

In the first six months of this year, foreign tourist arrivals in Cambodia increased 13 per cent to 1.38 million in 2011 from 1.22 million in 2010, according to a report of the ministry of Tourism.

However, in the same period Thai tourists visiting Cambodia decreased 57 per cent to 48,136 from 75,695, the reason of which is attributable to armed clashes between Cambodian and Thai soldiers at the border in February, April and May.

Vietnamese took the first place with 289,736, an increase of 18 per cent, Koreans ranked the second with 172,568, an increase of 20 per cent, Chinese the third with 113,775, an increase of 35 per cent, the US the fourth with 79,066, of 3.9 per cent, Japan the fifth with 76,278, of 1.7 per cent.

Last year, Cambodia received 2.5 million tourists, earning revenue of nearly US\$ two billion for the national budget. This year's expected total is 2.7 million with a revenue of \$US 1.9 billion.