

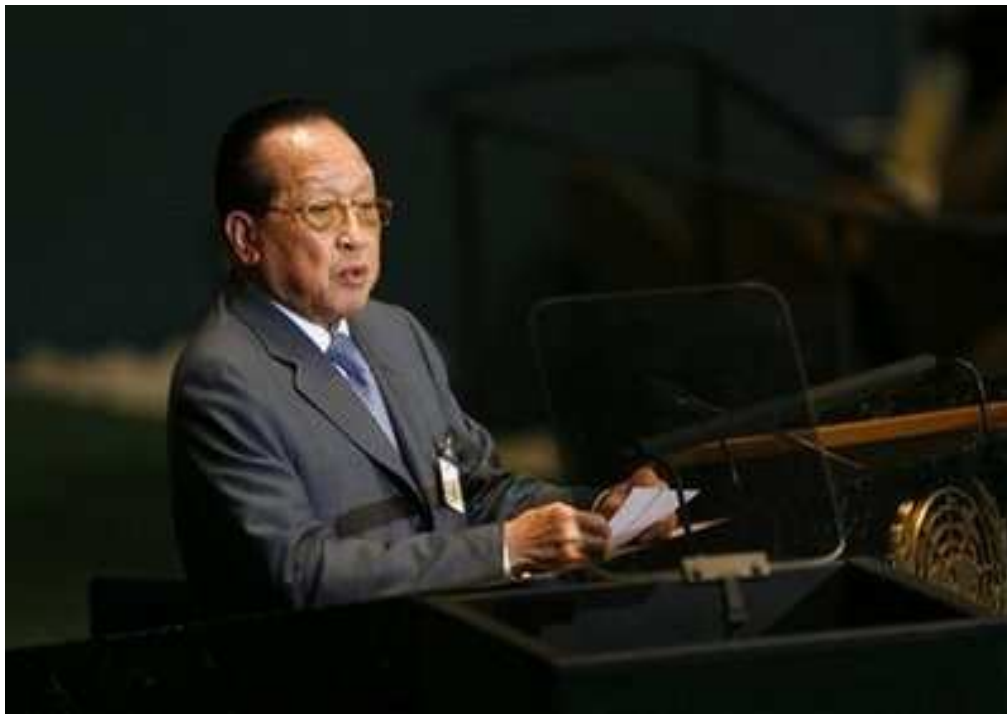
CAMBODIA IN FOCUS



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DPM Hor Namhong Calls for New Ideas to Deal with Global Challenges



Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hor Namhong addresses the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly at United Nations headquarters Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009.

(AP Photo/Jason DeCrow)

H.E. Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, noted everyone's concern with the considerable challenges that the world faced today, such as the current global economic and financial crisis, climate change, food and energy insecurity and the threats of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction proliferation, reported the Cambodian news agency AKP on 28 September 2009.

He hoped that the General Assembly's deliberations would come up with new ideas to cope with all those global challenges, according to an article

posted on 26 September 2009 on the UN General Assembly's website.

There was no doubt that the present global economic and financial crisis would go down in history as a landmark case in the world's economic meltdown, he said. That global crisis had clearly undermined the Millennium Development Goals. While the developed countries had more possibilities and resources to cope with the slowdown, the developing countries had suffered the most with a huge loss of national income as their economic growth was expected (see page 2)

DPM Hor Namhong Calls for

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to fall sharply due to a drastic reduction in exports, which they had largely been dependent on, the falling of investment, the rising of unemployment, and so forth. In order to help mitigate the impact of that economic and financial disaster on developing countries, he was of the view that everything possible should be done to get the Doha Round of negotiations back on track for a successful conclusion, in order to break down barriers to trade and better market access, particularly in agricultural goods, and to reduce agricultural subsidies.

In that regard, Cambodia appreciated the commitment of the G-20 made in Pittsburgh to “bring the Doha Round to a successful conclusion in 2010”. At the same time, the Monterrey Consensus should be invigorated in order to help developing countries alleviate poverty and meet the Millennium Development Goals, he stressed.

Turning to climate change, which he described as another “serious threat to humanity”, the Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister noted that global warming had triggered more and more frequent cyclones, typhoons, extreme floods and droughts. The worsening impact of climate change had now reached an alarming level everywhere around the planet. According to the Asian Development Bank, South-East Asia would be the most affected region because of its geography of low-lying nations and long coastlines.

He said that, as far as Cambodia was concerned, being an essentially agrarian country with more than 80 per cent of its population whose livelihood depended on farming, the country was extremely vulnerable to weather-related calamities. Fully aware of vulnerability in that regard, the country had been assuming its share of responsibility towards global warming since 2003, and had made its utmost efforts to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol by promoting Clean Development Mechanism projects, as well as

implementing the national adaptation programme of action on climate change. It had also launched a reforestation campaign. At the same time, while he commended recent promises by the G-8, he questioned whether such pledges could match the speed of global warming.

Parallel to all those serious global challenges facing the world today, there were still political and security problems of great concern, he pointed out. Terrorism had been threatening everywhere, causing deaths among the innocent. To fight terrorism more effectively, greater and closer cooperation was needed among the many authorities concerned in order to face up to those criminal activities against humanity. At the same time, he noted that there were countries that had the capacity to produce nuclear weapons that had not yet signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The dissemination of weapons of mass destruction constituted another massive deadly menace to humanity.

He also supported United Nations reform, which he said needed to go beyond just the restructuring of the Organization’s organs, in order to enable the world body to engage itself more actively to revitalizing its primary role in world affairs.

National Assembly Marks International Democracy Day

The Cambodian Parliament marked in Phnom Penh on 15 September 2009 the International Democracy Day with the theme “Democracy and Political Tolerance” under the chairmanship of Samdech Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly, reported the Cambodian news agency AKP on 16 September 2009.

This was the first time that the legislative bodies of Cambodia hold the celebration after the General Assembly of the United Nations in late 2007 agreed to take up September 15 as the International Democracy Day. (see page 3)

National Assembly Marks

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Mr. Douglas Broderick, UN Representative to Cambodia, said the event and the workshop on International Democracy Day reflected the development of democracy in Cambodia.

Some 200 representatives from the National Assembly, Senate, Government, civil society, international community and foreign embassies attended the one-day celebration aiming at raising awareness of and commitment to democracy and political tolerance in the country.

The event was organized by the General Secretariat of the National Assembly with the support from the UNDP Legislative Assistance Project (LEAP), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Inter-parliamentary Union.

Cambodia Rejects Thai Acting Premier's Comment on Road to Preah Vihear Temple

The Council of Ministers of Cambodia has strongly rejected the Thai Acting Prime Minister's comment that the northern access road to the Temple of Preah Vihear is a joint road between Cambodia and Thailand.

The full statement of the spokesman's Office of the Council of Ministers dated 25 September 2009 reads as follows:

"The spokesman's Office of the Office of the Council of Ministers wishes to inform the national and international public that the Royal Government of Cambodia absolutely rejects the comment made by the Thai's acting Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban on 24 September 2009 related to the Cambodia's northern existing access road to the Temple of Preah Vihear.

The spokesman's Office wishes to make the following clarifications:

- The existing access road to the Temple of Preah Vihear is situated in the area under the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cambodia, based on Dangrek Map, Annex I Map which was the result of the French-Siamese 1904 Convention and 1907 Treaty, and the ICJ Judgment on 15 June 1962 in The Hague, which has been reaffirmed with the inscription of the Temple of Preah Vihear on the World Heritage List, in Quebec, Canada, upon the request of the Kingdom of Cambodia.
- This existing road had been rehabilitated by the Bayon Fund chaired by Her Excellency Hun Mana who has been soliciting funds from different sources for the fixing of the stated road to benefit Cambodian people and tourists who travel to pay respect and worship the Buddhist monks at Keo Sikha Kiri Svara pagoda as well as to visit the Temple of Preah Vihear.
- This road is not a joint road between Cambodia and Thailand because it is entirely located in the territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The spokesman's Office wishes to categorically denounce the groundless statement or commentary which could mislead the general public and harm the friendly relationship between the two countries."

Deputy Prime Minister Tea Banh Visits US

US Defense Secretary and Deputy Secretary of State Vow Enhanced Ties with Cambodia.

"Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense Tea Banh is in Washington D.C. on a four-day visit designed to strengthen cooperation and to reinforce the U.S. commitment to substantive, reform-linked security cooperation," said a release issued on September 23, 2009 by the US Embassy in Phnom Penh.

"On September 21, H.E. Tea Banh met with U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates (see page 4)

Deputy Prime Minister

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and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg,” said the release.

“Secretary Gates stressed the commitment of the United States to enhance Cambodia’s capabilities in peacekeeping, maritime security and counterterrorism. The Secretary cited establishment of a Cambodian Defense Attaché office in Washington and the newly minted sister state program with Idaho’s National Guard as positive developments in the bilateral relationship. Secretary Gates also offered the Minister an opportunity to engage in a Defense Policy Dialogue in the near future”, continued the release.

“In a separate meeting, Deputy Secretary Steinberg and H.E. Tea Banh discussed security cooperation between the United States and Cambodia, highlighting Cambodia’s ongoing support for international peacekeeping operations and Cambodia’s commitment to host the 2010 Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) regional capstone exercise. GPOI is a U.S.-funded G-8 program to expand global capacity to train and equip 75,000 peacekeepers by the year 2010. They also discussed human rights and issues related to Cambodia’s role as a member of ASEAN”, said the release.

“Since 2004, the United States has sought to strengthen and expand its bilateral defense relationship with Cambodia. Our cooperation focuses on international peacekeeping, counterterrorism, counternarcotics, border and maritime security, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief operations, and defense sector reform” it said.

“Since 2006, Cambodia has received approximately \$4.5 million worth of equipment and technical assistance through the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) program. The FMF program also funds grants of excess military transport equipment and technical assistance to the Ministry of National Defense and the High Command; training materials and technical assistance to the RCAF English Language Training Program; and Maritime Security and professional development

training to the Royal Cambodian Navy. Participants in all U.S. funded training programs are thoroughly vetted in accordance with U.S. law”, said the release.

UNESCO Helps Preserve Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archives

The UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh will assist the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in the preservation of the historical documentary collection from the former S-21 prison and interrogation centre, the Cambodian news agency AKP, based on an article posted on the UNESCO website, wrote on 11 September 2009.

It is estimated that over 15,000 prisoners were held in this former high school by the Pol Pot regime. The collection, which has been inscribed on UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register, contains photographs, ‘confessions’ and biographical records of prisoners.

The historical photographs and documents from the site of the S-21 prison and interrogation centre of the Pol Pot regime, currently held at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Phnom Penh, are now listed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. Last July the Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, announced the inscription of this collection on the Register, on the recommendation of the International Advisory Committee, which recognised its outstanding value and world significance.

The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archives include various documents showing the fate of over 15,000 prisoners who were held from 1975 to 1979 in the Tuol Sleng compound. The Archives include 4,186 ‘confessions’ (many extracted under torture); 6,226 biographies of prisoners; 6,147 photographic prints and negatives of prisoners, demolished buildings, research activities, mass graves and remains of victims, as well as photos of visitors.

These Archives constitute the most complete existing documentary picture of the (See page 5)

UNESCO Helps Preserve

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Democratic Kampuchea prison system, a fundamental part of the regime under which about 2-3 million people (25-30% of the population) lost their lives in a period of 3 years, 8 months and 20 days.

Copies of these historical documents have already been made. However, much more needs to be done in order to preserve the collection. UNESCO's Office in Phnom Penh will assist the Museum in the preservation of the originals in danger of destruction, mainly because of the tropical climate.

The Museum has started the digitalisation of the most significant parts of the Archives. The Tuol Sleng Museum personnel lack capacity and management skills, which is the case of many Cambodian institutions. In order to address this issue, UNESCO's Phnom Penh Office, in collaboration with the Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO and the National Museum, is organising a workshop for Cambodian Memory of the World focal points. During this training, to be held from 14 to 17 September 2009, about 30 participants will learn how to advocate, preserve and identify the national documentary heritage. They will, subsequently, become members of a future National Memory of the World Committee.

Royal Australian Navy Ship Visits Cambodia

The Royal Australian Navy ship, HMAS DARWIN, visited the Kingdom of Cambodia from 22 to 26 September 2009, reported the Cambodian News Agency AKP basing on a media release of the Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh.

This visit reinforces the close links between Cambodia and Australia through the Australian Defense Cooperation Program and follows successful visit by Royal Australian Navy vessels in previous years: HMAS Bathurst April 2009, HMAS

ADELAIDE in May 2007 and August 2005, HMAS TOOWOOMBA in April 2006, HMAS DARWIN in October 2004, HMAS DUBBO and HMAS GERALDTON in September 2004, and HMAS GASCOYNE and HMAS NORMAN in May 2003, the release added.

While in Sihanoukville, Royal Australian Navy personnel visited the Royal Cambodian Navy Marine Base at Ream and provided specialist training and support in the use of ship maintenance equipment provided by Australia. As in previous years, the Australian crew has also competed in a variety of sports against the Royal Cambodian Navy and the Cambodian National Volleyball League (Disabled).

Crew members of HMAS DARWIN has also provided engineering support to the local orphanage in Sihanoukville and a small team has also provided support to the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces College of Social Sciences and Languages in Phnom Penh.

The Commanding Officer of HMAS DARWIN, Commander Chris Smith, paid courtesy calls on the Governor of Sihanoukville, H.E. Sbaong Sarath, and the Commander of Ream Naval Base H.E. Rear Admiral Ouk Seiha.

HMAS Darwin is an Adelaide Class Long-Range Escort Frigate that undertakes roles including air defense, anti submarine warfare, surveillance, reconnaissance and interdiction. The ship is capable of countering simultaneous threats from the air, surface, and sub-surface. The ship is 138 meters in length and has a crew of 158, said the media release.

South Korea to Construct Phnom Penh Suburban Road

H.E. Lim Sidenin, South Korea's Public Affairs and Transportation Secretary of State, told reporters in Phnom Penh on 12 September 2009 that the Korean expressway constructor (See page 6)

South Korea to Construct

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was interested in constructing a 60-kilometer road that runs across different areas surrounding the Capital City of Cambodia under BOT agreement, adding that the road rehabilitation project would also entail the construction of two bridges crossing Bassac River.

The investment plan was resulted from the early 2009 visit of Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen to the Republic of Korea, he said.

Once the plan attained official approval from the Prime Minister and the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC), an estimate of eight-month assessment study would roll out before the construction eventually starts and lasts for about three years, he said

Cambodia Joins Rubber Association

Cambodia has joined the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries in the hope of further developing the nation's rubber industry, Ly Phalla, director-general of Cambodia's Directorate of Rubber said on 14 September, adding that the ascension to the inter-governmental organisation would bring its burgeoning industry new technology and help with production and marketing.

The Cambodian government had privatised some 41,600 hectares (102,800 acres) of state-owned rubber plantations in recent years, Ly Phalla said.

The country now has some 120,000 hectares of land under rubber cultivation and the government plans to expand this to 150,000 hectares by 2015, he added.

Cambodia is the 10th country to join the rubber association, which includes China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Vietnamese Firm to Build Large Fertilizer Plant in Cambodia

Vietnam's Five Star International Group is planning to build a US\$65 million fertilizer plant in Cambodia, reported the Cambodian news agency AKP on 16 September 2009.

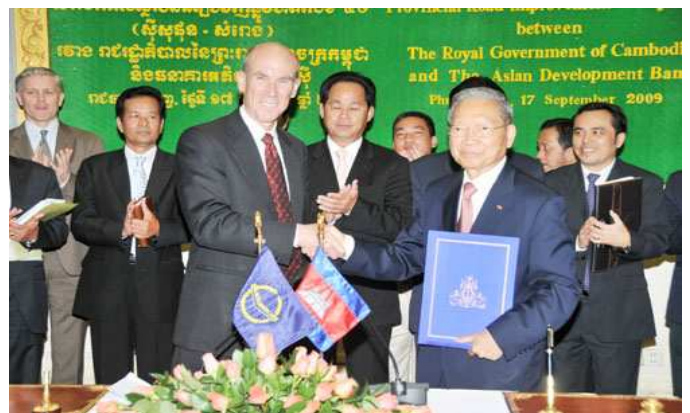
The project has been submitted to the Council for the Development of Cambodia for approval. If approved, construction of the factory would kick off in October and be completed after 20 months.

The planned location is Kien Svay district, 20 km to the east of Phnom Penh. The plant is designed to produce 350,000 tonnes of product a year.

Lim Sokun, Secretary of State of the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, said he hoped that the plant's supply of fertilizer, along with providing new cultivation techniques, would help local farmers boost the productivity and the value of their agricultural products.

Cambodia, ADB Sign Agreements Worth of US\$37.3 Million

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance, H.E. Keat Chhon signed on 17 September 2009 with Asian Development Bank



From left to right: Mr. C. Lawrence Greenwood ,(ADB Vice-President and H.E.Mr. Keat Chhon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance

(ADB) Vice-President C. Lawrence (See page 7)

Cambodia, ADB Sign

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Greenwood, grant and loan agreements totaling US\$37.3 million, reported the Cambodian news agency AKP.

A US\$21 million grant for the Second Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project will support Cambodia's efforts to deliver improved rural water supply and sanitation to some of the poorest areas around the Tonle Sap Basin, said an ADB press release dated 17 September.

The Northwest Road Improvement Project, a US\$16.3 million concessional loan, co-financed with a US\$25.6 million loan from the Republic of Korea, will rehabilitate 113 kilometers of National Road No. 56 connecting the provinces of Banteay Meanchey and Oddor Meanchey provinces and will upgrade a border facility with Thailand.

National Road No. 56 is a key conduit for goods and people between northwest Cambodia and northeast Thailand, and also forms a feeder connection to the GMS East-West Economic Corridor. The improved border facilities are expected to aid cross-border tourism as the restored road will connect to a key route to Siem Reap – site of the world famous temples of Angkor.

Chevron and MOECO Participate in Oil Exploration Bidding

US Chevron Corporation and Japanese MOECO Company will participate in the bidding for oil exploration in Cambodian sea water at block 4.

Chevron President Mr. Joseph C. GEAGEA and MOECO Company President Mr. Yoshiyuki Kagawa informed Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen during their separate meetings on 15 September with the premier that their companies would participate in the bidding and had

already submitted documents for the bidding to the National Petroleum Authority of Cambodia. Samdech PM welcomed the participation of both companies in the bidding.

“What is important for the royal government is that the bidding is conducted in a transparent and accountable manner for the interest of the company as well as that of the Cambodian people as a whole,” stressed Samdech PM during the meeting.

FAO Provides Fund for Silk-Weaving Handicraft Project in Cambodia

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has provided a fund of US\$470,000 for a rehabilitation project of silk-weaving handicraft in Cambodia.

An agreement on the project was signed in Phnom Penh on 17 September by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Council of Ministers Sok An and UN handicraft and FAO country representative, Ajay Markanday.

The two-year project with an amount of US\$470,000 aims at promoting the technical capacity of the institutions relating to the development of silk. Moreover, the project will help the production of silkworm and mulberries, the strengthening of the technical ability, the training and the spreading of a new innovation for the Cambodian farmers.

Seven demonstration farms would be established in Kampong Speu, Takeo, Kampot, Kampong Cham, Kratie, Pursat, Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey provinces, displaying new techniques for silkworm-rearing, an FAO press statement said.

Through the experience from China, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Vietnam, the Cambodian

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FAO Provides Fund for

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government gave priority to the development of silk, which is considered a crucial strategy for earning an income and providing a job to the Cambodian people in the rural area.

GMS Countries Develop Three Priority Economic Corridors

Ministers from the six nations sharing the Mekong River, at the 2nd Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Economic Corridors Forum in Phnom Penh on 17-18 September 2009, have agreed to expedite the development of three priority economic corridors in the region: the East-West, North-South and Southern economic corridors, said an ADB press release dated 18 September.

During the Forum, the theme of which is "GMS Economic Corridors: Pathways to an Integrated, Harmonious and Prosperous Sub-region", ministers from Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam noted that the corridors are poised to help propel the economic development of the entire sub-region, reported the Cambodian news agency AKP on 22 September.

"With good roads and other physical infrastructure largely in place, today's commitment bodes well for the region's continued economic development," said ADB Vice-President Lawrence Greenwood. "Now Mekong nations need to double their efforts to streamline cross-border transactions and transportation costs, to ensure trade between Mekong nations can flourish."

Mr. Greenwood also noted that today's initiatives would help improve the business environment in the region, boosting investments in the process.

An enabling policy and regulatory framework will provide new opportunities for the private sector

and deepen businesses' involvement in the economic corridors' growth.

"As countries move forward in developing the economic corridors, they must be mindful of the social and other risks of development. It is essential that the corridors improve the standard of living of all families living along them, and do so without undue environmental costs," said Mr. Greenwood.

The Economic Corridors Forum has laid the groundwork for improved coordination and collaboration between the public and private sectors, between central and local government officials, and among government agencies needed to fast-track the transformation of transport corridors into full-fledged economic zones.

On the sidelines of the Forum, Cambodia and Thailand signed an agreement that will accelerate the exchange of traffic rights between the two countries, and address the current problem of transshipment, which is causing delays in cross-border trade and tourism between the two countries, reported AKP.

The Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) comprises Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Initiated by the ADB, the GMS was founded in 1992 to boost economic growth and reduce poverty in the countries along the Mekong, Southeast Asia's longest river. The region is home to 280 million people, most of them rely on agriculture and fishing.

The region boasts three road corridors: the north-south road between Kunming, Bangkok and Hanoi; the route from Da Nang in Vietnam and Mawlamyine in Myanmar through Cambodia and Laos; and the route connecting Bangkok and the cities in Cambodia and Vietnam.

The first GMS Economic Corridors Forum was held in Kunming in June last year.

US Give Money to Boost Economic Performance

The US provided \$7.79 million to the Cambodian government to aid economic growth performance, reported VOA Khmer on 23 September 2009.

The funds will be used to expand USAID's program for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, which seeks to alleviate poverty by increasing productivity of family businesses, continued the report.

US Ambassador to Cambodia Carol Rodley said the program would help thousands of Cambodians and would foster new relationships in the business sector.

said in a ceremony the economic crisis had diminished Cambodia's capacity for high economic growth.

"Assistance provided by the international community is crucial for contributing to bringing high economic growth back on track," said Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers Sok An.

The US expects to commit \$61.8 million in assistance to Cambodia this year, as the country struggles in the wake of the global financial crisis.

Cambodia and Oxfam Sign MOU on Climate Changes Cooperation

The Ministry of Environment and Oxfam signed in Phnom Penh on 23 September 2009 the Memorandum of Understanding on "Climate

Changes Cooperation", reported the Cambodian news agency AKP on 25 September.

Mr. Brian Lund, Oxfam Country Director, said during the signing ceremony that the last decade climate changes had affected social economy, ecological system and rice production. He added that Oxfam had asked for technical assistance and aid from the developed countries to help the affected countries.

Minister of Environment Mok Mareth expressed his pleasure with the cooperation between his Ministry and Oxfam, which is the first NGO that inked the MOU on climate changes cooperation with the Ministry of Environment.

4th Cambodia Import-Export & One Province One Product Exhibition 2009

The Royal Embassy of Cambodia would like to announce that the Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia will organise the "4th Cambodia Import-Export & One Province One Product Exhibition 2009" from 15 to 18 December 2009 at the Mondial Exhibition Centre, Phnom Penh City, Cambodia. The Business and Investment Forum, Trade Meeting, and Workshop on Trade Promotion will be held in the framework of this Exhibition.

The investors, businesspersons, manufacturers, organizations involving in foreign trade or foreign investment, etc. are cordially invited and warmly welcomed to participate either as exhibitors or visitors in this annual exhibition event.

The Space Application Form can be downloaded from the Embassy Website at <http://www.embassyofcambodia.org.nz>.

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