

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

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## CAMBODIA, ROK SATISFIED WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

Cambodia and the Republic of Korea have expressed their appreciation for their good relations and cooperation, mainly in the fields of trade and investment, physical infrastructure, labour, military, peacekeeping operations (PKO) and anti-terrorism, and so on.

The appreciation was made during a meeting in Seoul, on 11 September between Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, President of the Cambodian Senate, and H.E. Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea, during the former's stay in ROK to attend the 25th World Knowledge Forum (WKF) 2024.

*Continued on page (2)*

## CAMBODIAN PM JOINS GLOBAL CALL ON THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet on 13 September shared his remarks to the Global Call on the Summit of the Future virtually hosted by the United Nations.

Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister mentioned in his speech that peace is the foundation for progress and development.

"Our history shows that without peace, goals like ending poverty, providing quality education, addressing climate change, and achieving sustainable economic development become far more challenging. This experience reminds us just how critical it is to work together to work our shared global goals," he underlined.

*Continued on page (2)*

## CAMBODIAN SENATE PRESIDENT SHARES ASEAN'S FORMULA FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, President of the Senate of Cambodia, has shared ASEAN's formula to maintain and promote peaceful coexistence in the bloc.

In his keynote address on the topic of "Journey Towards Coexistence and Prosperity in ASEAN" at the 25th World Knowledge Forum in Incheon, Republic of Korea on 10 September, Samdech Techo Hun Sen underscored that despite differences in the political and economic leadership, in races, culture, language, and so on between its member countries, ASEAN has become stronger and stronger every year, making other countries want to partner with ASEAN and acknowledge the necessity of ASEAN forum and its power to gather key actors around the world.

Up to now, 54 countries have signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) with ASEAN and 95 countries have appointed their ambassadors to ASEAN.

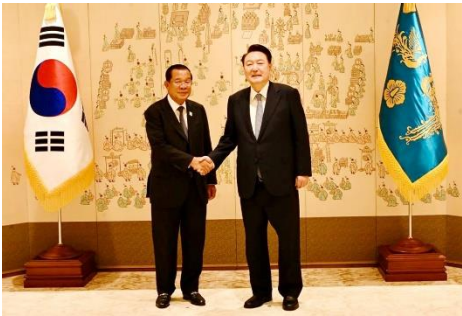
To ensure peaceful coexistence inside and outside the bloc, ASEAN has stuck to the principles of consensus and non-interference in other's internal affairs, adding that ASEAN is a reliable and trustworthy friend for all partners inside and outside the region.

"For ASEAN, peace and stability are the foundation for all," underlined Samdech Techo Hun Sen, former Prime Minister of Cambodia.

For the prosperity of ASEAN, the senate president laid stress on ASEAN's priority on economic integration and the principles of inclusiveness, a people-centred community, leaving no one behind, and narrowing development gap between members.

According to Samdech Techo Hun Sen, ASEAN has become the fifth superpower in the world with over US\$ 3 trillion GDP and a total of more than 600 million population. It is the centre of manufacturing, production force, and interconnected supply chains, plus worldwide trade networks.

## CAMBODIA, ROK SATISFIED WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS ...



Both leaders spoke highly of Cambodia-ROK Free Trade Agreement that has boosted the trade exchange and investment between the two countries,

Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed his gratitude to the Government and people of ROK for their contribution to the socio-economic development of Cambodia and requested the Korean president to encourage more Korean investors to come and invest in Cambodia and increase quotas for Cambodian migrant workers.

The former Cambodian Premier also asked the Korean side to consider the possibility of

elevating both nations’ relations to comprehensive strategic partnership in the next three years when they will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen extended a royal invitation of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, to H.E. Yoon Suk Yeol, to pay a visit to Cambodia in his convenient time.

For his part, H.E. Yoon Suk Yeol expressed welcome to Samdech Techo Hun Sen’s visit to ROK to attend the 25th WKF 2024, and recalled the visit of Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet to ROK in May this year, during which the Cambodia-ROK bilateral ties have been upgraded to the level of strategic partnership.

The Korean President also admired Samdech Techo Hun Sen’s wise leadership, and accepted the royal invitation to pay a state visit to Cambodia.

## CAMBODIAN PM JOINS GLOBAL CALL ON ...



At the same time, Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister emphasised Cambodia’s commitment to maintain peace and development over the world.

“Cambodia is proud to play a significant role in global peacekeeping. Since 2006, we have sent over 9,000 soldiers to serve in 11 UN missions, including over 800 women. Our teams have been key in offering crucial services, especially in the demining efforts. These contributions not only show our commitment to global peace, but also highlight the importance of inclusive participation in maintaining security and stability worldwide,” he stressed.

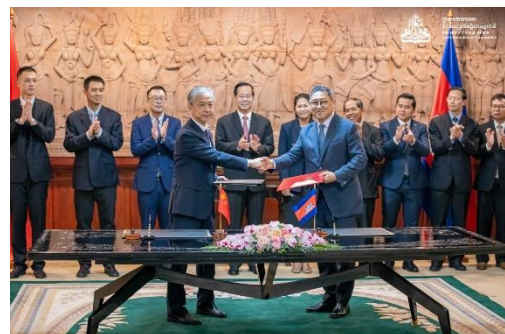
Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet added that Cambodia is also committed to protecting the environment. Through the REDD+ programme, Cambodia actively contributes to global efforts against climate change, he said.

“These efforts are part of our broader strategy to ensure that sustainable economic development is achieved alongside environmental protection,” he said. “In terms of digital transformations, Cambodia is making great strides in closing the digital divide and promoting digital literacy.”

For youth, he continued, Cambodia is engaging them as a central part of the country’s strategy for the future, while human rights are also at the core of the Cambodian national vision.

“We are determined to ensure that our nation's progress is inclusive and just. In closing, Cambodia reaffirms its dedication to the principles of the United Nations and the goals of the Pact for the Future. Our history is a testament to the power of peace,” he said.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND CHINESE AMBASSADOR SIGN SPECIAL FUND 2024 MEKONG-LANGCANG COOPERATION AGREEMENT



Agreement on the Cooperation Projects of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) Special Fund 2024.

This Special Fund will provide approximately USD 2 million to support eight projects in Cambodia focusing on tourism, mine action, agriculture, rural development, promotion of MLC awareness, regional economic enhancement, Technical and Vocational Education and training (TVET), capacity building, and flood risk management. This cooperation underscores our shared commitment to fostering sustainable development and enhancing cooperation among the Mekong-Lancang countries.

*Continued on page (3)*

On 5 September 2024, His Excellency SOK Chenda Sophea, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and His Excellency WANG Wenbin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China, signed the

## **CAMBODIA REGRET OVER THE UNJUST U.S. TREASURY'S DECISION AS VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE PRINCIPLES**

Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on 13 September made public a statement expressing regret over the unjust decision of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, stressing that it undermines the respect for international law and basic norms governing interstate relations, in particular the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference."

The full statement reads as follows:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation expresses deep regret over the unjust decision announced by the U.S. Department of the Treasury on 12 September 2024, targeting Cambodian businessman Mr. Ly Yong Phat, his conglomerate L.Y.P. Group Co. Ltd. and four related businesses.

The move, based on unconfirmed reports of forced labour linked to online investment scams, are politically motivated and run counter to the spirit of reinforcing our bilateral cooperation and mutual trust, as expressed by U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III during his visit to Cambodia in June.

Mr. Ly Yong Phat's role in advancing Cambodia's socio-economic development over the decades is widely recognised. Through L.Y.P. Group, his contributions to infrastructure development, job creation, and poverty alleviation have positively impacted the lives of thousands of Cambodian people.

The U.S. Government's reliance on its Trafficking in Persons Report as the basis for these actions is both regrettable and misleading. The report fails to provide a balanced and accurate representation of Cambodia's steadfast commitment to human rights, law enforcement, and its determined efforts to combat human trafficking and forced labor.

Cambodia has made significant strides in addressing these issues in collaboration with international partners, including the United States. Our government's proactive measures in combating sophisticated cross-border activities demonstrate a resolute commitment to upholding human dignity and the rule of law. To claim that Cambodia has been indifferent or negligent in enforcing the law is a gross misrepresentation of our efforts and achievements in tackling these complex, transnational challenges.

Cambodia remains open to cooperation and committed to working with all international partners, including the United States, to tackle global challenges, but we insist that such efforts be grounded in dialogue, mutual interest, respect for sovereignty, and a genuine spirit of partnership.

The Ministry emphasises that the imposition of such unilateral sanctions undermines the respect for international law and basic norms governing interstate relations, in particular the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference."

## **CAMBODIA, 2ND LARGEST EXPORTER OF CASHEW IN THE WORLD**

During the first seven months of 2024, Cambodia has produced more than 830,000 tonnes of raw cashew nuts, up 36.7 percent, making it the world's second-most cashew exporting country.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, so far, Cambodia has been using over 580,000 hectares of land surface for cashew growing nationwide,

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## **DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND CHINESE ...**

On behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, the Deputy Prime Minister expressed gratitude to China for its continuous support to Cambodia and other MLC member countries through the MLC Special Fund, which has greatly contributed to socio-economic development in Cambodia and the Mekong sub-region.

## **CAMBODIA RICE FORUM 2024 HELD TO FUEL RICE INDUSTRY**



The Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF) organised the 7th Cambodia Rice Forum at Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra on Tuesday aimed to spotlight the Kingdom's escalating rice industry and its potential for global market expansion.

The forum was kicked off under the presidency of H.E. Mrs. Cham Nimul, Minister of Commerce, H.E. Hem Vandy, Minister of Industry, Technology, Science and Innovation, H.E. Dith Tina, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, and Mr. Chan Sokheang, President of CRF, as well as more than 300 participants from agricultural cooperatives and organisations.

The primary objectives of the Cambodia Rice Forum 2024 are to showcase Cambodia's rice sector globally by demonstrating the country's capabilities in rice production, milling and processing and achieving the prestigious Cambodia Rice Award, read the statement.

*Continued on page (4)*

## CAMBODIA, 2ND LARGEST EXPORTER ...



with an average yield of about 1.5 tonnes per hectare.

Having launched the National Cashew Policy 2022-2027, the Royal Government of Cambodia aims to transform the country into the world's largest cashew nuts exporter.

As part of the endeavour, the ministry is establishing three modern cashew farming communities in Kampong Thom, the largest

cashew producer in Cambodia, to help connect them directly to the markets.

The ministry will also provide capital and technical support to ensure that those communities can run smoothly and gain added value and high profits.

Major markets for Cambodian raw cashew nuts include China, Japan, Bangladesh, India, Vietnam and Thailand, whereas processed cashew nuts are exported to China, the Czech Republic, Japan, South Korea, the Netherlands, Vietnam, and the U.S.

In early February this year, Cambodia hosted the 10th World Cashew Conference in Siem Reap province to increase awareness of the potential of cashew nuts among traders and businesspeople, both locally and internationally.

## CAMBODIA RICE FORUM 2024 ...

It is aimed to give the floor to key insiders to share with participants market trends, rice production techniques and technologies related to rice growing, milling, and processing; to share the government's visions, policies, and measures for the rice sector with participants; and to gather the inputs and recommendations to improve Cambodia's rice sector.

The event will feature a series of panel discussions, presentations and networking opportunities to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Cambodia exported a total of 412,023 tonnes of milled rice in the first eight months of 2024, earning a revenue of US\$305 million, according to a CRF report.

## CAMBODIA SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDS HER TITLE AS ASIA'S LEADING CULTURAL DESTINATION

Cambodia has been recognised as the Asia's Leading Cultural Destination 2024 by the World Travel Awards. This is the third time in a row that the Kingdom earned this prestigious title.

The other nominees for the award included India, Japan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, according to the World Travel Awards' online source.

At the same time, the Kingdom was also named Asia's Leading Youth Travel Destination 2024 for three consecutive years by the World Travel Awards.

World Travel Award was established in 1993 to acknowledge, reward and celebrate excellence across all key sectors of the travel, tourism and hospitality industries. Today, the World Travel Awards brand is recognised globally as the ultimate hallmark of industry excellence.



Last year, Cambodia received 5.45 million foreign visitors, generating a gross revenue of US\$3.08 billion, reported the Ministry of Tourism, adding that the number of international visitors to Cambodia is predicted to reach 7 million by 2025, surpassing the pre-COVID-19 pandemic level of 6.6 million (2019).

Four of Cambodia's tourist destinations have been recently listed among the top 25 Asia's best tourist attractions in the latest award by Tripadvisor.



Angkor Wat of Siem Reap took second place in the award, and Ta Prohm and Bayon Temples of the province made it to the 19th and 20th, respectively, while Phnom Penh's Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum obtained 22nd place.

Besides ancient temples, the Kingdom has a 450-kilometre-long pristine coastline stretching across four southwestern provinces of Preah Sihanouk, Kampot, Kep and Koh Kong.