

CAMBODIA OUTLOOK

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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

CAMBODIA'S LESSONS COULD BE USEFUL FOR MYANMAR'S CRISIS

Cambodia, the Chair of ASEAN for 2022, hopes that her experience and lessons learned from past tragedy and successful implementation of Win-Win policy could be useful for Myanmar to solve her crisis.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, said on 28 October that Cambodia stands ready to help and will do her best in this endeavour as ASEAN Chair next year.

"Cambodia has experience and lessons learned from our past tragedy and successful implementation of our Samdech Techo Prime

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CAMBODIA OFFICIALLY BECOMES ASEAN CHAIR FOR 2022



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, received the ASEAN chairmanship baton.

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, received the chairmanship baton from Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam in the official handover ceremony of ASEAN chairmanship held on 28 October 2021 via videoconference.

In his remarks at the handover ceremony, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said on behalf of the people and the Royal Government of Cambodia, he is indeed proud that Cambodia is taking on the ASEAN Chairmanship for 2022.

The Cambodian Premier also expressed his great appreciation to Brunei for leading ASEAN in 2021 under the theme "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper".

'As the Chair of ASEAN in 2022, Cambodia will steer ASEAN's collective efforts to accomplish our important tasks, especially

expediting the building process of an equitable, strong, and inclusive ASEAN Community, which are in line with core spirit of ASEAN: One Vision, One Identity and One Community," he underlined.

In this regard, Samdech Techo Hun Sen underscored some key priorities for 2022 as follows:

"1st. Political and Security Pillar: Cambodia will focus on strengthening the ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN Unity, for both regional mechanism and external partners' cooperation, based on ASEAN Way and Principles stipulated in the ASEAN Charter, Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.

CAMBODIA DONATES 200,000 DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE TO VIETNAM

The Royal Government of Cambodia donated 200,000 doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in contribution to the fight against the pandemic and the strengthening of cooperation between the two countries on 29 October 2021.

The handover ceremony was held at Bavet-Moc Bai border gate, Svay Rieng province under the presidency of H.E. Dr. Or Vandine, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Health and Chairwoman of the Ad-hoc Commission for COVID-19 vaccination and her Vietnamese counterpart.

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CAMBODIA OFFICIALLY BECOMES ASEAN ...

Also, ASEAN must be resilient and strong against the pressure and influence stemming from rising geo-political competition, transnational-crime, terrorism, climate change and infectious diseases, etc. to ensure our way forward in peace, security, and prosperity.

2nd. Economic Pillar: Cambodia will promote effective implementation of all initiatives and measures agreed as well as leverage trade agreements to the maximum so as to expedite the recovery of economic growth while we are living with Covid-19 in the new normal, and ensure that ASEAN remains an attractive and dynamic hub for trade and investment by enhancing both physical and digital connectivity; strengthening the capacity of MSMEs; and promoting the entrepreneurship amongst women and youth; as well as other priorities aimed at narrowing the development gaps and advancing regional integration.

3rd. Socio-Cultural Pillar: Cambodia will strengthen the development of human resources to respond to the needs on the ground for community building, promote the

participation of women and youth in building and maintaining peace, and develop an inclusive social protection system. Another key priority is strengthening people-to-people bonds to enhance the spirit of One ASEAN Identity.

By and large, Cambodia will continue to mobilise support and cooperation to achieve the goal of building the three ASEAN Communities, in line with the ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2025. In addition, we will expedite the development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision.

As the Chair of ASEAN in 2022, Cambodia is committed to leading ASEAN under the theme 'ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together' for harmony, peace, and prosperity in the whole region."

Samdech Techo Prime Minister looked forward to warmly welcoming all his counterparts from ASEAN and dialogue partners to Cambodia in 2022. ■

CAMBODIA'S LESSONS COULD BE USEFUL FOR ...



Minister HUN SEN's win-win policy. We hope these lessons could be useful for Myanmar to solve her crisis, even though the context and the particularities of our two countries are not exactly the same," he underlined.

The Win-Win Policy refers to the ruling Cambodian People's Party's (CPP) strategy to successfully integrate the last Khmer Rouge stronghold in 1998, ending the three decades of civil war in Cambodia.

The Cambodian top diplomat made the remarks after nine ASEAN member states wrapped up the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits on Oct. 28, under the chairmanship of Brunei.

This year, the bloc's summits were held without Myanmar. The decision to invite a non-political representative from Nay Pyi Daw was made by the Chair of ASEAN after the Emergency AMM could not reach a consensus on Myanmar's representation at the ASEAN Summits and related Summits, after lack of real progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus (5PC), especially the unsuccessful demands that the Special Envoy be able to meet all parties concerned, a necessary step to pave the way for genuine dialogue toward the return of normalcy in Myanmar, according to H.E. Prak Sakhonn.

The Chair sent an invitation following that line but Myanmar chose not to attend.

Cambodia as incoming Chair will appoint its own Special Envoy who will continue the work of the current Special Envoy, beginning with the term of its presidency: January 2022.

"Myanmar is a member of ASEAN family and while we all respect the principle of non-interference into domestic affairs of member states, the situation in Myanmar continues to

THE KINGDOM WELCOMES FULLY VACCINATED VISITORS FROM NOVEMBER



Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen said that Cambodia will welcome fully vaccinated foreign tourists from all countries.

Tourism destinations including Sihanoukville and Koh Rong Island in Preah Sihanouk province and Dara Sakor vacation zone of Koh Kong province will be the first to receive the vaccinated tourists.

After having been hit by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis for about two years, Cambodia will welcome all foreign tourists fully vaccinated from November 30 this year, he said.

Siem Reap city, home of world famed Angkor Wat Temple, is set to reopen for vaccinated tourists earlier next year.

Fully vaccinated foreign tourists are required to stay in the 'safe and green destination' without quarantine, the Ministry of Tourism stated in a statement issued on 26 October 2021.

According to the Ministry of Tourism, foreign tourists can enter Cambodia by air without quarantine, and providing that they have been fully vaccinated and have evidence of pre-flight negative test results, booked hotels, and insurance. They are also required to take a 'Rapid Test' for COVID-19 upon arrival and another 'PCR Test' a day before they move to other destinations or leave Cambodia, added the source. ■

be a subject of grave concern and has negative impacts on the region, the credibility of the Association and on the people of Myanmar, our brothers and sisters," he said. ■

THE KINGDOM ACHIEVES TARGET OF VACCINATING 10 MILLION ADULT PEOPLE

Cambodia achieved its target of vaccinating 10 million people aged 18 years old and over against the COVID-19 pandemic on 31 October.

“Up to today, our Cambodia has vaccinated 10.88 million people or over 100 percent of the target of 10 million people. This is a great achievement in the protection of our people’s health,” Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen wrote on his official Facebook page.

Despite the achievement, the vaccination will continue until everyone will be inoculated, he underlined, adding, “Our next task is to finish the administration of the 2nd dose for those who have already received the first one and continue to provide vaccines for those who have not yet gotten any jab.”

Samdech Techo Hun Sen thanked all stakeholders for their contribution to the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, and called on his compatriots to continue implementing the health safety rules, particularly the Three Dos, Three Don’ts.

Besides the 18 years old and up, the vaccination of the 12 to under 18 years old has now reached 97.89 percent, the 6 to under 12 years old 101.22 percent, and nearly 2 million people have already received their 3rd dose or booster dose.

CDC CHIEF SAYS LEVERAGING INTEGRATION KEY TO DIVERSIFYING ECONOMIES

In a statement to an investment forum hosted by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva on 22 October, the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) Secretary General H.E. Sok Chenda Sophea stressed the need for regional integration to diversify their economies.

He also noted links between investment and sustainable development to sustain and accelerate post-COVID economic recovery. “A shared endeavour of Least Developed Countries and developing countries will be key to create a more effective environment for doing business and investment and more predictable conditions,” he said.

Making better use of integration “contributes to improved economic growth and resilience

The Kingdom has so far vaccinated about 85.68 percent of the total population of 16 million.

On 27 October 2021, Cambodia will begin the inoculation of more than 300,000 children aged 5 years old.

Sputnik V Vaccine Authorized for Emergency Use in Cambodia

The Kingdom of Cambodia has issued an Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) for Russia-made Sputnik V vaccine against COVID-19.

The EUA certificate for Sputnik V, manufactured by R-Pharm Russia, was signed on Oct. 29 by H.E. Prof. Mam Bunheng, Minister of Health of Cambodia.

On the same day, the Ministry of Health also granted EUAs to four other Russian COVID-19 vaccines, including CoviVac of Chumakov Centre, Sputnik-Light of Gamaleya Institute, EpiVacCorona of Scientific Research Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB SRC Vector), and EpiVacCorona of State Research Centre of Virology and Biotechnology.

Cambodia issued EUA for China-manufactured Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines, and the AstraZeneca developed by the University of Oxford in February this year. ■

and creating a regulatory and legal regime that promotes domestic and foreign investment,” he added.

Cambodia’s new investment law provides for an “open, transparent, and predictable” regulatory framework. The new law also increases the attractiveness of projects that adopt technology, generate jobs and skills training while cultivating research, development and innovation, the secretary general said.

With Cambodia’s vaccination rate now exceeding 85 percent of the population, he told the forum that the government would soon launch its post-pandemic “new normal” economic recovery plan. ■

CAMBODIA, SOUTH KOREA SIGNED FREE TRADE AGREEMENT



The Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Korea officially signed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) via videoconference on 26 October, a move that the Kingdom expects to draw in new investment and businesses from the East Asian country and to boost its exports.

The virtual signing ceremony took place under the presidency of H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce of Cambodia and his South Korean counterpart H.E. Yeo Han-koo.

The two countries ended the FTA drafting in February this year. The Cambodia-Korea Free Trade Agreement (CKFTA) will open wider market for Cambodia’s products, the Ministry of Commerce said.

CKFTA will enter into force 60 days after both sides inform each other by diplomatic mean of the completion of internal procedures for ratification, it underlined.

CKFTA is the second bilateral FTA for Cambodia after the Cambodia-China FTA which has been endorsed recently. ■

CAMBODIA DONATES...

Speaking at the function, H.E. Dr. Or Vandine said that the contribution of vaccines reflects the good cooperation between the two neighbouring nations.

“The 200,000 doses of vaccines are to contribute with the Vietnamese government to combating COVID-19 and enhancing public health in Vietnam,” she added.

Vietnam is the second country for which Cambodia provided COVID-19 vaccines, after Laos which also received 200,000 doses on Sept. 28.

In 2020, Cambodia also donated facemasks and medical supplies to Laos, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Nepal. ■

ALL MUSEUMS, CINEMAS AND THEATRES IN PHNOM PENH REOPEN ON 30 OCTOBER 2021

Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts has decided to lift the temporary ban imposed on all museums, cinemas and theatres in Phnom Penh capital since early this year to prevent the COVID-19 spread.

The move is aimed to contribute to the resumption of socio-economic activities, explained the ministry in an announcement this evening.

The reopening of all museums, cinemas and theatres in the capital city, to come into force from Oct. 30 onwards, must strictly follow the standard operating procedure (SOP) introduced by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and the Ministry of Health, as well as other directives of the Ministry of Health.

The SOP ranges from presentation of COVID-19 vaccination card, mask wearing, temperature scanning, safety distancing to the reduction of the number of sessions and dissemination of educative messages on preventive measures.

THE APSARA DANCE

There are many classical dance forms in Cambodia, of which a highly stylized art form was once confirmed mainly to the courts of the royal palace and performed mainly by females. Known formally in Khmer as Robam Apsara, the dancers of this classical form are often referred to as Apsara dance.

This dance form was first introduced to foreign countries and best known during the 1960s as the Khmer Royal Ballet. The first royal ballerina was Princess Norodom Boppha Devi, daughter of late King Norodom Sihanouk.

The Apsara Dance is particularly inspired by the style from around more than a thousand Apsara carving in the Angkor Temple complex. As evidenced in part by these Apsaras (celestial dancers), dance has been part of the Khmer culture for more than a millennium.

A visit to Cambodia is only complete when one has attended at least one such traditional dance performance.

