for their active and disciplined work, and reaffirmed the UN's continued firm support and cooperation

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PRESIDENT OF VIET NAM KICKS OFF ...

According to a press release of the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, during the visit, H.E. TO Lam will be granted royal audiences by His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen-Mother NORODOM Monineath Sihanouk at the Royal Palace.

President TO Lam is also scheduled to meet with Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, President of the Senate; Samdech Moha Rathsapheathika Thipadei KHUON Sudary, President of the National Assembly; and Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the source said.

The meetings are expected to cover cooperation under bilateral and multilateral

frameworks based on the spirit of good neighborliness, traditional friendship, and comprehensive cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two peoples, it underlined.

The President of Viet Nam is scheduled to lay wreaths at the Independence Monument, the Royal Memorial Statue of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM Sihanouk "Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh", the late King-Father, and the Cambodia-Viet Nam Friendship Monument.

Besides, H.E. TO Lam will receive a courtesy call from Cambodia-Viet Nam Friendship Association Chairwoman Samdech Kittisanghapundit MEN Sam An.

CAMBODIA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT ...

with the Royal Government, especially in sending Cambodian troupes to join the UN peacekeeping operations.

At the same time, he highlighted his support for the Kingdom of Cambodia in hosting the 5th Review Conference in Siem Reap province in November this year.

DPM SUN CHANTHOL TO VISIT FRANCE FOR "KNOCK-ON-DOOR" MISSION BEFORE YEAR-END



H.E. SUN Chanthol, Deputy Prime Minister and First Vice President of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC), is going to visit France before the end of this year for his "knock-on-door" mission to attract more French investors to come to invest in Cambodia.

The information was revealed by the Cambodian DPM while he was presiding over here at the CDC's headquarters on July 9 a dinner reception in honour of the French delegation attending the 2nd France-Cambodia Business Forum.

The event was also attended by H.E. Jacques PELLET, Ambassador of France to Cambodia, Cambodian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries H.E. Dith Tina, Minister of Health H.E. Chheang Ra, members of Cambodian Oknha Association, and many Cambodian and French businesspeople.

JAPAN-CAMBODIA TO BUILD MORE COOPERATION IN DIFFERENT ...



In addition, H.E. Sok Chenda Sophea conveyed a message from Prime Minister Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet, stating that Cambodia will become an official member of the Conference on cooperation among East Asian countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD).

H.E. Ms. Minister Kamikawa said that areas of collaboration between Japan and Cambodia are steadily expanding after many years of building trusting relationships. Regarding the future bilateral cooperation, she expressed her desire to collaborate for strengthening of Cambodia's sustainability and further co-creation of social value, focusing on human resource development and the use of Japanese technology.

Based on Cambodia's development and the cooperative achievements between the two countries, H.E. Ms. Minister Kamikawa stated that she would like to develop the "three new cooperation approaches", namely, social infrastructure development, maritime connectivity, and humanitarian mine action.

On the social infrastructure development, H.E. Ms. Minister Kamikawa stated that Japan would assist in deploying the Phnom Penh model water supply systems in regional areas as part of their collaboration in the water field. She also expressed her intention to cooperate with Cambodia to develop sewage systems in Phnom Penh, a new challenge, and to promote entry of Japanese companies to this field. In addition, she stated that the two countries would cooperate in the digital technology field to develop core communications infrastructure such as 5G. She also expressed her desire to continue cooperation with Cambodia to strengthen cyber security.

For maritime connectivity, H.E. Ms. Minister Kamikawa stated that Japan would like to cooperate with Cambodia to develop Sihanoukville Port as a hub port

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JAPAN-CAMBODIA TO BUILD MORE COOPERATION IN DIFFERENT ...

and logistics base for Cambodia and the region to strengthen maritime connectivity. She expressed her intention to work with Cambodia on maritime security, including ensuring the safety of maritime routes.

H.E. Ms. Minister Kamikawa explained the Japan-Cambodia Landmine Initiative, which she announced during her visit. She stated that Cambodia is a special partner to Japan in humanitarian mine action and expressed her desire to cooperate with Cambodia in raising awareness in the international community by taking advantage of opportunities such as the Fifth Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines (Ottawa Convention), in addition to the promotion of third-party assistance and development of demining technology.

For his part, Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Sok Chenda expressed his gratitude for Japan's past support in these three areas and stated that they have been in line with Cambodian government's

development strategy, the Pentagonal Strategy, which attaches great importance to the development of water supply and sewage systems, the development of the digital society, and the development of the Port of Sihanoukville as the core port and logistics hub in the region to strengthen connectivity. Deputy Prime Minister also stated that the Cambodian government would like to collaborate with Japan in the sphere of humanitarian mine action in the international arena, and expressed his support for the three new cooperation approaches.

The two foreign ministers agreed to work together to strengthen Cambodia's sustainability and further co-create social values.

Both sides signed the exchange of notes on the National Road No. 5 Improvement Project (Thlea Ma'am - Battambang and Sri Sophorn - Poipet Sections), and the project for human resource development scholarship.

THE KINGDOM AIMS TO HAVE 800,000 ELECTRIC VEHICLES BY 2030



The Cambodian government has unveiled a target of having 800,000 electric vehicles (EVs) on roads by 2030 under the announced EV development policy on 11 July.

The National Policy on the Development of Electric Vehicles 2024-2030 will help improve the environment, economy, energy security, and access to new technologies in line with regional and global trends toward a green industry.

The policy will contribute to the development

of the EV sector in Cambodia and the use of electric vehicles, besides attracting investors to the sector.

The use of electric vehicles is more economical than the use of fuel-efficient vehicles. Electric vehicles are about five to six times more efficient than petrol engines in converting energy into motion, resulting in lower mobility costs, according to the policy.

Electric vehicles will bring many benefits in terms of environment, economy, security, energy and especially access to new technologies in line with regional and global trends, said Phan Rim, spokesman at the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

Economically, the policy seeks to unlock new opportunities. The EV industry is a rapidly growing sector, and Cambodia is poised to capitalize on this trend.

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DPM SUN CHANTHOL TO VISIT FRANCE ...

H.E. SUN Chanthol was also optimistic that the number of French investors who come to invest in the Kingdom would increase after the three-day forum.

For his part, H.E. Jacques PELLET pledged to try his best to promote and expand direct investment from France to Cambodia during his tenure as current French investment in the country is still limited.

CAMBODIA SEES SURGE IN INVESTMENT IN THE FIRST HALF 2024



The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) approved \$3.2 billion in fixed-asset investment for 190 projects during the first six months of 2024, nearly double (up 194 percent) the investment from the \$1.1 billion recorded for the same period last year.

CDC said that it had approved 190 investment projects, a 68 percent increase from 113 projects last year. And the fresh investment is expected to generate some 168,572 jobs.

The projects that have seen fresh investment, include an electronics manufacturing factory, an electric bike and motorbike assembly plant, a steel factory, and a garment and textile factory, among others.

The CDC said that China was the top foreign investor in the country, contributing 42.64 percent of total investment. This was followed by investment from Singapore, Vietnam, India, South Korea, Malaysia, Australia, Canada, and Japan.

KOH KONG AIRPORT TO LAUNCH DOMESTIC SERVICES IN AUGUST

Dara Sakor International Airport in Koh Kong province’s Botum Sakor district will start domestic flights in August, H.E. Sin Chansereyvutha, Under-Secretary of State of the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA), said on 3 July 2024.

The decision was taken at the technical meeting for evaluating the airport’s work on June 30, he said.

Currently, the airport is almost fully built and technically ready to operate the first phase of domestic flights for 2B aircraft-charter flights – light aircraft with a weight of not more than 5,700kg.

The meeting also discussed a series of procedures to gradually move towards the launch of international flights in the future. For operating international flights, the company has to obtain airport certification.

The \$350 million project is developed by the Chinese firm Tianjin Union Development Group (UDG).

Once operational, the airport will be able to handle long-haul aircraft including Boeing 777 and Airbus A340.

Currently, Cambodia has three airports - Phnom Penh International Airport, Siem Reap Angkor International Airport, and Sihanouk International Airport.

The government also has plans to build domestic airports in Battambang and Mondulkiri provinces as well.

Currently, 31 domestic and international airlines are operating in Cambodia including from eight ASEAN countries, China, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

According to the SSCA figures, Cambodia’s three international airports handled a combined 2.5 million air passengers in the first five months this year, up 22 percent from 2.1 million recorded in the same period last year.

THE KINGDOM AIMS TO HAVE ...

Cambodia registered 1,614 electric vehicles (EVs) as of June 2024, a report of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport said. This includes 658 BYD, 261 Toyota, and 186 Tesla EVs – the three most popular EV brands in Cambodia.

According to the ministry, the Kingdom has registered 914 electric scooters and 440 three-wheeler electric vehicles as well.

In anticipation of the growing trend, the Royal Government of Cambodia through the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and other relevant ministries and institutions has made efforts to improve the number of charging stations and other favorable conditions.

Currently, EV charging stations are available at 18 locations in the country.

As the Cambodian Government launched the policy to accelerate the development of the electric vehicle sector, BYD has expressed its intention to start an electric vehicle assembly plant in Cambodia.

ANGKOR BOTANICAL GARDEN WINS TRAVELLERS' CHOICE AWARDS



The Angkor Botanical Garden in Siem Reap province of Cambodia wins the Travellers' Choice Awards of TripAdvisor, according to TripAdvisor’s news release.

Located in Siem Reap provincial city, the 15-hectare Angkor Botanical Garden features more than 500 species of plants and flowers and tens of thousands of trees waiting to welcome both national and international visitors.

It is divided into five smaller gardens, including a spice and herb garden, a flower and grass garden, a palm garden, a Khmer garden, and an Angkor Forest and wildlife garden.

Former Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia H.E. Chea Sophara supported the development of the Angkor Botanical Garden, which was officially inaugurated in mid-2022.

