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His Majesty the King Chairs the 24th Meeting of Supreme Council of Magistracy

AKP Phnom Penh, April 09, 2014

His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, chaired on Apr. 8 at the Royal Palace the 24th meeting of the Supreme Council of Magistracy, according to the National Television of Cam-

bodia (TVK).

The agenda of the meeting focused mainly on the organization and functioning of the Supreme Council of Magistracy, it pointed out. His Majesty King Sihamoni, also Chairman of the Supreme Council of Magistracy, praised

the council's members for their efforts in fulfilling their works.

The members of the Supreme Council of Magistracy took the opportunity to extend best wishes to the Cambodian monarch on the occasion of the Khmer New Year, which will fall

from Apr. 14 to 16.
By C. Nika

PM Hun Sen Receives Foreign Minister of Belarus

AKP Phnom Penh, March 27, 2014



Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen (L) shakes hands with visiting H.E. Vladimir Makei, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Belarus, prior to their meeting here this afternoon.

Photo: Chey Phoumipul

Prime Minister Orders To Cancel Land Concession Investment Projects Not Abide By Contracts

AKP Phnom Penh, March 29, 2014. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, ordered ministries and institutions to take strict measures against any investment projects that do not abide by the contracts with the punishment or cancellation of the incentives or removal of the concession contract if found serious, and to withdraw those economic land concessions and then turn to be used as social land concessions.

The clearance, burning, seizing illegally and grabbing forest lands for ownership that occurred after May 7, 2012 must stop; otherwise the culprit will be punished by law on forests, said the Cambodian premier at the closing ceremony of the annual meeting to review the works of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in 2013-2014 and set forth new objectives for 2014-2015, on Mar. 28 at Chaktomuk Conference Hall.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen said that it was compulsory to effectively implement the order on cracking down on all sorts of forest offenses. “Concerned ministries and institutions, particularly the Council for the Development of Cambodia and the Ministry of Economy and Finance to continue to regularly check and verify the investment activities of companies that received land concessions to ensure the investment process to prevent possible inactive regarding concessions,” he added.

“We must continue to promote reform in forest boundaries and permanent forest assets classifications and identify the areas of forests degradation to restore the forest growing to become the valuable forest zones,” underlined Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

Article in English by C. Nika

Cambodia-Vietnam, Cambodia-Thailand Cooperation To Be Promoted

AKP Phnom Penh, April 05, 2014 – The leaders of Cambodia and Vietnam have agreed to boost the cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, and investment between the two neighboring countries to a new peak, according to the National Television of Cambodia (TVK).

During their bilateral meeting held yesterday afternoon in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on the sidelines of the 2nd Summit of the Mekong River Commission (MRC), Cambodia’s Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and his Vietnamese counterpart H.E. Nguyen Tan Dung discussed the bilateral and multilateral cooperation as well as regional and international issues, said TVK.

The water use along the common border was also a topic of discussion between both premiers, it underlined.

The two leaders further discussed the activities implemented by the four MRC countries after the 1st MRC Summit in Hua Hin, Thailand in 2010.

On the occasion, the Vietnamese prime minister offered a basket of flowers to Samdech Techo Hun Sen and wished him happiness, good health and longevity on the occasion of his 63rd birthday.

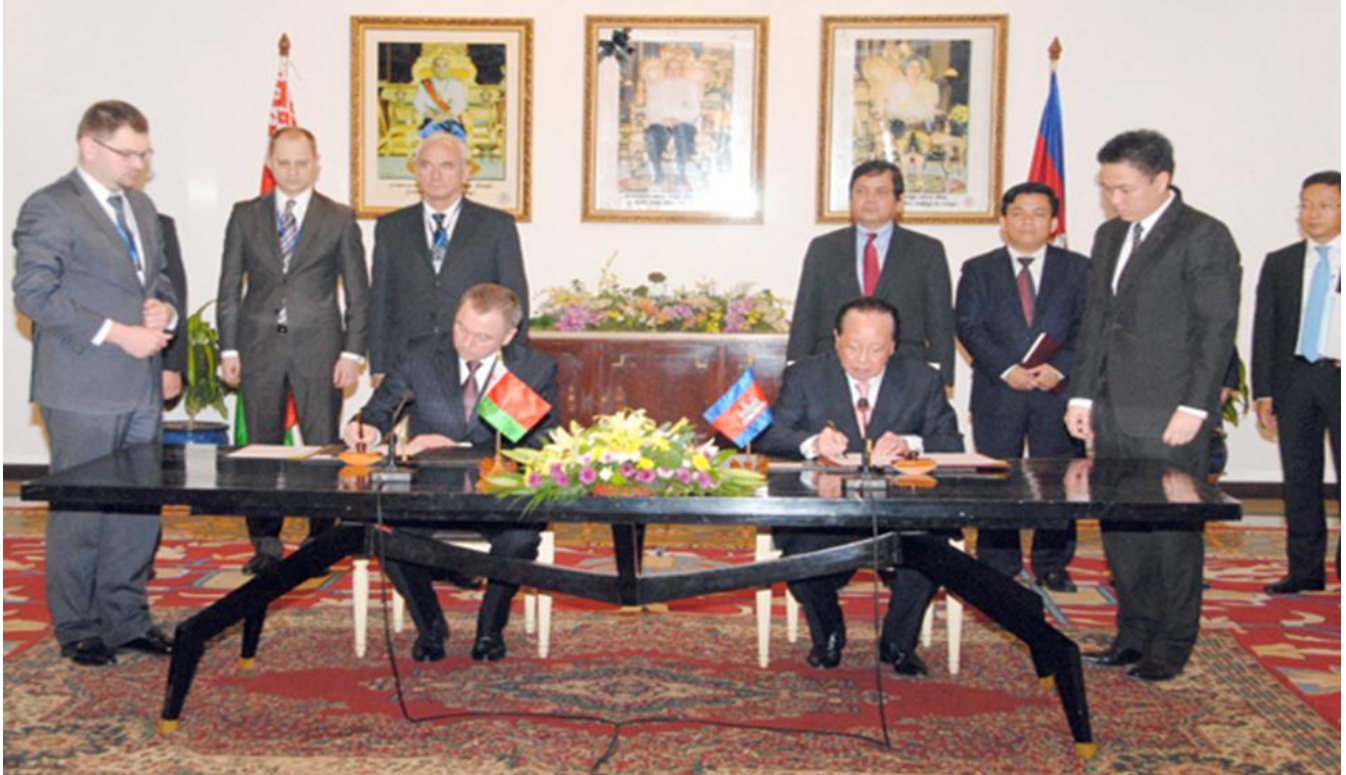
On the same day, Samdech Techo Hun Sen also received a basket of flowers from his Thai counterpart H.E. Mrs. Yingluck Shinawatra, through her representative to the 2nd MRC Summit, added TVK.

The two prime ministers agreed, via phone conversation, to maintain the normalization of relations between the two countries and to further promote their bilateral trade, which has now reached more than US\$4,000 million.

Article in English by Khan Sophirom

Cambodia, Belarus Sign an Agreement on Visa Exemption between the Two

AKP Phnom Penh, March 27, 2014



Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Hor Namhong (R), Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and visiting Belarus Foreign Minister H.E. Vladimir Makei, sign in Phnom Penh on Mar. 26 a visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders between the two countries.

Photo: Chim Nary

Cambodia's FM Urges Brunei to Buy More Cambodian Milled Rice

AKP Phnom Penh, April 09, 2014 – Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Hor Namhong has urged Brunei to buy more Cambodian milled rice. Last year, Brunei bought some 3,000 tons of Cambodian milled rice, indicated H.E. Koy Kuong, Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, told reporters after the meeting here this morning between H.E. Hor Namhong and outgoing Ambassador of Brunei to Cambodia H.E. Shaikh Ahmad. Shaikh Ahmad expressed his satisfaction with the growing number of Bruneian tourists to Cambodia, and pledged to further boost for direct flights between the two countries, and to help Cambodia in human resource development, added the spokesperson. H.E. Hor Namhong also congratulated Brunei on its success in hosting the ASEAN Summits in 2013.

Article in English by
Khan Sophirom

Norway's New Contribution to ECCC

AKP Phnom Penh, April 02, 2014. The Government of Norway has announced a new pledge of NOK6 million (approximately US\$1 million) to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), according to an ECCC's press release issued yesterday. With this latest pledge, the financial assistance provided by Norway to the ECCC exceeds US\$7 million, and the country has supported the court since its inception, underlined the press release. "On behalf the ECCC, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for the generous and continuous support offered by the Government of Norway," said Acting Director of the Office of Administration H.E. Kranh Tony and Deputy Director Knut Rosandhaug in a statement. Last month, the ECCC announced that its budget for 2014-2015 for proceeding the trials against aging senior Khmer Rouge leaders has been endorsed by donors. The total budget amounts to US\$31.6 million for 2014 (US\$6.4 million for national component and US\$25.2 million for international component), and US\$28.9 million for 2015 (US\$6 million for national component and US\$22.9 million for international component). By Khan Sophirom

Laos To Open a Consulate-General in Siem Reap

AKP Phnom Penh, April 10, 2014. Lao PDR is planning to open a consulate-general in Cambodia's cultural province of Siem Reap thanks to the growing number of Lao tourists to Cambodia, which reached 300,000 in 2013. The plan was raised by outgoing Lao Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Yaseng Lao during his farewell visit here yesterday to Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Hor Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, H.E. Koy Kuong, Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, told reporters following the meeting. H.E. Hor Namhong welcomed the plan, saying that it will encourage not only Lao tourists to visit Cambodia, but also Cambodian tourists to visit Laos. In addition, the Cambodian deputy prime minister asked the Lao side to increase more direct flights from Pakse to Siem Reap as well as the road transportation. The Cambodian side suggested to organize more trade fairs in the two countries and in bordering provinces, and to consider opening more border gates so as to boost the bilateral trade exchange whose value was only some US\$10 million last year. H.E. Hor Namhong requested the Lao relevant ministries to speed up their feasibility study for the construction of a cross-border bridge linking Cambodia's Preah Vihear province and Laos' Champasak province, agreed by both sides during Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen's recent visit to Laos. H.E. Hor Namhong also pushed for the border marker plantation between Cambodia and Laos, which has achieved so far over 80 percent, or 121 border markers, of the total 450 kilometers of the common border. Article in English by So Sophavy

Cambodia Needs US\$400 Million for Mine Clearance for 10 Years

AKP Phnom Penh, April 09, 2014
 Cambodia needs at least US\$400 million to continue its mine clearance activities for the next ten years, said H.E. Chum Bun Rong, Secretary General of Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance (CMAA), on the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (April 4).
 At least over 100 people died from mines and UXO each year after Cambodia experienced civil war from 1970 to 1975, pointed out H.E. Chum Bun Rong, adding that since 1992, there have been 6,300 victims, of whom one third died and the rest injured and crippled.
 According to H.E. Chum Bun Rong, Cambodia has become a country where delegations coming from all continents like Columbia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan, Libya, Liberia and so on seek lessons learnt and experience about the consequences of war.
 During the event, the CMAA secretary general also called on people around the world, especially countries that have had wars to stop using mines and get awareness of the danger of mines or cluster bombs which leave mass disasters for humankind. Some US\$2-2.5 million were used for mine clearance activities in Cambodia per year through Mines Advisory Group (MAG), said Mr. Alistair Moir, Country Director of MAG.
 For his part, H.E. William (Bill) Jesse Longhurst, the United Kingdom's Ambassador to Cambodia, also expressed his country's commitment to go on helping Cambodia in mine and UXO clearance.
 There are some 5 to 6 million mines being buried under the ground of around 4,000 square kilometers in Cambodia. By So Sophavy and Lim Nary

Cambodia To Release and Reduce Jail Term for Over 600 Prisoners during Khmer New Year

AKP Phnom Penh, March 26, 2014 – During the upcoming Khmer New Year, some 625 prisoners across the nation will be released and have their jail term reduced, H.E. Ang Vong Vathana, Minister of Justice, told reporters at Cambodiana Hotel on Mar. 25.
 Prisoners who are qualified for the release and jail-term reduction are those who have behaved well while serving in jail and who are normal prisoners, i.e. they have not been convicted of serious crimes such as murders, rapes, or drug smuggling, and so on, explained H.E. Ang Vong Vathana.
 In early 2013, Cambodia released and reduce jail term for more than 400 prisoners on the Royal Cremation of late King-
 Father Norodom Sihanouk.
 By So Sophavy

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