

The Week

N° 21/2022 Friday, 24.06.2022

#### The voice of European business in Cambodia

Founding Chambers and National Chapters













Ms. Sophea Chea recently joined EuroCham as a junior finance officer.

Sophea is currently a freshman at the PSE Institute studying accounting. She assists EuroCham with accounts receivable regarding events, training sessions, and partner activities. Sophea also helps the finance department and supports event registration efforts. Her work is very much appreciated and she's already made an impact in the department.

Sophea is enthusiastic to learn and grow at EuroCham and we look forward to helping her kick-start her professional career.

Feel free to reach out to Sophea at: finance.officer03@eurocham-cambodia.org



Chea Sophea
Junior Accountant Officer











News

Real Estate / EuroCham Hosts Successful Tall Buildings Forum



EuroCham hosted its Tall Buildings Forum on June 22, bringing together industry leaders from the private and public sectors.

EuroCham hosted a successful return of the Tall Buildings Forum at Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra on Wednesday as leaders in the industry met to discuss new trends and challenges in the rapidly changing sector.

Among the topics discussed were **emerging tech that can improve sustainable designs, combatting a current oversupply in the market, and the challenges associated with property management**.

The day was filled with insightful speeches and panel discussions with public and private sector representatives. A networking happy hour capped off the night and provided the perfect opportunity for speakers and participants to mingle after a long day of debate.

As Phnom Penh's population grows and its skyline with it, we look forward to helping shape the city's future!

Thank you to all the 140+ participants involved who made the day a success and a special thanks to the speakers and panel members.

Cambodia Investment Review article
Khmer Times article

View the Press Release

# **Sustainability / Sustainable Production Action group proposes updated gov't policies**



EuroCham's SPA Group met Thursday to discuss its forthcoming white paper on sustainability. EuroCham

The **Sustainable Production Action (SPA) Group** met Thursday afternoon to discuss their upcoming white paper on policy recommendations to improve the sustainable business climate in Cambodia.

The discussion touched on issues such as **certifications**, **fair wages**, **Human Rights Environmental Due Diligence** (HREDD) **regulations**, **and exporting potential**.

To increase the potential for these businesses to thrive in the Kingdom, the group is discussing possible paths forward to make the certification processes easier. Businesses in this sector rely on internationally recognized certifications to compete globally, and if they are not easily accessible, it puts them at a disadvantage.

Moreover, companies need **more access to sustainable packaging materials** and must be incentivized to "greenify" their supply chain. The current domestic market for sustainable products is small, but information-sharing campaigns highlighting the importance of sustainably produced goods could help change that.

Additionally, **upcoming European HREDD regulations** will focus on improving human rights and sustainable operations at companies in Cambodia that supply goods or services to Europe-based companies.

The group will soon publish their white paper outlining recommendations to improve sustainable production, so stay tuned!

# **E-Commerce / EuroCham workshop sheds light on dynamic e-commerce tax environment**



H.E. Dr. Eng Ratana, the Director of the Large Taxpayer Department at the General Department of Taxation, shared his insight at EuroCham's e-commerce workshop. EuroCham

Ministry representatives and tax experts helped untangle some of the complex regulations surrounding e-commerce Monday morning at Raffles Hotel Le Royal at the "E-Commerce in Cambodia: Legal Compliance and Tax" workshop hosted by EuroCham.

Mr. HUY Bunchay, the Official Chief of the Business Registration Department at the Ministry of Commerce, said: "Due to Covid, e-commerce transactions are growing a lot. Everyone here, including myself, is using e-commerce, especially to order goods and services, by phone, and online."

As more non-resident companies start to register with the Ministry of Commerce and the General Department of Taxation – the number stands close to 30 now – the July 1 deadline approaches for the enforcement of penalties on non-complying companies.

EuroCham would like to thank **H.E. Dr. Eng Ratana**, the Director of the Large Taxpayer Department at the General Department of Taxation for sharing his insight. A big thank you as well, to **Mr. Matthew Tippetts**, the Chairman of EuroCham's Digital and Technology Committee, and Founder of Clik, and **Mr. Clint O'Connell**, Partner and Head of Cambodia Tax Practice, DFDL Legal and Tax.

### **Survey live for 2022**



Night view of Independence Monumnent, photo by suzukii xingfu/Pexels

The EU-ASEAN Business Council is collecting responses for its annual **EU-ASEAN Business Sentiment Survey** this year and all European-based companies operating in ASEAN are encouraged to participate.

The survey serves as a key benchmark and starting point for discussions on issues such as customs and trade, regional economic developments, and challenges facing European businesses in ASEAN.

Follow this link to fill out the survey.

# Renewable Energy / Singapore starts importing renewable energy from Laos via Thailand and Malaysia



Singapore recently started importing renewable energy from Laos. Kin Pastor/Pexels

In a first for Singapore, the city-state started importing renewable energy from Laos vis Thailand and Malaysia this week.

The step is believed to be an important milestone in achieving a wider goal of establishing an ASEAN power grid, where renewable energy is bought and sold between ASEAN member states.

It marks the first cross-border electricity deal between four ASEAN states.

Read more

# **Electric Vehicles / Global EV sales could capture 33%** of market by 2028



Brian Badzmierowski2:42 PMGlobal EV sales are expected to account for 33% of total vehicle sales by 2028. Mike B/Pexels

US-based consultancy AlixPartners said this week that EV sales could reach a third of total vehicle sales by 2028.

Last year, EV sales accounted for eight percent of global sales.

The firm also said it expects global investment to reach \$526 billion from 2022-2026, more than double the estimated investment of \$234 billion from 2020-2024.

Read more

# **Pollution / ASEAN eyes solutions for marine plastic pollution**



Ekkaphab Phanthavong, deputy secretary-general of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, advocated for collaboration to tackle marine plastic pollution at the regional forum.

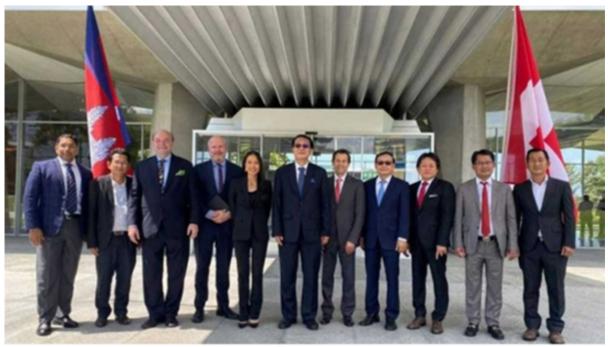
**The ASEAN Secretariat** and **the World Bank** are stepping up efforts to combat plastic pollution in the region.

The South Korean Mission to ASEAN hosted a forum on the issue on June 23 to raise awareness on the important topic that threatens the region's economies and the environment.

The **World Bank also approved a \$20 million grant** for ASEAN states to combat marine plastic pollution.

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## **European Investment / Nestle's debut may spur dairy** market



Minister of Commerce Pan Soasak (centre) visited the Nestle headquarters in Switzerland last wee. Supplied

Switzerland-based confectionary manufacturer **Nestle has stated its plans to invest in Cambodia** by opening an operation in the near future.

**Minister of Commerce, Pan Sorasak** visited the company's headquarters last week, where Nestle said they had plans to invest in Cambodia.

The move is expected to provide a spark for the country's dairy industry.

Read more

## **Going Green / Join OnlyOnePlanet for Eco-Drinks at Bong Bonlai June 30**

### Let's talk F&B



Meet like-minded people to discuss all things eco. learn about new projects, initiatives...all in a relaxed, social setting.



Please join us for the 3rd gathering of "Greenies". This time. Irina (of Bong Bonlai/YK Art House) will share some of the many things she does in her restaurant to reduce her impact. At the last gathering a few people were looking for ideas for their venue, and we'd love to get a conversation going so that we all understand the challenges, possible solutions and how to support our favorite venues.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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Join like-minded sustainability advocates at the calm, peaceful Bong Bonlai vegan restaurant on Thursday, June 30 for a night of discussions on going green in the F&B sector.

Titled "Greenies", this is the third iteration of this new event, which serves as a **springboard for sustainable ideas and initiatives in the community**.

Whether you're a professional interested in adding some sustainability to your operations or you're simply interested in the topic, this is a good chance to make some connections and take some action.

Read more

# MSMEs / webinar on "The Contribution of Competition Policy to the Resurgence of MSMEs post-Covid-19"



China Town in Bangkok, allPhoto Bangkok/Pexels

An exclusive regional conference on the MSME landscape will be held in Bangkok on **June 27 and 28.** 

The hybrid (online and in-person) conference is hosted by The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Trade Competition Commission of Thailand.

Participants will learn about the latest competition policies, the influence of digital tech on MSMEs, and much more.

### **Youth in Government / Reminder on Youth Sounding Board**



Last month, the EU Delegation to Cambodia launched applications for its **inaugural** Youth Sounding Board, an initiative that invites Cambodian youths to participate in public initiatives and projects.

The 15-member board consisting of youths between 19-25 will assist the delegation in designing and planning policies, monitoring projects, and working on knowledge-sharing initiatives to spread awareness on important issues to other youths.

The board will benefit from working with the EU delegation and learn the ins and outs of becoming effective board members throughout their 12-24 month tenure.

Applications close on July 11, 2022.

Read more



### Notification / Minimum wage negotiate schedule for the textile, garment, footwear, travel product, and bag sector for 2023



The schedule for minimum wage negotiations for workers in the textile, garment, footwear, travel product, and bag sector has been set for 2023. The negotiations shall be carried out by all parties including the public, workers, employers, and organizations in accordance with the stated calendar by the **Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training** on June 23, 2023.

Additionally, all parties shall rely on legal information and research studies based on social criteria (family status, inflation rate, and cost of living) and economic criteria, (productivity, national competitiveness, labor market status) as well as the level of profitability of the sector as defined in the Article 5 of the Law on the Minimum Wage.

Official Announcement (KH)

**EuroCham Workshop / Launch of the small package exporter champions (SPEC) Programme** 















In collaboration with **Khmer Enterprise**, **Swisscontact**, and **the Cambodia Women Entrepreneurs (CWEA)**, **EuroCham** will launch its Small Package Exporter Champions (SPEC) Programme on Tuesday at Raffles Hotel le Royal.

Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises account for 99% of Cambodia's private sector and 65% of them are owned by women.

In most other Southeast Asian countries, MSMEs account for 30% of total exports, while that share sits at 10% in Cambodia. If Cambodia's MSMEs increased their export rate to match, it could add as much as \$3.5 billion to the country's GDP.

With this in mind, the SPEC Programme was created to address the main barriers to cross-border small package trade and to provide MSMEs with technical capacity and robust mentorship to guide them in their exporting journey.

Read more

# **EuroCham Training / Leadership for Change Management**



On June 29th & 30th, 2022, EuroCham Cambodia will host a training course on **Leadership for Change Management** at **FACTORY Phnom Penh**.

This course will equip managers with **confidence and skills** on how they can assess their change initiatives and apply **appropriate strategies** to succeed. Grounded in **fundamental theories** on change, participants will reflect on their organisation, stakeholders, and plans to identify where their energies are best placed.

Participants will also benefit from peer-sharing opportunities to understand the challenges in the change journey.

Reserve your seat here

### **Upcoming Events & Trainings**

Workshop on Launch of The Small Package Exporter Champions (SPEC) Programme

Price: Free of Charge (Limited Seats)
Venue: Raffle Hotel Le Royal

Tuesday, **28 June** From 1:00PM - 5:00PM

Register

Add to Calendar

Leadership for Change Management

Member: \$265 Non-Member: \$315 Venue: Factory Phnom Penh

Wednesday & Thursday **17 June 2022**From 8:00AM - 17:00PM

Register

Add to Calendar

Click Here for More Upcoming Events.

#### Cellcard One to provide complete home business connectivity



To meet the demands of both residential and business segments, Cellcard announced its new Cellcard One product line, which offers two convergent solutions that combine Wi-Fi and mobile access using a single subscription. According to the press release, the initiative is positioned as an innovation to address the growing demand for internet access and digital transformation, in line with the vision of a digital Cambodia.

Read more

### Khmer Enterprise signs strategic partnership with Asian Vision Institute

On June 21, Khmer Enterprise formalised a strategic partnership with Asian Vision Institute (AVI) to promote a robust entrepreneurship ecosystem for startups and SMEs to foster new innovation-based entrepreneurial activities among Cambodians, especially women. Both AVI and KE committed to collaborating on programmes, capacity-building workshops, business networking events, and seminars to support local SMEs and women.



Read more

### New Members / Welcome to EuroCham

## **EuroCham Direct Oakwood Premier Phnom Penh**

Located in the heart of Phnom Penh's City Center, Oakwood Premier Phnom Penh embraces and marries traditional Khmer art and cultural charm with contemporary elegance, delivering an exceptional stay across



each of its 207 hotel rooms and serviced apartments. An excellent base to explore the city's vibrant history and culture, several attractions can be conveniently accessed within 10 minutes by car, including the Royal Palace of Cambodia and some of the city's acclaimed heritage buildings, art galleries, museums, and attractions.

Learn more



### French Chapter CHEA Souvannarith

Mr. CHEA Souvannarith is the owner of SOUVAN Transport, founded in August 2021. The initial idea was to create a company after Covid to continue to export French products to Southeast Asia, especially Cambodia and viceversa. The goal is to offer genuine "Made In France" products in Cambodia so consumers can continue to discover and appreciate the qualities of French products.

Learn more



Food / Grilled Salmon Steak @The Shop Cambodia



Driven by a passion for excellence and wonderful service The Shop's cuisine is healthy and delicious. They use organic ingredients whenever feasible since, like you, they dine here and prefer to eat clean and green!

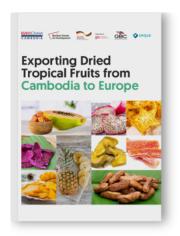
Come for breakfast, lunch, or dinner and enjoy one of their outstanding coffees with a fresh pastry, or pick up a box of our one-of-a-kind handmade Belgian chocolates. If you love delicious cuisine and drinks in a peaceful environment, you'll enjoy The Shop's food and ambiance.

Come and dine at their 4 locations and explore their variety of menus: HERE

#### **Check out other EuroCham Member Restaurants:**

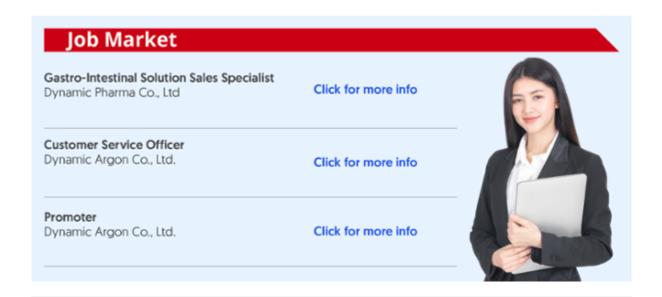
b. Consulting Hospitality & Hotel Solutions, Cambodian Country Club, Dara Hotels, Hagar Catering & Facilities Management, Himawari Hotel Apartments, Hops Garden, Hotel Cambodiana, Hyatt Regency, Il Forno Phnom Penh, Knai Bang Chatt, La Palmeraie d'Angkor, Le Flamboyant Boutique Resort & Spa, Raffles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

### **Publications**









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