



CONTENT :

- Cambodia Celebrates The Royal Plowing Ceremony Page 1-2
- Cambodia Observes the 149th Anniversary of the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day Page 2-3
- Australia Donates AUD3.02 Million to Develop Communication in Cambodia-Page 3-4
- IRI: Majority of Young People Believe Cambodia Is Heading in Right Direction Page 4
- H.E Khieu Kanharith Presides Over The Aquathlon Page 5

Cambodia Celebrates The Royal Plowing Ceremony



AKP Phnom Penh, May 10, 2012 – His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, presides over the celebration of the annual Royal Plowing Ceremony in Phnom Penh on May 9. Photo: Hun Yuth Kun

From page 1

Royal Plowing Ceremony: Royal Oxen Eat Corn, Beans and Grass This Year

AKP Phnom Penh, May 09, 2012 –

The royal oxen ate corn, beans and grass during the Royal Plowing ceremony held this morning at the open square of Veal Preah Merhu in front of the National Museum in Phnom Penh.

This is a good sign for corn and beans growing in the country this year, but the fact that the oxen ate grass means the drought animals will suffer from minor diseases, said a Royal Brahmin.

His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni presided over the

ceremony, which marks the beginning of the crop planting season in Cambodia.



National Assembly President Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin and other high-ranking officials as well as foreign ambassadors to Cambodia were also present.

During the ceremony, Prince Norodom Chakravudh guided the royal oxen

and ploughed around the Veal Preah Merhu open square, while Princess Sisowath Chansida walked behind scattering seeds on the furrowed ground.

After the plowing, two royal oxen were driven to the seven trays containing paddy, beans, corn, sesame, water, wine and grass. The oxen only ate corn, beans and grass. It is commonly believed that if the oxen drink the wine it may be a harbinger of conflict.

After giving a donation to farmers from provinces across the country, the Cambodian monarch visited agricultural and home-made products being displayed at the exhibition organized at the open square of Veal Preah Merhu until May 11.

Cambodia Observes the 149th Anniversary of the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

AKP Phnom Penh, May 08, 2012 –

Cambodia marked on May 08, the 149th World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and Lok

Chumteav Kitti Pritthbindit Bun Rany Hun Sen, President of Cambodian Red Cross (CRC).

Addressing the celebration held at the CRC's headquarters in Phnom Penh, Samdech Techo Hun Sen highly appreciated the CRC's hu-

manitarian activities. He also expressed profound thanks to all charitable people, including the King, King-Father, Queen-Mother, monks and people of all social walks of life, for their support to the CRC's activities.

He further attributed the increasing participation from the charitable people to the CRC's transparent and accountable expense. CRC has gained more and more trust among the youth, both inside and outside the country, added the Cambodian premier.

To be continued on page 3

From page 2



Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen addresses the participants while he was presiding over the celebration of the 149th Anniversary of the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day held at Cambodian Red Cross Headquarters in Phnom Penh on May 8.

According to the CRC's yearly report, in 2011 some 40,000 households of the border clash refugees and 277,712 flood-affected

households in 18 municipalities and provinces received the assistance.

Besides this, more house-

holds and victims have so far received the assistance including those living with HIV/AIDS, and the poorer, the report said.

At the end of the ceremony, the CRC collected a fund of more than US\$10 million.

Australia Donates AUD3.02 Million to Develop Communication in Cambodia

AKP Phnom Penh, May 08, 2012 –

The Australian government, through AusAID, will provide up to AUD3.02 million over the next 20 months to increase citizens' ability to voice their opinions in Cambodia, according to the Australian Embassy press release yesterday.

The project will improve the capacity of Provincial Departments of Information (PDI) in three provinces – Battambang, Kampong Cham and Kampot – to deliver information to the local public, it added.

The Australia's funding will



facilitate access to information, and increase transparency and accountability on issues that affect people's daily lives, said the press release, adding that Australian support will help to improve both the amount and quality of information flows between local citizens and their government.

This project was signed here yesterday by H.E. Khieu Kanharith, Minister of Information and H.E. Ms. Penny Richards, Ambassador of Australia to Cambodia at the ministry.

People's right to information is an integral part of the democratic process. Free-

dom of expression is a fundamental human right. This project is particularly timely as it will support enhanced participation of rural communities in the upcoming Commune Council Election in 2012 and the next National Assembly election in 2013.

Australia is pleased to announce its continued support for provincial radio, including talkback programs (first established in 2009), the production of feature stories, live broadcasts reaching communities, and a multimedia platform, according to the press release.

To be continued on page 4

From page 3

The Cambodia Communication Assistance Project (CCAP) will be managed by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the Ministry of Information. It will build on existing long-term and strong relationships developed through Australia's previous support to the Cambodian media through the Cambodia Radio Development Assistance Project (CRDAP) in 2005, the Cambodia Demand for Good Governance (DfGG) project in 2009 and the ABC's involvement in training Radio National Kampuchea (RNK) staff since 1993.

“Providing the opportunity

for people to share information and voice their concerns will improve governance in Cambodia” said Ambassador Richards. “We look forward to the Provincial Department of Information – Battambang, Kampong Cham and Kampot –



Cambodia's Information Minister H.E. Khieu Kanharith and Australian Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Ms. Penny Richards sign a Memorandum of Subsidiary Arrangements on Cambodia Communication Assistance Project in Phnom Penh on May 7.

ward to the Provincial Department of Information – Battambang, Kampong Cham and Kampot –

a new standard of neutral and unbiased quality radio programs, which I am confident will attract a wide audience. We call on all media

outlets in Cambodia to broadcast a wide variety of opinions and political debates, giving equal air time to various groups without

discrimination or censorship.”

H.E. Khieu Kanharith said “There are three crucial pillars in a democratic society: a multi-party system, participation by Civil Society Organisations and an independent media. Australia's assistance to the Ministry of Information is a key contribution to the three pillars. The CCAP will enhance the capacity of our provincial staff, support our provincial radio stations to provide the public with quality media services, especially talkback programs, and will support good governance at the sub-national level”.

IRI: Majority of Young People Believe Cambodia Is Heading in Right Direction

AKP Phnom Penh, May 11, 2012 –

The International Republican Institute (IRI)'s survey released yesterday said 88 percent of young Cambodian people thought that Cambodia was moving in the right direction.

Mr. Matt Lakin, Acting Director of IRI to Cambodia said the survey, conducted from Nov. 30 to Dec. 25,

2011 on 2,000 samples, found that 88 percent of the young people from 18 to 24 years old said Cambodia was heading in the right direction, while 73 percent of the older people aged from 60 were positive about Cambodia.

They explained their positive responses by the fast growth of the infrastructure including roads, bridges,

schools, health centers, irrigation networks, decreasing poverty rate, peace, etc., said Mr. Matt Lakin.

According to the survey, 45 percent of respondents believed the government was strongly determined to eliminate corruption, while 42 percent thought it was fairly determined. For the upcoming Commune/Sangkat Council Elec-

tion, 84 percent said they would go to vote while 89 percent said there was no public intimidation at local meetings.

In the IRI's 2011 survey conducted from June to August 2010, only 76 percent of the 2,000 interviewed people thought that Cambodia was on the right track.

H.E Khieu Kanharith Presides Over The Aquathlon



AKP Phnom Penh, May 08, 2012 –

Cambodia's Information Minister H.E. Khieu Kanharith and his spouse preside over here on May 6 the Aquathlon competition organized by the Triathlon Federation of Cambodia.

Photo: Hun Yuth Kun

Published in May 2012 by:
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: camemb.gva@mfa.gov.kh
Website: www.cambodiaembassy.ch