

VISIONS of CAMBODIA

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MALAYSIAN BUSINESS DELEGATION EYES INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CAMBODIA

Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, received a delegation from the Malaysia-Cambodia Business Association (MCBA), led by its President, Dr. Dato' Sri Ricky Yaw, at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh on 26 June.

During the courtesy call, Dr. Dato' Sri Ricky Yaw introduced the MCBA as a platform aimed at fostering stronger partnerships and enhancing connectivity between Malaysian and Cambodian business communities.

He said that the visiting delegation includes representatives from 20 associations,

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CAMBODIA, JAPAN SATISFIED WITH BILATERAL TIES

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, and visiting H.E. NAGASHIMA Akihisa, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister and Member of the House of Representatives of Japan welcomed the deepening momentum of bilateral relations and discussed wide ranges of issues of common interests and concerns, during their meeting on 01 July.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, both sides agreed that the recent official working visit of Samdech Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, to Japan marks a historical and crucial milestone

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UNDP: NO DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT PEACE



Peace is the foundation of development, and without peace, development cannot occur. Under the wise leadership of Prime Minister Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Cambodia is expected to continue advancing toward greater development, prosperity, and resilience.

This message was highlighted by Ms. Alissar Chaker, outgoing United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Cambodia, during her farewell visit to Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet at the Peace Palace on 01 July.

Ms. Chaker praised the strong partnership between the UNDP and the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), which she said has significantly contributed to the Kingdom's socio-economic development. She expressed her sincere gratitude to the RGC and its relevant ministries and institutions for their effective cooperation with UNDP, particularly during the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

She also welcomed Cambodia's planned graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status by 2029—another milestone for the country—and expressed her hope that the UNDP would continue to assist Cambodia in preparing for this transition.

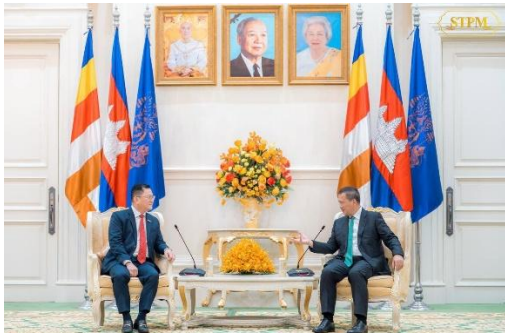
Additionally, Ms. Chaker commended Cambodia's achievements in mine action. She noted that, with the support of the United Nations and development partners, Cambodia has developed the capacity to manage mine clearance operations effectively, independently, and with full autonomy.

In response, Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet thanked the UNDP for its ongoing support and cooperation through various programmes that have contributed to Cambodia's socio-economic progress and brought tangible benefits to its people.

The Prime Minister emphasised that the RGC's policies are centred on the people—focusing

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all of whom are interested in exploring investment opportunities in key sectors such as education, healthcare, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), agricultural processing, construction, and real estate, among others.

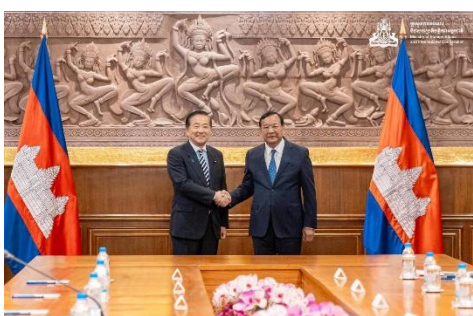
In reply, Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet expressed his satisfaction with the growing relationship between Cambodia and Malaysia, particularly the expanding connectivity between the two nations. He highlighted the launch of direct flights by Cambodia Airways between Phnom Penh and Penang on June 26, with two weekly flights supplementing existing routes.

The Prime Minister warmly welcomed Malaysian investors and reaffirmed Cambodia's commitment to fostering a favourable business environment. He underscored the government's investor-friendly policies, including the Law on Investment, which offers a liberal framework and attractive incentives—especially for SMEs, a vital engine of Cambodia's economic development.

He further emphasised the Royal Government's ongoing efforts to enhance Cambodia's competitiveness at both regional and international levels.

Samdech Thipadei encouraged the MCBA to deepen collaboration with relevant Cambodian ministries and institutions in order to better understand the country's investment policies and take full advantage of available opportunities.

CAMBODIA, JAPAN SATISFIED WITH ...



in further elevating the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Cambodia and Japan to new heights.

The two countries also reaffirmed their commitments to maintaining a frequency of high-level exchange and sustained engagement, aimed at further enhancing and deepening their bilateral partnership and collaboration. The Joint Statement and Economic Co-Creation Package, adopted during the visit and involving 20 line ministries/institutions, set the tone and roadmap for future cooperation.

H.E. the Deputy Prime Minister appreciated Japan for continuing to support Cambodia's economic development, particularly in trade and investment, education and tourism, while acknowledging Japan's commitments to encouraging more investors to Cambodia.

Both sides highly appreciated the growing defence cooperation in many fields, including human resource training for the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and joint training exercises in disaster response and mine clearance. H.E. the Deputy Prime Minister also acknowledged Japan's positive consideration of Official Security Assistance for Cambodia and reaffirmed Cambodia's commitment to welcoming increased port calls by vessels from friendly nations at the REAM Naval Base.

Regarding border dispute between Cambodia and Thailand, H.E. the Deputy

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on strengthening the education and health sectors, creating job opportunities, enhancing human capital, and building a resilient social protection system. He also highlighted the government's commitment to training 1.5 million young people from poor and vulnerable backgrounds, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to support Cambodia's graduation from LDC status in 2029.

Samdech Thipadei reaffirmed his strong support for continued cooperation between the RGC and UNDP, and encouraged the UNDP to work even more closely with relevant ministries and institutions to strengthen and expand their collaboration.

Prime Minister emphasised Cambodia's firm commitments to solving all border disputes through peaceful means. He also reaffirmed Cambodia's firm position in bringing the four specified hotspots (Ta Moan Tauch, Ta Moan Thom, Ta Krabei and Mom Bei) to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), following the prolonged inactivity by the Thai side within the Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) despite repeated invitations from Cambodia for dialogue. The situation has also been exacerbated by the Thai Army's unilateral closures of border crossings. H.E. the Deputy Prime Minister added that if Thailand reopens all border crossings and it is not subject to negotiation, Cambodia will match this measure within five hours as an operational response.

H.E. NAGASHIMA noted that both Cambodia and Thailand are Japan's friends. He expressed deep concern for the situation, expressing that the border closures severely impact and disrupt cross-border trade and that reopening border crossings is vital for bilateral cooperation of the two countries.

Both sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interests and concerns.

CAMBODIA REELECTED TO UNAIDS' PROGRAM COORDINATING BOARD FOR 2026-2028

The Kingdom of Cambodia is re-elected as a member of the Program Coordinating Board (PCB) of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) representing the Asia-Pacific Region for the 2026-2028 term, beginning on 1 January 2026.

The re-election was announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC) in a press release made public on 17 June 2025.

This decision, made during the 22nd Plenary Meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on June 10, 2025 in New York, marks a significant milestone, the MFAIC pointed out, adding that it reaffirms Cambodia's unwavering commitment to global efforts in combating HIV/AIDS and promoting public health initiatives.

According to the press release, the Program Coordinating Board (PCB) is the governing body of UNAIDS, entrusted with establishing

its strategic direction and ensuring coordinated global action in the HIV/AIDS response.

Cambodia's re-election to this vital body reflects the international community's trust and recognition of the Kingdom's sustained contributions and leadership in advancing global health priorities, it underlined.

As Cambodia assumes this renewed responsibility, the source affirmed, the Kingdom remains steadfast in its pursuit of eliminating HIV/AIDS through a proactive policy-driven approach, targeted interventions, and fostering collaborative partnerships with regional and international stakeholders.

"The Royal Government of Cambodia extends its sincere appreciation to all supporting nations for their continued confidence. Cambodia looks forward to deepening its engagement through the PCB UNAIDS to advance safe, inclusive, and resilient public health initiatives, grounded in the principles of solidarity and shared responsibility," concluded the Ministry.

THE TASTE OF ANGKOR 2 WINS "SPECIAL AWARD OF THE JURY"

The Taste of Angkor 2, published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, received the "Special Award of the Jury" at the 30th Gourmand Awards, held during the Cascais World Food Summit on June 18-22, 2025 in Lisbon, Portugal, with hundreds of participants from approximately 200 countries.

The cookbook was officially launched on 3 March 2025 by H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, to further promote and enhance the legacy of Cambodia's gastronomy as part of its culinary diplomacy efforts and the implementation of the Economic Diplomacy Strategy.

The second edition follows the success of inaugural edition of "the Taste of Angkor, which has won four prestigious international Gourmand Awards, including "Best Asian Cookbook in 2021", "Best Asian Cuisine Book" and "Heads of State/Food" in 2022, and "Best Television Awards in 2023.

The Taste of Angkor 2 features 38 Khmer dishes and desserts commonly enjoyed by Cambodian people nationwide. The cookbook also highlights Cambodia's rich agricultural heritage and renowned Geographical Indication (GI) products such as Phka Romduol Rice, Kampot Pepper, Kampot-Kep Salt, and Kampong Speu Palm Sugar.

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U.S. DEFENCE OFFICIAL HOLDS HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS IN CAMBODIA



Andrew Byers, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for South and Southeast Asia, concluded a productive two-day visit to Cambodia, engaging in high-level discussions with senior Cambodian military and government officials.

The visit, from June 24 to 25, aimed to bolster bilateral defence cooperation.

According to a press release from the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, Byers held meetings with several key figures, including H.E. Admiral Tea Sokha, Commander of the Royal Cambodian Navy; H.E. General Rath Dararoth, Secretary of State at the Ministry of National Defence; H.E. General Suon Samnang, Head of the Military Cooperation Coordination Committee; and H.E. General Phat Vibol Sopheak, Director General of the Department of International Relations at the Ministry of National Defence.

Byers also met with H.E. Ms. Eat Sophea, Permanent Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Discussions during the meetings focused on advancing bilateral military cooperation, building on engagements between defence officials at last month's Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore. Future plans were also on the agenda, including a potential visit by the U.S. Secretary of Defence to Cambodia.

This visit could coincide with the first port call by a U.S. Navy vessel

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THE TASTE OF ANGKOR 2 WINS "SPECIAL ...

Mr. Edouard Cointreau, Chairman of the Awards Committee, states that the extensive efforts undertaken in recent years by the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have allowed the world to rediscover the Khmer people through a perspective seldom explored before: the refinement of their gastronomy. This second volume completes a captivating study that honors Cambodia's illustrious past, celebrates the effective strategies of the present, and looks forward to the country's promising future."

This award adds to the list of achievements of the Royal Government of Cambodia in its ongoing efforts to contribute to elevating national prestige and realising Cambodia's vision of becoming a high-income country by 2050, through leveraging the Khmer's rich history, culture, and tradition.



U.S. DEFENCE OFFICIAL HOLDS ...

at the recently re-opened Ream Naval Base later this year, a move seen as a significant step in strengthening defence ties between the two nations.

During his visit, Byers also met with alumni of U.S. military exchange programmes and toured key facilities at the Ream Naval Base, located on Cambodia's southern coast.

The visit underscores increasing efforts to re-engage and strengthen U.S.-Cambodia defence relations through open dialogue, transparency, and collaboration.

CAMBODIA SEES 11.7% RISE IN INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS IN FIRST HALF OF 2025

Cambodia welcomed 2.95 million international tourists in the first five months of 2025, marking an 11.7% increase from the same period last year, according to a Ministry of Tourism report released on 1 July.

The top five source countries were Thailand, Vietnam, China, the U.S., and Laos.

Tourism Ministry Spokeswoman H.E. Mrs. Hun Dany highlighted the role of peace and political stability in driving tourism growth, alongside government-private sector efforts and improved airport facilities.

Tourism remains a key pillar of Cambodia's economy. The government aims to attract 7.5 million international visitors by the end of 2025. Outbound tourism slightly declined by 1.2%, with 736,321 Cambodians traveling abroad.