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Business November 24, 2023

PM says reforms vital for consistent growth

Sreekanth Ravindran / Khmer Times



Prime Minister Hun Manet delivers keynote address at the Cambodia Outlook Conference 2023 at Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel yesterday. KT/Pierre Rousselet

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The ongoing set of reforms in the country is vital for Cambodia's growth, said Prime Minister Hun Manet while opening the 15th Cambodia Outlook Conference 2023 yesterday at Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel.

The conference organised by the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) along with other developmental partners under the theme 'Cambodia Vision 2030 and Beyond: Charting a Path for Resilient, Sustainable, and Inclusive Prosperity' spotlighted the Kingdom's journey towards a high-middle income country by 2030 and beyond.

"I appreciate CDRI for organising this conference along with international and national partners. This is the first time I am opening this conference. The previous 14 editions, between 2007 and 2022 were presided over by former Prime Minister Hun Sen," Mr Hun Manet said.

The Premier highlighted that such conferences provide the perfect platform for discussing expert views, insights, economic and social opportunities and challenges before arriving at the best policy decisions.

"These insights play an important role in determining the future of Cambodia. Over the past two decades, Cambodia has built a strong foundation for a market economy based on multilateral principles. Infrastructure development, boosting manpower and effective management of political and economic systems remain the top priority of the national government."

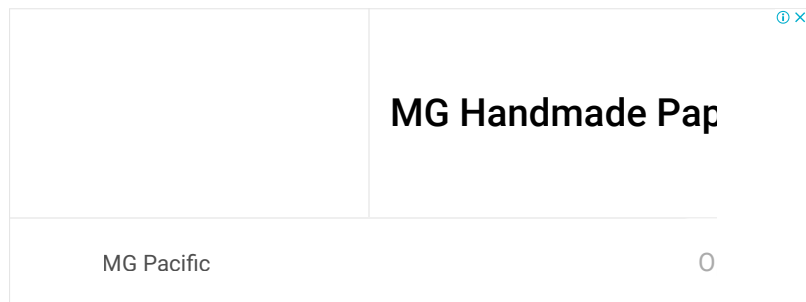
Mr Hun Manet highlighted the Kingdom's successful economic march, clocking an average of seven percent annual growth, until the pandemic struck.

Menu

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The Premier stressed that diversifying the merchandised production and exploring more export opportunities remains the key to attaining a high middle-income country status in the year 2030.

“Pandemic presented a real test for socio-economic resilience as the health system was badly affected. The public healthcare and education systems struggled hard and had to be given special attention.”



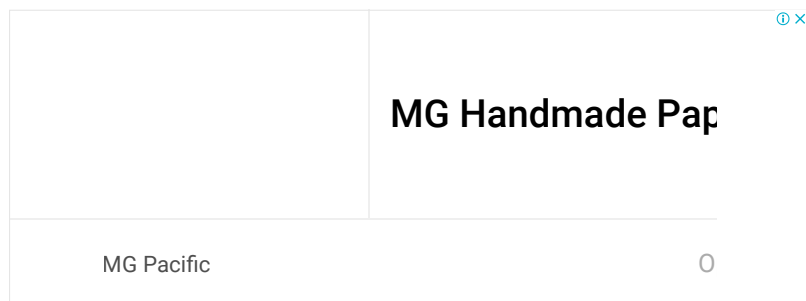
The premier said the government’s economic policies aim to stimulate the Kingdom’s economy while offering a competitive advantage for Cambodia at global levels. “Continuous reforms and staying proactive will only provide the right economic solutions in light of a rapidly changing world.”

The Prime Minister also pointed out that the Fourth Industrial Revolution and its tools such as Artificial Intelligence will open up new opportunities to boost productivity.

Dr Mey Kalyan, Chairman, CDRI Board of Directors and Adviser to the Royal Government of Cambodia thanked the Prime Minister for the patronage and inaugurating the conference. “The thorough economic and social research analysis being pioneered by the CDRI will help devise the right strategies,” he said.

The first-panel discussion, which followed the inaugural ceremony, was attended by Dr Eng Netra, Executive Director, CDRI, Dr Phan Phalla, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Dr Hing Vutha, Senior Research Fellow, CDRI, Dr Jayant Menon, CDRI Research Advisor and Senior Fellow at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Dr Sebastin Eckardt, Practice Manager for Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment in the East Asia and Pacific Region of The World Bank and Roland Rajah, Lead Economist and the Director of the Indo-Pacific Development Centre, Lowy Institute.

It focused on Cambodia’s Economic Prospects and Reform Priorities. The second-panel discussion on the topic ‘Priorities for Sustainable Development and Social Progress’ was attended by Justin Whyatt, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, Kim Sophat, Permanent Secretary of State, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Dr Lo Veasnakiry, Secretary of State, Ministry of Health, Nham Sinith, Deputy Director General of Policy and Planning and Deputy Head of Cabinet, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Mak Monika, Executive Director, Cambodia Disabled People’s Organisation and Dr Ngin Chanrith, CDRI Senior Research Fellow and Director of the Centre for Natural Resources and Environment.



The third-panel discussion on ‘How can Cambodia chart an Upgraded Development Path?’ was attended by Sok Piseth, the CEO and Co-founder of G-Gear Company Limited, Hem Vandy, Minister of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation, Chheang Vanarith, Secretary of State for the Official of the Council of Ministers, Mio Kawada, Executive Vice President of Japan External Trade Organisation and Institute of Developing Economies and Yim Richard, Chief Executive Officer of Cambodia-Japan Digitalised Manufacturing Centre.

CDRI works to produce independent, objective, high-quality policy-relevant development research, to maximise its accessibility to policymakers, influencers and stakeholders and to have it affect policy in five interrelated areas that are key for Cambodia’s sustainable development.

The organisation undertakes its programmes and projects in partnership with Cambodian government institutions and their international development partners, other research and tertiary education institutions and civil society organisations.

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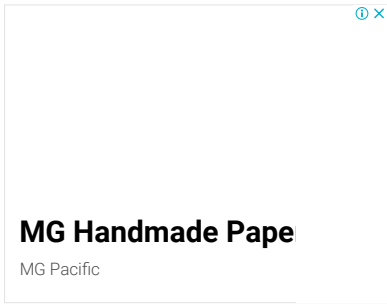
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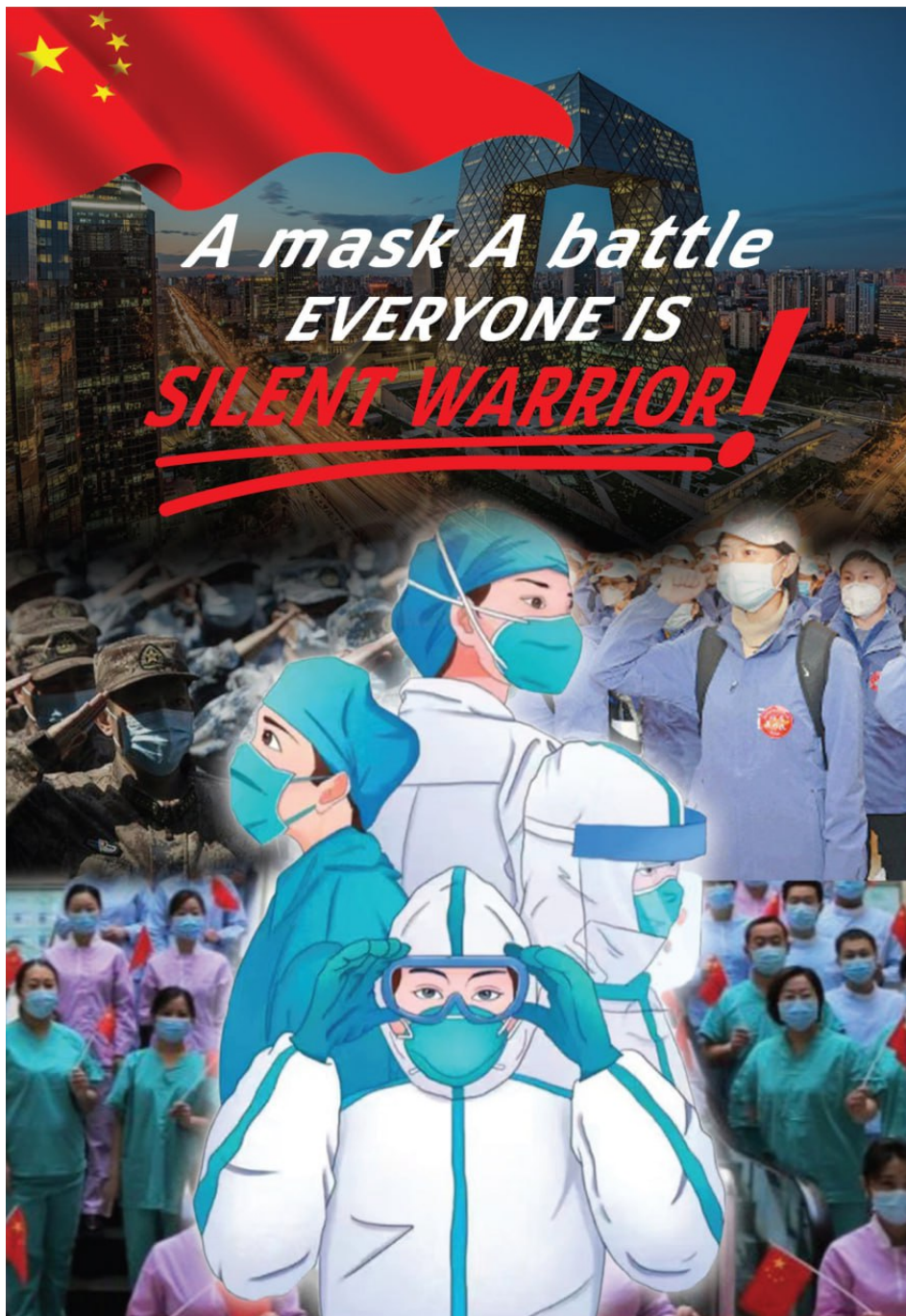
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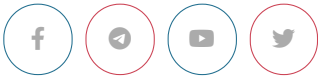


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Opinion



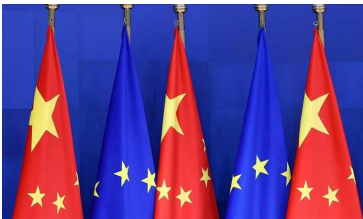
Why the West should not give up on Cambodia

The US and EU are considering withdrawing economic privileges from Cambodia for the way elections were held in 2018. The ruling party won all parliamentary seats because the opposition had been crippled.



Mandela legacy battered by S. Africa's troubles

SOWETO'S Vilakazi Street is packed each day with tourists and hawkers outside the home of Nelson Mandela that has been meticulously kept even as the democracy pioneer's legacy has become rundown in the decade since his death.



EU's 'Global Gateway' and China's BRI, Rivals or Partners?

On Dec. 1, 2021, the EU unveiled its "Global Gateway" strategy, an ambitious project formulated with the aim of boosting interregional connectivity.



Why are Rohingya refugees fleeing to Indonesia?

An increasing number of Rohingya refugees are leaving the crowded camps of Cox's Bazar on the southeastern coast of Bangladesh and are making the 1,800-kilometer (1,120-mile) sea crossing south to Indonesia in rickety boats.

Features



Willy Wonka's magic returns to big screen

Based on the extraordinary, iconic character at the centre of Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, one of the best-selling children's books of all time, Wonka tells the wondrous story of how a young chocolate-maker, armed with nothing but a hatful of dreams, manages to change the world, one delectable bite at a time.



Family Switch: Seriously, why did Netflix make this?

Jess and Bill, along with their three children CC, Wyatt and Miles, are a divided family: the parents and the children routinely find themselves at odds, primarily due to their respective outlooks towards life.



Schools must give top priority to safeguarding students

Understanding safeguarding can be a complex task, especially when faced with situations like a man regularly observing children outside a school, a girl sharing a potentially inappropriate photo with her boyfriend, or a teacher privately messaging students.

Good Times2



An on-again, off-again year for Siem Reap's arts

Siem Reap's 2020 arts and lifestyle coverage kicked off the year on an optimistic note that, with the wisdom of hindsight, turned out to be somewhat ironic.



Remaining sane while you care for your baby

Because our baby is now at the centre of our life, it has been mentally challenging since even getting a good night's sleep or a decent meal has suddenly become a real task.



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