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MULTIMEDIA NOTICES

Green Rich to establish acacia tree plantation

Chun Sopha | Publication date 04 June 2010 | 08:01 ICT

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The Green Rich company has announced that it will invest US\$9 million in Koh Kong province to grow acacia trees for export to China and Indonesia for the production of paper.

The company, which will eventually operate on 10,000 hectares of land in the province's Koh Kong district, intends to plant more than 2.8 million trees, said Pich Ratana, Green Rich's public relations manager.

"We hope [to] fulfill the market demand for paper," he said Thursday, and added that the company expects to begin exporting wood in 2014.

Officials at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries lauded the plan as a means to create jobs and increase national revenue. "The government supports the business of growing this kind of tree because it helps sustain the environment," said Kith Seng, an undersecretary of state at the ministry.

Although the government supports its project, Green Rich's dealings in Cambodia have not been without controversy.

In 2005, the legality of Green Rich's operations in Cambodia was questioned by environmental NGOs that said the company was violating its contract with the government and had failed to assess the environmental impact of establishing an acacia plantation.

Labour conditions under Green Rich were also sharply criticised in a report, "The death of the forests: A report on Wuzhishan's and Green Rich's tree plantation activities in Cambodia", by the group World Rainforest Movement.

Pich Ratana said Thursday, however, that Green Rich's investment complied with government regulations and is in line with the Agriculture Ministry's replanting scheme.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY SETH MEIXNER

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First Cambodian woman graduates from Japan's NDA military academy

A few years ago, Meach Sithyka Jessica became the first-ever Cambodian woman to graduate from the US Military Academy at West Point, and since then her courage and determination has served as an inspiration for other Cambodian women. Similarly, Ly Chansocheata became the first Cambodian

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Construction begins on \$1.5B Kampot seaport

The International Multi-Purpose Logistics and Port Centre, principally invested by Kampot Logistics and Port Co Ltd and projected to cost \$1.5 billion, has officially broken ground in Bokor town, Kampot province. The multi-purpose logistics and port centre, located in Prek Tnaot commune, will be built on

Hun Neng, lawmaker and PM's brother, passes away aged 72

Hun Neng, chairman of the 4th Commission of the National Assembly, has passed away from heart disease at the age of 72 on the afternoon of May 5, according to the Ministry of Information. Hun Neng is the older brother of Prime Minister Hun Sen, and was

CCC team off on US business trip

The Kingdom's leading economists and private sector representatives have called on the US to renew its tax preferential status for Cambodian exports, as a Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC) delegation departed for a weeklong business visit to the US, where they will meet with

Fanfare as Thai land border opens

Flow of trade, investment and tourism between Cambodia and Thailand is expected to gradually recover after Thailand reopened its land border on May 1, according to diplomats and industry experts. Cambodian ambassador to Thailand Ouk Sorphorn hailed the reopening of the land border and expressed confidence

PM meets with US business giants

Prime Minister Hun Sen has met with a number of major US companies who have expressed interest in investing in Cambodia, in a meeting convened by the US-ASEAN Business Council (US-ABC). A delegation of companies – including Amazon, Meta, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Ford, Visa and Pernod

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