



NEWSLETTER



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KAS CAMBODIA OFFICE

JANINA KANDT

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The following articles are a composition of last two weeks' (11.10.-23.10.) press releases in Cambodia. They give a review on current developments in the country.

CAMBODIA'S KING NORODOM SIHANOUK DIED



Source: [English.peopledaily.com.cn](http://english.peopledaily.com.cn)¹

Minister Hun Sen. Lao Mung Hay, professor of law and economics stated that Hun Sen would now not be restricted anymore which could pose risks to the country. His death also started a debate on the future role of kings in the country.

On Monday, 15th of October, King Norodom Sihanouk died at the age of 89. During his reign which started with his coronation in 1941 he was praised for his role in the process of gaining independence from French rule, but was criticized for legitimizing the rise of the Khmer Rouge. While for some his death meant the end of a monarchy that blurred the lines between king and politician, others perceived it as the disappearance of moral authority and highlighted the concentrated power of Prime

Further Reading:

King Father Sihanouk passes away aged 89:

<http://sea-globe.com/he-was-one-of-the-most-colourful-personalities-of-the-20th-century/Cambodia, Mourning, Casts an Eye to the Future:>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/18/world/asia/thousands-mourn-former-king-sihanouk-in-cambodian-capital.html? r=1>

Remembering Cambodia's King:

[http://thediplomat.com/asean-beat/2012/10/18/remembering-cambodian-king-norodom-sihanouk/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+the-diplomat+\(The+Diplomat+RSS\)](http://thediplomat.com/asean-beat/2012/10/18/remembering-cambodian-king-norodom-sihanouk/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+the-diplomat+(The+Diplomat+RSS))

Cambodia's Former King Leaves Mixed Legacy:

<http://www.voanews.com/content/cambodia-former-king-leaves-mixed-legacy/1526947.html>

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UN SECURITY COUNCIL: CAMBODIA DID NOT PASS SECOND ROUND



Source: [thecambodiaherald](http://thecambodiaherald.com)²

On Thursday 18th of October the vote for the non-permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council took place at the United Nations General Assembly. Cambodia, that applied for a seat and took part in the election, lost the vote in the second round against South Korea, Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg and Rwanda which will replace the five countries that give up their non-permanent seat in December this year.

Further Reading:

Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg, Republic of Korea and Rwanda obtain non-permanent seats in UN Security Council:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43320&Cr=Security+Council&Cr1=#.UIbR9sUxqa8>

UN Security Council bid falls short:

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/2012101859300/National-news/un-security-council-bid-falls-short.html>

Security Council:

<http://www.unelections.org/?q=node/33>

VOTER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION



Source: un.org.kh³

In view of the election of Cambodia's National Assembly, coming up in July next year, the United Nations Development Program together with two non-governmental organizations started activities to empower people with disabilities as well as indigenous people. The aim is to exercise their right to vote through several trainings on, for example the importance of voter registration to focal persons, public forums to increase awareness and participation in the voter registration processes. The programs will be carried out in 17 provinces and 60 communes all across the country.

Further Reading:

Voter education campaign kicks off:

<http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/cambodia/detail/1?page=11&token=ZjJM2JiYmMzNTVjY2QzNWRmMTcyZWQ2MmIwNTcz>

Cambodian indigenous people gear up for election:

<http://www.un.org.kh/undp/pressroom/cambodian-indigenous-people-gear-up-for-election>

²http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/images/upload/cambodia/ZTKxZjM2NGEyNmZjYVWVIMmQ0NTU5MTRhMmY1MWVh/760_450/UN.jpg

³http://www.un.org.kh/undp/cache/com_zoo/images/voter%20registration_1_8456b63cf40b1147da37e797c632087f.jpg

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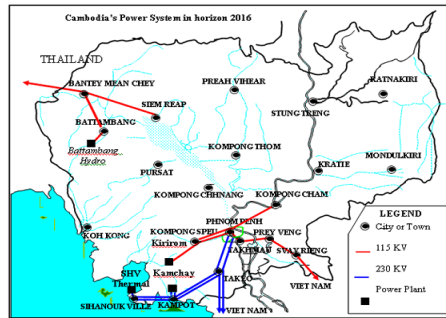
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INVESTMENT IN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY REQUIRED



Source: geni.org⁴

According to the Invest in Cambodia Magazine the country would need \$1 billion to expand electricity supply to every village in the country and to address the power shortfall until 2030. Currently only 26% of the country is connected to electricity networks. Until now about 45% of Cambodia's annual electricity supply is imported from Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. The magazine added that, as the supply comes from diesel or heavy oil generators sets, the price for electricity is one of the highest in Asia.

Further Reading:

Cambodia needs \$1 billion to expand electricity supply:

<http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/cambodia/detail/1?page=13&token=NzAyMWMwOZjVkJZTEyM2M2ZTUyZDEyODAzZDRiZDQ4>

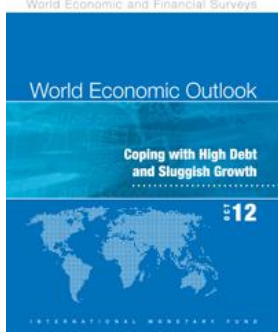
World Investment News (Cambodia):

<http://www.winne.com/asia/cambodia/2004/cr02.php>

Invest in Cambodia (report):

<http://www.investincambodia.com/contact/contact.htm>

IMF WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: CAMBODIA AMONG FASTEST-GROWING



Source: imf.org⁵

On Tuesday 9th of October the International Monetary Fund (IMF) published its annual World Economic Outlook. In that report Cambodia is expected to be the second-fastest – after Laos - growing economy among the ASEAN over the next five years. Cambodia's GDP is projected to reach 7.7% in 2017, but the country's inflation is likely to stay lower than 5% in 2012, 2015 and 2017. In case of an improvement in the business climate, infrastructure and public service delivery the growth rate could reach about 7.5% over medium term. On the one hand labor market instabilities, extreme weather conditions or rapid credit expansion are still risks to the growth stability. But on the other hand, improvements in the power sector and rural infrastructure together with diversified foreign direct investment could even lead to an unexpectedly high economic growth.

Further Reading:

World Economic Outlook (WEO):

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2012/02/>

IMF sees Cambodia among fastest-growing economies over next five years:

<http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/cambodia/detail/1?page=13&token=MDMxMjFhNTA1MWRIZWU3OTQ5MTRmOTgxYzZlNWl5>

⁴http://www.geni.org/globalenergy/library/national_energy_grid/cambodia/graphics/Cambodia.gif

⁵<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2012/02/images/cover.jpg>

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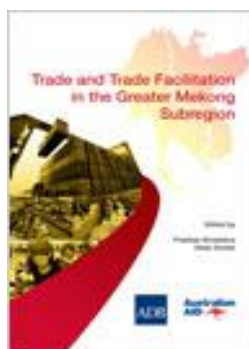
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ADB: TRADE BARRIERS IN CAMBODIA HAVE TO BE REDUCED



Source: adb.org⁶

On Thursday 11th of October the Asian Development Bank (ADB) stated that they had published a new book called Trade and Trade Facilitation in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) which contains data from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. According to that ADB data Cambodia's exports would be constraint by several factors like high logistics costs, delays and other barriers that hamper the country's connectivity and competitiveness. These factors could be adjusted by policies as basically Cambodia's exporters would be well-positioned within the GMS.

Further Reading:

ADB finds Cambodian exports hindered by trade constraints:

<http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/cambodia/detail/1?page=13&token=N2ZhZjU2YzBhYTBiZWJmY2U5NGNkYjI2ODcyOWE5>

Trade and Trade Facilitation in the Greater Mekong Subregion:

<http://www.adb.org/publications/trade-and-trade-facilitation-greater-mekong-subregion>

Cambodia to get more benefits in Mekong Region trade: ADB:

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/2012101259264/Business/cambodia-to-get-more-benefits-in-mekong-region-trade-ADB.html>



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⁶<http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/cover-trade-and-trade-facilitation-gms.jpg?1346309904>