

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

INVESTMENT LAW PROMOTION PINNED IN CAMBODIA'S ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC), in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, has disseminated the investment law to Cambodian ambassadors and consuls general abroad so that they promote it widely among foreign investors.

A virtual workshop on dissemination of the new investment law was held on 3 November under the chairmanship of H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International

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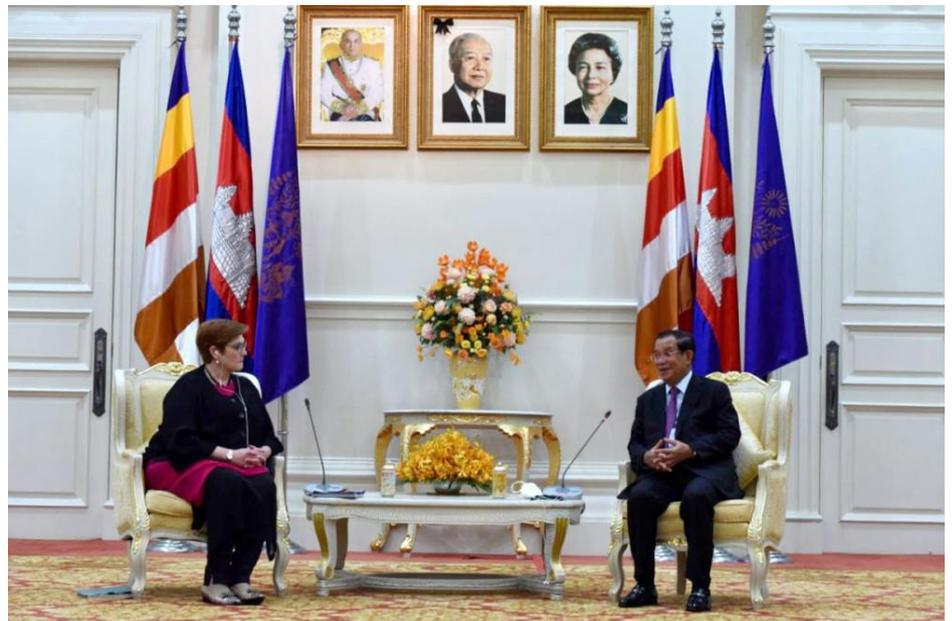
ANGKOR CROWNED NO. 1 AS BEST PLACE TO VISIT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Angkor in Cambodia's Siem Reap province came first among the 29 Best Places to Visit in Southeast Asia, according to a survey of Touropia Travel Guides.

"When it comes to archeological sites, travelers won't want to miss Angkor in northern Cambodia. It contains some of the world's most important cultural remains. These include the enormous Angkor Wat temple, the Bayon temple with its multitude of massive stone faces and Ta Prohm, a Buddhist temple ruin entwined with towering trees," said Touropia.

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CAMBODIA, AUSTRALIA CONGRATULATE BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION



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In her courtesy call to Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Senator Hon Marise Payne expressed her congratulations over the Royal Government's measure against COVID-19 pandemic and her satisfaction over the bilateral and multilateral cooperation, according to H.E. Eang Sophalleth, an Assistant to Prime Minister.

In the bilateral framework, Senator Hon Marise Payne praised the fruits of cooperation between Cambodia and Australia in the fields of agriculture, military, education.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Senator Hon Marise Payne said one million out of 3.2 million promised doses of vaccine will be provided for Cambodia before the end of this year.

In a multilateral framework, Senator Hon Marise Payne congratulated Cambodia on its chairmanship of ASEAN next year and expressed her appreciation for the cooperation between ASEAN and Australia, affirming that Australia will support Cambodia in this role.

On the occasion, Senator Hon Marise Payne also briefed the Cambodian Premier on the trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States (AUKUS).

In response, Samdech Techo Prime Minister thanked Senator Hon Marise Payne for

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CAMBODIA, AUSTRALIA CONGRATULATE ...

the explanation over the AUKUS and totally agreed with her evaluation on the relationship between Cambodia and Australia in both the bilateral and multilateral frameworks.

In the ASEAN framework, the Premier expressed his hope that Australia will continue to join ASEAN in the fight against COVID-19 in order to re-connect ASEAN after being cut off by COVID-19.

Earlier, Samdech Techo Prime Minister, at the inauguration ceremony of the new building of the Land Management Ministry, said that her

visit to Cambodia is not to oppress Cambodia but to build on bilateral cooperation beyond the Indo-Asia-Pacific.

He said Cambodia cooperates with Australia in many areas, including gold extraction.

The trade volume between the two countries will further increase when the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) comes into force in January 2022, he said before the meeting with Payne. ■

INVESTMENT LAW PROMOTION PINNED IN ...



Cooperation, with H.E. Sok Chenda Sophea, CDC’s Secretary General and H.E. Chea Vuthy, Deputy Secretary General of Cambodia Investment Board as speakers, and attended by 170 participants.

The workshop is aimed to harmonise the investment promotion and diplomatic strategic practice –called Economic Diplomacy, aiming to attract foreign direct investment, increase productivity of domestic industry, and linking domestic production chains to regional and global production chains.



The investment law will become an important, efficient and timely tool for social-economic recovery in the post COVID-19 crisis and trade war, and to make Cambodia an attractive destination for foreign investors at the time that the Royal Government decided to resume economic activities and reopen the country for foreign investors and tourists, particularly vaccinated tourists, H.E. Prak Sokhonn said. ■

PHNOM PENH'S CONSTRUCTIONS SEE DRAMATIC INCREASE



Constructions in the capital city of Phnom Penh have been dramatically increased, Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.

While presiding over the inauguration ceremony of the new office building of the Ministry of Land

Management, Urban Planning and Construction on 8 October, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said the capital city has been expanded from around 300 square kilometres to nearly 700 square kilometres.

“The density of the building in Phnom Penh before was one hectare with 5,000 square metres of building, but now one hectare with some 50,000 square metres of building,” he stressed.

The Premier added that all development projects will put pressure on the environment.

CAMBODIA, RUSSIA TO BOOST TOURISM AND INVESTMENT COOPERATION

Cambodia and Russia have pledged to boost tourism promotion and investment cooperation between the two countries.

The pledge was made in a meeting between H.E. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism and H.E. Anatoly Borovik, Russian Ambassador to Cambodia here in Phnom Penh on 02 November 2021.

H.E. Thong Khon recalled the diplomat on the Government of Russia's contribution, especially in building peace in the Kingdom. The minister underlined Cambodia's efforts in securing high rate of COVID-19 vaccination, which is a key to restore socio-economic activities, including tourism.

Cambodia is preparing to welcome COVID-19 vaccinated foreign tourists including Russian tourists to a set of priority locations such as Sihanoukville and Koh Rong of Preah Sihanouk province, and Dara Sakor of Koh Kong province from Nov. 31, 2021, and Siem Reap province on January 2022 onward, he added.

H.E. Anatoly Borovik spoke highly of the good cooperation and relations in all sectors between the two countries.

The diplomat also appreciated the Royal Government of Cambodia's strategies and plans on tourism restoration and pledged to encourage more Russian tourists to visit the country. ■

According to the Ministry of Tourism, Cambodia’s rapid economic growth these past years accelerated urban growth in and around Phnom Penh. A modern metropolis dominated by skyscrapers and surrounded by satellite cities has morphed from a city once dominated by gravel roads, a low-rise and colonial buildings. More high-rise buildings are being developed.

Once hailed, the ‘Pearl of Asia’, Phnom Penh is fast regaining its lustre having developed to become the nation’s economic, commercial, cultural and tourist centre. ■

DARA SAKOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO OFFICIALLY OPEN IN MID-2022



The Dara Sakor International Airport in Koh Kong province will be ready for test in early 2022 and officially open in the middle of the same year.

The update was shared by a representative of the construction company with H.E. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism in a recent meeting at Dara Sakor vacation zone to prepare for the reopening for fully vaccinated foreign tourists.

According to the construction company, the new airport will be able to handle nearly 1 million passengers a year.

H.E. Thong Khon encouraged the construction company to speed up the construction process in order to launch as soon as possible domestic and international flights, especially to connect to Siem Reap province, home to the famous Angkor temples, that will reopen for foreign visitors in January 2022.

Chinese-owned Union Development Group (UDG) invested US\$3.5-billion to build the airport on the land area of 4.5 hectares in Botom Sakor district, Koh Kong province.

It is one of three airports currently under construction in Cambodia, and the other two are the new Phnom Penh international airport located in Kandal and Takeo provinces, and the new Siem Reap international airport in Siem Reap province. ■

2021 EAST ASIA SEA SUMMIT TO HAPPEN IN PREAH SIHANOUK NEXT MONTH

Cambodia will organise the East Asia Sea Summit 2021 in Preah Sihanouk province next month.

The summit will take place on Dec. 1-2 under the theme "Charting a New Decade of Hope-Healthy Oceans, People and Economies", focusing on the world sea sustainable development.

The East Asia Sea Summit 2021 will be held along with the 7th Ministerial Forum on the East Asia Sea Environmental Management Partnership hosted by Cambodia in the province.

Delegates from ten countries including China, Japan and S. Korea will join that platform.

Preah Sihanouk province is considered as one of world's region with the most beautiful beach.

The province is now being transformed into a model multi-purposes economic zone of Cambodia, while the provincial city will also become a multi-national development city. ■

ELECTRIC VEHICLE USE IN CAMBODIA DISCUSSED

Number of electric vehicles (EVs) rolling on the roads in Cambodia is expected to increase as the government is drafting policy to support the sector, especially calling on private sector to invest on infrastructure to support the EVs.

The remarks were made in a panel discussion on Electrification of Vehicles for a Cleaner Cambodia, held on Nov. 4 at the Raffles Hotel Le Royal.

The discussion was attended by H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Public Works and Transport, H.E. Keo Rattanak, Director General of the Electricité du Cambodge (EdC), H.E. Ms. Tina Redshaw, British Ambassador to Cambodia, and H.E. Pablo Kang, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia.

EVs in Cambodia is still low in number compared to registered normal vehicles, said H.E. Sun Chanthol.

ANGKOR CROWNED NO. 1 AS BEST ...

Other Cambodian cities - Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville - won the 20th and 28th places, respectively.

Bali of Indonesia and Ha Long Bay of Vietnam are the two runners-up, while Vientiane capital of Laos is at the bottom of the list. ■



Angkor Wat Temple, Siem Reap province



Royal Palace, Phnom Penh capital city



Sihanoukville, Preah Sihanouk province

H.E. Minister continued that the number of EVs will increase gradually in Cambodia in the near future, and appealed to government-private partnership to join in the sector.

The discussion was to explore the benefits and challenges of increasing the number of EVs in Cambodia and the impacts on Cambodian economy, the environment, transport and urban planning, and the electricity grid.

The Australian government has been supporting the Ministry of Mines and Energy to develop a Renewable Energy Assessment and Integration Strategy that can act as a blueprint to policymakers on integrating more variable renewable energy into the electricity grid, read a note from the Australian Embassy. ■

SIEM REAP TO RETURN TO LIFE WITH INTERNATIONAL ART FESTIVAL NEXT MONTH

Siem Reap is expected to return to 'life' this December 2021 with the hosting of the first Angkor International Festival of the Arts, according to a press release from Cambodian Arts and Festival Enterprise.

The event, which will take place from Dec.10 to 12, 2021 in a variety of venues in Siem Reap province and Phnom Penh capital, is being held with the authorisation of the Royal Government of Cambodia. The festival organisers represented by the Cambodian Arts and Festival Enterprise Co. Ltd., have forged an artistic, technical and administrative collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts to celebrate the designation of Siem Reap as ASEAN City of Culture 2021-2022.

"We have worked on this for over a year," said Angkor International Festival of the Arts Chief Executive Officer and Artistic Director Mr. Aaron Carpene.

"With Cambodia taking over the ASEAN Chair and the country opening up, we believe that this is a fitting tribute to Cambodia's cultural heritage and local arts scene at a time when Cambodia has so much to offer when it comes to arts and culture," he said.

The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts will hold an opening ceremony in Phnom Penh on Dec. 10 with ASEAN Ambassadors, dignitaries and authorities. The festival organisers will hold a Siem Reap-based opening ceremony for the start of The Angkor International Festival of the Arts 2021 on the same day.

The Angkor International Festival of the Arts 2021 will include performances and contributions from a variety of artists including musicians, painters, writers and dancers. There will also be contributions from Cambodian star poet Yeng Chheangly and well-known author Elisabeth Becker (via Zoom) as part of the Writer&Readers Festival Hub, as well as traditional Cambodian kite-flying in front of Angkor Wat, Shadow Puppet theatre, Khmer Bokator fighters, traditional Chapei musicians and Apsara dancers.

"The Angkor International Festival of the Arts 2021 will be a celebration of all art – classic and modern," added Mr. Aaron Carpene. "With Cambodia being the chair of ASEAN, this is a perfect occasion for Cambodia to promote the country's priceless heritage – as well as the nation's diverse up and coming talents."

UNESCO, the EU Delegation, the Swiss Cooperation Office, the Centre for Khmer Studies and the American University in Phnom Penh are all major sponsors and supports of the event.

