



ONLINE LIBRARY

(www.onekhmer.org/onlinelibrary)

Title: Strengthening Cambodia-Australia Ties

Name of Author	Cheunboran Chanborey
Name of University	Australian National University
Country of Study	Australia
Major	International Political and Strategic Studies
Degree	PhD
Course Title	International Political and Strategic Studies
Type of Document	Commentary-Contributor to KHMERTIMES
Year	2017

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

31°C
scattered clouds3 m/s, N
70%
1008 hPa

All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd.

Office Address: Vattanac Capital,
Level 7, No. 66, Preah Monivong Blvd.,
Sangkat Wat Phnom, Khan Daun Penh,
Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia
URL: <http://www.ana.co.jp>
Reservation: +855(0)23-963 617/18
[Home](#) [National](#) [International](#) [Business](#) [Sports](#) [Features](#) [Opinion](#) [Property](#) [Youth Today](#) [All Sections](#) [MENU](#)

Features March 16, 2016

Strengthening Cambodia-Australia Ties

Cheunboran Chanborey / Share: [f](#) [t](#) [G+](#) [@](#)

National Assembly President Heng Samrin leads a forum on Cambodia-Australia relations in Canberra on Sunday. Mr. Samrin will return from his visit to the country today. Facebook

National Assembly President Heng Samrin is now in the Australian capital city of Canberra for his official visit from March 13-17. He is scheduled to hold discussions with leaders of both chambers of the Federal Parliament of Australia – the Senate and House of Representatives.

Koy Kuong, Cambodia's ambassador to Australia, praised the visit as "a symbol of good bilateral relations between the two countries."

Cambodia and Australia established diplomatic relations on January 15, 1952. Australia played a crucial role in the Cambodian Peace Process in the late 1980s and early 1990s, particularly its leading role in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (1992-1993).

As the third largest bilateral donor to Cambodia, Australia has maintained its strong commitment to the Kingdom's development. Despite a 40 percent decrease in its overall overseas aid to Asia in the 2015-2016 budget, Australia's assistance to Cambodia slightly increased to approximately Au\$79.1 million (US\$59 million) in 2015. Its assistance focused primarily on infrastructure and trade, agriculture and rural development, health, education and good governance and the rule of law.

Australia is also one of the biggest donors to the Extraordinary Chamber in the Courts

Supplements



Celebrating the Day of German Unity



Message from the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Kingdom of Cambodia H.E. Dr. Ingo Karsten

Features



Because I'm a girl

As the world celebrates the fifth International of the Girl Child, Rama Ariadi spoke to two women from two different generations to see how gender bias affects their lives.

of Cambodia, otherwise known as the Khmer Rouge tribunal, with total assistance of nearly \$23.2 million between 2005 and 2014.

Total two-way trade in goods between the two countries increased remarkably to \$138.75 million in 2014 from \$80.26 million in 2013. Interestingly, Cambodia enjoyed a trade surplus of more than \$11 million due to increasing exports of the country's garment and footwear products, motorcycles and bicycles to Australia, partly due to the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) that Australia has granted to Cambodia's products since 2003.

Diplomatically, the bilateral relationship has been deepened by high-level exchanges, illustrated by Heng Samrin's current visit to Australia. Recently, an increasing number of top Australian officials have visited Cambodia, including former Prime Minister Julia Gillard and her Foreign Minister Bob Carr in 2012, current Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, then Minister for Immigration Scott Morrison in 2014 and most recently Minister for Immigration Peter Dutton in October 2015.

From the Cambodian side, Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng and Deputy Prime Minister Men Sam An visited in March 2015 and February 2016, respectively.

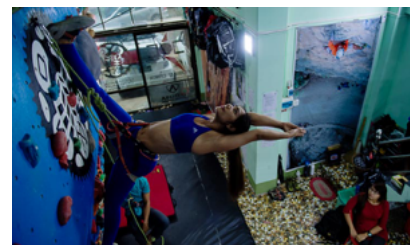
Prime Minister Hun Sen is scheduled to visit Australia at the end of this year. It is worth noting that the most recent high-level exchanges between the two countries have been undertaken to discuss a controversial deal related to the settlement of refugees from Nauru in Cambodia.

Cambodia-Australia ties are also cemented through people-to-people exchanges. In 2015, Australia offered 57 post-graduate scholarships to Cambodian students to study in Australia, which brings the total number of scholarships awarded since 1994 to nearly 700.

In 2013, the Australian government initiated the "New Colombo Plan" to support Australian students to study and undertake internships across the Indo-Pacific region. As part of this initiative, Cambodia hosted 99 Australian students in 2015. For the first half of 2016, it is expected that more than 100 Australian students will arrive in Cambodia.

Also, more than 300 Australian volunteers – through the "Australian Volunteers for International Development" and "Participation and Community Engagement Initiative" – have been working closely with host organizations in Cambodia to achieve significant outcomes in the areas of governance, health, education, rural development, environment and infrastructure since 1984.

There are many potential benefits that Cambodia can obtain from a further strengthened Cambodia-Australia bilateral relationship. First, Australian investment in Cambodia remains limited, worth only about \$17.75 million in 2014. As a developed country with a reputation for a high quality of education, agriculture and mineral extraction, the Cambodian government should work progressively with the Australian Chamber of Commerce (AusCam) Cambodia, to promote Australian investment in these



New heights in Yangon yoga

First there was beer and paddleboard yoga. Then someone added goats to the mix. Now fitness in Myanmar are taking the latest body-bending trend to whole new heights.

Property



Sihanoukville land prices increasing

Sihanoukville land prices saw an appreciation the past year, thanks to new project development and the growth of the tourism sector.



The sale and purchase of businesses: a new opportunity for real estate agent

The property market continues to boom in the kingdom, however with new agencies and agents becoming established frequently, it's only a matter of time before the market is completely saturated.



International-standard market opens

The first international-standard construction materials market which has famous brand products from around the world, is officially launched.

three sectors.

Second, the Cambodian government should work with the Australian government to explore the possibility of sending Cambodian workers to Australia, including through the Working Holiday Visa. Nowadays, citizens from 27 countries, including Indonesia and Thailand, are eligible for this visa. This is important not only in terms of remittance, but also knowledge and skills from their working experience in Australia.

Last but not least, Cambodia should proactively push for the creation of “comprehensive partnership” and eventually “strategic partnership” with Australia.

It is an important strategic move due to the fact that Australia has been a strong supporter of ASEAN’s centrality and a rules-based regional order in the Asia-Pacific. This is imperative for small states, like Cambodia, to increase their voice in regional affairs and to ensure relative equality as all countries regardless of size play by the same rules.

More importantly, as a middle-power with an increasing role in the region, Australia is crucially important for Cambodia to broaden its strategic space without negatively affecting Cambodia’s close relations with its most important partner – China.

In fact, Australia enjoys cordial ties with all the great powers in Asia, particularly the US and China. It is an indispensable ally of the US in Asia. It also has close cooperation with China – a strategic rival of the US – illustrated by the establishment of Australia-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2014 and Australia-China Free Trade Agreement in 2015. (Mr. Chanborey is a PhD Candidate in International Political and Strategic Studies at the Australian National University. He is also a senior research fellow at the Cambodian Institute for Strategic Studies.)

You may also like

No related posts.

< PREVIOUS ARTICLE

Bangladesh Heist Exposes Philippine Dirty Money Secrets

NEXT ARTICLE >

North Korea is a Nuclear Power – the World Just Has to Live with It



[Return To Top](#)

