



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Joint Cambodian-Thai Cabinet Retreat

Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, and His Excellency Dr. THAKSIN SHINAWATRA, Prime Minister of Thailand, chaired the Joint Cambodian-Thai Cabinet Retreat held in Siem Reap province, Kingdom of Cambodia and Ubon Ratchatani province, Kingdom of Thailand respectively on 31 May and 01 June 2003.

In the meantime, Ministers, Cabinet members of both countries, met and resolved issues based on their area of responsibility and expertise.

The Retreat provided the opportunity for Cabinet members of both Kingdoms to become acquainted and to discuss various issues of common interest in order to enhance bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Subsequently, 5 MOU, one agreement and one statement were signed:

1. MOU on Bilateral Cooperation for Eliminating Trafficking; in Children and Women,
2. MOU on Cooperation in Agriculture,
3. MOU on Cooperation in Education,
4. MOU on Cooperation in the Development of Road Numbers 48 and 67,
5. MOU on the Cooperation in Employment of Workers.
6. Agreement on Technical Cooperation on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and
7. Joint Ministerial Statement on the Concept Paper on Thailand-Cambodia Border Points of Entry: Ways toward New Order, Effective Border Management and Greater Bilateral Cooperation.

**Joint Ministerial Statement
on the Concept Paper on
Cambodia-Thailand Border Points of Entry**

The Joint Cabinet Retreat between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia and Ubon Ratchatani, Thailand, on 31 May - 1 June 2003 and was co-chaired by Samdech HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and H.E. Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand

The Joint Cabinet Retreat discussed all issues pertaining to Cambodia -Thailand bilateral relations. During the discussion on the issue pertaining to border cooperation, both sides expressed their common desire to further strengthen their existing border cooperation including more effective border management.

The Ministerial Group of the Joint Cabinet Meeting on Management and Security on the Border had extensively discussed the Concept Paper on Cambodia-Thailand Border Points of Entry: Ways toward New Order, Effective Border Management and Greater Bilateral Cooperation.

The Joint Cabinet Retreat, after reviewing the principles and measures enumerated in the Concept Paper, endorsed the Concept Paper as a framework for implementing and further strengthening their cooperation in the border areas.

Signing Ceremony of Grant Agreement between Cambodia and US

On 02 May 2003, at 16:00 p.m., at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, signed with His Excellency Mr. Charles Aaron Ray, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Ms. Lisa Chiles, USAID Cambodia Mission Director, an Agreement between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Cambodia on a Grant of USD 2 million for the improvement of quality of basic education in Cambodia.



Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Ambassador Charles Aaron Ray and Ms. Lisa Chiles sign Grant Agreement between Cambodia and US

Moreover, to achieve this objective, the United States will further contribute an amount of USD 4 million for this purpose over 3 years period until 30 September 2005.

REMARKS
by H.E. Senior Minister HOR Namhong
at the Signing Ceremony of the Strategic Objective
Grant Agreement for increasing the relevance and quality
of the basic education in Cambodia

Following is the integral text of Remarks delivered by His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, at the Signing Ceremony of the Strategic Objective Grant Agreement for increasing the relevance and quality of the basic education in Cambodia, on 02 May 2003:

- *Excellency Mr. Charles Aaron Ray,*
Ambassador of the U.S.A to Cambodia
- *Ms. Lisa Chiles,* USAID Cambodia
Mission Director
- *Excellencies*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Under today's Agreement, the Government of the United State of America, through USAID, will provide a grant of US\$ 2,000,000 for increasing the quality of the basic education in Cambodia.

This amount is the first phase of the entire program, which will cover for a 3-year period from 2003 to 2005 with the total amount of 6,000,000 (six millions US dollars). I believe that this program will certainly contribute to the Royal Government of Cambodia's education reform by strengthening the efficiency and capacities of education in Cambodia.

This contribution would enable the Royal Government to response appropriately and timely to the country's need for ensuring free access to the basic education for the poor and disadvantaged peoples in order to decrease the illiterate rate to a lower level.

As you may be aware, the Royal Government of Cambodia has paid close attention to the reform programs in education, especially through the triple increase of national budget for education in the last five years and will double this allocation in the next three years. It is no doubt that the basic education has been considered by the Royal Government of Cambodia to be an important element of its strategy for reduction of poverty of its people as well.

I would like to take this rare opportunity to convey the sincere thanks of the Royal Government to the Government of the United States for this valuable support for the basic education in Cambodia.

My high appreciation also goes to you, Mr. Ambassador and Ms. Director of the USAID Mission in Cambodia, for your active cooperation and support for this important program as well as for your endeavour for a better understanding between Cambodia and the U.S.A.

Thank you for your kind attention!

**Le Ministre d'Etat HOR Namhong signe
Convention de Financement avec la France**

Le Mercredi 14 mai 2003, à 16h00, au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération Internationale, Son Excellence Monsieur HOR Namhong, Ministre d'Etat, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération Internationale, et Son Excellence Monsieur André-Jean LIBOUREL, Ambassadeur de France au Royaume du Cambodge, ont signé une Convention de Financement entre le Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge et le Gouvernement de

la République Française pour l'exécution du projet "Appui à la Modernisation de la Fonction Publique".



Le Ministre d'Etat HOR Namhong signe Convention de Financement avec Ambassadeur de France

Cette Convention de Financement permettra la mise en oeuvre de l'aide financière française d'un montant de 1.400.000 Euros destinée à l'appui au processus, conduit par le Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge, de modernisation de l'Etat afin de doter le pays des instruments administratifs nécessaires aux progrès économiques, sociaux et institutionnels.

Le projet dont la réalisation est prévue sur trois années comporte trois composantes complémentaires: Appui à la définition d'une politique nationale de gestion des agents de la fonction publique, Appui à l'Ecole Royale d'Administration, et Gestion du projet et communication.

Il est à noter que cette Convention se situe dans l'accord-cadre de coopération culturelle, scientifique et technique conclu entre les deux pays le 10 mai 1994 à Paris.

Senior Minister HOR Namhong Meets ASEAN Diplomatic Envoys

On 23 May 2003, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, hold a meeting with the Ambassadors and Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the ASEAN Member Countries.

During the meeting, His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong Informed ASEAN Diplomatic Envoys that upon request of the National Election Committee (NEC), the representatives of the Governments of ASEAN Member Countries were invited to observe the general elections to be held on 27 July 2003 in Cambodia in their capacities as the International Observers in order to ensure free and fair elections.

Interested representatives were kindly requested to come to the Headquarters of the NEC to ask for badge for International Observers from today till the day before the general elections, said Senior Minister HOR Namhong.

In the same vein, the Royal Government of Cambodia also would be pleased to invite representatives of the ASEAN Governments to observe the upcoming electoral process in July 2003, he added.

Letter to Cambodia Daily Editor

Responding to The Cambodia Daily’s article “Powell’s Visit for ASEAN Forum Confirmed”, His Excellency Sieng Lapresse, Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, wrote to the Editor of The Cambodia Daily a letter that was published as follows in its issue on 21 May 2003:

The article “Powell’s Visit for Asean Forum Confirmed,” (May 16, page 11) was an unnecessary piece of investigative work. Enough is enough.

Most of Kevin Doyle’s stories for your newspaper use details-the nuts and bolts of a story-to provide a balanced view to the public.

But, unfortunately, this was not evident in Thursday's story, which showed an obsessive hostility to the democratically elected government of Cambodia.

One-fourth of Doyle's story relived the unfortunate but outdated Jan 29 anti-Thai events that Cambodia and Thailand have since moved beyond.

It is now just a chapter of our recent past.

Recent events have become painful lessons for the people of Cambodia and Thailand. We do not need Doyle's unfriendly kind of reminder.
