



**CAMBODIA
CONNECT**

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PM Calls on UN and ASEAN to Cooperate in Counter-Terrorism and Environment



During the 10th ASEAN-UN Summit in Bangkok on 03 November 2019, Prime Minister Hun Sen called on the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to cooperate against extremism and terrorism in the region through exchanging experience and necessary information.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres underlined that he would support the fight against terrorism and extremism in Southeast Asia, and the United Nations would continue to provide technical support for ASEAN's comprehensive strategies for counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism, including by involving women, youth and civil society.

Prime Minister Hun Sen also encouraged full implementation of the 2017-2020 Environmental Action Plan.

"Cambodia and all ASEAN members will work closely and effectively with the UN and UN agencies to push for the implementation of the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change", prime minister said.

The 2017-2020 action plan is part of the Paris Climate Agreement, which aims to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases among signatory countries.

Mr Guterres said the UN stands ready to support ASEAN to urgently accelerate progress across all the sustainable development goals, including actions on climate change, decent work and peace and justice. ●

INSIDE IS

Canada's GSP: No Human Rights Attached [Page 2](#)

LANGO Amendments Discussed [Page 2](#)

Kingdom Seeking Private Partner for New Waste to Energy Plant [Page 2](#)

Cambodia among Four in ASEAN Receiving FDI at Record Level [Page 3](#)

ADB, Cambodia Sign Deals to Improve Water Supply [Page 3](#)

Cambodia's First Wind Energy Project on the Table [Page 3](#)

Cambodia to Strengthen Intellectual Property Culture with New EPO Pact [Page 4](#)

Nation Set to Ink Agreement with Russia-Led Economic Bloc [Page 4](#)

US Bike Giant Would Stay in Kingdom Even If Trade Preferences Revoked [Page 4](#)

Canada's GSP: No Human Rights Attached



The outgoing Ambassador of Canada to Cambodia Donica Pottie said Canada's generalized system of preferences program (GSP) is provided to developing countries with no attachment of conditions related to human rights.

Ms Pottie made the statement on 31 October during a meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister Prak Sokhonn at the Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok.

Ms Pottie added that Canada has established funds for female forces in the UN peacekeeping operations, and through this foundation, she hopes that Cambodia will receive additional funding for sending off female blue helmets.

Cambodia has sent Cambodian women blue helmets in peacekeeping operations, totalling more than 300, or about 5% of Cambodia's blue helmets. •

204 Cambodian Peacekeepers Depart for UN Mission in Central African Republic



Another 204 Cambodian blue helmet troops, 10 of whom are female, from Multi-Skill Engineering Unit 495 have departed for the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Central African Republic.

The Cambodian blue helmet troops will replace the team of engineering unit 594 who have recently come back from their mission.

The team was instructed to foster solidarity, mutual respect and close cooperation with their peers and people of Central African Republic.

Since 2006, Cambodia has sent over 6,000 troops – some 300 of whom are women – for the UN peacekeeping operations in Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, Cyprus, Lebanon, Mali and Syria. •

LANGO Amendments Discussed



During a meeting on the revision of the Law on Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO) on 04 November 2019, the Interior Ministry addressed concerns raised by civil society groups.

The law, passed in 2015, requires NGOs to register with the Interior Ministry to be lawful and report their activities and finances or face fines, criminal prosecution and closure. The civil society groups have not been happy with it.

The Interior Ministry's Secretary of State Bun Honn, who led the meeting, said we will consider NGOs' suggestions. We also need time to train local authoritative and communities on this law. A team will identify specific goals to facilitate discussions and accelerate any proposed amendments.

continued on page (3)

Kingdom Seeking Private Partners for New Waste to Energy Plant

The Cambodian government is seeking private partners to invest in a waste to energy plant to be developed in Phnom Penh.

The city generates more than 3,000 tonnes of rubbish daily and is currently faced with a waste management crisis.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy is currently preparing the relevant procedures for companies that want to participate in the auction for waste disposal rights in Phnom Penh.

The government has recently revoked the business licence of Cintri (Cambodia) Ltd, Phnom Penh's only waste disposal contractor, and will temporarily take over its services before putting waste disposal rights for auction. •

ADB, Cambodia Sign Deals to Improve Water Supply

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Cambodia's Ministry of Economy and Finance signed two agreements worth US\$89 million that will boost rural areas to access to water supply and sanitation services and improve the country's financial sector development efforts.

The two documents are "Third Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Services Sector Development Program" and "Inclusive Financial Sector Development Program".

More than 400,000 people will benefit from the Third Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Services Sector Development Program, approved by ADB in September 2019, through the construction and rehabilitation of 2,500 water supply and sanitation facilities, as well as the implementation of awareness campaigns in at least 400 villages across 10 Cambodian provinces. •

Cambodia's First Wind Energy Project on the Table



Singapore-based The Blue Circle, who has recently completed feasibility studies on projects in Kampot and Monduliri, is scheduled to meet with government representatives on Nov 19 to discuss the tariff at which it will supply power to the national grid.

The company, which has operations in multiple countries in Southeast Asia, plans to build at least 10 turbines in Kampot's Bokor Mountain. The project will be able to produce 80 megawatts. •

Cambodia among Four in ASEAN Receiving FDI at Record Level

Cambodia is one of four ASEAN nations where the influx of foreign direct investment reached record levels in 2018, according to a study by the ASEAN Secretariat and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The ASEAN Investment Report 2019, released on November 3, finds that FDI to ASEAN rose by 5 percent to a record US\$155 billion last year, making 2018 the third consecutive year of rising investment in the region.

FDI flows increased in six member states, and in four of these – Cambodia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Vietnam – it did so at a record rate.

"Cambodia's FDI flows at an all-time high, with growth concentrated in manufacturing and services," the report says, noting that FDI in the Kingdom increased by 15 percent to US\$3 billion in 2018, the highest level ever recorded.

FDI growth was dominated by manufacturing and services, particularly finance and insurance.

Services accounted for 79 percent of all FDI in the country, while manufacturing represented 12 percent. •

Ministry Launches 'Visit Cambodia' App

The Ministry of Tourism has launched a new website and smartphone app called "Visit Cambodia" to attract more tourists to the Kingdom.

"Visit Cambodia" is an app that helps tourists find online destinations, hotel and restaurant booking in the Kingdom.

In the first nine months of this year, Cambodia received a total of 4.8 million tourists, an increase of 10 per cent over the same period last year. •

LANGO Amendments Discussed *continued from page (2)*

Honn said the consultative meeting centred around 17 LANGO articles. The NGOs don't even fully understand the essence of the articles that they want to be revised. They haven't reached a consensus among themselves on how they want them amended.

The NGOs will hold internal discussions to reach a consensus before another meeting with the ministry.

According to a report released by the Ministry of Interior's General Department of Administration, there are a total of 5,523 registered associations and NGOs as of the end of last year. •

Nation Set to Ink Agreement with Russia-Led Economic Bloc

A potential free-trade agreement (FTA) was disclosed during a discussion between Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and his counterpart Dmitry Medvedev, the Russian Prime Minister on the sidelines of the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Bangkok on November 3.

EAEU is an international organization for regional economic cooperation composed of five member states: Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. Together, these countries are home to 183 million people and represent a combined gross domestic product of about US\$5 trillion.

Cambodia Chamber of Commerce Vice-President Lim Heng said EAEU will offer great opportunities in terms of trade expansion for Cambodian products.

He said about 4,000 to 5,000 types of Cambodian goods will be allowed duty-free in the EAEU if the FTA is signed. Most would be agricultural and textile products. •



Cambodia to Strengthen Intellectual Property Culture with New EPO Pact



Cambodia and the European Patent Office (EPO) have recently bolstered ties with the signing of a new cooperation agreement to increase awareness of patents and intellectual property in the Kingdom.

The agreement, signed between the Cambodian Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts and EPO at its headquarters in Munich, Germany, seeks to strengthen the Kingdom's capacity to administer patents, as well as promote an intellectual property and patent culture.

Under the agreement, EPO experts will train ministry staff. Particular attention will be given to increasing understanding of the usefulness of patent information among academic institutions and businesses.

EPO President Antonio Campinos praised the Kingdom's fast economic growth and its development of a solid global patenting strategy. "For European companies, it provides further business and investment opportunities by extending the geographic coverage of their European patents to Cambodia," he said.

Cambodia was the first Asian country to recognize European patents on its territory. •

US Bike Giant Would Stay in Kingdom Even If Trade Preferences Revoked

Kent International, a large US-based bicycle manufacturer, has reiterated its commitment to the Kingdom, saying it would continue to produce from Cambodia even if it were to lose preferential access to the US.

Arnold Kamler, CEO of Kent International, said the company's bikes are eligible for duty-free treatment in the US because 35 percent of components are local and because the frames are manufactured in the Kingdom.

The company's factory, located about 10 miles from downtown Phnom Penh, is expected to begin operations next year. The company produces about 3 million bicycles a year. Once its factory in the Kingdom is operational, about 30 percent of Kent International's annual production will come from Cambodia.

Mr Kamler said his company will not be moving production outside Cambodia even if Cambodia's trade status with the EU changes, explaining that the European market is not a priority for them.

Last year, Cambodia exported 1.5 million bicycles to the EU, worth a combined US\$331 million, according to a World Bank report released in May 2019. In 2017, the Kingdom became the largest bicycle supplier to the EU market, overtaking Taiwan. •