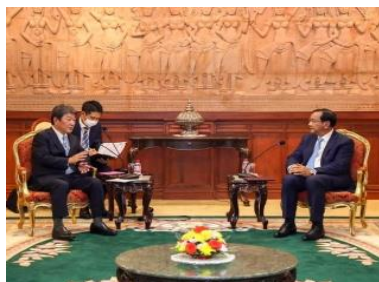
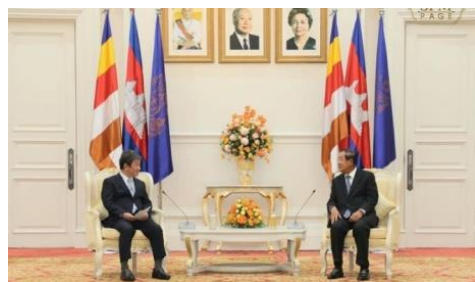




Outcomes of Japanese Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu's Visit



MFAIC-PR/Aug 22

Motegi Toshimitsu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan paid an official visit to Cambodia on 21-22 August 2020 with a view to strengthening and expanding bilateral ties and cooperation between Cambodia and Japan.

Motegi Toshimitsu congratulated the Royal Government of Cambodia, under the leadership of Premier Hun Sen, for achieving remarkable socio-economic progress and successfully preventing the spread of COVID-19 in Cambodia.

He said that the Japanese government has prepared more funds to continue supporting the Kingdom in its fight against the pandemic.

The Cambodia side expressed deep appreciation to the Government of Japan for its significant contribution to peace and development in Cambodia and its recent assistance to fight against the epidemic in the kingdom.

Both sides expressed great satisfaction with the progress of Cambodia-Japan relation and cooperation as strategic partners, which both sides agreed to jointly promote further. In order to reinvigorate cooperation and economic activities between Cambodia and Japan following disruption by COVID-19, both sides agreed to re-open in stages and gradually Cambodia-Japan cross-border travel for work and business, while ensuring strict compliance with epidemic prevention measures.

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PM Asks LMC Countries to Jointly Prevent COVID-19 Devastation



Khmer Times/Aug 25

Prime Minister Hun Sen asked China and Mekong countries to work together to combat the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the virus does not devastate public health in the region.

Speaking at the 3rd Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting via a video conference, the PM said the coronavirus crisis is the hottest topic in the region this year.

"We need to show our solidarity and mutual trust in combating this common enemy to make sure that it does not devastate people's health and the economy in respective nations, especially the prosperity of our region," he said.

He also called for promoting deeper regional integration and an effective multilateral approach which are two key priorities of common action.

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Around 56,000 More Poor Families to Get Special Aid



Khmer Times/Aug 24

About 56,000 more poor families are expected to get the government's special aid in the first round of the second phase compared with the previous round.

Ministry of Planning said the provision of cash supporting poor and vulnerable families during the COVID-19 crisis, Phase 2, first round, will benefit a total of 669,000 poor families or 2,609,000 people.

The government has decided to pay \$25 million per month to more than 560,000 poor and vulnerable families who are affected by the pandemic.

Prime Minister Hun Sen said the programme will stop if and when the COVID-19 situation eases, adding that the government has reserved \$125 million for the special aid. •

Kingdom's Youth Embracing Nutrition Knowledge, Health



The Phnom Penh Post/Aug 24

More than 90% of Cambodian adolescents between the ages of 15 and 19 have changed their eating habits and become more knowledgeable about nutrition, according to Save the Children.

The NGO reports young people have changed their eating habits from high-fat or sweetened beverages to more balanced diets.

Its three-year project has made some impressive achievements and significantly increased nutrition knowledge.

More than 90% of the young people could name at least five of the 10 nutritious food types compared with 22% when the project started.

Save the Children country director said: "We have seen significant changes in behaviour, such as eating breakfast, moving away from junk and sugary foods and drinks, and eating more balanced meals that include fruits and vegetables,"

"Adolescent nutrition should be integrated into school curriculums and government nutrition strategies and policies, including the action plan and guidelines to implement National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (NSFSN)," she said. •

PM Credited for Prevention of COVID-19

Khmer Times/Aug 28

The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has credited Prime Minister Hun Sen for taking effective measures to stem the spread of COVID-19, with the restart of domestic tourism.

The Khmer New Year holiday is traditionally celebrated in April, but was put off till August in an effort to contain COVID-19 pandemic.

The UNWTO said that Cambodia restarted its local tourism well by following health measures in place.

“We are very delighted to see that Cambodia has gradually restarted its domestic tourism in a controlled manner and has put in place all the necessary safety and hygiene protocols as well as the requisite guidelines at tourism sites. We are very grateful to Cambodia for being a part of this effort which duly reflects its active involvement in UNWTO’s activities during these difficult times,” UNWTO said.

“Once again, UNWTO is highly appreciative of Your Excellency’s able leadership that always puts people’s safety and well-being first.”

The PM thanked the Secretary General of UNWTO for supporting his government’s decision on granting the substitute Khmer New Year holiday. “By strictly following the safety and health guidelines recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) during this holiday period, we didn’t see any new infected cases in the country, but saw some 1.5 million local and foreign tourists travel to various tourism destinations throughout the country,” he said in the letter. •

Cambodia, Germany to Implement New Programme to Boost Economic Modernization



Khmer Times/Aug 31

Cambodia and Germany are planning to implement a new phase of basic economic development programme to boost economic modernisation in Cambodia.

To be kick-started in late 2021, the new programme will focus on inclusive economic development which is a change from family economy to economic diversification and modernisation.

The existing Regional Economic Development Programme, phase IV (RED IV) is a technical cooperation programme under the framework of financing cooperation between Germany through GIZ and Switzerland through Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in collaboration with CDC and sub-national administrations.

RED IV has been implemented since April 2018 in Cambodia’s four provinces: Banteay Meanchey, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear and Siem Reap, and costs about 8.41 million Euros including the 10% from the Royal Government of Cambodia. •

Cambodia Ready to Send Additional Troops to UN Peacekeeping Mission in South Sudan and Mali



Khmer Times/Aug 27

A batch of 73 officers of military police will be dispatched soon to South Soudan to replace their counterparts.

Although the world as well as Cambodia is facing the COVID-19 pandemic, Cambodia does not hesitate to send its forces to join peacekeeping missions under the UN umbrella.

Cambodia has already prepared everything; the deployment would be next month. The Cambodian blue helmet troops have to comply with the health guidelines and instructions of the UN in order to prevent the COVID-19 transmission.

Cambodia is not the only country that has sent its troops to replace their counterparts at the end of their missions during this pandemic crisis.

The Royal Government has also arranged some places for the Cambodian peacekeepers who will return home for 14-day quarantine. This year, about 463 blue helmet troops will come home from their respective missions from September onward. •

Tourist Number Reach Over 1.4 Million during Holiday



Khmer Times/Aug 22

Cambodia recorded more than 1.4 million tourists within the five days of Khmer New Year Holiday.

The preliminary reports from all tourism provincial departments revealed that the number of tourists who visited tourist destinations across the country on 17-21 August 2020 was about 1,459,386. Of which, 1,445,238 were local tourists and 14,148 foreigners.

Most tourists were groups of families who likely visited from one province to another during the holiday.

Many tourist destinations had been creating various events and activities to attract tourists during the holidays. On top of it, the hygiene methods against the global disease COVID-19, have also been placed to curb the second wave of virus spread in the Kingdom.

Food and accommodation prices have not changed significantly, making it convenient for all tourists. Most of the accommodations were full in the holiday period, except some high class hotels for international tourists which remain closed. Those hotels are mostly located in Siem Reap province. •

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PM Asks LMC Countries to Jointly...

“Furthermore, Cambodia highly appreciates China for its efforts in producing vaccines and its commitment to ensure its accessibility and affordability for developing countries,” he added.

On the future development of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, he expressed his appreciation and support for Chinese Premier Li Keqiang’s proposals in four priority areas, namely connectivity through building the Mekong-Lancang Economic Development Belt and promoting synergy with the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor; water resources cooperation; sustainable development in agriculture and environment and public health by establishing a Mekong-Lancang Public Health Community. •

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Outcomes of Japanese Foreign...

These includes the “Residence Track”, which will enable long term residents to travel between the two countries while maintaining the requirement of the 14 days quarantine at home or another designated area after their entry.

In addition, both sides concurred on accelerating coordination through diplomatic channels towards the early commencement of the “Business Track,” which will enable business travelers to conduct business activities in limited areas during the 14-days quarantine period.

The Cambodian side also thanked Government of Japan for its continued assistance to support Kingdom’s economic and social infrastructure building and human resources development. Both sides shared common desire to strengthen and expand cooperation in all areas, especially in the fields of economy, trade, investment, tourism health, education, and culture.

Both sides also exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of common interest, including South China Sea, effort for early conclusion Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsular, the concept of ASEAN outlook on Indo-Pacific and Free and Open Indo-Pacific initiated by Japan. •