



Cambodia Prepares to Host Next Month's ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting



KT/June 05

Cambodia is preparing for the ASEM senior officials' meeting retreat in early July as a prelude to the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit.

Due to travel restrictions in some countries, the retreat will be done through video conferencing and representatives from all 53 participating members and partners will attend the session.

The retreat will decide on various arrangements for the summit including the agenda.

All assigned ASEM Summit coordinators including Singapore representing ASEAN, Croatia facilitating the European Union, and Russia coordinating the South Asia and Northeast Asian Nations, demonstrated their support for Cambodia to host the ASEM Summit 2020.

For the first time, Cambodia was nominated as this year's host during the 12th ASEM Summit in Belgium last year.

As scheduled, the 13th ASEM Summit will take place on November 16 to 17, under the theme "Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth". •

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C-19 Hotline Launched To Educate Factory Workers

KT/June 08

Better Factories Cambodia (BFC) has launched a hotline to provide information to workers in the garment, footwear, travel goods and bag industries regarding measures that help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The hotline, part of the “COVID-19: Worker Safety” programme, uses Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technology – an automated system – which workers can call to learn about COVID-19 preventive measures in their daily work. Examples of the kind of information provided include how workers can protect themselves while travelling to work and what they should do if they suspect they are infected with the virus.

The 24-hour hotline number is 093 644 644.

The contents of the service are derived from guidelines and recommendations from the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health and will be regularly updated in line with the latest official advice.

The COVID-19 Worker Safety hotline is the most recent example of BFC’s response to the pandemic. It has been actively liaising with stakeholders, unions, employer groups and the government, especially the Ministry of Labour to provide virtual or online training and advisory services. These services have focused primarily on awareness, prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 to workers and factories following the guidelines from the ILO, the government and the WHO. •

Masterplan Lays Out Future of Sihanoukville Airport



KT/June 03

Cambodia Airports, the longstanding concessionaire of Cambodia’s network of 3 international airports unveiled a 20-year development and investment program for the international airport in Sihanoukville.

The masterplan puts forward the expansion of the airport infrastructure to accommodate its passengers and cargo traffic growth in the two decades ahead.

Cambodia’s Hotels and International Flights to Reopen



KT/June 08

Hotels and international flights forced to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Cambodia are expected to reopen this month.

So far, around 170 companies in the tourism sector in Cambodia have also been closed temporarily.

To help the sector, the government has launched four measures, extending for another two months a tax exemption from June to July for hotels, guesthouses, restaurants and tour operators.

It also provided an exemption for tourism licence fees for 2021 and said they were not required to pay into the National Social Security Fund during the crisis.

Ministry of Tourism had introduced additional safety measures for hotels, guesthouses, restaurants, resorts and transportation to contain the pandemic spread after signs of tourism activities are rebounding. •

In Phase 1 of the development, between now and the year 2030, Cambodia Airports is planning major overhauls including the runway extension to 3,300 meters from the current 2,500 meters, new taxiway and aircraft stands, and the construction of a new passenger terminal.

The Phase 2, will be up to the year 2040, and it will see the expansion of the terminal in addition to new ancillary facilities, the further enhancement of the runway and apron capacities.

One of the key development projects is scheduled to be completed this second half of 2020 is the extension and renovation of the runway in the last stretch with its soon commissioning, said CEO of Cambodia Airports. •

PM Marks Int'l Children Day with Call for Improvements in Welfare

PPP/May 28

Prime Minister Hun Sen has issued a six-point message on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of International Children's Day on June 1, Cambodian Children's Day, also on June 1 and the 19th anniversary of the World Day Against Child Labour on June 12.

To contribute to the anniversary of the three most important days for children, he called on the relevant ministries to implement measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to children everywhere.

He added that the relevant ministries should make every effort to ensure that all children have equal access to education, sanitation and clean water during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PM also advised the authorities to participate in village safety policies, take measures to protect them from all forms of violence, educate children against sexual abuse and harassment, teach them to stay away from drugs and encourage them to report abuse to adults and the authorities.

He urged the relevant institutions to implement the core measures of international organisations on the elimination of child labour, and raise awareness and train and disseminate information about it. The authorities must strengthen child labour inspection measures and mobilise resources and public support for children.

PM Hun Sen further called on all public and private television stations, radio stations and social media outlets to promote the protection of children from violence and child labour, and have programmes for children to prevent and stop them becoming victims. •

SDC, UN Join Effort to Promote Youth Employability



KT/June 02

The United Nations in Cambodia (UNC), in partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), launched the second phase of the "Decent Employment for Youth in Cambodia" programme.

The programme offers drop out students and vulnerable young people with innovative learning packages; including technical, entrepreneurial, career guidance and soft and hard skills training.

The effort is to ensure that drop-out students and vulnerable young people are able to improve their employability and compete in the labour market while supporting the government and economy in the recovery from COVID-19.

Around 170,900 youths, of which half are female, are set to benefit from competencies development initiatives, basic education equivalency and literacy, entrepreneurship and enterprise development training and support initiatives, employment services and youth rights at work programmes.

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Cambodia Ready to Ratify Membership at Berne Convention



KT/June 01

Cambodia is ready to ratify as a party of the Berne Convention for the protection of literary and artistic works.

The readiness was unveiled in a joint meeting between the National Assembly's Commissions on Education, Youth, Sports, Religious Affairs, Culture and Tourism; and on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Propaganda and Information; and Minister of Culture and Fine Arts.

The meeting discussed some aspects of the draft law for Cambodia to become a party of the Berne Convention.

The Berne Convention is considered among the most long-standing convention that protects intellectual property, and preserves complete rights for author under international framework.

The convention was officially introduced on 9 September 1886 in Berne, Switzerland and by far, 178 countries have become members of the club. •

Kingdom's First 'Smart City' To Be a Magnet for Investments



PPP/June 03

The government has high hopes that Sihanoukville will be the country's first smart city and a magnet for foreign investment once coastal infrastructure development is completed.

Prime Minister Hun Sen said that with the construction of new roads and infrastructure equipped with smart lighting and security camera installations, which has cost \$300 million, Sihanoukville is now the first smart city in Cambodia and better than Phnom Penh.

In urging other cities to opt for installation of smart lights, he said Sihanoukville has benefited from more than 5,000 smart lights, which illuminate the city while dramatically cutting power costs. •

NA Adopts Draft Law on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

KT/June 08

The National Assembly (NA) has approved the draft Law on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.

Consisting of 6 chapters and 44 articles, the law on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters will play a crucial role in creating not only a clear internal procedure but also a judicial basis to strengthen and expand the cooperation towards criminal matters with foreign countries.

This law will also contribute in fighting against crimes especially cross-border crimes, terrorism, terrorism financing and money laundering. •

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SDC, UN Join Effort to Promote...

With a combined contribution of \$4 million from SDC and \$4.8 million from the four UNC agencies (UNICEF, UNESCO, UNIDO and ILO), the government and private sector, this four-year programme will benefit from the involvement of the private sector, including the Cambodian Federation of Employers and Business Associations (CAMFEBA), in the mission to facilitate young people's school-to-work transition and contribute to reducing the skills mismatch in Cambodia. •

Japan Gives \$41M In New Aid



PPP/June 07

Japan has increased its Official Development Assistance (ODA) Grant by approximately 45 million Yen (\$41 million) for three projects – the improvement of referral hospitals in Siem Reap, human resource development scholarship and economic and social development programmes.

Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn said Japan has provided grants and concession credits totalling \$310 million to expand water supply systems, clear mines and for mine-related victims, social-economic development programmes, and improvements to National Road 5.

"While countries around the world, including Japan, are facing extreme difficulty and uncertainty due to the spread of COVID-19, the government of Japan is still committed to supporting the long-term development of Cambodia. The donations will improve the well-being and quality of our human resources to achieve our economic diversification in transforming Cambodia into an upper-medium income country by 2030," he said. •

Gov't Allots \$166 Million for Sub-National Health Services

KT/June 05

The Royal Government of Cambodia has decided to transfer \$166 million to municipal and provincial administrations to manage their respective health service provision.

The government has issued a sub-decree to transfer over 20,000 health officials, and the budget of \$166 million to municipal and provincial administrations.

The Ministry of Health is cooperating with concerned institutions to prepare for the utilisation of the transferred officials and budget.

The move reflects the government's effort in promoting decentralisation and deconcentration principles for the public services. •