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CAMBODIA, FRANCE TARGETING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Cambodia and France are working on a roadmap to elevate their bilateral relationship to the level of a “strategic partnership.”

This commitment was highlighted during a meeting on June 10 between Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and H.E. Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, held on the sidelines of the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, France.

On the occasion, President Macron expressed his pleasure at once again welcoming Samdech Thipadei to France and confirmed that he will pay an official visit to Cambodia next year.

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EU EXPRESSES STRONG INTEREST IN EXPANDING RELATIONS AND COOPERATION WITH CAMBODIA

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet held talks on 9 June with H.E. António Costa, President of the European Council (EC), on the sidelines of the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, France.

H.E. António Costa praised the strong relations between the European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as the EU’s ongoing cooperation with ASEAN member states, including Cambodia.

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CAMBODIA COMMITTED TO OCEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



At the invitation of H.E. Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, and H.E. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, participated in the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), held in Nice, France, from 9 to 11 June 2025, under the theme “Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean”.

During the General Debate, Samdech Thipadei expressed Cambodia’s deep concern about the escalating threats to the world’s ocean: rising sea levels, relentless erosion of coastlines, pervasive plastic pollution, a rapid decline in marine biodiversity, and the overexploitation of our marine resources, and called for immediate and decisive action, as well as unwavering collaboration to address these challenges.

Cambodia is dedicated to enhancing its national capacities in ocean protection, including expanding marine protected areas, strengthening regulations for sustainable fisheries, and intensifying actions against

marine pollution, particularly the devastating impact of marine plastics. Further demonstrating Cambodia’s dedication, Samdech Thipadei highlighted the Circular Strategy on Environment 2023-2028, which focuses on three fundamental pillars – Clean, Green, and Sustainable – that will significantly contribute to the health and long-term protection of Cambodia’s marine ecosystem.

Reaffirming Cambodia’s commitment to multilateralism, Samdech Thipadei emphasized that Cambodia has consistently voted in favor of the Resolution on the “Ocean and the Law of the Sea,” which garnered overwhelming support at the 79th session of the UN General Assembly. Samdech Thipadei called upon the international community to provide technical and financial support to developing countries, including through access to scientific knowledge, marine technologies, and resources for sustainable fisheries management and marine conservation, ensuring that “no nation is left behind in our collective effort to protect our oceans.” Samdech Thipadei also expressed Cambodia’s full support for and readiness to join the consensus on the UNOC3 Political Declaration,

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CAMBODIA, FRANCE TARGETING STRATEGIC ...



The French President also pledged support for Cambodia to successfully host the 20th Francophonie Summit in 2026.

In response, Samdech Thipadei thanked President Macron for the warm welcome and for his continued support of Cambodia's role in the Francophonie.

Regarding bilateral ties, the Cambodian Premier expressed satisfaction with the strong relationship and ongoing cooperation between the two countries. He also commended the joint efforts to develop a roadmap toward establishing a strategic partnership.

The two leaders also exchanged views on enhancing and expanding cooperation in key areas including trade and the economy, defence and security, energy, and culture.

On multilateral cooperation, both sides discussed collaboration in various priority areas within the frameworks of ASEAN and the United Nations.

EU EXPRESSES STRONG INTEREST IN EXPANDING RELATIONS ...



He commended Cambodia's efforts in developing its legal framework, particularly the recent advancement of the Fisheries Law, and expressed a strong interest in further deepening relations and cooperation with the Kingdom. He also recognised Cambodia's broader development achievements.

In response, Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet expressed gratitude for the EU's contributions

to Cambodia's socio-economic development through various joint projects. He voiced hope that the EU would continue to be a strong partner, especially as Cambodia prepares to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status by 2029.

Addressing challenges in the fisheries sector, the Prime Minister noted that Cambodia has implemented several concrete measures, including the promotion of the Fisheries Law. The law has already passed the National Assembly and is currently under review by the Senate.

He further highlighted Cambodia's commitment to sustainable development, including its goal to increase the share of renewable energy to 70 percent by 2030

CAMBODIA COMMITTED TO OCEAN ...

underscoring its continued commitment to multilateral cooperation and collective ocean action based on science, innovation, and equity.

During the conference, Cambodia officially signed the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) at the Special Treaty Event on 9 June 2025. This landmark agreement affirms the Kingdom's support for protecting marine biodiversity and ensuring fair and sustainable use of marine genetic resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Additionally, Cambodia joined the global call to combat plastic pollution by supporting the Nice Wake-Up Call, initiated by most members of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC). This effort urges all parties to seize the historic opportunity to conclude an ambitious, universal, effective and legally binding plastics treaty at the next INC session that demonstrates our collective resolve to end plastic pollution for the benefit of present and future generations and our planet.

and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050—despite being a low emitter of carbon dioxide.

Samdech Thipadei emphasised that, amid global uncertainty, Cambodia remains committed to liberalisation and multilateralism. He stressed that the use of military force is not a priority in Cambodian policy, as the country – having endured decades of civil war—deeply understands the lasting consequences of conflict, particularly the devastation caused by landmines and unexploded ordnance.

The Prime Minister also accepted President Costa's invitation to visit the EU headquarters in Brussels at a mutually convenient time to further discuss opportunities to strengthen and expand Cambodia-EU relations and cooperation.

On 04 June, the Royal Government of Cambodia has issued a statement regarding the recent Cambodia-Thailand border dispute as follows:

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has consistently pursued a foreign policy rooted in peace, friendship, and cooperation among nations, particularly with our neighboring countries, with whom we share borders shaped during the French colonial period.

Since gaining independence, with the exception of the genocidal regime of the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia has remained steadfast in its commitment to transforming these shared borders into zones of peace, friendship, cooperation and development. While the journey has not been without challenges, Cambodia has prioritized the peaceful settlement of border issues, even in the face of occasional tensions and regrettable loss of life among our courageous soldiers who stand in defense of national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The RGC's unwavering dedication to peaceful resolution is evident in its historical conduct, including the referral of disputes to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which ruled in Cambodia's favor in 1962 and again in 2013 in our border disputes with Thailand. These actions reflect our deep commitment to international law and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Regrettably, in the early hours of 28 May 2025, at approximately 05:30 a.m., an armed incident occurred when Thai military forces opened fire on a Cambodian army position in Techo Morokot Village, Morokot Commune, Choam Khsan District, Preah Vihear Province - an area long recognized as a Cambodian military post. This exchange tragically resulted in the death of a Cambodian soldier.

The RGC has lodged a formal protest against this unprovoked use of force, which constitutes a serious violation of Cambodia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the principles of good neighborliness as enshrined in the 2000 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our two nations.

This incident is among several concerning developments that underscore the limitations of current dispute resolution mechanisms in addressing longstanding points of contention along our shared border. In light of this, and in the interest of securing a fair, impartial, and sustainable solution, on 02 June, 2025, the RGC has decided to refer the dispute over four sensitive areas — Mom Bei, Ta Moan Thom Temple, Ta Moan Tauch Temple, and Ta Krabei Temple - to the International Court of Justice in The Hague. These four areas have long remained unresolved and sensitive, with the potential to escalate tensions if left unaddressed.

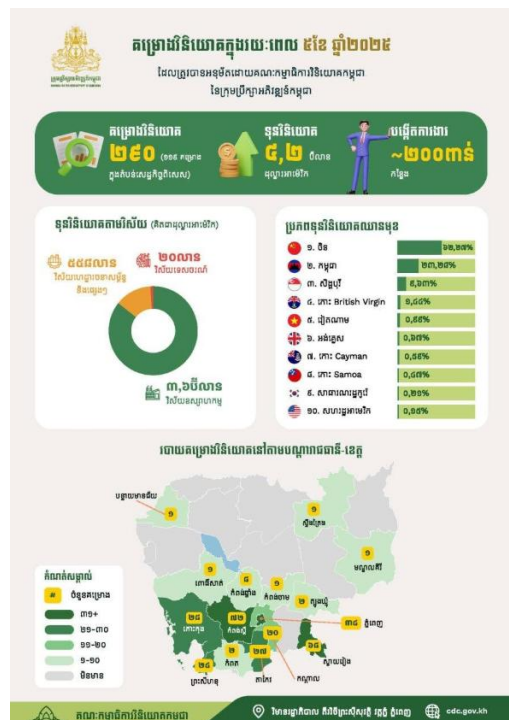
This decision received unanimous support from the First Joint Congress of the National Assembly and Senate, the same day.

While pursuing legal resolution at the ICJ, the RGC remains committed to dialogue and diplomacy. Cambodia will continue to engage through existing bilateral frameworks and will host the next meeting of the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) on 14 June 2025 in Phnom Penh. However, given the referral to the ICJ, the four aforementioned areas will not be included on the agenda of the upcoming JBC session.

Cambodia expresses its hope that Thailand will cooperate in jointly referring this case to the ICJ, in the spirit of fairness, trust-building, long-term friendship and good neighborliness. Nevertheless, should cooperation not be forthcoming, Cambodia stands prepared to proceed independently.

The Royal Government urges all Cambodians to approach this issue with calm and restraint, and to refrain from turning it into a matter of ethnic or nationalist sentiment. We emphasize the importance of maintaining normal relations with Thailand, especially in trade, tourism, and broader areas of cooperation, for the mutual benefit of our peoples.

NEW INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN CAMBODIA SURGE BY 90% IN FIRST FIVE MONTHS



The number of newly registered investment projects in Cambodia rose sharply by 90 percent year-on-year to 290 in the first five months of 2025, while total registered capital increased by 52 percent to US\$4.2 billion, according to a press release issued by the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) on 10 June.

In May alone, the country attracted 59 new investment projects worth US\$816 million—marking year-on-year increases of 136 percent in project numbers and US\$570 million in investment capital. These projects are expected to generate approximately 44,000 jobs.

Of the 59 projects registered in May, 21 are located within special economic zones (SEZs), while 38 are outside SEZs.

The notable investment projects are a 150-megawatt wind power station in Mondulkiri province, and a tyre manufacturing facility and a chemical plant for industrial use in Svay Rieng province.

EMIRATES LAUNCHES DUBAI-SIEM REAP ROUTE



Emirates has launched a new flight route between Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Siem Reap province, Cambodia, aiming to boost both tourism and trade between the two countries.

The inaugural flight landed at Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport on the evening of June 3, where it received a ceremonial water salute and a warm welcome from H.E. Mao Havannall, Minister in Charge of the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation.

The airline will operate three weekly flights—on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays—from Dubai to Siem Reap, with a stopover in Bangkok, Thailand.

According to Emirates, the new service is conveniently timed to offer seamless connections for leisure travellers from multiple destinations, including France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, Portugal, and Russia.

Emirates already operates daily return flights between Dubai and Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, via Singapore.

Cambodia's three international airports currently offer flights to 34 cities across 12 countries, serviced by 31 national and international airlines.

In addition to Emirates, several new international routes to Cambodia have been announced this year, including Turkish Airlines' service from Istanbul to Phnom Penh and Etihad Airways' route from Abu Dhabi to Phnom Penh.

NEW INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN ...

China remains Cambodia's largest source of investment, accounting for 84.80 percent of total capital from January to May 2025. Other key sources include Cambodia, Singapore, the British Virgin Islands, Vietnam, the United Kingdom, the Cayman Islands, Samoa, the Republic of Korea, and the United States.

The surge in investments is expected to bring not only capital but also advanced technologies and significant employment opportunities, further boosting Cambodia's economic development.



promoting Cambodia's tourism potential—along with improved airport facilities—have contributed significantly to the increase in arrivals.

Tourism remains one of the four key pillars of Cambodia's economy, alongside garment exports, agriculture, and the real estate and construction sectors.

The Ministry projects that Cambodia could receive up to 7.5 million international tourists in 2025.

In 2024, the Kingdom attracted approximately 6.7 million foreign visitors, generating US\$3.63 billion in revenue and contributing around 9.4 percent to the national gross domestic product (GDP).

The ministry also reported that Cambodian outbound tourism rose by 0.7 percent over the same four-month period, totaling 587,041 travellers.

SOME 2.4 MILLION FOREIGN TOURISTS VISIT CAMBODIA IN FIRST FOUR MONTHS



Cambodia welcomed approximately 2.4 million foreign tourists during the first four months of 2025, reflecting a 13.6 percent increase compared to the same period last year, according to a report released by the Ministry of Tourism on June 5.

Thailand topped the list of source markets, contributing 674,134 visitors—an increase of

14.6 percent—followed by Vietnam with 410,424 visitors and China with 387,505.

Roughly 42 percent of international tourists arrived by air, while the remainder entered the country via land and waterways.

H.E. Ms. Hun Dany, Secretary of State and spokesperson for the Ministry of Tourism, underscored the critical role of peace and political stability in attracting international visitors. "Peace and political stability are prerequisites for tourism growth. Foreign tourists will not come to Cambodia if there is insecurity or instability," she said.

She added that the combined efforts of the Royal Government and the private sector in