



**CONTENT :**

- Samdech Hun Sen Received by King-Father and Queen-Mother. Page 1
- China, Cambodia Pledge to Further Enhance Ties. Page 1
- National Assembly President Backs Home from Cuba. Page 2
- ADB Supports Cambodian Financial Sector Reform. Page 2
- Cambodia-Thailand Visa Exemption Agreement Comes into Force. Page 3
- Cambodia Holds Meeting on Reintegration of Victims of Human Trafficking. Page 3
- Film Expo 2012 To Be Held at Angkor Land. Page 4
- Japan-Mekong Forum Focuses on Infrastructure. Page 4
- Cambodia Rejects Thai ASTV Manger Online's Assertion. Page 5
- 200,000 Tones of Rice To Be Exported from Cambodia to China. Page 6
- Siem Reap Travel Guide. Page 7

## Samdech Hun Sen Received by King-Father and Queen-Mother

Phnom Penh, December 15, 2010 AKP —

Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen was received in a royal audience by His Majesty King-Father Norodom Sihanouk and Her Majesty Queen-Mother Norodom Monineath Sihanouk on Dec. 14

in Beijing, on the second day of the premier's five-day official visit to China.

On the occasion,



Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen (2<sup>nd</sup> Left) pays a courtesy visit to retired King Norodom Sihanouk and Queen Monineath Sihanouk in Beijing .

Samdech Techo Hun Sen informed the former monarchs of his visit in China, which

he said has brought a

lot of benefits to the country and the Cambodian people.

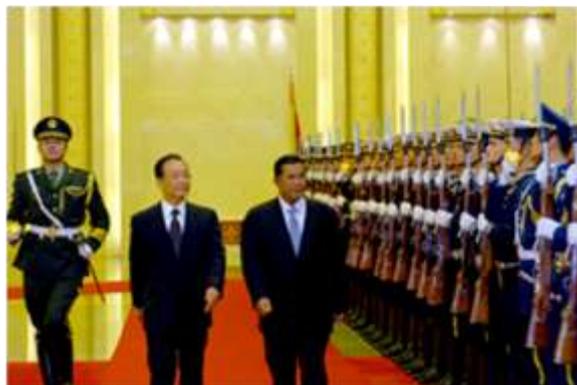
During the bilateral meeting on Dec.

13, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao announced to consider Cambodia as China's and the Chinese people's best friend and to enhance the ties of cooperation between the two countries, from reliable partners to highest

level strategic partners, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said...

To be continued to page 6

## China, Cambodia Pledge to Further Enhance Ties



Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen (Right) is warmly greeted by China's Prime Minister Wen Jiabao during the Official Reception Ceremony.

Phnom Penh, December 16, 2010 AKP —

Chinese and Cambodian leaders on Wednesday pledged to further enhance bilateral ties, two days after the two countries agreed to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation.

“The establishment of this strategic partnership brings new opportunities for the development of bilateral ties,” Chinese President Hu Jintao was quoted as saying by Chinese News Agency Xinhua when meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen Wednesday afternoon in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing...

To be continued to page 6

## National Assembly President Backs Home from Cuba



Cambodian National Assembly President Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin backs home this morning after concluding a week-long official and friendship visit to the Republic of Cuba.

Phnom Penh, December 15, 2010 AKP —

National Assembly President Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei

Heng Samrin returned home Tuesday after a week-long official friendship visit (Dec 5-13) to the Republic of Cuba.

Samdech Heng Samrin and his high-level parliamentary delegation were welcomed on the return at Phnom Penh International Airport by NA first Vice-President Nguon Nhel, and NA second Vice-President Say Chhum, and a number of the Members of the National Assembly.

Cuban ambassador to Cambodia was also present to welcome the delegation on the return.

The visit was made at the invitation of Ricardo Alarcon De Quesada, President of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba (ANPP) and ended on Dec. 13, said H.E. Ngin

Saphon, chairwoman of NA Commission for Public Works, Posts, Industry, Commerce and Land Management, at a press conference at the airport following the delegation's arrival. During an audience granted to National Assembly President Samdech Heng Samrin, ANPP President Ricardo Alarcon De Quesada expressed warm welcome to Cambodian high-level parliamentary delegation. He also shared his condolences with the victims and families of victims in the Nov. 22 incident...

**To be continued to page 4**

## ADB Supports Cambodian Financial Sector Reform

Phnom Penh, December 6, 2010 AKP —

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Directors last week approved a loan and grant of US\$15 million to promote the development of Cambodian financial sector, said an ADB news release.

The loan and grant will finance the final sub-program of the Second Financial Sector Cluster Program, which incorporates reform actions designed to improve public confidence and financial intermediation, strengthen sector resilience, promote good governance, and enhance system efficiency.

Key actions of the program include steps to improve check clearance and settlement amongst commercial banks and the government, regulations to guide inter-bank transactions, the promotion of deposit-taking by microfinance institutions in compliance with new prudential requirements, and improved prudential supervision of banks and microfinance institutions. It also promotes greater transparency in the insurance industry, measures to combat money laundering, and a new integrated accounting system at the National Bank of Cambodia.

"Finance sector development helps reduce poverty by cutting transaction costs for economic activities and expanding the reach of the formal finance sector to lower income groups, including rural micro-enterprises," said Samiuela Tukuafu, Principal Financial Sector Specialist in ADB's Southeast Asia Department.

The immediate gains generated by the program, which began in 2007, include new and increased loans of US\$1.52 billion, the creation of over 12,000 jobs, and the opening of over 980 new branches of banks and microfinance

institutions throughout Cambodia.

The loan of US\$10 million from ADB's concessional Asian Development Fund has a 24-year term, including an 8-year grace period with an interest rate of 1 percent during the grace period and 1.5 percent for the balance of the term. The grant of US\$5 million also comes from the Asian Development Fund. The National Bank of Cambodia is the executing agency for the overall program, with the Ministry of Economy and Finance and Ministry of Commerce the implementing agencies. —AKP

## Cambodia-Thailand Visa Exemption Agreement Comes into Force

Phnom Penh, December 17, 2010 AKP —

The Agreement on visa exemption for holders of normal passports between Cambodia and Thailand has come into force from Dec. 16, 2010.

A ceremony to celebrate this event was held in Poipet City, Cambodia's Banteay Meanchey province in the presence of Ung Oeun, governor of Banteay Meanchey and his Thai counterpart of

Sa Kaew province, Sanit Naksuksi.

On the occasion, both governors said with this visa exemption, the peoples of the two countries can travel to and stay for 14 days in the host country without applying for visas.

Governor Ung Oeun praised for the good relationship between the peoples of Banteay Meanchey and Sa Kaew provinces.

In the first 11

months of 2010, the number of foreign tourists who came to Cambodia from Thailand through Poipet border gate reached over 300,000, an increase by 2.83 percent as compared to the same period of 2009.

On Nov. 17, the Cambodian and Thai foreign ministers signed here the Agreement between the two neighboring countries on visa exemption for holders of normal pass-

ports under the presidency of Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and his Thai counterpart H.E. Abhisit Vejjajiva upon their close-door bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 4<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Summit.

Cambodia has signed visa exemption agreements with the ASEAN member countries, except Brunei and Myanmar. —AKP

## Cambodia Holds Meeting on Reintegration of Victims of Human Trafficking

Phnom Penh, December 8, 2010 AKP —

Cambodia opened a two-day meeting on Tuesday to discuss on reintegration of victims of human trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

Chinese News Agency Xinhua quoted a statement released Tuesday at the meeting by World Vision Cambodia (WVC) and the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP), as saying "The successful reintegration of victims of human trafficking into society is a critical issue in victim protection work."

The meeting held in Phnom Penh is aimed at creating national dialogue

to better understand the needs of victims of trafficking for their effective reintegration into society.

Many government agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community groups have worked on the issue of victim reintegration in Cambodia for over a decade.

Recognizing that now is an appropriate time to assess the effectiveness of reintegration assistance that has been provided by to date, these organizations have come together at this week's forum to review and document reintegration services currently being provided to victims of trafficking upon voluntary re-

turn; and to prioritize practical challenges and issues involved in effective voluntary return and reintegration.

The forum will review the application of minimum standards and guidelines in integration and gather lessons learnt from different stakeholders in their application in both formal and informal policies and procedures.

The meeting will help to fill the existing gaps in terms of victim identification, protection, recovery and reintegration assistance under the current regional plan of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT).

COMMIT comprises six countries in the Mekong Sub-region: Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam.

The National Practitioner Forums seek to provide a platform for practitioners in the frontlines working directly with victims of trafficking to reflect and share their experiences on providing reintegration assistance.

A regional report combining the outcomes of the national forums will be prepared for submission to COMMIT Task Force members in January 2011. —AKP

## Film Expo 2012 To Be Held at Angkor Land

Phnom Penh, December 16, 2010 AKP —

Angkor Wat International Film Festival Center will organize a Film Expo in Cambodia's Angkor land in 2012.

Mr. Blaise J. Noto, co-founder of Angkor Wat International Film Festival told Minister of Information H.E. Khieu Kanharith during a meeting here on Dec. 14.

Mr. Blaise J. Noto said this is the third time for his group to come to Cambodia, and at the same time he sought the minister's support to the 2012 Film Expo.

In reply, H.E. Khieu

Kanharith welcomed and was delighted with the Angkor Wat International Film Festival Center for continuously organizing film expo in Cambodia. — AKP

## Japan-Mekong Forum Focuses on Infrastructure

Phnom Penh, December 15, 2010 AKP —

The expansion of cooperation between Japan and the five Mekong nations in infrastructure development, logistics and distribution in Southeast Asia topped the agenda of a forum in Tokyo on Dec. 14.

Almost 150 government officials, businesspeople and experts from Japan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam attended the forum, designed to promote public-private cooperation as well as cooperation in such areas as energy development, support of small and medium-sized enterprises and tourism, according to Vietnam News Agency (VNA).

At the outset of the one-day meeting, Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Tokunaga said, "In recent years, with a view to helping close development gaps and reinforce integration within the ASEAN region, Japan has placed particular importance on its cooperation with the Mekong region".

Tokunaga said Japan has "actively backed the improvement of hard and soft infrastructure" in the Mekong region, pointing to Japan's recent efforts to boost exports of its infrastructure systems by making arrangements to meet the needs of recipient countries through the integration of promising Japanese tech-

nologies.

Sumitaka Fujita, adviser to the Itochu Corp., said the Mekong region has "a special potential for future development" due to its position between the two Asian emerging powers China and India and its position at the centre of the ASEAN countries.

Fujita noted that many Japanese companies do business in the Mekong area, where the items they produce include exports bound for U.S. and European markets. Those firms also target the five Mekong nations with a combined population of more than 200 million, he added.

Fujita called on Japan and the Mekong countries

to train personnel, establish systems to protect intellectual property and build more hard and soft infrastructure to support business activities in the Southeast Asian region.

The public-private forum was established in line with the Mekong-Japan Action Plan 63, which was adopted during the first-ever summit involving the six countries in Tokyo in November last year.

The outcomes of the forum will be reported to the Japan-Mekong Foreign Ministers Meeting and the Japan-Mekong Summit, scheduled to take place in 2011. —AKP

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**From page 2**

### National Assembly President Backs...

ANPP President Ricardo Alarcon De Quesada noted that the visit by Cambodian high-level parliamentary delegation took place at the time when the Republic of Cuba celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cambodia-Cuba Diplomatic Relationships, which, according to him, have seen a remarkable progress in the solidarity and friendship between

the Parties and peoples of the two countries, though being located far apart from each other.

For his part, National Assembly President Samdech Heng Samrin appreciated the hospitality given to Cambodian high-level parliamentary delegation and informed his counterpart of the situation in Cambodia.

He welcomed the great achievements made by the Party, government and people of Cuba, headed by President Fidel Castro in the face of the economic

and financial blockade.

National Assembly President Samdech Heng Samrin said he was convinced that the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba in April 2011 would help evade the consequences resulting from the economic blockade, and speed up the development of Cuba.

He thanked Cuba for having assisted and supported Cambodia during the difficult time in the past and its continued assistance at present to the national

reconstruction and development.

He invited ANPP President Ricardo Alarcon De Quesada to visit Cambodia, and the invitation was accepted.

During his stay in Cuba, National Assembly President Samdech Heng Samrin met with a number of Cuban leaders and visited the High Scientific Center, the University of Informatic Sciences, the National Culture Centre of Cuba and other historical centres. — AKP

## Cambodia Rejects Thai ASTV Manger Online's Assertion

Phnom Penh, December 8, 2010 AKP —

The Royal Government of Cambodia has in a clarification rejected the ASTV Manager Online's assertion against Cambodian leaders, calling it a false accusation.

The full clarification dated Dec. 7 reads as follows:

“The Office of the Spokesperson of the Press and Quick Reaction Unit (PRU) of the Office of the Council of Ministers (OCM) of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) categorically rejected the assertion by ASTV Manager Online on 3 December 2010 at 22:23 PM saying that:

**“At this moment the Government of Mr. Hun Sen is pushing down with all its might a grand scheme in order to snatch away the Temple of Preah Vihear and the areas in its vicinity to make its own”.**

This is purely a false accusation and fabrication by ASTV Manager Online which has been known to be the mouthpiece of the PAD core-leader **Sondhi Limthongkul**, a communication tycoon who owns ASTV station.

In fact, it is publicly well known that the Temple of Preah Vihear belongs to Cambodia and currently we are waiting for the Cambodian-Thai Joint Boundary Commission (JBC) to work on the demarcation of land boundary on the sites.

This is not the first time that Sondhi Limthongkul spoke ill about Cambodia and the Cambodian leaders, either with slanderous attacks, or fabrication of false news in order to mislead the national and international public, or baseless accusations. On many occasions, the Spokesperson of the PRU had protested against Sondhi Limthongkul who had time and again conducted a hatred campaign against the people of Cambodia and the Cambodian leaders, igniting and inflaming the enmity between Cambodians and Thais. He has proven that he is becoming a raving lunatic whose mission is to destroy good and friendly relations between the people of Thailand and the people of Cambodia.

In the same vein, the Spokesperson of the Press and Quick Reaction Unit rejected

the ASTV Manager Online's assertion that **“His Excellency Dr. Sok An Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers has come out and claimed victory over Thailand sovereignty because Cambodia can force Thailand to cut down Thai military troops at the Keo Sikkha Kiri Svava pagoda, and in so doing this means that Thailand has recognized that the pagoda and the areas in the vicinity of the Temple of Preah Vihear belong to Cambodia”.**

As a matter of fact, during the visit of ICAPP leaders at the Temple of Preah Vihear on 5 December, 2010, H.E. Dr. Sok An did not touch even one word about the military issue. On the contrary, he did tell the foreign guests, firstly about the history of the construction of this Temple of Preah Vihear; secondly about the decision of the International Court of Justice's three-point Judgment on 15 June 1962. Thirdly, H.E. Dr. Sok An also informed the foreign delegates about the correct decision of World Heritage Committee to unanimously

inscribe the Temple of Preah Vihear on 7 July 2008, in Quebec City Canada on the World Heritage List under Criterion (I) that is Preah Vihear is an outstanding masterpiece of Khmer architecture with an outstanding universal value. And finally, he also briefed the delegations about the tireless efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia to protect, preserve and develop the Preah Vihear area.

The Spokesperson of the PRU is under the obligation to bring to the attention of the national and international public that **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia has once again proven **to be a peace maker**, this time, to bring peace in the border areas between Cambodia and Thailand. **Samdech Hun Sen** was proud to announce on 6 December 2010 during a graduation ceremony at the National Institute of Education that ‘the situation has eased and returned to what it was like before July 15, 2008.’” —AKP

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From page 1

### Samdech Hun Sen Received by King-Father...

Both sides were committed to do their best to further strengthen their cooperation in bilateral, multilateral, regional and global frameworks, he stressed.

The Cambodian prime minister went on to say

that to help boost Cambodia's economy, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao announced a preferential loan for buyers to the Cambodian government, as well as a financial assistance for the construction of a laboratory to test the quality of rice and other agricultural products to be exported to China.

For his part, King-Father Norodom Sihanouk highly valued all the royal

government's achievements under the wise leadership of Samdech Techo Hun Sen. The former king also appreciated his untiring efforts in establishing relations with other countries in the world and in seeking all ways to find economic and financial resource for the country's reconstruction.

China has been his and Cambodia's best friend, King-Father said, express-

ing his satisfaction with the royal government's policy in continuing to adhere to the One China policy and with the two leaders' commitment to mutually support in all forums.

King-Father Norodom Sihanouk also reiterated his support until the end of his life to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen as Prime Minister of Cambodia. —AKP

From page 1

### China and Cambodia Pledge ...

After having studied and evaluated on the beach of Cambodia, Mr. Jerome Bignon expressed his full support for Cambodia's application for membership in the club and he will submit the document of the Cambodia's 440 km coastal areas stretching in four provinces of Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Kampot and

Kep to list with the club in February 2011 in the Philippines. The result of the membership of Cambodia in this club shall be announced in the 7<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Club of the world's most beautiful beaches which will be held in May 2011 in Africa.

In reply, H.E. Sok An, also Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, raised the success of Cambodia on the preservation of world heritages through Interna-

tional Coordinating Committee (ICC) and Cambodian experiences have been used as a model in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Cambodian deputy prime minister hoped that Cambodia's experiences would be helpful for the Club of the world's most beautiful beaches through the vision of Royal Government of Cambodia on the preservation of the world heritages. He also hoped that Cambodia's beach will be officially recognized as a member of

the World's Most Beautiful Beaches Club next year through the evaluation of the club which will be held in Africa.

It should be noted that if Cambodia is admitted to the club, the certificate for the world's most beautiful beaches shall be issued to Cambodia which would help to attract more tourists to the areas, which have a potential to develop the nation's economy.—AKP

## 200,000 Tones of Rice To Be Exported from Cambodia to China

Phnom Penh, December 8, 2010 AKP —

COFCO FEED Co., Ltd. of China has decided to export 200,000 tonnes of rice in the first step from Cambodia to China's market.

The company made a decision to buy the Cambodian rice after Ms. Yang Hong, vice chairman of COFCO FEED Co., Ltd. of China, accompanied by

H.E. Sun Kunthor, general director of Rural Development Bank and H.E. Sok Siphana, an advisor to the Cambodian Royal Government, along with a delegation of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, paid a recent visit to the rice processing plant of Baitang (Green) Company in Battambang province.

Her visit is to conduct a

survey on the potential in agriculture field in Cambodia such as rice crops, cassavas and sugar canes to create a possibility of making an investment in Cambodia and buying agricultural produce from Cambodia to China, she said.

Up to November this year, 28,000 tonnes of rice have been exported by Baitang Company to Aus-

tralia, France, Germany, Spanish, Italy and Singapore, according to Phour Pu, president of Baitang Company and president of Battambang Rice Miller's Association.

Besides importing rice from Cambodia, China is also the main rice importer from Thailand and Vietnam. —AKP

# Siem Reap Travel Guide



Siem Reap is where you can visit the land of Angkor Wat, is one of the famous tourist spots in the world. Apart from its temples the natural beauty of Cambodia is also quite well known.

Siem Reap is the capital of the Siem Reap Province of Cambodia. This small town can be your holiday destination this year. It has many temples and a calm and quiet environment. Any Siem Reap Travel Guide would recommend a few days stay here. This stay is important so you can get a feel of the place. There are many noticeable places that Siem Reap Travel Guide recommends. You can visit temples like the world fa-

mous Angkor Wat. Siem Reap Travel Guide also has a list of other things to do in this town.

The Siem Reap Weather is dominated by monsoons. There are two types of monsoons here-the north-eastern and the south-western. The first one is cool and dry and there is little rain during this period. The period begins in November and lasts till April. The south western monsoon is responsible for the humidity and high rain. It lasts from May to October.

Travelers who are thinking about How to go to Siem Reap can reach this city by availing one of the international flights. You

can easily enter the town from the Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport. Tourists will get flights heading for this town from Singapore, Phnom Penh, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, etc. If it is sea-travel that you prefer then you can take a boat from the Phnom Penh.

Travelers Travelling in Siem Reap can enjoy a tour of the city by hiring a cab. This way they will be able to cover the whole city. They must visit the temples here. The most famous among them is the Angkor Wat. This temple was built in the 12 century by King Jayavarman VII. This temple was erected to honor God Vishnu. This temple stretches through a vast area so you have to board a cab to take a complete view of it.

You can visit some other temples like Banteay Srei. It is small temple. It is very aesthetically built. The

body of the temple has carvings of goddesses. There are other places of Sightseeing in Siem Reap like Bayon Temple in Siem Reap, Terrace of the Leper King, Terrace of the Elephant, Beng Melea in Siem Reap and Aki Ra's Landmine Museum in Siem Reap.

You can participate in the local Festivals and Events in Siem Reap. These festivals include Chaul Chnam (Khmer New Year) in Siem Reap, Angkor Photo Festival in Siem Reap and Angkor Half Marathon in Siem Reap.

There are some restaurants that provide fine delicacies. The list of the Popular Restaurants in Siem Reap include names like Dead Fish Tower in Siem Reap, FCC (Foreign Correspondent's Club) in Siem Reap, Blue Pumpkin in Siem Reap.

**Source:** [www.cambodia-tourism.org/](http://www.cambodia-tourism.org/)

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