

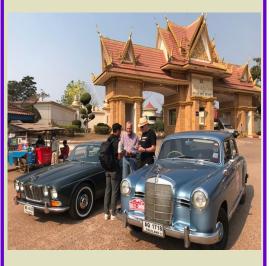
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Volume II

A Group of European Tourists Visit Cambodia by Car



A group of ten classic cars of European tourists arrived in Cambodia on February 8 through O' Smach border gate in Oddar Meanchey province.

According to the Ministry of Tourism, they will stay in Cambodia for six nights and visit tourist attractions in Siem Reap, Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces.

They will leave Cambodia on February 14 through the same border gate, it pointed out.

Their visit reflects confidence of foreign tourists on the security, safety, development and hospitality in Cambodia, said the same source, stressing that Cambodia remains a safe tourism destination for both local and foreign tourists.

In 2019, approximately 6.6 million international tourists visited Cambodia, up 6.6 percent compared to 2018, along with about 11.5 million local tourists. (akp)

Cambodia Receives Appreciation from United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)



Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) H.E. Zurab Pololikashvili has sent a letter of appreciation to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for authorising the docking of Westerdam Cruise Ship at Sihanoukville Autonomous Port.

"I would like to express my most heartfelt appreciation and that of UNWTO as a whole to the Royal Government of Cambodia for its remarkable humanitarian response to the plight of MS Westerdam cruise ship which it welcomed with open arms and allowed to dock in Sihanoukville despite the coronavirus scare," UNWTO-SG As we are aware, he continued, the coronavirus outbreak is currently a concern source of to the international community and efforts to contain its spread and to produce a cure are being spearheaded by the World Health Organisation. The Government of China is equally taking vigorous measures along the same lines and is collaborating closely with WHO and other relevant stakeholders to prevent a world pandemic.

UNWTO is also monitoring the evolution of the coronavirus through its regular meetings with WHO and we are happy to learn that the rate at which (continued to page 2)



A German Firm Mulls Export of Cambodia's Processed Bamboo Products



After four-year growing of bamboo in Cambodia, Germany is studying feasibility for export of processed bamboo products to international markets.

The intention was shared by Mr. Thureing Aung, Director of LIPP Engineering Sdn Bhd in a recent press conference here in Phnom Penh, adding that the company is fully capable in planting, processing and finding the markets for the bamboo.

The processing of the products, he added, utilises the imported technology from Germany and financial support from the European Union.

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Mr. Thureing Aung continued that through the support of H.E. Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, his firm has invested US\$750 million in the bamboo planting and processing project.

His bamboo plantation currently encompasses a total of 25,000 hectares of land surface in Cambodia.

The investment does not only increase added value to the resource, diversifying bamboo products, but also promotes the development of people's living condition and local communities. (akp)



CAMBODIA IN FOCUS

which the virus is infecting people has slackened, he added.

"We are very proud of Cambodia's demonstration of such highly acclaimed international solidarity which will hopefully encourage other nations to emulate and to offer the much needed support where and when required," (UNWTO-SG).

"I reiterate UNWTO's great appreciation for Cambodia's bravery and warm expression of brotherly love against the odds to those 2,000 passengers marooned on the seas," he concluded.

Having declined by ports in many countries, Westerdam cruise ship carrying more than 2,200 multinational passengers and crewmembers finally docked at Sihanoukville Autonomous Port on 13 February 2020.

All passengers and crewmembers were provided medical check-up and none is COVID-19 positive, and were given warm hospitality by Samdech Techo Prime Minister himself, senior Cambodian officials, ambassadors, and beyond.

Cambodian authorities are committed to ensure proper facilitation for their transit to their respective flights home safely and soundly. (akp)



