

# CAMBODIA OUTLOOK

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## EUROCHAM: CAMBODIA AS 'LARGELY UNTAPPED' MARKET WITH 'HUGE POTENTIAL' FOR FUTURE GROWTH

The European Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia (EuroCham) says it sees the country as a "great gateway" to Asia as it becomes more integrated into the regional and global economy.

In the chamber's latest investment guide, EuroCham chairman Tassilo Brinzer says: "Cambodia continues to be a largely untapped market with investment and business opportunities in many areas of its burgeoning economy."

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## CAMBODIA HAS SENT 7,523 UN PEACEKEEPERS TO NINE COUNTRIES IN 15 YEARS

For the past 15 years, Cambodia, an active member of the United Nations, has sent a total of 7,523 troops, including women to 11 missions in nine countries: Republic of Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, Lebanon, Syria, Cyprus, Mali, Central Africa and Yemen.

From 2006 to the present, 10 Cambodian warriors have sacrificed their lives on the battlefield in the Republic of Mali and Central Africa, according to a message from General. Sem Sovanny, Director General of the National Center for Peacekeeping in the International Day of Peacekeepers, United Nations, May 29.

In his message, General Sovanny stated that Cambodia would like to express its deep gratitude to all peacekeepers and former

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## CAMBODIAN PM HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL VACCINATION STRATEGY



Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen emphasised the national vaccination strategy against the COVID-19 pandemic on 29 May 2021.

Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen emphasised the national vaccination strategy against the COVID-19 pandemic on 29 May 2021, after the number of new infections is increasing recently.

There have been many requests for COVID-19 vaccination from different institutions and sectors, therefore Samdech Techo Hun Sen took the opportunity to inform the public that the national vaccination strategy has to be implemented in accordance with the vaccination master plan.

The Premier said the vaccination programme in Cambodia has been carried out using a "blooming flower" strategy by administering vaccines from the core outbreak areas.

"We cannot vaccinate some people in an area, and then some others in other area. If we do like this, we cannot achieve the herd immunity," he underlined.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen said Phnom Penh capital is the main priority for the vaccination campaign, after that, there will be some towns in Kandal province, then other targets.

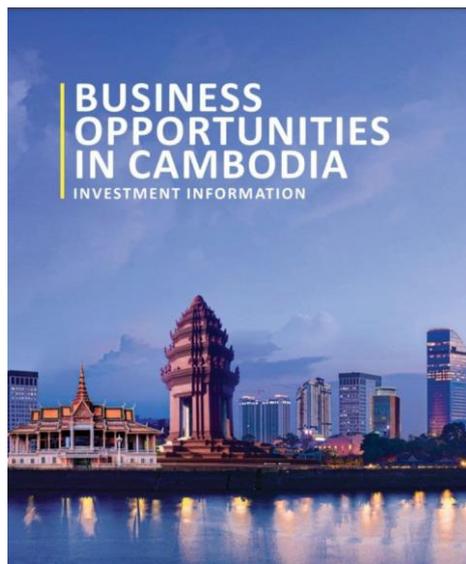
In general, our vaccination programme will be conducted in any towns with many people first depending on the vaccines in stock, but the government planned to vaccinate more than 10 million people, he stressed.

The Prime Minister pointed out that more than 2.4 million people have so far been vaccinated, and the figure would reach some 2.5 million on 29 May.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen said from 5 to 6 million people are in the priority groups for the vaccination, most of them live in town, industrial or factory parks, but the vaccination programme have to be implemented step by step.

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## EUROCHAM: CAMBODIA AS 'LARGELY...



2021-22



Brinzer says 2020 was "undoubtedly challenging" for Cambodia with the COVID-19 pandemic. But "the country's GDP is expected to recover quickly," he says, highlighting the 5.9 percent growth forecast by the International Monetary Fund for next year.

"Even more importantly, we believe the future, driven by a young and dynamic society, looks bright too," he emphasized.

"For investors already active in South-East Asia, Cambodia is a promising '+1 market' in the heart of the Greater Mekong Subregion, conveniently located between regional economic giants Thailand and Vietnam. New investors,

moreover, will find Cambodia to be a great gateway to Asia," he added.

"The country is becoming more integrated into the regional and global economy, for example through ASEAN customs initiatives and bilateral free trade agreements (FTA), such as the recent Cambodia-China FTA," he underlined.

"New laws such as those on e-commerce, consumer protection and investment, are also testimony to the promising steps this country has taken," he said.

Brinzer says Cambodia's embracing of climate change and sustainability goals "will further boost the Kingdom's economy and attractiveness to global economic actors."

Eurocham says research for the 60-page guide released this month took place between December and February.

"This unsaturated market, with a strategic location and favourable demographics, has huge potential for future growth," the chamber says.

Eurocham's founding chambers and national chapters are the Chambre du Commerce et de l'Industrie France du Cambodge, the British Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia, Nordcham Cambodia, German Business Group Cambodia, the Italian-Cambodian Business Association and Benelux Cambodia. ■

## CAMBODIAN PM...

In Phnom Penh, around 50 to 60 percent have been already vaccinated, therefore the infection rate and risks will be mitigated, he added.

Cambodia has set to vaccinate around 10 million people or 62 percent of the total population against COVID-19 and up to the half of 2022, more than 95 percent are expected to be inoculated.

The Kingdom has so far received over 6 million doses of vaccines: 1.7 million doses of China-donated Sinopharm, 4 million doses of Sinovac bought from China, and 324,000 doses of AstraZeneca/SII (COVISHIELD) via COVAX Facility. More doses are expected to arrive in Cambodia next month. ■

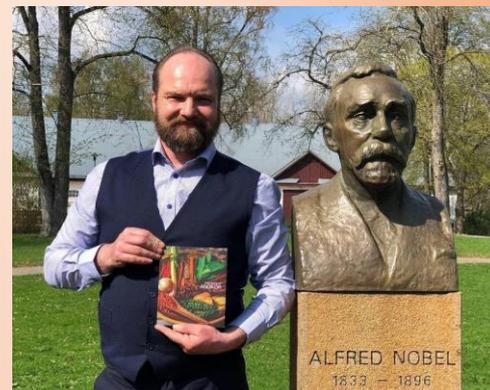
## 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM SUMMIT POSTPONED TO LATE NOVEMBER 2021

The 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit to be hosted by Cambodia was rescheduled for Nov. 25 to 26 this year, according to a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on 27 May 2021.

The statement was signed by H.E. Luy David, the ministry's Secretary of State and Head of the ASEM13 National Secretariat.

Originally scheduled for Nov. 16-17, 2020 in the capital of Phnom Penh, the summit had been first delayed to mid-2021.

## "THE TASTE OF ANGKOR" TO BE EXHIBITED IN SWEDEN IN JUNE



The Taste of Angkor is in the hands of Mr. Pelle Aorelius, curator of the exhibition of 500 gastronomy books from 50 countries at Alfred Nobel House and museum, stands nearby the statue of Mr. Alfred Nobel in Björkborn, Sweden. (Photo: Royal Embassy of Cambodia in France)

"The Taste of Angkor", heritage of Khmer's culinary art finely selected and published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, will be honored at the world class exhibition in Sweden.

According to the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in France, the exhibition will be held at Alfred Nobel House Björkborn in Sweden, from June 17 to Oct. 21, 2021.

This year marks the crowning achievement of 25 years of Gourmand Awards, the source underlined.

"... this cookbook turns the thousand-year-old Khmer tradition into practical recipes to demystify our most favorite dishes. It also reveals the wealth of Cambodian culinary heritage that is worth sharing with friends all over the world..." said H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. ■

The ASEM13 will be held under the theme: "Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth."

ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) is comprised of 53 partners, encompassing of 21 Asian countries, 30 European countries, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the European Commission.

Collectively, ASEM partners represent 65 percent of the global economy, 60 percent of the world's population, 55 percent of the world trade and 75 percent of the world tourism. ASEM was founded in 1996 and Cambodia became its member in 2004. ■

## CAMBODIA-CHINA TRADE VOLUME REACHES SOME US\$3 BILLION

Bilateral trade between Cambodia and China was valued at about US\$3,000 million in the first four months of 2021, a year-on-year increase of nearly 20 percent.

Figures from the Ministry of Commerce show that from January to April 2021, Cambodia exported almost US\$424 million worth of goods to China, up 42.43 percent compared to the same period last year.

At the same time, Cambodia's imports from China were amounted to US\$2,580 million, a year-on-year increase of 16.70 percent, added the same source.

Cambodia mostly exported agricultural products including milled rice, mangoes, and cassava to China, and imported industrial products, raw materials, and construction materials from China.

The two countries have placed high hope on the increase of their trade exchange after their bilateral FTA was signed last October.

The agreement is expected to be ratified by the governments of both countries within this year, aiming to make it come into effect as early as possible. ■

## FIRST CEO FORUM ADDRESSES ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND COVID-19 RECOVERY



The Association of Banks in Cambodia hosted on May 25 the first CEO Forum under the theme "Economic Outlook and COVID Recovery of Cambodia and the ASEAN Region."

The forum saw the support and collaboration of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and was broadcasted online via Zoom to financial institutions and other industry players. The event has brought together around 70 attendees from banks and other stakeholders.

In his opening remarks, Dr. In Channy, Chairman of the Association of Banks in Cambodia, said that the time for this discussion was most relevant at this time of economic distress. While the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) had just extended the restructuring efforts until the end of 2021, all financial institutions are still in need to understand how the Cambodian economy will evolve over the next few years.

"With many borrowers experiencing difficulties to make their loan payments and circa 12 percent of

all loans restructured, an economic recovery is of utmost importance for borrowers as well as the financial institutions alike," he added.

"The insights and prognoses by IMF will certainly help our institutions to prepare and to ensure the stability and long-term prosperity of our sector," he added.

According to the IMF Resident Representative in Cambodia and Senior Economist Yasuhisa Ojima, the Cambodian economy is expected to grow 4.2 percent this year and 6 percent in 2022, following a 3.5 percent contraction in 2020. He said that the baseline growth projection will be revisited reflecting the recent surge in infection of COVID-19 or a so-called Feb. 20 Community Event.

Mr. Ojima added that financial sector looks stable mainly due to policy measures with easing financial conditions, and allowing loan restructuring until the end of December 2021.

He added, however, uncertainties remain especially for credits to real-estate and construction sector including from shadow-banking system and tourism sector. As long as uncertain remain high, policy restricting capital distributions would be warranted on grounds of prudence. ■

## U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE TO VISIT CAMBODIA SOON

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R. Sherman will pay a visit to Cambodia as part of her 11-day visit to some countries.

According to the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R. Sherman will travel to Brussels, Ankara, Jakarta, Phnom Penh, Bangkok, and Honolulu from May 25 to June 4.

In Phnom Penh, she will hold a series of meetings, it pointed out without giving any details.

During her visit to Southeast Asia, Deputy Secretary Sherman will reaffirm the United States' commitment to ASEAN centrality and address a range of bilateral and regional issues, including efforts to urge the Burmese military to cease violence, release all those unjustly detained, and restore Burma to the path of democracy, underlined the same source. ■

## CAMBODIA HAS SENT ...

peacekeepers, especially the Cambodian Blue Hat Army, who volunteered to participate in missions that are complex and high risk.

He affirmed that Cambodia's will to unwavering participation in the United Nations peacekeeping mission will continue and support Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres' "Action for Peacekeeping" initiative for effective mission participation and to minimise accident rates.

May 29 is UN Peacekeeping Day to commemorate the participation of all military forces, police and civil servants, both men and women, in the peace operation and is also a celebration day as well as to honour the souls of heroes and warriors who sacrificed their lives for the cause of peace in 72 missions since 1948. ■



# The Kingdom of Cambodia Recognized Internationally as Biodiversity-rich Country

Cambodia has been internationally recognized for its rich biodiversity and the Kingdom's Biodiversity Index is 7.5 (MacKinnon, 1997) although a higher score may be attainable when inventories are more advanced.

H.E. Neth Pheaktra, Secretary of State and Spokesperson of the Ministry of Environment shared the remarks with AKP on May 22 which marks the International Day for Biological Diversity 2021 under the theme "We're part of the solution."

Proclaimed by the United Nations on May 22, 2000, the annual event is aimed to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.

As a State Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Cambodia is commemorating the event by organising online discussion forums on seven key topics ranging from the role and value of biodiversity, and solid waste management and biodiversity conservation to livelihood improvement of local communities in protected areas and wild orchid research in Cambodia, said H.E. Neth Pheaktra.

Moreover, he added, the ministry has produced short educational video clips and banners posted on social media and disseminated in public areas in Phnom Penh capital and the provinces of Kandal, Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, Kampot, Preah Vihear, Mondulkiri, Preah Sihanouk and Banteay Meanchey.

According to a report of the Ministry of Environment, Cambodia is a biodiversity-rich country with 123 mammal species, 545 bird species, 88 reptile species, 2,308 species of vascular plants, 874 fish species, 24 hard coral species, 14 soft coral species, 10 seagrass species, and 63 species of amphibians, let alone many other plant and animal species that have not yet been studied and identified.

