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Samdech Hun Sen Presides over a Graduation Ceremony



Cambodia's Prime Minister, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen hands over the diplomas to the graduated students and cuts red ribbon to inaugurate the new buildings upon he was presiding over the graduation ceremony for 1,347 students at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC) in Phnom Penh on Feb. 28. *Photo: Chey Phoumipul*

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AKP Phnom Penh, February 29, 2012 –

PM Samdech Techo Hun Sen Advertises Cambodian Civil Engineers

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen has advertised the local engineering capacity, calling on the international construction companies operating in Cambodia to employ the Cambodian civil engineers.

Speaking at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC) in a ceremony to inaugurate an auditorium and to present Civil Engineering Degrees and Master Degrees to the graduates, Samdech Techo Hun Sen praised the auditorium building as being of high-level standard and capacity, which was built with the technical works of Khmer children who study at the ITC.

Referring to the technical quality and standard of the National Assembly building and the Peace Palace Complex as archetype of pure Khmer works of architecture and engineering, he called on all development partners to use the local expertise.

“If the capacity of Cambodian nationals need to be improved, there is no other alternative than to employ them,” Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen said, criticizing some of the

foreign friends for not using the local technical capacity.

“Our ancestors built the Angkor Temples, and we have been making our own endeavors, so we do not need any foreign help to construct such buildings,” he affirmed, saying that the achievements built by the Khmer children would become the beneficial heritage for the future generations.

In his remarks to congratulate the 1,347 students, including 247 females, on their graduation, Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen urged them to make further researches as the upcoming investments to Cambodia would bring more employments for new graduates.

PM Calls for Enhancement of French Language

Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen has called on the French ambassador to Cambodia to pay attention to the enhancement of the French language in Cambodia.

The Cambodian premier made the appeal at a graduation and inauguration ceremony at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC).

French Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Christian Connan was also present on the occasion.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen further recalled the ITC’s history and expressed his

hope that France will continue to assist the institute, despite the debt crisis in Europe.

The ITC was reopened in 1981, two years after the collapse of the Khmer Rouge regime.

ADB Provides Cambodia US\$69 Million to Improve Provincial Roads

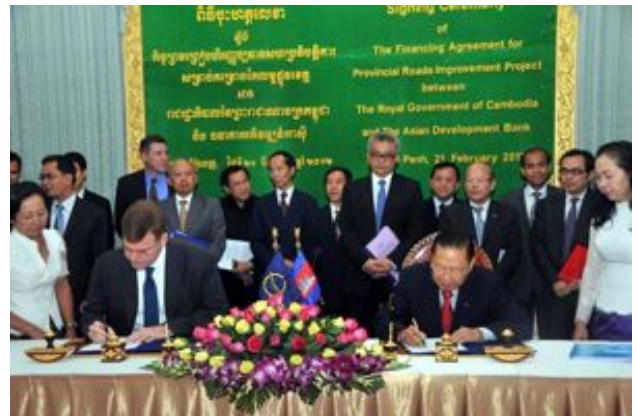
AKP Phnom Penh, February 22, 2012 –

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) yesterday provided US\$69 million to Cambodia for the improvement of the provincial roads,

major upgrade of provincial roads in some of Cambodia’s poorest provinces.

It was signed yesterday by ADB’s Vice-President Stephen P. Groff and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance H.E. Keat Chhon.

The Provincial Roads Improvement Project, financed by a US\$52 million loan from ADB’s Special Funds and a US\$17 million loan and grant from the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR), will be used to rehabilitate about 150 kilometers of unpaved provincial roads in Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Prey Veng and Svay Rieng provinces, home to a large number of the country’s rural poor. The project will also address growing road safety and



Cambodia’s Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Keat Chhon, Minister of Economy and Finance and Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice President Mr. Stephen P. Groff, sign the US\$69- million financing agreement in Phnom Penh on February 21. *Photo: Hun Yuth Kun*

an ADB’s press release said climate change challenges yesterday.

According to the press release, the fund will support a This initiative will provide

“The efficient transport is critical for economic growth. This initiative will provide

safe, and year-round access to markets, employment centers and social services for poor and remote communities,” Mr. Groff said.

Cambodia’s remote rural economy is becoming increasingly dependent on the road network. However, the steady growth in traffic, overloaded cargo vehicles, and poor road maintenance funding and standards continue to take a severe toll on the 9,500 kilometers of secondary national and provincial roads, with only 11 percent paved. As a result, economic opportunities are limited, and road safety has become a serious concern, with the highest accident rate in the region.

The project will address road safety by providing community-based road safety awareness programs for staff and agencies engaged in planning, managing and maintaining roads. It will also introduce axle load control at strategic locations on provincial roads and enhance regional transport and trade activities in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) corridors.

Given the floods and other severe weather-related events that Cambodia has faced in recent years, the project takes an innovative approach to climate resilience by introducing ecosystem-based adaptation strategies, road design features, and plans for disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response for natural disas-

ters. The project is designed to ensure women and local residents benefit from road construction work, the press release said.

**AFD Provides
US\$4.55 Million
to Boost Cambodia’s
Rice Trade**

AKP Phnom Penh, February 23, 2012 –

The French Development Agency (AFD) and the Royal Government of Cambodia yesterday entered into a EUR3.5-million (about US\$4.55 million) partnership agreement to support the trade of Cambodian rice, a press release from the Embassy of France said.

The agreement was signed by H.E. Dr. Aun Porn Moniroth, Delegate Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State at the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Royal Government of Cambodia, French Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Christian Connan and Director of AFD in Cambodia, Mr. André Pouilles-Duplaix.

“This project gives concrete expression to the French Prime Minister’s commitment, announced during his official visit to Cambodia on July 1st and 2nd, 2011. It symbolizes France’s will to contributing to the economic development of the country by supporting a key sector of

Cambodia’s agriculture: the rice industry,” the French ambassador said.

Financed by AFD, the project is aimed at maximizing the incomes of the producers and national economic players involved in the rice sector. It will contribute to the national strategy for the development of rice export and the achievement of one of the Royal Government of Cambodia’s top priorities, said the press release.

With a 15 year-long experience of rehabilitating irrigated perimeters, AFD will implement this new project in order to help increasing the local rice industry’s capital gain by supporting the enhancement of all involved actors’ performance and providing them with an improved access to the export markets, it added.

The project will contribute to the development of the Cambodian rice through the organization of the national rice industry and the capacity-building of the relevant actors; setting up of quality standards in order to promote the Cambodian rice on the international market; the promotion of contract farming; and the capacity building of the Rural Development Bank to allow it to fully play its role as a financial intermediary and answer to the financial needs of the rice sector.

The project will be carried out in close collaboration with the technical team formed within the Economic and Financial Policy Committee (EFPC) and the Su-

preme National Economic Council (SNEC), indicated the press release.

**H.E. Khieu Kanharith
Cuts Red Ribbon to
Inaugurate DP-Sweet
Radio FM 99.75MHz**

AKP Phnom Penh, February 27, 2012 –

New FM Radio Opened

A new FM radio, DP Sweet FM 99.75 KHz, in Phnom Penh Capital was officially opened on last Thursday under the auspices of Information Minister H.E. Khieu Kanharith.

H.E. Khieu Kanharith was optimistic about the increasing quality and quantity of radio broadcasting. “17 radio channels is operated by the government and more than 90 other are privately owned,” said the information minister.

Like other means of communication, he added, radio programme will not only entertain but also educate and inform the public about various issues concerning their daily lives.

With broadcasting power of one kilowatt, the DP Sweet FM 99.75 KHz will run 20 hours per day, from 4 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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H.E. Khieu Kanharith, Minister of Information on Thursday cuts red ribbon to inaugurate the DP-Sweet Radio FM 99.75MHz in Phnom Penh. *Photo: Hun Yuth Kun*

Apsara Authority Officials Unload Newly Discovered Ancient Khmer Statue



AKP Phnom Penh, February 20, 2012 –

Apsara Authority's officials unload 23 pieces of ancient Khmer statue discovered recently at Koh Ker Temple in Siem Reap province by archaeologists of the Apsara Authority in collaboration with French Far Eastern School.

Photo: Hang Seak, AKP-Siem Reap

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