

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

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## CAMBODIAN SENATE: PRESIDENT XI JINPING'S VISIT TO CAMBODIA IS SPECIAL AND SIGNIFICANT

The President of the Cambodian Senate considers Chinese President Xi Jinping and his visit to Cambodia a special one, reaffirming strong cooperation between the two countries for sustainable growth.

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen made the remarks when receiving President Xi Jinping on 17 April at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, highlighting that this year marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation.

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## ADB FORECAST CAMBODIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH AT 6.1 PERCENT THIS YEAR

Cambodia is expected to maintain a steady economic growth trajectory in 2025 and 2026, driven by external demand for manufactured goods and the continued recovery in the tourism sector, according to the Asian Development Outlook April 2025.

"Cambodia's economy is forecast to grow by 6.1 percent in 2025 and 6.2 percent in 2026," the Asian Development Bank (ADB) stated in the report released on April 9.

This growth is primarily driven by increasing external demand for manufactured goods and continued recovery in tourism, the source underlined.

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## ANGKOR WAT HOSTS A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY TO PRAY FOR CAMBODIA'S PROSPERITY



A Royal Prayer Ceremony for the Prosperity of the Kingdom was organised in front of the sacred Angkor Wat Temple in Siem Reap province on 14 April under the royal presidency of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia.

The monarch was accompanied by Cambodian top leaders, including Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, President of the Senate; Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister; and H.E. Vong Sauth, Second Vice President of the National Assembly; as well as members of the Senate, National Assembly and Royal Government, senior officials, foreign ambassadors accredited to Cambodia, Buddhist monks, and many other distinguished guests.

The Royal Prayer Ceremony is a tradition rooted in Cambodia's ancient history, and modern Cambodian society continues to uphold this cultural and civilisational heritage.

While the event is primarily a religious observance, it also serves as a powerful symbol of national unity, solidarity, and pride under the cool shade of His Majesty the King.

The ceremony is intended to pray for continued prosperity for the Kingdom of Cambodia and her people, while also honouring the Khmer ancestors who constructed Angkor and other historic temples—gifting these architectural masterpieces as a proud legacy for future generations. Beyond its spiritual significance, the ceremony embodies the collective aspirations and commitment of the Cambodian people toward building a more prosperous and harmonious nation.

In addition to its religious and cultural importance, the Royal Prayer Ceremony is expected to contribute to the promotion of Cambodia's rich heritage, helping to attract international tourists eager to learn about the Kingdom's customs and traditions.

## CAMBODIAN SENATE: PRESIDENT XI JINPING'S VISIT TO ...



He commended China's pivotal role in promoting global peace and sustainable development and reconfirming Cambodia's support for China's global initiatives to safeguard sustainable growth, peace, security and harmony.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also emphasised the need for China's further support for Cambodia's development which will eventually benefit the two countries, particularly socio-economically.

President Xi Jinping appreciated the Royal Government and people of Cambodia for their warm hospitality for his visit and was excited to meet with Samdech Techo Hun Sen whom he considered as an old friend.

He reiterated his support for the cooperation between the two countries and peoples at large as well as Cambodia's development, including the on-going Funan Techo Canal, which is a mega water transport project to boost trade and growth in the country.

He also underlined China's continuous support for Cambodia's human resource development to expedite Cambodia's economic aspirations.

President Xi Jinping is paying on April 17-18 a state visit to Cambodia, the final leg of his three-country Southeast Asia tour.

## PM WELCOMES NEW YEAR WITH REAFFIRMED COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL GROWTH

Prime Minister Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet has extended his heartfelt New Year wishes to all Cambodians, reaffirming the Royal Government's commitment to bolstering national growth and prosperity amid global uncertainties.

In his New Year message released on April 12, Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet respectfully conveyed his warmest wishes to His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni and Her Majesty Queen-Mother Norodom Monineath Sihanouk, along with deep gratitude for their benevolent guardianship.

The Premier also extended his blessings to all Cambodians and highlighted the nation's achievements in recent years across key sectors – including agriculture, the economy, investment, foreign affairs, social affairs,

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## CAMBODIA, LAO PDR REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL COOPERATION



The Kingdom of Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) recalled their good relations and cooperation in all sectors, and pledged to continue working together to make them stronger for the mutual benefit of both nations and peoples.

The renewed pledge was made during separate courtesy meetings this afternoon in Vientiane, Lao PDR between Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of Cambodia, and H.E. Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, President of Lao PDR, as well as Lao Prime Minister H.E. Sonexay Siphandone.

Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet led a high-level delegation for a day-long visit to Vientiane to pay homage to late H.E. Gen. Khamtay Siphandone, former Chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, former President of Lao PDR, and father of Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone.

On behalf of His Majesty the King, the Royal Government, and the people of Cambodia, Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet expressed his deepest condolences to Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, his family, and the government and people of Lao PDR. He praised H.E. Gen. Khamtay Siphandone as a national hero and prominent leader who dedicated his life to the liberation, development, and progress of Lao PDR, as well as to the advancement of Cambodian-Lao relations.

In response, the Lao President and Prime Minister expressed heartfelt thanks to

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## ADB FORECAST CAMBODIA'S ...



Construction and real estate should revive gradually while agriculture should continue to gain, it added.

However, the ADB stated that this positive outlook is subject to large downside risks. These include weakened exports due to tariffs on Cambodian goods amidst global trade barrier escalation and slower growth in major trading partners, rising nonperforming loans disrupting financial sector growth, and extreme weather conditions.

## OUTCOMES OF OFFICIAL VISIT OF TIMOR-LESTE FOREIGN MINISTER TO CAMBODIA



At the invitation of His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Bendito Dos Santos Freitas, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 03 to 04 April 2025 to promote and strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries. He called on Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and had a bilateral meeting with His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn.

His Excellency Bendito Freitas discussion with His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn covered several areas of cooperation. Both Ministers underscored the importance of regular high-level engagements to maintain the positive momentum of Cambodia-Timor-Leste relations. His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn highly appreciated the visit of Minister Bendito Freitas as a meaningful step in strengthening ties and commitment to closer cooperation. Minister Freitas extended a cordial invitation to

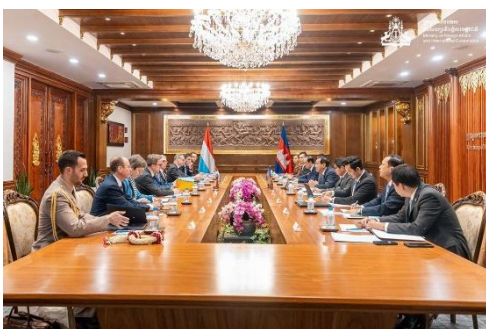
His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn to visit Timor-Leste, which he accepted with sincere thanks.

The Ministers agreed to encourage the competent authorities of both countries to accelerate efforts to draw benefits from the existing framework agreement, including the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Economic, Commercial and Technical Cooperation, the Agreement on Technical and Economic Cooperation, and the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on Cooperation between the Chamber of Commerce of the two countries. They concurred on expediting conclusion of the MoU on Tourism, with a view to boost tourism exchange between the two countries, and discussed cooperation on food security, banking, and education.

The two Ministers expressed commitment to enhance cooperation on international stage and agreed that the representatives of both countries should coordinate more closely on multilateral issues of common interest.

His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister reaffirmed the Cambodian leaders' strong support for Timor-Leste's full membership of ASEAN as soon as possible. Minister Bendito Freitas highly appreciated Cambodia's continued support, and the active role played by Cambodia during its ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022, leading to the ASEAN Leaders' agreement in principle to admit Timor-Leste as the 11<sup>th</sup> member of ASEAN.

## CAMBODIA, LUXEMBOURG TO FOSTER COOPERATION IN VARIOUS AREAS



Cambodia and Luxembourg have discussed the strengthening of their cooperation in multiple areas, especially economy, trade, tourism, and people-people exchange.

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Guillaume Jean Joseph Marie of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg,

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## PM WELCOMES NEW YEAR WITH...



public works and transport, energy, tourism, culture, religious affairs, telecommunications, etc.

Additionally, he underlined the Royal Government's unwavering efforts in implementing five key measures aimed at accelerating reform and fostering a highly capable, intelligent, and ethical public administration. These measures focus on strengthening public administration capacity; enhancing the quality of education; improving health service standards; reinforcing the Safety Village-Commune-Sangkat policy; and enhancing the quality and effectiveness of the justice system.

Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet further emphasised the government's strong commitment to continuing deep and comprehensive reforms in all sectors, while safeguarding the Constitution and the monarchy under the motto of "Nation, Religion, King."

## CAMBODIA, LAO PDR REAFFIRM ...

Cambodia's top leadership for their messages of sympathy and support following the passing of H.E. Gen. Khamtay Siphandone.

They also expressed deep appreciation for the presence of Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet and the high-ranking Cambodian delegation on this sad occasion, viewing it as a testament to the enduring friendship, solidarity, and comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

H.E. Gen. Khamtay Siphandone passed away on April 2, 2025, at the age of 102 due to natural causes.

## **CAMBODIA, LUXEMBOURG TO FOSTER COOPERATION ...**

underscored the significance of enhancing the bilateral cooperation in the above-said areas during their meeting here this morning, according to the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The Deputy Prime Minister and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince also exchanged views on regional and international issues, the source added.

After the meeting, it continued, the General Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

was signed by H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn and H.E. Xavier Bettel, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, marking a significant step toward strengthening bilateral ties.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Guillaume Jean Joseph Marie of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg arrived in Siem Reap province on March 30 for a visit to Cambodia until April 2.

## **COMMERCE MINISTER URGES PUBLIC NOT TO WORRY OVER NEW U.S. TARIFFS**

Cambodian Minister of Commerce H.E. Mrs. Cham Nimul has reassured the public that the Royal Government is actively addressing concerns over the newly imposed U.S. tariffs on Cambodian goods.

Her remarks came in response to the U.S. government's announcement on April 2 (U.S. time) of a 49 percent tariff on Cambodian imports, set to take effect on April 9, 2025.

In an exclusive interview with the National Television of Cambodia (TVK) this evening, H.E. Mrs. Cham Nimul emphasised that the Ministry of Economy and Finance has been holding consultations with relevant ministries and the private sector to gather inputs to respond and sustain Cambodia's economy stability.

The minister clarified that Cambodia does not impose a 97 percent tariff on U.S. imports, as claimed. Instead, the Kingdom adheres to World Trade Organisation (WTO) regulations, with its highest tariff on U.S. goods set at 29.4 percent—well below the WTO's allowable limit of 35 percent.

H.E. Mrs. Cham Nimul also pointed out that the new U.S. tariff will primarily impact American

buyers due to the increase in prices, and then Cambodian producers and investors, particularly in the garment and textile sectors.

Earlier today, H.E. Meas Soksensan, Secretary of State and spokesperson for the Ministry of Economy and Finance, stated that a ministerial working group is assessing the potential economic impact of the tariff increase to develop strategies that will help maintain Cambodia's trade competitiveness.

"A dedicated working group is evaluating the implications of this new tariff. The Royal Government is closely monitoring the situation and preparing measures to mitigate its impact," he said.

In 2024, bilateral trade between Cambodia and the U.S. reached US\$10.18 billion, marking an 11.2 percent increase from the previous year. Cambodia's exports to the U.S. totaled US\$9.9 billion (up 11.4 percent), while imports from the U.S. amounted to US\$264.14 million (up 2.7 percent), according to the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia.

This data underscores the U.S. as one of Cambodia's largest export markets.

## **DPM SUN CHANTHOL HIGHLIGHTS CAMBODIA'S KEY POTENTIAL OF INVESTMENT**

Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Sun Chanthol has outlined areas that make Cambodia highly competitive in the region and a worthy investment destination.

The DPM, who also serves as First Vice President of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC), shared the highlights when presiding over the Cambodia Global Textile Summit 2025, themed Shaping the Future: Competitiveness and Sustainability, on Mar. 31.

Cambodia has set out solid policies to promote vocational skill training, a high-value workforce, sustainable economic diversification, and digital transformation in both public and private institutions, he said.

H.E. Sun Chanthol added that the government also focused on mechanisms to prepare for future opportunities in line with the global economic transformation by strengthening the capacity of the textile and garment sector, especially toward the country's graduation from the United Nations' Least Developed Countries category.

Along those lines, he added, the summit plays a key role as a platform for building relationships among participating government bodies, development partners, and the private sector to ensure that Cambodia's textile and garment sector is competitive, sustainable, and inclusive.

The summit was organised by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training in collaboration with the Textile, Apparel, Footwear & Travel Goods Association in Cambodia or TAFTAC; the Better Factories Cambodia programme of the International Labour Organisation; the European Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia; and the German international cooperation agency GIZ.