

A 47-member contingent of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces left here recently for a multi-national military exercise in Thailand as part of preparation for a joint peace keeping effort.

Entitled Ayara Gardian 2011, the military exercise will last until July 1 and are being participated by 14 countries including Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Rwanda, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.

“Though the exercise is not in the scope of the United Nations, it is initiated by the United States and will also provide a good chance for Cambodian troops to learn from senior military trainers from other countries,” said General Prak Sokhon, Delegate Minister to Cambodian Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Coordination Committee of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operation during a see-off meeting with the tasked armed forces at Phnom Penh International Airport.