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Rattanakiri Province Has 14 Tourism Destinations



Rattanakiri, a mountainous northeastern province of Cambodia, is well-known for its stunning natural beauty and ethnic diversity.

Rattanakiri province has in total 14 tourism destinations, including 12 natural sites, 2 cultural natural sites, and 8 nature-based tourism sites under the management of ethnic minority communities.

Among the many tourist attractions are the crystal clear Yeak Laom volcanic lake, fresh waterfalls, dense rainforest with exotic flora and fauna, and so on.

Established on Feb. 17, 1959, Rattanakiri is 588 kilometers from Phnom Penh capital. It borders Laos to the north, Vietnam to the east, Mondulkiri province to the south, and the province of Stung Treng to the west. The current population in the province is 208,686.

Last year, the province welcomed 231,873 tourists, a year-on-year increase of 4.34 percent. Of them, 206,682 were national tourists, up 4.76 percent, and 25,191 were foreign visitors, up 1.1 percent.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister Says Agriculture Plays Greater Role in Development amid Covid-19 Impact



SPM PAGE

Samdech Techo Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the government of Australian for continued support for the agricultural projects in Cambodia.

“Covid-19 has impacted on us to some extent, but it will never defeat us”, the Premier told farmers in Takeo province during he visited rice harvest area (21 July), “we have agriculture to sustain the country’s development.”

“Global consumers can stop demand for travel and luxury items, but they cannot stop procuring commodities that feed their daily living,” he told the crowd of farmers gathering at the rice field. The agricultural sector, however,

alone cannot substitute for the current down trends, such as for garment, tourism, and other sectors but it plays a more fruitful role until the Covid-19 crisis is over.

The Royal Government foresees that the country’s growth will hit -1.9 per cent for 2020 from earlier projections of +6.5 per cent. Growth is projected to rebound to positive 3.5 per cent for 2021 thanks to a gradual increase in overseas demand and greater confidence in local markets.

Cambodia expects its growth to pick up in 2021 thanks to an increased trend supported by
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Cambodia Highlights ASEAN's Achievements in Past 53 Years



focus for the great geo-political confrontation and its unity is actually under stress. ASEAN should not be shy in upholding and advancing ASEAN Centrality by playing a constructive neutral role in this evolving regional architecture. After all, ASEAN is non-threatening and it does enjoy good relations with all the major and middle powers.”

This year's theme "Cohesive and Responsive", ASEAN stood united in its efforts to confront a fresh set of challenges. It has taken concrete measures to coordinate regional emergency responses to the Covid-19 pandemic to save lives and livelihoods of people. Its decades-old multi-sectoral and multi-layered mechanisms have enabled ASEAN to manage and coordinate effectively regional policy responses. The Covid-19 ASEAN Response Fund and the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases, as well as a comprehensive economic recovery plan are such great examples.

On the economic, ASEAN is one step closer to the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement later this year and will work on expediting negotiations on the newly-launched ASEAN-EU FTA. ASEAN is embracing its steadfast partnership with the UN to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“As we raise the ASEAN flag high on this special occasion to celebrate our achievements, we do realize that our work is far from complete. We have built a diverse yet stable community, we have grown as a strong region that engages the world and shapes the regional and international order, we have forged a credible and effective organisation, trusted and respected by our development partners, we have come a long way to secure a place in the world, and a brighter future for all our peoples.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has delivered a message on the ASEAN Day to be commemorated on 8 August, emphasising the bloc's remarkable achievements in the past 53 years.

“On 8th August, we are celebrating the 53rd anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN in the shadow of unfolding global multiple crises, marked by the Covid-19 pandemic and intense super powers' confrontation. Back in 1967 when ASEAN was formed, the Cold War loomed over all and the region was as well rife with tensions. Since then, ASEAN has grown from strength to strength, expanding both in size and scope. Driven by the desire to safeguard and advance the peaceful development for the region, ASEAN have been able to prevent the escalation of frictions and conflicts into wars through peaceful means and diplomacy.”

Under the wise leadership of Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen, Cambodia was able to put an end to the civil war in 1998 and became the last member of the ASEAN family in 1999.

The ASEAN Charter which entered into force on Dec. 15, 2008 has given root to a new ASEAN and we moved steadily toward establishing the ASEAN Community in 2015. With the inclusion of Cambodia, ASEAN is spread across 10

countries with unique and diverse social, economic and political structures and it is in fact this so cherished "Unity in Diversity" that has contributed to ASEAN's resilience and its deep sense of togetherness. One of ASEAN's defining features is the consensus-based approach, which ensure an equal voice for every single Member State, regardless of size or economic strength. ASEAN has not spared its efforts to bridge the development gap within ASEAN, through programmes like the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). Cambodia, for its part, has contributed remarkably in the ASEAN community building process, in line with Cambodia's foreign policy principle of promoting an open, inclusive, and rules-based regionalism.

“ASEAN has pursued regional and global issues and had ensured that it remains relevant and constructive within the wider international discourse. It has provided its member states an umbrella of security and strategic space to meaningfully engage with various competing partners that seek mutual interest with ASEAN, based on mutual respect and acceptance of ASEAN centrality. ASEAN will continue to deepen its engagement with external powers, both regionally and outside the region.

As populism, protectionism, and nationalism are on the rise, and the major powers are caught up in a tussle for dominance, ASEAN has become a new



RG Cambodia's Special Loan for SMEs to Contribute to Economic Recovery

Government's special loan for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) both for processing, handicraft and agriculture sectors will contribute to the economic recovery during and after this COVID-19 crisis.

The special loan is cumulatively about US\$650 million which the government decided to provide to the SME sector through state-owned SME Bank, Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (ARDB), and 33 partnered commercial banks.

H.E. Ros Silva, Secretary of State for Economy and Finance, said that US\$50 million was allocated to SME Bank, US\$50 million to ARDB, and other US\$50 million to 33 partnered commercial banks.

The government is planned to allocate US\$500 million as new financial package to help the SME sector in accessing financial services, he said at a press conference held on July 30 at the Office of the Council of Ministers.

Some US\$200 million of the total amount will be given to soon-to-be established Credit Guarantee Corporation, aimed to help SMEs particularly enterprises without collateral or with inadequate collateral and track record to obtain financing from financial institutions, he continued.

The government planned to provide another US\$300 million, which will be allocated to partnered commercial banks to provide credit to SMEs or other sectors that need credit to help the economic recovery, he added.

"These US\$650 million will help sustain the economy, especially to survive in the hard time of COVID-19 pandemic and be ready for recovery once the crisis comes to an end," H.E. Ros Silva underlined.

The government announced the special fund to help SME sector since the outbreak the COVID-19 pandemic, with an aim to boost local processing and production by using raw materials from agriculture to supply local demand and for export.

According to the SME Bank, US\$20 million has been disbursed to the SME sector as of July 30. The ARDB has also provided credit of US\$10 million to agriculture-based SMEs.

As COVID-19 pandemic is threatening the whole world, including Cambodia, Samdech Techo Prime Minister has encouraged factory workers to grow variety of vegetables to earn extra income to support their families



Samdech Techo

agriculture of 1.6 per cent, rebound of the garment sector 4.1 per cent, service growth of 3.6 per cent, and tourism among other critical sectors.

No one has died from the Covid-19 in Cambodia, despite 197 cases in the country, including the 57 patients currently hospitalized. Foreigners are also among the cases detected here.

There are more than 14.56 million Coronavirus confirmed cases globally, including more than 607,000 confirmed deaths in 216 countries, areas or territories.(21 July 2020) Cambodia has to shift its strategy, amid Covid-19, from other affected sectors to agriculture. For Cambodians—who lost jobs in garment and tourism sectors, as many as 170,000 — can return to work in the agricultural sector.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister called on Cambodia's donors to continue supporting the sector, which contributes about 20.8 per cent of GDP and where its large population of 73 per cent is still associated with commodity planting of 4 million hectares nationwide. We currently has 6 million tons in paddy rice (or 4 million tons in milled rice) a year in surplus from the domestic consumption. "I am also asking Australia to continue to support us in the sector of agriculture. Please convey my message to the Australian Prime Minister," said PM Hun Sen, adding that, he is pleased with the support from Canberra.

Cambodia exported more than 4.88 million tons of its commodities in 2019, an increase of 17.3 per cent from 2015 the increase was 4.16 million tons. (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)

The Royal government of Cambodia has also invested hundreds of millions of dollars in irrigation, but that is not enough and she will look to invest another multi-million of dollars in loan and grand aids from China in the sector.

"You can go through my proposed projects to Cambodia's donors. I never ask them to buy me any luxurious items but to invest grants and loans in agriculture to support our people," he told the crowd, which included Ministers and officials.