



The Special ASEAN-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19



PR/April 23

Foreign Minister PRAK Sokhonn participated in the Special ASEAN-US Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19 via video conference on April 23. The meeting was co-chaired by Lao PDR, as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-US Dialogue Relations, and the United States.

As part of the ASEAN-US Strategic Partnership, the meeting was an opportunity for both sides to further enhance collaboration in public health emergencies, especially the fight against COVID-19 pandemic, and solutions to mitigate its impacts on the livelihood of the one billion population.

The leaders discussed future plans and cooperation for the recovery phase for post COVID-19 as well as the importance of experience sharing on best practices in clinical treatment and effective measures to prevent, detect, control and respond to COVID-19 pandemic.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers welcomed US-ASEAN Health Futures Initiative introduced by the US to enhance partnership with ASEAN focusing on research, health system capacity and development of human capital in health.

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Sweden, UNDP Contribute Toward A Greener Cambodia



KT/April 24

The Swedish government and United Nation Development Programme co-signed a new contribution agreement of \$3.34 million to support Cambodia Climate Change Alliance's Phase 3 initiative from 2020 to 2022.

The agreement is expected to provide crucial support for charting a growth path that is sustainable, resilient and benefits the most vulnerable in society.

The CCCA is a flagship climate change programme in Cambodia, implemented by UNDP and the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) that has sought to respond to climate change challenges in Cambodia since 2009.

Swedish ambassador Bjorn Haggmark said climate change is an existential threat and requires speedy and ambitious measures.

"The CCCA programme allows a wide range of key actors in Cambodia to do more to protect the environment, mitigate the effects of climate change and strengthen implementation of the Paris Agreement," he added.

The new phase aims to focus on deepening climate action in five key sectors: energy, public works and transport, rural development, environment and education. •

Ministry, JICA App for Online Learning

PPP/April 23

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have collaborated to offer free online lessons called "Think! Think!" - an app that has recently launched to help children study online.

The free online lessons were initially available on the ministry's page and the Krou Cambodia community college. The lessons take place three days a week.

The lessons included some 15,000 puzzles and games for children to learn.

The programme had helped more children, especially those who do not have the privilege of having an excellent internet connection at home because the ministry plans to air lessons on Decho TV starting soon.

The programme had provided the opportunity for students in grades 1-6 to enhance their thinking and mathematics capacity. It has also provided benefits to children such as critical thinking skills, logical thinking skills, essential skills, problem-solving skills, and independent learning skills. •

50,000 Hectares In Two Sanctuaries Registered As State Land



KT/April 20

The Environment Ministry has registered more than 50,000 hectares of protected area of the Peam Krasop and Phnom Prich wildlife sanctuaries as state land in a bid to eliminate land disputes in conservation areas.

The Ministry of Land Management issued 18 land titles covering both wildlife sanctuaries in Koh Kong and Mondulkiri provinces respectively.

Ten land titles covered around 4,600 hectares of the Pream Krasop sanctuary in Koh Kong province while eight covered more than 45,000 hectares of Phnom Prich in Mondulkiri province.

The main purpose of the registration was to provide a clear indication of state land status to eliminate cases of land grabbing. These strict legal measures will also contribute to strengthening the effectiveness of managing the protected areas.

There are 57 natural protected areas and three biodiversity conservation areas throughout the country, covering 7.2 million hectares. •

EU Offers Grant for Kingdom's COVID-19 Fight

PPP/April 21

EU Ambassador to Cambodia Carmen Moreno applauded the country's efforts to control the COVID-19 crisis and said the EU is transferring a €56 million (\$66.7 million) grant to help restore the economy.

Her remarks were made during a video conference with Economic and Finance Minister. The talk touched on the needs of the Cambodian government and how the EU could help the country halt the COVID-19 virus and boost the economy, which has been hit by the disease.

The Minister told Moreno that Cambodia has been working to control the COVID-19 situation and will continue its work and be even more active. He said the Kingdom had put together an in-depth strategy for the COVID-19 battlefield.

He added that Cambodia had set up 4 ad-hoc working groups to deal with the impacts of the virus. One group will control the supplies and prices of strategic products, and another group has been formed to set up a mechanism to provide social support during this time.

The third group is tasked with preparing a budget, grants, and a social support model to be used in the fight against COVID-19.

The last group is a concerted technical working group which deals with currency, banking, and solving the economic impacts caused by the virus. They will also work on the impact of the withdrawal of the "Everything But Arms" (EBA) scheme.

Moreno said that in Cambodia, the EU will significantly enhance its support of social protection to the most vulnerable families as well as jobless workers. Parallel investment programmes in both rural and urban areas will be boosted to create jobs and opportunities. •

Solar Bikes Make Presence in Cambodia

KT/April 25

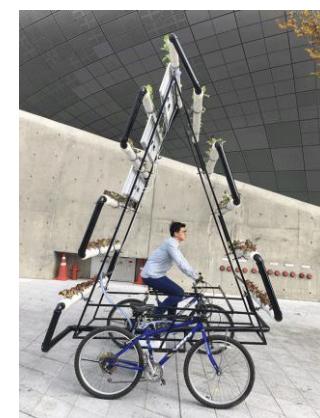
The Korea Energy Agency will invest 10 billion won this year in a project aimed at supplying electric bikes and building solar charging stations in Cambodia.

The agency has been conducting a pilot project in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, a popular tourist town close to the world-famous "Angkor Wat," since October 2019.

The electric bike supply project is designed to export photovoltaic (PV) systems, charging stations and electric bikes in a package.

The agency has set up a 5-kW PV system and a charging station with three electric bikes near the Phnom Penh Government Office, and has three 2.5-kW PV facilities one charging station and three electric bikes near Angkor Wat.

The agency plans to introduce solar electric bikes not only to neighboring countries such as Vietnam and Indonesia but to Asian markets such as China and India, with Cambodia as the main base. According to Global Market Insight, a market research institute, the global electric bike market is expected to grow 5% annually by 2024. •



E-Learning via Radio for Ethnic Students



KT/April 22

The Education Ministry will broadcast live education programmes in multiple languages on radio for indigenous children while schools nationwide are temporarily closed to prevent a coronavirus spread.

The programmes will be broadcast from April to June in the languages of the Tumpoun and Kreung indigenous people in Ratanakiri province and Bunong ethnic people in Mondulkiri province.

Directors of the Department of Education and relevant education officials in the two provinces are advised to disseminate the information to parents, guardians and students and create a suitable atmosphere for study.

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The Kingdom's Top Thriving Businesses amid Coronavirus Crisis

KT/April 27

For many businesses in Cambodia, the coronavirus pandemic has been devastating with the majority of enterprises opting to temporarily suspend operations or limit their services to offset economic costs from the crisis. Nevertheless, as the government races to quell the COVID-19, other businesses have come out unscathed – even rising the ranks and thriving.

1. Delivery service

As the fear of contracting the virus deters people from going out, the rise in demand for delivery service comes as no surprise. Nham24, Foodpanda and Muuve – the top mobile delivery service apps in the nation – said they have seen a spike in product and food orders since the pandemic struck.

2. Pharmacies

With the government issuing health advisories promoting the use of masks and alcohol-based sanitisers as preventative measures against COVID-19, many pharmacies have also gained traction.

Some pharmacies are also seeing a shortage in supply after customers flocked to shops and purchased massive amounts of equipment and medicine.

3. Online content writer

The stay-at-home orders have been keeping writers busy as people spend more time on their phones to keep boredom at bay.

4. Youtuber and social media influencers

While performing artists have been suffering due to cancellation of public events, artists from the digital community do not seem to feel the pandemic's effect owing to the flexibility of their chosen medium.

5. Online seller

Apparently, many businesses are conducted via the online platform since the coronavirus has not disrupted online business as much as a physical store. •

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E-Learning via Radio...

The radio broadcasts are aimed at providing e-Learning opportunities for indigenous children studying in kindergarten and primary school from Grades 1 to 3.

The Ministry has started airing distance learning programmes or e-Learning for Grade 1 to 12 over the National Television of Kampuchea (TVK) and through more than 50 cable TV channels throughout the country.

The education ministry has also developed an App for students at all levels and allowing to download learning programme videos including e-School Cambodia and Wiki School Apps and students can also watch educational videos on YouTube, Facebook and also those produced by e-learning centres. •

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During the video conference, Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn proposed a number of methods to address the COVID-19 pandemic. He said we that need to move to more action-oriented exchanges of technical expertise and knowledge and proactively explore joint research and development in medicine. He stressed on enhancing collaboration from the media outlets to stop the spread of misinformation that could cause public panic, discrimination and accusation. He also praised the efforts and the leading role of the WHO. He added that ASEAN and the US should explore ways to strategically ensure the openness of regional and global supply chains as well as the cross-border flow of vital goods, especially food and medical supplies.

The meeting also touched upon regional issues pertaining to peace and security in the region and beyond. •