



**CAMBODIA  
CONNECT**

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## Cambodia Committed to Mine-Free by 2025



KT/Dec 13

The government and foreign donors have spent about \$500 million to clear land mines and war remnants in Cambodia over the last 20 years, making formerly mine-strewn areas safe for cultivation.

During the period, the government has spent \$167 million and international donors have spent about \$400 million for mine clearance. About additional \$300 million is needed for the mine clearance so that Cambodia can be mine-free by 2025. 1,900 km<sup>2</sup> of land has been cleared of mines, but another 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> of land still needs to be cleaned. On average, Cambodia removes about 100 km<sup>2</sup> every year.



Nick Beresfrod, UNDP resident representative, said that donors and development partners are committed to help fund mine clearance. There has been tremendous progress on mine clearance, but lots of work still have to be carried out.

"We have very strong commitment from development partners. The UNDP together with Cambodia Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authorities and the development partners, can put together a new programme for 2020-2025; at the moment its budget is about \$20 million but that might go up," he said. ●

## INSIDE IS

Cambodia Supports Climate Change Action

[Page 2](#)

The US to Offer Aids to Key Sectors

[Page 2](#)

Japan to Explore Cambodia's Silk Industry

[Page 2](#)

Cambodian Electric Motorbike Unveiled

[Page 3](#)

Czech to Promote Cambodia's Health Sector

[Page 3](#)

Dubai Firms Eying Cambodia Market

[Page 4](#)

16 Projects of US\$2 billion Awaiting Approval

[Page 4](#)

Finnish Electricity Generator Installed

[Page 4](#)

## Cambodia Supports Climate Change Actions



KT/Dec 13

Cambodia Environment Minister Say Samal, at the 25th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Madrid, has called on developed countries to increase funding to tackle climate change issues faced by Cambodia and the world.

Cambodia is very concerned over the effects of climate change, especially scientific evidence presented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The government integrated climate change into development plans at both national and sub-national levels, increasing renewable energy, receiving revenue from forestry programme REDD+ and building climate change-resistant infrastructure.

*Continued on page (3)*

## Japan to Explore Cambodia's Silk Industry

PPP/Dec 10

Japanese company Nippon Koei has expressed interest in Cambodian silk industry. The private sector believes such interest will improve the Cambodian silk market if the Japanese company invests in the sector.

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Veng Sokhon, welcomed Nippon Koei, which wants to invest in silk production and silkworm raising in Cambodia. In view of the shortage of markets and raw materials in this sphere, the minister asked the Japanese company to first carry out its research.

Silk can be used to make a wide range of products, namely ties, clothing, bags, and items for home decor, hotels, shops and others.

The National Silk Strategy Report 2016-2020 states Cambodian silk yarn production accounts for only one per cent of total domestic consumption, while imports accounted for 99 per cent – equivalent to more than 400 tonnes per year. ●

## The US to Offer Aids to Key Sectors



FN/Dec 12

US Ambassador to Cambodia, Patrick Murphy, assured that the US will continue to assist the government and the people of Cambodia by continuing the financial assistance in support of a number of key areas. From 1992 to 2019, the US has provided about \$ 1,500 million in assistance to Cambodia.

The ambassador spoke highly of the efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia under the leadership of Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has achieved high and sustainable economic growth over the past two decades.

He added the US government will continue to assist the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia by providing grants for public health and education programs, agricultural and environmental programs, demining programs and unexploded ordnance, technical assistance and human resource development. At the same time, the US government will continue to assist the private sector in Cambodia through programs to improve governance and enhance trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. ●



## Czech to Promote Cambodia's Health Sector

FN/Dec 13

Director of the VAMED Group of the Czech Republic Helmut Dietrich is committed to further development of Cambodian health sector, especially the implementation of the Kampong Thom Hospital project.

Minister of Health Mam Bunheng expressed his warm welcome to the recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on health cooperation between the two countries during the official visit of Prime Minister Hun Sen to Prague, Czech Republic, on October 14.

The Minister proposed Mr. Helmut Dietrich carry out a study on the project to help build the hospital in Kampong Thom with a large space of 500 patient beds to enhance the health of people in a big population.

He also thanked Czech Republic for its support in health sector, particularly the implementation of the Kampong Thom Provincial Hospital project in the form of a public-private partnership. •

## Cambodia Electric Motorbike Unveiled



KT/Dec 13

Voltra Motors, the manufacturer of the first Cambodia-made electric motorbike, has officially opened its doors to the public.

The Voltra e-bike, is much better than the conventional gasoline-powered motorbikes that are common on Cambodia's roads. Motorbikes comprise the majority of the more than five million registered vehicles in the country.

Aside from being environmentally-friendly, the Voltra e-bike is much cheaper to buy and easier to drive on and off the road. It is two times cheaper than the average motorbike. It does not use oil, gasoline and filters. It does not need maintenance either. With a full battery, the Voltra e-bike can run for 50 kilometres or more.

Voltra Motors is the brainchild of Yann Vaudin, a French engineer who has been residing in Cambodia for the last six years. Mr. Vaudin also owns and operates the Siem Reap-based Green e-Bike, which in 2014 became the first ever electric bike rental business in Cambodia.

The programme to build the Voltra e-bike has gathered the support of private companies and various governmental and non-governmental agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme, Acleda Bank and Pour un Sourire d'Enfant. •

*Continued from page (2)*

## Cambodia Supports Climate Change Actions

He stressed that the people are now more environmentally conscious and well aware of climate change. Our infrastructures are designed based on new guidelines to ensure they are climate-resilient. Developed countries should increase funding for the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Least Developed Countries Fund and Adaptation Fund as well as expanding climate change adaptation projects to achieve the 2030 strategic goals, a part of the Paris Agreement.

“We have also boosted our capacity to access international climate finance, and the first Cambodian direct access entity was accredited by the GCF last month,” he said. •

## Dubai Firms Eying Cambodia Market

KT/Dec 16

The Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry has announced that Cambodia is one of the top markets in ASEAN for Dubai exporters. Together with Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia, the Kingdom has been identified as one of the markets with the greatest potential in the ASEAN region.

Commerce Ministry's spokesperson Seang Thay mentioned that Cambodia's biggest exports to the United Arab Emirates are garments and footwear and that there is still plenty of rooms for Cambodian shipments to that market to grow.

"All markets are important to Cambodia regardless of size. This is important and consistent with the diversification strategy of the Ministry of Commerce where we are exploring all available markets to diversify and expand our exports," he said.

In July 2017, Cambodia and the UAE signed an agreement to promote and protect business investments in both countries. The agreement took four years to negotiate. Since the agreement was inked, several UAE-based companies have expressed interest in investing here.●

## 16 Projects of US\$2 billion Awaiting Approval

FN/Dec 12

'One Window Service' meeting were held by the Cambodian Investment Committee at the Council for the Development of Cambodia to discuss 16 investment proposals in a total investment of about 2 billion US dollars offering a total of nearly 20,000 jobs.

Among them are production and installation of electrical equipment, solar projects, hotel and commercial investment projects, power infrastructure projects, assembly line for automobile, machinery and equipment, food processing plant, brick factory, bakery and candy factory.●

## Finnish Electricity Generator Installed



SA/Dec 06

Two generators worth some \$400 million that the government bought from Finland and Germany earlier this year will generate an additional 400MW of electricity by June 2020, which will help reduce dry season power shortages.

Both generators are to be installed at a power plant in Kandal Province. They will initially generate 100MW in April, and the full 400MW by June next year.

Prime Minister Hun Sen said at the official launch of the National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023 in November 2019 "the shortages were due to unprecedented low water levels in the Mekong River, which led to hydropower generation dropping below local demand."

In 2018, Cambodia consumed 2,650MW of electricity, a 15 per cent increase compared to 2017. Of that amount, 442MW was imported from Thailand, Vietnam and Laos. The rest was produced in Cambodia from coal-fired plants, hydropower dams and solar farms.●