

January 17, 2022

## New GMAC chairman elected to develop textile industry

Yin Soeum / Khmer Times



The Garment Manufacturers Association of Cambodia (GMAC) held its 15th Annual General Meeting on Saturday to announce the results of work done during the last term and elect a new chairman and executive committee members for the 2022-2023 term.

Labour Minister Ith Samheng said at the meeting with factory owners and representatives of the special economic zones that “all products from the textile industry manufacturing including the clothing, shoes and bags are very important to support the economy”.

He added that the growth has been 10% over the last 10 years, although it dropped a bit in 2020, but then regained last year with an increase in the first 10 months of the year.

The Labour Ministry has performed assessments showing successful production in the past which encouraged the industry to continue development.

Samheng said promotion of the garment sector in Cambodia will help it grow steadily.

“I express my thanks to Van Sou Ieng for his excellent leadership as chairman and thank all GMAC’s members for cooperation with the ministry by actively contributing to the development of employment and vocational training,” said Samheng. “I also congratulate Kong Sang on being elected as chairman of GMAC for the 2022-2023 term.”

Sou Ieng, the outgoing GMAC chairman, said he recalled the joint effort in the past to overcome obstacles and urge the garment, footwear and bag industry to achieve the positive results it has so far.

He thanked all GMAC members for cooperating with the ministry to actively contribute to the development of the job sector and professional training. He also congratulated Sang for being elected as GMAC president for the new term.

Sou Ieng also thanked all stakeholders, especially the members of the executive committee, all GMAC members and all colleagues who have worked together so far.

Sang, former vice-chairman of the association, expressed his deepest gratitude to all the members who voted for him as chairman.

He said he will work hard with the new executive committee members to lead the association’s mission toward further development and support the garment, shoe and handbag industry and to keep in touch with concerned parties of the government especially to encourage a better investment environment.

Coalition of Cambodian Apparel Workers’ Democratic Union (CCAWDU) president Kong Athit told *Khmer Times* yesterday: “I don’t know if it will be any easier to work with the new leader compared to the old leader. They could be harder to work with.”

The minimum wage from 1997 to 2021 increased from \$40 up to \$194 per month. Taking into account seniority and other benefits, workers can make between \$211 to \$222 per month.