



## Cambodia Reaffirms Commitment to Contribute to World Food Security



KT/July 15

The Head of the Royal Government of Cambodia has confirmed the country's commitment to contribute to the world food security.

Prime Minister Hun Sen underlined that Cambodia will continue to export rice to the international markets. The Kingdom has banned the export of milled rice for a short while at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure local food security, but as its rice stock is more than enough, the ban has been lifted.

During the first semester of this year, a total of 397,660 tonnes of milled rice were exported, up about 41% if compared to the same period in the previous year.

Cambodia's milled rice was shipped to 56 countries around the world, including China, 24 countries in the European Union, and 6 countries in ASEAN, and 66 companies engaged in the exports.

The rice exports saw an increase in all destinations compared to 2019; that is, up 45.19% to the EU, 25.20% to China, 47.69% to ASEAN nations, and up 79.26% to other foreign markets. ●

## INSIDE IS

Plan Launched for Aviation Sector Upgrade

[Page 2](#)

Learning Tools for Minority Students

[Page 2](#)

Three Cambodian Cities and Provinces are Members of ASEAN's Smart Cities Network

[Page 2](#)

JBAC Affirms Believes Cambodia Remains A Very Safe Destination for Investments and Tourism

[Page 3](#)

Japan to Assist Cambodia in Developing Vegetable Production Chains

[Page 3](#)

Mission Over: Blue Helmets Homeward-Bound from Mali

[Page 3](#)

New Investment Law Online 'Soon'

[Page 4](#)

Kingdom Produces PPE Gear

[Page 4](#)

## Plan Launched For Aviation Sector Upgrade



PPP/July 20

The State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA) has recently launched a six-point strategic plan to develop the civil aviation sector from 2021-2025. The plan focuses on safety, security, cooperation, services, infrastructure and human resources.

SSCA spokesman said flights entering and leaving Cambodia must improve their safety, operations, order and management.

He underlined navigation and air traffic services will also be improved as the sector looks to develop its infrastructure to be in line with international standards.

The development of airport infrastructure will increase air passengers and improve the sector's ability to respond to consumer needs. The SSCA has already trained its staff in basic, intermediate and advanced skills.

The Industrial Revolution 4.0 strategy to prepare for a post-COVID-19 recovery will also be included in its plans. •

## Learning Tools for Minority Students

KT/July 14

The Education Ministry is slated to distribute e-learning materials worth around \$10,000 to remote and rural areas in the Kingdom in a bid to assist students from minority groups and students with disabilities who struggle to continue their learning amid the pandemic.

The learning tools include televisions, computers, radios, speakers, digital cameras and video-editing materials, all of which will be distributed this week to provinces of northeast Cambodia, which have a high population of minority and disabled students.

Over the past three months, the ministry has been broadcasting learning programmes in multiple languages via radio for students who belong in indigenous groups. The languages are spoken in the tongue of Tumpoun and Kreung indigenous peoples and Bunong people. •

## Three Cambodian Cities and Provinces are Members of ASEAN's Smart Cities Network



KT/July 18

The capital of Phnom Penh and the provinces of Battambang and Siem Reap have been selected as members of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network.

The three capital and provinces have seen progress, but still faced some challenges, and their action plans have been being reviewed.

The vision of Phnom Penh smart city action plan is to enhance environment and improve the quality of life of its people.

For Battambang smart city, the action plan is aimed to boost social responsibility, clean environment by maintaining the province's specialties, while that of Siem Reap smart city is to transform the province into a special tourism destination with cultural harmonisation.

ASEAN Smart Cities Network was founded during the 32<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit in Singapore in 2018. It is a collaborative platform where cities from the ten ASEAN Member States (AMS) work towards the common goal of smart and sustainable urban development. •

## Japan to Assist Cambodia in Developing Vegetable Production Chains



KT/July 16

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Yamato Green Co., Ltd have entered a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Safe Vegetable Development for Domestic Market and Export.

The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries expressed his conviction that under the MoU, the vegetable production chains in Cambodia will be modernised and Cambodia's competitiveness will be enhanced in international markets.

Founder and President of Yamato Green Co., Ltd. pledged to use all his company's potential and resources to improve the vegetable productivity in Cambodia and to ensure supply, quality and safety to meet the market demands and export standards.

The MoU is aimed at strengthening the friendship ties and cooperation between Cambodia and Japan through agricultural development, at reinforcing and expanding cooperation in investment and development of vegetable production from growing, processing and packaging to exporting to domestic and foreign markets, at promoting the quality and safety of vegetables and the sustainability of quantity supplied, and at building capacity of producers. •

## JBAC Affirms Believes Cambodia Remains A Very Safe Destination for Investments and Tourism



KT/July 19

The Japanese Business Association of Cambodia (JBAC) with 270 member companies is looking to increase investment in tourism sector in Cambodia as they believe that Cambodia remains a very safe investment and tourism destination.

The tourism minister briefed his guests on the recent developments of Cambodia's tourism during this COVID-19 crisis and on the growing domestic tourism movements as well as the implementation of safety tourism measures at key business bases such as resorts and tourism communities, land and water tourism transport, homestays, and restaurants and canteens.

He also informed the Japanese delegation of the tourism development policy of the Royal Government of Cambodia focusing on the elaboration of tourism development master plans of Siem Reap, Mondulkiri and Kep provinces, and multi-purpose economic development of Preah Sihanouk province.

In response, head of the JBAC delegation said when the COVID-19 crisis comes to an end, he will encourage JBAC's members to increase investment in Cambodia, especially in tourism.

The minister also requested JBAC to continue supporting the "Cambodia Clean" campaign being promoted by the Ministry of Tourism towards the 2023 SEA Games hosted by Cambodia. •

## Mission Over: Blue Helmets Homeward-Bound from Mali



KT/July 10

Eighty Cambodian peacekeepers are expected to arrive in the Kingdom after completing their mission in Mali, with their replacement having already left the country to continue humanitarian missions amid the pandemic.

The homebound Cambodian peacekeepers will be required to go through health screens and 14-day quarantine upon their arrival.

The new batch of blue helmets underwent a 14-day quarantine before leaving the country as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and will undergo another two-week quarantine upon arrival in Mali to guarantee they are not carrying the coronavirus.

*Continued on page (4)*

## New Investment Law Online ‘Soon’



KT/July 09

The Kingdom’s new investment law is expected to be online soon because the draft law is already 95% complete.

The new law will provide a smart incentive to new industry and for the long term, what Cambodia needs to do is to improve competition and eliminate trade barriers for which we have already completed the preparations.

The new investment law will be more attractive and absorb more investors because Cambodia has already finished a free-trade agreement (FTA) with China while negotiating with South Korea.

Cambodia’s first investment law was established in 1993 and revised in 2003 to adjust the progress of investment.

The government aims at transforming Cambodia to become an upper-middle-income country by 2030. Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed optimism that Cambodia is on track to the transition by 2030 and to achieve high-income status by 2050. He will lead a delegation to Beijing on Aug 12 to witness the FTA signing between Cambodia and China. •

## Kingdom Produces PPE Gear



PPP/July 12

Medical supplies from Cambodia have been donated to member countries of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to assist in the fight against COVID-19.

The supplies were donated as a response to global efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The Health Sector Group of the ADB’s Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC) mobilised \$48.3 million in funding early this year for the Technical Assistance on Regional Support to Address the Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (TA) project.

*Continued from page (3)*

## Mission Over: Blue Helmets...

The continued deployment of Cambodian blue helmets for humanitarian missions, which fall under the umbrella of the United Nations, is in line with a statement made by Prime Minister Hun Sen during the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly in 2018.

The PM said peacekeeping is facing unprecedented challenges due to rebellions waged by non-state actors towards peacekeeping forces. Such acts have led to a significant number of casualties.

The resilience of Cambodian blue helmets was tested this year following the simultaneous detection of the coronavirus in 10 of the peacekeepers deployed in Mali since April.

Over the past decade, Cambodia has attained numerous accomplishments during its overseas missions. Among this is the 17% increase in Cambodian female peacekeepers since deployments began, with the country ranked as 17<sup>th</sup> out of 127 countries that send female forces and second in the Southeast Asian region.

The Kingdom currently has 787 blue helmets, including 76 women, who are on peacekeeping missions under the UN umbrella in Africa and the Middle East, including in Lebanon, Sudan, South Sudan, Mali and the Central African Republic. •

By the end of June, ADB procured and awarded \$15 million worth of contracts with various suppliers of personal protective equipment (PPE), testing kits, diagnostics equipment, lab reagents, and other critical items to fight the disease.

Medtecs Group Cambodia was one of the suppliers selected through the competitive procurement process conducted by PPF and was awarded a contract for \$5 million to produce protective gowns, coveralls and shoe covers to be distributed to frontline health workers in 11 developing member countries.

The company has been operating in Cambodia since 1999 and employs 5,500 people at its Kampong Cham factory. About 82% of the workforce is composed of women. •