

# Cambodia New Vision

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**18 September 2007** (With Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)  
**Hun Sen's National Scholarship for Outstanding Students**



18 September 07—Samdech Hun Sen Awards Winners of The University of Cambodia's Hun Sen National Scholarship for Outstanding Students.

... It is my great honor and pleasure to join your Excellencies, Ladies, Gentlemen, parents, guardians, and students at the awarding ceremony of "*Samdech Hun Sen National Scholarship – Outstanding Students*" to the high school students through out the country.

Taking this opportunity, on the behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and my own behalf, I would like to express my profound thanks to *Dr. Haruhisa Handa*, head of *World Mate Organization*, chairman and founder of *International Foundation for Art and Culture*, Tokyo, Japan and Chancellor of University of Cambodia, who always support tertiary education in Cambodia, especially by providing full tuition fee scholarship (100%) to 500 students from every part of the county who have successfully passed high school exams and obtained distinction grade for the 2006-2007

school year.

At the same time, I would like to express my compliment and high appreciation to managements, personnel and professors of the University of Cambodia for hard work in fulfilling their duties in providing training and education to the youth who are the successors in protecting, building and developing our nation in the future.

On this auspicious occasion, I also would like to thank *Dr. Haruhisa Handa*, Chancellor of University of Cambodia for naming this scholarship scheme as the "*Samdech Hun Sen National Scholarship – Outstanding Students*".

Capacity building and human resource development are targeted priorities and clearly envisaged in the "*Rectangular Strategy*" of the Royal Government that focuses on economic "*growth*", "*employment*" creation for  
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## Message on the Celebration of September - 21 "International Peace Day"

September 21, 2007, Unofficial Translation

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and my own behalf I wish to express my congratulations and high sense of responsibility in national policy leadership for the cause of peace, stability, prosperity and wellbeing for the people of Cambodia at the time of the celebration of the International Peace Day.

I would like to express my pleasure in high national pride for taking part to congratulate the International Peace Day (International Peace Day) with other Governments in the world for the cause of reducing and preventing grisly war situation everywhere.

The 55th UN Assembly adopted a resolution on September 28, 2001 setting September 21 as a date for all countries to celebrate International Peace Day. At the same time, the UN resolution also appealed to all its country members as well as institutions in the UN system, regional and non-governmental organizations to observe the September-21

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## 06 September 2007

### Launching Cambodia Securities Market Project

... I am very delighted to be here with Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished national and international guests at the launch of the «**Cambodia Securities Market Project**». I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Korea Exchange and the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kingdom of Cambodia for co-organizing this historical event.

It should be noted that Cambodia intended to establish its securities or stock market in 1995, but due to our weak banking system which cannot effectively complement the establishment of this market, we postponed the project and steered our priorities, instead to develop the whole financial sector development program

which is sufficient, interlocking and complementary.

In implementing its reform programs, especially in the banking sector, the Royal Government of Cambodia have transformed from a mono-banking to a two-tier banking system by separating the function of commercial banks from the Central Bank, which now functions as monetary authority responsible for the effective and sound development of the banking system which is in response to the requirements of the national economy.

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Cambodians, promoting “equity” in the society and raising “efficiency” in the public sector. These are the policies that will lead Cambodia to be self-reliance as well as to ensure efficient involvement in regional and world arenas. However, under current circumstances, what is deserved great attention are the concrete measures to ensure that human resource development is indeed correspond to the need and demand of social and economic developments. Nowadays, we are proudful of having numerous new higher-education institutions, both public and private, that have been established both in Phnom Penh and in various provinces. Alongside, we also have concerns on the management and monitoring to ensure the balance between quantity and quality of schooling. Indeed, the real measurement of quality in education is neither the number of student who have completed the program nor the number of student obtained the degree, but rather the level of progresses in skill quality and competency and the absorbing capacity of the labor market. These factors are two-edged sword, on one hand, human resource development at tertiary level can be a catalyst for faster poverty reduction; however on the other hand using education/trainings for gaining private financial benefits would press more burdens for parents and adversely affect the whole society.

In the sense, as aforementioned, I would like to take this opportunity in suggesting and encouraging all schooling institutions to improve the quality of education, to expand coverage of the training/teaching curriculums, to incorporate practical techniques and sciences consistent with

the regional and international standard aiming at transforming our higher-education institutions to become more competitive in producing qualified intellectual resources in order to respond to the demand of the domestic and international labor market.

It is no doubt that training and education are vital to society, and their roles are not limited merely to human resource development in order to increase productivity; the capacity building of individual citizen in a society will allow them not only to increase financial revenue for a state or a company, but more importantly it allows them to improve their livelihood, prestige and self-esteem not just for themselves, but also for their own families as well as for the society as a whole by having highly knowledge and hard-working people that have earnings through appropriate professional and business activities and possess social morality and responsibility; these all will lead to the progresses to the whole society being as a one nation community.

Development experiences, apparently, demonstrates that prosperity of a nation lies on the class of intellectuals who play the foremost roles in leading and managing the country. Moreover, intellectual is the one who transfers knowledge and education to the next generation via literatures, writings, research documents, preservation and development of culture as well as research and scientific discoveries. In this connection, the level of development of one nation is reflected by the richness of intellectual resources and those with practical experiences both in knowledge and know-how; they are the nation strength in terms of

intellectuality and prime factor to ensure nation competitiveness ability.

Indeed, in the era of knowledge and information technology of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, intellectual and talented class of society have an increasing role to play and the knowledge becomes a determinant factor to turn any economic potential and comparative advantages of a nation into reality. In this sense, I strongly convinced that “*economic growth and poverty reduction can be achieved by building the foundation of human resource development*”, thus “*universal admiration for education is an effective means to structure human characteristics and to promote sustainable development and to equally share the fruit of economic growth*”.

These are some conceptions and visions for the education which has a leading role in equity and quality development of human resources consistent with the educational objective that is “*educate to be good children, good students, good friends and good citizens*” and with the four foundation of education that is “*educate to have knowledge, know-how, good morality, and harmonious coexistent in society*”.

Today, I am delighted to join the awarding ceremony of “*Samdech Hun Sen National Scholarship – Outstanding Students*” to 500 high school students nationwide. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate parents and families as well as grade-twelfth students who passed the exam for the 2006 – 2007 school year, and come to receive the scholarship today.

In addition, I would like to stress that this scholarship is

significantly important for students who cannot afford and have no resources to study. However, without talent, diligence, and determination in their study, they would not receive these full tuition fee scholarships and succeed in their study.

Indeed, scholarships are good only for the students who are outstanding, those that are willing to sacrifice everything for sake of study and are willing to contribute their knowledge to the society in the future. In this respect, I am convinced that the university as well as the partners that sponsoring this scholarship have the same purpose as mine. The purpose is to open opportunities for students from all backgrounds, particularly poor students from rural areas, to continue their study in tertiary level to develop themselves and the nation. Furthermore, we want our students to be a real intellectual who adhere a constant-learning attitude in order to preserve and improve their knowledge, know-how and morality for the beneficial utilization to the society and themselves.

At the same time, I would like to indicate that nowadays is the time of advanced technology and a knowledge-based economy era. In fact, in this globalize time, each country makes progresses or regresses and whether they able to actively and equally participate and take benefit from regional and global cooperation require quantity and quality of knowledge for youth in the next-generation, who are the pillars of the nation.

In this sense, higher education does not only strengthen the responsibilities, moralities and attitudes of our people to be a good citizens, but also pro-

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27 September 2007

## Keynote Address: ASEM Human Rights Informal Seminar

... The Siem Reap, civilized and ancient capital of Cambodia, is hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> informal seminar on *Human Rights* for 42 countries of ASEM.

On behalf of the Royal Government and People of Cambodia, I cordially welcome the presence of delegations from the 42 countries as well as delegations from the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat to this important seminar. I would like to wish Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen a good health and happiness and strongly hope that this seminar, being held in the land of Angkor Monuments, a mankind's magnificent architectural achievement and a well-known historic heritage, will bring about *human rights* improvement, particularly freedom of expression to all our citizens.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to welcome distinguished guests and observers present here and who will provide motivation to this seminar, and wish Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen good health and success in all your endeavors.

Indeed, freedom of expression is for all people, including Cambodians and regarded as a crucial element in life for communication and exchange of ideas to achieve harmony, prosperity and equal benefits.

Clearly, freedoms of expression are necessary for equitable, fair and prosper day-to-day living for individuals, families, and societies. Without a doubt, nobody is willing to accept illegal interventions and threats. In this sense, everyone is entitled to freedom of expression as well as *human rights* and *dignity* since the

first day of their birth, and no one can take these rights away from the fundament of justice, peace, self and social development.

Looking at the world history, although *human rights* and *dignity* have accompanied mankind since the early stages, *human rights* and *dignity* on its own cannot be developed stronger and get respected.

In fact, the history of mankind is the evolution process of development and improvement of *human rights* and *dignity*. In this context, the concept of *human rights* has been developed and promoted by philosophers and intellectuals from different national, religious and cultural backgrounds. Clearly, state leaders and legislators have significantly contributed to the development of notions and concepts regarding the respect of *human rights* and *dignity*. Furthermore, through global wide efforts, the international principle for human rights and dignity was developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, only in the mid of 20<sup>th</sup> century, the institutional base for respect of *human rights* was established through the utmost efforts under the umbrella of the United Nations, issuing a *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* in 1948.

This declaration constitutes a guiding law and conscience for respecting *human rights* and *dignity*, protecting individuals from threats on their lives and dignities. In this context, it should be emphasized that the respect of *human rights* and *dignity* is also an important factor to evaluate a society's democracy. Certainly, the official guaran-

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International Peace Day aimed at educating our people and raising public awareness on the meaning and price of peace while cooperating in putting an end to armed clashes and violent acts throughout the world.

In this spirit, September-21 has become a date that people all over the world, Cambodia included, together celebrate the International Peace Day with great significance of humanity especially for the people of Cambodia, who have gone through almost three decades of war after suffering a serious and bitter experience of family separation, destruction, poverty and misery.

Protracted war and genocide that lasted close to three decades destroyed infrastructure that was the blood veins of the country, causing misery and family separation to the Cambodian people. Having had such bitter experiences every Cambodian wishes to achieve a true peace in order to bring about a true happiness and prosperity. Responding to this sacred wish, the Royal Government of Cambodia tried its best in the past to put an end to internal strife implementing the self-developed "win-win" policy without external instruction and pressure while realizing peace, national reconciliation and full national unity for the country and people in the late 1998, after a complete fall of the Khmer Rouge political and military organization.

It is true that in the past eight years, the country and people of Cambodia have been enjoying peace, political stability and fast economic growth. At the same time, the hard-won peace, political stability, safety, public order and firm security environment have all continued their roles as the most important preconditions allowing Cambodia to materialize national economic and social potential. Furthermore, peace and political stability offer opportunity for the Royal Government to be with the people, who have full freedom, safety in traveling also included.

In this context, the Royal Government of Cambodia clearly understands about its role in safeguarding a long-term stability and political peace. It is true that putting a complete end and in a peaceful way to war and national division was a difficult thing to achieve. However, maintaining peace and further strengthening a culture of peace would indeed be a harder task to fulfill. I am of the conviction that together with a history of war destruction that every Cambodian encountered in the past, they all are determined to safeguard a lasting peace. This means that because they understand full well the price of peace, our people would wish that people of all races in the world to also understand the nature of peace and national unity like we Cambodian do.

It is in this framework that the Royal Government as well as every Cambodian must make further efforts aimed at strengthening and disseminating widely the understanding of important factors that are the foundations of peace, that is raising awareness of a culture of non-violence, patience and forgiveness, no illegal use of weapons, peaceful conflict resolution, etc. Therefore, joining in celebrating International Peace Day not only reflects a strong and sharp will of the

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tee of respect for *human rights*, which is adopted by a country's constitution, is the highest value of democracy. Within this framework, Cambodian Constitution has embraced all aspects of the Universal Declaration of *Human Rights* and abolished the practice of capital punishment.

In implementing the International Convention on *Human Rights*, the Royal Government of Cambodia has paid great attention to all aspects of *human rights* by putting forward various measures to promote political and socio-economic freedom in Cambodia. In this respect, the "Rectangular Strategy", the policy blueprint of the Royal Government of the third legislature of the National Assembly, clearly embeds a comprehensive vision to promote *Cambodian people's rights and dignity* by giving concerted attention to political and socio-economic freedom.

In this regard, the respect for *human rights* remains a fundamental principle for socio-economic developments. The Royal Government of Cambodia without a doubt understands and highly value freedom, respect for *human rights* and *dignity*, as Cambodia used to go through a 3-year-8-month-20-day genocidal regime of the Khmer Rouge when freedom was totally taken away and people suffered from a degrading and inhuman treatment. In those zero years, Cambodians had nothing except our both hands, but our profound struggle together with gladness that enable us to survive this brutal regime constitute the great dynamics to build new lives, protect and value *human rights* and *dignity*.

We have experienced war and

genocidal regime; but now we are making a concerted effort to steer our young generation away from the path of wars and genocidal regimes and ensure that they only enjoy development, humanity and self-esteem, and maintain that value for the future generation.

In addition, related to *human rights* and *dignity*, I would like to outline that there are currently more than 2000 NGOs in Cambodia. Nearly 500 national and international media organizations are operating independently in Cambodia. 15 media associations have been formed. NGOs as well as media organizations operating freely in Cambodia, especially range of forums to discuss on *human rights* are undeniable evidence verifying the Royal Government's dogged determination to promote democracy and the respect for *human rights* and *dignity*. The Royal Government always welcomes different views and recommendations, but except those inciting war, violence, discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin and so on that is prohibited by law as well as goes against *human rights*.

At the same time, in providing political freedom to people, the Royal Government of Cambodia has paid great attention to strengthen peace, stability, social order, right to free speech and right to participate in every aspect of democratic process. Peaceful and regular elections, which ensure confidentiality of every ballot and promotion of rights to free political movements through the presence of several political parties as well as rights to expression and right to information conveyed by newspaper and countless national and international press

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people of Cambodia in enhancing peace but also fosters opportunity to remind us all of the necessity for maintaining to full maximum the current peace that we have in Cambodia while taking contributory part in seeking peace in the whole world.

Also in this thinking that the Royal Government decided to grant support to the resolution of the UN assembly as proposed by the Republic of India for the celebration of International Non-Violence Day (INVD) on October 2, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the non-violence campaign, who had struggle for many years to bring national independence to India in 1947.

Furthermore, with the goodwill in safeguarding peace in the world, the Royal Government actively joining in putting out initiatives and actions aimed at preventing violence and war. To mention some of them, the Royal Government sends its de-miners to Sudan, while being a party to treaties, conventions and protocols, as follows:

- ☑ *Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty*
- ☑ *Convention and Protocol Prohibiting the Proliferation, Stocking and Use of Mines, Chemical and Biological Weapons*
- ☑ *Convention and Protocol on Anti-Terrorism*
- ☑ *Protocol on Prevention and Curbing of Circulation of Illegal Small Arms*

On the basis of peace and stability which is growing stronger day after day the Royal Government urges decisive implementation of reforms in all fields within the framework of the "Rectangular Strategy" for growth, employment, equity and efficiency and the "Strategic Plan for National Development" (SPND). These efforts are taking root deeply into the socio-economic foundation of Cambodia and would result in a speedy progress for national economy.

As a matter of fact, after Cambodia realized a complete peace in 1999, despite challenging problems in regional and world economic context coupled with unfavorable natural condition in certain parts of the country, the Cambodian economy could draw together dynamics to achieve an average growth rate of 9.4% per annum from 2000 to 2006. In the last three years the average growth rate jumped up unprecedented high at 11.4%. Take for instance in 2005, the economic growth took the rate of 13.5%, while in 2006 10.8%. Per capita income per annum has almost doubled from US\$ 288 in 2000 to US\$ 513 in 2006. We have been able to maintain inflation at a rate below average of 3% in between 2000 and 2006. The exchange rate has also been stabilized. For the same period, foreign reserve of the country increased more than double from roughly 500 million US dollars to one billion in 2006. In 2007, the economic growth has been predicted to achieve a rate of around 9%. Inflation rate would continue to stay below 5%. Exchange rate would go on to be stable in general. Foreign reserve would continue to increase and guarantee three-month imports.

At the same time the Royal Government would make stronger efforts to strengthen the spirit of culture of peace for

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vides them with knowledge and skills in many fields that is necessary for absorbing more advanced knowledge or professional skills. Moreover, higher education is the basic for human development to achieve the comparative and absolute advantages in the era of knowledge-based economy.

Therefore, you have to study hard, expand your knowledge and effectively use this knowledge by turning them into know-how to respond to domestic and global labor market.

In addition, it should be noted that studying is largely a self determination, meaning that you are responsible for your study and your future. Parents, families or teachers provide only heat, like a hen that only provides heat to eggs to facilitate cracking out of a shell. However, being good or bad one is depending on the egg itself. Similar to you, to become a true intellectual, you have to study by yourself, for example, do the reading, homework or assignment, listening, taking note and analyzing provided knowledge in order to acquire knowledge from teachers. As a result, you can become a knowledgeable person and can apply those knowledge for your own, family and national interest.

In general, higher education institution always trains their student to have their own analytical thinking by allowing them to express opinions, defend their arguments and to do research, analysis and debate. For high school students, teachers are ready to transfer knowledge, in which everything is taught. In contrary, university students must do research by themselves after a subject has been lectured.

Because of limited time in class, university students must be wise and make its own utmost efforts to collect informative knowledge as much as possible by studying at the library and do more readings.

I would like to finish my messages for the students who have just obtained “*Samdech Hun Sen National Scholarship – Outstanding Students*” award at the University of Cambodia. I hope that all beloved students will take my suggestions for consideration and transform them into strong motivation to successfully achieve expected targets and objectives of the university and scholarship sponsors...

#### *Selected Comments*

... I have some more comments and advice for you. One should not have the thought that after getting entrance to the University, one would automatically become an intellectual per se. In real life some finished the University education but could not perform their duty too. This I would say they are like lazy eggs that after such a long hatching process they have turned themselves to be bad ones. They do not hatch to be chicks. This is an important point that you have to keep in mind that self-effort is the key while helps from teachers only guide you through in accordance with curriculum and research orientation. You are the one who have to make yourself improved.

I am glad with the report by Dr. Kao Kim Huorn about the selection of 500 best students for the Hun Sen scholarships from those who have passed the Senior High School with remarkably high grade. Among the 4,166 students,

we have narrowed down to 500, therefore I take that all of you who are present here are the best among the best to be provided with the scholarship. This is the first time for such a scholarship selection and provision to be done.

Many Universities have given to me some scholarships so that I could award them to students who finished senior high school education and wish to continue their education to the University. I would give my remark today that sometimes we only thought of resource-lacking for such continuation but not their study ability. My cabinet staff has to reorganize our objectives in providing those scholarships. We primarily provided scholarships to students from poor families without financial ability for their children to continue with their studies. But that has proven to be insufficient because there are two factors regarding this consideration.

First, resource lacking which could be precondition for such a scholarship provision, but second, whether they have the ability to further their study to higher education or not. That is why I have asked my cabinet staff to reconsider criterion for provision of scholarship to those students. As we can see now that The University of Cambodia has taken a leading role in fulfilling this mission. They have selected the best students, who have passed with high scores in the latest exam finishing their senior high school level, for provision of scholarship.

This is indeed not to disqualify those from the poor families from going for tertiary education but the selection will have to be judged by their exam results. If they have a low score in their exam and

their families could not afford to send them to the University, we have to think an alternative option for them. Take for instance we could transfer them to other vocational training facilities while keeping their scholarships for those who have better ability. We should see the unproductive result of the above manner of providing scholarships. We offered a scholarship to a student, but because s/he could not make it at school, s/he is not qualified at work and never makes it in school. That is why I see that what is being done by UC is for the good cause and I congratulate their initiative in making a scholarship contest.

Because we call it the national scholarship for best students, I will personally see through myself as to how many of you will make it to the end and become educated and able-working persons. It is indeed also important and worth thinking not only that you are given scholarship by UC, but your parents and siblings have taken all the burdens so that you are able to pursue your studies. So before you think of conducting your actions, you have to think of those involved in providing you with this potential opportunity for education, the Chancellor Handa of UC, me and your parent, at the very least.

Compared to other countries in the region, I think you all have the best opportunity to pursue education despite the fact that Cambodia enjoys peace just from the late 1998 to the present. Before 1998 or after 1979, the country was in a mixed situation between peace and war, making education in some parts of the country impossible. We could also say that even from 1970-75, some places had education  
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Until now, the banking sector has been strengthening itself gradually, due to the successful restoration of public confidence through the ratifications and strict enforcements of laws in this sector. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the **Governor of the Central Bank**, all officials of the Central Bank and all commercial banks that have cooperated closely to produce the present fruitful outcomes which will evolve alongside the national and international economic development.

The Royal Government is conscious that the national economic development will not be sustainable and cannot reach its growth potential without effective contributions from the financial sector. In this context, the Royal Government, with the technical assistance from the ADB, has adopted "Vision and Financial Sector Development Blueprint for 2001-2010" in 2001. This blueprint acts as an official long-term plan for the financial sector development and is part of an overall government reform agenda toward establishing a more market-based, open, and private-sector led economy.

Due to the necessity of developing the financial sector and in response to the present requirements of the national economy, the Royal Government has updated its "**Vision and Financial Sector Development Plan for 2001-2010**" by changing it to "**Financial Sector Development Strategy for 2006-2015 (FSDS)**". The Royal Government is highly determined to implement this strategy to strengthen and modernize the financial system through developing legal frameworks, strengthening institutions, training financial professions, and developing

financial services to support economic growth.

The commencement of the Cambodia securities market project is in accordance with the schedule as stated in the "**Financial Sector Development Strategy for 2006-2015**" which set the year 2009 as the starting year of the securities market. These also reflect a well-sequenced development of the financial sector based on realistic economic conditions and consistent with the development of a legal framework and financial infrastructures in Cambodia.

In addition to the above financial reforms, the Royal Government has undertaken with strong determination the reforms in various sectors within the framework of the "Rectangular Strategy" for Growth, Employment, Equity, and Efficiency and the "National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP)". These efforts have taken deep root in the socio-economic foundation of Cambodia and provided impetus for rapid economic development.

Clearly, despite major challenges faced by the regional and global economy and the unfavorable natural disasters in the country, Cambodia has achieved remarkable macro-economic stability and economic progress, with robust economic growth reaching unprecedented rates on average of 11.4% per annum in the last three years. This was one of the highest growth rates in the emerging economies in Asia. As a result, the average per capita income almost doubled from US\$288 in 2000 to US\$513 in 2006.

Political stability, which is Cambodia's highest priority, plays a crucial role in the rapid increase of bank depos-

its - from 9.5% of GDP in 2000 to 18.5% of GDP in 2006 - attests to growing public confidence in the sector, the transparency and the level playing field.

In 2006, the banking system has contributed US\$ 500 million to finance economic development. This is the first time in our history that bank financing reaches the same level of the financing provided by our development partners. Though, with this size of financing provided by banks and development partners, it is still not sufficient to fulfill enormous capital demand of the Cambodian capital-hungry economy for investment in all sectors. Therefore, the Royal Government sees a new option of financing the national economy, namely securities or stock market, which is a mechanism employed to directly mobilize capital between savers and those in need of capital.

Indeed, securities market is the lifeblood of capitalist economy which will actively contribute to mobilizing financial resources to finance the national economy, and to ensure sustainable economic growth.

In order to establish the securities market, law on "**Issuance and Trading of Non-Government Securities**" has been drafted and will serve as the fundamental law to establish the Cambodia Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which will act as the regulator of the securities market. Then, this commission will arrange necessary rules or regulations for the establishment of the securities market, in which investors will trade securities, which is known as the **stock market**.

In addition, there are other specific laws that form a necessary legal framework for the operation of the securities market such as: *Law on Commercial Enterprises; Law on Corporate Accounts, their Audit and Accounting Profession; Law on Negotiable Instruments and Payment Transactions Law; Secured Transactions Law; Law on Commercial Arbitration; Law on Civil Procedures; Law on Criminal Procedures; Civil Code; Criminal Code; Law on Financial Leasing and Law on Insolvency.*

As another important contribution to this effort, the Royal Government established the National Accounting Council in 2003, based on "Corporate Accounts, Their Audit and Accounting Profession Law", to prepare a national accounting standard which is consistent with the International Accounting Standard. This adoption has been completed and applied to all companies since 2005. Moreover, the Kampuchea Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Auditing (KICPAA) was established in 2003 to provide training courses to Cambodian certified public accountants (CPAs) and auditors who will play an important role in ensuring corporate accountability and transparency which are the fundamental requirements of the securities market.

In its securities market development goals, the Royal Government of Cambodia has selected a strategic partner, the Korea Exchange, one of the leading stock exchanges in the world, to help us establish the securities market in Cambodia. This partnership was born during the state visit of **H.E. Roh Moo-hyun**, Presi-

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access and facility while others did not.

Thanks to the win-win policy, we have in the end united the whole country and improved infrastructure in rural areas. We now have more schools built in the local areas opening education access to students who in the past had to travel a long way to get to school. We have upgraded the level of education from primary school to junior high school at the local level thanks to the fact that we have more school facilities there. All is done for the sake of fulfilling the constitutional aim of giving every Cambodian a nine year education system for free.

In order to get there, it is a pre-requisite that we have to screen for best students to continue their education to tertiary level. Some politicians lied about educations in foreign countries. Take for instance you can ask the Chancellor Handa of UC, who is Japanese, whether all post-high school graduates go to the University in Japan. The same is true here in Cambodia. The State Universities could not absorb all of graduates and this situation has made way for private education facilities to be established. Some of the State Universities provide scholarship as well as fee paying system for students. We have to wait and see how many of the 500 will make it to the end and become able-persons.

Talking about Cambodian expatriates, a man from the United States of America wrote to me in 1998 that Japan would continue to offer assistance if he was appointed to the post of Governor of the National Bank. He does not know that I know Japan well enough and its conditions for

credit provision. It was because of old debt that we have to pay back plus interest. This is the condition for further loans. Another also from the US wrote to me that he would like to help build the country, that in his position to be head of custom office. What do they think we are? We have our staff on-the-job training for the past 20 years we should at least be knowing what we are doing too.

Prior to the establishment of the second-term Royal Government in 1998, another wrote me that he wished to be Minister for Finance or a Governor of a province. They came with heaps of diplomas but just to be proven a fake. What I have said is tips for you who have got the scholarships opportunity. Human resources are not to have many people queuing in long line but to have a person as one element that can produce many functions.

I am one of them in the past 37 years of my life as a politician. That is why I said that my whole life's experience is being secretary or record keeper for senior level officials. I am still a secretary when I become the Prime Minister.

As of now things improve for me. I only give directives and provide hands-on and things will get done. That is why I tell you the best thing is not in the sense that we have many people but a small number of people that can carry out many functions. I have now the Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC) as a think-tank and those of you who have done the best could be admitted into this body. What I have said today is what they have compiled.

I wish also to make my remarks to parents that giving out tangible property to their children is just one means but what is more important than all this is knowledge and know-how. Knowledge and know-how would later produce more property than what is given out by parents. We Khmers say knowledge and know-how could never be damaged by termite or rats. Tangible property could be subjected to harm by fire, theft, etc. but knowledge and know-how would not be classified as risky as that at all.

Talking about this I saw a spot on TV produced by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and I urge HE Im Setthi, the Secretary of State, to look into this matter immediately. It is a spot that urges our parents and students to enroll their kids in the coming school year. It was in the sequence that the wife said to her husband, "if I knew that you are illiterate, I would not have married you." I think this cause a contradictory message to various people and as we know some well-to-do businessmen are also illiterates in our country.

What we want to get to is parents know that it is important to enroll their kids in the new school year and not to dishonor or damage marital relationship ■

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I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea, ... through KOICA and the Korean Exchange, for supporting the securities market establishment project, for providing training courses on securities market for 3 years from 2007 to 2009 that is financed by its USD \$1.8 million grant...■

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on Human Right Affairs will be created in the future as a result of this good cooperation.

Before this seminar starts and the discussion of four groups on the following topics: political right; cultural right – role and relation between states, civil societies and international organizations; and the impact of information technology and telecommunication and freedom of expression, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that human rights and freedom of expression are entitled to humankind regardless of wealth, political regime, race and religion.

In this spirit, *human rights* and *dignity* which we possess must be respected, protected and developed in conformity to the needs of human being. *In addition, I would like stress that freedom of expression cannot be put into practice during the wartime, the imposition of martial law, or in a situation where a country is controlled by a genocidal regime as in Cambodia from 1970 to 1975 and from 1975 to 1979, because none can use their rights of expression to protect themselves from bombs and bullets, and under Pol Pot's regime we do not have any rights, including the right to live. Therefore, peace and political stability are the fundamentals for the development of democratic institutions and rights, including the freedom of expression.*

Once again, I would like to wish all of you pleasant stay in the land of Angkor, good health and great success in this seminar. May I now declare the opening of the 8<sup>th</sup> Informal Asia Europe Meeting on Human Rights ■



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dent of the Republic of Korea, to Cambodia on 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2006.

Although the work required to be done represents great challenges, I believe that with their determined commitments, efforts and, especially with high responsibility of H.E. Senior Minister Keat Chhon, Minister of Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Korean counterpart, Cambodia will be able to successfully materialize the vision of establishing the Cambodian Securities Market in 2009, as scheduled in the FSDS.

We still have more work that need to be done to establish the securities market. Let me share some of my recommendations surrounding the establishment of the securities market in Cambodia:

1. *There must be active contributions from the banking sector. These banks must act as financial intermediaries, securities investment advisors, or securities brokerage companies which are new businesses in Cambodia and the banks themselves must be prepared to compete in the new businesses for their own as well as the national benefits.*
2. *The implementation of accounting and auditing systems must be done effectively, which in turn will bring about accountability, transparency, good governance, and fair competition in the market. Subsequently, these factors will increase public confidence amongst securities investors in the future.*
3. *Also, all companies including the state-owned enterprises must modernize their*

*management to ensure transparency, accountability, and good governance which are the major factors leading to additional resource mobilization through issuing shares in the future securities market like other developing countries.*

4. *Financial statements of listed companies must be fully and fairly made public so that investors can make a well-informed decision. This will protect them from abuses and fraudulent acts such as preventing price manipulation, banning insiders from trading securities based on the internal information that has not yet become public, i.e. inside-trading.*

A sufficient and competitive financial system but sound and cautious one will play an important role in the national economic development by ensuring effective financial resource mobilization and distribution. Building a financial system is a highly demanding task which requires responsibility, patient and long-term work with clear policies agenda. We have made a firm step toward achieving this task, as in a proverb that goes **“a journey of a thousand miles starts with one step.”**

... I urge all relevant institutions, particularly the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the National Bank of Cambodia, the Ministry of Commerce, the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Justice, and other relevant institutions as well as the private sector to cooperate closely with one another to make the securities market establishment project successful.

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a sustainable development and prosperity in Cambodia while taking active part with international community for peace, prosperity and happiness of the whole world.

To this end I would like to take this opportune moment to place an appeal to my compatriots together with international, social and civil organizations in Cambodia as well as in the world to work together for an excellent and wide ranging celebration of International Peace Day in the cause of peace in Cambodia as well as in the whole world ■

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network are the indicators of strong and high level of freedom to expression enjoyed by all Cambodians. In short, Cambodia has a wide range of means for expression, ranging from publication, voice and vision broadcast, demonstration, strike and election. Indeed, these numerous ways always allow the opposition to express their views, even though in some cases, demonstrations are not favorable, but they still have other means to advocate their views.

Looking at the achievements of the Royal Government, at different layers from central government to local one and across the institutions, beside those reforms in administrative and judicial systems as well as good governance reforms that are aiming to bring government closer to the people, we have made utmost efforts to constantly promote and protect universal human rights and dignity. All core work of every institutions and ministries has been indirectly involved in promoting “human rights”. Indeed, the human rights committees of the Senate, the National Assembly and the Royal Government of Cambodia all have exerted their efforts in protecting and developing human rights in Cambodia. Particularly, the Cambodian Human Right Committee, which is a governmental institution, has also made a number of fundamental accomplishments.

During this year, the Cambodian Human Right Committee has resolved 239 out of 300 cases received from 12,102 people. Moreover, overdue temporary detentions have been totally eliminated after the Cambodian Human Right Committee close cooperation with municipal and provincial courts to address this issue. In 2002, 204 criminals were detained beyond legal period, and this figure went down to 102 in 2004 and 45 in 2006 respectively. In 2007, should any criminal be detained beyond legal period, the Cambodian Human Right Committee will work with the courts to examine and resolve the case.

Additionally, there were 22 of violence cases by criminal groups in 2005, and 6 cases only in 2006. The Cambodian Human Right Committee has made a joint effort with the national police and military police forces to raise awareness, to provide protection to victims of criminal groups, and to bring instigators who are responsible to the court, this has resulted in the reduction of those incidences.

At the same time, the Cambodian Human Right Committee is cooperating with NGOs to establish a national-level institution to oversee human right issues in Cambodia. I strongly believe that a Cambodian National Committee

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