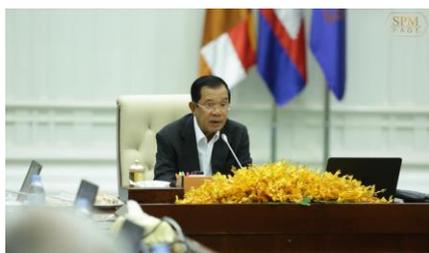




## Cambodia to Set Up More Labs for COVID-19 Tests



KT/Aug 15

Cambodia will have more laboratories to test for COVID-19 in major provinces of the Kingdom such as Sihanoukville, Siem Reap and Battambang.

Prime Minister Hun Sen said the Ministry of Health has to put in more effort to establish COVID-19-testing facilities in other provinces on top of the laboratory centre in Phnom Penh.

He added the relevant ministries and sub-national administrations must continue working to fight against COVID-19 to prevent the spread of the disease in the community.

The PM also urged officials to continue to implement and take strong health measures in tourism spots, especially during the upcoming holidays to maintain the well-being of the people.

In line with the COVID-19 prevention efforts, the Ministry of Health released a statement to remind the public about hygiene measures against the pandemic during the Khmer New Year replacement holidays. The measures include wearing masks while using public transportation and visiting public places, frequent hand - washing, and practicing social distancing. •

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## Japanese Minister to Boost Ties during Visit



KT/Aug 13

The Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Motegi Toshimitsu, is due to embark on a three-day visit to Cambodia between August 21 and 23, which will see him meeting with Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The minister will meet with PM Hun Sen as well as conduct a meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister Prak Sokhonn to discuss bilateral and multilateral interests.

The official visit of His Excellency Motegi to the Kingdom will further strengthen the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in all areas and frameworks.

It also reflects the solidarity felt between the two nations in the fight against COVID-19 and in the post-pandemic economic recovery operation.

The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Motegi will also visit Laos, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea between August 20 and 25.

*Continued on page (4)*

## Rice Federation Upbeat about Cambodia-Korea FTA



KT/Aug 13

The Cambodia-Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will expand Cambodia's rice export potential.

The optimism was floated in a consultation meeting with concerned private sector chaired by Secretary of State of the Ministry of Commerce.

Market expansion would also mean the reputation of Cambodia's milled rice, especially the organic and brown rice will be better recognised.

The consultation aims to mobilise inputs from the private sector to build the foundation for the Cambodia-Korea Free Trade Agreement negotiations. •

## Exports to Japan Near \$800M



PPP/Aug 13

Cambodia exported \$791.66 million worth of goods to Japan in the first half of this year, slightly dipping 0.21% compared to the \$793.38 million in the same period last year.

Both countries committed to boosting bilateral trade to more than \$2 billion this year, although the COVID-19 pandemic will make that more difficult.

Cambodia imported \$218.61 million of goods from Japan during the period, a 39% year-on-year decrease from \$256 million.

Between 1995 and September 2019, there were 141 Japanese investment projects with \$2.5 billion in capital investment, data from the Council for the Development of Cambodia shows.

Of these, 66 were in special economic zones with an estimated capital investment of \$340 million.

Most of the projects were in the energy, electronic component assembly, auto spare parts, agro-industry, food processing, hospitality, health and retail sectors, the data shows.

Cambodian exports to Japan reached \$1.7 billion last year, up 7.7% from 2018. •

## Agriculture and Health Key For Aussie Development



KT/Aug 14

Australia is continuing to invest in its flagship agricultural and health development programmes because the two sectors have become important for Cambodia's response during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Australia's Ambassador to Cambodia Pablo Kang said Australia has initially responded to the pandemic and was now finalising an updated "Australia-Cambodia COVID-19 Development Response Plan" to be released in October.

"Through the Health Equity and Quality Improvement Project, Australia has already provided 50 ventilators and 46,000 biohazard waste bags, as well as the procurement of 80 ambulances with the first shipment of 10 ambulances from Japan now arrived," Kang said.

Through Australia's ACCESS Programme and at the request of the Cambodian government, we procured and handed over 52,500 masks for disabled people's organisations and 45,000 masks for women's groups working with survivors of gender-based violence.

In addition to health, Australia has also been working with Cambodia's agricultural sector through its current flagship programme the Cambodia-Australia Agriculture Value Chain Programme (CAVAC) valued at \$60 million from 2016-2021.

The ambassador was pleased that Prime Minister Hun Sen recently endorsed CAVAC's work on irrigation and mechanisation and was keen for those practices to be disseminated widely across the country. •

## Cabinet Approves Draft Report on Progress in Industrial Development Policy Implementation



KT/Aug 15

The weekly cabinet meeting approved the draft report on the progress in the implementation of Cambodia Industrial Development Policy (2015-2025) in 2017-2018.

According to Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Chairman of the Royal Government Spokesperson Unit, the draft report shows that relevant ministries-institutions and sub-national administrations have been carrying out this policy with accountability and on the right track toward the goals as set by 2025.

The implementation of Cambodia Industrial Development Policy in 2017-2018 has attained positive progress, but faced some challenges and risks which required continued participation and cooperation from all stakeholders – national institutions, private sector and development partners.

Cambodia's Industrial Development Policy (2015-2025), launched on Aug. 26, 2015, is a guide to boost the industrial development in Cambodia through economic diversification, competitiveness strengthening, and productivity enhancement.

*Continued on page (4)*

## Interior Minister Tells Authorities to Avoid Violence against Peaceful Protesters

KT/Aug 13

Cambodian Interior Minister has called on authorities to avoid using violence against peaceful protesters, warning it is not a solution.

"When officials manage protests, we have to take a firm but measured stance. We cannot use violence. If it is a war, it is another matter but there has to be an understanding that peaceful protests are the people's right," he said. "All officials should, therefore, acknowledge and respect the people's right to protest.

Transparency and justice are the tools to prevent a colour revolution," he said. He also said that authorities must strive to serve the people.

"We have to treat the people with respect and goodwill. That is the biggest weapon to curb the colour revolution," he added. •

## First International Aviation Training Opens in Cambodia



PPP/Aug 13

International aviation training is now available in Cambodia, paving the way for personnel from airlines and cargo operators to no longer have to travel to Singapore and Thailand for such an instruction.

The Accredited Training School (ATS) is certified by the International Aviation Training Association (IATA) and State Secretariat of Civil Aviation.

Executive director of the Center for Leadership and Professional Development (CLPD) said achieving IATA ATS status was possible through mutual cooperation and support from IATA and the SSCA for dangerous goods initial or recurrent training.

CLPD facilities include an A320 door trainer, simulated smoke environment room, aviation medical centre, aviation fire trainer and emergency evacuation slide trainer.

As well as aviation training, CLPD also offers world-class learning and human resources solutions to employers and individuals. •

*Continued from page (2)*

## Japanese Minister to Boost...

It also said that during his visit to each country, Motegi is scheduled to exchange views on common concerns and interests, including discussing the realisation of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy, the ongoing dispute in the South China Sea and concerns over North Korea. Resuming cross-border travel and cooperation on response measures against COVID-19 are also believed to be in the discussion.

The visit will mark one year since the Japanese vice Foreign Minister Norikazu Suzuki spent three days visiting the Kingdom. •

## Cambodia Diversifying Its Products and Markets

KT/Aug 15

Diversification of the products and markets is a high priority of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

Cambodia is diversifying its commodities and markets to promote the exports.

The Kingdom has set a plan to increase the export of non-textile manufacturing goods by 15% of the total exports by 2025 while boosting agricultural processed exports by 12%, he added.

In fact, the market share of garment and footwear export has declined steadily from 71.6% of the total exports in 2015 to 69.2% in 2018.

At the same time, the export of agricultural processed products saw an increase from 5.9% of the total export volume in 2015 to 7.0% in 2018.

The data reflect that Cambodia has continuously been diversifying its exported products and promoted the export of its agricultural processed goods, instead of depending only on garment and footwear export. •

*Continued from page (3)*

## Cabinet Approves Draft...

Its vision is to change from labour-intensive industry to skilled-labour industry by achieving three main goals – increase the share of industrial sector in the country's GDP to 30% by 2025, promote the diversification of exported products beside garments and boost the export of processed products, and support the small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). •