



Cambodia to Organise an Event on Women in Peace and Security



KT/June 10

Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn amplified the country's intention to organise an event for Women in Peace and Security on the sidelines of ASEM13.

This is in response to Senator Marise Payne's announcement earlier in promoting cooperation on women affairs.

Both expressed gratitude for mutual assistance extended to their respective nationals during the outbreak of the COVID-19 and discussed how multilateralism can be utilised to garner solidarity and cooperation in the fight against the pandemic.

FM Sokhonn also extended the kingdom's appreciation for Australia's financial and technical assistance in health sector in combatting COVID-19 outbreak and agreed to further enhance cooperation between ASEAN and Australia on the COVID-19 response and recovery mechanisms, pointed out the same source.

Recalling their last meeting in September 2019 in New York, FM Sokhonn reassured his counterpart of Cambodia's Constitutional principle prohibiting the presence of any foreign military base within its sovereign territory.

Continued on page (4)

INSIDE IS

Indian PM Modi Hails Cambodia's Virus Prevention Efforts

Page 2

Cambodia Launches Online Business Registration System

Page 2

Cambodia-China FTA to Be Signed By End This Year

Page 2

TVET Boosts Employability, 200,000 Benefit

Page 3

Foreign Diplomats Bypass COVID Fees

Page 3

Ministry Improves Non-Formal Education for Disadvantaged Children

Page 3

Cambodia, ROK to Sign FTA Soon

Page 4

Indian PM Modi Hails Cambodia's Virus Prevention Efforts



KT/June 11

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the Cambodian government on its “effective control” of the pandemic, calling its response as “a model for the world”.

His remarks were made during a phone conversation with Prime Minister Hun Sen where they discussed several issues, including the COVID-19 pandemic which has ravaged countries worldwide.

After the call, PM Modi took to Twitter to acknowledge its significant ties with the Kingdom. PM Hun Sen took note and likewise commended the efforts of PM Modi and his government in containing the spread of the virus. He also extended his deep condolences for the loss of many Indian lives to the disease.

Sixty Cambodian nationals, including students, who have been stranded in India since the travel restrictions began, are expected to return to the Kingdom via a chartered flight.

Conversely, about 280 Indian citizens will be returning home this month, with some of them having reportedly departed from Phnom Penh via a repatriation flight, while the rest are expected to fly home on June 19.

Issues surrounding bilateral and regional relations were also discussed during the telephone conversation, with both leaders expressing their commitment to further strengthen regional cooperation, including under the ASEAN-India and Mekong-India frameworks. ●

Cambodia Launches Online Business Registration System



KT/June 15

The Royal Government of Cambodia has officially launched the online business registration system aiming to improve the investment environment in the country.

New businesses can be registered on the packet information system at www.registrationservices.gov.kh.

Business and tax certificates as well as all other documents will be provided and received in digital form.

All will be automatically shared with the information systems of relevant ministries and institutions for review and approval.

Through this platform, complex procedures, repetitive information, time and cost incurred under the old process will be minimized.

The government viewed COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to push for more reforms and to promote long term economic growth. ●

Cambodia-China FTA to Be Signed By End This Year

KT/June 10

The third round of negotiations for the free trade agreement between Cambodia and China has completely solved all the remaining issues in the agreement text and approved in principle with regard to market access on goods and services.

The 10 technical working groups of Cambodia-China will seek the approval from respective government leaders to approve on the agreement text and the request for opening market access as well as other chapters in order to close the deal and reach the agreement signing by the end of the year.

The negotiation of the third round of the FTA deal was focusing on market access for goods, service, investment, and economic and technical collaboration and regulation which will be pushing the export of goods from Cambodia and attract more investments from China.

If both country's leaders approve in the agreement text and the market access mechanism, requested by the 10 technical working groups of both nations, the exports from Cambodia is expected to increase by 20% per year, and the increase of the investment will also be rising which are the main source and create the jobs for the people. ●

TVET Boosts Employability, 200,000 Benefit



KT/June 15

Prime Minister Hun Sen announced that 200,000 citizens have had their skills and employability boosted after receiving training through the technical vocational education and training policy since 2017.

National TVET Day was established by the government to promote vocational and technical education and to inform youths, parents, workers and employers in both the private and public sectors the importance of developing a skilled labour force to meet the needs of the labour market both in-country and abroad.

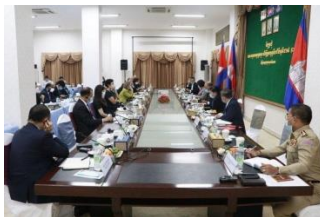
This year's National TVET Day is themed "TVET makes life better".

Due to COVID-19, the government has moved the celebrations online through the production of various TVET Day related digital content to raise public awareness about the significance of TVET.

PM Hun Sen urged the public, especially young people, to engage in vocational training in order to broaden their opportunities, especially regarding employment.

During a meeting with relevant TVET officials and partners, Minister of Labour Ith Samheng, said strengthening TVET is important to help the Kingdom diversify amid the impact of COVID-19. •

Foreign Diplomats Bypass COVID Fees



PPP/June 15

The government has decided to allow foreign diplomatic officials to enter the country without having health insurance covering at least \$50,000 or depositing \$3,000, both requirements for foreign tourists. They will also receive free medical treatment if they test positive for COVID-19.

The decision was made during an inter-ministerial committee meeting on the fight against COVID-19 on May 15.

Led by health minister Mam Bun Heng, the meeting was attended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) country director, ambassadors of 10 countries including the US, Australia and France, and representatives of diplomatic missions from 21 other countries.

Ministry secretary of state York Sambath confirmed that diplomatic officials would not be subject to the requirements imposed upon foreigners entering the country.

The exemption for diplomatic officials came at the same time the ministry issued a notice requiring foreign tourists to deposit \$3,000 when they enter Cambodia to cover the cost of testing, quarantining and travelling.

Continued on page (4)

Ministry Improves Non-Formal Education for Disadvantaged Children



KT/June 10

Local authorities were urged to expend efforts to improve children's access to quality non-formal learning as the Ministry of Education said it has produced videos that particularly target its learners.

Education Minister Hang Chuon Naron said: "To ensure that non-formal learners can continue their education at home – with support from education officers in the commune, local authorities, contract teachers and others – the ministry has produced videos to aid distance and online learning and reach more students outside the formal education setting."

As of 2019, the ministry said classrooms for non-formal primary education stood at 353, catering to 6,760 students across the country. The learning alternative is oriented towards teaching basic literacy and arithmetic skills to children who are unable to attend formal schools.

Continued on page (4)

Cambodia, ROK to Sign FTA Soon



KT/June 13

The Republic of Korea (ROK) said that it has made further progress in fleshing out details for the planned free trade agreement (FTA) with Cambodia as Seoul seeks to broaden economic ties with Southeast Asian nations and diversify its export portfolio.

The ROK planned to hold a public hearing on the envisioned FTA by inviting related experts, which is mandatory under the local law before seeking a commerce treaty.

In November 2019, the two countries launched a joint feasibility study on their potential FTA in line with the ROK's summit with ASEAN.

They completed the study in May and agreed to start domestic procedures to pave the way for official talks.

The ROK's exports to the Kingdom reached \$696 million last year up 5.5% from a year earlier. Its imports from the Southeast Asian country came to \$335 million, up 6.8% year-on-year.

The country mainly shipped textile materials and used freight trucks to Cambodia and imported finished clothing goods. •

Continued from page (3)

Foreign Diplomats Bypass...

Since May 20, Cambodia has required all passengers travelling from abroad to be sent to health check facilities for testing. They then have to quarantine for 14 days as the country attempts to prevent a second wave of the virus.

The government has spent more than \$1 billion on maintaining trade balances in sectors gravely affected by the pandemic and easing the burden of workers and vulnerable people.

It has also been working with other countries to repatriate respective citizens stranded amid the pandemic.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation noted that 115 of the 143 Cambodians stranded in Malaysia had returned along with 89 other passengers. •

Continued from page (1)

Cambodia to Organise an Event...

The Cambodian top diplomat repeated the kingdom's position as already expressed by PM Hun Sen in welcoming all foreign nations to conduct joint military exercises as well as enhance mutually beneficial cooperation with Ream Naval Base.

Both sides also exchanged views on regional issues pertaining to peace, security and stability in the region. •

Continued from page (3)

Ministry Improves Non-Formal...

To improve e-Learning in the non-formal setting, Minister Naron advised non-formal educators in the community to provide training to local authorities and parents about distance learning to facilitate education continuity for the children.

Parents and guardians said the ministry-issued letter will also play an important role in the improvement of non-formal education. As such, they will be taught about the available platforms used for distance learning and the media by which the lessons could be accessed, through computers, tablets and smartphones.

It assured that during the advent of e-Learning caused by the pandemic, provincial education departments will be dealing with requests from the community regarding inadequacies in learning materials and other difficulties. •