

The “Angkor Sentinel 2011” multinational peacekeeping military exercise was kicked off on May 16 at the military base of ACO Tank Unit in Phnom Sruoch district, Kampong Speu province.

Altogether 300 forces from Cambodia, the U.S., Indonesia, Mongolia and Nepal have been taking part in this multinational military exercise, which will take place until May 27, said Lt. Gen. Chhum Socheat, spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense.

This 12-day event, which focuses on command post exercise, engineering work such as building school and hospital, humanitarian affairs, rescues and medical treatment, is aimed at further strengthening and expanding the cooperation between Cambodia and the U.S. in peacekeeping operations and humanitarian activities, he pointed out.

The “Angkor Sentinel 2011”, co-organized by Cambodia and the United States, is part of the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPIO), a UN-US peacekeeping-training program for strengthening peace and security around the world.

In 2010, Cambodia also hosted such multinational peacekeeping military exercise with the participation of around 703 forces from 24 countries such as Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, England, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Tonga, the United States and Vietnam, and two international organizations: the United Nations and the International Red Cross.

Cambodia has sent its forces to join different multinational peacekeeping military exercises including Khaan Quest 2007 in Mongolia and Shanti Doot 2008 in Bangladesh.

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