



**CAMBODIA
CONNECT**

ISSUE NO. 40 | November 20-30, 2020

Royal Embassy of Cambodia to Switzerland
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the UN Office at Geneva

Gov't Provides COVID-19 Equipment to East Timor



Phnom Penh Post/26 November

Cambodia would donate more than one million masks and pieces of medical equipment to East Timor to help the country fight COVID-19, similar to the Kingdom's earlier donations to Laos and Myanmar.

Prime Minister Hun Sen said on 25 November "Cambodia not only provides medical assistance to our friends in Laos and Myanmar, but I am also ready to prepare a donation for East Timor.

More than two million masks and other medical equipment have been recently delivered to Myanmar.



Minister of Health added that although Cambodia provides donations to friendly countries, there is no domestic shortage because the Prime Minister had ordered the health ministry to purchase more masks and equipment to refill the government stockpile.

Cambodia's donation to Myanmar included two million regular masks, 20,000 N95 masks, 20,000 safety goggles, 20,000 sets of safety clothing and 10 thermometers.

The Kingdom on 16 November also donated two million masks of Cambodian-made fabrics and other medical equipment worth \$2,224,000 to Laos. ●

INSIDE IS

PM Lauds Volunteer Lawyers [Page 2](#)

E-Commerce Strategy Launched [Page 2](#)

Kingdom Urges More Regional Cooperation to Battle Narcotics [Page 2](#)

Cambodia and Singapore Team Up to Boost Job Skills [Page 3](#)

Kingdom Celebrates 15th Year of UNESCO Shadow Theatre Listing [Page 3](#)

Hopes High for Strong Consumer Protection [Page 3](#)

Cambodia Maintains Its Position as One of The World's Top Tourism Destinations [Page 4](#)

PM Lauds Volunteer Lawyers



Phnom Penh Post/25 November

Prime Minister Hun Sen reminded his volunteer lawyers of seeking compromise when mediating disputes outside of the court system, urging them to find mutually beneficial solutions for all parties.

The advice was handed down as the PM reviewed the work of his team of volunteer lawyers, a group that had consulted on 2,550 cases from February last year to September this year.

The PM established the team of volunteer lawyers in February 2019 with the aim of defending poor women who could not afford to hire lawyers. There are 138 volunteers performing their duties in Phnom Penh and all the provinces.

He continued that in recent months his advisers and assistants were able to resolve many cases in out-of-court mediation, including disputes that had been unresolved for 10 to 20 years.

While commending some non-governmental organisations for providing lawyers and legal consultations to local people, the Premier also expressed regret that some NGOs and lawyers had used these actions to provoke protests.

The chief of volunteer lawyer presented the results achieved by the volunteer lawyers as of September. There were a total of 2,550 cases, including 74 cases of vulnerable women who were not able to hire lawyers to defend their legal rights in court. •

E-Commerce Strategy Launched



Phnom Penh Post/25 November

Cambodia has officially launched the E-Commerce Strategy in a bid to achieve and drive forward competitive growth in trade and economic terms and aid in its pursuit of becoming an upper middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050.

This comes timely as the government passed the E-Commerce Law in November 2019, as a response to the rapid development of e-commerce and online shopping.

The law aims to regulate electronic businesses based in the Kingdom and enable local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to integrate into value chains linked to domestic and international markets.

The strategy comprises 10 chapters – strategy, policy and institutional coordination; legal and regulatory frameworks; SME regulations; information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure; digital knowledge infrastructure; payment systems; domestic e-commerce logistics; cross-border trade; access to finance; and trade information and market support.

Continued on page (4)

Kingdom Urges More Regional Cooperation to Battle Narcotics



Phnom Penh Post/26 November

Minister of Interior has proposed that countries in the region continue mutual cooperation and support in combating drugs and crime.

He made the suggestion at the 14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and Related Meetings via video conference on 26 November.

Cambodia has made a number of significant improvements in recognising the dangers of narcotics.

The country has launched anti-drug campaigns at the national and sub-national levels since 2017, seizing tonnes of illegal drugs and sending hundreds of perpetrators to court.

He added criminals are using technology to commit cross-border crimes in the region and around the globe.

Continued on page (4)

Cambodia and Singapore Team Up to Boost Job Skills



Phnom Penh Post/23 November

Cambodia and Singapore have committed to further cooperation in enhancing the vocational and employment skills of the Kingdom's workforce.

A meeting between outgoing Singapore ambassador to Cambodia and Labour Minister highlighted the positive results that had come from close cooperation in the past.

Cambodia had in the past sent teachers and student to attend workshops in the city-state to improve their job skills. Cambodia and Singapore have also worked together on worker safety and health issues.

The Minister also praised the progress of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Singapore under the Ambassador's nearly five-year tenure. The Ambassador had contributed significantly to the development of Cambodia.

He urged Singapore to continue to work with Cambodia on technical and vocational training, calling the field essential in the Kingdom's quest for qualified human resources. Singapore has played a pivotal role in supporting this improvement.

The ambassador responded that he would take this request to the Singapore government. He also praised the Cambodian workforce, noting that local trainees enjoyed studying about the workplace and developing their vocation skills. •

Hopes High for Strong Consumer Protection



Phnom Penh Post/26 November

Senior government officials and development partners are optimistic that the Law on Consumer Protection will promote integrity in competition and trade and cut down on unfair business practices in Cambodia once it is fully implemented.

The statement was made at the "National Workshop on Dissemination and Planning of the Implementation of the Law on Consumer Protection in Cambodia" held in Phnom Penh.

Ministry of Commerce said businesses have to show ethical responsibility and acknowledge the importance of effective consumer protection, which would provide them with added consumer confidence and support.

The law would ensure consumers' rights to safe, high-quality goods and set a crucial legal standard that will contribute to social harmony and sustainable economic development.

It will also strengthen Cambodia's ties with ASEAN member states and other countries.

This includes providing technical assistance to enhance regional cooperation, institutional and legal framework development, and dispute resolution mechanisms. •

Kingdom Celebrates 15th Year of UNESCO Shadow Theatre Listing



Phnom Penh Post/25 November

Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed his congratulations on the 15th anniversary of the shadow theatre (Sbek Thom) being listed by UNESCO as an intangible work of cultural heritage.

The shadow theatre [Sbek Thom] has a long history in the Kingdom of Cambodia. It was recognised by UNESCO in 2005 and is valued by the world as a human treasure. It is a source of national pride.

The shadow theatre (Sbek Thom), also called Nang Sbek Thom, is a kind of shadow art that uses leather carvings to create a scene. The carvings represent deities and most are in the Brahmanism style.

Shadow theatre has been around since Brahmanism came to Khmer territory. The art is performed only in two or three ceremonies each year, including the Khmer New Year, the King's birthday and coronation, or the worship of famous figures. It is rarely performed in public. •

Cambodia Maintains Its Position as One of The World's Top Tourism Destinations

Khmer Times/28 November

Cambodia remains a world's best tourism destination in 2020, the Ministry of Tourism said, stressing that scores of international institutions and websites specialising in rating the best tourism places around the world have ranked Cambodia among the best places to visit and live.

My International Movers, based in the UK, America, and Australia, in January this year rated Cambodia No. 1 among the top ten friendliest countries in the world to move to.

Outrage Travel on 30 January 2020 characterised Cambodia as one of five safest places to be in Asia.

In March 2020, Cambodia was presented the International Travel Award 2020 by the India-based Pacific Area Travel Writers Association, considering Cambodia as the Best Destination for Heritage.

On 9 October 2020, the Big 7 Travel's publication highlighted Cambodia's Siem Reap province as one of the 7 Most Relaxing Locations in the World.

Facing the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Tourism has promoted safety measures on travel and tourism and the ministry is also preparing a road map to restore tourism 2021-2025.

These ratings reflect the peace and development in all areas of Cambodia, particularly the solidity of the health system, and the participation of all Cambodians in preventing the spread of COVID-19, as well as contribute significantly to attracting more international tourists and investors to visit and invest in Cambodia during and post COVID-19 crisis. ●



Continued from page (2)

E-Commerce Strategy...

COVID-19 has strained the economies of every country across the globe and has brought to the fore the vital role that e-commerce can play in the pandemic and beyond.

At the same time, it has highlighted the need for new, efficient and highly competitive business models – for now and in the post-COVID-19 era – which use digital technology that adapts to the digital economic environment and market demand conditions.

Preparation of the strategy was funded by the Geneva, Switzerland-based global development programme Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Assistance for the Least Developed Countries (EIF). ●

Continued from page (2)

Kingdom Urges More Regional...

Cambodia has made a number of significant achievements, including a Law on combating financial crimes, a law on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and a law on anti-money laundering and terrorist financing. They will help provide Cambodia with a strong, internationally recognised legal foundation for strengthening its financial and banking systems and contributing to economic growth. ●