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**King Norodom Sihamoni Hosts a Dinner Reception for Chinese President**



Photo: Hun Yuth Kun

His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia greets visiting Chinese President H.E. Mr. Hu Jintao during the official reception at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh on March 31th, 2012.

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## King: Hu Jintao's Visit Further Builds Up Cambodia-China Relationship

AKP Phnom Penh, April 1, 2012 –

The state visit of Chinese President, H.E. Hu Jintao to Cambodia is a historical visit, through which the long-lasting ties of friendship, solidarity and cooperation between the two countries and peoples will be further enhanced, His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, said here yesterday at the Peace Palace during a welcoming dinner organized in honor of the Chinese president.

The Cambodian monarch expressed profound thanks to the Chinese people and government and the Communist Party of China for their assistance and support to the reconstruction and development of Cambodia.

King Sihamoni also congratulated China on its rapid development in all fields.

For his part, Chinese president said China truly rejoiced to see Cambodia enjoy political stability, ethnic harmony, economic growth and improvement of people's livelihood, and take a new look of growing prosperity.

He further lauded the close relationship between China and Cambodia, saying that both countries enjoy fruitful exchanges and cooperation in the political, economic, so-

cial, cultural and other fields and render each other support and close coordination in international and regional affairs.

“We are ready to join Cambodia, in the spirit of building good-neighborly relationship and partnership, in stepping up friendly exchanges, promoting the mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation with Cambodia, and enriching the substance of the China-Cambodia comprehensive and strategic partnership of cooperation, thus writing still more chapters of friendship and cooperation between the two countries,” H.E. Hu Jintao said.

H.E. Hu Jintao and his spouse, Madam Liu Yongqing arrived here on Mar. 30 for a four-day state visit at the invitation of King Sihamoni. They left here this morning for Siem Reap province, home to Angkor temples.

Cambodia and China have established their diplomatic relations since 1958.

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His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh on Mar. 31 with visiting H.E. Mr. Hu Jintao. The dinner reception was also attended by Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin and Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.  
Photo: Royal Palace

## Cambodian Premier Departs for the 4th Mekong-Japan Summit in Tokyo

AKP Phnom Penh, April 19, 2012 --

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, left here this morning for the 4th Mekong-Japan Summit to be held on April 20-21 in Tokyo.

The Cambodian premier was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Hor Namhong, Senior Minister and Environment Minister H.E. Mok Mareth, and other members of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

H.E. Sry Thammrong, Dele-

gate Minister Attached to the Prime Minister, said the participant countries including Japan, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam will review the progress of their cooperation, adopt Tokyo Strategy 2012 which puts forward a future vision for the region and establish new

pillars for the Mekong-Japan Cooperation.

According to a press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, on the sidelines of the summit, Samdech Techo Hun Sen will be received

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in Royal Audience by Japanese Emperor or Crown Prince at the Imperial Palace, and hold a bilateral talk with his Japanese counterpart H.E. Yoshihiko Noda.

The two Prime Ministers will preside over the signing ceremony between Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Hor Namhong and Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Masafumi Kuroki on the Exchange of Notes and Record of Discussion on the extension of a Grand Aid up to the amount of 1,510 mil-

lion Yen for the implementation of the project for Flood Disaster Rehabilitation and

Mitigation, added the press release. In addition, Samdech Techo

Hun Sen will meet with President of JICA, President & CEO of Nittetsu Mining Co., Ltd., President of Keidanren, President & CEO of Mitsui Oil Exploration Co., Ltd. (MOECO), and CEO of Minebea Co., Ltd., it said.



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen shakes hands with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior H.E. Sar Kheng and other senior government officials at Phnom Penh International Airport

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## ADB Says Cambodia's Economy Remains Robust with 6.5-Percent Growth This Year

AKP Phnom Penh, April 11, 2012 --

The growth in Cambodia is set to slightly moderate in 2012 before picking up next year on the back of stronger garment and footwear exports growing services and more stable global economic outlook, new Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2012 said.

According to the ADO 2012, Cambodia's economic growth last year was 6.8 percent, but will edge down to 6.5 percent this year, and

will pick up to 7 percent in 2013, Mr. Poullang Doung, ADB's Senior Economics Officer said at a press conference this morning.

Industry will grow at 11.4 percent and 12.5 percent in 2012-13 respectively, services by 5.3 percent and 5.6 percent this year and the next year, and agriculture by 3.8 percent in 2012-13, he said.

Mr. Peter Brimble, ADB Deputy Country Director and Senior Country Economist for Cambodia, said despite the worst floods last year and high levels of uncertainty

and recession in the global environment, Cambodia is expected to exhibit healthy economic growth over the next two years.

In 2012, the fiscal deficit is targeted at 5.7 percent of GDP from 7.6 percent of GDP last year, to be achieved largely by an ambitious domestic revenue target of 13.7 percent of GDP. Government spending is budgeted at 19.4 percent of GDP in 2012. Due to the softening external demand, the current account deficit is projected to widen to 7.6 percent of GDP in 2012, up

from 7.1 of GDP in 2011 before narrowing a little in 2013 as the global economy picks up, ADO said.

Inflation in 2012 and 2013 is set to ease to about 5 percent on a year-average basis from 5.5 percent in 2011, assuming relatively low domestic financing of the budget deficit. However, rising global oil prices early in 2012 may put the inflation forecast at risk, it pointed out.

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## Cambodia, Vietnam To Boost Economic Growth

AKP Phnom Penh, April 3, 2012 --

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen received here yesterday at the Peace Palace his visiting Vietnamese counterpart H.E. Nguyen Tan Dung.

In the meeting, both leaders lauded the good ties of friendship and cooperation between the two neighboring countries and agreed to further boost their cooperation in the fields of economy, trade and tourism, H.E. Ieng Sopheat, Assistant to the Cambodian premier told re-

porters following the bilateral talks.

H.E. Nguyen Tan Dung thanked Cambodia for its warm hospitality and expressed his full support to Cambodia's chairmanship of ASEAN. He is also convinced that the 20th ASEAN

Summit hosted by Cambodia will be successful under the chairmanship of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, said the assistant.

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## Local Tourists Flood To Different Vacation Spots During Khmer Traditional New Year

AKP Phnom Penh, April 18, 2012 --

Major tourism destinations attracted thousands of tourists during the three-day Khmer Traditional New Year from April 13 to 15, local media reported.

There were almost 100,000 local and foreign visitors to the northwestern province of Battambang, a remarkable increase if compared to the previous years, said an official of Battambang Provincial Tourism Department.

Kampot and Kep coastal provinces attracted over 130,000 and 178,000 tourists respectively, while Rattanakiri, a northeastern province received more than 50,000 local visitors.

Mr. Soy Sinol, Director of Kampot Provincial Tourism Department, said some 132,890 tourists visited Kampot during the three-day holiday. Most of them went to Teuk Chhou Waterfall and Bokor Mountain.

For his part, Mr. Nget Pitou,

Director of Rattanakiri Provincial Tourism Department, said with new infrastructure development, especially the National Road No. 78A, the number of the local visitors to the province increased by 15 percent as compared to same period of 2011. The province has ten most popular natural resorts, he added.

Besides, other tourism destinations such as Siem Reap, home to Angkor temples; Preah Sihanouk province, well-known for its white sand and blue sea water; and

coastal, mountainous and forested Koh Kong province, etc. also appeared to be also very attractive.

Meanwhile, many Cambodian nationals visited Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, etc. during the New Year's holiday.

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## “Troddi”, A Folk Dance On New Year Day

AKP Phnom Penh, April 11, 2012 --

“Troddi” (Troddi) is one of the much-liked Khmer folk dances performed most often on the occasion of Cambodia’s traditional New Year “Chaul Chhnam Thmei” to drive out all bad lucks in the old year and wish for the good in the new year, and on some big festivals.

It also used to be performed at praising-for-rain rite when long spells of drought struck a locality.

Actually, nobody knows when and where ‘Troddi’ first appeared in Cambodia. According to one hypothesis it might be linked to people’s belief that if a wild animal

got in the village it would take from them good lucks, so they gathered, sprayed some kinds of fragrance and spread pigments on the animal asking it to give them back good lucks. Maybe in this process “Troddi” dance was created with performers, representing different animals such as red deer, bull, peacock, who would appear before the villagers for being sprayed with fragrance and painted with pigments. In so doing, the people believed that if a real animal comes, no harm will be done to them. From then on, the dance was performed every year.

Yet, according to some documents, the “Troddi” dance took origin in ‘Samre’

national - an ethnic group - living together with the Khmers on the old land of “Sovannaphum” (golden land) when it was not influenced by Indian civilization (from the 1st century).

Then, the dance has become a heritage of the Cambodian people, worthy of note is that now a small number of ‘Samre’ people are still living in the northern part of Tonle Sap Lake.

In the former time, the “Troddi” dance was brought to perform on every New Year occasion before the kings and royal families to wish them the Happy New Year. This also explains why “Troddi” is still very popular particularly in Siem Reap

province and the vicinity of the former capital city of “Angkor Wat” which was built from the 9th to the 13th century.

The number of dancers varies according to the people’s wish, but usually about 16, including four main dancers, two female and two male, one as a stag which represents evil forces, a ‘Dangdol’ (a person who carries some kind of musical instrument), four ‘Kanhche’ (person who clowns here and there), two giants, two monsters, two drummers, a hunter and some others.

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