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PM Hun Sen Makes an Inspection Tour of Rice Farming at Ksach Kandal District



AKP Kandal, August 02, 2013 –

Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen helps ploughing rice field for a local farmer by operating a walking tractor during his inspection tour of monsoon rice farming at Ksach Kandal district, Kandal province this morning. Photo: Chey Phoumipul

50 Million Bank Project to Push Rice Export



Farmers at Boribo district, Kampong Chhnang province, some 90 kilometers northwest of Phnom Penh Capital City, are at works on their rice fields. By Aug. 8 this year, farmers across the district have covered some 15,240 hectares of monsoon rice, including 2,183 hectares of short-term rice. Photo: Bai Sithon

AKP Phnom Penh, September 02, 2013 —

New project between Export-Import Bank of China and Rural Development Bank (Cambodia) will further push Cambodia's commitment to export one million ton of rice by 2015.

Through the project, the Export-Import Bank of China will finance the Rural Development Bank, owned by the Royal Gov-

ernment of Cambodia, as much as US\$50 million for necessary investments to increase the country's rice export.

"The US\$50-million-worth project of the two banks is just our first step. And the official agreement will be made no later than October this year," said

Mr. Son Kunthor, President of the Rural Development Bank, who met and discussed the project with Mr. Wang Yi, Deputy

Governor of the Export-Import Bank of China, last week in Phnom Penh.

He added that political stability, constant economic growth and financial support from friendship countries will enable Cambodia to hit the goal of one million ton of rice export by mid of the 2010s.

Financial support is very important because we need the funding not only to build high-quality rice

processing factories, but also to operate our rice trading, he said.

In 2013, Cambodia is estimated to export some 350,000 tons of rice.

Cambodia Imports Over 400 tons of Raw Silk Each Year

AKP Phnom Penh, August 22, 2013 –

Cambodia imports over 400 tons of raw silk at a cost of some US\$25 million every year to meet the demand for silk handmade products in the country.

The import coincides with an increase of more and more foreign tourists vis-

iting the country in the last recent years leading to the re-appearing of the silk products for satisfying the domestic and foreign markets.

The trading of silk products has increased since 2010 after the tourism industry in the country went up and the local silk manufacturers were depen-

dent on the high season of foreign arrivals as they had much more foreign customers than the local, according to local media reports.

Each year, the country imports about 400 tons of silk threads and produces around 2,400,000 meters of silk textiles, providing jobs to over 25,000 Cam-

bodian women in this field and earning a revenue of some US\$50 million for the state, the figures from the Ministry of Commerce showed.

IUCN and CEPF Launch US\$10.4 million of New Funding for Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot

AKP Phnom Penh, August 30, 2013 –

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) have launched a US\$10.4 million, five-year investment in the conservation of the globally important biodiversity found in the Indo-Burma region including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, plus parts of southern China.

According to the IUCN's press release issued this

morning, the funding will be delivered in the form of small and large grants to civil society organizations – both NGOs and the private sector to enable them to run projects that will conserve biodiversity.

"The CEPF grants for Indo-Burma offer a fantastic opportunity to support civil society organizations working on conservation issues in one of the most threatened biodiversity hotspots in the world. IUCN is delighted to be leading this initiative, and looks forward to working with partners across the

region to make a real difference for conservation," said Dr Scott Perkin, Head of the IUCN Biodiversity Conservation Programme, Asia and Manager of the CEPF Fund for Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot Conservation.

The Indo-Burma region ranks among the world's top 10 biodiversity "hotspots", a term which is used to describe the planet's most biologically rich and threatened regions. The Indo-Burma Hotspot includes all non-marine parts of 6 countries. Along with its high levels of plant

and animal endemism, and limited remaining natural habitat, Indo-Burma is also home to more people than any other hotspot, and its remaining natural ecosystems are subject to intense and growing pressure from habitat loss and over-exploitation of natural resources, it added.

IRI Praises Democracy Progress in Cambodia

AKP Phnom Penh, August 22, 2013 –

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior H.E. Sar Kheng received here on Monday visiting Ms. Julija Belej Bakovic, Regional Director for Asia Programs of the International Republican Institute (IRI).

During the meeting, Ms. Julija Belej Bakovic told H.E. Sar Kheng of the in-

stitute's activities in Cambodia and highly valued the progress of democracy in the country through the recent national election. She further affirmed that IRI would continue to support this field in Cambodia.

She also spoke highly of the Ministry of Interior's endeavors in ensuring national security and public order.

For his part, H.E. Sar Kheng welcomed the IRI's activities in Cambodia, especially in strengthening democracy, and requested the institute to continue to help build Cambodian youth's capacity.

continue its reform programs, especially in the judicial system, the National Election Committee and so on so as to further strengthen democracy in the country.

He also briefed his guest on Cambodia's situation, particularly in the wake of last month's national election, stressing that once the new government is formed, Cambodia will

Cambodia and Save the Children Reach an Agreement on Development of Young Children

AKP Phnom Penh, August 26, 2013 –

Cambodia's Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and Save the Children have reached a Memorandum of Understanding on the Improvement Project of Young Children Protection and Development Program.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed here last week by H.E. Im

Sethy, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, and Mr. Andrew Moore, Country Director of Save the Children in Cambodia.

The over US\$8-million project will be implemented in eleven targeted provinces and municipality including Kampong Cham, Siem Reap, Kampong Chhnang, Preah Vihear, Koh Kong, Pursat, Prey Veng, Kratie, Preah Si-

hanouk, Stung Treng and Phnom Penh Capital, according to a press release from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

The three-year project is aimed at strengthening the quality of the Program on protection and development of young children under six years old, and at increasing the quantity of schooling and the quality of primary and lower secondary education, added

the press release.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, H.E. Im Sethy expressed profound thanks to Save the Children for its assistance to the development of Cambodia's education sector since the 1980s.

Phnom Penh Municipality Kicks Off Its Campaign to Repair Drainage System in the Capital



Phnom Penh Municipal Governor H.E. Pa Socheat Vong and Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Mr. Yuji Kumamru, preside over here this morning the Partial Use Ceremony of Area Under the Government of Japan's Grant Aid Project for Flood Protection and Drainage Improvement in Phnom Penh Capital (Phase III).

Photo: Ok Sakhoeun



Phnom Penh Municipality led by its Governor H.E. Pa Socheat Vong kicks off its campaign on Aug. 24 to repair and clean up the drainage system in Phnom Penh Capital City in an effort to timely avert the flooding during the rainy season.

Photo: Ok Sokhoeun

Health Minister Receives New WFP Country Director

AKP Phnom Penh, August 13, 2013 –

Minister of Health H.E. Dr. Mam Bun Heng received here last Friday Mr. Gian Pietro Bordignon, newly-appointed Country Director of World Food Programme (WFP) to Cambodia.

H.E. Gian Pietro Bordignon expressed thanks to the Ministry of Health for its support to the WFP's activities so far, adding

that it was his first time to come to Cambodia. Hence, he had to get to know more about the country to find out what WFP can help.

In the world, WFP has focused mainly on emergency aid program, but it is different in Cambodia that WFP has helped to support the government's health policy, said H.E. Gian Pietro Bordignon, lauding the good cooperation between WFP and the Ministry of Health in

combating HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB).

For his part, H.E. Dr. Mam Bun Heng thanked WFP for its support in enhancing HIV/AIDS and TB patients' health in Cambodia from 1993 to 2001. He thus asked WFP to consider resuming this assistance.

On the same day, H.E. Dr. Mam Bun Heng also held talks with newly-appointed Ambassador of Australia to Cambodia H.E. Ms. Alison Burrows, who expressed the Australian government's commitment to continue to support Cambodia's health sector.

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Besides, both sides further discussed the issue of nutrition for women and children.

Cambodia Marks 4th Anniversary of Promulgation of Law on Protection and Promotion of Rights of People with Disabilities



AKP Phnom Penh, August 16, 2013 –

Cambodia's Minister of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation addresses the participants while he presided over here this morning a Workshop to mark the 4th anniversary of the promulgation of Law on Protection and Promotion of Rights of People with Disabilities. Photo: Sin Sareth

Siem Reap Authorities Hold a Meeting on Security Enforcement for People and Tourists



AKP Siem Reap, August 14, 2013 –

Siem Reap provincial authorities hold a meeting on security enforcement for people and tourists on Aug. 13 in Siem Reap city under the presidency of its provincial Governor H.E. Khim Bunsong.

Photo: Hang Seak, AKP-Siem Reap

Over One Million Tourists Visit Siem Reap Province



AKP Siem Reap, August 14, 2013 –

More and more foreign tourists visit Angkor temples in Siem Reap province. In the first seven months of this year, more than 1.28 million foreign tourists have visited Angkor temples, up by over 6 percent if compared with the same period of last year, according to the figures provided by Siem Reap provincial tourism department.

Photo: Hang Seak, AKP-Siem Reap

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