



CAMBODIA OUTLOOK

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

HM KING NORODOM SIHAMONI SENDS CONDOLENCE LETTER TO TURKISH PRESIDENT

On 07 February, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM SIHAMONI, King of Cambodia, sent condolence letter to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for the devastating earthquake hit south-eastern provinces of Türkiye on 06 February.

In the letter, His Majesty expressed his deep sadness to learn that two strong earthquakes which struck Gaziantep and Kahramanmaraş provinces in Türkiye, destroyed Gaziantep Castle, a historic landmark that has stood for more than 2,000 years, caused the collapse of thousands of buildings, killing and injuring tens of thousands of people.

The Royal Family and the people of Cambodia joined His Majesty in conveying to the President deep sympathy and heartfelt condolence for the grieving families of the victims and best wishes for the success of the rescue and relief efforts in the affected zones. ■

PRIME MINISTER HUN SEN SENDS CONDOLENCE LETTER TO TURKISH PRESIDENT

On 07 February, Prime Minister Hun Sen sent condolence letter to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for the tragic loss of many innocent lives and the extensive damage caused by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake, which hit the south-eastern provinces of Türkiye on 06 February.

In the condolence letter, Prime Minister Hun Sen, on behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, conveyed his deepest sympathy and sincerest condolence to the President, and through him, to the people of Türkiye, especially the bereaved families and his best wishes for a speedy recovery to those injured and swift return to normal for the affected areas. ■

CAMBODIA RENDERS US\$100,000 HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EARTHQUAKE-HIT TÜRKIYE



Prime Minister Hun Sen and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has donated US\$ 100,000 in humanitarian aid to Türkiye after the latter's south-eastern provinces struck by a devastating earthquake on Monday in contribution to hardship alleviation and ongoing rescue operation.

In a press release of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on 08 February, Cambodia was shocked to learn the news of tragic loss of thousands of lives, and tens of thousands injured as well as extensive damage caused by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake, hitting the south-eastern provinces of Türkiye on 06 February 2023.

In the spirit of close friendship, solidarity and hardship alleviation with the government of Türkiye, the RGC has extended the deepest sympathy and sincerest condolences to the government and people of Türkiye, especially

the bereaved families, and the best wishes of speedy recovery to the injured and affected areas.

Cambodian Government spokesman Phay Siphon said on 08 February that the diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Türkiye has always been good and the messages of condolences and aid express Cambodian heart, which goes out to all Türkiye people.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announced on Tuesday a state of emergency for three months in 10 provinces ravaged by Monday's devastating earthquakes in the country's south.

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake, many countries have sent rescue workers and assistance to help the stricken region, where a colossal effort to find and free trapped civilians is underway. ■

FOREIGN MINISTER PRAK SOKHONN SENDS CONDOLENCE LETTER TO TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER MEVLÜT ÇAVUŞOĞLU



On 07 February 2023, H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and

International Cooperation of Cambodia, sent condolence letter to Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and Turkish people for the tragedy caused by the devastating earthquake which struck the south-eastern provinces of Türkiye on 06 February.

In the condolence letter, Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn expressed his deep sadness to learn that the 7.8 magnitude earthquake occurred on 06 February, resulting in the huge loss of lives, a great number of wounded and extensive damage to the important infrastructure in the south-

eastern provinces of Türkiye.

He conveyed his heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolence to Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, and through him, to the government and the people of Türkiye, especially the bereaved families, bound with his best wishes for a speedy recovery to the injured and to the affected areas. ■

CAMBODIA'S 2022 EXPORTS REACH OVER \$22 BILLION



In 2022, the export volume of Cambodia was valued at \$22.44 billion, while import reached \$25.46 billion.

This is according to the statement of the General Department of Customs and Excise in a meeting to summarize the results of the Customs and Excise 2022 in Kep province last weekend.

Director-general of the General Department of Customs and Excise Kun Nhim said that the garment sector increased by 14.1 %, while other sectors, including electronics and wood products, grew by 26.2 %. The agricultural exports of the country grew by 6.6 %. The export sector grew by 16.7 % compared to 2021.

Import trade volume reached \$25.46 billion of which the main imports were vehicles and machinery, telecommunication products, raw materials and server equipment for investment projects.

In 2022, the United States remains the biggest market for Cambodian products. According to the US Census Bureau report, Kingdom's total export to the US was \$12.2 billion, 40 % increase compared to a year earlier while Cambodia's import from the US was \$450 million, 8 % increase year-on-year.

This made Cambodia have a trade surplus of \$10.9 billion with the US in 2022.

Cambodia's export to the US was mostly garments and included goods such as footwear, bicycles and furniture under the Most Favored Nation status and travel goods are exported under the General Specialized Preference (GSP).

The Kingdom's imports include automobiles, machinery, electrical appliances and electronics etc.

The GSP status, offered to Less Developed Countries by the US, expired last December and the US government is in the process of reactivating it.

Cambodia has not lost any trade benefits from the loss of the US's GSP scheme, while the volume of Cambodia's trade exports to this market continues to remain high, said Penn Sovicheat, Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Commerce.

The loss of the GSP scheme is inevitable in the future as Cambodia moves from the status of a low-income country to an upper-income country by 2030, he said. ■

CAMBODIAN RED CROSS DONATES \$100,000 TO SUPPORT HUMANITARIAN OPERATION OF TURKISH RED CRESCENT SOCIETY



On 13 February, Samdech Kittipritthbindit Bun Rany Hun Sen, President of Cambodian Red Cross, has sent condolence letter to H.E. Mrs. Ülkü Kocaefe, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Cambodia.

In the letter, Samdech Kittipritthbindit Bun Rany Hun Sen, in the name of Cambodian Red Cross and in her personal name, conveyed through Turkish Ambassador, her deepest condolence and heartfelt sympathy to the people of Türkiye and those who lost their beloved ones and the victim families in this hardship circumstance.

In the spirit of solidarity with Turkish people, Turkish government and Turkish Red Crescent Society, Samdech Kittipritthbindit Bun Rany Hun Sen donated 100,000 USD to support the humanitarian operation of the Turkish Red Crescent Society through the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye to Cambodia.

On a separate occasion, Turkish community in Cambodia, Turkish Alumni and Cambodian people sent 14 tons of in-kind donation to Turkish people through Turkish Embassy in Phnom Penh. ■

WORLD'S BEST RICE DISPLAYED IN THE FIFTH RICE FESTIVAL IN SIEM REAP CITY



On January 27, the Cambodia Rice Federation held its three-day 5th Rice Festival in Siem Reap city in coordination with other stakeholders.

This event was attended by many national and international tourists, including beauty queens of Miss Planet International 2023.

The aim of the rice festival is to promote the potential of the Cambodian rice sector and showcase the 'Angkor Malys' rice.

Cambodian rice has gained a good reputation, especially the 'Angkor Malys' variety of rice.

Cambodia's Phka Rumduol jasmine variety, exported under the 'Angkor Malys' certification mark, has been ranked the best rice in the world five times – three years in a row (2012, 2013 and 2014) and then in 2018 and 2022.

In 2022, it was crowned the World's Best Rice among more than 40 rice samples from eight countries for the fifth time at the TRT (The Rice Trader) World Rice Conference in Phuket, Thailand.

Meanwhile, the event is also aimed at promoting Siem Reap as a tourist destination, ready to welcome national and international tourists after the Covid-19 crisis. ■

21,000 BUSINESSES WORTH \$6.15BILLION REGISTERED ON SINGLE PORTAL

*Online Business Registration
in Cambodia in 2022*



More than 21,000 businesses with over \$6.15 billion capital have been registered with the government's Online Business Registration platform known as the Single Portal as of February 6, a report by the Ministry of Economy and Finance showed.

According to a press release, among the sectors, construction was on top by providing 16 % of the total investment, followed by real estate with 12 %, consultant service with 6 %, financial and insurance services and manufacturing 5 % each and all other sectors together 55 %.

Several ministries and state-run institutions have been integrated into the business registration system on the platform launched on June 15, 2020. The second phase of the Single Portal was launched in September 2021.

The number of applications via the second Phase of the platform was 234 companies approved by

the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication, 135 companies by the Ministry of Tourism, 70 companies by the Real Estate and Pawnshop Regulatory Authority and five businesses by the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology, and Innovation.

The Ministry of Commerce registered 10,701 new businesses in 2022, up 39.4 % from 7,677 in 2021.

The online platform ensures a smooth business registration process, providing businesses with valid proof of identity for a range of services, such as applying for loans under various special financial programmes of the government during the Covid-19 crisis.

Lim Heng, vice president of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, lauded the government's reforms in facilitating business and investment, especially business registration.

"The increase in business registration is a good sign for the economy. With a number of trade deals, many businesses and companies are coming forward to invest in Cambodia," Heng told Khmer Times.

The government plans to launch the third phase of the Single Portal in the near future, which will allow businesses to apply for licences, permits and certificates from the participating ministries and institutions, it added. ■

216 CAMBODIAN BLUE BERETS SENT TO LEBANON



Two hundred and sixteen (216) peacekeepers of engineering forces Unit 827 last night departed for the Republic of Lebanon to replace their counterparts.

At the same time, engineering troops Unit 829 arrived home after completed successfully their one-year UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon.

H.E General Sem Sovanny, Director General of the National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces, Mines and ERW Clearance, presided over the send-off and home-coming ceremonies at Phnom Penh International Airport.

H.E General stated that the mission to Lebanon has reached its 13th year and that the 829th Engineering Brigade was the 12th brigade to participate in the mission.

H.E General emphasized that the peace operation is a global principle and has been playing a crucial role through the participation of all national and international parties.

On that occasion, H.E General also advised the new troops, to do their best to successfully fulfill their mission, which will further enhance Cambodia's image on the international scene.

H.E General also spoke highly of Unit 829 for their hardworking, good discipline, and strict adherence to the UN standards, making their mission a success.

Since 2006, Cambodia has deployed more than 8,000 peacekeepers to nine countries: Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, the Central African Republic, Cyprus, Lebanon, Mali, Syria, and Yemen.

Currently, some 800 Cambodian peacekeepers have been fulfilling their missions in South Sudan, Lebanon, Central African Republic, and Mali. ■

CAMBODIA SEES ABOUT 400,000 INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS IN THE FIRST MONTHS OF 2023

According to the Minister of Tourism, H.E Thong Khon, in the first month 2023, Cambodia received 400,000 international tourists. That is an increase 794 percent compared to the same period of the previous year and a decrease of 38 percent compare to 2019.

Among the international tourists there are about 25,000 Chinese tourist, an increase of 901 percent compared to same period last year but still a decrease by 86.3 percent during the same period in 2019. ■



SIEM REAP RANKS FOURTH TOP TRENDING TRAVEL DESTINATION 2023

Siem Reap ranks 4th out of 25 global trending tourism destinations in Tripadvisor's 2023 Travelers' Choice Awards.

Based on reviews on the popular online portal, Siem Reap was crowned the fourth most popular tourist destination in the world. It joins the Southeast Asian nations of Thailand and Vietnam in the top 10 rankings. ■

