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AKP Phnom Penh, February 18, 2014 –

*Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen delivers his speech at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh this morning while he was presiding over the Official Launch of Cambodia Trade Integration Strategy 2014-2018.*

*Photo: Chey Phoumipul*

## Cambodia Launches Its Trade Integration Strategy 2014-2018

AKP Phnom Penh, February 18, 2014 –

Cambodia Trade Integration Strategy (CTIS) 2014-2018 was launched here this morning at the Peace Palace under the presidency of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Addressing to the launching ceremony, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said the CTIS 2014-2018 is an important document which will contribute to Cambodia's integration into the ASEAN Community by 2015, the country's trade promotion and sustainable

development.

The CTIS 2014-2018 will provide the government with useful insights and ideas on how Cambodia wants to move forward in implementing some of the needed reforms particularly in the trade area in the coming years, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce H.E. Sun Chanthol said.

“This strategy will help us mobilize new technical assistance resources to address some of the new reforms we need to pursue and to which we have already committed ourselves. It will also enhance trade sector competitive-

ness, create new and better job, increase incomes and reduce poverty,” he underlined.

According to Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Cambodia's trade from 2011-2013 grew by 28 percent and it is expected to increase year by year.

The country's export has seen a double rise, from US\$4.5 billion in 2007 to US\$9.4 billion in 2013, and if we included the informal export, the total export value would reach at least US\$10 billion, he said.

Cambodia has diversified its exporting products,

from garment and textile and agricultural products to bicycles, electronic devices, electric appliances, etc., he added.

Moreover, the Cambodian premier expressed his optimism over the increase of foreign direct investment in Cambodia this year and the coming years thanks to its open policy. Last year, the total value of foreign direct investment in the country was estimated at US\$1.22 billion, Samdech Techo Hun Sen pointed out.

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## Cambodia Launches Export Diversification and Expansion Program II

AKP Phnom Penh, February 21, 2014 –

The Cambodia Export Diversification and Expansion Program II (CEDEP II) was launched here on Thursday under the presidency of H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce.

CEDEP II will contribute to the capacity building

and policy reforms in the export sector of the cassava and marine fisheries as well as to the skills development in the tourism field, he added.

“CEDEP II will identify group of cassava and marine fisheries processors and make them export-ready to compete to the new markets,” he underlined.

Besides, under CEDEP II, the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts (RACA) will be established to promote the country's tourism, said H.E. Sun Chanthol.

H.E. Minister further expressed his strong hope that CEDEP II will gain more support from other development partners including Enhanced Inte-

grated Framework (EIF) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

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## Cambodian, Australian FMs Hold Joint Press Conference



AKP Phnom Penh, February 22, 2014 –

Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Hor Namhong (R) and visiting H.E. Ms. Julie Isabel Bishop, MP, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, hold a joint press conference following their bilateral meeting held here this morning. *Photo: Chim Nary*

## Cambodia, Australia Appreciate Their Cooperation in Combating Cross Border Crime

AKP Phnom Penh, February 24, 2014 –

Information Minister H.E. Khieu Kanharith has told the Commission of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Propaganda and Information of the National Assembly that the Law on Access to Information would be developed in cooperation with UNESCO.

Speaking at a meeting here last week with the National Assembly's Commission, headed by H.E. Cheang Vun, the information minister said that it would take approximately three years to finalize the law drafting in cooperation with UNESCO and through a number of national-level and sub-national level workshops with the participation of inter-ministerial

and concerned institutions and agencies.

Information Minister H.E. Khieu Kanharith pointed out that the law would have some difficulties as it would be a new law with limited provisions and concepts for information officers and with differences regarding each different institutions such as the bank or the Ministry of

Defense.

The Law on Access to Information would require the establishment of an institution and to define who [which agencies] would have the rights to access the information, he said.

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## Cambodia To Find Assistance to Protect and Restore Banteay Chhmar Temple

AKP Phnom Penh, February 17, 2014 –

The Royal Government of Cambodia made an attempt to finding assistance to protect and restore Banteay Chhmar Temple, part of which suffered severe damage, said H.E. Ms. Phoeung Sakona, Minister of Culture and Fine Arts.

She said this during a working session held recently

with Banteay Meanchey Provincial Governor H.E. Korsum Saroeuth and provincial officials.

Banteay Chhmar Temple is the historical site which was built between 12th and 13th centuries during the reign of King Jayavarman VII. UNESCO considered Banteay Chhmar Temple as an Angkor temple located in the west and also attempted to include in the

World Heritage List in the future.

In the meeting, the provincial governor said Avalokitesvara image with 31 hands etched on Banteay Chhmar Temple wall becomes a symbol of the province.

Banteay Chhmar is a main temple and also attracted local and foreign tourists to visit it among other 300

architectural sites in the province.

With regard to tourism sector, in the dry season, the temple welcomes only from 150 to 200 foreign visitors per month due to National Road 56 under the reparation.

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## Cambodia's Antique Statues To Be Exhibited in the United States

AKP Phnom Penh, February 18, 2014 –

As many as 22 stone antique statues will be on display in an exhibition to be held in the United States in March, said recently an official of the National Museum of Cambodia.

The purpose is to promote

Khmer culture and ancient arts in the glory of Angkorean period and show ancient Khmer civilization as a nation who built the marvelous ancient things in the world.

The National Museum of Cambodia succeeded with participating in an exhibition in France, where 11

valuable sandstone artifacts and 11 photographic drawings of Khmer classical dance had been exhibited.

The goal is to be understood in Khmer culture heritage which was famous from the ancient time to now.

In earlier 2014, the museum got 2,341 local museum-goers and 16,912 foreign visitors, up 53 percent compared to the same period last year.

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