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Cambodia Commemorates the January 7 Victory Day



AKP Phnom Penh, January 07, 2014 –

The Kingdom of Cambodia marks here this morning the 35th Anniversary of January 7 Victory Day (Jan. 7, 1979-Jan. 7, 2014) over the Khmer Rouge Genocidal Regime under the presidency of Samdech Akka Moha Thamma Pothisal Chea Sim, President of the Senate, Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister.

Photo: Sin Sareth & Chim Nary

Cambodia Marks the 35th Anniversary of the January 7 Victory Day

AKP Phnom Penh, January 07, 2014 –

Some 50,000 Cambodian people from all walks of life gathered here this morning at Koh Pich Convention and Exhibition Center in a meeting to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the January 7 Victory Day 1979-2014 over the Khmer Rouge Genocidal Regime.

This auspicious event was presided over by Samdech Akka Moha Thamma Pothisal Chea Sim, President of the Senate and President of the Cambodian People Party (CPP); Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly and Honorary President of CPP; and Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister and Vice President of CPP.

“Today the people of Cambodia in the whole country are energetically celebrating the great event of the 35th anniversary of the historic January 7, 1979 victory that overthrew the genocidal regime of Pol Pot, saved the

Cambodian People’s lives in a timely manner and maintained the country’s existence and progress up to the present,” Samdech Heng Samrin said.

Though 35 years have passed, the historic event continues to bear great significance for every generation to come as well as peace and justice loving people in the world, he underlined.



“We are meeting to commemorate the victory day with the spirit of deep respect for uncountable fallen combatants and patriots who fought and sacrificed bravely for the liberation of our nation from the genocide, defended the people’s revival, and to remember always the great assistance rendered by every country-near and

far, for the supreme cause. We all are bowing to pay respects to the souls of millions of people who died unjustly under the genocidal regime and pray for their souls to the rest in peace,” he added.

According to Samdech Heng Samrin’s speech, with the current development and achievements, January 7, 1979 cannot be forgotten. “January 7 victory is our second birth-

day and without the January 7 victory, we would not have everything we do today. In the past 35 years, stemming from the January 7, 1979, the Kingdom of Cambodia enjoys radical changes in all fields and appreciations and greetings from people all over the world,” he said.

Samdech Heng Samrin

also highlighted that in the year 2013, Cambodia realized numerous achievements in all fields in the course of its development. Cambodia has successfully finished its implementation of the political platform which guaranteed peace, stability, security, social order, democracy, development and national sovereignty.

In the context of the current political issues, the fact that the opposition party has attempted to put pressure to the Royal Government of Cambodia led by CPP, and demanded for Samdech Techo Hun Sen’s resignation and for the re-run of the national election, is an action that violates the Constitution, democratic principles, and will of the overwhelming majority of the Cambodian people, stressed Samdech Heng Samrin.

U.S. Ambassador Optimistic about Cambodia's Economy

AKP Phnom Penh, January 06, 2014 –

The U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. William E. Todd expressed his optimism about Cambodia's economy in 2014 which will be growing despite many challenges.

“Along with political progress, Cambodia's economy continued its strong growth this year, driven by the hard work of Cambodians seeking a better life for themselves and their families,” said the U.S. diplomat in his weekly column.

A significant positive development in the labor

field was the signing of a new agreement that will allow the Better Factories Cambodia program to make public its reporting on factory conditions, which holds great promise for improving the labor conditions for half a million Cambodian workers, he said.

“There was also progress on raising the minimum wage in the garment sector. Ongoing disputes between workers and business owners over basic pay, benefits, and safety, however, highlight the challenges that need to be addressed in 2014 to allow Cambodia's economy to keep growing. I remain

optimistic that mutually acceptable solutions to these and other challenges can be found, and I pledge to continue my own efforts to promote bilateral trade and investment to help Cambodians see a brighter future,” he stressed.

On July 28, the world watched as millions of Cambodians headed to the polls and exercised their right to vote, said H.E. William E. Todd, adding that the high turnout demonstrated the Cambodian people's determination to play a leading role in shaping their country's future, and the generally peaceful and open environment during the campaign pe-

riod and on polling day represented a positive step forward in the country's democratic development.

The ambassador also appreciated the Royal Government of Cambodia for providing the security and political space for citizens to exercise their freedoms of assembly and expression in an open and peaceful manner.

Cambodia's Trade Volume Increases to US\$16 billion in 2013

AKP Phnom Penh, January 17, 2014 –

Cambodia's trade volume reached US\$15.9 billion in 2013, an 18 percent increase from US\$13.4 billion in 2012, according to a report of the Ministry of Commerce.

The country's export was valued at US\$6.9 billion,

up 26 percent when compared with US\$5.5 billion in 2012, while the import was at US\$9 billion, up about 14 percent compared with US\$7.9 billion in 2012, the report added. Nowadays, Cambodia's main trading destination includes the United States, European Union, China, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan,

South Korea and so on.

In the first eleven months of 2013, Cambodia exported to the United States US\$2.57 billion, while Cambodia imported from the United States upwards of US\$214 million. In the same period, Cambodia imported from Japan US\$191 million, down 10.6 percent and exported

to Japan US\$545 million, up 45 percent.

The country's main export products include garments, rice, rubber, pepper and other products, and the imports are petrol, construction materials, cars and other items.

Cambodia Exports 400,000 Tons Milled Rice Last Year

AKP Phnom Penh, January 22, 2014 –

Cambodia exported some 400,000 tons of milled rice to international markets in 2013, H.E. Hean Vanhorn, Chairman of the Secretariat of One Window Service for Rice Export Formality (SOWS-REF) said at the General Assembly of Cambodian Rice Exporters held here this morning.

He further expressed his conviction that with this amount, Cambodia will be able to achieve its target of exporting 1 million tons of milled rice by 2015.

Oknha Kim Savuth, President of the Federation of Cambodian Rice Exporters, said the federation's 121 members who are rice exporters, rice millers, transporters, service providers, etc. will closely cooperate so as to meet

the rice export target by 2015.

Currently, Cambodia has 84 milled rice exporter companies to 66 countries and regions around the world, in particular to France, Poland, Malaysia, the Netherlands, China and so on.

Cambodia's fragrant rice, Jasmine, won two consecutive World's Best Rice Awards, at the 5th Annual The Rice Trader (TRT)

World Rice Conference in Hong Kong in 2013 and at the 4th TRT World Rice Conference in Bali, Indonesia in 2012.

Last year, Cambodia produced around some 9 million tons of paddy rice, and besides local consumption, the country has around 3 million tons of milled rice left over for export.

The Price of Kampot Pepper Reaches US\$20,000 per Ton

AKP Phnom Penh, January 02, 2014 –

The price of Cambodia's well-known pepper from Kampot province could reach around US\$20,000 per ton, according to Kampot Pepper Association. There are three different kinds of pepper, each could be sold from around US\$11,000 to US\$20,000 per ton, said Mr. Nguon Lay, President of Kampot Pepper Association.

"The selling price per ton is US\$11,000, US\$18,000 and US\$20,000 for black pepper, white pepper and red pepper, respectively," he stressed.

We have not harvested the pepper yet, but we have signed selling contracts



with partner companies for 26 tons, he continued. According to Mr. Nguon Lay, pepper plantations have been expanded to 90 ha in Kampot province,

but only 30 tons of pepper could be collected in 2014 as the pepper has been just planted.

However, some 32,5 ha of pepper are expected to provide good yields in 2015, he said, hoping that full yields will be obtained

by 2016.

Since Kampot pepper gained the Geographical Indication status in April 2010, there has been an increase both in demand and price.

Besides Kampot, pepper farms are also found in Kep, Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Kampong Cham, Rattanakiri and Kratie provinces.

The major foreign markets for Cambodian pepper are France, the U.S., Australia, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Belgium, UK and Germany, etc.

Project to Expand Job Service and Improve Labor Market Information in Cambodia Launched

AKP Phnom Penh, January 16, 2014 –

A China-funded project to expand job services and improve labor market information in Cambodia was launched here this morning by the International Labor Organization (ILO).

The project is part of the ILO/China South-South Cooperation Project to Expand Employment Services and Enhance Labor Market Information in Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), said an ILO's press release, indicating that it is the first ILO project supported by the People's Republic of China in Cambodia that focuses specifically on improving job services.

The project aims to improve labor market efficiency and participation, reduce unemployment, and enhance the flow of information between job-

seekers and employers, stressed the press release. In Cambodia, it added, the three-year project will enhance the quality of job services and make the existing job centers in Phnom Penh, Battambang, Siem Reap, Kampot and Svay Rieng more client-oriented. It will improve job matching and placement through better collection, analysis and dissemination of labor market data, and encourage the development of relevant work programs for specific groups such as women, migrant workers and people with disabilities. Similar initiatives are planned in Lao PDR as well.

“Enhancing productivity is key to economic growth and poverty reduction. The South-South Cooperation Project will help Cambodia to achieve and sustain economic growth and translate that growth in the creation of more and better jobs,” said H.E.

Pich Sophoan, Cambodian Secretary of State for Labor and Vocational Training and Vice Chairman of the National Training Board.

Ms. Lu Xiaoping, Deputy Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation, China's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, said China supports and promotes this South-South cooperation initiative and finds it to be a powerful means to combat poverty by enabling the country to invest in their own economic and social development.

“The Ministry would like to thank the Cambodian partners and the ILO for their commitment. It is certain that this project is a platform for mutual collaboration and paves the way for more fruitful endeavors. The Ministry is confident that through our joint efforts this project will be a success,” she

said.

For his part, Mr. Maurizio Bussi, Officer-in-Charge of the ILO Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR, said the increasing need to provide services to a rapidly expanding and flexible labor market means employment agencies are now more relevant than ever. “In recognition of this growing pattern, the ILO is continuing to provide support and guidance to its member States in strengthening their public employment services,” he said.

PM Hun Sen Inaugurates New SOS Children's Village in Kratie



AKP Phnom Penh, January 18, 2014 –

Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen presides over this morning the inauguration ceremony of the newest SOS Children's Village in Kratie, a northeastern province of Cambodia.

Located on an area of 10,230 square meters in

O' Russey district, Kratie city, the SOS Children's Village in Kratie was built from Jan. 25, 2012 to June 9, 2013 at a total cost of US\$1.33 million, according to Minister of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation H.E. Vorng Saut.

The village consists of 18 buildings including 12 family houses, a community house, a guest house,

a staff house, an office building, a village chief house and a kindergarten, he said, adding that the village can accommodate up to 130 children for permanent stay and 120 children for the kindergarten's classes.

It is one of the nine SOS Children's Villages built since 1999 across Cambodia – in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Battambang,

Rattanakiri, and Kratie. The 10th SOS Children's Village is expected to be built this year in Tek Chhou district of Kampong Speu province on an area of 3 ha provided by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation.

Anti-Corruption Unit Calls for Cooperation in Fighting Corruption and Terrorism

AKP Phnom Penh, January 03, 2014 –

Cambodian Senior Minister and Chairman of Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) H.E. Om Yentieng has called on people and private sector to join hands in combating and eliminating

corruption in Cambodia.

Speaking at a workshop on anti-corruption law dissemination and terrorism elimination held in Siem Reap on Jan. 2, H.E. Om Yentieng said that the cooperation from local people, private sector,

and authorities will help eliminate all forms of corruption.

He also appealed to the audience who are owners of hotels, guesthouses and restaurants to cooperate with authorities not only in fighting against corrup-

tion, but also in reporting the terrorist groups to authorities.

In addition, the Cambodian senior minister briefed them on the ACU's achievements so far.

Cambodia, U.S. Release Education Manuals for Cambodian Schools

AKP Phnom Penh, January 29, 2014 –

The U.S. and Cambodian governments released an educational guide that will help Cambodian schools improve the way their students learn, in Phnom Penh yesterday.

The Life Skills Curriculum is the culmination of an extensive collaboration between the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Improved Basic Education in Cambodia (IBEC) project.

The launching ceremony was presided over by H.E. Hang Choun Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, H.E. Ms. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs, and USAID/Cambodia Mission Director Ms. Rebecca Black.



USAID Cambodia Mission Director Rebecca Black makes opening remarks while Minister of Women's Affairs Ing Kantha Phavi (seated left) and Minister of Education, Youth and Sports Hang Chuon Naron (seated right) listen.

“Having a well-qualified and competitive labor force is within reach if Cambodia invests wisely in education and training,” said Ms. Black.

“This curriculum will help make education more relevant, more attractive,

and more motivating for Cambodia's youth. Most importantly, it will give young people the tools they need to not only survive, but to thrive in a fast-changing world,” she added.

The multi-disciplinary

curriculum benefits both primary and secondary school levels and serves as a guide for Cambodia's education system.

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