



## Luxury island resort given go ahead

An Australian property developer has been granted final approval to build Cambodia's first ultra-luxury holiday resort on the South coast islands of Koh Ouen and Koh Bong – known locally as the “sweethearts”. The \$35m Song Saa resort is set to comprise 25 suites and five villas, all with freshwater pools.

The two islands lie just 30km from the coastal town and port of Sihanoukville in the Koh Rong archipelago. Developers Brocon are the first company to obtain

a concession in the area, which largely consists of fishing villages, rainforest and untouched beaches – at the moment.

Brocon's creative director Melita Hunter said, “Our aim is to adhere to the highest standards of best practice and ensure that the ecosystem and its people are taken care of.” With this in mind, the islands' residents are rehabilitating plant life and establishing a marine sanctuary around the islands in return for educational and health services.

## Ex-PM Thaksin plans new city for Cambodia

Thailand's larger-than-life ex-prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra has revealed plans to build a “modern city” in Cambodia in a recent meeting with the Cambodian prime minister.

Thaksin and a group of Thai investors told Hun Sen that the city in Koh Kong province would include a financial centre, hospitals, schools, housing and a port for ship repairs. The PM's spokesman Eang Sophalleth said, “He did not say how much money will be invested, he just told the prime minister about his plan.” Sophalleth said the Cambodian premier welcomed the idea, advising Thaksin to collaborate with the Cambodian development council.

Thaksin was toppled in a 2006 military coup and went to live in self-imposed exile in England. He shot to prominence again last year with the purchase of struggling English football club Manchester City.