

# CAMBODIA OUTLOOK

ISSUE 10: 01 - 10 NOVEMBER 2020



Royal Embassy of Cambodia accredited to the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Republic of Tajikistan

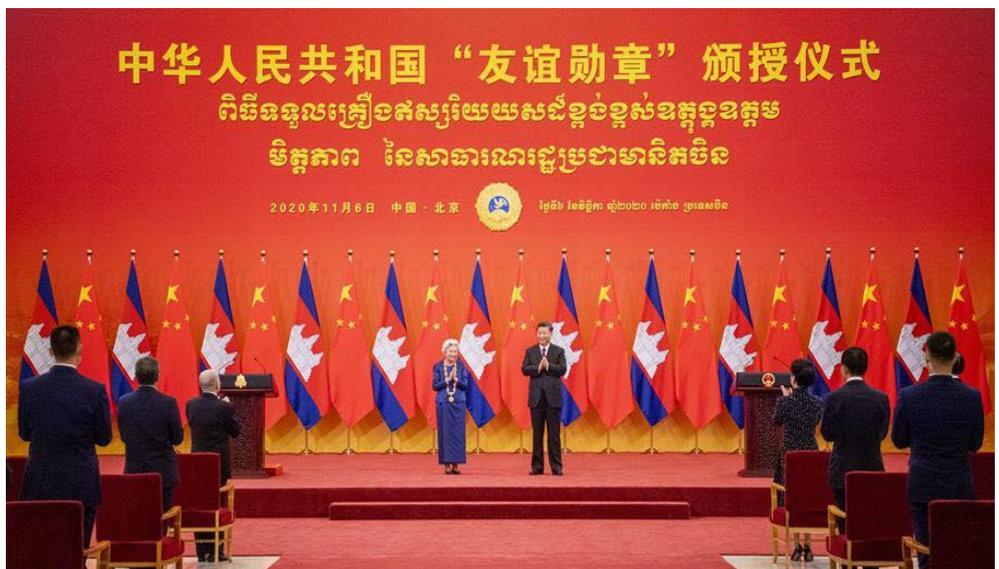
## CAMBODIAN PEOPLE COMMEMORATE THE 67<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

Cambodia celebrates the 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her independence from France on 9 November (1953-2020), under the royal presidency of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia.

On the occasion, the monarch lighted the “victory flame” at the Independence Monument in Phnom Penh, which will be kept burning for three days, and presided over a mass meeting in front of the Royal Palace.

*Continued on page (2)*

## CHINA CONFERS THE “ORDER OF FRIENDSHIP” TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN-MOTHER OF CAMBODIA



Her Majesty the Queen-Mother of Cambodia, Norodom Monineath Sihanouk, receives the “Order of Friendship” from Chinese President H.E. Xi Jinping, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 06 November 2020.

## CAMBODIA AND HUNGARY REACH THREE COOPERATION DEALS

The Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of Hungary on 03 November 2020 signed three different deals, during the one-day official visit of H.E. Péter Szijjártó, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Cambodia.

The signing ceremony took place at the Peace Palace under the witness of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The first signed document is the Air Service Agreement between the Government of Cambodia and the Government of Hungary signed by H.E. Mao Havannall, Minister in charge of the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA) and H.E. Péter Szijjártó.

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Her Majesty the Queen-Mother of Cambodia, Norodom Monineath Sihanouk, received the “Order of Friendship” from Chinese President H.E. Xi Jinping, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 06 November 2020.

The “Order of Friendship” is the highest national decoration of the People’s Republic of China for outstanding foreign dignitaries who have actively supporting China’s development and modernization, and contributed to the promotion of exchanges and cooperation between China and other countries, and to the defense of world peace.

The Royal du Cambodge’s Facebook post quoted H.E. Xi Jinping at the medal awarding ceremony saying that the Queen Mother is an important witness and promoter of the China-Cambodia friendship, and she has forged a tight bond with China since she accompanied Norodom Sihanouk, then Cambodian prince, to China in 1958 for the first time.

“Her Majesty the Queen Mother has played a very important role in the friendship between the two countries for over 60 years, and for China, she is an important witness to the development in Chinese society today,” he said.

She has special feelings for the Chinese people, and has actively supported exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in various fields, the Chinese president said, noting that she made outstanding contributions to promoting the development of bilateral ties and enhancing the friendship between the two peoples.

“Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries, which has continued for over 62 years, the two countries have always supported and helped each other to build inseparable ironclad ties and become a strategic community with a shared future,” Xi emphasized.

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## CHINA CONFERS THE "ORDER OF FRIENDSHIP" ...



Chinese President also stated that China stands ready to work with Cambodia to carry forward the traditional friendship between the two countries, which was forged by the older-generation leaders of China, Cambodian King-Father Norodom Sihanouk, and Queen-Mother Monineath, and inject new impetus to the bilateral relations in the new historical period to bring more benefits to the two peoples.

The medal represents the Chinese people's reverence for Her Majesty the Queen-Mother and their profound friendship with the Cambodian people, H.E. Xi Jinping said, and wished China and Cambodia greater prosperity and everlasting friendship.

For her part, Her Majesty the Queen-Mother said President Xi awarding her the Friendship Medal of the People's Republic of China fully reflects the friendship and brotherhood of China and the Chinese people toward her and the Cambodian people.

"I feel extremely happy and express my heartfelt thanks. We will always remember the traditional friendship between Cambodia and China that was forged by His Majesty King-Father Norodom Sihanouk and the older-generation leaders of China," she said.

She said that for a long time, China has firmly supported Cambodia's just cause and efforts in safeguarding national sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, national peace, ethnic unity, and the development of various undertakings.

"I would like to express my most sincere thanks to the great Communist Party of China, the Chinese government, and the Chinese people. The Cambodian people will work with the Chinese people to consolidate the traditional friendship, strengthen unity and cooperation, and promote the continuous development of bilateral ties," she said.

Her Majesty the Queen-Mother wished the Communist Party of China and the Chinese people greater achievements under the leadership of President Xi, and wished the two countries ever-lasting friendship. ■

## CAMBODIAN PEOPLE...



High-ranking officials participated in the ceremony with a crowd of Phnom Penh residents and students in attendance.

Foreign Ambassadors accredited to Cambodia were also present at the event.

In the evening of 9 and 11 November, at 7:00, there will be fireworks in front of the Royal Palace to make the celebration more cheerful.

The National Independence Day on 9 November reminded the Cambodian people, especially the younger generation, of the royal mission for the motherland and people of Cambodia of His Majesty the late King-Father Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the Father of National Independence, Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh, who has struggled successfully for the full national independence from France on 9 November, 1953. It is also the 67th founding anniversary of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF). ■

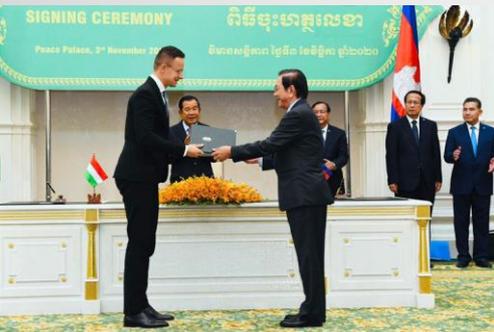
## CAMBODIA AND HUNGARY...



The second, a Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Agriculture between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary on Cooperation, was inked by H.E. Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and H.E. Péter Szijjártó.

The third is the Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Water Management between Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Ministry of Interior of Hungary signed by H.E. Lim Kean Hor, Minister of Water Resources and Meteorology and H.E. Péter Szijjártó.

H.E. Péter Szijjártó's official visit in Cambodia will further expand and strengthen the traditionally close relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. ■



## A US\$2 MILLION GARMENT FACTORY PROJECT LICENSED

The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) has recently approved an investment project to create a garment factory in Khan Meanchey in the southeastern part of Phnom Penh capital.

The US\$2 million project belongs to Humble Apparel Manufacturing Co., Ltd., pointed out the CDC.

The newly approved project is expected to generate nearly 600 job opportunities for the locals, it added.

Such investment amid COVID-19 outbreak demonstrates confidence of foreign investors in Cambodia's macroeconomic, political and social stability though threatened by the pandemic. ■

## AUSTRALIA SUPPORTS SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES TO ACCESS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE COVID-19 VACCINES



The Australian Government has announced a new AUD500 million Regional Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative to help countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific to access safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

This initiative will make a significant contribution towards meeting the vaccine needs of Southeast Asia, according to press release from the Australian Embassy in Cambodia.

It will include procurement and delivery of vaccine doses, assessment of vaccine safety and efficacy, and technical support for immunization policy and planning, pointed out the source.

“There is no higher priority for countries in our region than access to COVID-19 vaccines,” said Australia’s Foreign Minister and Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne.

“A fast, safe vaccine rollout in the Pacific and Southeast Asia will mean we are able to return to more normal travel, tourism and trade with our key partners in the region,” she said.

H.E. Pablo Kang, Australia’s Ambassador to Cambodia said “this is a very significant announcement that boosts Australia’s already deep engagement in the health sector in Cambodia, and should play a key role in Cambodia’s efforts to secure universal access to WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccines.”

The initiative builds on Australia’s AUD80 million commitment to the COVAX Facility Advance Market Commitment, which is designed to help developing countries access COVID-19 vaccine doses to meet the needs of their highest risk populations, said the press release.

The support for vaccines is in addition to Australia’s ongoing development assistance for Cambodia’s COVID-19 response and economic recovery, it added, underlining that Australia is committed to supporting Cambodians to have equitable access to safe and affordable vaccine. ■

## CAMBODIA EXPORTS MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION BICYCLES IN FIRST NINE MONTHS

Over 1.5 million units of Cambodian bicycles have been exported to foreign markets as of the third quarter of this year, generating nearly US\$400 million, according to figures from the Ministry of Commerce.

From January to September this year, Cambodia exported half of million bicycles to the U.S. market, 360,000 others to Germany, while 270,000 units and 150,000 units were shipped to the UK and Belgium, respectively.

Other main markets for Cambodian bicycles were the Netherlands and Australia with 90,000 and 100,000 units, respectively.

In the first half of this year, Cambodia exported 1.1 million bicycles, earning US\$241million. More than half of exported

bicycles were sent to EU countries and the rest to the U.S., Britain, Japan, and so on.

Cambodia became the largest bicycle supplier for the EU market since 2017, overtaking China’s Taiwan, which had held the number one spot for two decades.

Last year, the Kingdom shipped 620,106 tonnes to foreign markets. ■



## RUSSIA EYEING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CAMBODIA

Many large and medium Russian enterprises are eyeing investment opportunities in different sectors in Cambodia.

This intention was made known by H.E Anatoly Borovik, newly appointed Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Cambodia in a courtesy meeting on 3 November 2020 with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Finances, H.E. Aun Pornmoniroth.

In this sense, H.E. Ambassador expressed his conviction that the bilateral trade between the two countries will be increased consecutively.

For his part, the Cambodia deputy prime minister underlined that the Royal Government welcomed more investment from Russia in order to enhance the bilateral trade and promote the economic growth of both countries.

H.E. Aun Pornmoniroth also expressed his gratitude to the Russian government and its people for their active contribution to the peace building and socio-economic development process in Cambodia. ■

## US\$25 MILLION GENERATED FROM ECOTOURISM IN FIRST NINE MONTHS

Cambodia earned US\$25.21 million from ecotourism services in the first nine months of 2020, according to H.E. Neth Pheaktra, Secretary of State and Spokesperson for the Ministry of Environment.

The income derived from the visit of 536,545 tourists to the ecotourism areas located in 22 communities of 12 protected areas in 8 provinces across Cambodia.

The move, added the secretary of state, does not only contribute to national economy but also promotes Cambodia’s ecotourism potential and the love and protection of the environmental and natural resource among the locals – indicating noticeable increase compared to 2018 and 2019.

In 2019, the ecotourism sites received 402,293 tourists generating about US\$18.90 million, and in 2018 they welcomed 343,852 visitors, earning about US\$16.16 million. ■

## **7 November 2020: 17th Anniversary of Preah Reach Troap Dance's Listing as Intangible Heritage of Humanity**

7 November 2020 marks the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the registration of the Preah Reach Troap Dance (Royal Ballet) as Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2003, which is a priceless heritage of the Kingdom of Cambodia that has been preserved for a long time until now.

As described by UNESCO, the Royal Ballet of Cambodia, or Khmer Classical Dance, is famous for its graceful hand gestures and its splendid costumes, closely associated with the royal court during more than one millennium, embodies values of refinement and spirituality characteristics of the Khmer culture. The Performances of the Royal Ballet took place within the framework of various rites associated with the royal power and the prestige of the country.

The codified gestures and poses that dancers must master require many years of intensive training. An orchestra performing sacred music accompanies the dancers and a female chorus provides running commentary on the plot and the emotions mimed by the dancers. The characteristic of Khmer choreography is that the dance does not have fixed

gestures, but figures in perpetual movement, which gives a single fluidity in Asia. Musicians and chorus-singers accompany the gracious evolutions by the dancers, wearing embroidered wire clothes of gold and splendid jewels. This makes the Royal Ballet of Cambodia too original to merge with others.

Other Cambodian heritages registered so far on the World Heritage List include the Historic Site of Angkor inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1992, Lakhon Sbek Thom (big shadow puppet) proclaimed masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2005, the 11th-century Preah Vihear Temple listed as a World Heritage Site in 2008, Teanh Prot (tug-of-war), a popular recreational game, named an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2015, Chapei Dang Veng, a Cambodian two-stringed, long-necked guitar, inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2016, Sambor Prei Kuk temple complex registered as a World Heritage Site in 2017, and Lkhon Khol Wat Svay Andet recognized as an Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2018.

