



Royal Embassy of

CAMBODIA

to Switzerland



YEAR: 7 NO: 68

BULLETIN: APRIL 2014

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PM Hun Sen Arrives in Dhaka

AKP Dhaka, June 16, 2014



H.E. Ms. Sheikh Hasina (L), Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, greets this morning Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen upon his arrival in Dhaka, Bangladesh, for a three-day (June 16-18) official visit.

Photo: TVK's Special Envoy

Foreign Minister H.E. Hor Namhong Presides over Cambodian Youth and Student Gathering

AKP Phnom Penh, June 12, 2014



Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Hor Namhong (C), Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, presides over this morning a gathering with 3,600 Cambodian youth and students, from 26 universities in Phnom Penh.

The gathering focuses on "ASEAN and ASEAN Community: Opportunities and Challenges".

Photo: Chim Nary

Cambodia Becomes a Member of ILO's Administration Council

AKP Phnom Penh, June 10, 2014–
Cambodia is registered as a member of administration council of the International Labor Organization (ILO), Cambodia's Minister of Labor and Vocational Training H.E. Ith Samheng told reporters on June 9 at the Phnom Penh International Airport upon his return from the attending the 103rd congress meeting of ILO

in Sweden.
This is the first history that Cambodia received such the honor, which has derived from the efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia so far.
“Such the success informs the world that Cambodia has a good working condition in the world,” said H.E. Ith Samheng.
Being ILO's member showed the world about

rights and freedom of work sector in Cambodia, including vocational training, rights to demonstration and strike as well as rights for expression of employees and employer and so on, H.E. Ith Samheng continued.
According to the ILO's report, in 2013, the rate of unemployment was the lowest, only 0.3% in Cambodia, compared with the ASEAN coun-

tries.
ILO's administration council has in total 18 countries.

By Lim Nary

United States Promotes English Language Learning in Cambodia

AKP Phnom Penh, June 10, 2014 –
The United States embassy in Cambodia is promoting English language learning in Cambodia, according to its press release issued this afternoon.
According to the press release, Embassy Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Jeff Daigle visited Hun Sen Baray High School today to meet with 20 students who completed the two-year English Access Micro-scholarship Program.
During the visit, the students shared their expe-

riences from learning English and described some of the activities they have pursued in connection with the Access program.
In his interaction with the students, Mr. Jeff Daigle reaffirmed the U.S. government's commitment to strengthening English language capacity and improving the quality of education in Cambodia.
“The U.S. Embassy is proud to have supported your English-language education. Your skills will help you succeed in your studies and open

the doors to a promising career,” Mr. Jeff Daigle said to the students.
The English Access Micro-scholarship Program offers talented, secondary school students from economically disadvantaged communities the opportunity to learn the English language intensive, after-school classes. The program also gives participants an insight into U.S. culture and democratic values, increasing their ability to contribute to Cambodia's development. Since 2004, the U.S. Embassy has awarded approxi-

mately US\$890,000 in English Access scholarships to benefit more than 1,000 Cambodian recipients.
By Khan Sophirom

JICA Provides US\$600,000 for Job Creation for Disabled People

AKP Phnom Penh, June 06, 2014

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided over US\$600,000 to support a project in order to promote the rights and job opportunities for people with disabilities in Cambodia.

Addressing to the launching ceremony of the project to enhance

the rights and job creation for the disabled people in food and fruit processing sector held here on June 4, Mr. Mey Samith, Executive Director of Phnom Penh Center for Independent Living, said the four-year (2014-2017) project will provide jobs to Cambodian disabled people through the creation of agricultural product processing

plant.

Mr. Izaki Hiroshi, Chief Representative of JICA Cambodia Office, said the project will improve the disabled people's skills and strengthen their work capacity. H.E. Sem Sokha, Secretary of State for Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, said thanks to the project, people with disabili-

ties will be able to make their decisions independently in their daily life and obstacles as well as discrimination against them will be reduced.

Article in Khmer by Un Rithy

Article in English by Neou

Cambodia-Russia Trade Volume Reach Approximately US\$133 Million in 2013

AKP Phnom Penh, June 05, 2014 –

Minister of Economy and Finance H.E. Aun Porn Moniroth received H.E. Dmitry Tsvetkov, newly-appointed Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Kingdom of Cambodia on June 3 in Phnom Penh. In the meeting, H.E. Dmitry Tsvetkov praised the increase in Cambodia-Russia trade volume by 38 percent, or roughly equivalent to US\$133 million in the previous year and hoped that it would further keep rising. He emphasized that the numbers of Russian tourists who visited Cambodia also surged

every year. He touched upon the potentials for the development of Cambodia, covering the areas of tourism, investment, economy and finance, as well as transport and energy.

“The Bilateral Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment between Cambodia and Russia will be signed soon,” he underlined. For his part, H.E. Aun Porn Moniroth, in the name of the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia, thanked the Russian government and people for actively involving in solving conflicts and in helping organize the signing of the

Paris Peace Agreement as well as in supporting Cambodia.

Moreover, he stated the significance of the prioritized domains, including transport and energy to which attention was being highly paid by the Royal Government of Cambodia. Likewise, he did congratulate a new step forward in accelerating the investment between the two countries through the Bilateral Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment which would pave the way for facilitating and creating good environment for attracting Russian investors.

He told the Russian dip-

lomat about the Royal Government of Cambodia's will in dealing with the debts Cambodia had owed to Russia since 1980s as the two countries agreed to solve at the level of technical working group in the spirit of understanding to ensure the bilateral benefits and good cooperation.

By C. Nika

New Zealand Grants US\$3.75 Million to Safeguard Angkor Temples

AKP Phnom Penh, June 04, 2014 –

The Government of New Zealand has signed to provide a financial assistance of US\$3,753,340 to Cambodia to safeguard Angkor temples for five years from 2014 to 2019, said a press release from the Press and Quick Reaction Unit of the Office of the Council of Ministers of Cambodia (OCM).

A cooperation agreement

on Angkor Community Heritage Enhancement Project was signed on June 4 by H.E. Bun Narith, Director General of Apsara Authority, and Mr. Brent Rapson, First Secretary of New Zealand Embassy to Bangkok, Thailand, on the sidelines of the 23rd Technical Session of the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic

Site of Angkor (ICC-Angkor) taking place on June 4-5 in Siem Reap, home to Angkor temples. According to the press release, the financial assistance is very important for the sustainable management of the Angkor Archeological Park by safeguarding heritage and improving livelihoods for people living in the area.

This fund was provided to continue the previous

project of Angkor Participatory Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods (APNRM & L) worth US\$2 million from 2009 to 2013, it added.



Text: Khan Sophirom
Photo: OCM

Cambodia Officially Welcomes Three Returned Ancient Statues

AKP Phnom Penh, June 03, 2014 –

Cambodia held here this afternoon at the Friendship Building of the Office of the Council of Ministers (OCM) a ceremony to officially welcome three returned ancient statues – Duryodhana, Bhima, and Balarama – under the presidency of H.E. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of OCM, as the High Representative of the Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.

Mr. Jeff Daigle, Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy, Mr. Walter Timoshuk, President of the Norton Simon Museum, and Mr. Martin Wilson, Global Co-Head of Legal & Risks, Ms. Sandra Cobden, General Counsel and Ms. Dadhya Jain-Patel, Head of Sales, India and Southeast Asian Arts representing Christie's International, were also present at the

event.

Addressing to the ceremony, H.E. Sok An laid stress on the successful efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), under the wise leadership of Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen, working in partnership with the U.S. government together with UNESCO, the Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO) and other experts to return the larger than life-size stone images of the duelling warriors, Duryodhana and Bhima, together with Balarama, one of the observers of this battle scene, to their rightful owners.

“This remarkable day marks a milestone in our policy concerning the protection of cultural heritage that the RGC has been implementing tirelessly within the framework of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and

Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property,” he said.

Two more statues from this Prasat Chen ensemble – Sahadeva and Nakula, two of the Pandava brothers – were returned to Cambodia from the Metropolitan Museum in New York in June 2013, during the 37th Session of the World Heritage Committee, said H.E. Sok An, adding that the three newly returned statues will join them and will be displayed to the public in the National Museum of Cambodia, reunited with their pedestals.

The Cambodian DPM also took the opportunity to express his deepest appreciation to all the parties concerned for their respective contributions to such a great achievement. He further called on other museums and art collectors around the world to follow the example of returning plundered treasures to their rightful owners as

part of the worldwide campaign for the protection of cultural heritage.

According to an OCM's press release, the three returned statues, originating from the Prasat Chen Temple of Koh Ker, where they were carved in the reign of Jayavarman IV in the 10th century, returned home to Cambodia in the last week of May 2014, following their absence from their homeland of more than 40 years.



Duryodhana

Duryodhana

The Duryodhana statue was transferred on May 7, 2014 in New York to the RGC, represented by H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sok An, as a result of cooperation between the governments of Cambodia and the United States and a long legal struggle by the U.S. Attorney-General's Office of the Southern District of New York with the active support of the



Bhima

Cambodian legal team.

Bhima

With the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh and the U.S. Attorney-General's Office as intermediaries, the Bhima statue had been returned following lengthy but cordial direct negotiations between Cambodian officials and the representatives of the Norton Simon Museum of Pasadena, California.

Balarama

The Balarama is return-

ing as part of an agreement between the RGC and Christie's.

Text: C. Nika

Photo: OCM

Published in April 2014 by:
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