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Samdech Techo Hun Sen Meets UN Secretary- General Ban Ki-Moon



Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen and Lok Chumteav and H.E. Mr Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations and his spouse

Phnom Penh, October 28, 2010 AKP — Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen

meets with the United Nations Secretary-General H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon and a number of issues had been raised and discussed during the two-hour meeting.

In the meeting, Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen informed his guest that the Cambodian-Thai conflict is not caused by the

listing of the Preah Vihear Temple into the world heritage or the appointment of the former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra as a senior economic advisor to Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, but because of the invasion of Thai military into Cambodian territory, said Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation who told the press conference right after the meeting...

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Cambodia Asks the U.S. to Consider Tax Exemptions



Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen met Her Excellency Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, United States Secretary of State.

Phnom Penh, November 2, 2010 AKP —

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Hor Namhong has called on the U.S. to consider tax exemptions for Cambodian goods exporting to the U.S.

Speaking at a joint press conference here on Nov. 1 after his meeting with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Cambodian deputy prime minister explained that the tax exemptions will contribute to Cambodia's socio-economic development...

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Cambodia To Host ASEAN Summit in 2012



His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Phnom Penh, November 2, 2010 AKP —

Cambodia will become the chair of ASEAN in 2012 and Prime Minister

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen will represent the 10 ASEAN member countries to attend the G20

Meeting.

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Hor Namhong told reporters on Oct. 31 at Phnom Penh International Airport upon the return of the Cambodian delegation led by Samdech Techo Hun Sen from the 17th ASEAN Summit held in Hanoi, Vietnam.

H.E. Hor Namhong said the 17th ASEAN Summit has touched on many topics, of them there were two main points:

The ASEAN leaders have agreed that the chair of ASEAN attend regularly the G20 Meeting on economy and finance and

the G8 Meeting on security, politics and economy.

The ASEAN heads of state and government have adopted the master plan on ASEAN connectivity so as to achieve the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015.

According to the deputy prime minister, there were 12 meetings between the ASEAN leaders and the ASEAN partner countries, during which 15 documents have been adopted by the ASEAN heads of state and government, six by foreign ministers and four by ministers of economy. —AKP

DPM Men Sam An Meets Chinese Delegation

Phnom Penh, October 26, 2010 AKP —

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Mrs. Men Sam An met here yesterday with Chinese Women Delegation led by Mrs. Meng Shaoxi, deputy chief of Chinese Women Federation of Shanxi.

In the meeting, Mrs. Men Sam An warmly welcomed and thanked China's contribution in Cambodia's development in all domains, particularly in building the office of the Council of Ministers "Friendship Building", roads, bridges, irrigation networks and other

infrastructures.

She also briefed the guests about Cambodian women association's endeavor to protect and preserve the women and children's honor as well as to avoid trafficking and violence.

In reply, Mrs. Meng Shaoxi praised Cambodia

for its rapid development and voiced her support for both countries' cooperation, especially for the cooperation between Cambodian Women Association and Chinese Women Federation.—AKP

Air France's Comeback with Commercial Flights to Cambodia

Phnom Penh, October 28, 2010 AKP —

Air France, one of the major airline companies in Europe, is going to launch its first commercial flight from Paris to the Kingdom of Cambodia this weekend, after more than three decades of halted operation since the 1970's.

Air France will operate three weekly direct flights from Paris to Phnom Penh, said Nicolas Deviller, CEO of the Société Concessionnaire des Aéroports (SCA) at a press conference in Phnom Penh

Wednesday.

Cambodia has many places of tourist attraction, including the Angkor Wat Temple, the Capital City of Phnom Penh, Preah Sihanouk Province and those places draw more and more tourists from Asia, he noted, adding, "with the launch of the Air France flights, there will be more tourists from Europe to the kingdom.

At present, he said, there are 17 airline companies operating commercial flights in Cambodia: China Airlines, China

Southern, Korean Air, Cambodia Angkor Air, Thai Airways, China Eastern, Eva Air, Malaysia Airlines, Asiana Airlines, Silk Air, Bangkok Air, Air Asia, Dragonair, Vietnam Airlines, Jetstar Asia, Lao Airlines and Shanghai Airlines.

The route will be served by an Airbus A340 with a total capacity for 270 passengers. Air France also plans to use at a later stage the Boeing-777, increasing the capacity to 300 passengers, said Khek Norinda, Marketing

and Public Relations Manager of SCA.

SCA has so far invested some USD230 millions for the investment in three airport improvement and management under a 45-year agreement (1995-2040) with the Government of Cambodia: the Phnom Penh International Airport and the airports in Siem Reap and Preah Sihanouk Province, according to Khek Norinda.—AKP

Cambodia to Announce Licensed Firms for Securities

Phnom Penh, October 26, 2010 AKP —

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Cambodia (SECC) is scheduled to announce early next month the companies that get licenses as securities firms and securities representatives for the upcoming Cambodia's Stock Exchange, according to Chinese News Agency Xinhua.

"We have granted the licenses to the qualified companies for these services already," Ming Bankosal, director general of SECC, which is the regulator of the upcoming stock market, said on Sunday, declining to disclose how many companies were

granted the license.

"The names of the companies, which were granted the licenses for securities firms and securities representatives, will be officially released on November 2 by the Minister of Economy and Finance and SECC's Chairman Keat Chhon," he said.

Securities firms provide services such as understanding business, trading business and brokering business, and securities representatives provide services as investment advisory firm and investment advisory representative.

In March, 22 companies, mostly commercial banks, had been short-

listed for the licenses by SECC.

According to SECC's prakas, edict, on the licensing of securities firms and securities representatives, to operate as securities underwriter, the firm must have minimum capital of 40 billion riel, or 9.46 million U.S. dollars. Securities dealer with the minimum capital of 25 billion riel, or 5.91 million U.S. dollars and broker requires 6 billion riel, or 1.41 million U.S. dollars.

And for an investment advisory firm, it needs a minimum of 400 million riel, or 94,600 U.S. dollars, while an investment advisory representative will be required to lodge a securi-

ties bond of 20 million riel, or 4,800 U.S. dollars with the National Bank of Cambodia.

The certain requirements such as human resources and professional experience are also a must for the license, said the prakas.

It's learned that at least four banks have been granted the licenses. Those are OSK Bank of Malaysia, ACLEDA Bank, Canada Bank and Tong Yang Securities of South Korea.

The Cambodian Securities Exchange is planned to launch by July next year after it has delayed two times already.—AKP

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Cambodia Asks the U.S. to Consider...

The U.S. has targeted to import annually Cambodian goods with the total values from US\$2,000 million to US\$3,000 million, he added.

For her part, Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton affirmed that the U.S. is willing to consolidate and expand the ties of friendship with Cambodia through trade exchanges and development in Cam-

bodia.

"We can work even more closely together to help meet the challenges facing Cambodia and all Southeast Asia. Cambodia is doing more than ever before to improving health system, in particular, on HIV/AIDS. We will be helping the people of Cambodia mounts a comprehensive fight against the hunger by raising agricultural productivity and making nutrition foods more widely available," she said.

Regarding the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, the U.S.

secretary of state said the American government will consider providing more fund to support the tribunal's process.

For the debt Cambodia owed to the U.S., Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton said a team of experts will come and resume talks with the Cambodian government on this issue.

She further wished to see the Office of the UN Human Rights in Cambodia continue to work with NGOs and the Cambodian government and the cooperation between the UN and the Cambodian gov-

ernment in human rights and rule of law training.

U.S. Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton began her official visit in Cambodia on Oct. 31 in Siem Reap province. She came to Phnom Penh on Monday where she met with Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Hor Namhong. She was also received in a royal audience by His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni before leaving Cambodia on the same day.—AKP

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Samdech Techo Hun Sen Meets UN...

Regarding the Khmer Rouge tribunal, Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen stated clearly that there will be no new case 003 to proceed to avoid the endanger of the national peace, otherwise the UN-backed Khmer Rouge tribunal will be failed, said Minister Hor Namhong.

The case 001 was

closed after the Khmer Rouge tribunal sentenced Kaing Guek Eav, better known as Duch, to 19 years in prison for the war crimes and crimes against humanity. The case 002 is in the process and going to sentence the four former Khmer Rouge leaders who are still alive including Ieng Sary, Ieng Thirith, Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea.

Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen asked the secretary-general of the

United Nations to remove the head of the UN office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Christopher Peschoux from Cambodia as he does not work with the Cambodian government, but he acted as a spokesman of the opposition party. If the United Nations does not remove Christopher Peschoux, the royal government of Cambodia will close of the office the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Phnom

Penh, said the Minister.—AKP

Mr. Ban Ki-moon is the second general secretary of the United Nations to visit Cambodia, after the first visit made by the Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali in 1993.

Mr. Ban Ki-moon is a highest level official who was received by Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, which was officially inaugurated on October 19, 2010.—AKP

Hungary Provides Medicine Assistance to Cambodia

Phnom Penh, November 2, 2010 AKP —

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Int. Dev. Cooperation Research and Management (HUN-DEV), represented by Dr. Gyorgy Suha, Senior Advisor of

the agency; and the Office of the Council of Ministers, represented by its Secretary of State H.E. Hing Thoraxy, was signed here on Oct. 28.

The auspicious occasion was presided over by Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers H.E. Sok An, according to the Press and Quick Reaction Unit of the Council of Ministers.

Through the MOU, the Association of Hungarian Diplomats will provide

medicine assistance worth approximately US\$1 million to the Royal Government for humanitarian work in the Preah Vihear Temple region...

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Cambodia To Record History of All Pagodas

Phnom Penh, November 3, 2010 AKP —

Cambodian government has advised all provincial authorities across the country to record the history of all pagodas to better oversee and know their backgrounds.

Dauk Narin, secretary of state of Ministry of Religion and Cult was quoted by Chinese News Agency Xinhua as saying Tuesday that his ministry has already advised all provincial and municipal authorities to record the backgrounds of all pagodas such as when they are established, how many monks are staying in those pagodas, and how many clergy men and clergy

women.

The move was taken at the order of Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen who is eager to get a clear and accurate data.

According to the statistics provided by Ministry of Religion and Cult, by April 2010, there were 4,392 pagodas and more than 50,000 monks in all the country's 24 provinces and cities.

About 90 percent of 14 million Cambodian populations are Buddhists and the rest shared by Christians, Muslims as well as other ethnic believers.

According to Cambodian constitution, Bud-

dhism is the state religion.

However, Cambodian government has told its people not to discriminate or insult other religions.

Earlier this year, the government ordered all televisions and radios to not broadcast or air any comments that insult religious beliefs of other religions.

In an advisory sent out all televisions and radio stations across the country, the Ministry of Information said there was one radio station airing comment saying only Christians who always distribute relief stuff to prisoners, the victims by typhoon and flood or earthquakes.

The advisory which was signed by H.E. Khieu Kanharith, minister of information said Buddhists are in great help of others when they are in need.

The advisory, however, said it was fine any televisions and radio to broadcast and air anything relating to all kinds of religions, but not to insult others.

It noted with appreciation that many programs that touch on religious affairs that help the society through the respect of morality, culture and tradition. —AKP

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Hungary Provides Medicine...

Dr. Gyorgy Suha said that the MOU would formulate the framework for mutual cooperation between Cambodia and Hungary in various sectors, the priorities of which are the establishment of school for vocational training, Green Energy project and the transfer of agricultural technology to Cambodia.

He added that he would strive to successfully implement the MOU in order to further contribute to the development of Cambodia.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, H.E. Sok An stressed that the MOU would contribute to the conservation and sustainable development of the Preah Vihear Temple region, which is the main focus of the Royal Government of Cambodia, under the wise leadership of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. He further highlighted that conservation and development works are very complicated and require an in-depth study as well as a clear plan in order to ensure sustainable development, a subject which the Royal Government has

always paid great attention to.

H.E. Sok An said that the Royal Government is seeking more development partners to help develop the Preah Vihear region to be an eco-tourism destination.

The Cambodian deputy prime minister is optimistic that the bilateral relations between Cambodia and Hungary will be further strengthened and enhanced.

In this ceremony, H.E. Sous Yara, Undersecretary of State of the Office of the Council of Ministers, said that the Honorable Consulate of the Republic of Hungary had asked for

permission from the Royal Government of Cambodia to consider the possibility of setting up the Honorable Consulate of Cambodia in Budapest and the Honorable Consulate of Hungary in Phnom Penh. This initiative will make it easier for the two countries to foster closer cooperation so that development and investment plans in Cambodia can be effectively promoted. Moreover, the HUN-DEV institution plans to set up its good office in Cambodia in order to facilitate development cooperation between Cambodia and Hungary. —AKP

Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary



human occupations at the edges of the lake is similarly distinctive - floating villages, towering stilted houses, huge fish

Cambodia's Great Lake, the Boeung Tonle Sap (Tonle Sap Lake,) is the most prominent feature on the map of Cambodia - a huge dumbbell-shaped body of water stretching across the northwest section of the country. In the wet season, the Tonle Sap Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in Asia, swelling to an expansive 12,000 km². During the dry half of the year the Lake shrinks to as small as 2500 km², draining into the Tonle Sap River, which meanders southeast, eventually merging with the Mekong River at the 'chaktomuk' conflu-

ence of rivers opposite Phnom Penh. But during the wet season a unique hydrologic phenomenon causes the river to reverse direction, filling the lake instead of draining it. The engine of this phenomenon is the Mekong River, which becomes bloated with snow melt and runoff from the monsoon rains in the wet season.

The swollen Mekong backs up into the Tonle Sap River at the point where the rivers meet at the 'chaktomuk' confluence, forcing the waters of the Tonle Sap River back upriver into the lake. The inflow expands

the surface area of lake more than five-fold, inundating the surrounding forested floodplain and supporting an extraordinarily rich and diverse ecosystem. More than 100 varieties of waterbirds including several threatened and endangered species, over 200 species of fish, as well as crocodiles, turtles, macaques, otter and other wildlife inhabit the inundated mangrove forests. The Lake is also an important commercial resource, providing more than half of the fish consumed in Cambodia. In harmony with the specialized ecosystems, the

traps, and an economy and way of life deeply intertwined with the lake, the fish, the wildlife and the cycles of rising and falling waters.

The lake sits only about 15 km south of Siem Reap town. If you take the ferry between Phnom Penh and Siem Reap you will cross the lake and dock at the village of Chong Khneas. There are several ways to see the culture and wildlife of the lake area depending on the amount of time you have and your interest.

Source: www.cambodia-tourism.org

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