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Telephone conversation between His Excellency Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Senator the Hon. Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women of Australia.



On 9 June 2020, His Excellency Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, held a telephone conversation with Senator the Hon. Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and Minister for Women of Australia.

Both Ministers expressed gratitude for mutual assistance extended to their respective nationals after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, and discussed how multilateralism can be utilized to garner solidarity and cooperation in the fight against this pandemic.

H.E Deputy Prime Minister also extended Cambodia's appreciation for Australia's financial and technical assistance in health sector and in fighting COVID-19 outbreak (continued to page 2)

## Samdech Techo Prime Minister and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India on Phone [Unofficial Translation]



On 10 June 2020, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India held a phone discussion on joining force to combat against Covid-19 and bilateral and regional issues.

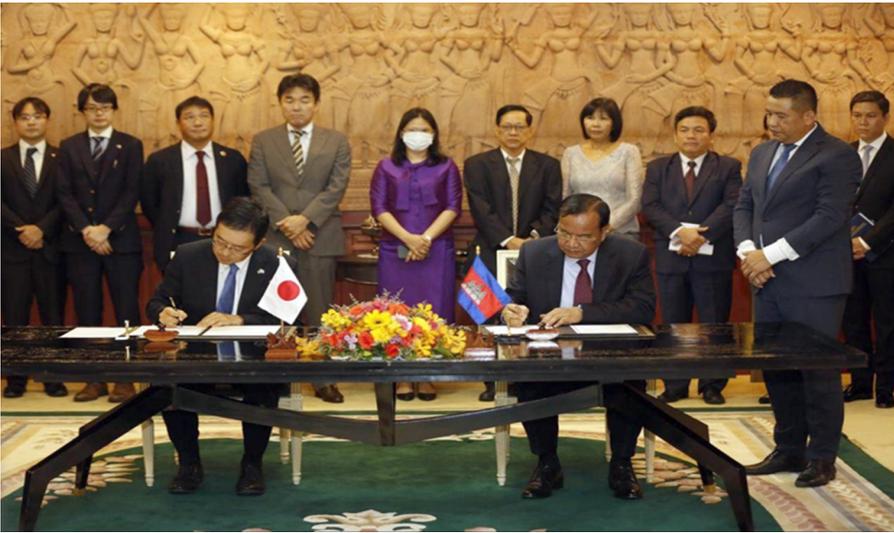
In the course of discussion, Prime Minister of India praised Cambodia for effective Covid-19 management and actions that could be a model for the world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed to

Samdech Techo Hun Sen that India considers Cambodia and important part to it's Acting East Policy [...] which is focusing on (1) keeping peace and security in the Indian ocean; (2) integrating with Southeast Asia; (3) deepening strategic partnership while seeking to achieve balance among great powers and (4) managing conflicts.

The two leaders determined to strengthen and expand deeper (continued to page 2)



## US\$41.4 Million Grant Aid from Japan to Support Three Development Projects in Cambodia



The Government of Japan will extend approximately US\$41.4 million in grant aid to the Kingdom of Cambodia to implement three development projects in the areas of education and health.

The Exchange of Notes on the grant aid extension was signed here this afternoon (05 June) between H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and H.E. Mikami Masahiro, Ambassador of Japan to the kingdom of Cambodia.

Speaking on the occasion, His Excellency Prak Sokhonn on behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia expressed his gratitude to Japan, stressing that as countries around the world, including Japan are facing great economic difficulties and uncertainty due to the effect of COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Japan continues to deliver on its commitment to support Cambodia's long-term development.

“The assistance signed today will significantly improve the health and

quality of our human capital to achieve our economic diversification and fulfill our aspiration to transform the Kingdom of Cambodia into an upper middle-income country by 2030,” he said.

Of the total amount, he added, some US\$3,2 million will be used for Human Resource Development project through scholarship programmes for young talented Cambodian officials to pursue their master and doctoral degrees in Japan; US\$19,8 million for the improvement of health facilities, medical equipment and health-care services in Referral Hospitals in Siem Reap province; and US\$18.40 million for Socio-economic Development Programme through the provision of medical supplies to fight against COVID-19 in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

According His Excellency Ambassador of Japan, since 2001, more than 400 Cambodian officials continued their studies in Japan under the Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS).

### Samdech Techo .....

bilateral cooperation [...] and to continue regional cooperation in the framework of ASEAN-India and Mekong-Ganga Cooperation. Relating to cooperation in culture and archaeology, His Excellency Prime Minister Modi expressed satisfaction to the Kingdom of Cambodia's trust in India to co-chair International Coordinating Committee for Restoration and Development of Cambodia's Preah Vihear Temple.

Also, the heads of governments of Cambodia and India agreed to coordinate return flights for citizens of each other holding up because of Covid-19 pandemic [...] and to set momentum for socio-economic restoration in the post-Covid-19, which required stronger cooperation and coordination./.

### Telephone conversation .....

and agreed to the further enhancement of cooperation between ASEAN and Australia on the Covid-19 response and recovery.

Recalling their last meeting in September last year in New York, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister reassured his counterpart of Cambodia's Constitutional principle in not allowing the presence of any foreign military base within its sovereign territory. Deputy Prime Minister also repeated Cambodian position as already expressed by Samdech Techo Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia in welcoming all foreign nations to conduct joint military exercises as well as enhance mutually beneficial cooperation with Ream Naval Base.

Responding to Senator the Hon. Marise Payne's expressed interest in promoting cooperation on women affairs, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister highlighted, inter alia, Cambodia's intention to organize an event on Women in Peace and Security (WPS) on the sideline of the 13th Asia-Europe Summit (ASEM13) and other possible cooperation on women empowerment. MFAIC



## Cambodia Airports Layouts Future Development of Preah Sihanoukville International Airport



Cambodia Airports, the longstanding concessionaire of Cambodia’s three international airports, has unveiled a 20-year development and investment programme for the international airport in Sihanoukville.

The master plan was presented in a meeting held here on June 2 at the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSVA), attended by H.E. Mao Havannall, Minister in charge of SSCA who signed the report of the master plan.

According to a SSCA’s press release, the master plan puts forward the expansion of the airport infrastructure to accommodate its passengers and cargo traffic growth in the two decades ahead.

In phase I of the development, between now and the year 2030, Cambodia Airports is planning major overhauls including the runway extension to 3,300 metres from the current 2,500 metres, new taxiway and aircraft stands, and the construction of a new passenger terminal, it pointed out.

Phase 2 up to 2040, will see the

extension of the terminal in addition to new ancillary facilities, the future enhancement of the runway and apron capacities.

Mr. Alain Brun, CEO of Cambodia Airports said that master plan will contribute to boosting businesses and tourism sector.

“The master plan for the international airport in Sihanoukville is testament to Cambodia Airports/Vinci Airports continued commitment in enhancing air connectivity and therefore, in contributing to unlocking business and tourism opportunities for the benefit of the people of Cambodia,” he said.

One of the key development projects is scheduled to be completed this second half of the year, added the press release, stressing that the extension and renovation of the runway are in the last stretch with its soon commissioning.

The runway will be instrumental in fully handling wide body and long-haul aircrafts.

## Another Historic Bridge of Cambodia Expected Early 2021

Another historic bridge of Cambodia linking Stung Trang district with Kroch Chmar district of Kampong Cham province will be completed in March next year.

The update was shared recently by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, highlighting that the construction of the bridge now reaches nearly 90 percent.

Once completed, the bridge will contribute significantly to the livelihood and economy of the locals through better transport connectivity.

The area was the origin of Cambodian troop that freed Cambodia from the dark Khmer Rouge period and enabled systems for solid development and growth of the country as seen these days.

With an approximate cost of nearly US\$57 million, the bridge will stretch 1,131 metres long with 13.5 metre width.

The construction of the bridge was launched on Feb. 9, 2018.

