



Cambodia Reaffirms Commitment to Continue Maintaining Political and Macroeconomic Stability



KhmerTimes/20 Sep

Prime Minister Hun Sen has reiterated Cambodia Government's strong determination to continue maintaining political and macroeconomic stability regardless of COVID-19 crisis.

"Despite any circumstances, the Royal Government reaffirmed its commitment to uphold its mastership of two priorities – continue maintaining political stability, the key foundation for situation management, and keeping macroeconomic stability, preventing inflation and augmentation of commodity prices on market [...]," said the premier in his message to the masses on the occasion of the International Day of Peace.

COVID-19 crisis has been hitting economically and socially almost all countries, including Cambodia, the spread of COVID-19 and the economic crisis have posed great threat to the development attained by Cambodia in the past 30 years of its history.

According to economists and major international institutions, Cambodia's economic growth would drop by 1.9% this year.

In addition to the COVID-19 crisis, the competitions between superpowers have made the global situation more complex and tense; some superpowers have adopted the policy of unilateralism and protectionism putting unprecedented pressure on the international order based on law and multilateralism which had maintained the world's peace and prosperity for nearly 75 years.

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Ministry, Firm Set to Develop E-Learning Studios for Students



PhnomPenhPost/10 Sep

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport announced that it will cooperate with Panasonic Asia Pacific to start developing e-learning studios for online classes. The ministry further requested solar panels to help provide electricity to schools.

Panasonic has agreed to donate air conditioners to all current and new online studios to create a comfortable environment for the critically important work of educating children in the Kingdom.

Ministry of Education has requested Panasonic to put solar panels in rural schools as they attempt to create online class studios.

In the past, the company has helped to enhance the education sector in Cambodia by providing scholarships to students in high school. It also gave solar panels to schools in the countryside. ●

Mine Clearing Ratchets Up in Kingdom



PhnomPenhPost/10 Sep

The Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) has recently released a report, which said it had cleared mines on 246.5sq km of land from 2006 to July 2020.

On the cleared land, 69,815 anti-personnel mines, 1,496 anti-tank mines and 212,555 explosive remnants of war were found and destroyed. The removal of the mines has benefitted 1.03 million residents.

Banteay Meanchey province is one of the worst-affected for mines. In Banteay Meanchey alone, 223sq km of land was cleared of them while the remaining 147sq km in the province is still under threat.

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Tourist Numbers Reach Over 1 Million during the Pchum Ben Festival



KhmerTimes/20 Sep

Cambodia recorded more than 1 million tourists over the three-day holiday period of Pchum Ben, according to a report supplied by the Ministry of Tourism.

Tourism Minister Thong Khon told local media that the number of tourists visiting tourist destinations across the country rose to 1,112,403 million and of these, there were about 1,105,611 national guests and approximately 6,792 international guests.



The report also stated that Battambang province witnessed the highest number of tourist arrivals with about 134,440 people, followed by Siem Reap and Kampot provinces.

Despite the heavy rainfall in some provinces, most tourist destinations drew large crowds, and it was noted that food and accommodation prices also did not change significantly, making it an agreeable experience for all tourists. ●

Cambodia, UK Vow to Boost Trade Cooperation



KhmerTimes/17 Sep

Cambodia and the United Kingdom has pledged to boost the bilateral trade cooperation and urged the developed country to continue to support trade activities of the least developed countries by offering specialized treatment in trade system.

Ministry of Commerce said that Cambodia supports the multilateral system in international trade, the WTO reforms aimed at ensuring transparency and equality among its members. He also urged the UK to continue to support Cambodia's trade activities.

Deputy Chief of Mission of the British Embassy in Cambodia has expressed optimism about the cooperation between the two countries, especially in the field of trade to promote economic growth, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bilateral trade between Cambodia and the United Kingdom reached about \$1.05 billion in 2019, of which Cambodia exported to the UK more than \$978 million, mostly bicycles and garment and footwear.

Both sides also discussed the UK trade policy following its departure from the European Union (Brexit) and the progress of selection of a new Director-General of the World Trade Organization who is also a candidate from the UK. •

SDP Launches Tourism Sector Skills Development Project in Rural Provinces



KhmerTimes/14 Sep

The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) has announced the launch of the second phase of the Skills Development Programme (SDP) – funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) – between 2020-2024 in five provinces of Cambodia.

The programme will focus on providing vocational training for young, low-skilled professionals across the five provinces aimed at boosting incomes and developing human resources in the tourism sector.

The phase 2 of the SDP will target tourism sector vocational education and training, especially in hospitality.

The northeast provinces have been experiencing a boom in tourism lately and this training should help capitalise on this surge.

This project is set to benefit some 11,640 vulnerable young people and low-skilled staff, as well as 910 trainers, staff, managers of training institutions and private companies who will receive training and capacity building.

According to the SDC, the training courses will cover technical skills, training didactics and methodology and hospitality management, where hospitality-related business owners, managers and supervisors will have the opportunity to learn about human resources and financial management, application of the labour law and other helpful information. •

Next Year's Minimum Wage Set at \$190



KhmerTimes/11 Sep

The National Council on Minimum Wage has set the 2021 minimum wage at \$190 per month for workers in the textile, garment, and footwear industries.

Ministry of Labour said the National Committee for Minimum Wage has raised the minimum wage and Prime Minister Hun Sen is adding \$2 more to make it \$192.

This year the minimum wage was set at \$187 the PM added \$3 to make it \$190.

Besides the monthly minimum wage, workers will still receive other fringe benefits including an extra \$10 per month for regular attendance and an extra \$7 per month for transportation and rent as well as seniority payments for workers in their position for over two years. Therefore, each worker will be paid \$209 to \$220 per month.

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Cambodia Has Been Selected as World's Best Hospitality Country



KhmerTimes/16 Sep

The Ministry of Tourism says that Cambodia has been selected as the world's most hospitable country for welcoming foreign tourists and other foreigners in 2020, according to My International Movers website.

My International Movers selected 10 countries as the best countries to welcome tourists and foreigners and Cambodia was selected as top of the list.

My International Movers reported that if foreigners decide to move their residence or just spend the best possible vacation, they should consider Cambodia, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Vietnam, Iceland, Costa Rica, Ireland and Portugal.

Cambodia is considered as a paradise for foreign tourists. According to My International Movers, it shows that Cambodian people are friendly and welcome all foreigners, both tourists and those who want to move and live in Cambodia. •

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Cambodia Reaffirms Commitment...

In this context, some Western powers have been systematically cooperating in pressuring Cambodia to follow their own political path, as they did in the 1970s-1980s by abusing the principle of equality and sovereignty between States and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries as enshrined in the UN Charter and international laws.

"Cambodia's bitter experience in the past and the successful implementation of the 'Win-Win policy' have made Cambodians aware of the value of peace and the necessity of peace and stability, the foundation for development," the PM said. •

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Mine Clearing Ratchets Up...

As of June 2020, 8,882 residents of Banteay Meanchey had been victimised by mines and bombs, equivalent to 14 per cent of the nation's total number of mine and bomb victims.

Senior Minister and CMAA first vice-president Ly Thuch led representatives from Australia, the Republic of South Korea and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) – all donors to the mine clearance project – to visit the CMAA's mine clearance locations in Prasat Village in O'Beichoan commune.

He also met with people who had benefitted from the cleared mines.

He said Cambodia receives funds from the US, England, Japan, Germany, Switzerland, China, the Netherlands, Canada, Ireland and UNICEF. Civil society groups and generous private parties have also contributed to solving mine issues in Cambodia.

The funds have helped the government implement its National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025.

UNDP Cambodia said that despite COVID-19, the mine clearance project had continued its duty of saving people affected directly by mines. •

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Next Year's Minimum Wage...

Minister of Labour said the new figures were approved in line with the severe impact of the global pandemic on the supply and production chains and factory exports.

Regarding the increase of \$2, both the Minister and Garment Manufacturers Association Cambodia (GMAC) representative said that COVID-19 and the economic impact it has dealt on the industry has severely impacted it. However, they both said that the EBA withdrawal was not an issue. •