

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 GENOCIDE: KHMER ROUGE PRISON CHIEF DUCH DIES

Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch, former chief of Tuol Sleng Prison during the Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1979), has died at the age of 77.

According to the press release of the National Co-Prosecutor of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), the Convicted Person Kaing Guek Eav passed away from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in the Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital on September 2, 2020 at 00:51. He was born on November 17, 1942 in Poy Veuy village, Peam Bang commune, Stoung district, Kampong Thom province.

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TUOL SLENG GENOCIDE MUSEUM AWARDED WITH UNESCO/JIKJI MEMORY OF THE WORLD PRIZE

The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum has won the Jikji Memory of the World Prize from UNESCO for its efforts in preserving documents and photo archives, which are important historical heritage for humanity.

According to the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts' announcement made public on 4 September, the UNESCO decided to give the award to the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum on August 17, the 8th institution to obtain the prize in 2020.

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PRIME MINISTER HUN SEN SHARES INTERVENTION MEASURES ON THE IMPACT OF COVID19 PANDEMIC



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The virtual summit was attended by world leaders from public and private sectors, academia, NGOs and experts to discuss and shape the future of manufacturing.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen took the opportunity to reaffirm the Royal Government of Cambodia's commitment to tackle the socio-economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as share other specific policies aiming at restoring production and industry once the pandemic subsides and goes away in the near future.

"It has been nine months since the whole world has fought against the COVID-19 pandemic, which has created unprecedented crisis on societies and economies. Until now, despite impressive progress in vaccine development, there is no certainty of when the pandemic will end, and similarly,

nobody can precisely estimate the impacts of the pandemic on all aspects of lives in each country," Samdech Techo Hun Sen said in his keynote.

For Cambodia, he continued, the Royal Government has effectively kept the COVID-19 pandemic under control. As of now, Cambodia has not recorded any case of community transmission and never reached a stage requiring a partial or complete lockdown of the country. Nevertheless, the COVID-19 pandemic has indeed brought several critical challenges in sectors such as textile, tourism, aviation, and other service industries.

In this regard, the Royal Government has released five rounds of measures, aiming at stabilizing productions and businesses that supply both domestic and overseas markets, and especially sustaining the livelihoods of those who have been severely affected, he said.

The intervention measures include tax relief schemes, exemption of Social Security fund contributions, credit relief schemes, liquidity

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PRIME MINISTER HUN SEN SHARES INTERVENTION MEASURES

expansion, wage subsidies for workers and employees working in the garment and tourism sectors, special financing schemes to help rehabilitate and promote small and medium enterprises (SMES), skills training for affected workers and employees, and working capital financing programme that helps meet the demands of factories, enterprises, and businesses within the country, he pointed out.

According to Samdech Techo Prime Minister, in the aspect of social intervention, the Royal Government has implemented the Cash for Work Programme that will contribute to rural development and support farmers, through better community infrastructure and additional job opportunities during this challenging period. In addition, the Royal Government has implemented a cash-support programme that provides temporary assistance to the poor and vulnerable people, in an effort to sustain their livelihood throughout the crisis. In the education sector, after being shut down for a period of time, the Royal Government has released "The Strategy on Reopening of Educational Institutions", that requires educational institutions to implement mixed-learning methods, distance-learning through online systems and in-class learnings, through strict implementation of "social

distancing" and other cautionary measures required by the Ministry of Health.

"Looking forward, Cambodia will implement appropriate and timely interventions, combined with strategic considerations through the implementation of public finance policies, monetary policy, and structural reform measures, aiming at achieving two priorities: (1) stabilizing the socio-economic aspects by continuing the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic through increasing expenditures in the health sector and programmes that promote public health, stabilizing business activities through provisions of incentives and tax reliefs, credit relief schemes, liquidity expansion, and sustaining the people's livelihood and job opportunities through the Cash for Work Programme, skills-upgrading and social assistance programmes; and (2) promoting economic growth through strengthening Cambodia's competitiveness, economic diversification and structural reforms," he stressed.

He added that each country should play more active and interactive roles in global governance in a flexible, constructive and responsible manner, especially to contribute to the global orders in order to maintain peace and security, the key prerequisites for trades and long-term sustainable

and prosperous growth for the whole world.

Despite the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on socio-economic developments, he affirmed, the Royal Government has continually implemented in-depth reforms, aiming at solving the challenges being faced by investors and businessmen, in order to enhance Cambodia's competitiveness through easing and creating a favourable environment for businesses and investments in Cambodia. In addition, in order to capture at maximum, the opportunities of IR 4.0, the Royal Government has formulated Digital Economy Policies and e-Government Frameworks.

"In this context, I am happy to recall that during the visit of H.E. Li Yong, Director-General of UNIDO, to Cambodia in 2017, a Joint-Declaration on a Programme for Country Partnership for 2018-2023' was signed in order to encourage industrialisation in Cambodia, wherein the current circumstances, we expects this Programme for Country Partnership to play an important role in supporting Cambodia's economic recovery in the post-COVID-19 crisis," said Samdech Techo Hun Sen. ■

CAMBODIA GENOCIDE: KHMER ROUGE



He was a professor and the former Chairman of S-21. He was arrested and detained on May 10, 1999 and transferred to the ECCC Detention Facility on July 30, 2007. On July 31, 2007, he was charged with crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, torture and homicide under the Penal Code of 1956.

The press release added that on 30 March 2009, the Trial Chamber commenced the trials against Kaing Guek Eav alias Duch and held evidential hearings of witnesses and civil parties for a 72-day period.

"On July 26, 2010, the trial judgment was pronounced, finding that Kaing Guek Eav alias Duch was in charge of S-21 for more than three years, causing the deaths of more than 12,272 victims.

Therefore, the Trial Chamber convicted and sentenced him to 35 years in prison for extermination, murder, enslavement, imprisonment, torture and other inhumane acts under the crimes against humanity, as well as willful killing, torture and inhumane treatment, willful causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health, and willfully depriving a prisoner of war or civilian of the rights of fair and regular trial, and unlawful confinement of a civilian under grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949," it pointed out.

The trial judgment was appealed by the Co-Prosecutors, Civil Parties and Kaing Guek Eav alias Duch to the Supreme Court Chamber. On February 3, 2012, the Supreme Court Chamber issued an appeal judgment and sentenced Kaing Guek Eav alias Duch to life imprisonment, the same source continued.

Kaing Guek Eav alias Duch was transferred to Kandal Provincial Correctional Centre on June 6, 2013 to serve his sentence following the Supreme Court Chamber's decision. ■

ALMOST 450.000 TONES OF MILLED RICE EXPORTED IN FIRST 8 MONTHS

A total of 448.203 tons of Cambodia's milled rice have been exported to foreign markets during the first eight months of this year.

Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MoAFF) shared the update in a report dated 31 August, adding that the figure shows an increase of 106.158 tones or 31.04 percent compared to the same period last year.

Cambodia's milled rice was exported to 59 countries around the world, including China, 24 countries in the European Union, six countries in ASEAN, and 28 other countries, and 71 companies engaged in the exports, it pointed out.

The rice exports saw an increase in all destinations compared to 2019; that is, up 33.43 percent to the EU, 35.53 percent to China, 13.59 percent to ASEAN nations, and up 17.44 percent to other foreign markets, it added. ■

CAMBODIA, SOUTH KOREA WRAP UP SECOND ROUND OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENT TALKS

Cambodia and South Korea ended the second round of their negotiations on free trade agreement (FTA) with positive progress on 3 September 2020.

It was a remarkable progress after four days of virtual meeting held from August 31 to September 3, said H.E. Seang Thay, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Commerce.

"We finished the chapter of trade cooperation and market access and other chapters of the agreement. We agreed on some points, while others not yet," said H.E. Seang Thay.

The two countries held the first round of their negotiations in July this year.

The talks came after Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, proposed the bilateral

free trade pact during his summit with South Korean President H.E. Moon Jae-in in Phnom Penh in March 2019.

At least two more rounds of FTA negotiations are needed to finalize the pact before the end of 2020, H.E. Seang Thay said.

The third round of envisioned FTA talks is scheduled to conduct in late September, he said.

The two-way trade between both nations reached an all-time high of US\$1 billion in 2019, up 6 percent from a year earlier, according to South Korea's Yonhap News Agency.

Cambodia exported US\$336 million worth of products to South Korea and imported US\$697 million from the country. ■

AIRLINES GRADUALLY RESUME FLIGHTS TO & FROM PHNOM PENH

Cambodia Airports has announced that some airlines have restored flights to and from Phnom Penh.

The airport said this week some airlines have reconnected flights: SilkAir is connecting Phnom Penh to Singapore on Tuesdays and Sundays; Cambodia Airways is adding a flight from Phnom Penh to Fuzhou on Thursdays; and JC Airlines is re-opening the flight to Kunming on Wednesdays.

However, the list and frequency of flights may be subject to change because of flight programme modifications from the airline's partners, according to the airport.

The Kingdom's three international airports welcomed 11.6 million passengers last year, a 10.2 percent increase from 2018, according to a report from Cambodia Airports.

Cambodia has temporarily banned flights from the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia after planes from these countries brought new cases of COVID-19.

Prime Minister Hun Sen and Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi have agreed for the two countries to reopen borders for expatriates.

The two countries will also work towards easing entry restrictions for short-term business travelers. ■

MOSQUES IN CAMBODIA TO REOPEN AFTER COVID-19 SITUATION EASES

Muslims across Cambodia will be allowed to practice their religious activities in mosques and suraus from September 11, after temporary closure of mosques since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a press release of the Ministry of Health made public on 5 September 2020.

Worshippers must strictly adhere to the rules set out by the Ministry of Health.

"They must wear face masks, have their body temperature checked, regularly wash hands with soap or alcohol- and gel-based sanitizers, and keep social distancing of at least 1.5 meters," Minister of Health, Mam Bunheng said in a press statement.

"Muslims should bring their own prayer mats from home, as children and ill people are not allowed to enter the mosques," he added.

Attendees are refrained from shaking hands,

TUOL SLENG GENOCIDE...



"The main basis for the award is focused on the preservation of documents, photo archive and the organization of a common database that makes it easy for the public to find documents," the ministry said.

The Ministry added that this award is a testament to the efforts of the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia, in cooperation with international partners, in preserving documents as evidence for humanity as a whole to learn and prevent the recurrence of genocide in Cambodia and the world.

In April 2004, the Executive Board of UNESCO approved the establishment of the Jikji Memory of the World Prize to commemorate the inscription of the "Buljo jikji simche yojeol", the world's oldest book of movable metal print, on the Memory of the World Register of UNESCO, and to reward efforts contributing to the preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage as a common heritage of humanity.

Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum is the memorial site of the S-21 interrogation and detention center of the Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1979). Located in the heart of Phnom Penh, it preserves evidence of a tragic period in Cambodian history with the aim of encouraging visitors to be messengers of peace. ■

and they can greet each other by raising hands and saying Islamic greetings, the minister said, adding that the gatherings for Friday prayers should not last longer than 30 minutes.

The move came after the situation of the COVID-19 in the Kingdom is under control. According to the Ministry of Health, the Southeast Asian nation has recorded a total of 274 confirmed COVID-19 cases to date, with 273 patients cured, one remained hospitalized and no mortality. ■



TEMPLE OF ANGKOR

Angkor Wat, Heritage of Humanity and World Wonder



The Angkor temple site in Siem Reap province is one of the most important archaeological sites in South-East Asia. It was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992, which encouraged an international effort to save the complex.

Angkor Wat which literally means 'City Temple' is a Hindu temple complex built to replicate the heavens on earth. Constructed by King Suryavarman II in the early twelfth century, it is the best-preserved temple and is the only one to have remained a significant religious centre since its foundation; first Hindu, dedicated to Vishnu, then Buddhist.

The temple is the heart and soul of Cambodia: it is the national symbol, the epicentre of Khmer civilisation and a source of fierce national pride.

The main temple was built on three levels and it is surrounded at the first level by thick walls carved with beautiful bas-reliefs. There are 8 galleries on the 4 walls and each of them depicting an epic scene such as the **Battle of Lanka** (scene from Ramayana) or the **Battle of Kurukshetra** (scene from Mahabharata).

