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King Preside Over Inauguration Ceremony at Sen Sok District



Photo: AKP

His Majesty Preah Bath Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of

Cambodia cuts red ribbon to inaugurate 80 houses at Sen Sok district's Khmuong

sub-district in Phnom Penh yesterday. The houses were funded by King Si-

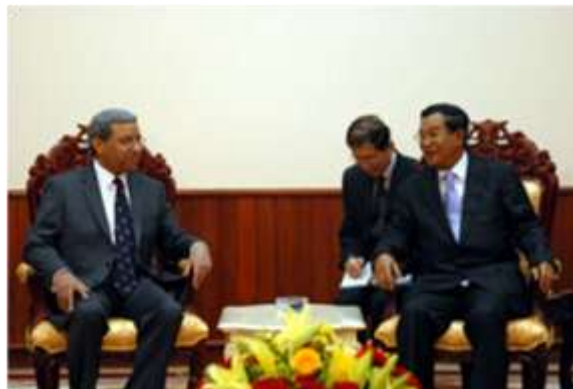
hamoni at the total costs of USD 1,232,980 for 80 poor families.

Human Rights: UN Envoy Visits Cambodia

Phnom Penh, January 19, 2010 AKP —

UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, Mr. Surya Prasad Subedi, began here on Jan. 18 his 13-day official visit in Cambodia.

During his visit in Phnom Penh from Jan. 18 to 26, Mr. Subedi will meet with Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and many high-ranking government officials as well as representatives of national and international human rights



Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen (right) meets with UN Human Rights' Special Rapporteur to Cambodia Mr. Surya P. Subedi (left).

organizations, said Koy Kuong, undersecretary of state and spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs and International Cooperation. After that, he will continue his visit to Battambang and Siem

Reap provinces from Jan. 27-29, Koy Kuong added.

According to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia, Mr. Subedi's visit, the 2nd of its kind, is aimed at examining the functioning of the National Assembly and the judiciary, including the Supreme Council of Magistracy and the Constitutional Council. —AKP

Cambodian Premier Urges for Promoting the Capacity of RCAF's Human Resources



Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen presides over the closing ceremony of the stocktaking workshop on the Five-Year RCAF Reform (2005-2009) and Five-Year Direction Setting (2010-2014).

Phnom Penh, January 29, 2010 AKP —

Cambodian prime minister urged the Ministry of National Defense to promote the capacity of the human resources in the Royal Cambodian Armed

Forces (RCAF) in more five years at the level equal to that in the regional countries as well as in the world.

Addressing to the audience at the closing seminar held on January 28 to review the reform of RCAF

in the last five years (2005-2009) and set its objective in the next five years (2010-2014), Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen noted that in the early 21st century, Cambodia still has a

gap if compared to some regional countries, mainly a lack of human resources to be faced, which he requested the ministry to surmount...

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Cambodian Premier Inaugurates Sugar Factory in Koh Kong Province



Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen cuts red ribbon and presses button to operate the machine while presiding over the inauguration ceremony of sugar cane processing refinery run by a joint-venture companies of Cambodia, Taiwan and Thailand in Cambodia's Koh Kong province on Jan. 25.

Phnom Penh, January 26, 2010 AKP —

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen asked the Ministry of Agri-

culture, Forestry and Fisheries to review all the undeveloped concession lands to be offered to the company that runs a real business.

Presiding over an inau-

guration ceremony of sugar factory in Koh Kong province on Jan. 25, the Cambodian premier criticized some companies for keeping the land undeveloped in

order to sell the license after the Cambodian government offered the concession lands...

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Cambodian Senate Approves Expropriation Law

Phnom Penh, January 15, 2010 AKP —

The Cambodian Senate approved on Jan. 14 the Expropriation Law, with 50 votes in favour among 52 senators present, in the presence of Senate Presi-

dent Samdech Akka Moha Thamma Pothisal Chea Sim.

The law will allow authorities to withdraw legal ownership on land and other immovable properties for public development

purposes and building infrastructure to serve the national benefit. Through the law, an expropriation institution is composed of an expropriation committee conducted by Ministry of Economy and Finance and

its sub-committees at municipal and provincial levels, Chea Cheth, chairman of financing, banking and auditing commission, said on the Senate floor...

To be continued to page 7

Cambodian PM Urges for Developing Human Resources in IT to Use Video Conferencing

Phnom Penh, January 11, 2010 AKP —

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen has urged municipal and provincial governors to promote the development

of human resources in information technology (IT) for using video conferencing in every next cabinet session.

He gave the instruction during a cabinet session held on Jan. 8 through the

use of video conference facilities for the first time since the royal government took office in 1993.

The Council of Ministers holds a direct on-line ministerial meeting to promote the efficiency of the

weekly cabinet sessions, and to ease the smooth and timely reporting, as well as to cover other urgent issues the royal government is facing...

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Cambodia-Laos Co-operation Expanded

Phnom Penh, January 8, 2010 AKP —

A high-ranking delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia led by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hor Namhong arrived in Vientiane to attend the 11th Cambodian-Lao Bilateral Co-operation Committees meeting held on Jan. 5-6.

According to a press release of the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs, both sides expressed their satisfaction to see that the friendly relations and

co-operation had been on continuous growth, the resolutions of the previous meeting held in Sihanoukville, Cambodia, in 2007 had been successfully implemented, according to Lao News Agency KPL.

The meeting reached a consensus to implement the minutes to the 11th Cambodian-Lao Bilateral Co-operation Committees meeting signed on Jan. 6 at the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs, especially in the field of politics and security, it added...

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Cambodia, UN Move Forward With 5 years Assistance Plan

Phnom Penh, January 27, 2010 AKP —

Cambodia and the UN signed a five-year development assistance plan for 2011-2015, which will benefit millions of Cambodians, Chinese News Agency Xinhua quoted the release of Office of the UN Resident coordinator in Cambodia as saying on Tuesday.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Keat Chhon and UN Resident Coordinator Douglas Broderick, as well as the heads of the 23 UN agencies operating in Cambodia, signed the "UN Development Assistance Framework, 2011-2015" on Tuesday morning, providing

a basis for the planning and coordination of all UN program activities in Cambodia over the five years leading up to 2015. "The UN in Cambodia looks forward to continuing to work with the Royal Government toward reaching that day when Cambodia announces that the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals have been met and that all people living in Cambodia have same access to opportunities to lead a full and productive life, irrespective of their race, age, gender, health status, geographical location, socio-economic standing, or political in affluence," Broderick stated...

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WHO Recognizes Cambodia's Efforts Regarding Tobacco Control

Phnom Penh, January 19, 2010 AKP —

World Health Organization (WHO) has recognized the Cambodian Ministry of Information's efforts regarding tobacco control, particularly the ban of tobacco advertising on television and radio, said WHO Representative Dr. Pieter JM van Maaren in a letter to Information Minister H.E. Khieu Kanharith.

The full letter of Dr. Maaren dated Jan. 13 reads as follows:

"The Royal Government of Cambodia has ratified the implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) since 15 November 2005. Consequently programmes and activities were carried out to reduce consumption of tobacco products including establishing the high-level Inter-ministerial Committee for Education and Reduction of Tobacco Use (IMC). The Council of Ministers adopted sub

decrees on cigarettes packs Health Warning and signed by Prime Minister on 20 October 2009 to fulfil FCTC article 11's obligation, and the Ministry of Interior issuing the implementation of indoor smoke-free circular which was signed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior on 28th October 2009 to be implemented by 24 provincial governors including Phnom Penh Municipality.

World Health Organization (WHO) would like

to express appreciation of the efforts the Ministry of Information has put into tobacco control, particularly the ban of tobacco advertising on television and radio, as well as the implementation of smoke-free policy in the workplaces. The efforts response to the article 13 and article 8 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), in which Cambodia is a member state...

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Cambodian Authorities Destroys Safrole-Rich Oil in Battambang Province

Phnom Penh, January 29, 2010 AKP—

Cambodian authority destroyed 574 kg of safrole-rich oil and 14,638 pill of yama in a ceremony held on Jan. 28 in Battambang province in the presence of Ke Kim Yan, deputy prime minister and chairman of national authority for combating drug.

Also present were Australian Ambassador to Cambodia Ms. Margaret Adamson and

Richar Standfort, manager international of Australia Federal Police.

The confiscated safrole-rich oil is extracted from a rare Maras Prov Phnom tree in Cambodia's deep forest, said an official of national authority for combating drugs.

Safrole-rich oil is an ingredient to produce the cosmetics and also the drug, he said.—AKP

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Cambodian Premier: No Cambodian Troops To be Sent to Afghanistan and Iraq

Phnom Penh, January 28, 2010 AKP —

Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen refused on Wednesday to send Cambodian de-miners to Afghanistan and Iraq as requested by the United Nations.

The Cambodian made the remarks during a groundbreaking ceremony of the renovation of the National Road No. 62 linking from the central province of Kampong Thom and the northern province of Preah Vihear on Jan. 27.

A few days earlier, 1,000 Cambodian troops were asked to be sent to Afghanistan and the requests were made several times, but I say "no". If

they go, there will be a problem because each day there are bombs blasting here and there and terrorism, so I do not let them go, he said.

The Cambodian people experienced a lot in a casualty from war and land mines, he said, adding that I do not send the Cambodian de-miners to Afghanistan and Iraq from the request of the United Nations and I do not want Cambodian sons to die in those two countries.

In April 2006, Cambodia sent 135 soldiers to help U.N. peacekeepers clear mines in war-torn Sudan.

In early 2009, Cambodia sent several dozen troops to Chad and the Central African Republic.—AKP

Cambodian Rice Millers To Export Rice To International Markets

Phnom Penh, January 5, 2010 AKP —

Cambodian rice millers reached a cooperation agreement last week to further export rice to the international markets.

The agreement was signed in Battambang province on Jan. 2 between Baitang (Green) Kampuchea Plc and the rice miller owners in Pur-

sat, Siem Reap, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Kandal, Kampong Cham, Kampong Speu, Takeo, Prey Veng and Svay Rieng provinces.

Mr. Ni Lyheng, Deputy General Director of Baitang Plc said the agreement will lead the rice millers to improve the rice export standard and the exported mechanism for

the international markets.

“It will promote Cambodian rice quality to the local and international markets,” he said.

Mr. Phour Puy, Chairman of the Federation of Cambodian Rice Millers Association, spoke of the past obstacle of the Cambodian rice export due to the lack of the cooperation among the local millers

while Cambodia got MNF and GSP from various European countries. However, he said, this agreement will provide a good opportunity for Cambodia to expand its rice export to international markets.

Cambodia plans to be a major rice exporting country in the near future. —AKP

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Cambodian Premier Inaugurates Cambodia-S. Korea Centre for Culture, Tourism and Trading

Phnom Penh, January 27, 2010 AKP —

A newly-set up center is not only a location used for cultural, tourism and commercial fields, but also a testimony to the close relation between Cambodia and S. Korea, said Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.

The Cambodian premier said this, while presiding over the opening of Cambodia-South Korea Centre for Culture, Tourism and Trading in Phnom

Penh on Jan. 26.

The centre will become the one that provides tourism information to local and foreign tourists on security, safety, and tourism destinations in Cambodia, as well as the provision of the recommendations about the tourism development in the country in the present and the future, he said.

He hoped that all tourists coming to Phnom Penh would understand the cultures, the customs and the traditions of Cambodia and Korea, as well

as get more information about tourism sites through the publicity.

He said in 2008, there were 2.1 million foreign tourists visited Cambodia, an increase of 5.5 percent compared to a year earlier, and within 11 months in 2009, there were 1.9 million, an increase of 1.6 percent if compared to that in 2008.

While the number of foreign tourists visiting Cambodia on gradually increased on yearly basis, he was also satisfied with the figure that showed 6.7

millions local tourists traveled around the country in 2008.

The Cambodian premier noted that in 2004, Cambodia earned only 578 million US dollars, but it earned as much as 1.5 billion US dollars in 2008 and employed more than 30,000 Cambodians.

Cambodia’s Angkor Wat Temple, built between 9th to 12th centuries, is one of the world’s famous tourist’s sites. Angkor Wat Temple was registered as the world heritage site.—AKP

Cambodia Hosts Second International Banking Expo

Phnom Penh, January 28, 2010 AKP —

The second international banking expo has been hosted here from Jan. 26-27 under the joint organizing by National Information Development Au-

thority, Micro Finance Association of Cambodia, and the IDG ASEAN at the Naga World Hotel and Resort.

According to the National Bank of Cambodia’s reports, there are totally 27

commercial banks and 20 micro finance institutions are currently operating in Cambodia. The bank deposits reach USD 2.52 billions and the loan reaches USD 2.38 billions and the net profit is around

USD 116.6 millions.

The number of the bank accounts increases to 800,000, or 6% increase if compared to the same period of last year.—AKP

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Poland to Build School Building in Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh, January 26, 2010 AKP —

Poland's Ambassador to Cambodia Mr. Jerzy Bayer pledged that his government will build a school building at Russey Keo district's Prektasek commune of Phnom Penh.

His affirmation was made known here on Jan.25 during a meeting with Samdech Akka Moha Thamma Pothisal Chea Sim, President of Senate.

In the meeting, Sam-

dech Chea Sim said that through the diplomatic mission of Mr. Jerzy Bayer here, the cooperation between Cambodia and Poland will be further strengthened and consolidated, Ms. Peng Kunthea Borey, a protocol chief of Samdech Chea Sim, told reporters after the meeting.

He expressed deep thanks to Poland for its assistance to human resources training, technol-

ogy, and IT, as well as electric equipments provided to Cambodian senate.

He recalled that the Cambodian senate has fruitfully cooperated with Poland since 2006, particularly during the diplomatic missions of Mr. Ryszard Olszewski. Poland provided computers and electric equipments at a total cost of 22,000 Euro, she added.

Samdech Chea Sim

also asked for a visit exchange between Poland and Cambodia with the aim of drawing experiences in legal sector.

In reply, Mr. Jerzy Bayer further pledged that the government of Poland will continue to provide assistance to Cambodia in education, technique and human resources training. —AKP

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Japan Wishes to Invest in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, January 25, 2010 AKP —

The JETRO Company of Japan will open its office in Cambodia to further lure more Japanese investors the Kingdom.

Mr. Yoichi Hidenao, delegate head of the Commercial Chamber and Industry of Osaka and executive director of MARUBENI made known here on Jan.23, during the meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers H.E. Sok An.

He led a 27-member delegation who are representatives the 17 Japa-

nese Companies to visit here on Jan.22.

In the meeting, Mr. Yoichi Hidenao also asked for the direct flights between Osaka Airport and Cambodia from the Cambodian government.

For his parts, H.E. Sok An briefed his guests on the country's general situation particularly investment situations for the foreign investors.

He added that the government of Cambodia has strengthened the judicial system, business "Arbitration Center" as well as the anti-corruption law.—AKP

2009: Cambodia's Foreign Reserve Reaches Over US\$2,600 Million

Phnom Penh, January 19, 2010 AKP —

Cambodia's foreign reserve capital in 2009 was more than US\$2,600 million, an increase of 25.2 percent as compared to 2008, said H.E. Chea Chanto, governor of the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC).

NBC Governor H.E. Chea Chanto said this while presiding over an annual conference to review all achievements gained by the NBC in 2009 and set its objectives for 2010.

In the Cambodian banking system, he said, the total assets were up 20,52 percent, bank deposits up 32,67 percent, bank depositors up 38,36 percent and private sector credits up 3,18 percent, compared

respectively to those in 2008.

In 2009, NBC maintained its macro-economic situation in spite of a little decrease of the growth rate and a little increase of inflation rate, he said.

The governor of NBC attributed the decline of Cambodia's exports to foreign markets to the world economic crisis.

He said Cambodia's economic growth was 2.1 percent in 2009, down from 6.7 percent in 2008.

Earlier, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted that Cambodia's economic growth would be -2.7 percent in 2009, while World Bank suggested -2.5 percent, and the Asian Development Bank predicted at -1.5 percent. —AKP

From Page 2**Cambodian Premier Inaugurates...**

The Cambodian royal government encouraged foreign investments in the development of agricultural and commercial fields of the country through the governmental subsidization, he said.

Up to now there have been eight companies in-

vesting in sugarcane plantation and sugar mills in Cambodia, including two in Koh Kong province, three in Oddar Meanchey province, one in Kratie province and two in Kampong Speu province, covered on an area of 66,000 hectares.

The sugar factory is constructed with a fund of 90.6 million US dollars, which is 70 percent owned

by Thai company and 30 percent by Taiwanese company.

The factory has the capacity of producing some 7,000 tonnes of sugarcane per day.

The sugarcane factory in Oddar Meanchey province is expected to be completed by 2011 with the capacity to crush from 700 to 1,100 tonnes per day and the sugarcane mill

in Kratie province by 2013 with the capacity of producing 500 tonnes per day.

The Cambodian premier also said the setting up of the sugarcane factory brought many benefits to the people and the country such as the creation of job opportunity, the increase of the people's profit, the transformation of technology, and so on. —AKP

From Page 3**Cambodian Senate Approves...**

An independent evaluation commission or agency for land and immovable properties is formed so that the com-

pensation is able to be paid to owners according to the land market prices, he said.

The law will be used for contribution to implementing the royal government's rectangular strategy for infrastructure rehabilitation and construction

toward the national development, as well as the promotion of the Cambodian people's living, mainly poverty reduction and the creation of investment opportunity in the country, he said.

In the meantime, the Senate passed a draft law

on national budget settlement for 2007 management and a draft law relating to penal matter.

Those draft laws come into effect when signed by His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni. —AKP

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From Page 3**Cambodian PM Urges for Developing HR...**

On the agenda for ministerial meeting are a draft of Cambodia-China consular convention, a draft sub-decree on investment procedure, a public bidding or a lease and a payment on fishing; and a proposal for considering construction projects of power sub-stations and electricity grids running from Phnom Penh to Kampong Cham province.

After listening to reports and discussing, the cabinet meeting agreed and approved a draft agreement on China-Cambodia Consul given gradually increasing of economic, trade, invest-

ment and tourism relations between Cambodia and China.

The convention is also aimed at protecting the rights and the individual interest of the two peoples.

Currently, Cambodia has consular offices in Hong Kong, Macao, Shanghai, Guangzho, Chongqing, Naning, and Kunming, but planned to set up additional consular offices in other cities of China.

The draft of Cambodia-China consular convention is composed of six chapters with 50 articles, which is designed to be based on 1963 Vienna Convention and formulated in detail according to the practical needs of both countries.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Seeks more Cooperation with China

Phnom Penh, January 29, 2010 AKP —

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries is seeking more cooperation with China, Mr. Hong Narith, Chief Cabinet of the Ministry said on January 28, 2010.

The above-said cooperation proposal was raised here yesterday during a meeting between Cambodia's Agriculture Minister H.E. Chan Sarun and Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Ms. Zhang Jinfeng said Mr. Narith.

"We asked Chinese to help buy Cambodia's

Agricultural-products as we have a memorandum of understanding on agriculture cooperation between Ministry of Agriculture and Quang Xi, encouraging more cooperation on investment and USD 5 millions proposal to promote Cambodian agronomy and veterinary that Ministry of Economy and Finance submitted to Chinese embassy recently", he said.

In reply, Ms. Zhang Jinfeng pledged to push the cooperation, depute her mission will finish soon.--AKP

From Page 2

Cambodian Premier Urges for Promoting...

He said since the military reform in 2000, Cambodia has seen many difficulties and big sacrifices by successfully carrying

out “win-win policy” that brings peace, national reconciliation, country unity and certainty to the Cambodian people.

He also highlighted the situation and the main principles for implementing the policy of national defense, being aimed at being sure to maintain national inde-

pendence, sovereignty, peace, security, public order for contributing to the national development.

He also gave some recommendations to Cambodian officers on the viewpoint in the future based on the present, the past experiences of advantage and disadvantage, the challeng-

ing issue and opportunities for solving the problem in response to the urgent development in the region and the world.

In his speech, the Cambodian premier also warned his military men to perform good deeds for the sake of the nation and the people.—AKP

From Page 4

WHO Recognizes Cambodia’s Efforts...

It is recognized around the world that tobacco industry, through its very complicated and effective marketing strategies, attracts youth and children to take up smoking, and to mislead general public about smoking. When one

advertising mean is banned, tobacco industry switches to other means that appeal similarly to their targets. It is clear that, in Cambodia, while tobacco advertising was banned on television and radio, tobacco industry put their resources on outdoor advertising including billboards, posters, youth concert and other means.

WHO appreciates and strongly supports the Min-

istry of Information to take further step to ban tobacco advertising by billboards, posters, newspapers and magazines, as well as tobacco promotion concert if this is under your supervision, to fully comply with the requirement of the FCTC’s article 13 obligation.

Furthermore, WHO would appreciate if the Ministry of Information

considers issuing a written smoke-free circular banning indoor smoking in the workplaces under the ministry’s supervision. The written smoke-free circular will add more value to the effort the Ministry has done regarding smoke-free workplace, make enforcement more feasible and easier.”—AKP

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U.S. Congressmen Conclude Visit in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, January 8, 2010 AKP —

Three U.S. Congressmen concluded yesterday their three-day visit in Cambodia, the purpose of which was to study the country’s general situation and trade, human rights, democracy and Cambodia-U.S. cooperation issues.

Speaking at a press conference at Phnom Penh International Airport before their depart-

ure, U.S. Congressman Mr. Eni Faleomavaega, chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, said during his visit here, he has attended the celebration of the 31st Victory Day (January 7, 1979-January 7, 2010) over the Khmer Rouge Genocidal Regime.

The other two Congressmen, Mr. Mike Honda and Mr. Joseph Cao, have visited

Field located in the southwestern outskirts of Phnom Penh, he said.

Earlier on the same day, the three Congressmen were received by Cambodian Premier Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen. The meeting focused on the Cambodia-U.S. cooperation and Cambodia’s proposal to the U.S. to consider writing off the debt owed by Lon Nol regime.

Mr. Eni Faleomavaega and his delegation have also met with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance H.E. Keat Chhon, and Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce H.E. Cham Prasidh. They further held talks with lawmakers from the opposition parties. —AKP

From Page 3**Cambodia-Laos Co-operation...**

Both sides will continue their co-operation on maintaining the security and orderliness along the border areas, protection of forests and biodiversity. It will also help prevent illegal trade and damage to natural resources while controlling the spread of diseases. Both sides will continue to survey their shared border over the 12 percent that remains unmarked. The minutes also touches on the building of a high voltage transmission line between both countries, which both sides will speed up the

process following the signing of a contract of electricity sales in 2007.

Cambodia and Laos will discuss the details of transport activities at the sub-region level to facilitate cross-border travel as well as immigration checkpoints on both sides. The two sides will also re-examine air transportation arrangements. They also agreed to enhance potential for trade and goods exchange between people who live in border areas, as well as to reduce taxes on the transactions in the triangular development area of Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam to boost development. In the field of tourism co-operation, the sides will improve road

links to promote tourism, and modify import-export regulations to facilitate the movement of people and vehicles between the two countries as well as the transit to a third country, especially southern Vietnam.

In the area of education, the two countries will enhance and extend student exchange programmes under an agreement reached between both education ministries for the period 2009-2013. The agreement will also facilitate the issuing of visas to students until their graduation.

In health co-operation, the Cambodian side expressed appreciation to Laos for helping Cambodian

people living in border areas in emergency treatment and asked Laos to continue this assistance.

The meeting was jointly chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and his Lao counterpart Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith. Besides the meeting, the Cambodian deputy prime minister paid courtesy calls on Lao President Choummaly Sayasone, and Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh, KPL said.

The 12th meeting of the Cambodia-Laos Joint Commission for Bilateral Co-operation will be held in Cambodia in 2012. —AKP

From Page 3**Cambodia, UN Move Forward...**

The UNDAF was development thought a year-

long, broad-based consultation process, which included government, development partners and UN agencies working in Cambodia, the release said. It is anchored in and aligned

with the Government's Rectangular Strategy Phase II and the National Strategic Development Plan, it added.

It builds on the achievements and progress of the

last decade, and on the UN's position as a trusted and neutral partner of the Royal Government of Cambodia and the people of Cambodia, the UN press release said.—AKP

Cambodia Donates US\$50,000 to Help the Victims of Earthquake in Haiti

Phnom Penh, January 18, 2010, AKP —

The Royal Government of Cambodia has decided to contribute an amount of US\$50,000 for the relief to the earthquake-affected population of Haiti, said a press release of the Ministry Foreign Affairs and Interna-

tional Cooperation Ministry on Jan. 16.

A 7-Richter earthquake in Haiti on Jan. 12, 2010, the biggest ever earthquake in the country for the latest two centuries, caused thousands of deaths and injuries and extensive destruction, while many people are

left without shelter and are in need of food and medicine, it said.

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has written a letter of condolence to the Prime Minister of Haiti, Jean-Marc Bellerive. "On be-

half of the Cambodian government and people, I would like to offer my condolences to you and the people of Haiti, especially the victims and the families of the deceased," said Samdech Techo Hun Sen in his letter dated Jan. 14. —AKP

Stung Treng Province, Cambodia

Stung Treng province, which covers an area of 11,092 square kilometres, is a remote and sparsely populated province in the northeast of Cambodia. It borders Lao to the north, Ratanakiri to the east, Preah Vihear to the west and Kratie and Kompong Thom to the south. The province is divided into five districts, 34 communes and 128 villages. Stung Treng is a unique province quite distinct from other Cambodian provinces in the Mekong basin. Extensive forests, intersecting rivers and streams and low population density characterize it. Stung Treng includes also the western chunk of the massive Virachey National Park, accessible from Siem Pang, a small beautiful town on the Tonle Kong. The province also features three big rivers: the Tonle Kong, the Tonle San and the mighty Mekong with its hundreds of small islands scattered on the river stretch in Stung Treng Province. Stung Treng is a northern province of Cambodia. It was formerly called Xieng Teng

and was once a part of the vast Khmer Empire, then the Lao kingdom of Lan Xang and later the Lao kingdom of Champassack. During the period of French Indochina it was again ceded to Cambodia.

The provincial capital is also named Stung Treng and is an important trade hub with a few hints of Lao influence scattered about, owing to the fact that the Lao border is about 50 km away. It's a friendly, quiet country town situated on the confluence of the San River and the Mekong River. It actually sits on the banks of the San River, with the mighty Mekong coming into the picture on the northeastern outskirts of the town. The San River goes by three names, depending on which of the locals you speak to. Some call it the Kong River because the San and Kong Rivers merge together about 10 km northeast of Stung Treng town, confusing people about which name the river should bear. Others call it the Sekong River, which is the com-

bined name of these two rivers. Whatever name the river beside the town goes by, it's another one of Cambodia's beautiful picture-postcard river towns. It's a nice place to kick back and chill out if you are on a circuit tour of the Northeast River Scene, from here to Laos.

The San River is fronted in Stung Treng by a nice stretch of paved road. It's the centre of socializing (as in most Cambodian river towns) in the late afternoon and early evening hours as the locals ride up and down the stretch enjoying the view and each other. Drink and dessert stands spring up earlier to serve the daily merrymaking crowd. It's a nice spot for a walk or jog any time of the day as the river road turns into a pleasant rural road that leads to the airport 4 km north of town. The river port area just in front of the small city park is fairly busy, handling trade between Cambodia and Laos. The ferry across the San River to where National Highway No 7 continues

north to the Laos border is also at this pier. The fare is 300 riel per head. We went for a ride on this stretch (2,000 riel for taking a big bike on the ferry), but there is not much to see along the way besides light jungle and some remnants next to the road that was a target of carpet bombing during the Vietnam War years (the road was recently overhauled and is now one of the best in the country). The road works its way eastward so it does not afford views of the Mekong River as one would hope. The few residents we saw along the way were truly amazed to see the likes of us, who would want to be there.

General information about the provincial climate:

- Cool season: November- March (18-26c)
- Hot season: March- May (27c -35c)
- Rainy season: May - October (26-34c, with humidity up to 90%.)

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Royal Embassy of Cambodia to Switzerland

**Address: 3 Chemin Taverney, P.O.Box 213
1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva,
Switzerland.**

**Tel.: (+41)22 788 77 73
Fax: (+41)22 788 77 74
Email: cambodge@bluewin.ch**

Website: <http://mission.itu.ch/MISSIONS/Cambodia/>