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Phnom Penh to Have New Bridges to Address Traffic Congestion and Boost Development

Samdech Techo Prime Minister presided over (26 Oct.) the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of two new bridges which will help address the traffic congestion issue and further boost development in the southern part of the capital at Koh Norea development zone in Sangkat Niroth, Khan Chbar Ampov. The bridge construction project include a 60-metre-long and 21-metre-wide concrete bridge from National Road No. 1 to Koh Norea, and a 824-metre-long and 24.5-metre-wide cable-stayed bridge linking Koh Norea to Koh Pich satellite city. The construction of the first bridge will take 12 months to complete at an estimated cost of over US\$1.6 million, while the second 35 months with an estimated cost of US\$38 million. Samdech Techo said the two bridges will be considered "a new achievement on the land of peace" contributing to reducing traffic congestion, especially at Preah Monivong Bridge and promoting development in Southern Phnom Penh.



Samdech Techo Prime Minister Congratulates 17th Anniversary of Preah Reach Troap Dance's Listing as Intangible Heritage of Humanity



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia has expressed his congratulations on the 17th anniversary of the proclamation of Preah Reach Troap Dance (Royal Ballet) as Intangible Heritage of Humanity. "November 7 marks the 17th anniversary of the registration of the 'Royal Ballet' which is a priceless heritage of the Kingdom of Cambodia that has been preserved for a long time until now," said the Premier in a Facebook message this morning.

Preah Reach Troap Dance (Royal Ballet) was proclaimed masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2003. As described by UNESCO, the Royal Ballet of Cambodia, or Khmer Classical Dance, is famous for its graceful hand gestures and its splendid costumes, closely associated with the royal court during more than one millennium, embodies values of refinement and spirituality characteristics of the Khmer culture. The Performances of the Royal Ballet took place within the framework (continued to page 3)



Construction of US\$290-Million Aeon Mall III in Southern Phnom Penh Begins



Aeon Mall (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. broke ground its third mall in the southern part of Phnom Penh after the success of its first two malls in the capital city. The groundbreaking ceremony of Aeon Mall III or Aeon Mall Meanchey, located along the Samdech Techo Hun Sen Blvd. (60-metre road), took place this morning under the presidency of Phnom Penh Municipal Governor H.E. Khuong Sreng and Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Mikami Masahiro. With an investment capital of US\$290 million, the third Aeon Mall project is located in Prek Talong III village, Sangkat Chak Angre, Khan Meanchey, on a land area of 174,000 square metres.

It is much bigger than the land size of Aeon Mall I covering 68,000 square metres, and Aeon Mall II of 100,000 square metres.

As planned, the third mall of Aeon will open in 2022. Speaking at the function, H.E. Khuong Sreng said that Phnom Penh is a centre of production and distribution, a cluster of elegant livings and a tourism hub which are reflected through the presence of satellite cities, commercial buildings, residential buildings, malls and super markets.

The first Aeon Mall in the capital's Khan Chamkar Mon was opened in 2014 with an investment capital of some US\$205 million while the second one in Sen Sok city was inaugurated in June last year, with an investment capital of around US\$120 million.



Siem Reap City Selected as ASEAN City of Culture for 2021-2022

Cambodia's Siem Reap city, home to the famous Angkor temples, was crowned the ASEAN City of Culture for the period 2021-2022 at the 9th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) on Oct. 22 via Videoconference.

The fact that Siem Reap is the former capital of the Khmer Empire, rich in tangible and intangible cultural heritage and the world-famous natural cultural tourism destination of the Kingdom of Cambodia are the main reason for the selection, explained the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts.

According to the Joint Media Statement released after the meeting, to mark the launch of the ASEAN City of Culture, Cambodia proposed to hold cultural events and ceremonies in solidarity with the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, Cambodia will hold two important events: "A Memorial Night" in Siem Reap to commemorate the inclusion of Cambodia's cultural heritage in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list and "Mozart at Angkor: Cambodia Magic Flute".

The events would not only strengthen closer cultural cooperation in the ASEAN community but also promote ASEAN cultural diversity to the world.





EU Provides US\$470,000 to Assist Flood Victims in Cambodia



The European Union is providing €400,000 (US\$470,000 or 1.9 billion Cambodian Riel) to provide critical humanitarian assistance to families affected by severe flooding, which has wreaked havoc across large parts of Cambodia since the beginning of October.

According to a press release of the European Commission, the aid will focus on addressing the urgent needs of the most affected people in the worst hit provinces in the country's northwest.

"This contribution underlines our solidarity with the people of Cambodia, many of whom have suffered the loss of homes, livelihoods and belongings in the wake of the devastating floods," said Mr. Olivier Brouant, who oversees the EU's humanitarian response in the Mekong region. "The EU funding will support our humanitarian partners in delivering life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable, ensuring they have enough means to go through this difficult time."

The funding, which is part of the EU's Acute Large Emergency Response Tool (ALERT), will support Save the Children and World Vision in delivering much-needed assistance to those most in need. This includes the distribution of clean water, hygiene kits and other essential relief items while ensuring access to sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices.

Cash transfers will also be provided, allowing people to buy food or items of their choice. Special attention will be placed on the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, including female headed households and people with disabilities.

As of yesterday evening, the ongoing flash floods have affected 121 cities/districts/Khan in the country's 20 of the 25 provinces and capital city, claiming 44 lives.

A total of 149,857 families or 599,428 people have been affected, of them 11,896 families or 47,584 people have been evacuated to the safety ground. Besides, 134,003 houses, 951 schools, 307 pagodas, 284,961 hectares of rice fields, 97,029 hectares of subsidiary crops, and many roads, bridges, canals have been flooded and damaged.

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of various rites associated with the royal power and the prestige of the country.

The codified gestures and poses that dancers must master require many years of intensive training. An orchestra performing sacred music accompanies the dancers and a female chorus provides running commentary on the plot and the emotions mimed by the dancers. The characteristic of Khmer choreography is that the dance does not have fixed gestures, but figures in perpetual movement, which gives a single fluidity in Asia. Musicians and chorus-singers accompany the gracious evolutions by the dancers, wearing embroidered wire clothes of gold and splendid jewels. This makes the Royal Ballet of Cambodia too original to merge with others.

Other Cambodian heritages registered so far on the World Heritage List include the Historic Site of Angkor inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1992, Lakhon Sbek Thom (big shadow puppet) proclaimed masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2005, the 11th-century Preah Vihear Temple listed as a World Heritage Site in 2008, Teanh Prot (tug-of-war), a popular recreational game, named an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2015, Chapei Dang Veng, a Cambodian two-stringed, long-necked guitar, inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2016, Sambor Prei Kuk temple complex registered as a World Heritage Site in 2017, and Lkhon Khol Wat Svay Andet recognised as an Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2018.

