

National February 5, 2020

# Sihanoukville casino employees protest over wages

Ben Sokhean / Khmer Times /

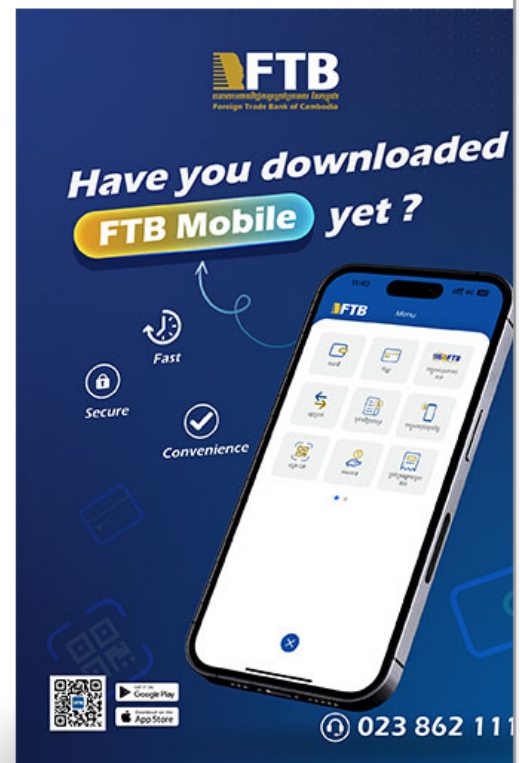


A casino employee shows his work ID during the protest over unpaid wages. KT/Chor Sokunthea

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Sihanoukville, Preah Sihanouk Province– Hundreds of employees of a Chinese-owned casino in Preah Sihanouk province’s Sihanoukville protested over unpaid wages yesterday after the management announced it was shuttering operations.



## Khmer Times App





The employees protested outside the Changcheng casino in Buon commune from morning until noon before the provincial labour department intervened and organised negotiations between them and casino representatives.

A casino manager, who declined to be named, said the owner decided to close operations due to fears of infection of Novel Coronavirus, following the recent detection in a 60-year-old Chinese national in Sihanoukville.

Men Sreyma, 22, a poker card dealer who joined the protest yesterday, said a contract between the company and employees stipulates that the company should pay monthly wages on the 5th of each month.

“We cannot accept what the company did [closing down] because it is failing to follow the agreement to pay the employees today,” she said. “The owners are using the Novel Coronavirus as an excuse to delay paying the wages.”

Ms Sreyam added she had noticed the casino was experiencing a drop in patrons following the ban against online and arcade gambling in the Kingdom which took effect on January 1.

“I think the company may be bankrupt and are using a trick like this,” she said. “We will not stop protesting until it resolves the wage issue.”

Another employee Rim Borey, 20, said yesterday that since January 23, the company decided to cut one-third of the employee’s wages due to declining revenue.

She claimed the company also reduced the minimum wage from \$450 to \$400.

“We agreed to accept the reduction in our salary because of declining revenue,” Ms Borey said. “But now they are trying to default on paying our salary.”

She said the company management announced yesterday that it will close operations.

“If they intend to close the casino, they must pay us our monthly wages, severance pay and other benefits based on the Labour Law.” she added.

According to the minutes of the hour long negotiations, the company has decided to terminate the contracts of all 277 employees and have agreed to pay the last salary due.

The minutes noted that the provincial labour department official Ph...

Parties struggle to keep up with the ruling CPP

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**Opinion**



**Cambodian Oknhas should become the real ‘Captains of Industry’**

When Asia faced the financial crisis in 2008, the Korean investment boom in Cambodia came to a halt, as did the construction of the 42-story tower in the heart of Phnom Penh. Korean investors were the main players at that time, mainly in the real estate sector, and there was not a large presence of Chinese and Japanese investors like today.



**The Funan Techo Canal’s Advantages for Cambodia and the...**

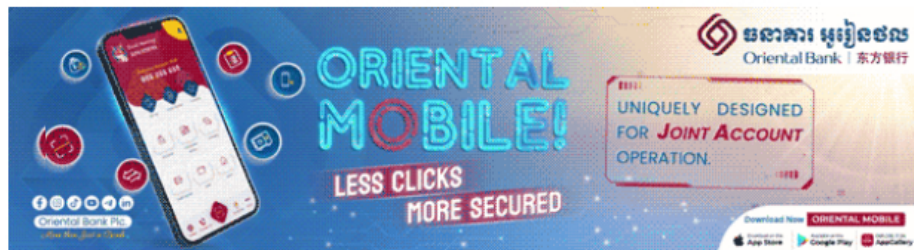
Cambodia is about to start a massive project that could greatly advance its advancement and economic expansion. The

The minutes noted that the provincial labor department official Phan Vutha, who attended the negotiations, is withholding the passport of the company's chief accountant Chen Congle and will return it when all 277 employees have received their wages.

It is not the first closure of a casino in Sihanoukville.

Yov Khemara, provincial labour department director, previously told Khmer Times that 56 out of 75 casinos in the province gradually closed ever since Prime Minister Hun Sen announced the ban on online gambling in August, noting 33 casinos suspended all operations, while 23 completely shut down.

He said about 7,700 casino employees lost their jobs due to the ban. He mentioned most casinos in the province were owned and managed by Chinese nationals. Those who shut down their casinos left the Kingdom.



Tags: Chinese, Sihanoukville, unpaid wages

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Funan Techo Canal project has been hailed as a revolutionary engineering achievement that will link different parts of Cambodia and open up a wealth of advantages for the country.



### Will Red Sea trigger a new supply chain crisis?

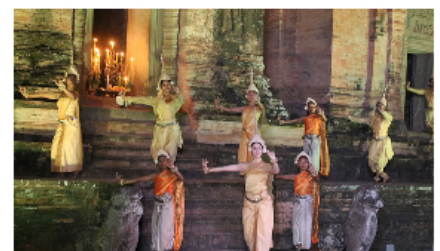
In the near term, the global container shipping industry will likely absorb the shock to capacity caused by attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, because demand is generally soft in January and February.



### Cambodia's Journey to Promoting Gender Equality

On 15 February 2024, an article titled "Why Cambodia needs to incorporate more women into its foreign policy process" was published on the Diplomat and has caught attention from various readers including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, who is also now requesting for clarifications from the author.

### Features



### Sacred Dancers on a thorny path to creating the authentic Apsara

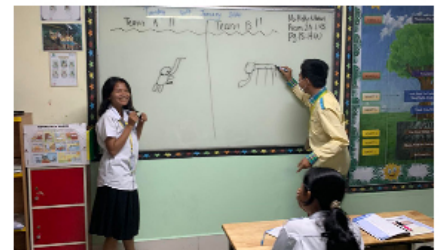
This excerpt is from the 1012 book

THIS EXCERPT IS FROM THE 1912 BOOK *Danseuses Anciennes et Modernes* about the classical dance of Cambodia, written by George Groslier (1887–1945), the creator and first curator of the National Museum of Cambodia and the director of the Service des Arts Cambodgiens from the 1920s to the 1940s.



### **Harnessing the Power of Bees**

Qbee, led by Ms. Man Rathea, has a captivating story of entrepreneurship and a commitment to sustainability. Despite working in an unrelated field, Ms. Rathea's life took a new direction when she decided to empower Cambodian beekeepers and promote superior quality honey production through Qbee.



### **Why self-care curriculum is needed in today's education system**

Education continues to be one of the leading factors in empowering positive change. In Cambodia, community members are encouraged to increase their skills and knowledge through a variety of additional educational programs.

## **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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