



# NEWSLETTER



KAS CAMBODIA OFFICE

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## Newsletter: 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015

A selection of the latest local news in Cambodia

### Cambodia Meets UN MDG of Access to Safe Drinking Water

According to a UNICEF report, Cambodia has reached the UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water until the end of this year. Currently, 62% of the population can access drinking water sources. In this context, Mr. Satepheap Heng, acting Chief of Cambodia's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program speaks of "[s]ignificant improvements" that took place in the kingdom in the past five years.



Cambodian students using their new hand-washing station

In addition, the MDG of improving access to basic sanitation has almost been reached. Despite striking advancements over the past

two decades however, developers and health experts agree that in order to decisively decrease infection and diarrhoeal diseases a change in the culture of public hygiene, for instance in the practice of open defecation, and an improved access to hand washing facilities are crucial. Especially with the rainy season approaching large parts of Cambodian population are left particularly vulnerable.

### Further Reading

Water Mark: MDG Goal Reached, UN Report Says  
By Sarah Taguam  
The Phnom Penh Post | July 2, 2015

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015: Regional Backgrounder  
United Nations | July 2015  
[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015\\_MDG\\_Report/pdf/backgrounders/MDG%202015%20PR%20Bg%20Asia.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/backgrounders/MDG%202015%20PR%20Bg%20Asia.pdf)

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Water and Sanitation Bring Good Health and Dignity to Cambodian School Children

By Sam Waller

UNICEF Cambodia | July 8, 2015

<http://unicefcambodia.blogspot.com/2015/07/water-and-sanitation-bring-good-health.html>

New Technology Brings New Hygiene Hope

By Rebecca Moss

The Phnom Penh Post | July 9, 2015

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/new-technology-brings-new-hygiene-hope>

**Image Source**

<http://unicefcambodia.blogspot.com/2015/07/water-and-sanitation-bring-good-health.html>

**Cambodia-Vietnam On-going Border Dispute**

The on-going border conflict between Cambodia and Vietnam has been a longtime dispute. On 28<sup>th</sup> July, opposition lawmaker Real Camerin led a trip to the disputed border marker 203 in Svay Rieng province to investigate the area. Cambodia accuses the Vietnamese government of alleged incursions into Cambodia's territory, including digging ponds, building military posts and constructing a road in disputed border areas. As there have been violent clashes between Cambodian and Vietnamese citizens, the Royal Government of Cambodia has agreed to seek for solutions and set up a Joint Working Group composed of stakeholders from both countries in order to investigate the conflict.



*Oyadaw district in Cambodia's Ratanakiri Province*

**Further Reading**

CNRP Leads Trip to Another Disputed Vietnamese Border Area

By Aun Pheap | June 22, 2015

The Cambodia Daily

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/cnrp-leads-trip-to-another-disputed-vietnamese-border-area-86072/>

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Foreign Minister Hits Back Over Border Dispute  
By Khy Sovuthy and Alex Willemyns | May 22, 2015  
The Cambodia Daily  
<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/foreign-minister-hits-back-over-border-dispute-84104/>

Ministry tells Vietnam to back off in border dispute  
By Chhay Channyda | June 13, 2015  
The Phnom Penh Post  
<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/post-weekend/ministry-tells-vietnam-back-border-dispute>

**Image Source**

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/cambodia/border-06042015150432.html/cambodia-ratanakiri-oyadav-map-1000.jpg/@images/915904f7-066e-4957-ad17-24ec42e069b7.jpeg>

**Draft on Food Safety Law Released by Government**

Aiming to protect domestic consumers and meeting international safety standards, the Ministry of Commerce released a first draft of the long-awaited Food Safety Law earlier this month. Beginning in February of last year, expert officials of six ministries, local and international lawyers as



*A vendor organizes meat cuts at her stall*

well as representatives of the private sector have been involved in drafting the country's first national food law. At its core it introduces a Food Safety Authority that is responsible of preventing the sale of food that is mislabelled, has been produced in unsanitary conditions or contains

harmful substances. So far, lacking rigorous enforcement of the existing regulations for imports and exports of vegetables, fruits, meat and canned food negatively affects the trade and tourism sectors both crucial for the country's economy. Tackling the issue of food safety, the draft law hence is of particular importance to Cambodia.

**Further Reading**

Government Releases Draft Law on Food Safety  
By Janelle Retka and Aun Chhhengpor | July 16, 2015

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The Cambodia Daily

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/government-releases-draft-law-on-food-safety-88533/>

Law on Food Safety Edges Closer to Approval

By Xueying Chen | July 16, 2015

The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/law-food-safety-edges-closer-approval>

**Image Source**

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/food-safety-needs-tightening>

**Despite Objections, NGO Law Passes**

Although there have been growing international calls - such as from the European Union and the United States - for Cambodia to drop the current version of the NGO Law the National Assembly has recently passed a contentious law to regulate non-governmental organizations. The law requires Cambodia's 5000 domestic and international NGOs to officially register and regularly report their activities and finances to the government. It fuels controversy due to its restricting nature and ambiguous language. One such example is a clause that allows the Cambodian government to shut down any NGO, which jeopardizes peace, stability, public order or the country's culture and traditions. Civil right groups are now awaiting the King's response, whose signature is needed before the law's promulgation.



*A Cambodian protester holds a placard in front of police during a protest against the NGO law*

**Further Reading**

Cambodia Passes Controversial NGO Law

By Neou Vannarin | July 13, 2015

Voice of America

<http://www.voanews.com/content/cambodia-passes-controversial-ngo-law/2859971.html>

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Cambodia passes Law to regulate NGOs despite Concerns  
By Amy Sawitta Lefevre, Robert Birsell | July 13, 2015  
Reuters

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2015/07/13/cambodia-ngos-idINKCN0PNOS720150713>

Cambodia: Law on NGOs Passed  
By Constance Johnson | July 15, 2015  
Library of Congress

[http://www.loc.gov/lawweb/servlet/lloc\\_news?disp3\\_l205404515\\_text](http://www.loc.gov/lawweb/servlet/lloc_news?disp3_l205404515_text)

**Image Source**

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/cambodia/senate-passes-ngo-law-despite-ongoing-protests-against-it-07242015164044.html/cambodia-ngo-law-protest-july24-2015.jpg/image>

**Ministry of Health Completes Draft Law on Alcohol Regulation**

In response to warnings coming from the World Health Organization and an increasing number of Cambodians in favour of tackling the prevalent alcohol abuse more aggressively, authorities now are working on measures to directly control the purchase and consumption of alcohol.



New alcohol regulations aim to reduce the great number of late-night traffic accidents in Cambodia's

mid-July the Ministry of Health sent a draft of Cambodia's first alcohol law to the Council of Ministers. If approved by the Council and then passed by the National Assembly, it will set a minimum drinking age of 21, place bans on drinking in public places and increase taxes on alcohol. In a similar vein, Phnom Penh City Hall said it was considering imposing a midnight curfew for all establish-

ments that serve alcohol. Protecting Cambodians from overindulging, these measures aim to prevent both long-term health damages as well as the number of traffic accidents most of which are taking place at nights. For critics however, those measures can only represent the first steps towards more ambitious alcohol regulations. They draw attention to the lack of provisions setting up prevention of addiction and educational programs as well as clear penalty enforcement mechanisms needed to reduce alcohol abuse more effectively.

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Ministry Finishes its Draft Law on Alcohol

By Chhay Channyda | July 10, 2015

The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/ministry-finishes-its-draft-law-alcohol>

Alcohol Law to Go to Council of Ministers by Week's End

By Khy Sovuthy | July 15, 2015

The Cambodia Daily

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/alcohol-law-to-go-to-council-of-ministers-by-weeks-end-88344/>

City Mulling Midnight Curfew for Clubs, Bars

By Kang Sothear

The Cambodia Daily | July 22, 2015

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/city-mulling-midnight-curfew-for-clubs-bars-89119/>

**Image Source**

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/archives/badly-congested-phnom-penh-battles-with%E2%80%88traffic-jams-49222/>

**Low Rainfall in Cambodia**

This year, Cambodia has been suffering from the so-called "el niño" weather pattern, which causes droughts and high temperature throughout the country. As low rainfalls continue, concerns regarding hardships Cambodian farmers will face due to a significant drop in crops this year have been raised by Keam Makarady, Director of the Cambodian Centre for Study and Development in the Agriculture Environment Program.

*A family planting rice crops in Kandal province.*



Rice crops are usually planted from May to July but amidst water shortages many farmers have delayed their work. Those who did plant their crops are dependent on costly sources of water, spending up to \$100 per hectare per season. Consequently Cambodia expects a food shortage combined with increasing prices this year.

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Amid drought, Farmers Scuffle Over Water

By Ben Sokhean | July 27, 2015

The Cambodia Daily

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/amid-drought-farmers-scuffle-over-water-89476/>

Clock ticks on rice harvest

By Sarah Taguam | July 15, 2015

The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/clock-ticks-rice-harvest>

Cambodia's Micro-Climate is Changing

By Igor Kossov and Pav Suy | July 09, 2015

Khmer Times

<http://www.khmertimeskh.com/news/13087/cambodia---s-micro-climate-is-changing/>

**Image Source**

[http://www.phnompenhpost.com/sites/default/files/styles/full-screen\\_watermarked/public/field/image/food\\_security\\_phn\\_lina.jpg?itok=VkBneQl](http://www.phnompenhpost.com/sites/default/files/styles/full-screen_watermarked/public/field/image/food_security_phn_lina.jpg?itok=VkBneQl)



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