

# 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, UNESCO BOOST CULTURAL CONSERVATION COLLABORATION

Cambodia and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) are committed to further boost their collaboration on cultural conservation and other sectors.

The commitment was unveiled in a recent meeting between H.E. Ms. Phoeurng Sackona, Minister of Culture and Fine Arts and representatives of UNESCO at the organisation's headquarters in Paris, France.

Both sides discussed the progress of conservation and protection of tangible and intangible heritage in Cambodia, the preparation for the listing of Koh Ker Temple

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## NINE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS LISTED AS HIGH-VALUE CROPS

The Cambodia-Australia Agricultural Value Chain (CAVAC) programme on August 25 released a study identifying nine high-value crops with strong export potential in China, the EU, ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand.

The agricultural products highlighted in CAVAC's "Market for Cambodian Crops with Promising Prospect" report are mangos, avocados, chilies, dried banana chips, cashew nuts, sesame seeds, longan, sweet potatoes, and palm sugars.

The list is targeted at the public, farmers, processors and those with stakes in the Cambodian agricultural sector.

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## CAMBODIA LAUNCHES COVID-19 BOOSTER SHOT POLICY



COVID-19 Vaccines

The Royal Government of Cambodia has allowed Cambodians to get the third shot or booster shot of COVID-19 vaccine, aiming to further build the herd immunity in the country.

In a statement signed on 25 August by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the booster shot will be offered for people aged from 12 years old.

"In order to rapidly build a 'real herd immunity' which is a key foundation to protect the people's lives from COVID-19, particularly the Delta variant or other variants, as well as to get prepared for the plan to reopen all sectors and to live with COVID-19 in a new normal norm, the Royal Government decides to launch the COVID-19 booster shot policy to the general public aged 12 years old and above," read the statement.

The booster plan is set from August 2021 till mid-2022 and is conducted on a voluntary and free-of-charge basis, it underlined.

The statement also called on those who can afford it to get their booster doses at authorised private hospitals, and the private sector (factories and enterprises and business owners) to consider providing their staff with the booster shots.

This will contribute to easing the financial burden of the Royal Government and to accelerating the vaccination campaign.

As of Aug. 24, for the target of 10 million adults, 8,800,975 people have obtained their first jab, or 88.01 percent, among them 7,942,133 have been fully vaccinated.

For the children-youth aged 12 to under 18 years old, whose vaccination campaign began early this month, 1,160,655 or 59.01 percent of the two-million target have received their first dose while 110,110 obtained full doses.

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## CAMBODIA LAUNCHES COVID-19 ...

The vaccination of the two groups against COVID-19 is expected to complete in late October or early November this year.

### Clarification of type of COVID-19 vaccines for booster dose and gap between doses

The Ministry of Health on August 25, also made known additional information on the type of Covid-19 vaccine that can be used as a booster dose and the time interval for these doses.

The Ministry of Health has confirmed and instructed the public as follows:

1. For front-line officers, the elderly over the age of 60 and those with weakened immune systems, the recommended dose of Covid-19 should be given between the 4th and 6th month after the second dose. For the general population, Covid-19 booster should be given between the 6th and 8th month after receiving their full two doses.
2. For the vaccine, this dose, even with the same vaccine or different, did not cause more side effects than the usual side effects of each dose. The booster dose will enhance

the immune system to fight off the Covid-19 virus, Delta and other new mutations.

3. Those who have already been vaccinated with the Inactivated Virus, such as Sinopharm or Sinovac as a two-dose vaccine, can also receive the same Inactivated Virus as Sinopharm or Sinovac as a booster dose, or a different vaccine, such as the Viral Vaccine, Vector (AstraZeneca) or mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna vaccine) as a booster dose.
4. Those who have been vaccinated with a viral vector, such as AstraZeneca or Johnson & Johnson vaccine, as a basic vaccine in all doses, can already receive the same viral vaccine as a booster dose or an mRNA vaccine such as Pfizer or Moderna.

Inactivated vaccines such as the Sinopharm or Sinovac are given as a booster dose for those who have been vaccinated against the viral vector, such as the AstraZeneca or Johnson & Johnson vaccines. The ministry will inform the public of the results of this study later and when the booster doses will be administered. ■

## TELEVISION ALLIANCE FORMED



Three private television stations have entered into a joint investment agreement to establish a television alliance, a move to build digital TV broadcasting in Cambodia.

The agreement was signed on 26 August by Lok Chumteav Hun Mana of Bayon Group, Neak Oknha Kith Meng of Royal Group and Oknha Ing Chhay Nguon of Hang Meas Group.

The Television Alliance is formed with an aim to create a state-private joint venture for management of 'national digital television platform', which will offer a multi-channel digital TV broadcast on DVB-T2 with a wide range of channels to promote information, education, knowledge, arts, entertainment, sports and entertainment.

The strategy of the Royal Government of Cambodia has set 2023 for the launch of the national digital television platform, requiring all private analog TV companies to use the national digital television platform service and continue to broadcast both analog and digital systems.

Before the end of 2025, the analog broadcasting in Cambodia is planned to be switched off.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Lok Chumteav Hun Mana welcomed the collaboration, stressing that it will contribute to supporting the Royal Government to achieve its digital broadcasting goal.

For his part, Neak Oknha Kith Meng said that it will contribute to the development of Cambodia in the field of broadcast to the full digital system and in accordance with the policy of the Royal Government to achieve Cambodia's digital social economy in line with the fourth generation of digital technology industry. ■

## CAMBODIA, UNESCO BOOST CULTURAL ...

as a World Heritage Site, the registration of Cambodian intangible cultural treasures on the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity List, and the inscription of Battambang provincial city as a creative city.

The meeting also touched upon the UNESCO's support for projects on conservation, research and preparation of intangible heritage inventory in Cambodia.

The UNESCO's representatives appreciated Cambodia's efforts to preserve and protect tangible and intangible heritage, as well as to ratify and carry out the organisation's conventions.

While staying in France, H.E. Ms. Phoeurng Sackona also joined the Festival International de Lacoste in Avignon city, during which Khmer traditional dances were performed. ■

## CDC GRANTS INVESTMENT LICENCES TO ELEVEN NEW PROJECTS

Eleven new projects with a total capital of US\$80.7 million have been recently approved by the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC).

According to the CDC's press release issued on 21, 23 and 27 August, the eleven projects belong to 1). Shining Fashion Industrial Co., Ltd., 2). Melyo Plastic Technology Co, Ltd., 3). Kicyn (Cambodia) Co., Ltd., 4). Ethan Metal Manufacture Co., Ltd., 5). Soman Energy Co., Ltd., 6). Schneitec Alternative Co., Ltd., 7). Xin Chenhui (Cambodia) Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.,

8). Soma Farm (Cambodia) Co., Ltd., 9). Cambodian Xing Can Shi Pin Co., Ltd., 10). Cambodian A1 Steel Industry Co., Ltd., and 11). Auspicious Bag & Shoes Accessories Co., Ltd.

They are expected to create some 5,250 jobs for the locals, the same source added.

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'S ROADMAP ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION LAUNCHED

The Royal Government of Cambodia has launched the 'Roadmap on Science, Technology, and Innovation 2030' as part of an effort to grease the country towards upper middle-income status by 2030.

The launching ceremony was held virtually on 19 August under the auspices of H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Industry, Science, Technology, and Innovation.

The event was attended by Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and officials and representatives from relevant government institutions and development partners concerned.

H.E. Cham Prasidh spoke highlight of the efforts of the General Department of Science, Technology and Innovation for compiling the road map through the support from ESCAP and other stakeholders.

"The Roadmap on Science, Technology, and Innovation of Cambodia 2030 is an important strategic policy document to help guide ministries and institutions in implementing

policies to achieve the Royal Government's vision of becoming an upper middle-income economy by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050," he said.

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana stated that the roadmap harnessing the potential of science, technology and innovation will be pivotal for Cambodia to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and build back better from the pandemic with inclusivity, resiliency and sustainability.

"This Roadmap will guide government officials and other key stakeholders on the critical actions required to enhance national STI capabilities and nurture a dynamic innovation ecosystem," she said.

Cambodia's STI Roadmap 2030 has five policy strategies: to enhance the governance structure of the STI system, develop the national STI workforce, strengthen research capacity and quality, increase collaboration and linkages between different stakeholders, and foster an enabling ecosystem for innovation. ■

## NINE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS LISTED AS ...



In addition, the study highlighted the CAVAC's work on making Cambodian agriculture more competitive includes the use of cashless payments for irrigation fees and the promotion of processing by-products such as biochar, which is produced by burning organic material without oxygen at high temperatures to be mixed with soil. CAVAC also promotes low-cost direct seeding technology and helps the public and private sectors work together on irrigation schemes.

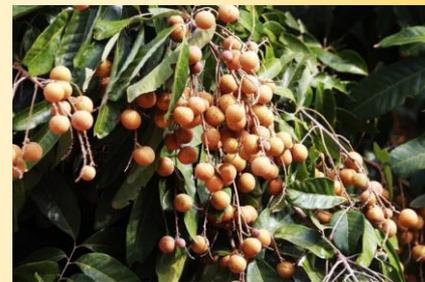
Speaking at the report launch event, H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, expressed hope that the study would encourage relevant stakeholders to explore the development of new

products in key markets such as Australia, New Zealand, Europe, China and ASEAN and anywhere else with a large demand. It aims to increase environmentally-friendly trade to support its policy of reducing poverty and developing the economy.

H.E. Pan Sorasak also outlined the commerce ministry's achievements, including the signing of free trade agreements with China and South Korea, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP), which is expected to come into force next year creating the world's biggest trading bloc and the implementation of the Cambodia Industrial Development Policy 2015-2025, which aims to promote the country's industrial development to help maintain sustainable and inclusive high economic growth through economic diversification, strengthening competitiveness and promoting productivity.

Australian Ambassador Pablo Kang said the agricultural sector provided Cambodia with

## LONGAN PROCESSING INVESTMENT ENCOURAGED



Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries has called on private sector to invest in processing facilities for longan, while is also in talks to export the fruit to more international markets.

In a statement issued on 20 August, the ministry encouraged interested companies to contact it directly for any necessary investment facilitation.

The move aims at broadening markets for Cambodian longan farmers who are facing challenges in selling their harvests especially to Thailand due to sanitary and phytosanitary barrier.

The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries H.E. Veng Sakhon said longan is one of the fruits that need to have sanitary and phytosanitary certificates for overseas export.

The ministry along with the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ministry has been so far discussing with importing countries such as China and Thailand on the export requirement for the fruit.

Nationwide, there are 8,816 hectares dedicated to the fruit, with Battambang and Pailin provinces accounting for nearly 80 percent of the growing. ■

much-needed stability during the coronavirus pandemic and was at the centre of economic recovery.

"CAVAC's study of Cambodia's high-value agricultural products is a new guide for future growth by encouraging the industry to diversify its export supply chain into crops," he said.

Agriculture accounts for about 22 percent of Cambodia's gross domestic product. The sector also provides employment with at least 65 percent of the country's population working in the industry. ■

# Cambodia to Host Southeast Asian Sailing Championship in Preah Sihanouk Province in Mid-December

Cambodia Sailing Federation in cooperation with Singapore Sailing Federation will organize the Southeast Asian Sailing Championship in Preah Sihanouk province from Dec. 12 to 17, 2021.

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has just agreed in principle with the request of the Cambodian SEA Games Organizing Committee (CAMSOC) to organize the international sailing competition.

Some 150 athletes from six Southeast Asian countries are expected to join the contest to be composed of 12 events.

H.E. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism and Permanent Vice President of CAMSOC said recently that plan was made as sailing sport will not be included in the SEA Games 2022 in Vietnam.

He was positive that the competition would not only promote the collaboration on sailing sport between Cambodia and Singapore, but also help get Cambodia prepared for the sport in the SEA Games 2023 that it will host.



# Construction of 38 Streets in Siem Reap Expected to Complete Later This Year

The construction project of 38 streets in Siem Reap provincial city has been now 70 percent complete and expected to finish later this year, pointed out Senior Minister H.E. Sun Chanthol in a meeting of Infrastructure and Regional Integration Technical Working Group (IRITWG) held on 19 August in hybrid format.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is paying special attention to the development of Siem Reap province which is a top tourist attraction in Cambodia to further promote tourism and the local and national economy wounded by COVID-19 crisis.

Once the construction finished, Siem Reap will become a smart and potential tourism city set by the Royal Government as a core national development zone and a cultural, historical and natural tourism destination.

