



NEWSLETTER



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KAS CAMBODIA OFFICE

LENA RUGE

Content

- **Page 1**
CAMBODIA – LOW COMMITMENT TO RULE OF LAW
- **Page 2**
CPP AND CNRP AGREE ON ELECTORAL REFORM
- **Page 2**
NATIONAL CREDIT RANKING RATED STABLE
- **Page 3**
SOLAR POWER FOR CAMBODIA
- **Page 3**
VISIONFUND EMPOWERS WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS
- **Page 3**
UNESCO LAUNCHES REPORT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

The following articles are a composition of last two weeks' (01.03.2014–14.03.2014) press releases in Cambodia. They give a review on current developments in the country.

Cambodia – Low commitment to rule of law



The World Justice Project

Source: Siv Channa,
www.cambodiadaily.com

According to the "Rule of Law Index 2014" published by the World Justice Project (WJP), Cambodia just dedicates very little commitment to the rule of law and just a fair level in providing security and order. Globally the Kingdom was ranked 91st out of 99; regionally 15th out of 15. The WJP is using nine factors and forty-seven sub-factors to evaluate the annual index. The

nine factors include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.) Constraints of Government Power | (Cambodia's rank: 94) |
| 2.) Absence of Corruption | (Cambodia's rank: 86) |
| 3.) Open Government | (Cambodia's rank: 82) |
| 4.) Fundamental Rights | (Cambodia's rank: 82) |
| 5.) Order and Security | (Cambodia's rank: 54) |
| 6.) Regulatory Enforcement | (Cambodia's rank: 94) |
| 7.) Civil Justice | (Cambodia's rank: 97) |
| 8.) Criminal Justice | (Cambodia's rank: 95) |
| 9.) Informal Justice | |

While Denmark is in leading position with a total score of 0.88, followed by Norway and Sweden, Cambodia scored 0.40. In Comparison, Venezuela, which is bottom of the table, reached 0.31. According to the WJP report Cambodia "ranks lower than most other countries in the region in all dimensions", even though its score in fundamental rights protection improved during 2013, the overall legal and institutional situation remains fragile.

Further Reading:

"Low ranking for rule of law":

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/low-ranking-rule-law>

"Rule of Law Index 2014, WJP:

<http://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index>

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CPP and CNRP agree on electoral reform



Source: www.phnompenhpost.com

Surya P. Subedi, UN Human Rights expert, welcomed the agreement between the Cambodian People's Party and the Cambodia National Rescue Party reached on 6th of March 2014 to launch electoral reforms. In this accord he sees a step towards more transparency, freedom of expression and the right to assemble in public. Further on he stated clearly that the topics, which still have to be discussed are most relevant to

the whole Cambodian people. The set up Joint Committee with members of either party agreed so far on reviewing the voter registry and to draft a law on the financing of political parties.

A couple of days before Prime Minister Hun Sen announced to lift the ban on public demonstrations, but some protests may continue to be blocked.

Further Reading:

"Independent UN expert welcomes electoral reform agreement in Cambodia":

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47288&Cr=cambodia&Cr1=>

National Credit Ranking rated stable



Source: Vireak Mai,
www.phnompenhpost.com

Even though being in a political uncertain situation with disputes between the two major parties and labor disputes in the beginning of 2014, Cambodia could save its credit level due to e. g. the positive outlook for economic growth.

According to Moody's' credit ranking, Cambodia's debt rating remains at level B2. This category is given to states, which are on one hand seen as competent in meeting financial commitments, but on the other hand at considerable risk regarding unfavorable business, economic or financial circumstances.

Referring to the rating corporation, Cambodia lacks of structural strength, which can be seen in its very low per capita income and the fact that the country is relying on foreign aid. Further weaknesses are seen in the poor governance as well as the fact that the local currency, Cambodian riel, is basically replaced by the US Dollar.

Further Reading:

"Moody's says Cambodia's Credit Rating Remains Stable":

<http://www.cambodiadaily.com/business/moodys-says-cambodias-credit-rating-remains-stable-53629/>

"Credit Ranking":

<http://www.tradingeconomics.com/cambodia/rating>

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Solar power for Cambodia



Source: Julie Leafe,
www.phnompenhpost.com

600.000 households by 2020 through advanced techniques in farming and higher quality seeds. Senior project officer of ADB Chanthou Hem stated also that extra power will improve access to information on advanced agricultural technologies and marketing options.

With support of the Asian Development Bank around 123 commune offices in Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Kampong Thom and Kampong Cham provinces will switch to solar-powered energy supply.

The installation of solar panels is one part of the Tonle Sap Poverty Reduction and Smallholder Development Project, which is budgeted with 51.1 million USD. The project is aiming to improve conditions for over

Further Reading:

“Solar power for communes”:

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/solar-power-communes>

Vision Fund empowers women in rural areas



Source: www.phnompenhpost.com

ents and a loan portfolio of 62 million USD, mainly provides small loans and other financial services to women in order to initiate long-term change. By giving training and support the clients are given the basic tools to run a business and have an enduring income.

VisionFund’s CEO, Chin Hoe, stated that research studies came to the conclusion that empowering women supports gender equity, minimizes domestic violence and at the same time enhance women’s ability to take care of children’s wellbeing. More than 90% of the clients are females and more than 99.5% have a positive repayment record.

The fund, which has over 192.000 active cli-

Further Reading:

“VisionFund empowering rural women”:

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/special-reports/visionfund-working-empower-rural-women>

UNESCO launches report on teaching and learning



Source: Hong Menea,
www.phnompenhpost.com

Even though Cambodia has a 97 % primary school enrolment rate, UNESCO education specialist, Santosh Khatri, explained that it is not enough to send children to school, but they have to learn.

According to Nath Bunroeun, Education Ministry Secretary of State, the access to education is good, but its quality must be improved.

Chhinh Sith from Royal University of Phnom Penh explains further that 30 - 40 % of Cam-

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bodian primary school students can't read; while it is 25% globally.

In order to provide a better education environment, UNESCO advises governments to schedule at least 20% of the national budget on the education sector. The Cambodian government increased the education budget to 335 million USD for 2014, which equals just 10% of national budget.

Further Reading:

"Enrolment just a start":

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/enrolment-just-start-report>