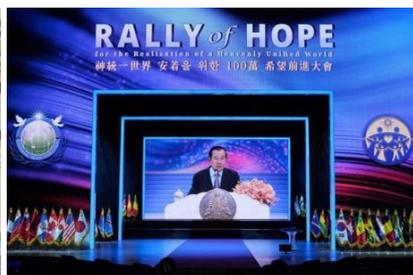




PM Calls for Vaccine Access for Everyone



KT-PPP/Aug 09

Prime Minister Hun Sen called for an adoption of the vaccine as a “global public goods” so that people can access them amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

He spoke at a video conference during the Virtual Summit on “Rally of Hope” at South Korea by the Universal Peace Federation under the theme: “Rebuilding and Renewing Our Nations in the Post-COVID-19 World: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values”.

The PM said so far the fight against COVID-19 in all countries has largely concentrated on their own domestic measures.

“While the world is awaiting for a breakthrough in vaccine development, Cambodia calls for an adoption of the vaccine as a global public goods which people anywhere and everywhere can access,” he said.

He said with the fight against COVID-19 as well as the socio-economic recovery after the pandemic, everyone must work together.

In addition, the PM called for international cooperation in the fight against the pandemic. He said only if nations worked together will the world defeat the crisis and thrive in its aftermath.

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Cambodia Hoists Flag to Mark 53rd Anniversary of ASEAN



KT/Aug 08

Cambodia on August 7 hoisted the ASEAN flag at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in order to celebrate the 53rd founding anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Prak Sokhonn said since its inception 53 years ago, ASEAN has grown from strength to strength, expanding both in size and scope.

Driven by the desire to safeguard and advance the peaceful development for the region, ASEAN has been able to prevent the escalation of frictions and conflicts into wars through peaceful means and diplomacy, he said.

As populism, protectionism, and nationalism are on the rise, he said ASEAN should not be shy in upholding and advancing ASEAN centrality by playing a constructive neutral role in this evolving regional architecture.

Speaking of ASEAN's joint effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, the minister said ASEAN has taken concrete measures to coordinate regional emergency responses to the pandemic in order to save lives and livelihoods of people.

Its decades-old multi-sectoral and multi-layered mechanisms have enabled ASEAN to manage and coordinate effectively regional policy responses, he said, adding that the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund and the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases, as well as a comprehensive economic recovery plan are such great examples.

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Business Owners Embrace New Online Registration System



KT/Aug 03

The number of companies registered via the government's new online business registration system was confirmed at 287 as of July 29, while approval of 323 companies is pending.

The average number of working days taken to register a company was confirmed at eight.

The number of businesses registering via the online system shows the economy is still operating during COVID-19.

In theory the online processing was touted to take approximately seven business days, in reality it is presently taking 15 business days, still a vast improvement from three to six months.

There is still a degree of interaction required with the ministries at the moment to optimise the benefits of the system, and the ministry staff are going through some teething pains in dealing with the new process.

However, in general, the improvements are a breakthrough and we have leap-frogged from a time-consuming, repetitive, costly and frustrating process to one of the most advanced.

The online business registration official launched on June 15, presided over by Minister of Economy and Finance. Registering a business on an information technology platform will make the process less time-consuming, costly and complex than the analogue system.

The new business registration system allows investors to register their business at the Ministry of Commerce, tax registration at the General Department of Taxation, and enterprise declaration at the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training at the same time. ●

Leading Women in Tech Recognized



KT/Aug 10

Five women were hailed at this year's Cambodia Women in Tech Award for their contributions to the country's entrepreneurship and technology industry. The award-giving body, which falls under the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, seeks to encourage women to play an active and prominent role in the digital and technology sectors.

The first one went to the Director of Ocean Technology Co Ltd, a young and successful entrepreneur, who previously won awards both in the local and international stage. She is also an economic advisor to the Ministry of Women's Affairs and holds workshops which shape young women into becoming leaders in the industry.

The second entrepreneur is the chief product officer of Soramitsu Khmer Co Ltd and the first Cambodian woman to receive a PhD in Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence, which she attained in 2013 from France's University of La Rochelle.

Besides being the director of 606 Co Ltd and a professional computer programmer, the third recipient is also an active contributor to tech education. At present, she works with a group of young people in managing a local online campaign called "Digital Noodle" to raise public awareness on emerging digital trends.

Fourth is Plerng Kob company co-founder, a well-known producer and director of local series and documentaries.

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Swiss Agency to Strengthen Tourism Sector with TVET



PPP/Aug 06

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through Swisscontact Cambodia will conduct training courses in tourism skills for youths, students and employees in the tourism and reception sectors.

The courses will take place in five northeastern provinces at a projected cost of more than \$9 million.

The Ministry of Tourism and Swisscontact Cambodia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in five target provinces.

Apart from students and employees in the tourism sector, the project is aimed at strengthening the skills of ministry staffers at the national and sub-national levels.

Around 12,000 disadvantaged women and men, low-skilled workers and more than 900 trainers, staff and managers will benefit from the program.

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E-Market Platform to Feature Women's Products



PPP/Aug 06

Motivated to introduce local products to the international market, two Cambodian women entrepreneurs launched the WeMall e-commerce platform in their mission to integrate the Kingdom into the regional and global supply chain.

Central to the platform's objectives is linking products made by Cambodian women to the world.

WeMall currently has a catalogue of more than 600 local items, ranging from bamboo handicrafts, metal sculptures, jewellery, silk weaving, shoes and bags.

The quality of Cambodian products is comparable to that of imported ones and that the platform provides access to items that would be difficult to find elsewhere.

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Cambodia Hoists Flag to Mark...

On the economic front, ASEAN is one step closer to the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement later this year. •



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E-Market Platform to Feature...

At the same time, Cambodians in recent years have been turning to the internet in record numbers, and more so during the COVID-19 era.

Australian ambassador to Cambodia Pablo Kang, who participated in the launch ceremony, voiced his support for the entrepreneurial ladies and their endeavours.

The e-marketplace platform can be accessed at wemall.shop.

The entrepreneurs added that WeMall will focus solely on non-food products in its first phase. With the support of all stakeholders, producers will be provided the opportunity to capture a large market share.

The government passed its e-commerce law in November to contribute to the rapid development of the sector in the Kingdom, including online shopping. •

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Leading Women in Tech Recognised

Last awardee is the Solar Pi project creator, who teaches rural and remote students about coding and 3D design.

Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Chea Vandeth said the awards are given annually to support and further encourage successful women to keep pursuing their careers in the field of technology. •

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PM Calls for Vaccine Access...

The spread of COVID-19 had posed unprecedented challenges to public health and security as well as had disrupted gatherings and stymied global supply chains, all of which had seriously impacted livelihoods and exacerbated a global economic downturn.

At the above-said summit, he furthermore underlined that a joint response and universal solidarity were needed.

The PM expressed a desire to avoid racism and playing of the blame game, which he believes will only lead to disunity at a time when the world needs to band together to fight the pandemic.

He said countries have to ensure their cooperation remains open and supportive of the multilateral trading system, especially in accelerating their social and economic connectivity to advance development agendas of each country and achieve a global agenda of sustainable and inclusive development.

The premier also expounded on Cambodia's successful efforts at containing COVID-19, which is centred on preventing imported cases and community transmission, and treating the infected.

Cambodia had experienced no community transmission and none had died in the country from COVID-19 as yet. •

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Swiss Agency to Strengthen...

It is estimated that 1,740 low-skilled workers will also benefit from the training programme and 170 hospitality business owners/managers, provincial tourism trainers, and industry trainers will be included in the capacity building activities.

The ministry also trained 389 employees working in the tourism sector, 480 tourism community members, and 91 trainers. •