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**PM Hun Sen and His Spouse
Preside Over the Celebration of
Cambodia's 16th National Cultural Day**



AKP Phnom Penh, March 03, 2014 –

Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen (L) and his spouse Samdech Kittiprittbandit Bun Rany Hun Sen preside over here this morning the celebration of Cambodia's 16th Anniversary of National Cultural Day (Mar. 3).

Photo: Chim Nary

PM Samdech Techo Hun Sen Presides Over the National Cultural Day 2014

AKP Phnom Penh, March 03, 2014 –

The celebration of the 16th National Cultural Day (Mar. 3), organized by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, was held here this morning at Chaktomuk Conference Hall under the presidency of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, and his spouse, Samdech Kittiprittbandit Bun Rany Hun Sen.

The theme for this year's

celebration is "Everything for Harmonized National Culture."

The 16th National Cultural Day will become another active movement to promote the education and dissemination of knowledge on the value of national culture, said the Cambodian premier on the occasion.

The event is celebrated every year to boost the spirit of patriotism and love for our rich culture among the Cambodian people, both

inside and outside the country, he added.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also made some recommendations so as the theme of "Everything for Harmonized National Culture" could be achieved successfully.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen highly appreciated the leaders and officials of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, national and international institutions, and civil society organizations for their efforts and

contribution in protecting and preserving the Cambodian national culture.

For her part, H.E. Ms. Phoeung Sakona, Minister of Culture and Fine Arts, said this annual event is to pay gratitude to our ancestors who have left various cultural heritage, and to encourage all the Cambodian people to take part in the protection, preservation and promotion of the national culture.

Eco-Friendly Tourism in Cambodia

AKP Phnom Penh, March 03, 2014 –

In Cambodia, community-based ecotourism is the third type absorbing the most tourists (after cultural and coastal ones) and significantly contributing to the country's poverty reduction.

According to H.E. Thong Khon, Tourism Minister, Cambodia has now 48 community-based ecot-

ourism sites, 13 percent increase compared to the previous year, and none has been failed in its operation.

"Community-based ecotourism does not only provide jobs and direct income to the community, but also helps preserve the natural resources," said H.E. Thong Khon, adding that the sector has been employing 50,000 people.

From Cambodia, Chambak community-based echo tourism site has been nominated for an international award in Germany in March.

"The award judges on key qualities including sustainable management of community forest, well redistribution of income among community member and lasting self-management especially with assurance of mem-

ber's capacity," said Mr. Touch Morn, Director of the Chambak community-based ecotourism site.

Tourism Secretary of State H.E. Tith Chantha is positive that a proper judicial standard will further help promote this echo-friendly type of tourism.

German Embassy To Help Develop Poor Communities in Phnom Penh

AKP Phnom Penh, March 04, 2014 –

The German Embassy in Phnom Penh is planning to develop poor communities in Phnom Penh Capital City.

The information was made known here on Mar. 3 in a meeting between Phnom Penh Municipal Governor H.E. Pa Socheatevong and German Ambassador to

Cambodia H.E. Joachim Baron Von Marshall.

On the occasion, Ms. Laura Liguori, Coordinating Director of Development Partners, who was also present at the meeting, said that nine poor communities in Phnom Penh would be selected for the poverty reduction project, which is in the line with the Royal Government of Cambodia's Rectangular

Strategy-Phase III.

In reply, H.E. Pa Socheatevong welcomed the German side's participation with Phnom Penh Municipality in developing poor communities with transparency, effectiveness and equity.

He affirmed that Phnom Penh Municipality will be ready to closely work and cooperate with private

sector, and to form an alliance with developing cities in improving the livelihoods of poor people.

DPM Sok An Meets a Thai Delegation

AKP Phnom Penh, March 06, 2014 –

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers (OCM) H.E. Sok An received here on Mar. 5 a visiting Thai delegation led by Dr. Thirapat Sirirangsan, Chairman of the Political Development Council (PDC) of Thailand.

During the meeting, H.E. Sok An and the 21-member Thai delegation discussed Cambodia's

and Thailand's stance on the case of Preah Vihear Temple, Thai prisoner Veera Somkwamkid, and Angkor preservation, said Mr. Ek Tha, Spokesperson for the OCM's Press and Quick Reaction Unit.

Regarding the Preah Vihear Temple case, H.E. Sok An told the visiting Thai delegation that the good way for both the Cambodian and Thai governments is to implement the verdicts of the International Court of Justice in 1962 and 2013.

The Cambodian DPM also underlined that the two governments have maintained good cooperation, especially in the fields of trade and economy.

Concerning the Thai prisoner Veera Somkwamkid being imprisoned in Prey Sar prison, H.E. Sok An said he [Veera Somkwamkid] had been convicted by Cambodia's court and he had been granted six months of jail-term reduction. The rest [of his jail term] is the judicial responsibility, the Cambodian government could

not interfere, he added.

H.E. Sok An also informed his guests of Cambodia's close cooperation with international community, in particular UNESCO, France and Japan, as well as the establishment and success of the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC-Angkor) in preserving and developing Angkor temples.

RGC To Protect the Interests of Employees and Employers

AKP Phnom Penh, March 04, 2014 –

Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen has expressed the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC)'s strong commitment to defend the interests of workers, employees and employers.

"The RGC will not allow any group to use workers and employees as their political assets and take factories or enterprises hostage," stressed the Cambodian premier at the 17th Government-Private

Sector Forum held here this morning at the Peace Palace.

"On this point, I wish to reiterate that I utterly protect the benefits of youth and I do not support gambling or experimenting on their future or use them to serve political purposes," he said.

Last year, the textile, garment and footwear industry contributed US\$5 billion to total export and employed more than 620,000 workers who received over US\$1 billion annually in wage and sala-

ries, he added.

In addition, two million people benefited from the sector through transport service, house rental, food supply and money sent to the families of workers and employees and so on, said Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

Besides, Samdech Techo Prime Minister also made some recommendations and suggestions in response to the requests made by the 10 Working Groups, including on Agriculture and Agro-industry; Tourism; Manu-

facturing, SMEs and Service; Laws, Taxation and Governance; Banking and Financial Services; Transport and Infrastructure; Export Processing and Trade Facilitation; Industrial Relations; Paddy Rice-Milled Rice; and Energy and Mines.

Cambodian PM Asks Banking Sector to Support the Agricultural Sector

AKP Phnom Pen, March 05, 2014 –

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has asked the country's banking sector to further support the agricultural sector, especially in rice milling so as to reach the rice export target.

Addressing to the 17th Government-Private Sec-

tor Forum (G-PSF) held here yesterday at the Peace Palace, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said the fund for rice milling is very necessary to achieve the target of exporting 1 million tons of milled rice by 2015.

At the forum, Dr. In Channy, Co-Chair of the Working Group on Banking and Financial Services of the G-PSF and also the President & Group CEO of ACLEDA Bank Plc., said

the agricultural sector is a priority area of the banking sector in Cambodia.

"Lending to agriculture and agricultural related activities has increased remarkably, from US\$552 million in 2012 to US\$712 million in 2013 or a 28 percent increase," he pointed out.

The banking sector has grown significantly for the past year based on the

year on year growth for savings and deposits it was 13.74 percent or from US\$6.80 billion in 2012 to US\$7.74 billion in 2013 and 26.35 percent growth or from US\$5.83 billion in 2012 to US\$7.37 billion in 2013 for loan outstanding respectively, added Dr. In Channy.

DPM Keat Chhon Receives the British Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Cambodia



AKP Phnom Penh, March 05, 2014 –

Cambodia's Permanent Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Keat Chhon meets here this morning with visiting British Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, Lord David Puttman.

Photo: Sin Sareth

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