



# 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 SUPPORTS PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO CURRENT CRISIS IN MYANMAR

The Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia on 9 March 2021 made a statement expressing the Kingdom's support for a peaceful solution to the current crisis in Myanmar.

The full statement reads as follows:

" 1. As a friend and a member of the ASEAN Community, Cambodia, like all other ASEAN member states and community at large, is closely following the situation in Myanmar and is saddened by the ongoing escalation of violence that has caused loss of lives.

2. While respecting the core principle of non-interference into internal affairs of members states,

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## EU PLEDGES \$510 MILLION TO CAMBODIA IN 2021-2027

The European Union (EU) said it plans another \$510 million in aid for Cambodia to help the country boost its economic development in the 2021-2027 period, according to a statement by the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC).

H.E. Ms. Carmen Moreno, EU Ambassador to Cambodia shared the strategic development priorities when received by H.E. Chheang Yanara, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary General of the Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board of the CDC on 3 March 2021.

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## QUEEN-MOTHER APPRECIATES MORE ACTIVE ROLE OF CAMBODIAN WOMEN



Her Majesty the Queen-Mother of Cambodia, Samdech Preah Mahaksatrey Norodom Monineath Sihanouk at a Rd Cross donation programme.

Samdech Preah Mahaksatrey Norodom Monineath Sihanouk has acknowledged remarkable improvement of gender equality in the society and indispensable role of women in COVID-19 response and containment.

Her Majesty the Queen-Mother of Cambodia made the note in her recent public message to cheer the 110<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day on March 8, 2021 in Cambodia.

She expressed her strong support for this year's theme, "Women and Development in the COVID-19 Context", that highlights women's contribution in development amidst COVID-19 crisis, considering it a well-timed focus.

Women have been actively engaged among the frontliners such as medical personnel taking care of COVID-19 patients, and as household head to look after the family and educate the children, she said.

Guided by the Rectangular Strategy phase IV of the Royal Government of Cambodia, women

and girls in overall, she continued, have received opportunities to advance their skills and leadership and are playing a vital role in public, corporate and political affairs, becoming a backbone of the country's economy and society.

Samdech Preah Mahaksatrey spoke highly of the commitment of the Royal Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, and of the two legislative bodies in ensuring all the achievements for women and girls.

She also acknowledged the hard work of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Cambodian National Council for Women to bring the change.

With the consistent move and solidarity, the Queen-Mother was optimistic that Cambodia will achieve its 2050 vision and the sustainable development goal (SDG) of leaving no one behind.

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## CAMBODIA EXPECTS TO HAVE 4.2 MILLION DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINES BY FIRST SEMESTER



Cambodia expected to have at least 4.2 million doses of vaccines against COVID-19 by the first semester of this year, said Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen at a press conference on 4 March 2021.

"If nothing changes, we will have some 4.2 million doses of vaccines for more than 2 million people in the first half of this year," he underlined.

According to the Premier, Cambodia has currently two vaccines against COVID-19 in stock – China-donated Sinopharm (600,000 doses) and AstraZeneca/SII (324,000 doses) donated by WHO via COVAX Facility.

Another 400,000 doses of Sinopharm as part of China's pledge of 1 million doses for Cambodia will arrive in Phnom Penh around April, he said.

COVAX will provide vaccine for 20 percent of the total Cambodian population of 16 million people, which is equivalent to 3.2 million people or 6.4 million doses of vaccine, he added.

Moreover, Samdech Techo Hun Sen welcomed India's plan to provide Cambodia with 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, stressing that Cambodia requested to buy 1 million more doses from India and another 1 million doses of Sinopharm from China.

At the same time, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said Cambodia is considering the possibility to buy vaccines from Russia, the U.S., and so on.

Newly approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine of the U.S. can be also a choice for Cambodia as only a dose is required, while others need two doses, he said. ■

## FOREIGN DIPLOMATS, UN OFFICERS TO BE IN PRIORITY GROUPS FOR VACCINATION

All foreign diplomatic corps, UN agencies, international financial institutions and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) in Cambodia will be among the priority groups to get the newly-arrived AstraZeneca vaccine.

Speaking at a press conference held on 4 March at Calmette hospital after getting his first dose of AstraZeneca vaccine, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said apart from the local officers and general public aged 60 years and older in Phnom Penh capital, and Kandal and Preah Sihanouk provinces being seriously affected by COVID-19 pandemic, all foreign diplomats, UN officers, staff at international financial institutions such as IMF, WB, ADB and INGOs in Cambodia will have access to AstraZeneca vaccine.

Other foreigners residing and working in Cambodia will also be vaccinated free of charge at different stages along with the Cambodian people, Samdech Techo Hun Sen underlined.

The Premier also took the opportunity to call on all Cambodian students, who have to study abroad, to get vaccinated.

Currently, the priority groups to receive COVID-19 vaccine are front line medical doctors and nurses, armed forces, journalists, garbage collectors, and so on.

Cambodia started the vaccination programme against COVID-19 on Feb. 10, three days after receiving the first batch of Sinopharm vaccine. As of 5 March 2021, a total of 44,918 vaccine doses have been administered. ■

## THE KINGDOM TO MARK EARTH HOUR ON MAR. 27

Cambodia is going to join the rest of world to celebrate the Earth Hour, which goes digital this year, on March 27, according to the Ministry of Environment.

With this year's theme "MakeRoom4Nature", Earth Hour represents an opportunity for us to talk about the importance of nature for human health and wellbeing and the health of the environment and the planet Earth, while encouraging people to make more room

## QUEEN-MOTHER...

Samdech Preah Mahaksatrey reaffirmed the deep appreciation and love of all Cambodians by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, and herself.

In the civil service sector, female civil servants account for 41 percent in 2020, up from 32 percent in 2007, while the proportion of female civil servants at the decision-making level reached 24 percent in 2019.

At the sub-national level, there are 2 female provincial governors, 6 female city, district/Khan governors, and 130 commune/Sangkat chiefs are women (2017).

Since 2006, 387 women out of 7,040 Cambodian soldiers have been deployed for peacekeeping missions under the UN umbrella. ■

## CAMBODIA SUPPORTS ...

Cambodia has supported the 'ASEAN Chairman's Statement on the Developments in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar' issued on 1 February 2021, and the 'Chair's Statement on the Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting' issued on 2 March 2021, that were made in good faith to support a peaceful solution to the current crisis in Myanmar.

3. As stated in His Excellency Foreign Minister's intervention during the IAMM, Cambodia is ready to join other ASEAN member states to assist Myanmar, on her path to normalcy in any role and in any format that are in line with ASEAN principles – in our ASEAN Way – and that are agreeable to all. In this spirit, Cambodia also supports the good offices of the Chairman of ASEAN and the Secretary-General of ASEAN in a positive, peaceful and constructive manner. ■

for nature, it underlined.

"Be the Voice for Nature and help spread the word about Appreciation of Nature among families and others on social media," the same source added.

Since 2007, Earth Hour has inspired millions of people across the globe to take actions for nature and our planet Earth. ■

## 13TH ASEM SUMMIT RESCHEDULED TO LATER THIS YEAR



### ASEM13 - PHNOM PENH - CAMBODIA

The 13th Summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEAM13), that was meant to be hosted in Cambodia between June 1 and 2, has been rescheduled, according to a press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ASEM senior officials approved the summit reschedule at a retreat meeting via videoconference on March 1 and 2, chaired by H.E. LUY David, Secretary of State and ASEM SOM Leader for Cambodia.

“The retreat unanimously supported Cambodia rescheduling the ASEM13 to the last quarter of 2021 due to the unabated risks posed by COVID-19,” the press release said.

Moreover, the postponement is to ensure not only the safety of ASEM Leaders attending the Summit but also their meaningful interactions as well as frank and constructive exchange of views on regional and global issues of common interest that can only be done in a physical setting, it said.

The retreat also endorsed Cambodia’s initiative on the Asia-Europe Forum on Women, Peace, and Security to be held regularly as one of the side events of ASEM Summits with the objective of streamlining women’s vital roles in the development, conflict resolution and peacekeeping efforts.

The retreat recognized the role of ASEM in coordinating with Cambodia to organize the side events of the ASEM13 and enhancing ASEM’s relevance and visibility.

ASEM is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. ■

## EU PLEDGES \$510 ...

The draft priorities include human resource development, economic diversification, promotion of private sector and jobs, and sustainable and inclusive development – very well aligned with the Rectangular Strategy Phase 4 of the Royal Government of Cambodia, according to the EU Ambassador to Cambodia.

The ambassador also spoke highly of CDC for the good cooperation and partnership with the European Union through its embassy in Cambodia.

H.E. Chheang Yanara thanked the EU delegation for the sharing and acknowledged the EU’s indispensable role in contribution to Cambodia’s development, particularly through the implementation of the development cooperation strategy 2014-2020.

He also expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia on the union’s assistance for Cambodia’s response and containment of COVID-19.

Since 1992, EU partners, 10 EU member countries and the Swiss Confederation have supported Cambodia with \$4.2 billion or 19 percent of the country’s total cooperation financing. ■

## INDIA SEEKS TO IMPORT PEPPER & TURMERIC FROM CAMBODIA

Embassy of India in Phnom Penh has sought to increase import of pepper and turmeric from Cambodia.

This potential hike in bilateral trade with India was discussed at a meeting held March 9 between Indian Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Dr. Devyani Uttam Khobragade and representatives of Cambodia Pepper and Spice Federation (CPSF).

A statement from the Indian Embassy stated that the meeting was fruitful in its discussion of how to boost exports of Cambodia agricultural products to India.

“As a first step in this direction, the Embassy will be arranging a virtual meeting between Spices Board of India and the Federation, which can discuss the opportunities available for Cambodian spices in India and also the phytosanitary requirements,” read the statement.

Subsequently, Indian and Cambodian companies will also have B2B meetings, it added.

“The Embassy is fully aware of the quality of pepper and turmeric produced in Cambodia

and expects a win-win situation for companies from both countries, which will result in the increase in bilateral trade between the two countries,” it added.

It also encouraged Cambodian companies to look at India’s Duty-Free Tariff Preference Scheme extended to less developed countries (LDCs) for duty related benefits.

CEO of CPSF, Mr. Van Vannal, said that the talk is another step to collect the products in Cambodia to be listed as prioritized products for export to India.

The primary market for Cambodia’s pepper is made up of 13 countries – Japan, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Switzerland, Vietnam, the U.S., Russia, England, India, Belarus, and South Korea. ■



## SOME 1.6 MILLION TONNES OF AGRO PRODUCTS EXPORTED IN FIRST TWO MONTHS

Cambodia exported 1,599,922.37 tonnes of agricultural products, besides milled rice, to 25 countries during the first two months of this year, despite the global COVID-19 crisis.

Report from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) shows the export of agricultural products in January and February 2021 saw an increase by 55.27 percent compared to the same period last year.

There were 43 types of agricultural products exported in the first two months, including cassava, cashew nuts, corn, fresh banana, mangos, pepper, chili, and so on.

Cambodia's agricultural product with the highest order counts during the said period was cassava (802,451 tonnes for dry cassava, and 154,750 tonnes for fresh cassava), followed by paddy rice (287,850 tonnes), cashew nuts (79,473 tonnes), red corn (78,856 tonnes), fresh banana (75,645 tonnes), fresh mangoes (43,680 tonnes), and fresh chili (32,417 tonnes). ■

# HUANG WATERFALL IN THBONG KHMUM PREPARED TO WELCOME TOURISTS

Thbong Khmum province is preparing the Huang waterfall resort in Memut district to welcome visitors during the upcoming Khmer New Year in mid-April 2021.

Mr. Oeun Rith, Director of Thbong Khmum Provincial Department of Tourism, led a delegation to monitor the progress of the work recently. He also encouraged vendors there to ensure sanitation and quality service to attract the visitors.

Huang waterfall resort encompasses 1,800 hectares of dense forest in Sre Veng village, Kampoan commune of Memut district – about 38 kilometres from Thbong Khmum provincial city.

It is home to a cliff-hiking area with dozens of square meters of cascading waterfalls with beautiful views and fresh air.

Tourists often come to enjoy the scenery and swim there, especially during the rainy season, and the site also locates a Buddha statue, monks and ritual facilities where visitors can pray for blessing.

The Provincial Department of Tourism urged tourists to come to visit this area of unique beauty for recreation.

