



PM: Media Is a Development Partner



PPP/JAN 15

Prime Minister Hun Sen has recently commended three ministers for being open to journalists.

Addressing some 6,000 attendees during the 4th media correspondents' gala in the capital, he said Minister of National Defence Tea Banh, Minister of Interior Sar Kheng and Minister of Public Works and Transport Sun Chanthol had acted as role models by directly answering reporters' questions on the spot.



He urged officials at all levels to follow suit and consider journalists as a development partner of the government.

“Journalists should take more active roles in addressing officials' inaction because we need a society that is clean and transparent. We must acknowledge that social injustice contributes to social instability and can lead to armed conflicts. So, I suggest journalists dare express themselves, but without fabricating the truth in their reportage,” he said.

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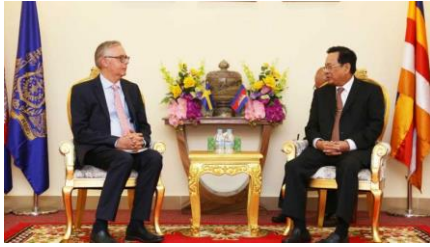
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Cambodia, Sweden Continue Labour Cooperation



PPP/JAN 13

Cambodia and Sweden announced continued bilateral cooperation in the Kingdom's labour and vocational training sector.

Sweden, through NGOs, will continue to assist the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training. They will help establish job centres that provide employment opportunities, as well as consultations, so job hunters can find professions well-suited to their skills.

Cambodia has supported the Swedish government by ensuring enforcement of the global initiative that seeks to protect workers' rights.

The continued collaboration will allow Cambodians to achieve better working conditions and vocational training for the development of the country.

The Swedish ambassador is committed to honouring the bilateral relations between Cambodia and Sweden in the labour sector through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Sida has helped the ministry in establishing job centres across the country. ●

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PM: Media is Government...

However, Prime Minister Hun Sen called on journalists to refrain from violating other people's rights and disseminating false, one-sided information. He said the media serves as a reflection of various social issues and thus helps the government address them in a timely and transparent manner.

He added the media also plays a role in maintaining political stability and developing the economy. But fabricating news for personal gain will have adverse effects on society.

Regarding the freedom of access to information, the prime minister said the Ministry of Information had prepared a draft law and referred it to the Ministry of Justice. He said the latter was examining the draft law before it is forwarded to the Council of Ministers. ●

Cambodia Committed to Promote International Cooperation



KT/JAN 14

National Assembly President Heng Samrin in Canberra said Cambodia is committed to promoting international cooperation, notably in building peaceful and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

President Samrin and his delegation attended the 28th Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum which held on Jan 13-16 at the Australian Parliament House in Canberra.

Over the last two decades, the National Assembly has been actively partaking in the region by contributing to global peace, security, common prosperity and sustainable development.

He said parliamentary diplomacy and partnerships involve conversations and building a new global order destined for greater interdependence.

Held under the theme of "Parliamentary Partnerships for 2020 and Beyond", APPF aims to further enhance parliamentary cooperation to strengthen peace, security and multilateral institutions in the region.

Over 350 delegates from 30 countries are attending the forum to discuss subjects such as security, economics and trade, and regional cooperation, according to a post on Facebook by the Australian House of Representatives. ●

Women's Financial Literacy Campaign Launched

KT/JAN 18

The National Bank of Cambodia (NBC), the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), and Visa, the world's leader in digital payments, launched a year-long programme aimed at improving the financial literacy of Cambodian women, with a particular focus on empowerment via digital platforms.

The project, entitled "Promoting Financial Inclusion for Women & Women Entrepreneurs", will seek to engage young women and female entrepreneurs, especially in rural areas, who aspire to set up a business or already run a micro-business, in addition to a number of female high school and under-graduate students. The project also aims at building the technical capacity of staff at MoWA, in order to help them better address the needs of women in Cambodia.

Cambodia's female entrepreneurs are mostly participants in the micro and informal economy and most of them are lacking in necessary financial literacy skills. This disadvantages them in the areas of business development compared to their male counterparts," said Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs. •

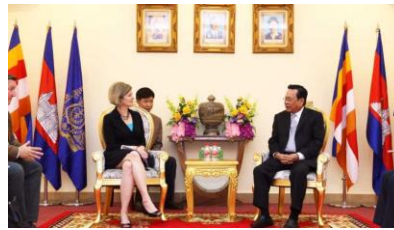
KT/JAN 10

Special Adviser to the Secretary General of the UN Jeffrey D. Sachs said he will assist Cambodia in its progress responding to its development within the ASEAN market.

During a meeting with Prime Minister Hun Sen, Mr. Sachs said he has witnessed rapid development in Cambodia, including economy, health and many other sectors.

He visited Laos, and Malaysia, to enhance and encourage cooperation between ASEAN countries and the EU, especially to promote trade cooperation, economy, transport and information technology to enhance cooperation between the EU and ASEAN, stressing the importance of regional cooperation.

US Labour Federation Pledges to Boost Trade, Resolve Disputes



PPP/JAN 14

The American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organisations (AFL-CIO) has announced its intention to continue working in Cambodia to boost trade between the US and the kingdom, and resolve labour disputes.

In the meeting with Minister of Labour and Vocational Training, AFL-CIO's International Department Director said AFL-CIO will continue to cooperate with Cambodia to boost trade, which connects working conditions between the two countries.

The AFL-CIO also participates in resolving labour disputes, as well as in the strengthening of inspection officials, amendments to the Labour Law and the Law on Trade Unions.

Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General pledges to support Cambodia's Development

The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation to Mr Sachs, adding that the country's developments are testaments of the effort of Cambodians. He also informed Mr. Sachs that Cambodia has ambitions to become an upper-middle income status country by 2030 and high income country by 2050. •



\$4M Solar Farm Investment Launched in Cambodia

KT/JAN 17

Pestech International, a Malaysian company that specialises in solar power technology and infrastructure, has expanded its presence in the Kingdom.

Pestech has acquired a 94% stake in Green Sustainable Ventures (Cambodia). The investment is worth \$4 million. The Cambodian investment was included in the company's latest filing with Bursa Malaysia (Malaysian Stock Exchange).

The move gave Pestech "super-majority rights" to a 20-MW solar farm project under development in Bavet city in Svay Rieng province. The project, which will occupy 30 hectares of land, is to generate 4.67 million kilowatt-hours per year.

The Bavet solar farm was one of the four major solar projects approved by the National Assembly last month. Three other solar farms will be built in the provinces of Banteay Meanchey, Battambang and Pursat. The four projects will generate a total of 140 MW.

Pestech has been in Cambodia for many years now. The company built its first transmission line in Cambodia seven years ago. Later it won a contract to design, manufacture and install a 198km transmission line between Phnom Penh and the port city of Sihanoukville. •

Three Cambodia's Cities Win ASEAN Clean Tourism City Awards

AKP/JAN 17

Takhmao city of Kandal province, Kampot city of Kampot province, and Duan Penh district in Phnom Penh capital won ASEAN Clean Tourist City Awards for their cleanness and greenness.

The award hand-over ceremony was held on Jan. 16 at the 39th ASEAN Tourism Forum in Brunei, according to the Ministry of Tourism's announcement.

Valid for three years, the award is to strengthen the attractiveness and enhance competitiveness of the ASEAN cities, as well as to strengthen the quality of tourism products and services.

Besides, Cambodia won five ASEAN Green Hotel Standard Awards, five MICE Venue Standards Awards and two Sustainable Tourism Awards.

Cambodia will host the 40th ASEAN Tourism Forum, under the theme "ASEAN-A Community of Peace and Shared Future" in Phnom Penh from Jan. 17 to 23, 2021, the ministry said.

The ASEAN Tourism Forum, founded in 1981, is a cooperative regional effort to promote the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as one tourist destination.

This annual event involves all the tourism industry sectors of the 10 Member States of ASEAN: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Each year, the hosting of ATF is rotated among the member countries. •

Japan to Assist Cambodia's Digital Payment

FN/JAN 16

Prime Minister Hun Sen welcomed Japan's initiative to assist Cambodia's digital platform and access to clean water.

In the meeting, Member of Parliament of Japan Yamamoto Kozo said that he once met with Samdech Hun Sen in 2007. Compared to today, Cambodia has developed rapidly.

Yamamoto said his visit to Cambodia this time aims to study on digital payment platform and development of blockchain in Cambodia; he also comes to study water supply in Phnom Penh.

In response, the premier supported Yamamoto's initiatives. He said Cambodia needs a transparent digital payment system; and improve water supply stations and distribution networks. •

