The European Union and the EU member-states' embassies in Cambodia organized in Phnom Penh last week a banquet to welcome the 61st Anniversary of European Union-Cambodia Relationship and Cooperation (1950-2011).

It was attended by Mr. David Lipman, EU Ambassador and President of EU Delegation to Cambodia; H.E. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers of Cambodia; the EU ambassadors and more than 300 representatives from the United Nations, the international agencies and civil societies and members of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. David Lipman reiterated the EU position to work together with all friends around the world to solve some of the most challenging issues they are facing at the moment.

He said that the EU had provided the official annual financial assistance of some US$200 million to help develop Cambodia and in the next three years it planned to grant some US$40 millions each year for the development of Cambodia in the areas of education, health, rule of law, good governance and for improving the livelihood of Cambodian people.

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, Deputy Prime Minister Sok An expressed warm welcome to the further progress and consolidation of European Union-Cambodia Relationship and Cooperation.

He profoundly thanked the EU for the continued assistance and support to the development of Cambodia.

In welcoming the 61st Anniversary of European Union-Cambodia Relationship and Cooperation, a photo exhibition was also held at the Royal University of Law and Economics.

The EU would continue to support and assist the development of Cambodia as it is one of the

least-developed country and the EU member states would further maintain their support and assistance to Cambodia, said Mr. David Lipman at the opening of exhibition.

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