



Newsletter  
Published by the  
Royal Embassy of  
Cambodia in  
Canberra, Australia

26 February 2021

Volume 22

### Preah Norodom Sihanouk-Angkor Museum: An Active Resource Centre and Preserver

Preah Norodom Sihanouk-Angkor Museum in Siem Reap province is not only a resource of Khmer historical knowledge, but has also mobilised public support for the conservation.

The impact was noticed by the museum's acting director Mr. Pen Chamrong, stressing that it continues to secure regular showcases of ancient pottery, other remains of Khmer ancestors, statues, and arts.

Increasingly, it has become a resource centre of knowledge from ancient Khmer for the public, particularly students, youth, and researchers, he said.

He continued that the museum has also encouraged study visits from various education institutions of different levels.

The richness of the museum's resources could be credited mainly to the contribution of and the support from the APSARA Authority, and various international organisations, he added.



### Cambodia Expects to Have 4.2 Million Doses of COVID-19 Vaccines by First Semester



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and his spouse Samdech Kittiprittpondit Bun Rany Hun Sen, President of the Cambodian Red Cross, have just been vaccinated against COVID-19.

The first dose of AstraZeneca vaccine were administered to the SPM and the First Lady here at Calmette Hospital this morning(4MAR).

Besides them, many other senior officials of over 60 years old also volunteered to get vaccinated with AstraZeneca this morning.

Currently, Cambodia has two vaccines against COVID-19 in stock for public health – China-donated Sinopharm (600,000 doses) and AstraZeneca/SII (324,000 doses) donated by WHO via COVAX Facility. Another 400,000 doses of

Sinopharm will soon arrive in Cambodia, as part of China's pledge of 1 million doses of vaccine against COVID-19 to Cambodia.

In February, Cambodia has approved for emergency use three COVID-19 vaccines, including Sinopharm and Sinovac from China, and AstraZeneca developed by the University of Oxford.

Cambodia is committed to find 20 million doses of vaccines against COVID-19 for 10 million Cambodian people.

Cambodia expected to have at least 4.2 million doses of vaccines against COVID-19 by the first semester of this year, said PM at a press conference (4MAR).

"If nothing changes, we will have some 4.2 million doses of vaccines for more than 2 million people in the first half of this year," PM underlined.

(continued to page 3)



## Some 1.6 Million Tonnes of Agricultural Products Exported in First Two Months

Cambodia exported 1,599,922.37 tonnes of agricultural products, besides milled rice, to 25 countries during the first two months of this year, despite the global COVID-19 crisis.

Report from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) shows the export of agricultural products in January and February 2021 saw an increase by 55.27 percent compared to the same period last year.

There were 43 types of agricultural products exported in the first two months, including cassava, cashew nuts, corn, fresh banana, mangos, pepper, chili, and so on.

Cambodia's agricultural product with the highest order counts during the said period was cassava (802,451 tonnes for dry cassava, and 154,750 tonnes for fresh cassava), followed by paddy rice (287,850 tonnes), cashew nuts (79,473 tonnes), red corn (78,856 tonnes), fresh banana (75,645 tonnes), fresh mangoes (43,680 tonnes), and fresh chili (32,417 tonnes)./.



## Foreign Diplomats, UN Officers to be in Priority Groups

All foreign diplomatic corps, UN agencies, international financial institutions and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) in Cambodia will be among the priority groups to get the newly-arrived AstraZeneca vaccine.

Speaking at a press conference held here at Calmette hospital this morning after getting his first dose of AstraZeneca vaccine, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said apart from the local officers and general public aged 60 years and older in Phnom Penh capital, and Kandal and Preah Sihanouk provinces being seriously affected by COVID-19 pandemic, all foreign diplomats, UN officers, staff at international financial institutions such as IMF, WB, ADB and INGOs in Cambodia will have access to AstraZeneca vaccine.

Other foreigners residing and working in Cambodia will also be vaccinated free of charge at different stages along with the Cambodian people, Samdech Techo Hun Sen underlined.

The Premier also took the opportunity to call on all Cambodian students, who have to study abroad, to get vaccinated.

Currently, the priority groups to receive COVID-19 vaccine are front line medical doctors and nurses, armed forces, journalists, garbage collectors, and so on.

Cambodia started the vaccination programme against COVID-19 on Feb. 10, three days after receiving the first batch of Sinopharm vaccine. Up to Mar. 3 evening, 125,668 people, both civil and armed forces, across the country have been inoculated./.

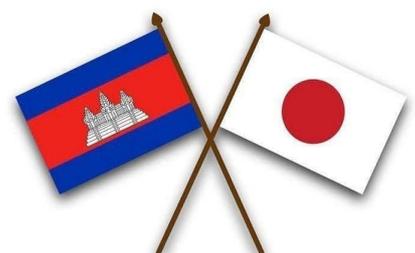
## Japan to Grant US\$10.8 Million to Support Vessel Traffic System Development

The Government of Japan has decided to extend of JPY1,132,000,000 (approximately US\$10.8 million) in grant aid to the Royal Government of Cambodia to carry out the Project for the Development of Vessel Traffic System (VTS) at Sihanoukville Port, Preah Sihanouk province.

The Exchange of Notes and related documents will be signed on Mar. 1 between Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Prak Sokhonn, and H.E. Mikami Masahiro, Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia, pointed out a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The above grant aid extended by the Government of Japan will significantly contribute to promoting economic and social development of the Kingdom of Cambodia and will further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, underlined the same source.

With an effort to contain the current "COVID-19 Community Outbreak", known as "February 20 Community Event", both sides will sign the Exchange of Notes and related documents separately, according to the press release./.





## EU Informed CDC of its Development Cooperation Strategy in Cambodia 2021-2027

The European Union (EU) has informed the Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board of its draft development cooperation strategy with Cambodia for 2021-2027 to be brought for technical consultation with Cambodian counterparts soon.

H.E. Ms. Carmen Moreno, EU Ambassador to Cambodia shared the strategic development priorities when received yesterday by H.E. Chheang Yanara, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary General of the Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) here in Phnom Penh.

The draft priorities include human resource development, economic diversification, promotion of private sector and jobs, and sustainable and inclusive development – very well aligned with the Rectangular Strategy Phase 4 of the Royal Government of Cambodia, she said.

The ambassador also spoke highly of CDC for the good cooperation and partnership with the European Union through its embassy in Cambodia.

H.E. Chheang Yanara thanked the EU delegation for the sharing and acknowledged the EU's indispensable role in contribution to Cambodia's development, particularly through the implementation of the development cooperation strategy 2014-2020.

He also expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia on the union's assistance for Cambodia's response and containment of COVID-19./.

## Cambodian Agricultural Partnership Competition Launched

Cambodian Agricultural Partnership Competition has recently kicked off with an aim to address key challenges in Cambodia's agriculture sector including cold chain, storage capacity, and logistics.

The competition, launched on Feb. 24, 2021 by the U.S. government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), will make US\$3.5 million available in grant funding to private companies, pointed out the same source, adding that it will also require companies to provide a one-to-one funding match and is designed to work with the private sector to respond to the most pressing needs for agricultural cold chain, storage, and logistics.

The competition aims to help Cambodia's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries achieve the strategic priorities of its Agriculture Sector Development Plan 2019-2023 with market-driven solutions.

"The United States is a long-standing partner to Cambodia and its agriculture sector," said U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. W. Patrick Murphy. "This competition is designed to challenge local and international companies to come up with innovative solutions to advance Cambodia's economic competitiveness by expanding market access, improving infrastructure and logistics, and promoting private sector engagement and investment across the agriculture value chain." ./.

## Cambodia Expects ....

According to PM Hun Sen, Cambodia has currently two vaccines against COVID-19 in stock – China-donated Sinopharm (600,000 doses) and AstraZeneca/SII (324,000 doses) donated by WHO via COVAX Facility.

Another 400,000 doses of Sinopharm as part of China's pledge of 1 million doses for Cambodia will arrive in Phnom Penh around April, he said.

COVAX will provide vaccine for 20 percent of the total Cambodian population of 16 million people, which is equivalent to 3.2 million people or 6.4 million doses of vaccine, he added.

Moreover, Samdech Techo Hun Sen welcomed India's plan to provide Cambodia with 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, stressing that Cambodia requested to buy 1 million more doses from India and another 1 million doses of Sinopharm from China.

At the same time, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said Cambodia is considering the possibility to buy vaccines from Russia, the U.S., and so on.

Newly approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine of the U.S. can be also a choice for Cambodia as only a dose is required, while others need two doses, he said.

Cambodia started the vaccination programme against COVID-19 on Feb. 10, three days after receiving the first batch of Sinopharm vaccine. Up to Mar. 3 evening, 125,668 people, both civil and armed forces, across the country have been inoculated./.

## National Museum of Cambodia

