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Golden Silver Gulf resort is to be built. Photo supplied

western half of Koh Thmei island.

to Sihanoukville and Phnom Penh, will begin later this year.

whether the resort property would include a casino.

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development project.

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Kali Kotoski and **Sor Chandara** | Publication date 21 March 2016 | 07:12 ICT

Developer finds new partners for planned resort in Preah Sihanouk





A Chinese developer has announced new partnerships in its bid to develop a massive tourism project in a protected national park in Preah Sihanouk province - a project it claims could become Cambodia's second-biggest tourism draw after Angkor Wat.

A section of beach in Ream National Park in Preah Sihanouk province in 2008 where part of Yeejia Development's

Yeejia Tourism Development Co Ltd, a subsidiary of Chinese-owned firm Unite International (Cambodia) Investment Group Co Ltd, has signed memoranda of understanding with more than a dozen mostly Chinese companies to develop and supply services to its Golden Silver Gulf resort project, it announced on Friday.

The resort is already under construction on 3,300 hectares inside Ream National Park, and is set

to include villas, five-star hotels, an exhibition centre, duty-free shopping and health facilities. The development will cover 28 kilometres of pristine coastline on the Ream Peninsula and

Fu Xian Ting, chairman of Unite International and Yeejia, said construction of a highway connecting the resort to Sihanoukville's airport, 7 kilometres away, as well as the main highway

"Through our cooperation, I believe that in three to five years, a new city surrounded by the natural forest located on a bay will appear, and that it will be an entertainment paradise for all tourists," he said.

Ting said the seaside location would attract both local and international tourists, while "houses will be fairly priced for Cambodian and Chinese investors".

Yeejia signed MoUs with 13 companies on Thursday, according to Friday's press release, though it did not name all of the companies.

Among those confirmed are Chinese International Travel Service Corp Ltd (CITS), a Chinese

state-run tourism company that will be responsible for facilitating tourist access to the island. The company is already involved in at least one Cambodian airline and a subsidiary that runs off-airport duty-free stores in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville.

Meanwhile, gaming junket operator Jimei International Entertainment Group Ltd announced

separately in a filing to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange a framework agreement with Yeejia to jointly develop an "entertainment resort complex, including property, hotel, golf course, theme park and other entertainment and tourism business". Jimei, which last year entered into a junket arrangement with NagaWorld, did not indicate

Yeejia did not indicate the cost of the project or timeline for completion. Previous media reports

have indicated the development would cost around \$5 billion and take 20 years to complete. The government granted Yeejia the 3,300-hectare land concession in 2009 after the company

The prime minister publicly endorsed the resort project later that year following a personal visit by the company's chairman.

made a series of "donations" to Prime Minister Hun Sen's bodyguard unit.

However, in May 2010, the project's future appeared in doubt after the Council of Ministers issued a royal decree revoking Yeejia's ownership of its concession inside Ream National Park

and turning the land's management over to the Environment Ministry. Sao Sopheap, a spokesman for the ministry, yesterday denied that Yeejia's concession had been revoked, insisting that the company had all the necessary licences to proceed with its tourism

"They have the licences to build on that land and they need more investment to make it successful, because currently it lacks access to water and electricity," he said. "They need to make more effort to develop the resort to make it attractive for visitors."

Tourism Minister Thong Khun, who presided over Thursday's MoU signing ceremony, said the opening of the Golden Silver Gulf resort would draw more Chinese tourists to Cambodia's coast. "This investment is part of a response to [China's] 'One Belt, One Road' strategy and will attract

When asked about concerns over developing a resort inside a protected national park, Khun told the *Post* yesterday that "I think they are being careful with their plan."

preservation," he said, adding that the Ministry of Environment needs to have a clear policy on the project's ecological impact.

"Some areas need to be developed, but all developments need to serve environmental

Contact authors: Kali Kotoski and Sor Chandara

Additional reporting by Cheng Sokhorng

more Chinese tourists," he said.

MOST VIEWED





midnight through August 12 to stem the new

coronavirus Delta variant. The instruction came



The government has decided to place several border provinces in lockdown for two weeks in a bid to prevent the new coronavirus Delta variant

Provinces on Thai borders put in lockdown amid Delta fears

spreading further into community. According a directive signed by Prime Minister Hun Sen late on July 28, the provinces include Koh Kong,



expose what they allege to be China's Ministry of State Security's malicious cyber activities around the world, the attention also turned to Cambodia with the US Department of Justice claiming that four



alternative quarantine options for travellers who wish to enter Cambodia through Phnom Penh

International Airport - Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel & Residence and the Courtyard by Marriott Phnom Penh. In a notice detailing guidelines issued



with 109 found on July 31 and August 1. The Ministry of Health has expressed deep concerns that the variant may have already reached

communities and be spreading as some of the cases



July 30. They are part of the total 1,060,100 doses

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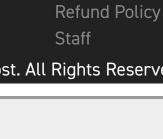
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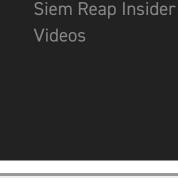
the US has pledged to provide to Cambodia

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