

**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

**Nation Religion King**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

# **INFORMATION BULLETIN**

ISSUED BY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT  
December 31, 2000 VOLUME 30

**ADDRESS: N° 161, Preah Sisowath Quay, Phnom Penh - Kingdom of Cambodia**

**Phone: (855.23) 214.441 - 216.122 - 216.146 & Fax: (855.23) 216.144 - 216.939**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- ↗ Samdech Prime Minister Congratulates US President-Elect
- ↗ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cambodia-Thailand Diplomatic Relations
- ↗ Message from Thai Foreign Minister to Senior Minister
- ↗ Agreement and MOUs Between Cambodia-Thailand
- ↗ Senior Minister Attends ASEAN-EU Meeting
- ↗ Senior Minister Meets with UN Special Envoy
- ↗ Senior Minister Meets with UNESCO Director-General
- ↗ Senior Minister Receives German Minister of State
- ↗ Senior Minister Signs Exchange of Letters with China
- ↗ Le Ministre d'Etat Signe 2 Conventions avec la France
- ↗ Hand Over Ceremony of Shiva Sculpture

## **Samdech Prime Minister Congratulates US President Elect**

Samdech HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, sent the following message to congratulate US President elect His Excellency Mr. George W. BUSH:

*Excellency,*

On behalf of the Royal Government and People of Cambodia, I have the great pleasure to extend to you personally as President elect, my warmest congratulations and best wishes of good health, happiness and success, and of prosperity to the people of the United States of America.

American People have provided extensive humanitarian aids and support to Cambodia since the Paris Peace Accords that set in motion the rehabilitation and development of our country destroyed by almost thirty years of war. Cambodia has undertaken vast projects of reforms to further the cause of democracy, human rights and social justice. With the support of our friends and partners, Cambodia has resolutely turned to improving the life of its people and particularly the poor. The Royal Government looks forward to our continuing friendship and to a strengthening in relations between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cambodia-Thailand Diplomatic Relations**

His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, sent the following message to His Excellency Dr. Surin PITSUWAN, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between both countries:

*Excellency,*

Thailand and Cambodia mark today the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations on 19 December 1950, an occasion to reflect and to celebrate.

Over the past fifty years, bilateral relations between Thailand and Cambodia have been overshadowed by long periods of decolonization and of the cold war. The whole region of South East Asia were divided into opposing blocks. But in spite of this circumstance, the people of Cambodia and Thailand have experienced also moments of peace, friendship and cooperation which have prevailed most of the time.

During all these periods, fortunately, our peoples on both sides of the common border, have continued to entertain their traditions of good neighbourhood. External influences have had little impact on their traditional values, culture and way of life.

Today, we are witnessing the emergence of a new era of enhanced, intense bilateral and regional co-operation which set the stage for more sustainable socio-economic development of our nations for generations to come. Cambodia is strongly determined to foster the bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation with Thailand cemented by traditional sentiments of fraternal good neighbourhood between our two peoples.

Cambodia is fully prepared to explore all the possibilities for further expanding and strengthening these existing relations in all fields based on the common civilization, religion and culture, as well as adherence to the principle of mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other.

Furthermore, the ASEAN membership of the two countries has opened up a host of good opportunities for more fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation. Cambodia will closely cooperate with Thailand and our ASEAN's partners to accelerate the integration process of ASEAN, which will serve the fundamental interests of the two countries and the whole region as well.

On this happy occasion, I wish to convey, on behalf of the Royal Government and People of Cambodia, to the Royal Government of Thailand our best wishes for greater success in fulfillment of its noble task and to Thai People happiness and prosperity.

May the traditionally close friendship and cooperation existing between our two countries be further consolidated and expanded for years to come.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Message from Thai Foreign Minister to Senior Minister**

Here is the message addressed by His Excellency Dr. Surin PITSUWAN, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand to His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation:

*Excellency,*

On the auspicious occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Kingdom of Cambodia, I wish to extend, on behalf of the Royal Government and the people of Thailand, my sincere best wishes to the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia.

Although our diplomatic relations were established fifty years ago on 19 December 1950, ties between our two kingdoms date back several centuries. Over these past centuries, both our kingdoms have faced many challenges and gone through tremendous changes. Despite these developments both within and beyond our region, something will always remain unchanged. Both our nations are and will forever be neighbouring countries, sharing similar ethnic backgrounds, religions and cultures. These factors are primary forces that have formed a solid foundation for the flourishing ties between the two neighbouring kingdoms that we are now witnessing.

In recent years, our two countries have shown common aspiration and commitment to forge closer friendship and to increase cooperative endeavours between our two countries and peoples. These have included the establishment of the Joint commission for Bilateral Relations between Thailand and Cambodia which encompasses over twenty separate areas of cooperation, covering all aspects of relationship.

Another concrete testimony of this increasing interaction is the steadily expanding volume of trade between Thailand and Cambodia. Growth in investment and tourism is another clear manifestation of mutual benefits grown out of closer partnership. Latest on this list of cooperation is human resource development, which is crucial for sustainable growth and development not only of any country in particular but of the future of our region as a whole. Our joint investment in the Cambodia-Thailand Vocational Training Centre in Poun Phnom, which was inaugurated by H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai and H.E. Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen on 15 June 2000 has started to bear fruit last month with the first batch of 100 graduates having completed their studies.

Cambodia's active role both in ASEAN and other regional groupings, such as the Greater Mekong Sub-region has added a new dimension to our bilateral relations. We are confident that such cooperation would contribute to the peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

As the new century unfolds, I am glad to see that both Thailand and Cambodia are not complacent with the current state of our relations, but continue to make every effort to improve our bilateral ties. What will soon be labeled one of the most notable landmarks in our cooperation is the on-going joint endeavour to map out the framework for Economic Cooperation between Thailand and Cambodia. Once completed, the Framework will help generate economic interest in such a manner that each partner can best supplement and complement one another for better and mutual benefits of both nations.

Given these developments, it is a most propitious moment to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of our diplomatic relations. May I take this opportunity to reiterate Thailand's earnest wish to cherish our good and close ties of friendship with Cambodia in many years to come.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Agreement and MOUs Between Cambodia-Thailand**

Following are the Agreements and Memorandum of Understandings signed between both countries from 1991 to present:

- 1- Agreement on the establishment of the Joint Commission for the Bilateral Cooperation Between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand, 13 January 1994
- 2- Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on the Establishment of Border Committees, 29 September 1995
- 3- Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for the Promotion and Protection of Investment, 29 March 1995
- 4- Agreement on Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, 20 June 1996
- 5- Agreement on the Establishment of the Subcommittee on Finance, 20 June 1996
- 6- Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, 21 June 1997
- 7- Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on Border-Crossing Between the Two Countries, 21 June 1997
- 8- Memorandum of Understanding on Intellectual Property Cooperation between Cambodia and Thailand, 5 March 1997
- 9- Agreement on Tourism Cooperation between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, 29 March 1998
- 10- Treaty between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on Extradition, 6 May 1998 (pending ratification from the Thai side)
- 11- Memorandum of Understanding between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand on the Cooperation in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control, 6 May 1998
- 12- Air Service Agreement between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand, 1 February 2000



- 13- Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand to Combat against Illicit Trafficking and Cross-Border Smuggling of Movable Cultural Property and to Restitute it to the Country of Origin, 14 June 2000
- 14- Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on Cooperation for the Return of Stolen or Embezzled Vehicles, 14 June 2000
- 15- Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on the Survey and Demarcation of Land Boundary, 14 June 2000

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Senior Minister Attends ASEAN-EU Meeting**

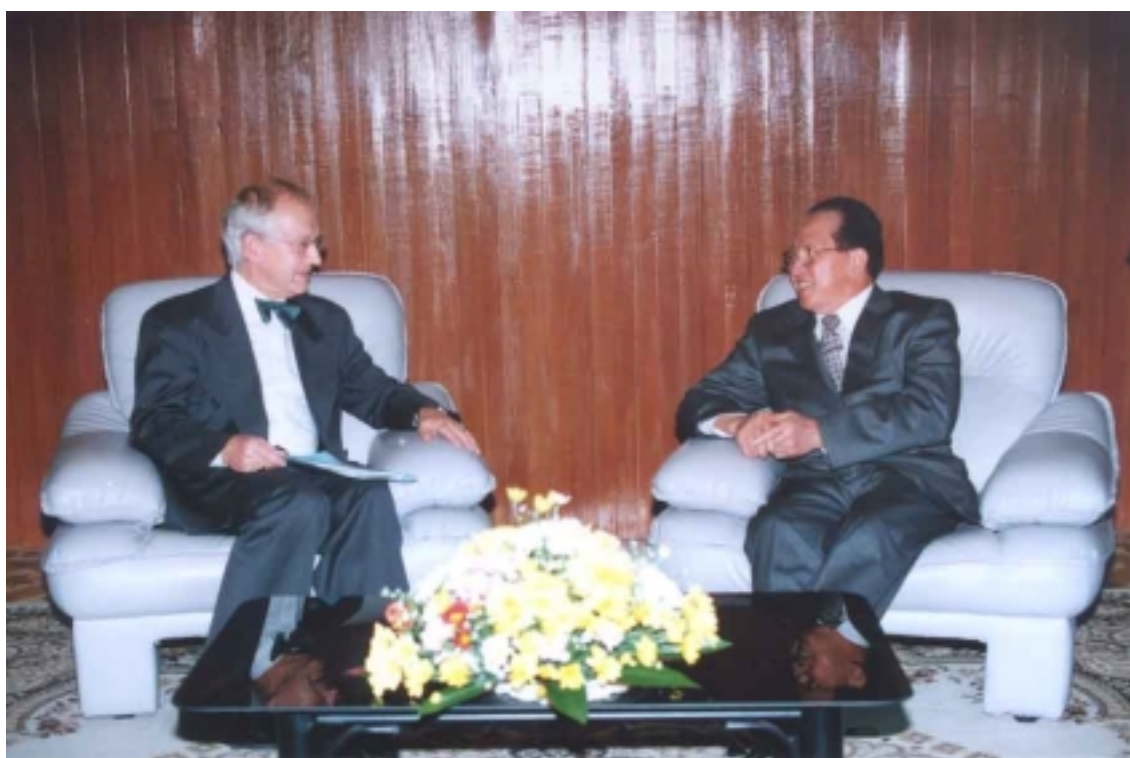
His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, led a delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting to be held in the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 11-12 December 2000.

Apart from the programs for ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting, His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong had separate meetings with Ministers of Foreign Affairs of some ASEAN and EU country members.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Senior Minister Meets with UN Special Envoy

On 1 December 2000, His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, had a meeting with Prof. Peter Leuprecht, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Human Rights in Cambodia, who was visiting the country from 26 November to 2 December 2000.



*Senior Minister HOR Namhong meets with UN Special Envoy Peter Leuprecht*

lations

on human rights situation after his first visit to Cambodia, and hailed the Royal Government of Cambodia for facilitating his visit and granting him full access to the prisons.

Senior Minister HOR Namhong drew the attention of Prof. Peter Leuprecht to three aspects concerning the improvement of human rights situation in the country. The Royal Government of Cambodia had the duty to alleviate poverty, especially in the rural areas, while the international community had the duty to provide assistance in alleviating poverty, improving prisons' condition, demobilizing the armed forces, etc. and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia had the duty to cooperate with the Royal government of Cambodia in the improvement of human rights situation and the education of human rights, particularly among the police and military etc. , said Senior Minister HOR Namhong.

\*\*\* \*\*

## **Senior Minister Meets with UNESCO Director-General**



### **Senior Minister HOR Namhong greets UNESCO Director General Koichiro**

On 7 December 2000, His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, had a meeting with His Excellency Mr. Koichiro MATSUURA, Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), who was visiting Cambodia from 6-8 December 2000.

During the meeting, Senior Minister HOR Namhong informed the guest of the general situation in Cambodia, stressing on the development in economic, political and social fields. The Senior Minister requested UNESCO to continue its assistance in education, the fight against women and children trafficking, and in Angkor conservation.

After recalling the success of the two roundtables sponsored by UNESCO in Tokyo and Paris to raise fund for Angkor conservation, Senior Minister HOR Namhong suggested the third one be organized in Siem Reap province. The Senior Minister also expressed interest in seeing Cambodian staff working in UNESCO and urged Director-General Koichiro MATSUURA to launch a campaign for the ratification by all countries of the Convention against cultural heritage trafficking.

His Excellency Mr. Koichiro MATSUURA expressed satisfaction with the good cooperation between UNESCO and the Royal Government of Cambodia and highly appreciated the Royal Government of Cambodia's attention paid on social field, including health and education. The Director-General also assured the Senior Minister of UNESCO's intervention for the sake of the return of antiquities to their original countries.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Senior Minister Receives German Minister of State**

On 14 December 2000, His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, received His Excellency Dr. Ludger VOLMER, M.P., Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office, who was paying a visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 13-14 December 2000.

Senior Minister HOR Namhong informed the guest of the reforms undertaken by the Royal Government in finance, armed forces, public administration, and judiciary as well as the Six Priority Sectors: agriculture, infrastructure, energy, human resources, light industry and tourism aimed at ensuring economic development and poverty alleviation, which was the objectives of the Government's platform. As far as the bilateral relations are concerned, the Senior Minister expressed his gratitude to Germany for its cooperation and assistance provided to Cambodia in different projects, particularly in education, demining, reform process and decentralization as well as DM 17.5 million aid relief for the flood victims. Senior Minister HOR Namhong also requested Germany to redouble its cooperation in poverty alleviation in the rural areas. In order to further promote the cooperation between the two countries, Senior Minister HOR Namhong suggested the establishment of a Joint Commission for bilateral cooperation and invited Germany's Minister of Foreign Affairs to visit Cambodia.



**Senior Minister HOR Namhong receives German Minister of State Ludger**

His Excellency Dr. Ludger VOLMER expressed satisfaction with the good results brought by the Cambodia-Germany cooperation and reaffirmed Germany's continuous support and assistance to Cambodia.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Senior Minister Signs Exchange of Letters with China**

On 7 December 2000, at 10:30 a.m., at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, a signing ceremony was held between His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and His Excellency Mr. NING Fukui, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Cambodia, on an Exchange of Letters concerning the relief goods assistance valued at RMB. 5 million yuan provided to the Royal Government of Cambodia by the Government of the People's Republic of China.



**Senior Minister HOR Namhong signs an Exchange of Notes  
with Chinese Ambassador NING Fukui**

\* \* \* \* \*



## **Le Ministre d'Etat Signe 2 Conventions avec la France**

Le 1<sup>er</sup> décembre 2000, a eu lieu au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération Internationale, la signature par 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 extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire de France au Royaume du Cambodge, représentant le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la République française, de deux Conventions.

La première Convention, valable pour 3 ans, vise à permettre à la Gendarmerie Royale Khmère de recevoir l'appui apporté par le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la République française dans les domaines de l'organisation, du fonctionnement et de la formation, en vue du renforcement de l'état de droit au Cambodge.



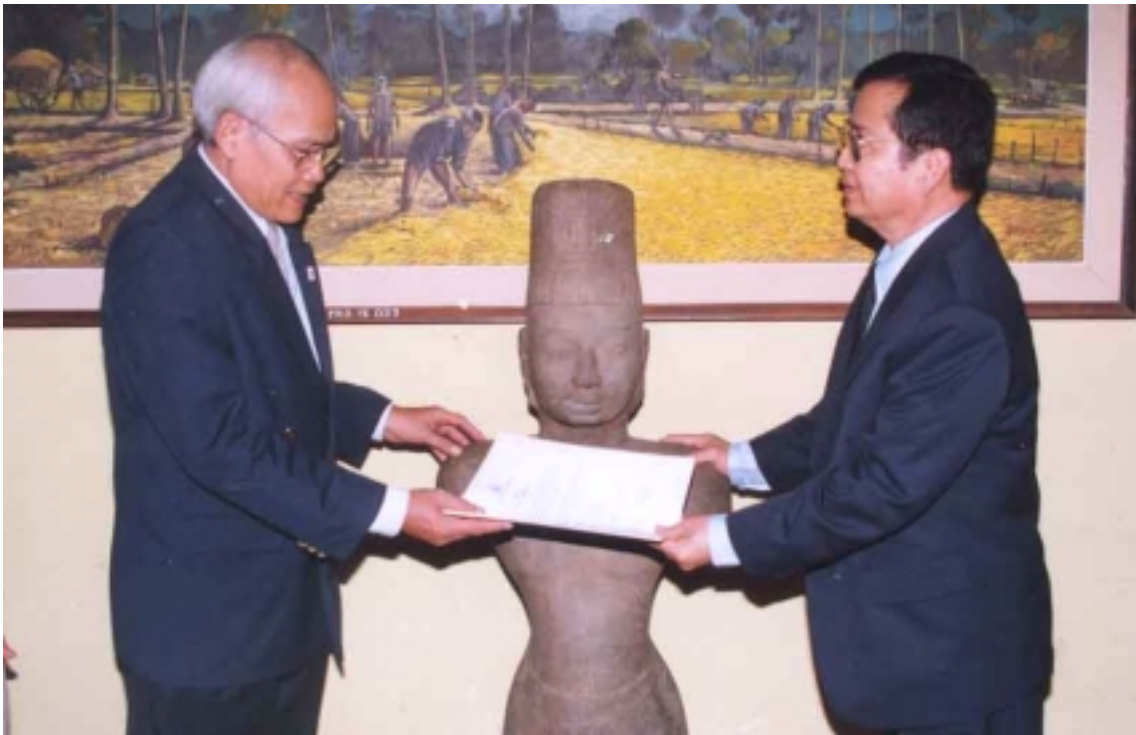
### **Ministre d'Etat HOR Namhong signe Conventions avec Ambassadeur Français André-Jean LIBOUREL**

La deuxième Convention, valable également pour 3 ans, porte sur l'aide accordée par le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la République française dans le domaine de la formation des cadres des Forces Armées Royales Khmères.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Hand Over Ceremony of Shiva Sculpture

On 14 December 2000, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, a Hand Over Ceremony of the Shiva sculpture was held between His Excellency Mr. SIENG Lapresse, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and H.E. Mr. CHUCH Phoeurn, Under Secretary of State for Culture and Fine Arts.



*Under Secretary of State SIENG Lapresse hands over the Shiva sculpture to Under Secretary of State for Culture and Fine Arts CHUCH Phoeurn*

It should be noticed that the Shiva sculpture, a Khmer antiquity with 120 cm height, had just been brought from the United States of America as a gracious donation from Mrs. Kyoko Chirathivat through the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Washington, D.C.

\* \* \* \* \*