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Cambodia Marks the 15th National Cultural Day



AKP Phnom Penh, March 04, 2013 –
Cambodian artists perform traditional dance during the celebration of the 15th Cultural Day at Chaktomuk Theatre in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Mar. 3, 2013. Cambodia on Sunday celebrated the 15th Anniversary of National Culture Day with a series of traditional songs, dances and performances conducted by artists from various provinces.

PM Hun Sen Presides Over the Celebration of the 15th National Cultural Day



Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen addresses the participants while he was presiding over here on Mar 3 the celebration of the 15th National Cultural Day (Mar. 3). Photo: Chim Nary

AKP Phnom Penh, March 04, 2013 –

Cambodia marked here on Sunday at Chaktomuk Conference Hall the 15th National Cultural Day under the presidency of Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.

The Cambodian premier expressed the royal government's strong support to the national cultural preservation and develop-

ment by encouraging the dissemination of diverse cultural products, the national culture and morality education and the prevention of influx of negative foreign cultures.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also encouraged local TVs to organize cultural competitions including Cambodian classic song contest, Yike and Basak – Cambodian traditional drama performances – etc.

The prime minister was convinced that the National Cultural Day will become another active movement to train, educate and disseminate the value of national culture. The 15th National Cultural Day was held under the theme of "Everything is for the Progress of National Culture". With activities focusing on intangible culture, the celebration was aimed to raise public awareness, particularly among the youth, about

the value of national culture and to increase their participation in preserving, defending and developing the national culture so as to reach the country's vision of "Cambodia, the Kingdom of Wonder".

DPM Sok An Meets UN Secretary-General's Special Expert on UN Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials

AKP Phnom Penh, March 20, 2013 —

Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Sok An, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, held a constructive meeting here this morning with visiting UN Secretary-General's Special Expert on United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials, Ambassador David Scheffer. The meeting mainly focused on finding a solution on funding matters that can enable the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) to complete its mission of achieving justice for crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge regime, indicated the Joint Statement released after the meeting.

The death on Mar. 14, 2013, of Ieng Sary, one of the Accused in Case 002 of the ECCC, focuses attention on the critical importance of moving forward as expeditiously as possible with fair, efficient, and properly funded trial proceedings of the two remaining defendants, said the Joint Statement, adding that the advancing age of the defendants and the

financial shortfalls in the national and international budgets of the ECCC compel immediate attention by all stakeholders.



Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Sok An (R), Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, shakes hands with visiting Ambassador David Scheffer, UN Secretary-General's Special Expert on UN Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials.

Photo: Office of the Council of Ministers

According to the Joint Statement, the Deputy Prime Minister and Special Expert recognize that the ECCC met important objectives in the successful completion of Case 001 of Kaing Guek Eav (Duch), the director of S-21, who was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes against humanity and war crimes. Significant progress has been made in Case 002 where defendants Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan are being tried for some

of the worst atrocities of modern times. The ECCC has engaged with and provided ongoing information to unprecedented numbers

of the Cambodian population and to the world at large.

During the six years of the ECCC's operations, Cambodian judicial officers and staff have gained considerable experience in working in an environment of modern judicial administration guided by international standards of due process, while a number of these practices and procedures are being introduced in the domestic courts, it said.

H.E. Sok An, who is also Chairman of the Task Force on the Khmer Rouge Trials, expressed his appreciation for the commitment of the national staff who have continued to carry out their duties during these very difficult times.

If the ECCC were not able to fully discharge its mission, it would be a grave setback for the pursuit of justice and also would undo the considerable efforts over many years to provide some long-awaited justice to the Cambodian people for atrocities committed between 1975-1979, the Joint Statement underlined.

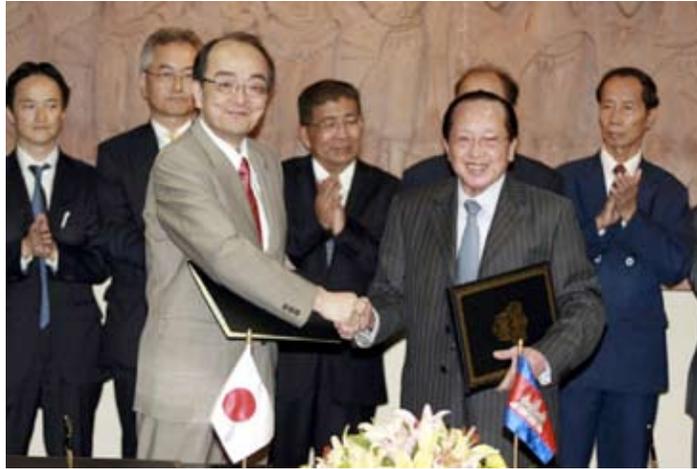
Reductions totaling more than US\$6.5 million have been made in the domestic and international components of the ECCC's revised 2013 budget. The immediate challenge now is to ensure full funding for the national and international components of the budget and thus stabilize the ECCC's operations and proceed with a robust trial schedule for Case 002.

Japan Grants US\$33.9 Million to Support Three Development Projects in Cambodia

AKP Phnom Penh, March 21, 2013 –

The Government of Japan has decided to extend its Official Development Assistance (ODA) Grant Aid up to the amount of 3,123 million Yen or some US\$33.9 million to Cambodia to support three development projects.

The Exchange of Notes and Record of Discussions on the extension of the grant aid were signed here this morning by H.E. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and H.E. Kumamaru Yuji, Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia.



Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Hor Namhong (R) and Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Kumamaru Yuji. Photo: Chim Nary

Of the total amount, some US\$14.33 million will be used for the improvement of Preah Sihanouk Province Referral Hospital, US\$13.10 million for the construction and rehabilitation of small hydro-

power plants in Rattanakiri province, and the rest, US\$6.47 million, for the improvement of facility and laboratory equipment in the Institute of Technology of Cambodia.

The three grant projects are expected to contribute to the social and economic development for the people of Cambodia and to further strengthen the close and friendly relations between Japan and Cambodia, said H.E. Kumamaru Yuji at the signing ceremony.

For his part, H.E. Hor Namhong expressed profound thanks to the Royal Government of Japan and its people for the financial assistance, saying that it will contribute to the development efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

Cambodia Marks 43rd Anniversary of International Francophonie

AKP Phnom Penh, March 25, 2013 –

Cambodia celebrated the 43rd International Francophonie Day on Mar. 21 at Imperial Hotel, Phnom Penh.

The celebration was held under the auspices of H.E. Im Sethy, Minister of Education Youth and Sports, new French Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Mr.

Serge Mostura, and Director of the Asia-Pacific Office of the International Organization of Francophonie Ms. Anissa Barrak.

Since 1970, the work of Francophonie has been coordinated by the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) with an aims to promote French language and law skills.

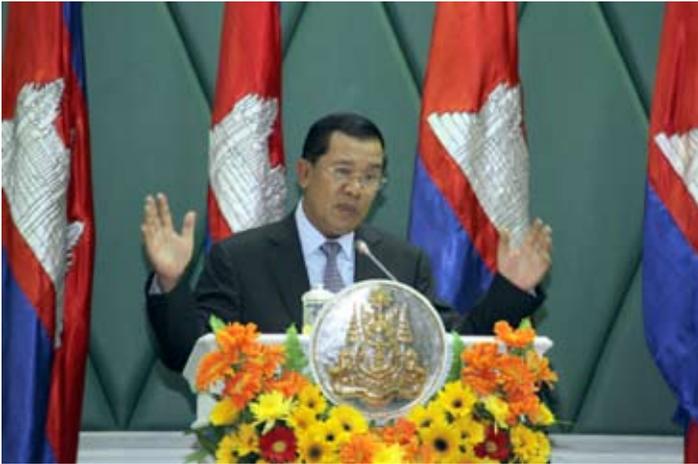
In the past recent 20 years, approximately one thousand of youths were trained every year in each region, including Cambodian youths.

OIF has totally 77 member countries – 57 with full membership and 20 observing countries. Former King Norodom Sihanouk is one of the four founders of International

Organization of La Francophonie.

Addressing the event, H.E. Im Sethy, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, appreciated the country's membership in the OIF and encouraged future cooperation to build capacity of new generations.

PM Hun Sen Presides over the Inauguration Ceremony of National Council on Green Growth NCGG



Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen presides over at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh this morning the inauguration ceremony of the National Council on Green Growth (NCGG) and the Dissemination Ceremony of the National Policy on Green Growth and the National Strategic Plan on Green Growth (2013-2030).

Photo: Chey Phoumipul

AKP Phnom Penh, March 19, 2013 —

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, presided over here this morning at the Peace Palace the launching ceremony of the National Council on Green Growth aiming at promoting green economy.

The National Policy on Green Growth and National Strategic Plan on Green Growth 2013-2030 were also disseminated on the occasion.

Addressing the event, Samdech Techo Hun Sen called for attention on green growth for sustainable management of natural resources for the next generations.

The Cambodian premier further gave recommendations to ensure the effectiveness and success of the green growth implementation.

On Mar. 1, 2013, the weekly cabinet meeting adopted the national policy and strategic plan for green growth 2013-2030. These two key documents indicate a long-term pre-

cise vision for effective implementation of green growth, with sound balance to economic development with environment, society, and culture through key strategies: green investment and green job creation, green economy development, sustainable blue economy development, green environment and natural resources management, green human resources development, sustainable green technology, green social safety system, preservation and uphold of green culture and national identity, and enhancement of good governance on

green growth, according to a press release issued after the ceremony.

In addition, the country has also adopted several legal instruments for the green growth implementation, including the roadmap for green growth, the MoU on green growth cooperation with South Korea's Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and Cambodia's membership into an agreement on the establishment of the GGGI.

Eleven New EU-Funded Projects with over US\$12.5 million Take Off

AKP Phnom Penh, March 28, 2013 —

The EU Delegation to Cambodia hosted the project kick-off-meeting this morning to discuss the role the new eleven projects awarded by the EU to civil society organizations and Cambodian local authorities.

The support to these new projects reflects EU's commitment to continue backing Cambodia on its path towards sustainable socio-economic development and good governance. To this end, sustainable management of natural resources plays a fundamental role, said H.E. Mr. Jean-François Cautain, Ambassador of the European Union to Cambodia.

These new funding will contribute to the sustainable development in Cambodia, he said.

According to a press release issued upon the meeting, the eleven new EU-Funded Projects worth up over €9.6 million (over \$12.5 million). These projects will work on the sustainable management of natural resources: food se-

curity and nutrition, community forest protection, capacity strengthening of fishing communities, as well as support to communities' livestock market development; good governance: improve justice at local level, protect natural resources and land rights among vulnerable groups, as well as capacity building of local authorities at sub-national level; and inclusive social development: improve women's access to social and legal protection services and enhance their economic empowerment, promote social and economic rights of marginalised urban youth, as well as increase access to quality early childhood care and development for ethnic minorities

“As one of the major partners of Cambodia, we are delighted to fund these eleven new projects and we are looking forward to working with our partners, both national and international NGOs, and Cambodian local authorities, in our common goal to stretch a hand to the most vulnerable population groups in Cambodia so as to help them emerge from poverty, insecurity and social injustice. In do-

ing that, the sustainable management of natural resources is fundamental. The new awarded projects, therefore, will contribute to ensure that the socio-economic growth that Cambodia is pursuing is at the same time inclusive, sustainable and green”, added the EU Ambassador.

The eleven New EU-Funded Projects were:

1- Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (WHH) with its partners CEDAC, Save Cambodia's Wildlife (SCW), and Women Mobilising for Development (WMD) has been awarded € 0,5 million to implement a three-year project in Ratanakiri province, Cambodia, Attapeu and Bokeo provinces in Laos, and Northern Shan State of Myanmar. The objective of the action is to improve food security and nutritional status of vulnerable populations in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

2- The Community Livestock Market Development (CLIMAD) project implemented by People in Need (PIN), in partnership with Phnom Neang Kangrei Association (PNKA),

Alliance Action for Rural Restoration (AARR), Environmental Protection and Development Organisation (EPDO) and Tekdeysovanphum (TDSP) in Pursat and Kampong Chhnang Provinces, for € 0,85 million over 3 and a half years. The project will contribute to poverty reduction amongst vulnerable rural households (17,200 farmers) by strengthening CSOs and private sector's capacity to promote sustainable economic empowerment in the target areas.

3- A project of about € 0,6 million, implemented by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in partnership with the Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT), in the Tonle Sap Lake area to be implemented over the next four years. The project objective is to strengthen the capacity of Community Fisheries on the Tonle Sap by integrating managed fish conservation zones into fisheries management plans and commune plans.

4- Mlup Baitong has been awarded € 1 million over three years to empower communities exerting their land rights, managing their natural resources sustainably and obtaining improved livelihoods.

5- International Bridges to Justice (IBJ), with its partner Samreth Law Group and East-West Management Institute, have been awarded € 0,58 million over two years to enhance the delivery of justice and rule of law, particularly at the local level, by providing training to justice officials, members of the military and police, legal aid and support to vulnerable groups.

6- Comité Catholique Contre la Faim et pour le Développement (CCFD), together with its partner, the Cambodian Human Rights & Development Association (Adhoc), have been granted around € 1 million over three years,

in order to improve access to justice, promoting local good governance and legal and judicial reform.

7- Oxfam GB, with its partners including Community Economic Development, Action for Development, Angka Ponleu Aphiwat, Prom Vihearthor, Ponlok Khmer, were awarded over € 0,77 million over three years to support the access to land and natural resources for those marginalised and vulnerable groups such as landless poor, women, and indigenous people in Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, Kratie and Stung Treng provinces.

8- Advocacy and Policy Institute with its partners, Mlup Baitong (MB), Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT), Village Support Group (VSG), Cambodian Organisation for Women Support (COWS), Khmer Buddhist Society in Cambo-

dia (KBSC), ARTICLE 19 has been awarded €1 million over three years to increase access to information for both the public and sub-national authorities as fundamental to effective participation and accountability in sub-national governance in five provinces of Cambodia: Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Thom, and Kratie.

9- Mith Samlanh, in partnership with Friends International, has been granted over € 0,5 million to implement a three-year project aiming at promoting social and economic empowerment of marginalised youth in and around Phnom Penh – including youth living and working on the streets and in disadvantaged communities, young migrants, young people using drugs, vulnerable young parents, youth with HIV/AIDS.

10- Plan Belgium, in partnership with Krousar Yoeung Association and six commune councils, have been awarded € 0,65 million to implement a four-year project to foster children's right to education, through increasing access to quality early childhood care and development services for the most vulnerable children of ethnic minorities in the districts of Ta Veang and Veun Sai, Ratanakiri province.

11- Gender and Development for Cambodia, in partnership with Heifer International Cambodia, have been awarded over € 1,1 million to implement a three-year project aiming at promoting gender equality and empowering women to participate in sustainable socio-economic development in Cambodia, especially in the Kampong Chhnang, Prey Veng and Pursat provinces.

H.E. Khieu Kanharith Presides Over the Opening Ceremony of the National Pop Music Festival 2013



AKP Phnom Penh, March 25, 2013 –

Cambodia's Information Minister H.E. Khieu Kanharith and his spouse preside over the opening ceremony of the National Pop Music Festival 2013 in Phnom Penh on Mar. 22 jointly organized by the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the National Authority for Combating Drugs of Cambodia.

Photo: Hun Yuth Kun

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2013 BY :
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