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**The voice of European business in Cambodia**

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Founding Chambers and National Chapters

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Meet **Ms. Rithy Sileap**, who has been a full-fledged member of EuroCham's Services Department since September 2021.

Ms. Sileap is due to complete her two degrees by the end of 2022 in Bachelor of Business (Honors) in International Business at Limkokwing University of Creative Technology and Bachelor of Arts in English, majoring in Professional Communication at the Institute of Foreign Languages. After graduating from a top-tier private high school in Melbourne Australia, Sileap decided that her heart belongs to Cambodia. Since her second year of university, Sileap has been on her journey of promoting personal finance literacy and addressing financial inclusion in Cambodia through many forms with many major stakeholders. Besides being an outstanding student at school with excellent academic records, Sileap has also been an active advocate in society through many volunteering programs and won awards and medals for her dedication to fighting for gender equality.

As a Junior Market Research Analyst, Sileap challenges herself by handling various tasks within the chamber. Currently, she is coordinating the EuroCham's Sustainable Production Action Group as well as the Exporter Stories interview series as part of the Export Support Program. As part of these, she also contributes her active facilitation in EuroCham's Professional Training Programs, GIZ Initiative for Global Solidarity (IGS) Project, and many more ongoing projects within the chamber.

If you need any support, feel free to reach out to Sileap through:  
[project.officer3@eurocham-cambodia.org](mailto:project.officer3@eurocham-cambodia.org)



**Sileap Rithy**  
Junior Market Analyst

*Meet our Team*





## News

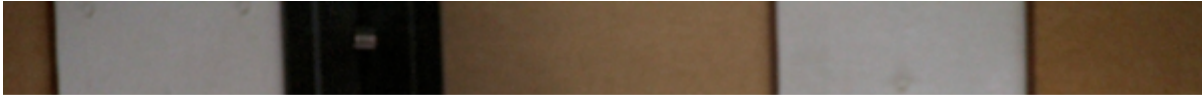
### FTA / Cambodia - South Korea agreement ratified



On 29 January, Cambodia ratified its free trade agreement with South Korea (**CKFTA**). The CKFTA was an initiative raised by **Cambodian Prime Minister** during a meeting with **South Korean President** in March 2019, and it was signed by the Ministers of Commerce between the two Asian countries on 26 October.

According to the Cambodian Ministry of Commerce, the CKFTA is sought to create a pipeline of opportunities for agricultural and agro-industrial goods; finished textile-based products such as garments, footwear, and travel bags; rubber; spare parts and electronic components; and light industrial products. It will also facilitate the import of electronics, pharmaceuticals, and auto parts, as well as raw materials, machinery, and other equipment needed for industry.

### Trade / Cambodia and Japan to step up cooperation



**O**n February 03, 2022, the Minister of Commerce, **H.E Pan Sorasak** met with **Fumiaki Takahashi**, the Chairman of the Japan-Cambodia Association to discuss the trade relations between the two countries.

There are three main points from this discussion including (1) examining the possibility of the bilateral Free Trade Agreement between Cambodia and Japan, (2) developing investment in silk value chains in target provinces, (3) continuing to support the investment of Japanese entrepreneurs in Cambodia.

During the meeting, the MOC also mentioned the importance of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) on boosting development between Cambodia and Japan through trade in goods, services, investment, and economic cooperation.

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## **Tourism / Pandemic recovery tax breaks extended to June**



**H**otels, guesthouses, restaurants, and travel agencies registered with the General Department of Taxation (GDT) in the capital and a few other localities would be tax-free for six months leading up to June 30, in an effort to boost tourist economic activity. The areas affected included Poipet town in Banteay Meanchey province and Bavet town in Svay Rieng province, as well as the coastal provinces of Preah Sihanouk, Kep, and Kampot, according to the GDT.

Value-added tax (VAT), income tax, payroll tax, additional benefit tax, withholding tax, special taxes on specific products and services, public lighting tax, and lodging tax are among the exempted taxes, according to the GDT.

[Read more](#)

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## **Arbitration / First emergency deal completed**

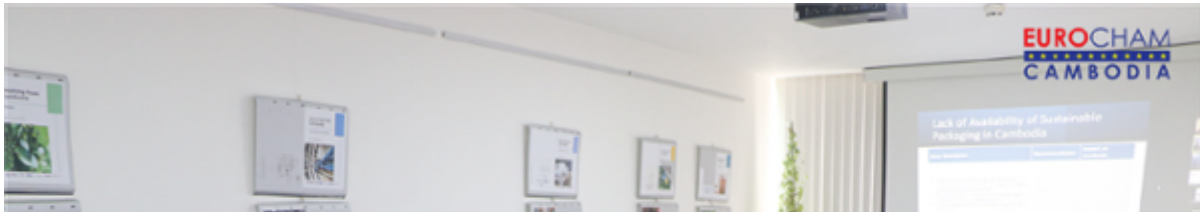


**N**ational Commercial Arbitration Centre of the Kingdom of Cambodia (“NCAC”) is delighted to inform the public that on 01 February 2022, the emergency arbitrator issued first award on interim measures regarding the dispute in real estate sector between foreign and Cambodian parties after the new NCAC Arbitration Rules (“NCAC Rules”) entered force on 28 June 2021.

*“Emergency arbitration proceeding requires the decision be issued within fifteen (15) calendar days after the appointment of the emergency arbitration. The success of this first emergency arbitration illustrates that the NCAC is capable to manage such case in response to the need of users,”* said Mr. Bun Youdy, President of NCAC.

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## Sustainability / Challenges to production



**L**ast Friday, EuroCham held its second Sustainable Production Action Group meeting where members discussed the **Challenges to Producing Sustainably**. So far, the group consists of leading companies from across Cambodia, ranging from sustainable textiles (tag the companies), to sustainable packaging (tag companies), to agricultural producers (tag companies). We made great progress in discussing core issue descriptions and recommendations which EuroCham will be converting into an eventual policy White Paper.

So far, the following issues have been raised - but are there more you would like to add?

- Lack of Availability of Sustainable Packaging in Cambodia
- Capacity Building for Regulators & Officials on Terminology / Technical Aspects
- Accessibility of Information Related to Certifications & Green Practices
- Grey Market Competition in the Domestic Market
- Lack of Certifying Bodies in Cambodia

Our next meeting will be held on the 25th of March 2022 - contact our team at [project.officer3@eurocham-cambodia.org](mailto:project.officer3@eurocham-cambodia.org) if you would like to learn more.

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## **ASEAN / Thailand to ease tax rules on cryptocurrency investments**



**T**hailand's Revenue Department intends to simplify tax rules for digital investment portfolios by enabling traders to compensate annual losses against gains for taxes due on cryptocurrency investments, along with exempting transactions from withholding tax and value-added tax (VAT), which are presently collected at 15% and 7%, respectively. Digital assets have significantly expanded in Thailand over the past few years, with average daily trading increasing from 240 million baht to 4.83 billion baht (\$7.18 million to \$144 million). Total estimated asset value has also jumped from 9.6 billion baht to 114.5 billion baht, while the number of digital asset users has surged from about 170,000 to more than 1.9 million people.

[Read more](#)

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## **Philippines / Water security forum launched**

Building Partnerships to Achieve Water Security

# Pathways for Water Security:

Addressing the needs of the Water Sector in Visayas

31 January 2022 03:00 PM to 05:00 PM (GMT+8) via Zoom

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**HON. RODERICK M. PLANTA**  
Assistant Secretary - Investment  
Programming Group  
National Economic and Development  
Authority

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



**DR. ROEHLANO M. BRIONES**  
Agriculture, CGE Modelling, Rural  
Development Senior Research, Philippine  
Institute for Development Studies



**MR. ROGELIO L. SINGSON**  
President  
Metro Pacific Water



**MR. PACO CAPARAS**  
Co-founder & President  
NKTSA Water Technology Inc.



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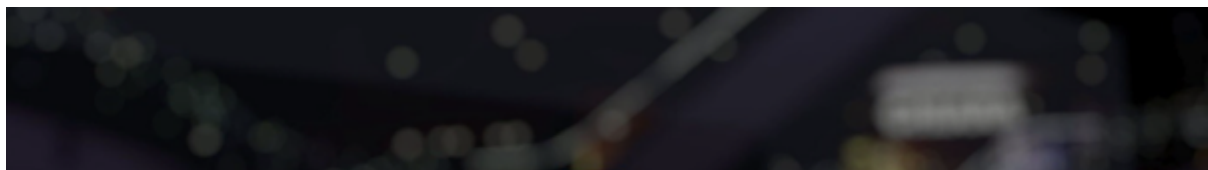


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Water Technology

**On** Monday 31st January 2022, together with the National Economic Development Authority, ECCP in partnership with Metro Pacific Water will now shed light on the challenges and opportunities in the water sector from the Visayas perspective. Join us as we elucidate urbanization and developments in the water sector of the Western and Central Visayas regions in this session entitled "Pathways for Water Security: Addressing the needs of the Water Sector in Visayas". Furthermore, this virtual forum aims to tackle government initiatives for water security in the Visayas and explain the process and opportunities for water desalination as an alternative water resource supply.

[Read more](#)

## E-commerce / Cambodia eyes Alibaba SME accord



**C**ambodia wants to partner with Alibaba Group to use the Lazada app to promote local items to markets in China and other Asian, European, and African nations, as well as improve exports by domestic small and medium-sized businesses (SME). On January 28, **Yim Chhay Ly**, chairman of the National Committee for the Promotion of the One Village One Product (OVOP) movement, and Alibaba executives held a video conference to this aim. Te Taingpor, head of the Federation of Associations for Small and Medium Enterprises of Cambodia (FASMEC), told The Post on January 30 that he was looking forward to working with Alibaba. He said the partnership would promote Cambodian SMEs' exports through online channels and help them meet the goals of the Industrial Development Policy 2015-2025, particularly in food processing.

[Read more](#)

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## **ASEAN / Solar power central to Indonesia's clean energy transition**



**S**olar power and Singapore's need for clean energy will be major variables in Indonesia's move to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and coal as it rushes to fulfill its net zero emissions target by 2060. As public awareness of climate change grows, the term "energy transition" has entered the lexicon of both the energy sector and the general public. Indonesia is rapidly moving toward renewables, especially solar electricity, in order to satisfy its promises made at COP26 in Glasgow last year.

[Read more](#)

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## Vietnam / FTA's help to reach record export figures

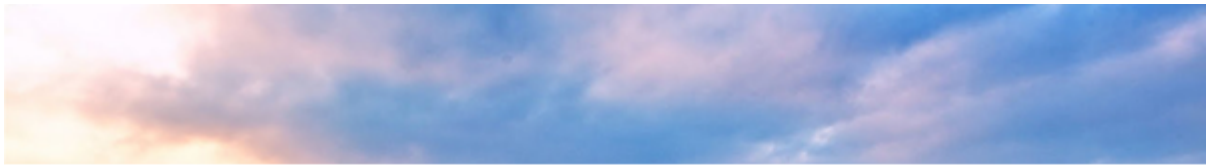


**The** successful implementation of new-generation free trade agreements (FTAs) can be seen as the driving force behind meeting the year's export goal of over US\$356 billion. According to industry insiders, import-export activity is expected to climb significantly this year as worldwide demand for goods increases. In fact, some nations are continuing to implement stimulus packages aimed at directly assisting persons affected by COVID-19, thereby encouraging the purchase of goods, including those from the Vietnamese market.

[Read more](#)

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## Construction / Adherence to high standards and safety of works demanded



**T**he ministry of Land Management called on all constructions companies that are working on development projects to have zero accidents on their worksite to safeguard worker safety and health. In new proclamation stated that all the construction sites must report the accident immediately. Otherwise, the owner should advise or consult with the technical and engineer team to ensure that project is done in high quality and standards, according to the ministry.

Besides, the officials from the construction department will closely monitor all construction projects in Phnom Penh and the provinces to ensure that they are built with the approval of the relevant departments and that they are verified not only by the ministry and department in question but also by the governor and deputy governor of the cities and provinces.

Official Announcement

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**Cambodia / Three key areas of economic development**



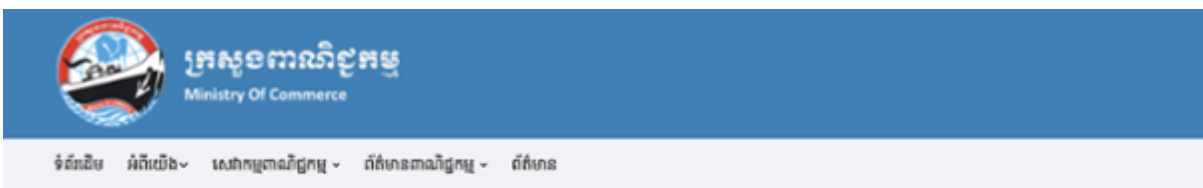
**A**ccording to the World Bank, urgent action is needed to support Cambodia's economic recovery from COVID-19, with an ambitious reform focusing on **enhancing capacities, reinforcing regulations, and investing in infrastructure**.

When the epidemic hindered the cross-border movement of goods, services, and capital, Cambodia was ill-equipped to absorb the shock without alternate products, markets, and finance sources, according to World Bank research issued this week.

According to the report, Cambodia's growth-generating mechanism is inadequately diverse. Clothing, footwear, rice, cassava, and tourism accounted for 80% of the country's total exports in 2018.

[Read more](#)

## Cambodia / Rules for new businesses amended



សារបស់រដ្ឋស្តី  
**រដ្ឋមន្ត្រីក្រសួងពាណិជ្ជកម្ម**

**O**n January 29, 2022, the Royal Government of Cambodia amended the Law on Commercial Rules and Commercial Register that requires all companies conducting businesses in Cambodia to be registered irrespective of their forms and terms.

The business shall be registered within 15 days prior to the starting date of their operation at the provincial or municipal commerce office or other places as determined by the Ministry of Commerce.

Additionally, the MOC shall forward one copy of the commercial register and all documents related to original registration to the Commercial court to be filed as documents for its commercial jurisdiction. Business Registration Officers shall issue a certificate of business registration and attached a quote stating the commercial identification number, which is unique for commercial activities in Cambodia. Under the review period, this certificate is temporary within one month of the date provided.

Official Announcement

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## **COVID-19 / Additional instructions on home treatment**



**T**he Phnom Penh Capital Administration has issued additional instructions on strengthening the management, health care, and treatment of Covid-19 patients at home in Phnom Penh including any individual who has been tested positive of COVID19 and refuses to report to health officials or local authorities, the person would face the penalty on fines for individuals or legal entities that violated health measures and other contagious diseases.

Official Announcement

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# Agriculture / Plant protection and phytosanitary measures



On 4 February, the Council of Ministers endorsed the draft law on plant protection and phytosanitary measures to respond to the growing trends of the agricultural sector within the framework of food security, quality improvement of agricultural produce, agricultural export enhancement, and sustainable development in the context of competitive global economic integration.

The draft law states the management of plant form, implementation of plant protection measures and phytosanitary controls; protection of all kinds of plant resources; prevention of the spread of pests, and many others.

## Upcoming Events & Trainings

### Training Course Mastering Negotiation

Member: \$265 | Non-Member: \$315

Venue: Factory Phnom Penh  
Tuesday & Wednesday  
**08 & 09, FEB**

[Register](#)

[Add to Calendar](#)

### Training Course Microsoft Excel Masterclass

Member: \$265 | Non-Member: \$315

Venue: Factory Phnom Penh  
Thursday **10, FEB**  
Thursday **17, FEB**

[Register](#)

[Add to Calendar](#)

### Training Course Logistic and Supply Chain Management

Member: \$265 | Non-Member: \$315

Saturday & Sunday  
**26 & 27, FEB**

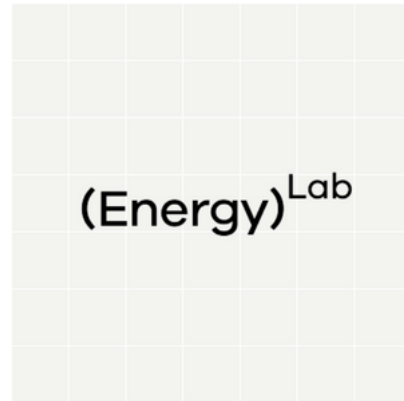
[Register](#)

[Add to Calendar](#)

## Electricity mobility showcase offers alternatives to petrol pollution

EnergyLab held an event on January 29th aimed to dispel popular misconceptions that EVs are unreliable, expensive and have a low battery range.

“EVs are actually cheaper in the long run, they are conveniently charged at home, they bring cleaner air and also reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Overall, EVs are really cool and they’re becoming very popular here in Cambodia,” said **Delphine Vann**, Country Director for EnergyLab. Around half the total energy demand in Cambodia is from the transportation sector, mostly from petrol-powered vehicles.



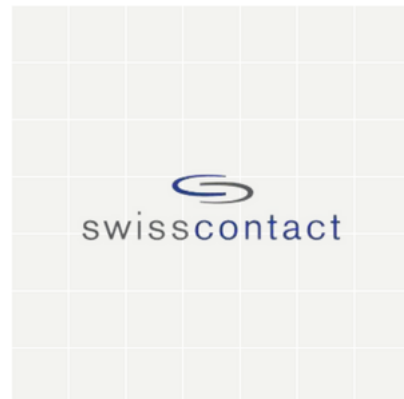
[Read more](#)

## Partnership in strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem

**Khmer Enterprise (KE)** established by the **Ministry of Economy and Finance** organized a partnership signing ceremony with **Swisscontact** in collaboration with USAID’s WE Act Project through **Pact**.

**H.E. Dr. Chhieng Vanmunin, CEO of Khmer Enterprise** said that: “Khmer Enterprise hopes the implementation of the networking tools will create a platform that connects ecosystem stakeholders from public and private sectors including relevant government agencies, ecosystem builders, ESOs, SMEs, and startups to discuss on how to enhance the collaboration toward building Cambodia’s ecosystem as a whole”.

**Mr. Rajiv Pradhan, Country Director of Swisscontact Cambodia** said that “through our pilot “Give a Day” initiative supported by Credit Suisse and Khmer Enterprises, and successfully implemented with EuroCham, we observed the high demand for such initiatives to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem and build trust among the stakeholders.”



[Read more](#)

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## New Members / Welcome to EuroCham



### EuroCham - OneSala Co., Ltd

OneSala is a mobile application and a digital education platform, developed by Cambodian Developers. It creates a digital economic environment for sharing knowledge and skill development. It specializes in 4 main services as Mobile App Developer, E-learning App, Mobile App Advertising, E-Wallet.

[Read more](#)



### German Chapter - Parbury Investments

Parbury Investments is a fully Cambodian-owned company founded in 2017 with a vision of creating a better-built environment. They have the exclusive distributor of Alucobond and Siderise here in Cambodia. Their most recent real estate development is called TK Central, which is a mixed-use and community-centric development built with the vision to enrich lives. Ideally located, retail, office, residential are integrated into the development.

[Read more](#)

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**[Check out our Special Discount Offers from Members and Promote Your Business!](#)**

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## Food / Market Café Restaurant & Lounge at Hyatt Regency Phnom Penh



Market Café Restaurant & Lounge is an inviting all-day-dining concept with impressive natural daylight, serving a selection of international and Asian specialties, including à la carte options, freshly baked pastries, afternoon tea, and healthy options.

At Market Café Restaurant & Lounge provides variety of choices in the dining category from breakfast to lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner.

Come and delish your palette at Market Café Restaurant & Lounge at Hyatt Regency Phnom Penh!

[Read more](#)

Check out other EuroCham Member Restaurants:

b. Consulting Hospitality & Hotel Solutions, Cambodian Country Club, Dara Hotels, Hagar Catering & Facilities Management, Himawari Hotel Apartments, Hops Garden, Hotel Cambodiana, Hyatt Regency, Il Forno Phnom Penh, Knai Bang Chatt, La Palmeraie d'Angkor, Le Flamboyant Boutique Resort & Spa, Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Rambutan Hotel and Resorts Cambodia, Rosewood Phnom Penh, Six Senses Krabey Island, Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra, Thalias Hospitality Group, The Balé Phnom Penh, TS Concept.

## Publications





# Job Market

Market Research Intern  
(National & international)  
EuroCham Cambodia

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