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PM: Cambodia Is Not a Place for Establishment of Any Government in Exile

AKP Phnom Penh, May 27, 2014 – Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, said here this morning that Cambodia will not allow any country or any group to form a government in exile on its [Cambodian] territory. According to the Constitution, Cambodia does not permit any foreigner to

use its territory to establish any movement against any foreign government, underlined the Cambodian premier at a graduation ceremony of the Royal University of Phnom Penh held at Koh Pich Convention and Exhibition Center. Regarding the current situation in Thailand, Samdech Techo Hun Sen considered the military coup as Thailand's internal affairs and

Cambodia would not interfere in Thai affairs. "As Cambodia shares border with Thailand, we have to maintain normal relations with the country despite civil or military-ruled government," said Samdech Techo Hun Sen. "There is no other choice, I hope that former Thai Prime Ministers Thaksin Shinawatra and Yingluck Shinawatra as well

as Pheu Thai Party understand Cambodia's stance." Samdech Techo Prime Minister also took the opportunity to call on the Cambodian people who have been traveling and working in Thailand to respect the country's law by not joining any anti- or pro-government activities. Article in English by Khan Sophirom

DPM Hor Namhong: No Deal on Foreign Refugees Reached Yet between Cambodia and Australia

AKP Phnom Penh, May 28, 2014 – No deal on Australia's request to receive foreign refugees from Australia to settle in Cambodia has been reached yet, H.E. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, told reporters this morning.

"We just discussed the principles and formed a working group for this issue," underlined the Cambodian top diplomat. According to H.E. Hor Namhong, Cambodia will receive only the refugees who voluntarily agree to move from Australia to Cambodia, not by force. Australia's request to

Cambodia to accept legal foreign refugees from Australia to live in Cambodia was made by Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Ms. Julie Isabel Bishop while she paid a courtesy call on Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, during her visit

to the Kingdom in February this year. By Khan Sophirom

Cambodia, Japan Sign the Exchange of Notes on the Grant Aid for “Japanese Development Scholarship” Project

AKP Phnom Penh, May 28 2014



Cambodia’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Hor Namhong (R) and Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Kumamaru Yuji, sign in Phnom Penh this morning the Exchange of Notes on the Grant Aid for the “Japanese Development Scholarship (JDS)” Project.

Photo: Chim Nary

Cambodia, UNESCO Reach MoU on Drafting the Law on Access to Information

AKP Phnom Penh, May 30, 2014 –

The Ministry of Information (MoI) of Cambodia and UNESCO reached here this afternoon a Memorandum of Understanding on the Project to Promote Law Making on the Access to Information with the financial assistance of over US\$1 million from the Government of Sweden.

The MoU was signed at MoI by H.E. Khieu Kanharith, Minister of Information, and H.E. Ms.

Anne Lemaistre, Representative of UNESCO in Cambodia.

This is a starting point of cooperation between MoI and UNESCO with the support from Sweden, H.E. Khieu Kanharith told a press conference following the signing ceremony. He further underlined that the Law on Access to Information is not only for journalists, but also for the whole Cambodian people.

For her part, H.E. Ms. Anne Lemaistre said this

is a participatory project and this people-centered law will be made in accordance with Cambodia’s characteristics. H.E. Ms. Anna Maj Hultgard, Ambassador of Sweden to Cambodia, who was also present on the occasion, affirmed the Swedish government’s full support to the drafting process of this law.

The drafting process would take three years, said H.E. Khieu Kanharith, adding that workshops both at national

and sub-national levels as well as inter-sectoral workshops will be organized with the participation of relevant institutions, journalist associations, civil society organizations and human rights groups.

By C. Nika

Congratulatory Ceremony of Acceptance of “2014 Resolve Awards” for Achieving the Reduction of Maternal Mortality Rate in Cambodia

AKP Phnom Penh, May 29 2014





Cambodia’s Minister of Health H.E. Dr. Mam Bunheng (C) shows the “2014 Resolve Awards” presented to Cambodia by the Global Leaders Council for Reproductive Health (GLC) in recognition of the country’s efforts in achieving the reduction of maternal mortality rate and expanding universal access to reproductive health services, in a ceremony held here this afternoon.

Photo: Ok Sokhoeun

Norway Redirects Its Financial Contribution to ECCC National Component

AKP Phnom Penh, May 20, 2014 – The Government of Norway has approved that its recent financial contribution of NOK6 million (approximately US\$1 million) can be redirected from the international component to the national component of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), ac-

ording to an ECCC’s press release issued today. This move is to meet the salary costs of the national staff, stressed the press release. “On behalf of the ECCC, I would like to express my profound thanks to the Government of Norway and the United Nations for the favorable consideration of this

course of action, thereby enabling the national component of the ECCC to pay staff salaries from April to June 2014. I also appeal to donor countries to provide more voluntary contributions to secure necessary funding for the 2014 budget of the national component of the ECCC,” said Acting Director of the Office of Administration

H.E. Kranh Tony in a statement. The financial assistance provided by Norway to the ECCC exceeds US\$7 million, and the country has supported the Court since its inception. By Khan Sophirom

UN General Assembly Approves US\$15.5 million Funding Reserve to ECCC

AKP Phnom Penh, May 23, 2014 –

The United Nations General Assembly has authorized a subvention of US\$15.5 million to the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), said an ECCC's news release.

According to the news release, the subvention is to be considered a reserve, which supplements the voluntary donations made to the international component of the court for the period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2014. It enables the United Nations to enter into contracts with international staff members at the ECCC for a duration up to one year. The subvention can only be drawn upon if there are insufficient funds available through voluntary donations.

It was the UN Secretary-General H.E. Ban Ki-moon who requested the General Assembly to authorize the subvention in response to the increased financial difficulties and funding shortfalls which the ECCC has experienced during the last years, it underlined.

In his request, the Secre-

tary-General wrote that “it is critical for the international community to ensure that the Extraordinary Chambers have the required financial means to ensure accountability for the shocking crimes perpetrated during the former Khmer Rouge regime”.

“[The] financial failure of the Court would be a tragedy for the people of Cambodia, who have waited a long time for justice, and would constitute a serious setback to the international community's fight against impunity,” he stressed.

While authorizing the subvention as an exceptional measure, the General Assembly also called upon all United Nations member states to provide funds for both the international and national components of the ECCC, and requested that the Secretary-General intensify his efforts to obtain additional voluntary contributions, including by broadening the donor base, for funding the future activities of the ECCC, said the news release.

The General Assembly requested that the Secretary-General prepare a report which includes a

comprehensive examination of the future financing of the ECCC to be presented at its next session, and to ensure that the ECCC prepares a completion strategy with a clear road map, it added.

Although the subvention stabilizes the financial situation for the international component of the ECCC, there is still a shortage of funds for the national component. The Secretary-General's Special Expert on the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trial, Ambassador H.E. David Scheffer, is working closely together with representatives of the Cambodian government to raise funds to meet the funding shortfall on the national side.

By Khan Sophirom

Tourism Sector Earn US\$ 700 Million in Q1

AKP Phnom Penh, May 26, 2014 – Cambodia's tourism sector generated some US\$700 million as income in the first quarter of this year, according to a report of the Ministry of Tourism. During the January-March 2014 period, about 1.27 million foreign tourists visited the country, up 10 percent year-on-year, it underlined.

Of the total number of foreign visitors, 30 percent or 424,300 visitors were from other ASEAN member countries, an increase by 4 percent over the same period last year, it added. Meanwhile, there were over 20,000 Cambodian outbound tourists, up 4 percent if compared with the same period in 2013, said the report, indicating that the most visited countries for Cambodian

people are Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Korea and Japan.

The increase in Cambodian outbound tourists reflected better cost of living of Cambodian people and the Kingdom's economic growth, said a Cambodian tourism expert.

Cambodia's GDP per capita rose from US\$760 in 2008 to nearly US\$1,000 in 2012, and

over US\$1,000 in 2013. Based on the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC)'s expectation, the Cambodian economy will grow by over 7 percent this year, while World Bank (WB) projected the country's economic growth at 7.2 percent, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at 7 percent.

By So Sophavy

EU Provides 600,000 Euro to reduce the Risk of Water-Borne Diseases in Cambodia

AKP Phnom Penh, May 23, 2014 The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) is providing 600,000 Euro (approximately US\$832,000) to help reduce the risk of water-borne diseases to vulnerable Cambodian children and their families during and after a flood emergency, said an EU-UNICEF's joint press release issued yesterday. The EU funds will enable UNICEF to help strengthen preparedness and build resilience among communities in flood-prone areas by sup-

porting the chlorination and rehabilitation of wells in an estimated 50 communes, it said.

Under the fund, training will be provided to 100 sub-national officials from five provincial and 18 district offices of the Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Rural Development, it added. The funds will also be used to train sub-national officials in the innovative use of mobile phones to upload assessments of flood-damaged wells to a national database during and after an emergency, said the press release, stressing that the information will provide government, the UN and oth-

er aid agencies with timely and critical information about affected households and areas with limited access to safe drinking water to enable them to take immediate action. "This funding from the European Commission will enable UNICEF in its work to institutionalize the correct cleaning wells after floods and, more importantly, to modify existing wells by raising and sealing well-platforms, so that flood water cannot seep in. This will help to make a tremendous difference in reducing the risks to chil-

dren during a flood emergency," said Ms. Rana Flowers, UNICEF Representative in Cambodia. This initiative will also support the training of 500 village-level officials on how to promote basic hygiene and sanitation so that households value their importance as a critical means to prevent diseases such as diarrhea, as an estimated 2,300 children die annually from preventable diseases like diarrhea in Cambodia, it said.

The training will include the piloting of portable ecological floating toilets which allow excreta and urine to be hygienically contained and—

and composted during floods, after which, the contents can be safely used as agricultural fertilizer, pointed out the press release.

“The EU acts where emergency relief is needed. Cambodia is often hit

by devastating floods. When humanitarian needs overwhelm local capacities, we stand ready to assist those affected by disasters. The work of UNICEF is of great importance to better preparing the popula-

tions to future floods,” said Mr. Bernard Jaspers Fajier, ECHO Program Manager in Cambodia. Recurrent and annual floods in Cambodia impact approximately 19 of the country’s 25 provinces. In 2013, floods affect-

ed at least 1.5 million Cambodians causing loss of life, damage to critical water and sanitation infrastructure (including more than 12,000 drinking wells), and ruining crops and livelihoods.



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Children walk over planks of wood set up as a bridge, as the flow of the Mekong runs through the village. 22 families have been displaced and moved to a school and pagoda, the only high ground in the village. Surrounded by water the closest town with road access is 5km over water. Beung Kaek Village, Peam Meanchey commune, Preh Veng, Cambodia.

Text: Khan Sophirom

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Royal Embassy of Cambodia to Switzerland

Address: 3, Chemin Taverney,
P.O. Box 213
1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva,
Switzerland.



Tel.: (+41)22 788 77 73
Fax: (+41)22 788 77 74
Email: camemb.gva@mfa.gov.kh
Website: www.cambodiaembassy.ch