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## THE KINGDOM PROVIDES MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO LAOS TO HELP FIGHT COVID-19

Twelve items of medical supplies donated by Cambodia as humanitarian assistance to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic have been handed over to Laos on 16 November 2020.

Samdech Pichey Sena Tea Banh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the National Defence, represented Cambodia at the handover ceremony held at Wattay International Airport in Vientiane, while the Lao side was headed by Prime Minister H.E. Thongloun Sisoulith.

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## CAMBODIA SIGNED REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



The leaders of RCEP participating countries witnessed the signing ceremony of the RCEP Agreement on 15 November 2020 via videoconference.

## CONSTRUCTION SECTOR ATTRACTS SOME US\$5 BILLION INVESTMENT CAPITAL IN FIRST EIGHT MONTHS

For the first eight months of this year, there were in total 3,350 construction projects across Cambodia with an estimated investment capital of US\$5,081 million, according to the Socio-Economic Trends released by the Ministry of Economy and Finances on 10 November 2020.

If compared to the figures in the first eight months of 2019, the number of approved construction projects rose by 455, but the investment capital dropped by about 15 percent, it pointed out.

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Cambodia along with ASEAN members and its FTA partners, namely China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) signed the RCEP agreement on 15 November 2020 via videoconference, following the 4<sup>th</sup> RCEP Summit.

H.E. Dr. Aun Pornmoniroth, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance on behalf of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and other RCEP Leaders witnessed the signing ceremony.

The RCEP Agreement is the historic achievement of the region, which will contribute to the protection and the promotion of globalization, and the support of rules-based multilateral trading system. It is an indispensable prerequisite for the principles of free and fair trade, and an important driving force for sustainable socio-economic development.

The RCEP Agreement will be also an important catalyst in contributing to economic growth, improving the livelihoods of people in the region, and helping to restore regional economic development after the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Signing of this Agreement will form the world's largest free trade agreement, covering (1) 2.2 billion people, or 30 percent of the world population, (2) with combined gross domestic product (GDP) of about US\$26.2 trillion or about 30 percent of global GDP and (3) approximately 28 percent of the world trade based on data in 2019.

Based on the result of the negotiations and the study by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), it is shown that after the conclusion of the RCEP Agreement, per annum, Cambodia is expected to increase 2 percent on top of the current GDP, 7.3 percent and 23.4 percent in exports and investment, respectively. ■

## THE KINGDOM PROVIDES MEDICAL ...



Speaking on the occasion, Samdech Pichey Sena said Cambodia and Laos had shared a long-standing brotherhood relationship, and their leaders at all levels have continued to build and strengthen the relations and cooperation between the two neighbouring countries every passing day.

Both nations have fought shoulder to shoulder against colonialism and imperialism to gain their independence, national sovereignty, freedom and self-determination he said, adding that currently, Cambodia and Laos also have close cooperation in both bilateral and multilateral frameworks to bring about peace, stability, security, sustainable development and mutual benefit for the two nations.

Samdech Pichey Sena believed that the traditional good relations and cooperation between both countries will be deepened and grow stronger, bringing harmony and sustainable

socio-economic progress to their peoples which will also contribute to peace, stability and development in the region.

The Cambodia's contribution for COVID-19 prevention and control in Laos reflects the spirit of brotherhood and solidarity between the Cambodian and Lao people while the world has been facing unprecedented challenge to health safety and human security, he underlined.

For his part, H.E. Thongloun Sisoulith expressed his profound thanks to the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, especially Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, for the humanitarian donation. This reflects the good ties of friendship, solidarity, and close cooperation between the two countries, he stressed.

The donation include 2,000,000 facemasks, 100,000 fabric facemasks, 20,000 masks N95, 20,000 goggles, 20,000 PPE sets, 500 units of intra temperature manual check, 20,000 face shields, 20 ventilator machines for ICU Set, 20 patient monitors+accessories model: Vista 120, 500 containers (25kg each) of ChloramineB Powder, 1,000 sets of safety plastic boots PR, and 2,000 units of hand liquid soap. ■

## SSEZ'S BUSINESS GROWTH ON TRACK

Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone (SSEZ) has reported ongoing good operation of enterprises as well as business growth in the zone amid the COVID-19 fallouts.

According to the statistics, from January to October 2020, the total volume of exported and imported containers in the SSEZ was amounted to 36,206, up 29 percent compared to same period last year, the company said in a statement.

The total value of exports and imports conducted at SSEZ was US\$1,273 million, a year-on-year increase of 31 percent, or equivalent to 103 percent of total exports and imports made in the whole year of 2019, it added, giving reference to the latest statistics from the General Department of Customs and Excise.

The company said these are the positive

achievements made in a critical situation as the COVID-19 virus is spreading around the world.

This reflects the strong development momentum of SSEZ and the great efforts of SSEZ, all factories, enterprises and workers involved in the prevention of COVID-19 and the promotion of economic development, and also demonstrated the sustainable development capacity of SSEZ, the statement underlined. ■



## CONSTRUCTION...

The total 3,350 construction projects in the first eight months of this year covers over 11.4 million square metres, added the report.

Of the above-mentioned approved projects, 2,819 or 84 percent are housing projects, up 375 projects, underlined the same source.

Grounding on the indicators, real estate experts are positive about the industry which continues to attract more and more investments to Cambodia, especially Phnom Penh capital. ■

## CAMBODIA, JAPAN SIGN AGREEMENT ON 'GREEN BELT' TOURISM

The Ministry of Tourism and Mayato Green Company of Japan have reached a cooperative agreement to accelerate the so-called green belt in tourism.

The agreement was inked on 12 November 2020 through a virtual event co-led by H.E. Thong Rathasak, Director-General of Tourism Development and International Cooperation and Mr. Nabeshima Katsuhito, President of Yamato Green.

According to H.E. Thong Rathasak, the agreement aims to support high-quality, safe (chemical-free) vegetable growing techniques to meet the demand for food at various tourist destinations in Cambodia and possibly for export to Japan.

The work will also contribute to promoting awareness among Cambodian farmers to grow and consume organic vegetables with high quality and safety standards.

Mr. Nabeshima Katsuhito said Yamato Green covers the production process, packaging and distribution of the products, and that the people of Japan are very keen to consume organic agricultural products from Cambodia.

Cambodia is rich in land and water resources, including the Tonle Sap River, the Mekong River, making it very potential in producing organic crops.

Starting at areas in Kampong Thom province, the five-year cooperative agreement will run from 2021 to 2025 with possible extension following the assessment of the work results. ■

## CAMBODIA RANKS 3RD IN THE WORLD & 1ST IN ASIA IN COVID19 MANAGEMENT

The Bureau de Prospective Economique (BPE) of Senegal on 16 November 2020 reported that Cambodia ranks 3rd globally (out of 166 countries) and 1st in Asia in the COVID19 management.

Saint Kitts and Nevis ranks first place and Seychelles ranks in second place. In contrast, among the 166 countries, the worst-ranked countries were Jordan, Spain, South Africa, France and so on.

In Asia, Cambodia obtained the first position in controlling the spread of COVID-19, followed by Thailand, Brunei and Uzbekistan.

The assessment is based on the World Health Organization database. According to the report, it further explained that the assessment was made on three main factors: infection status, healing status and mortality.

Cambodia found the first 19 cases of COVID-19 in January 2020 in Sihanoukville. There were no outbreaks in the community. Currently, Cambodia has 304 COVID-19 patients, of which 294 have been cured, while nine COVID-19 patients are hospitalized. ■

## TOURISM SEAPORT TO BE DEVELOPED IN KOH TONSAY

A tourism seaport project is unveiled to be constructed in Koh Tonsay (Rabbit Island), Kep province as the environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) has started.

H.E. Ms. Ol Phirun, Deputy Governor of Kep province, said on 18 November 2020 that the tourism seaport is the ADB-backed project and a local firm has applied for the project and for the feasibility study.

The pre-feasibility study has been wrapped up and the firm made a presentation on the study's result to relevant authorities, she said, adding that the study mainly focused on the possible location of port construction, road connection, and impact on people.

"Because it is the ADB-backed project, requiring the ESIA study ...and it is the first step the firm concluded the study and presented to authorities for comments and feedback," H.E. Ms. Ol Phirun said, underlining that more studies will be made afterwards.

The seaport project is part of Kep Tourism Master Plan and the maritime transportation connectivity project between seaport in Koh Tonsay and a tourism seaport in Kampot province which is under construction.

Currently, tourists travel to Koh Tonsay via a wooden port, which is difficult when crowded tourists heading to the island. ■

## CAMBODIA TO EXPORT TO UK UNDER GSP SCHEME

From 1 January 2021, Cambodia will export products and goods to the UK with duty-free, except arms and ammunition, after the UK has left the EU, and the transition period after Brexit comes to an end this year.

According to statement from Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC), Cambodia, classified by the United Nations as a Least Developed Country, will be entitled to duty-free and quota free access on export to the UK of all goods, except arms and ammunition.

This is equivalent to a complete EBA scheme under the EU Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), added the statement.

GMAC is still working with the Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce and the UK counterpart to clarify some of the changes in administrative procedures, if any, such as proof of origins and effective date of implementation.

Report from the Ministry of Commerce shows that Cambodia mainly exports garments and footwear, milled rice and bicycles to the UK.

The bilateral trade between Cambodia and the UK was valued at more than US\$1 billion in 2019. ■

## GOLD EXPORT REACHES OVER US\$2 BILLION IN FIRST EIGHT MONTHS

Cambodia's gross revenue from gold exports in the first eight months of this year increased to US\$2.22 billion or 716. 8 percent increase compared to the same period in 2019.

The update was shared recently by the Ministry of Economy and Finances in a press release, considering the gold export as the fastest-growing commodity of Cambodia.

The country's top exports, after gold, during the period are milled rice, bicycles, electrical appliances, and other agricultural products including soybeans, cashew nuts and bananas. ■

## NINE NEW INVESTMENT PROJECTS APPROVED BY CDC

Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) this week approved nine new investment projects with a total capital of US\$ 38.40 million.

The newly projects belong to Sean Zorina Fashion (Cambodia) Co.Ltd. in Kandal Province, Harmony Apparel Co.,Ltd. in Phnom Penh, K R R Processing Food Co., Ltd. in Kampong Speu Province, Able Point Industry Co.,Ltd. in Phnom Penh, Lian Feng Shoes Material Co.,Ltd. in Kampong Speu Province, G4TEC Property & Investment Co.,Ltd. in Kampot Province, Zhong Bao (Cambodia) Food Science & Technology Co., Ltd. in Kampong Speu Province, Ming Yung Hung Enterprise (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. in Phnom Penh, and Gao Long Jiang Plastic Pipe Co., Ltd. in Phnom Penh.

According to the council's press release issued on 10, 16 and 17 November, the projects newly approved are expected to create a total of 4.834 jobs for the locals.

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

Last month, CDC granted licenses to 12 investment projects with a total capital of more than US\$400 million, generating nearly 10,000 jobs. ■



## KEY MEASURES FOR HOME QUARANTINE

- 1** Self-isolate at home for 14 consecutive days (leaving home or quarantine facility is strictly prohibited).
- 2** **Monitoring symptoms of the disease** Measure the temperature on a daily basis in the morning and the evening. If the temperature exceeds 37.5°C or there is an indication of any symptoms, such as a cough, sore throat, or breathing difficulties, call the hotline 115.
- 3** **Isolation from family members** Stay in a separate room which is adequately ventilated and use a dedicated bathroom/toilet which is separated from the family members. Eat at a place different from the rest of the family members. Always wear masks and stay apart from each other within a distance of at least 1.5 meters.
- 4** **Use tools or equipment separate from the rest of the family members** Avoid sharing tools with other family members. Clean the items with clean water and soap after use. Wash the clothes with soap and dry them well.
- 5** **Wash hands with soap and clean water frequently** Wash hands with soap and clean water or with alcohol-based hand sanitizers frequently before and after cooking, before and after eating and after using the toilet.
- 6** **Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing** Cover your mouth and nose with a mask, scarf, towel, tissue or elbow when coughing or sneezing and discard the tissue in a trash bin and immediately wash your hands.
- 7** **Eat well-done food** The food must be well-done. Eat nutritious foods, like fish, meat, vegetables, fruits; reduce salt and sugar to improve your immune system.
- 8** **Keep your living environment clean and feel relaxed** Carry out tasks as usual and do exercise at home. Clean your personal room, bathroom, and usable items, on a daily basis.
- 9** **End the home quarantine** You are permitted to end the home quarantine if you have complied with the isolation measures for the whole 14 days and you do not exhibit any symptoms and are defined as negative in testing for COVID-19 by a laboratory on the 13th day of the home quarantine.
- 10** **Required and urgent communication** If you require consultation or medical assistance, please call the free hotline 115 of the Ministry of Health.

**Remark:** Those who fail to comply with the health measures of home quarantine shall be subject to a transitional penalty of the amount of 200,000 Riels to 1,000,000 Riels and punishment in accordance with the Criminal Law in force pursuant to Article 8 of Subdecree No. 129 S.E., dated September 17, 2015 and are required to comply with the health measures.