



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 COMMITTED TO PROMOTING ASEAN-RUSSIA DIALOGUE

Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen reaffirmed Cambodia's stance on ASEAN-Russia relations, while attending the Roundtable Conference on "The Role of Russia and ASEAN's Responsible Political Forces in Strengthening the Architecture of Security and Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific" held on 29 June by videoconference.

"I reiterate Cambodia's strong commitment to the promotion of the ASEAN-Russia dialogue relations especially when Cambodia will undertake the important role as the Country Coordinator for our dialogue relations starting from August 2021," he underlined.

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UK TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES WITH CAMBODIA

At the invitation of His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) and First Secretary of State, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia on 23 June 2021 to further promote and strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister briefed The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP on the current political, security and social development

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TRIPADVISOR: ANGKOR ACCLAIMED THE WORLD'S TOP LUXURY TOUR



Angkor Wat Temple, Siem Reap, Cambodia

A three-day discovery tour of Angkor in Siem Reap, Cambodia has been named the World's Top Luxury Tour by Tripadvisor Inc, in the 2021 Travellers' Choice "Best of the Best" Things to Do Awards.

No. 1 in the world: the package includes a tour on the main circuit in Angkor Archaeological Park and beyond to Phnom Kulen National Park and its refreshing waterfalls, the famous floating villages on Tonle Sap Lake and the endearing Banteay Srei temple, according to Tripadvisor's news release on 24 June 2021.

Tripadvisor taps an inventory of things to do – with nearly 400,000 bookable activities.

"When I think about what makes a trip truly unforgettable, it's those can't-miss and truly unique activities like a sunset sail with my family, a bike tour with the most hilarious and knowledgeable tour guide, or doing something out of my comfort zone, like ziplining through the forests of New Zealand,"

said Tripadvisor general manager experiences, Kate Urquhart. "With no other accolades of its scale, the Travellers' Choice Things to Do Awards are in a unique class of their own, highlighting all the activities travellers have determined are essential when visiting a destination," he added.

With its well-known and trusted brand, Tripadvisor's recognition of the Siem Reap excursion as "luxury tour" is expected to provide a boost for the Cambodia's tourism industry while the Ministry of Tourism is working closely with relevant ministries to achieve the plan of opening the doors and receiving international tourists again.

Worth noting that the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Health are evaluating the feasibility of international tourists from low-risk countries and territories who have been fully vaccinated against the novel coronavirus to enter the Kingdom with little or no quarantine stay. ■

CAMBODIA COMMITTED TO PROMOTING ASEAN-RUSSIA ...

"Cambodia pins our hope on the roles of political parties of ASEAN and Russia as we address the challenges together, and make efforts to create a better world for friendship, cooperation, peace and sustainable development", he added.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen said this year is a special year as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-Russia dialogue relations. Cambodia is proud of the solid and progressive cooperation between Russia and ASEAN. Indeed, Russia has been an important partner in maintaining peace, security and stability in the region. At the same time, Russia has been ranked the eighth largest trading partner of ASEAN. Moreover, a number of initiatives in the areas of finance, education, Business-to-Business contacts and youth exchange have been implemented and added value to our cooperation on people-to-people connectivity.

With this strong basis of cooperation, Samdech Techo Hun Sen also shared a few thoughts on how ASEAN and Russia political parties could shape the architecture of security and cooperation in the Asia Pacific:

"First and foremost, we need to focus on our most pressing task, that is the fight against COVID-19. We need to take it as a common mission of humanity to save lives from the deadly pandemic, and any forms of political disruptions should be avoided.

Second, in the post-COVID-19 crisis, we have to jointly promote a resilient recovery through enhancing trade, investment, and tourism flows. In this connection, I would like to underline the importance of Russia's engagement with ASEAN, particularly in supporting the implementation of the five broad strategies of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF).

Third, we need to double down our efforts to promote the UN-Centred International System and an open, fair, stable and predictable regional architecture in the Asia-Pacific based on the principles of mutual respect, mutual understanding, non-interference, and win-win cooperation. To this end, I must reiterate our full adherence to our ASEAN Centrality, which is an indispensable principle

in driving multilateral diplomacy in our part of the world.

Fourth, we need to promote practical cooperation on issues that bind us together, instead of those that divide us while acknowledging the need to maintain platforms for open and frank dialogues on our differences. We need to focus on cooperation that promotes building trust and confidence because strategic narratives built on trust are essential to counter the narratives driven by the Cold War mentality. Areas such as peacekeeping operations, cyber security, natural disaster management, and climate change can be a good starting point of such cooperation.

Fifth, on cultural aspect, I wish to extend my full support to the 'Cultural Marathon' initiated by the United Russia Party, which is in line with Cambodia's vision on building 'Cultural Corridors' to promote peace, harmony, and shared prosperity." ■

CAMBODIA SETS SIGHTS ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY WITH LAUNCH OF NEW STRATEGY

The National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD), the Ministry of Environment (MoE), with support from Sweden, Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), launched here on June 28 the National Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan, as well as a platform to engage the private sector in the transition towards a circular economy.

According to UNDP's press release, Cambodia's growing economy and population have led to a surge in the use of materials and energy. Similar to other countries, this has created new challenges in sustainably managing natural resources, environment, energy and waste.

"The Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan aim to create a win-win solution to the present challenges. Instead of simply extracting, consuming, and disposing materials, the Strategy seeks to close the loop of the entire value chain and maintain the value of materials for as long as possible," H.E. Say Samal, Chair of the National Council for Sustainable Development and Minister of Environment said.

Mr. Nick Beresford, Resident Representative of UNDP Cambodia commented that the circular economy has a strong potential to spark positive social and environmental change and to create new economic values and diversified employment opportunities. "It can guide sustainable development pathways for countries at all income levels, including Cambodia," he added.

H.E. Björn Häggmark, Sweden's Ambassador to Cambodia, further emphasized that "to make the vision for a circular economy requires leadership from the government and active involvement of the private sector, households, individuals and all other stakeholders."

In recognition of the key role of the private sector to accelerate the transition to the circular economy, a private sector platform to share information on implementable measures and actions was introduced along with the new strategy.

"Sharing knowledge of best business practices is a crucial initial step towards creating a circular economy. Such knowledge will enable other industry players to use and replicate best circular economy measures and accelerate the industry-wide transitions," said H.E. Mikami Masahiro, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

H.E. Say Samal highlighted the importance of these efforts, concluding that "an effective implementation of the Circular Economy Strategy will ensure a green, clean and safe future for all in Cambodia." ■



UK TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES...



of Cambodia. He also thanked the UK Government for continuing to grant GSP to Cambodia and for the assistance given to education, mine clearance and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

The two Ministers agreed on the importance of dialogue on trade related issues. They shared a common desire to further strengthen and expand bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields of mutual benefits, especially economy, trade, education mine clearance, health, and environment. They agreed on the need to advertise business, opportunities in Cambodia in order to encourage more UK investors to choose Cambodia as a destination taken into account of Cambodia's potentials resulting from tax and other incentives, AFTA, RCEP, Cambodia-China FTA, Cambodia-Korea FTA frameworks. In this respect, the two sides would consider establishing a MoU on Trade Facilitation.

Within the ASEAN framework, H.E. PRAK Sokhonn briefed The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP on the preparation of Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022 focused on enhancing ASEAN centrality and unity, accelerating recovery from the COVID-19 impacts and strengthening public health among others. He appreciated UK's great interest in establishing Dialogue Relations with ASEAN and emphasized that Cambodia is strongly supportive of the UK's application, taken into consideration its already very active engagement with ASEAN.

H.E. PRAK Sokhonn expressed appreciation the UK's contribution of £1 million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund and encouraged for more supports from the UK for other ASEAN initiatives to address the pandemic.

The two Foreign Ministers also exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of common interest including the draft COC in the South China Sea, combined efforts with regards to Myanmar's return to normalcy and to combat climate change whereby the focus on the use of renewable, eco-friendly energy and related technologies plays an important role. In this connection, H.E. PRAK Sokhonn also announced that Samdech Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, will lead a high Delegation to the forthcoming COP 26 held in Glasgow.

Both Foreign Ministers agreed to continue working closely together in both regional and international framework. The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP reaffirmed UK's support for ASEM 13 Summit hosted by Cambodia on 25-26 November 2021 and thanks the Royal Government of Cambodia for the gracious hospitality and the excellent arrangements during his stay. The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP is the First Foreign Secretary of the UK to visit Cambodia. ■

17 PERCENT INCREASE IN CAMBODIAN EXPORTS

Cambodia's economy remains strong despite the February 20 community outbreak of COVID-19, according to H.E. Vongsey Vissoth, Delegate Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Permanent Secretary of State for Economy and Finance on 26 June 2021.

Cambodian exports in the first five months of this year rose by 17 percent, he explained, adding that the garment exports were about the same amount as in the first five months of 2020.

But, he continued, the export of non-garment products such as electronic component, bicycles, solar panels, ... and agricultural products saw a remarkable increase of 52 percent, which reflects the economic diversification of Cambodia.

According to a report from the General Department of Customs and Excise at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cambodia exported US\$4,428 million worth of products in the first quarter of this year. The agricultural and non-garment exports were on the rising trend. ■

WORLD BANK PRAISES CAMBODIA'S ENDEAVOURS IN COMBATING COVID-19



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World Bank Regional Vice President for East Asia and the Pacific Ms. Victoria Kwakwa has lauded the active efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in preventing the COVID-19 spread and in controlling the problems caused by this global health crisis.

In a meeting on June 24 via Videoconference with H.E. Aun Pornmoniroth, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Finance, Ms. Victoria Kwakwa congratulated the RGC on the access to vaccines so as to ensure rapid vaccination of targeted people, and highly valued the Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery

Plan 2021-2023 which is clear, realistic and comprehensive.

The regional vice president also expressed the World Bank's full support for the RGC's economic recovery plan by promising to review the Country Partnership Framework 2019-2023 so that it responds to the current COVID-19 context and is in line with the Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan 2021-2023.

In reply, H.E. Aun Pornmoniroth profoundly thanked and highly valued the good and solid cooperation between the RGC and the World Bank in the past more than two decades, reflected by the Bank's active contribution with the RGC in this hard time of combating COVID-19 pandemic.

The Cambodian DPM told Ms. Victoria Kwakwa that the RGC had taken 8 rounds of intervention measures to protect people's

lives, maintain economic balance and people's livelihood, especially that of poor and vulnerable households. The 9th round to restore and boost the economic growth during and after the COVID-19 crisis will be launched soon, he added.

On 25 June, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a US\$200 million International Development Association (IDA) credit for the Cambodia Relief, Recovery and Resilience Development Policy Financing Project, which will help the country deal with the COVID-19 crisis by providing timely and targeted relief to affected people, facilitating robust recovery through structural reforms, and building resilience against future economic shocks. ■

Cambodia to Nominate Battambang as a Candidate of UNESCO Creative Cities Network

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has agreed in principle to nominate Battambang city of Battambang province as a candidate of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the creative field of gastronomy.

The agreement was made at the request of the Ministry of Tourism with support from the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts as well as the Battambang provincial administration, said H.E. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism on June 26.

H.E. Minister explained the RGC's decision by Battambang's potential for Gastronomy Tourism.

With the membership in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, Cambodia will have the right to use the Network's logo to promote the potential and specialties of its city as well as the whole nation, especially its Gastronomy Tourism, the world's new trend.

According to UNESCO's online source, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. The 246 cities which currently make up this network work together towards a common objective: placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.

The Network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music.



A dish of Ahmok which is among a variety of cuisines Battambang city is famous for.



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