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38 Roads in Siem Reap City to Be Built with Total Length of 100 km

Inter-ministries have wrapped up the inspection of road conditions and locations for 38 road construction project in Siem Reap city, Siem Reap province.

The information was shared in a meeting held on Sept. 23 in Siem Reap provincial city under the presidency of Samdech Pichey Sena Tea Banh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence.

The 38 roads with a total length of 100 km will be constructed according to the approved Siem Reap city land use master plan for 2035 vision, pointed out in a press release issued after the meeting.

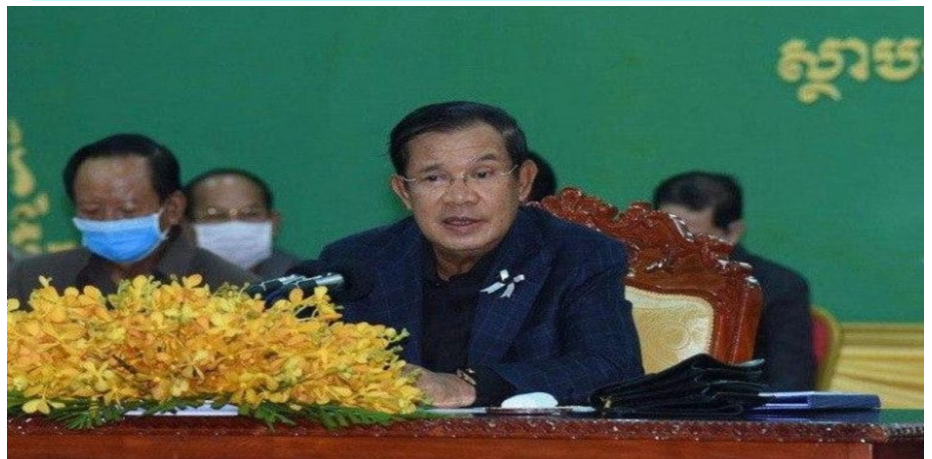
The Royal Government has recently announced a budget of US\$150 million to build 38 roads in Siem Reap provincial city, a key tourism hub, to improve the people's livelihoods and boost the national economic growth post-COVID-19 crisis.

Samdech Pichey Sena Tea Banh told reporters upon the meeting that the official groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the 38 roads is scheduled for mid-November and it will take a year to complete, by 2021.

The ceremony will be presided over by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia.



Excerpt of Samdech Techo Prime Minister's Statement on Issue of Ream Naval Base



The following is the excerpt of the statement of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, at a gathering of civil servants and technical teams for road infrastructure construction at Preah Sihanouk province on June 1, 2020, made public this morning by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation:

“Today, I need to make it very clear, once and for all, on the issue of Ream naval base. A few weeks ago, there was a message from an Ambassador claiming to have learnt that we had given the exclusive right to China to use Ream naval base, and that Prime Minister Hun Sen had no knowledge about this deal made by Deputy Prime Minister Tea Banh. I wish to convey this message in response, ‘everything in Cambodia

must be reported to the Prime Minister’. There is no authorisation to allow any foreign country to use our military base in violation of our Constitution. As already done time and again, I wish to re-emphasise that, as an independent and sovereign country, Cambodia does not align itself with one side against another. Cambodia allows neither foreign military base on its territory, nor its military base on foreign soil, except under the United Nations’ umbrella. We have the right to do what we desire, such as in the relocation of our Maritime Centre, which has been recommended after a study. Far from closing it down as alleged, we would like to invite all interested foreign friends to contribute funding to the Centre. We welcome assistance from the USA, France, Japan, China and others.

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Cambodia, Thai FMs Discuss Bilateral Relations and Cooperation



Both sides were satisfied with the opening of new regional and international border checkpoints and the upgrading of existing regional checkpoints to international border checkpoints. Cambodia noted with great pleasure that Thailand's investment flow into Cambodia increased triple folds within eight months of 2020, comparing to last year figure. Cambodia encouraged more Thai investors to venture in Cambodia. Both sides were pleased to note the significant progress in other main sectors such as security, education, tourism, energy, and connectivity.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia and his Thai counterpart H.E. Don Pramudwinai had yesterday a video conversation on bilateral relations and cooperation between the two neighbouring countries.

The discussion touched upon the commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between Cambodia and Thailand, the collaboration in fighting against COVID-19, as well as regional and global issues of common interests and concerns.

H.E. Don Pramudwinai praised the Royal Government of Cambodia for successfully preventing and controlling the spread of COVID-19 pandemic nationwide. His Excellency also highly appreciated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia for facilitating the repatriation of Thai citizens.

In response, DPM Prak Sokhonn expressed admiration to the Royal Thai Government, under the leadership of H.E General Prayuth Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand, for effectively and successfully curbing the spread of COVID-19 in Thailand.

His Excellency expressed high appreciation to the Royal Thai Government for providing financial aid and medical equipment to assist Cambodia in containing the spread of COVID-19 and for facilitating the entry and departure of Cambodian students, and emergency patients to and from Thailand. During the conversation, H.E. Prak Sokhonn thanked the Thai authorities for facilitating renewal of stay permit and work permit for Cambodian workers, and increasing unemployment and social benefits for those who have their jobs suspended. He also asked the Thai side to allow Cambodian workers who hold border passes and workers under MoU to return to work and reduce the cost of the 14 days quarantine. The two Deputy Prime Ministers stressed the importance of information sharing and close cooperation to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and hoped that Thailand's vaccine will be successfully produced and available soon.

Both sides were pleased with the strong two-way trade despite the COVID-19 pandemic with Cambodia proposing the Thai side to facilitate the transportation of cross-border trade, increase the importation of Cambodian agricultural products, as well as expedite the signing of the MoU on Goods in Transit and other important matters.

Both parties underscored the importance of the effective implementation of all joint statements and bilateral agreements between the two countries and looked forward to the convening of the 4th Joint Cabinet Retreat (JCR), and the 11th Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) as early as possible when the COVID-19 pandemic situation subsides. Both sides also strongly committed to support each other in multi-lateral frameworks such as ASEAN and ASEM.

The two Deputy Prime Ministers expressed great satisfaction with the remarkable achievements reached thus far while commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between Cambodia and Thailand./.

Cambodia's Absara Dance





ADB Approves Nearly US\$128-Million Loan for Power Grid Expansion in Cambodia



The Asian Development Bank has approved a US\$127.8 million loan to support the construction of transmission lines and substations to help provide Phnom Penh and three other Cambodian provinces with stable and reliable electricity supply.

The project will also pilot the first utility-scale battery energy storage system in Cambodia, which will be funded by a US\$6.7 million grant. That includes US\$4.7 million from the Strategic Climate Fund under the Scaling Up Renewable Energy Programme in Low-Income Countries and US\$2 million from the Clean Energy Fund under the Clean Energy Financing Partnership Facility. Both funds are administered by ADB.

Cambodia's national electricity utility, strengthen its transmission infrastructure by financing the construction of four 115–230 kilovolt transmission lines and 10 substations in Phnom Penh and Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Cham, and Takeo provinces.

“The project, by financing and constructing much-needed transmission infrastructure for sustainable electricity supply, will boost Cambodia's economic productivity, competitiveness, and diversification, create jobs, and support the country's recovery from the coronavirus disease COVID-19 pandemic,” said ADB Energy Specialist Daniela Schmidt. /.

Cambodia Angkor Air to Resume Daily Flights Phnom Penh-Siem Reap

Cambodia Angkor Air, the national flag carrier, is going to resume its services between Phnom Penh capital and Siem Reap cultural province on 15 September thanks to the growing domestic demand as the COVID-19 pandemic has been under control in the country.

“On behalf of the Ministry of Tourism, I'd like to thank the national airline company – Cambodia Angkor Air – for having announced to resume its daily flights from Sept. 15, 2020 onwards,” said H.E. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism.

“This operation resumption is in line with the growing demand of our domestic tourists in the context that Cambodia has well prevented the COVID-19 spread,” he underlined.

This is also the request of tour operators and investors, added H.E. Thong Khon.

H.E. Minister Thong Khon, also expressed his strong hope that Cambodia Angkor Air will consider resuming flights between Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville of Preah Sihanouk province as currently, the road traffic is very crowded due to the increase in the number of cars./.



Excerpt of Samdech

Our plan to have a dockyard is not a new issue at all. I asked for a dockyard to be built since the time of the State of Cambodia, after noting that Cambodian rusty fishing boats were sent for repair in Thailand. We had to get our combat-vessels fixed in Vietnam and at one time as far as in Malaysia. Now, do we not have the right to get our own dockyard to repair our combat-vessels or transport vessels of our people? The dockyard cannot be seen as a Chinese construction because it is funded by China. Frankly speaking, we need Chinese financing to build it. However, we would welcome funding from all interested parties.

On access to Ream naval base, I wish to declare that we welcome ships from all countries including the USA, France, Canada, India, UK, Japan, Australia, and not just from China, to make port call or to participate in joint exercises with Cambodia. It is baseless to assert that Cambodia has given China 50 to 90 years exclusive rights to the base.

I wish to send the following message to all interested parties :

1. We invite contribution from any interested party for developing the Sihanoukville port and naval port. We are open to participation in the development of our Maritime Centre at the new location. The old and the new sites are not different, all are within our Master Plan.

2. We will build a dockyard open to all foreign vessels that need to be serviced, and not just those from China.

3. In the meantime, we welcome whoever wishing to cooperate in conducting joint naval exercise on combating terrorism, human and drug trafficking and smuggling. Joint exercises on disaster relief and rescue can be conducted both on land and at sea. What I do not wish to have is an offensive exercise to destroy adversaries.

I wish to reaffirm Cambodia's commitment to an independent, neutral and non-aligned policy. If one foreign navy ship can make a port visit here, then ships from other countries can do the same.

We do not close our port to anyone. We welcome and are open to all countries wishing to conduct joint exercises in Cambodia, but that is not possible now, until the problem of Covid-19 is over."/.