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PM Hun Sen Hands over Certificates to Graduate Students-Teachers



AKP Preah Sihanouk, March 11, 2014 –

Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen (L) hands over a certificate to a graduate as a symbol while he was presiding over here this morning the graduation ceremony for 1,038 students-teachers of the National Institute of Education. *Photo: Chim Nary*

EU, Cambodian Government Successfully Conclude Their 8th Joint Committee Meeting

AKP Phnom Penh, March 15, 2014 –

The 8th EU-Cambodia Joint Committee Meeting, held in Brussels on Thursday under the co-chairmanship of H.E. Ouch Borith, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Mr. Ugo Astuto, Director for South and Southeast Asia, was successfully concluded.

The meeting was preceded by the subgroups on development cooperation, on trade and on institution building, administrative reform, legal and judicial reform, governance and human rights, according to an EU's press release.

Both sides welcomed the meeting as timely and held frank and in-depth exchanges on a broad range of bilateral issues, including political developments in Cambodia and the EU, it pointed out.

They exchanged views on Cambodia's reform agenda and priorities in the post-electoral context, emphasizing reforms in the election process, governance and the respect for human rights as key drivers for Cambodia's democratic development, said the press release, adding that land management was part of the agenda,

while multilateral and regional issues were also touched upon, in particular the Lower Mekong sub-region.

H.E. Ouch Borith stressed that through Cambodia-EU Cooperation Agreement, which forms the basis of our cooperation, the EU has provided substantial assistance to Cambodia covering several sectors. Ranging from public finance management and good governance, to food security and education, from poverty reduction to sustainable development and private sector development, the EU-sponsored programs and projects have made a significant positive impact on the living condition of the Cambodian people. He also expressed on behalf of the people and Government of Cambodia his sincere thanks to the EU and its Member States for their invaluable assistance to Cambodia and its commitments to continue assisting Cambodia's development.

"The EU has always been at the forefront to promote Cambodia's recovery and development. This 8th Joint Committee Meeting was an excellent opportunity to reaffirm our strong support for a democratic, prosperous and sustainable Cambodia. We discussed a broad spec-

trum of issues including human rights, trade and development. We reaffirmed our commitment to work for the consolidation of our relationship," recalled Mr. Ugo Astuto.

On the sub-group of "Trade and Investment", which was held on Mar. 10, noted the increase in bilateral trade, in particular Cambodia's export performance, with the EU now becoming the primary destination of Cambodian exports. The two sides discussed in detail the trade regime "Everything But Arms", which grants preferences to Cambodia as a least developed country. They also addressed a number of other bilateral, as well as regional or multilateral issues. Both sides agreed to continue working together towards improving Cambodia's business and investment climate.

For the sub-group on "Development cooperation", both sides took stock of ongoing bilateral, the matic and regional cooperation activities. Fruitful exchanges were conducted on both Cambodia's and the EU's future policy agenda and planning. This was especially significant in the context of the programming of EU development cooperation for 2014-2020 in Cambodia.

Lastly, the sub-group on "Institution Building, Administrative Reform, Legal Reform, Governance and Human Rights" was candid and constructive and focused on concrete cooperation in the protection and promotion of Human Rights, including on promoting the abolishment of death penalty. Freedom of expression and association, legal and judicial reform, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, the situation of human rights defenders and trade unions representatives, as well as the protection of land and social rights were key priorities to address.

The EU is one of the major development and trade partners of Cambodia. Between 2007-2013, the EU provided development assistance of some €143 million to support the National Strategic Development Plan, education, trade-related assistance, governance and human rights in Cambodia. Last year, Cambodian exports to the EU were amounted to €2.4 billion, concentrated in clothing (68.8 percent), footwear (12.9 percent), bicycles (10.3 percent), rice (5.2 percent) and sugar (1.6 percent).

Phnom Penh Governor Receives World Bank Country Director



Phnom Penh Municipal Governor H.E. Pa Socheatevong (R) holds talks with visiting Mr. Ulrich Zachau, World Bank Country Director for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia and Thailand, on Mar. 13 in Phnom Penh.
Photo: Ok Sokhoeun

ILO Launches Two Reports on Investment Climate Improvement in Cambodia

AKP Phnom Penh, March 12, 2014 –

Cambodia’s Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, International Labor Organization (ILO) and other partners launched here this morning two reports laying out the challenges and opportunities for sustainable business development in Cambodia.

The reports are the product of an ongoing partnership between the ILO and Cambodian Federation of Employers & Business Asso-

ciations (CAMFEBA), said an ILO’s press release.

According to the press release, the first report is “The Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises (EASE) in Cambodia” analyses Cambodia’s performance in 17 areas necessary for sustainable enterprise development and productive, decent employment. It includes the results of a national survey of workers and employers (as well as analysis of existing secondary data) that focused on some key areas; these

included social dialogue, education and training, legal and regulatory reform, governance, trade, and integration.

The second report, “Pathways to Prosperity: Policy priorities to create an enabling environment for sustainable enterprise development & creation in Cambodia”, compiled by CAMFEBA, builds on the EASE report and focuses on policy recommendations in four key areas; workplace relations, skills, governance, and the legal and regulatory

environment.

These reports provided insights into the current situation in Cambodia and provide evidence-based and practical recommendations on how to improve the business-enabling environment, underlined the press release.

Some 2,000 Athletes Join International Haft Marathon in Preah Sihanouk Province



AKP Preah Sihanouk, March 10, 2014 –

Some 2,080 athletes, of them 307 are foreigners, participate in the 3rd Sihanoukville-Angkor Beer International Haft Marathon held on Mar. 9 in Preah Sihanouk coastal province. *Photo: Ngo Somony, AKP-Preah Sihanouk province*

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