

March 2026

CanCham Newsletter



Canada-in-Asia Conference

On February 9–11, 2026, CanCham Cambodia led a delegation to the Canada-in-Asia Conference in Singapore. Our delegates engaged directly with senior policymakers, investors, and business leaders across Asia and Canada to advance Cambodia's visibility in food security, energy security, and infrastructure.

Strengthening Bilateral Ties

On February 12, 2026, CanCham's Board met with H.E. Alan Bowman, Director General for Southeast Asia and Oceania at Global Affairs Canada, and H.E. Christian DesRoches, Ambassador of Canada to Cambodia, to discuss key priorities and advance strategic cooperation under Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy, reinforcing momentum in Canada-Cambodia relations.





Urban Development Committee Highlights

In February, the committee gathered at La Casa Design for a productive session focused on actionable sustainability and affordable housing strategies.

Members explored the intersection of design and marketing, analyzing how thoughtful interior transformations act as strategic investments.

Member Spotlight: Coco Khmer

Founded in 2013, Coco Khmer transforms Cambodian coconut raw materials into export-ready wellness products manufactured to international standards. Led by Canadian Founder and CEO, Robert Esposito, the company has grown from a community-based enterprise into a globally oriented manufacturer.

By 2019, Coco Khmer had grown into a profitable business with expansion plans into Singapore, Hong Kong, and Canada. Following pandemic disruption, the company underwent a full operational reset and strategic repositioning. Today, as a Global Wellness House, Coco Khmer operates a dual-brand platform: Naga Balm, Cambodia's first topical pain relief brand meeting international GMP standards, and Coco Khmer, elevating daily essentials into memorable rituals.

Coco Khmer is a powerful example of Cambodia-made products reaching the world, and a strong Canada-Cambodia business success story.



Responsible AI as a Strategic Advantage

On 27 February, CanCham Cambodia hosted an executive session at ABA Bank Head Office with Valentine Goddard, Founder and Executive Director of the AI Impact Alliance.

Business leaders and SMEs explored key questions around ethical AI use, intellectual property, data ownership, and governance risks in cross border partnerships.





Honorary Board Meeting

Our Honorary Board met to align on strategic priorities for the year ahead and guide CanCham's next phase of growth.

For 2026, our focus areas include strengthening trade facilitation between Canada and Cambodia, expanding member engagement, enhancing digital visibility, and deepening public-private dialogue across priority sectors.

We also reviewed practical initiatives in trade, education partnerships, financial inclusion, and community impact to support meaningful bilateral collaboration.

Canada in Cambodia News

Manulife Cambodia Introduces New Cancer Protection Plan

Manulife Cambodia has introduced Manulife (Korm Pear), a new cancer protection plan offering financial support of up to \$10,000 upon confirmed diagnosis – from early detection onward.

Key features include no medical exam, just two years of premium payments for six years of coverage, and a 40% discount for one-time payment options. This new offering strengthens financial resilience and peace of mind for Cambodian families.



New on ABA Mobile: Merchant Lite Mode

ABA Bank has enhanced its ABA Mobile app with Merchant Lite mode, giving businesses instant visibility over sales performance in one simple dashboard.

Merchants can track daily and monthly sales, monitor refunds and payments, identify top performing outlets, and analyze preferred payment methods with ease.

A smarter way to access real time insights and make faster, data driven business decisions directly from your mobile device.



OCIC Launches Norea International School in 2026

OCIC has announced the launch of Norea International School (NIS), opening its soft launch campus at Élysée on Koh Pich in August 2026 (Grades 1–5), ahead of its permanent Norea City campus in 2027.

Offering both British and Khmer curricula, NIS will combine academics with sports and fine arts. Developed by OCIC, the school reflects its continued commitment to strengthening Cambodia's education landscape and long-term community development.



SEED Program Driving the Next Generation of Cambodian Leaders

The Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED) Program continues to empower emerging Cambodian leaders through academic and research exchanges in Canada.

Ambassador DesRoches and Rohini Dhaliwal from Global Affairs Canada met with SEED alumni, highlighting the program's lasting impact and the strong Canada–Cambodia connections that continue well beyond the scholarship experience.

Upcoming Event

The Insider Angle: "From Vision to Groundbreaking – An Architect's Guide to De-Risking Development in Cambodia."

Urban Development Committee Meeting

Fri Mar 6th 10am–11am at The Room Architecture & Design Register [here](#)

For more information and events, please visit: our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)