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**Australian Ambassador:
Cambodia is First-Choice Tourist
Destination for Australians**



Cambodia is considered as the first-choice tourist destination by Australians as COVID-19 pandemic threat is dying down.

The trend was shared by H.E. Pablo Chiho Kang, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia when meeting with H.E. Thong Khon Minister of Tourism of Cambodia at the ministry on 26 May 2020.

In the meeting, H.E. Pablo Chiho Kang also shared his deep impression on tourist destinations in Cambodia, especially in the areas he used to visit, such as Siem Reap, Battambang, northeastern and coastal provinces.

Ambassador Kang stressing that he and his colleagues have continued to encourage Australian visitors to Cambodia, and anticipate more of them coming after the pandemic is over.

H.E. Thong Khon thanked the Australian ambassador as well as his team for his positive and encouraging attitude for Cambodia's tourism.

We are working hard not only to promote tourist destinations and quality services, (continued to page 2)

**Samdech Techo Prime Minister Calls
for High Vigilance to Prevent Second
Wave of COVID-19 Infections**



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia has appealed to his compatriots to increase their vigilance in order to prevent the second wave of COVID-19 infections even though the number of confirmed cases in Cambodia is small.

The Cambodian Premier made the appeal in a message posted on his official Facebook page this morning on 28 May 2020.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister also quoted the figures from the World Health Organisation (WHO) saying that the COVID-19 pandemic has so far hit 217 countries around the world, with recorded positive cases of more than 5 million and death toll of over 300,000.

“Up to now, there has been no drugs proven to treat this deadly disease yet. Therefore, dear compatriots, please wear facemasks and permanently wash (continued to page 2)



US\$275.8 Million Extended by ADB to Support Cambodia's Development in 2019



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has committed US\$275.8 million in loans and grants to Cambodia in 2019 to support the Kingdom's development.

The figure was highlighted in the ADB's Annual Report 2019, released today (18 May). It provides a comprehensive account of the operational and financial results of ADB in 2019—the first full year of implementation of the bank's long-term corporate strategy, Strategy 2030.

The ADB's financial aids particularly covered the areas of energy, finance, human resource development, rural water supply and sanitation, agriculture and so on.

The report also raised some major projects and programmes kick-started within the year and they are still going on as follows:

- National Solar Park Project of US\$7.6 million to reduce the cost of electricity through private sector investments in renewable energy. These plants are expected to avoid emissions of at least 148,650 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually.
- Inclusive Financial Sector Development Programme (Subprogramme 2) of US\$40 million to increase access to finance and introduce new financial services for

poor communities, including in rural areas, the agricultural sector, and small and medium-sized businesses.

The programme supports the adoption of a national financial inclusion strategy; key legislation, including the Trust Law, e-Commerce Law, and Consumer Protection Law; and incorporation of financial literacy in the school curriculum.

- Skills for Competitiveness Project of US\$60 million to develop human resources to work as skilled workforce in four priority sectors, namely manufacturing, construction, electricity, and electronics.
- Third Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Service Sector Development Programme of US\$49 million (US\$4.4 million is grant) to further promote rural water supply and sanitation (RWSS) services by expanding the number of provinces from six to eight (Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Thom, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, and Siem Reap), and serving about 600 villages.
- Irrigated Agriculture Improvement of US\$119.2 million (\$2.2 million is grant) to strengthen the climate resiliency of critical agricultural infrastructure; commercialise production of rice, maize, cassava, and mango; and promote agricultural productivity and diversification. (akp)

Samdech Techo

your hands with alcohol- or gel-based sanitizers. Cover your mouth with Krama or tissue while coughing among a crowd of people such as at markets, restaurants, workplaces, etc.” said Samdech Techo Hun Sen, advising people to continue following the Ministry of Health's instructions.

As of this morning, the total confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Cambodia remains at 124 after no new cases reported for nearly a week, of them 122 have been cured successfully with Zero death. (akp)

Australian Ambassador....

but also to enhance containment measures against COVID-19 in the sector.

H.E. Thong Khon also asked the Australian ambassador to push direct flight connection between Cambodia and Australia.

In 2019, Cambodia received some 120,000 Australian tourists, while about 3,500 Cambodian students are studying in Australia under the country's scholarship programmes and majoring areas including tourism. (akp)

Cambodia, U.S. Strengthen Aviation Collaboration

Cambodia and the United States of America will further strengthen the cooperation on aviation sector.

The commitment was revealed in a meeting between H.E. Mao Havannall, Minister in charge of State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA) and H.E. W. Patrick Murphy, U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia here in Phnom Penh yesterday (18 May).

H.E. Mao Havannall welcomed the intention of Boeing which is the world's largest aerospace company to operate in Cambodia.

Cambodia has signed civil aviation agreements with 44 countries including the U.S., according to the minister.

From his side, H.E. W. Patrick Murphy pledged to speed up the cooperation in aviation industry with Cambodia. (akp)