



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, U.S. DISCUSS BILATERAL COOPERATION

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, held talks with visiting U.S. Deputy Secretary of State H.E. Ms. Wendy R. Sherman, at the Peace Palace on 1 June 2021.

At the meeting, H.E. Mrs. Sherman conveyed a letter of the U.S. President Joe Biden to Samdech Prime Minister expressing his intent to improve the relations between the two countries. She expressed satisfaction with the Cambodia-U.S. cooperation on a wide-ranging aspect, notably on Trade and Investment, the POW/MIA program, counter-terrorism and humanitarian affairs, in particular in granting permission for Westerdam cruise ship to dock at Cambodia's port and in humanitarian demining.

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OUTCOMES OF SPECIAL ASEAN-CHINA FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN CHONGQING

The following is the outcomes of the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting held recently in Chongqing, China, released by the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

"The Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held on 7 June 2021 to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations. It was the first meeting in physical format that ASEAN had with a dialogue partner, since the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak early last year.

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CAMBODIA TO LAUNCH HISTORIC INDUSTRIAL GOLD MANUFACTURING



(Photo: Ministry of Mines and Energy)

Cambodia announced an official launch of the country's first industrial gold manufacturing in O' Kvav region of Keo Seima district, Mondulkiri province scheduled for June 21.

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen shared the good news in his public letter.

After 14 years of feasibility study and exploration, the licensed Renaissance Minerals (Cambodia) Ltd. on June 10 produced Cambodia's first semi-finished gold bars technically called Gold Dore Bars with 90 percent gold solution, wrote Samdech Techo Prime Minister.

According to its assessment report, the company - a subsidiary of Australia-listed Emerald Resources NL - can produce three tonnes of pure gold on an annual average for the first eight years of operation.

With the mentioned capacity of industrial gold production, he underlined, about US\$185 million

gross revenue is expected to be generated per year, of which some US\$40 million as Royalty income and tax revenue to be used for social and economic development.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister considered the international standard gold manufacturing in O' Kvav region as a model for future mineralisation in Cambodia toward sustainable development.

While encouraging highly qualified technical mineral manufacturing for lasting and environment friendly mineralisation, he reminded that underqualified operation will not bring about any benefit, but is likely to cause accident and harm the environment.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister expressed his pride of Cambodia as a "golden country", spoke highly of all the teams who were part of the historic achievement for Cambodia, and thanked all Cambodians for the support and confidence on the leadership of the Royal Government. ■

CAMBODIA, U.S. DISCUSS BILATERAL ...



She also informed about the opportunities of bilateral cooperation in debt resolution, oil and gas sector, and U.S. investment on water, infrastructure, green energy, and so on.

In reply, Samdech Techo Hun Sen thanked the U.S. for its contribution to the peace building and development of Cambodia.

Regarding the debts Cambodia owed to the U.S., the Cambodian Prime Minister asked the U.S.

side to consider resolving the issue on bilateral basis, including turning 70 percent of the debts into development assistance for the fields of education, culture, mine and UXO clearance.

Furthermore, Samdech Techo Hun Sen demanded the reconsideration of the cooperation on deportation of Cambodian-American convicts to Cambodia.

H.E. Ms. Wendy R. Sherman pledged to bring the Premier's requests to her government for consideration.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R. Sherman arrived in Cambodia on 1 June 2021, as part of her 11-day visit to a number of countries. ■

CAMBODIA SEES A SURGE IN FRESH CHILLI EXPORT

Cambodia's fresh chilli export saw a dramatic rise during the first five months of this year, according to the statistics shared recently by Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries H.E. Veng Sakhon.

From January to May 2021, 56,507 tonnes of fresh chillies have been exported, a year-on-year increase of about 95 percent. The biggest market for Cambodian chillies is Thailand, followed by the United Arab Emirates.

Cambodia has been working hard to diversify its exported products, particularly the agro products. Rice is a major one, followed by rubber, cassava, cashew nut, corn, fresh banana, pomelo, mango, pepper and so on. ■

OUTCOMES OF SPECIAL ASEAN-CHINA FOREIGN MINISTERS' ...



The Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and China expressed satisfaction on the significant achievements over the last 30 years of dialogue relations covering various areas which resulted in positive impacts on regional peace, stability and security, and the exponential expansion of trade and investment exchanges. They underscored the importance of further advancing ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership by forging closer cooperation, supporting ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture, upholding multilateralism, and jointly responding to the current regional and global challenges.

On the COVID-19 pandemic response and economic recovery, ASEAN Foreign Ministers applauded China's leading role and pledge of further contribution to enhance equitable and affordable access to COVID-19 vaccine, including through cooperation with ASEAN on vaccine

research, development, and production. The Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and China agreed to enhance cooperation under the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework.

The Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and China also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interests. On the South China Sea, the Ministers agreed to expedite the negotiation and finalization a Code of Conduct (COC) that is substantive, effective and in line with the international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. With regard to the recent developments in Myanmar, the Chinese side reiterated support for ASEAN's efforts and leading role in assisting Myanmar's peaceful process for the return to normalcy.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the tremendous achievements under ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in wide ranging areas, from political-security cooperation to trade and investment and people-to-people exchange which has brought immense mutual benefits. In recognizing the growing significance of ASEAN-China dialogue relations over the last 30 years, he reaffirmed Cambodia's full

support for the elevation of ASEAN-China relations to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister expressed appreciation for China's goodwill in supporting the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide and in ASEAN region through the provision of vaccines and medical supplies. He underlined the importance of ensuring uninterrupted flow of trade, investment and greater market access facilitation. On regional integration, he called for greater efforts to enhance connectivity and stressed the necessity to translate the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Synergizing the MPAC 2025 and the Belt and Road Initiative into concrete action.

On Myanmar's issues, he applauded the pro-active role of the ASEAN Chair and the ASEAN Secretary General and welcomed the result of their recent visit to Myanmar. He reiterated Cambodia's commitment to support the efforts to implement the Five-Point Consensus of the ASEAN Leaders, emphasizing confidence that it would contribute to positive development necessary to support Myanmar's return to the path of normalcy." ■

INDIA TO SUPPORT CAMBODIA IN THREE MAIN SECTORS

India will support Cambodia in three prioritized areas, namely social affairs, infrastructure, and human resource training and development.

In a meeting with H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Public Works and Transport at the ministry office on 09 June, newly appointed Ambassador of India to Cambodia H.E. Dr. Devyani Uttam Khobragade encouraged the Cambodian side to submit projects on the above said sectors under the ASEAN-India Fund framework of approximately US\$100 million to expand the economic and trade ties and cooperation.

The Indian ambassador also lauded the long-lasting relationship between both countries.

For his part, H.E. Sun Chanthol expressed warm welcome to H.E. Dr. Devyani Uttam Khobragade on her new appointment and informed her about the key role played by the Techo Sen Institute of Public Works and Transport in providing technical skills and knowledge for Cambodian engineers and students to meet the country's needs of social-economic and infrastructure development. ■

NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN KOH KONG TO BE OPERATIONAL BY END OF THE YEAR



The new airport is located in Koh Kong's Botum Sakor district and covers 4.5 hectares of land near the Gulf of Thailand. It has a runway that is 3,200 meters long and 45 meters wide and will be able to handle long-haul aircraft, such as the Boeing 777 and the Airbus 340, as well as small and medium sized aircraft, including the Airbus 320. Once completed it will have the capacity to accommodate up to 10 million passengers annually.

The airport was originally slated to start operations by mid-2021 before pandemic-related delays were encountered. The SSCA is currently working through the airport accreditation process, a prerequisite for opening prior to a fully operational target date of November 2021. ■

Sin Chanserivutha, spokesperson at the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA) has confirmed that the main construction for the new Dara Sakor International Airport (DSY) in Koh Kong province has been completed and it should be operational by the end of this year.

Once completed it will be Cambodia's fourth international airport, joining Phnom Penh (PNH), Siem Reap (REP) and Sihanoukville (KOS).

CASHEW NUT PROCESSING HANDICRAFT STARTS DIRECT SHIPMENT OF CASHEW NUTS TO JAPAN

Some 7.6 tonnes of processing cashew nuts from Chey Sambo Cashew Nut Processing Handicraft located in Kampong Thom province have been directly shipped to Japan.

The commodity reached a port in Japan earlier this month after spending a month on shipment from Cambodia to Japan. This is the first batch of the grain shipment of the handicraft to Japan under the contact with Japan-based Top Planning Japan Co., Ltd. Second batch of shipment will be made within

this June while another one will be made subsequently, according to Mrs. Inn Laihout, founder of Chey Sambo Cashew Nut Processing Handicraft.

Data from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries show that in the first five months of 2021, Cambodia exported 801,732 tonnes of cashew nuts, a year-on-year increase of 321 percent, to markets of China, India, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Thailand and Vietnam. ■

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE TO LAUNCH E-COMMERCE MARKETPLACE

Ministry of Commerce will launch CambodiaTrade, an e-commerce marketplace aiming to serve small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to sell their products online to potential clients in the domestic and overseas markets.

The ministry calls on those who wish to sell their products in the e-commerce marketplace to make the pre-registration.

To be eligible to use the marketplace at CambodiaTrade.com, the SME must be a company or enterprise formally registered with the Ministry of Commerce or its affiliates and has a valid patent tax and VAT certificates, according to the ministry's announcement on June 9.

SMEs offering products that are made in Cambodia are also eligible, the same source added.

The marketplace is developed with financial support from the Enhanced Integrated Framework under the Go4eCAM project with the main objective of realizing the benefit of e-commerce for the SMEs. ■

TWO MORE INVESTMENT PROJECTS ENDORSED BY CDC

The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) has just granted green light to two new investment projects with a total capital of US\$10.6 million.

According to a CDC's press release, Impak (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. will inject US\$5 million for the production of all kinds of bags and luggage, and Wing Cheng Packaging Co., Ltd. will invest US\$5.6 million for the production of cardboard boxes, paper boxes and bags.

The two newly-approved projects will be located in Ang Snuol district, Kandal province and Khan Pursenchey, Phnom Penh capital. They are expected to create some 840 jobs for the locals.

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

Cambodia Wishes to Welcome More Filipino Tourists after COVID-19 Crisis

Cambodia has asked the Philippines to encourage more tourists to Cambodia when the situation of COVID-19 eases, as Cambodia has been preparing a plan to welcome visitors already vaccinated against COVID-19 or those from low-risk areas.

The request was made by H.E. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism during a recent meeting with H.E. Ms. Maria Amelita C. Aquino, Ambassador of the Philippines to Cambodia, stressing that this is part of getting prepared for the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2022 to be hosted by Cambodia.

H.E. Thong Khon underlined the government's efforts in combating the COVID-19 pandemic and its strategic plan for tourism recovery as well as the recovery plan for ASEAN tourism.

From her end, H.E. Ms. Maria Amelita C. Aquino accepted the Cambodian request, believing that Cambodia's tourism industry will rise soon thanks to its richness in cultural and historical heritage and natural resources.

The ambassador also spoke highly of the effective measures taken by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in containing and preventing the spread of COVID-19 and thanked the RGC for vaccinating the Filipinos working in the country against the pandemic.

The Kingdom of Cambodia Promotes Natural Tourism Potential

Cambodia is promoting small natural tourism development projects not only to promote sustainable local livelihood, but also to preserve the resources.

According to H.E. Neth Pheaktra, the Spokesperson and Secretary of State at the Ministry of Environment, the ministry is managing 199 small natural tourism development projects at protected areas of natural resources and biodiversity in Cambodia.

Encompassing less than 100 hectares of land surface, some of the projects are being started up, while some others are in full operation attracting visitors with stunning waterfalls, landscapes, forests and wildlife.

The 199 projects under the management of the Ministry of Environment are additional to the 26 existing tourism communities being overseen by natural conservation groups, he added.

Through the ministry and local authorities, the Royal Government is promoting more natural tourism projects to boost local economy and to engage the communities in preserving Cambodia's rich natural resources.

Those tourism communities also act as ambassadors to unveil Cambodia's many attractive resources to the world.

According to the ministry's record, in 2020 tourism communities welcomed 643,000 domestic and foreign visitors, generating over US\$30 million.

Each community, it added, earned between US\$50,000 and US\$180,000 from tourism services such as boat rental, transports, accommodation, food and beverage, sale of souvenir and beyond.

