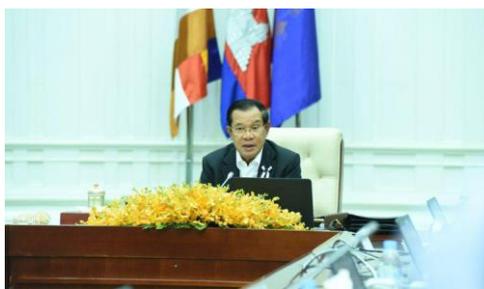




Go-Ahead on Draft Laws to Curb Money Laundering



KT/May 18

The draft laws on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) has been approved at a Council of Ministers meeting chaired by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The laws are designed to guarantee against AML/CFT by identifying measures to prevent it, crack down on it and combat such activities in the Kingdom. After approval by the Cabinet, they will be then sent to the National Assembly for review.

Last year, Cambodia reported that it cracked down on five fraudulent cases, seizing more than \$7 million in dodgy money.

According to a Financial Action Task Force (FATF) – the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog report, since February 2019, when Cambodia made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) to strengthen the effectiveness of its AML/CFT regime and address any related technical deficiencies, the Kingdom has taken steps towards improving its AML/CFT regime, including demonstrating an increase in domestic coordination and cooperation to enhance money laundering investigations. ●

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CMAA and UNDP Put Mine Clearance as Top Priority



KT/May 15

Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority and UNDP have identified landmine clearance as a priority task in line with the government's National Mine Action Sector Plan 2018-2025 in a bid to ensure that Cambodia becomes landmine free.

During a meeting, CMAA vice president Ly Thuch and UNDP officials discussed the progress of Phase 3 of the demining project and plans for its Phase 4.

Landmines remain a problem that hinder Cambodia's development as they pose a danger, as well as a challenge for people to access water resources, productive land and road development. Many victims and families have gone through physical, financial and emotional hardships owing to mine explosions.

As of last year about 2,090 kilometres of areas identified with landmines remain and need to be cleared.

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Government Lifts Travel Ban For People from Six Countries



KT/May 20

The government announced the lifting of the travel ban for people from six countries but they need health certificates issued by their individual country to confirm they are free of coronavirus.

To prevent imported cases from entering Cambodia, the government in March temporarily barred people from six countries from entering the Kingdom, such as the United States, Germany, Italy, France, Spain and Iran.

Both Cambodian and foreigners who enter the Kingdom need health certificates which are issued no longer than 72 hours to confirm that they contract no COVID-19.

Foreigners need health insurance with \$50,000 during their stays in Cambodia. In case one passenger is found positive, the rests who travelled with him will be placed under 14-day quarantine. ●

Cambodia Pushes Hard on Free-Trade Agreements

KT/May 15

Cambodia's government is pushing for free-trade agreement (FTA) talks with potential partners while seeking Russian's support for a Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) free trade agreement in order to expand trade volume and economic cooperation between Cambodia and the bloc.

Cambodia will also ask for a third meeting between Cambodia's working group and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) via videoconference next July.

The EAEU is home to 183 million people and represents a combined GDP of about \$5 trillion. The bloc has five member states: Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

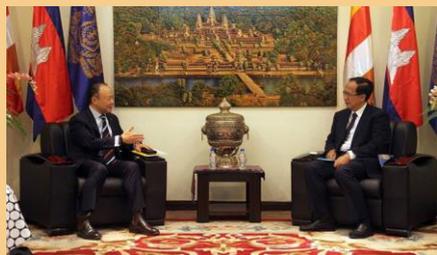
Cambodia is closer to inking trade deals with developed economies despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

A spokesperson at the Ministry of Commerce, said that the negotiations with the EAEU may take longer than agreements country by country.

Cambodia has already exported some goods to the EAEU but Cambodia needs to negotiate for more access to the bloc.

The Ministry of Commerce has established eight different groups to be in charge of the trade negotiations with each potential partner, including working groups in charge of trade talks with China, the Republic of Korea, the UK, the EAUE, the US, Japan, Mongolia and India. ●

Australia Comes To Cambodia's Help



KT/May 12

Australian government is studying the new project to help Cambodia's economy development, trade facilitation and diversification.

In the meeting with Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, Mr. Pablo Kang, an Australian Ambassador to Cambodia said the new project study, focusing on trade facilitation and diversification will be finished by 2021.

The Australian government has helped the Ministry in term of trade facilitation including the pushing the development of online business and preparing the draft of competitive law.

Cambodia and Australia are also partners of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in framework of ASEAN-Australia and New Zealand (AANZ).

Pablo Kang said that Cambodia and Australia are also looking to expend the bilateral trade as well. He said an Australian company is eyeing investment opportunity in the Kingdom's rice production chain to export to Australia market.

Last month, Australian Ambassador Pablo Kang met Cambodian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Veng Sakhon to discuss strengthening agricultural exports and how Australia can assist boosting local food security and rural incomes. ●

Literacy Programme Reaches More Learners As It Moves Online

KT/May 19

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, expanded their provision of basic education and literacy for people with limited literacy, student drop-outs and factory workers by switching to online learning amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Education Ministry said low-literate individuals and drop-outs can still resume their education via two programmes offered online – the Factory Literacy Programme and Beep Programme.

The programmes are different from the primary and kindergarten school curriculums as they are designed to cater to illiterate or low-literate adults.

They comprise instruction on soft skills and basic functional literacy skills, as well as education on the fundamental freedoms and legal rights.

The Factory Literacy Programme is equal to a sixth-grade education while the Beep Programme is equivalent to early secondary education. After finishing the courses, students will receive certification proving their aptitude to study in higher institutions.

The basic education and literacy programmes will begin broadcasting online from June 1 via the Ministry of Education's official website and e-Learning platforms.

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US and Cambodia Hold Talks to Boost Local Aviation Industry



KT/May 19

Cambodia and the United States have discussed ways the two countries can further strengthen and cooperate future plans in the aviation industry.

Minister in charge of State Secretariat of Civil Aviation of Cambodia Mao Havannal and US Ambassador to Cambodia Patrick Murphy discussed Cambodia's aviation development, the ongoing construction of international projects, suggesting Boeing plane operations in the country, and the ratification of the implementation on the Cape Town Convention (CTC), the world's main aviation finance treaty.

Aviation working group – a not-for-profit legal entity – comprised of major aviation manufacturers, leasing companies and financial institutions that contributes to the development of policies, laws and regulations that facilitate advanced international aviation financing and leasing as a central participant in the development of the CTC was part of the talks.

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Interest Sprouting In Fruit, Vegetable Market

PPP/May 17

Cambodia's fruit and vegetable market is trending up, providing an unparalleled opportunity for the Kingdom's growers, who often lack buyers for their produce, said a study by French-based industry report search engine ReportLinker.

In its study *Cambodia Fruits and Vegetables Market – Growth, Trends, and Forecast (2020-2025)* recently released, ReportLinker said the Kingdom's food and beverage market has grown significantly in recent years.

Urbanisation, tourism and economic growth in Cambodia pre-COVID-19 had fuelled growth in the fruit and vegetable market, drawing the attention of regional and international brands.

The key processed food and beverage products made and consumed in this Southeast Asian Nation include fresh cut vegetables, dried vegetables, pickles, sauces, fruit juices and wine.

Owing to the ongoing industrial developments and government support, foreign players are looking forward to establishing fruit processing companies in the country.

Fruit-bearing vegetables, such as tomatoes, were the most widely cultivated vegetables in the country. On the other hand, beans held one of the most prominent shares in vegetable imports in 2019. Some of the major vegetable producing areas in Cambodia include Kandal, Kampong Cham, Siem Reap, and Kampot.

Vietnam, China, Thailand and Japan are the main importers of fresh produce from the Kingdom. •

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Literacy Programme Reaches More...

These two programmes are free of charge. As such, interested learners – especially women and young girls working in factories can resume their studies normally.

According to UNESCO, the programmes were introduced in 25 factories in Cambodia, with most of these factories having literacy programmes at lunchtime for workers. This approach, of responding to the needs of learners, is consistent with mainstreaming gender approaches endorsed by UNESCO. •

Continued from page (2)

CMAA and UNDP Put Mine...

About 45,500 unexploded ordnance and landmines have been unearthed in Cambodia from nearly 90 square km, all of which have been cleared and destroyed.

Vice President Ly Thuch said demining activities are being carried out because of donations from Australia, Switzerland, Canada as well as relevant partners, such as UNDP, which has been working closely on the issue with Cambodia since 15 years ago.

The number of landmine casualties decreased from 4,320 in 1996 to 58 in 2018.

About 11,689 households can safely access 1,247 square km of land deemed safe from mines. A total of 1,803 antipersonnel mines, 17 anti-tank mines and 2,994 items of ERW were found and destroyed during Phase 3 of the Mine Action for Human Development programme. •

Continued from page (3)

US and Cambodia Hold...

Minister Havannal requested the ambassador provide consultants and technical assistants during the CTC's process, while Havannal welcomed the suggestion to have Boeing airplanes operating in the country, especially the Boeing B777, which he said provides "a comfortable and reliable journey".

In response, Ambassador Murphy promised to organise with the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation the technical assistance required for the treaty ratification.

Cambodia has so far signed bilateral and multilateral air services agreements with 44 countries, six of those are with ASEAN members for bilateral air services agreements.

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