

Royal Embassy of Cambodia to Switzerland
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the UN Office at Geneva



Cambodia, A Model of Success in COVID-19 Control, Says Country's Top Diplomat



KT/July 02

Cambodia clearly offers a model of success in terms of controlling the COVID-19 pandemic and the ability to prevent its spread, said Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn at the Policy Dialogue on « Cambodia's Lessons Learnt and Shared Experiences in response to COVID-19 », held at the National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations.

FM Prak Sokhonn attributed this success to the wise leadership of Prime Minister Hun Sen, the mobilisation of the country's resources and assistance from friendly countries and international institutions, in particular guidance from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"We have no COVID-19 related death, no imposed lockdown and just a ban of a limited number of activities," he underlined.

"We have shown to the world that irrespective of the crisis, we never forget our faith in humanity and human rights. As 'a small country with a big heart', Cambodia has provided COVID-19 testing and treatment not only to our own citizens, but also to foreign nationals. We have rescued the Westerdam cruise ship, carrying 2,257 passengers and crews on board, after being turned away by several countries," said the DPM, quoting the Prime Minister's speech:

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Cambodia Marks 12 Years of Preah Vihear Temple as A UNESCO World Heritage Site



KT/July 07

After a long and contentious struggle, the Preah Vihear temple is set to mark its 12th anniversary of its inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

On 7 July, the Government of Cambodia is set to organise a ceremony at the Preah Vihear Temple to mark this auspicious day.

The National Authority for Preah Vihear, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts has been making safeguarding efforts to preserve the value and authenticity as an outstanding historical monument, whilst urging international community to continue their assistance to preserve the value of the Temple.

In order to preserve the site, UNESCO has been assisting the government in organising the International Coordinating Committee for the Conservation and Enhancement of the Temple of Preah Vihear (ICC-Preah Vihear), following the model of management of the Angkor World Heritage Site.

UNESCO Representative to Cambodia expressed UNESCO's commitments for the preservation of rich cultural heritage of Cambodia.

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OHCHR Lauds Cambodia's Engagement in International Human Rights

KT/July 04

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has appreciated Cambodia for timely and proactively submitting the country's human rights report.

The appreciation was conveyed to Keo Remy, the President of Cambodian Human Rights Committee, by Mr. Pradeep Wagle, the representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia.

According to the OHCHR representative, Cambodia has fully fulfilled its responsibility in human rights engagement at the international arena.

The two counterparts also discussed recommendations on the performance of relevant ministries and government institutions in compliance with human rights standard, and the establishment of a human rights institution in Cambodia. ●

Cambodia in the Process of Re-Opening Schools



KT/July 03

The Education Ministry is now in the process of re-opening schools, after more than three months of shutdown as part of the effort to combat COVID-19, although the exact timeline is still unknown.

The process of re-opening schools will be divided into three phases based on health safety standards of the schools.

The first phase will include schools with high safety standards [preventive measures against the virus spread]; the second phase will focus on schools with moderate standards; and the third will be schools with minimum standards.

The Ministry of Education is working with all relevant parties, especially the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, on the re-opening based on health measures and socio-economic factors.

In the near future, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport will announce the timeline of and necessary measures for the first phase to the public, adding that the timelines for the second and third stages depend on the effectiveness of the first stage.

The ministry will carefully analyse the first stage and then go on to the second and third stages, based on plans which the ministry will make with relevant ministries and institutions. ●

Re-Setting the Button: Cambodia and US Commit To Healing Diplomatic Rift



KT/July 03

With “challenges” in the relationship between the two nations over the past years, the US and Cambodia committed to further strengthen cooperation during a celebration to mark the establishment of diplomatic relations.

The US Embassy in Phnom Penh celebrated the 244th anniversary of the United States’ independence and also the establishment of US-Cambodia relations at several locations as part of measures to avoid large gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main event was attended by a number of foreign ambassadors to Cambodia and senior government officials.

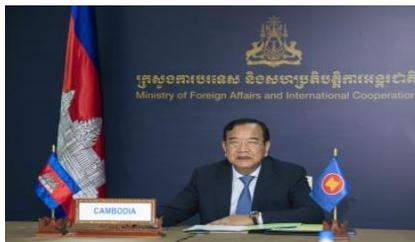
In his speech, US Ambassador Patrick Murphy highlighted the long standing relationship between the two nations, noting that the US established ties with Cambodia in 1950, three years before the Kingdom gained full independence from France.

Ambassador Murphy said the US also gained from Cambodian assistance in accounting for US personnel missing from the Indochina conflict and noted the Kingdom’s contributions to the United Nations and peacekeeping operations.

He noted that he is proud of both countries’ people to people ties, especially among students, businesspersons, tourists and youth exchanges which are the “bedrock” of US-Cambodia relations.

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Cambodia Urges Vigilance over Second Virus Wave



KT/July 01

Foreign Affairs Minister Prak Sokhonn said ASEAN and Australia should “stay vigilant for a second wave of infection” of the coronavirus in the regions as countries around the world are beginning to draft their respective roadmap for easing restrictions.

His statement was made during the Special ASEAN-Australia Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (SAAFMM) on COVID-19 via video conference, where he emphasized the importance of joint efforts to fight the coronavirus in the regions.

The meeting was co-chaired by Malaysia, as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations, and Australia.



The meeting discussed ways to strengthen partnership and cooperation in public health emergencies to combat the COVID-19 pandemic focusing on three areas of shared interests, namely health security, stability, and economic recovery.

The meeting also touched on the future direction of the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership for post-COVID-19 and looked forward to more active engagement between the two regions to coordinate joint responses to put a stop to this global pandemic.

Australia formally became a strategic partner with the ten-nation bloc in 2014. ●

ASEM Supports Kingdom’s Decision to Postpone Meeting amid COVID-19



PPP/July 05

The 13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM13) scheduled to be held in Cambodia in November has been postponed until mid-2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision was made during a two-day meeting by ASEM senior officials via video conference.

During the two-day meeting, ASEM senior officials also expressed the need to promote effective multilateralism and a collective response to the pandemic. They said COVID-19 created daunting challenges to public health systems across the globe and severe fallout to the global economy. ●

BEEP Graduates Encouraged To Pursue Vocational Training



KT/July 06

The Ministry of Education and UNESCO held a graduation ceremony for 10 out-of-school youths who completed the online Basic Education Equivalency Programme (BEEP). The initiative falls under the UN programme, United for Youth Employment in Cambodia, which aims to increase decent employment opportunities for Cambodian youth.

Launched in February 2019, BEEP seeks to provide alternative education to out-of-school youth so they could complete lower secondary education, equivalent to Grade 9, and equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to land decent jobs.

UNESCO representative to Cambodia encouraged the recent graduates to continue their studies under the school's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme to increase their employability.

BEEP is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and comprises 11 e-Learning courses that students can choose and learn from. •

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Re-Setting the Button:...

In response, Commerce Minister Sorasak said Cambodia and the United States of America have enjoyed friendly ties and fruitful cooperation based on mutual respect and shared interests. We see stronger development of Cambodia-United States relations and cooperation which can be reflected through recent fruitful outcomes, ranging from increasing trade, economic, educational and cultural cooperation, mine clearance assistance as well as people-to-people programmes.

He also said Cambodia's allowing of Holland America owned MS Westerdam cruise ship, with more than 600 US citizens on board, docking at Sihanoukville Autonomous Port in February despite COVID-19 fears, "indeed binds the hearts of our two peoples".

He added that early this year Foreign Affairs Minister Prak Sokhonn and Ambassador Murphy also launched an event to officially mark the 70th Anniversary, which laid out twelve different thematic areas of the US contributions to Kingdom's development. •

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Cambodia, A Model of Success...

"How could we talk about respecting human rights if the right to living is not even respected?"

He also spoke highly of the Policy Dialogue, stressing that it is about making Cambodia's voice heard in the international arena. "No country has the monopoly of knowledge nor the truth. The health crisis and the climate crises are the two most striking illustrations of this. That is why, for this first Policy Dialogue, it seemed to us entirely appropriate to share our original experience in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic," he said.

Cambodia's top diplomat also took the opportunity to thank the actors in the fight against COVID-19, both Cambodian and international experts, including Dr. Li Ailan, WHO Representative in Cambodia and Dr. Laurence Baril, Director of Institut Pasteur in Cambodia for having been so active and helpful since the beginning of the crisis. •

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Cambodia Marks 12 Years of...

He also underlined that safeguarding the heritage is inseparable from the role that education plays in protecting and promoting the world heritage, which is an inherent part of UNESCO's mission to educate and promote the values of peace, respect and mutual understanding between people and cultures.

The temple is located in the northern province of Preah Vihear, 400 km north of Phnom Penh and 140 km northwest of Angkor, on the central summit perched on the edge of the precipice under the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Preah Vihear Temple, dedicated to the Hindu God Shiva in the form of Shri Shikarashvara or Lord of the Summit, is an outstanding masterpiece of the Khmer Art, in terms of planning, detail of its decoration and relationship to the spectacular landscape environment. •