



President Tony Tan Keng Yam (centre) and his wife Mary are given a demonstration of a medical technique during a hospital visit in Phnom Penh. At left is Singapore's Health Minister Gan Kim Yong. PHOTO: EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

Cambodia, Singapore partner to save lives

Training through hospital partnership equips healthcare workers with skills in trauma care

Nur Asyiqin Mohamad Salleh
In Siem Reap

Cambodia's biggest public hospital has a strong Singapore connection.

Since 2014, Calmette Hospital in Phnom Penh has worked with Tan Tock Seng Hospital to train Cambodian doctors and nurses in trauma care and resuscitation.

President Tony Tan Keng Yam yesterday had a glimpse of the fruits of this partnership on the third day of his state visit to Cambodia.

He observed a handover ceremony at Calmette Hospital to commemorate the successful completion of the programme, which has equipped 216 Cambodian health-

care workers with the skills to care for severely injured patients.

A plaque was presented to the hospital and a book chronicling the ties between both hospitals was launched.

Dr Tan was also given a demonstration of some techniques learnt.

The skills and know-how Cambodian doctors and nurses have gleaned from the programme have made the difference between life and death for some patients, said Dr Chua Wei Chong, consultant trauma surgeon at Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

Among the game-changers was the introduction of an ultrasound technique to help detect bleeding in the abdomen.

At the start, courses were conducted by doctors from Tan Tock Seng Hospital, but over the last year, senior specialists in Calmette Hospital have started teaching alongside the Singapore faculty.

The hospital will now conduct basic and intermediate training independently.

Dr Chua said he hopes Calmette Hospital will become Cambodia's

national trauma training centre.

Calmette Hospital's director of trauma Sok Buntha said: "I strongly believe that (the) programme will have a long-term impact on trauma care in Cambodia, especially because trauma is a very common occurrence, arising from road traffic accidents, industrial accidents and other related causes."

The programme was funded by Temasek Foundation International, with a grant of \$290,630, and co-funded by Tan Tock Seng Hospital and Calmette Hospital.

On Monday, the two hospitals signed a new agreement that renews and expands their partnership to new areas of collaboration, including intensive care medicine.

After his visit to the hospital, Dr Tan headed to Siem Reap.

There, he took in the sights at Angkor Wat, a sprawling temple complex, and the Bayon temple, famous for the faces carved into its stone towers.

He was also hosted to dinner by the governor of Siem Reap province, Mr Khim Bun Song.

Today, he sets off for Vientiane, starting his state visit to neighbouring Laos.

He will be there until Jan 14.

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ADVERTORIAL

KEY EMPLOYMENT TERMS

From 1 April 2016, all employers are required to issue written Key Employment Terms (KETs) to employees covered under the Employment Act.

WHO should receive written KETs?

All employees covered by the Employment Act who are:

- Employed for a continuous period of 14 days or more.
- Employed on or after 1 April 2016.

WHEN must written KETs be issued?

- Within 14 days from the start of employment.
- Failure to issue written KETs may result in a financial penalty.

WHAT items must be included?

Written KETs must include the items below, unless the item is not applicable.

1 Full name of employer	10 Fixed deductions per salary period
2 Full name of employee	11 Overtime payment period (if different from item 7)
3 Job title, main duties and responsibilities	12 Overtime rate of pay
4 Date of start of employment	13 Other salary-related components
5 Duration of employment	14 Leave
6 Working arrangements	15 Other medical benefits
7 Salary period	16 Probation period
8 Basic salary	17 Notice period
9 Fixed allowances per salary period	

If the above are already stated in a written employment contract, written KETs are not required.

Need assistance?

For more details on the requirements and assistance
Ministry of Manpower (MOM)
www.mom.gov.sg/ea-assistance

For workshops on written KETs and itemised payslips

Tripartite Alliance for Fair and Progressive Employment Practices (TAFEP)
www.tafep.sg/fair-employment-events

For one-to-one assistance

Singapore National Employers Federation (SNEF)
www.snef.org.sg

30 killed, 80 wounded in twin blasts in Kabul

KABUL • Twin blasts claimed by the Taliban struck near the Afghan Parliament in Kabul yesterday, killing at least 30 people and wounding 80 in a rush-hour attack that shattered a relative lull in violence in the capital.

The blasts tore through employees exiting a Parliament annex, which houses the offices of lawmakers, leaving the area littered with bloodied bodies.

"A suicide bomber on foot caused the first explosion, killing and wounding a number of innocent workers," Mr Zabi, a security guard who got injured, said.

"The second one was a car bomb. The vehicle was parked on the other side of the road and flung me back when it detonated," he added.

The blasts left some of the wounded in serious condition, Health Ministry spokesman Waheed Majroh said, warning that the toll was expected to rise.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the group was behind the Kabul explosions. The group said its target was a minibus carrying staff from the National Directo-

rate of Security (NDS), Afghanistan's main intelligence agency.

The bombings came just hours after a Taliban suicide bomber killed seven people and wounded nine in Lashkargah, the capital of the volatile southern province of Helmand, as the militants ramped up attacks. The house where the attack was carried out was reportedly being used by an NDS unit.

The carnage underscores growing insecurity in Afghanistan, where around 10,000 American troops are helping struggling Afghan forces to combat a resilient Taliban insurgency as well as Al-Qaeda and Islamic State in Iraq and Syria militants.

The Taliban are pressing ahead with nationwide attacks despite the onset of winter, when fighting usually ebbs, as international efforts to jump-start peace talks falter.

Repeated bids to launch peace negotiations with the Taliban have failed and a fierce new fighting season is expected to kick off in the spring.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, REUTERS

Kidnappings at sea hit 10-year high; call to avoid Sulu Sea

KUALA LUMPUR • The number of maritime kidnappings hit a 10-year high last year, with waters off the southern Philippines becoming increasingly dangerous, according to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB).

The report coincided with news that armed men had killed eight fishermen in what appeared to be an attack by pirates in waters off southern Philippines.

Coast guard spokesman Armand Balilo said a Filipino fishing boat was operating off Laud Siromon island, near the Zamboanga Peninsula, on Monday night when five armed men on a speedboat attacked them.

"The attackers opened fire at the fishermen," Commander Balilo said. He said eight were killed, and another five jumped overboard and swam to a nearby island. Two others who remained on the boat were unharmed.

"We consider this a piracy attack. If these were Islamist militants, they would have been taken captive and held for ransom," Commander Balilo said.

He said the attackers fled in the darkness and two coast guard ships were sent to search for them.

The IMB said in its report yesterday that while the overall number of pirate attacks has declined in recent years, 62 people worldwide were kidnapped for ransom at sea last year compared with only 19 in 2015 and nine in 2014.

"The kidnapping of crew from ocean-going merchant vessels in the Sulu Sea and their transfer to the southern Philippines represents a notable escalation in attacks," the IMB said.

It urged shipowners to avoid the Sulu Sea, which lies between eastern Malaysia and the Philippines, by routing ships to the west of Borneo island. In a string of incidents in the area last year, groups of armed men – said to be either from or linked to the Abu Sayyaf militant group – ambushed ships and seized crew for ransom.

The Abu Sayyaf are based on remote and mountainous southern Philippine islands. Their leaders pledge allegiance to terror group Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, but analysts say they are more focused on lucrative kidnappings.

Mr Noel Choong, head of the IMB's Kuala Lumpur-based Piracy Reporting Centre, said groups linked to militants were carrying out the kidnappings, particularly off West Africa and in the Sulu Sea.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, REUTERS