

22 October 2007 (Unofficial Translation)

Inaugurating Tree Nursery Station at Takeo's Phnom Tamao



22 September 07—Samdech Hun Sen and Madame being warmly welcome by senior citizens and elderly Buddhist practitioners upon arrival at the Phnom Tamao Tree Nursery Station in the Province of Takeo.

... My wife and I are very happy to join with all of you today in putting into use a new achievement that is born out of cooperation between the Forest Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and the Cambodia BAT (British-American Tobacco) company after my recommendation and suggestion given in Svay Rieng in 2005.

It is the fourth tree nursery station after the three previous ones that I presided over their inaugurations too. Station I in the Province of Kompong Cham's district of Kompong Siem was inaugurated in 2000, station II is in the Province of Pursat's district of Sampeo Meas was inaugurated in 2004, and station III is in the Province of Svay Rieng's district of Svay Rieng inaugurated in 2005. It is worth mentioning that Station IV here could provide a sum of one million trees per annum for tree planting programs - both public and household. I would like to take this oppor-

tune moment to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to BAT for this respect deserving and praise worthy efforts. BAT is one of the first companies that were privatized in our process of privatization of factories managed by the State with HE Kong Triv as its local partner.

It is worth noting that together with the company's progress and its ability to provide jobs to the Cambodian people and a regular tax payment of about five million dollars per annum to the state, the company also contributes greatly in various achievements, in which tree nursery is one area of great interest.

What we have achieved here in the mount of Tamao is slightly different from previous ones since the area of this station stretches to cover a surface of 42 hectares with possibilities provided for those who are interested in conducting research and studies on trees and

(Continued on page 2)

Response to the Press on the Situation in Myanmar

October 3, 2007, Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments at the University of Health Sciences

I would like to make it clear that last Friday I had a telephone conversation with HE Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore after the declaration made by Foreign Ministers of ASEAN in New York. HE Prime Minister Lee said to me about his obligation to write a letter to the Senior General Than Swe for the need to stop using force and to release political prisoners, Aung San Suki to be included.

I have reminded that I first proposed in 2004 in Kuala Lumpur on the issue of Myanmar that we should continue to use the role of Malaysia who at that time was the chairman of ASEAN. I think the current Chairman of ASEAN, Singapore, should continue to uphold that role and what I said in addition is that ASEAN should consider the role of its Troika since the matter has grown to a big-

(Continued on page 3)

30 October 2007

Graduation Ceremony and Diploma Presentation in CUS

... It is indeed a pleasure for me to come once again to the National Institute for Education (NIE) to preside over the graduation and diploma conferment for the Cambodian University for Specialties' (CUS) graduates. I am so impressed to learn from the report of Mr. Sdoeung Sokhom about CUS's development with a difficult startup. It has developed from a resource lacking university to a better managed one with many study rooms and branches in the provinces of Kompong Cham, Siemreap, Battambang, Banteay Mean Chey and Kompot.

To start something up is difficult but to sustain it is even more difficult. Take a pagoda for instance when the head monk does not do a good job in leading and managing, it is noticed that the area around the pagoda is also in disarray. But

here you have done a great job because according to your report the students enrolled in this university have gone up markedly. The university has the total number of student of over ten thousand. My wife and I wish to express our greatest thanks and appreciation to Mr. Sdoeung Sokhom and CUS for providing some 135 scholarships to us so that we could give them out to needy students.

My wife and I are glad to see that you all have made great efforts in completing your studies, which is a pride for you, your family and also an

(Continued on page 6)

In This Issue

- Tamao Tree Nursery — p. 1
- Myanmar — p. 1
- CUS — p. 1
- Health Sciences — p. 3
- CHDR — p. 7
- Vanda Institute — p. 8

(Continued from page 1)
their nursery. Under the Sangkum Reastriyum (Popular Socialist Community), this area was marked as a reserve forest area with its ID 239 referring to dense forest sheltering tigers and elephants, etc. Because of the wars the area has been ravaged to a deserted land.

In 1992, under the State of Cambodia (SoC), we decided to set it as a recovering forest area that was placed under direct supervision of the Department of Forestry led by HE Chan Sarun the current Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. In July 1993, Samdech Preah Karuna Preah Norodom Sihanouk and Samdech Preah Akka Mohesei presided over the ceremony to replant the trees in the mount of Tamao.

It was so unfortunate that the country was taken away of its beloved leaders due to the attempt to establish the Khmer Republic along with flame of war. Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk was on exile and returned to the country to be imprisoned by Polpotists. On November 14, 1991, my wife and I accompanied Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk from Beijing to PhnomPenh. The year 1993 was indeed their first time to plant the trees after being overthrown from the country in 1970.

SoC dissolved itself in its respect for Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, who led the Supreme National Council, to set up a coalition Government headed by two prime ministers. This development was in fact not fully in accordance with the Paris Peace Agreement but if it were not for Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk's wisdom and contribution from all political parties and dignitaries, we would have greater difficulty to achieve what we did so far.

First we have convened the meeting to re-instate Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk to the post of Head of State and therefore, Samdech came to Phnom Tamao to plant the trees in his capacity as the Head of State once again.

Noting the destruction of forest cover in the zone 239 in 1980s, 1990s we have placed this area under protection and conservation, while developing it as one of the tourist destinations. We have now in this area a zoo in which about 1,441 animals of 96 different species have been placed under preservation and thousands of them have been released into the natural wild. We now have a tree nursery which would then make this area a green zone while trees from this area could be provided to other places.

There was a conflict of opinion on whether to place this area - because of the tourist potential I mentioned - under direct supervision of which Ministries - Tourist or MAFF. It has been requested to me to place this place under the supervision of the Ministry of Tourism. I have refused all along. It should be put in the supervision of the MAFF as far as the area is concerned. All you should be curious is the way to collaborate that a new road is built and the area is kept clean and attracting tourists...

HE Ti Sakun of the Forest Administration has mentioned about a thesis of a student named Taing Huy who studied about advantages which local community could benefit from animal sanctuary and wildlife protection and conservation. 2,095 households in four communes in the neighborhood have been reported to gain such benefit. What I wish to warn them here is that they should operate their business at a reasonable manner. They

must not engage in cheating like multiplying prices for items they sell to customers who visit the site... What is best in tourist business is to make them return more than one time.

I would say that we may have to think of the fifth station because there is a need for more trees. According to the report we have up to hundreds of tree nursery stations, from where in between 1985 to 2007, 42 million trees have been given out and 34,083 hectares of land have been placed under new tree cultivation. The report from the province of Takeo informed us that the province achieved 102% of planned rice cultivation and I would recall that Takeo is one of the leading provinces in rice cultivation. As far as rice cultivation is concerned, Takeo as well as other provinces, has had its rice damaged by insects, rain flooding and drought as lack of sources of water to irrigate.

As of today the cultivation process of rice in the whole country has come to an end with an estimate achievement of 100.28% of planned cultivation on 2,238,938 hectares. The figure indeed suggests that the cultivation area exceeds that of last year. According to the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, we would have no more rain by mid of November but except in the next few days there might come some rain due to low pressures condition.

I would urge our people in face of this weather condition to take extremely good care to their cultivation by all means as the Mekong river flood forecast has concluded that it is 70 centimeters less than expected. I would also urge our people to pay attention to better prepare for flood-recession and dry season rice cultivations. Last

Friday the Cabinet adopted the 2008 budget in which the amount earmarked to be spent on water resources management would increase twice the current size in 2007.

Along with this as you all have known that I have been bestowed the title of Samdech Akka Moha Seina Techo Hun Sen, with Samdech Chea Sim and Samdech Heng Samrin of other titles, by His Majesty the King Preah Norodom Sihanouk. I would like to express my deep gratitude to HM the King for the conferment of so distinguished title. I would not deem it as a title given to me alone but in relation to responsibilities that Samdech Chea Sim, Heng Samrin and me have fulfilled.

I would not be bestowed with the title if I fail to fulfill my tasks and obligations. I have been able to do so also because I have the support of the armed forces, the monks and our beloved compatriots. I know full well that this distinguished title enhances sense of responsibilities in the present moment and in the future, and we would not disappoint HM the King for his trust.

We also apply what had been done under the Sangkum Reastriyum in terms of re-forestation, tasking the military engineering in road renovation and building. There is no other option but to continue with people's democracy under the leadership of CPP - a concept that is similar to Sangkum Reastriyum. Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk led a crusade for independence from French colonialism and rebuilt the country under the time when there were serious threats of wars from countries around us.

I am so proud and thankful that
(Continued on page 7)

... My wife and I are very pleased to be able to join with all of you to celebrate two important events in the University of Health Sciences, first of which is the inauguration of the new building in front of us, and second, the graduation of medical doctors, dentists, specialized doctors and pharmacists, who have made their efforts to complete their studies and defend successfully their theses. I am grateful to the invitation and happy to see the building in real after presiding over the groundbreaking ceremony on August 16, 2005.

Please allow me to express my sincere thanks for the Ministry of Health as well as its leaders and staff for the efforts they have been making for numerous achievements throughout the country. I would also express similar gratitude to the leadership and staff of the University of Health Sciences for continuous progress as mentioned in the report by Professor Dr. Kong Sophal.

The building is finished on October 03, 2007 or two years after it was started. Look at the total cost of the construction, according to the report of Prof. Dr. Kong Sophal, the sum of US\$ 830,000 in which US\$ 649,465 is the fee paid by students and the rest is financed by the state...

I could recall that in the afternoon of January 10, 1980, I attended the ceremony to reopen the School of Medicine, in my capacity as the Foreign Minister - one year and three days after the country was liberated from the Pol Pot regime. Students who had not yet finished their studies, came to this School to continue their studies with a number of our doctors and pharmacists - includes HE My Samedy, Yit Kimseng, Nut Savoeun, ... It was the time that the country was punished un-

justly by foreign countries for the reason that we had removed Pol Pot from power.

As of today they sent Pol Pot men to the court for trial. What I wanted to relate here though is the fact that the University of Health Sciences, the School of Medicine in the past, was also being punished. We made efforts from scratch to prevent the return of the genocide on the one hand and to rebuild the country on the other. We placed human resources the highest priority. Most of the students who came to finish their studies after the fall of the Pol Pot regime have now become doctors, professors, etc. As of the moment we speak, we have trained a total number of 3,506 doctors in different expertise.

The Japanese assisted us in the construction of a technical school for medical care. We have put an end to dilapidated condition in that school. We could at this point say that we have a great number of medical staff. What remains to be done is to re-distribute those staffs in accordance with the number of population. I would have your attention again on this matter that about 70% of our doctors so far have been serving only 30% of the total population, because those doctors want to work only in urban areas, whereas about 30% of doctors have been servicing for 70% of the population in the rural area.

... Upon our arrival, my wife asked one of the graduates about expertise and the response was a midwife. I am so grateful because we are short of midwife. Working on my recommendations, the Ministry of Health has made amendments to its definition and role of midwives ranging from rank to salary. We have a high birthrate and this means we need more midwives. What we want to

(Continued from page 1)

ger concern due to the presence of the Buddhist monks in the protest.

I have raised this formula, whereas the current head, former and future heads of ASEAN, should form a Troika to help solve problem of Myanmar within the framework of ASEAN partners. On October 1, I received a letter dated September 30 written by HE Prime Minister Lee to HE the Senior General Than Swe, which expresses our desire that Myanmar maintains maximum patience, ceases the use of force and tries to restore the process of national reconciliation aimed at resolving all problems so as to reach out for democratization, peace and human rights respects.

I learned that President George W Bush of the United States of America wishes to have US-ASEAN summit last September. But it did not take place. I apparently learn now that he wishes to have that summit in the State of Texas. I have advised HE Hor Nam Hong that if this idea is proposed Cambodia will give its nod. We have held similar summits - Sino-ASEAN summit in China and Japan-ASEAN Summit in Japan in the past - so the US-ASEAN Summit on the US soil is nothing unpredictable. I would say that the US-Cambodian relations has come to its best stage if we compare to previous stages where the relations had been disturbed by this or that matter.

The relations have offered stable access to the US market for the Cambodian goods and because of this we have been able to sustain our jobs availability for our workforce. The latest change in its position in providing again military assistance and its aids through the Royal Government channel have, to my mind, re-energized the improvement of Cambodian-US partnership in combating terrorism. We also see it as a remarkably good gesture that the US helped us participate in a recent UN supervised military exercise in Mongolia.

However, I think the two countries have got more potential for one another. We could try and urge the US for more investments and, assistance in other sectors in a complementary pattern within the framework of our two countries' relations...■

(Continued from page 3)

What has been the problem is the fact that happened at the Maharussivedic University in Kamchay Mea of Prey Veng province. They opened a faculty of medicine but in the end their teaching was meditation. Finally the problem was brought to me but what I did was to let them finish their studies in the Military School of Medicine. Though we have different standards in various training institutions we should not opt for different curriculum. The National Committee for Accreditation should pay special attention on that. This is a vital subject matter. These people after their studies will work on saving human life. We may let go with mistake in accounting, etc. but not with human life. So we have to have a unified curriculum for all training institutions and thesis should be considered of equal value. In 1980s we did not have thesis because it was so urgent... We have 431 theses left here from the period of 1970-1975.

Some people cheated us that they were doctors because they thought those doctors of that period were all dead. They have been ashamed because when they came to Phnom Penh they faced with doctors My Samedy, Yit Kim Seng, Mam Bun Heng ... etc. who have their theses deposited in this university. They were liars because they do not have their theses in the file.

It is indeed obvious that health-care and service have involved in all sectors. For instance we have learned good lessons from the rescue operation during the plane crash incident in the province of Kompot last June... I promised our people and concerned parties that I would not leave the rescue operation command until all rescuers were back. A few weeks ago we conducted a drill for rescuing operation in case of a plane

crash. Hospitals and medical staff took active parts in the drill. We also did what was called ASEAN Flood Rescue Operation exercise and our medical services, doctors and staffs were also involved.

Our medical service is improving though we still have more works to be done, especially in relation to contagious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, bird flu, from which priority has now shifted to public health response. In this regard, I have a remark which I do not know if it is appropriate to raise here. It is about condom. It is true that we have to continue to raise awareness on condom as a preventive measure for sexual diseases and communicable disease such as HIV/AIDS.

Thanks to the campaign, we have noticed a decrease of the infectious rate. But spots administered by some organizations, with authorizations from the Ministry of Health and PSI have gone from raising awareness to advertising to sell condoms.

They said in one instance "Number 1 and Number 1 Plus are Your Happiness." They were presented with actions in which the Khmer women are depicted as inappropriately desiring for sex. I would argue that the spot is urging those who never practice extramarital sex to get a desire to try it...

I also have a comment on a spot to raise mother awareness of the importance of breastfeeding. I am sure and agree that this has to be done. But we have to also orientate our action as to where we have to do this. In the world, countries that are serious on this matter are United States, Europe, Japan, Australia, etc. or other rich countries.

As for Cambodia a good thing to do is to raise awareness among mothers in urban areas

(Continued from page 6)

party - and in this case CPP or Funcinpec. Before we had only about four million people and now we have reached over 14 million and there is a hard truth that we will need more schools. I have been buying land for schools but some resort to buying school premises which is unacceptable. We should leave them for our children to practice sports, to the very least.

As we celebrated the third anniversary of the Coronation Ceremony of Preah Karuna Samdech Preah Norodom Sihamony, King of Cambodia, it is a joy of all our people to notice the two-digit economic growths - 10% in 2004; 13.5% in 2005, 10.8% in 2006 and projected 2007 growth of 9.5%. We hope that this projection would be resettled to two-digit level... There are questions as to why Cambodia chooses once again the regime of Constitutional Monarchy and not the Republic. We have noticed problems - old and new - the fifth Republic in France, the recent development in countries like Ukraine, Poland where their Constitutions brought about crises in forming coalition. In Cambodia HM the King is above all political par-

because there is a tendency not to breastfeed babies.

I would not argue to the contrary but why campaigning in rural area. I would urge for a correction because this will in fact be registered as aid to Cambodia.

Why educating mothers in rural areas about breastfeeding while they do not have money for powder milk? We should try and focus this campaign in urban areas. We should not waste money on campaigning in places where powder milk feeding is not present.

I would urge all graduates and

ties as the country's Head of State who does not involve in politics. Our Constitution's article 9 clearly states - HM the King guarantees sustainability of public power, acts as arbitrary for the smooth process of public power. It is because of this that though the country got stuck in 2003-04 we were able to continue to work.

Monarchy in Cambodia is the most democratic one since the successor to the throne will be the one elected by the Throne Council. It is a preparation that will guarantee lasting stability for the country in a span of 25 to 30 years to come... Please understand that if there is a throne crisis, a big problem. Will happen You may analyze that we have three things to deal with here - the monarchy, the throne stability and the King. But what is the most important thing for the country is development, alleviating poverty, defending the country's independence and sovereignty, social justice, which all are our main objectives...■

those who are in the course of completing their studies to continue to work for you. We need human resources in our integration efforts in regional as well as international frameworks.

Our army has now been integrated in the UN operation in Sudan and I would expect that our medical doctors and staff would be doing similar task in different missions in the near future. For instance we have doctors from foreign countries open their clinics in Cambodia, I would expect that one day we would do the same...■

(Continued from page 8)
offer of scholarship.

In the past we have directed our scholarship offer to students from resource-lacking families but we fail to place in a high criterion if they could complete the study with success or not. So I think those among the students from resource-lacking families will have to take a contest exam in order to be awarded a scholarship.

Mr. Heng Vanda has just mentioned in his report that up to now we have reached 29 - the year of liberation from the Pol Pot's regime and we have also overcome uncountable hardships during this period of time. If we were to include the coup (against Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk) on March 18, 1970 up to the present we have passed a period of 37 years. I am of the opinion that if the coup did not happen, we would not have a ravaging war in this country. If we were to let Cambodia be led by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, and if we did not have war, Cambodia would not be in such a dilapidated condition as we have seen.

One may recall that Cambodia at that time was an island of peace surrounded by wars in Laos and Vietnam. Cambodia lived in peace from 1954 to 1970 - a span of 16 years. there were no bloodshed and also no Pol Pot. Wars reduced our people to the state of victim. HM the King Samdech Preah Karuna Norodom Sihanouk considers the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) as a younger brother of the Samngkum Reast Niyum (popular socialist community). It is indeed a fact because CPP leads the country's restoration and reconstruction on the foundation of what has been left and also builds new one.

Restoring the country is never easy. We did the job when Phnom Penh lived no human. When we first open the School for Teachers Training, our teachers had to train other teachers in the morning and to teach students in the evening. We also did the night-time teaching. We have done the best we can till we are able to stand up again from ashes, which was more serious than those left from the World War II in Europe. The Korean War brought great damages too but they still have human resources while in Cambodia both institutions and human resources were destroyed.

We returned to the country (after the fall of Pol Pot) with bare hands. We did not have currency and had to work and eat together in a common house. We later printed money in 1980. But things have changed completely. We admit that the salary of the armed forces and teachers are not yet high. But in 2005, we have managed for an increase of 15% and another 15% in 2006. We also did that in early 2007 and in the later part of the same year another 10%. This makes it 25% in 2007. In 2008, we have planned for an increase of another 20% and from 2009 onward if CPP is to get re-elected and I continue to be the Prime Minister, I would work for a salary increase of no less than 20% per annum.

A few days ago some politicians said if he were to get elected he would reduce the price of fuel to 3000 Riels per liter. He accused this and that of being communist but he have proven himself to be the one as he set up the price. You all are economists, taxation experts, accountants and auditors you may have a better judgment from what he'd said - what kind of politician and ideology does he belong to? In

market economy, there are no impositions in terms of prices by the state. They may resort to other means to prevent the high prices in international market or to provide subsidies as we have been doing so far. Take for instance we have placed import tax of oil at 20% when the price of oil was 25 US dollars per barrel and we continue to set it at 20% ... when the price of oil has now gone up.

The price of oil in Cambodia is now high but is still lower than the price of oil in France and the United States. In France, when I passed the country last year, the price was one euro and this is indeed higher than one US dollar. Some even said that if s/he gets elected s/he would increase the salary for teachers to so and so amount. As you all know to reflect the country's progress is not the reflection by high salary of a few officials but the rate of poverty to be reduced in the whole country. GDP per capita also is not the only indicator that reflects true nature of a country's socio-economic condition as well.

The Royal Government is making every effort for economic growth in a way that we can bring the poverty rate to lower than 1% per annum. I wonder if you could believe someone who promises that s/he would alleviate poverty rate 100% if elected. I am just a man who humbly contributed in liberating our people from the genocide, preventing the return of the genocide, and dismantling the Pol Pot's military and political organization through the implementation of the win-win policy, while taking part in the Cambodia's socio-economic development. I would more than anyone else desire that our people will be getting rich with their per capita GDP equal to those of Japanese and Americans. However,

we do not yet have that possibility.

We came to the level of 513 US dollars per capita income in 2006. For 2007, there is yet a new evaluation from the National Institute of Statistics. If we compare per capita income to that of 1994, the current level is doubling the figure at that year. We have achieved economic growth 10% in 2004, 13.5% in 2005, 10.6% in 2006 and in 2007, we hope to achieve a good growth because it is the best year of cultivation.

The agricultural cultivation has been favorably implemented because of favorable condition - about 99.57% of plan according to last week figure. Some provinces - despite of its expansion of cultivation area - have finished cultivations though natural predators such as insect inflicted serious damages in some places. In general, cultivation has been achieved within a speedy timeframe. That is why we have a strong belief that we would achieve a two-digit growth this year so as to realize our desire to get a two-digit growth for five consecutive years.

We are on a correct path and on this path we would continue to get high scores. For a country or a political party, it is primarily important to have a correct policy because a wrong one would lead to wars and destructions all that matter. The coup in 1970 was a wrong political move which brought about untold hardships that we all have to share on our shoulders. Secondly, it is important to have human resources and I mean a systematic availability of human resources, better management and the use of financial resources serving purpose of the country's development.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 1)
 opportunity for you to continue your study so as to become the country's and family human resources. Some may go on to further their studies while some would go into business or take jobs. There no one country in this world that all of graduates are guaranteed to get a job except in the former State of Cambodia regime that we did so.

Students in that period of time signed a work contract with the State that when they finished their studies they had to take up jobs to be provided by the State. It was so because we did not have enough human resources. I would mention this just to remind what happened in those days and as of now I would remind you that this is no longer the case and it will be up to you and your skill in trying, after finishing your study, to get whatever jobs that suit you.

I have two satisfactions over changes in the past 28 years after the fall of the Pol Pot regime. First, in the 1980s we tried hard to mobilize the Cambodians to possess a skill in doing business and provide service. In the Cambodian past history, sellers or businessmen have mostly been the Chinese. But in 1980s we have noticed that the Cambodians have taken up this skill. Now we have more Cambodians in business sector. You may be reminded that trade/business and service contribute the most parts in a country's development.

In our country, agriculture contributes some 32.2% to its gross domestic products, while it was 45.5% in 1994. Industry and service respectively contribute bigger shares of 25.7% and 36% compared to 12.7% and 11.3% in 1994. Though I do not mean to shrink the produc-

tion in agricultural sector, still I would urge further growth in service and industrial sectors to 50% and 40% respectively. That is my intention.

In South Korea, I visited in 1996, then President Kim Yung Sam said to me that the Korean agriculture contributed 12% to its GDP and in his term he would try to bring it down to 9% or 10% and as of now we all know that the Korean agriculture has come down to slightly over 1% of GDP. Take Japan for instance, agriculture contributes only about 1% to its GDP but it can feed the whole people of Japan with best quality rice. In this connection that it would be my satisfaction to see that the Khmers have been doing a better job in business and service sector.

I note that in service sector there is a growing trend in beauty business. It is noticed that the "third gender" persons are employed in this business and service sector. Another example is cooking career. In 1979 children of Samdech Heng Samrin and other leaders, my nephews included were sent to study in cooking career. They were stung to hear that because Cambodians never like that business. Now we see that many have taken up cooking career and this is what I would say again that things have changed. Look we have two million tourists a year plus some millions other locals who go out for food.

We have now ensured political stability and this has encouraged foreign investment so that we could create more jobs. Take for instance mining, whether oil, gas, etc. would create a small number of jobs. It would help increase national revenue but not many jobs created. But it is a positive change to see that some of our

people learn not to seek job but to create a job of their owns.

I have been invited to give lecture by many educational institutions but never have a chance to fulfill it, though I once did in Singapore. Recently I have been invited to be Honorary Patron (by the Association of Certified Commercial Diplomat - ACCD) in London, England. The main job is to give lecture and I have accepted that offer.

In relation to the bestowal of title of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Badei Techo Hun Sen by HM the King Samdech Preah Norodom Sihamoni, a bizarre remark has surfaced with some naivety when I took the opportunity to express my commitment and gratefulness to HM's offer. I called on the Cambodian people to offer support in such a way that we all will be able to fulfill what HM the King has entrusted on me so that peace and stability prevail in Cambodia. Situation that evolves in any other way would be a disappointment to HM's entrusting. They blamed me for threatening and forcing people to vote for me.

I have devoted my life when I was 25 years old in the struggle to save the country in 1977 and I was the top commander on the eastern side of the Mekong River (Kompong Cham, Kratie, etc.) but I am old now and will be in no position to do that again if things turn out wrong from your irrational comments.

As far as voting is concerned it is entirely up to the people to decide who to vote for but what is the most important here is to guarantee that war will not break out, macro-economy will be maintained, no shocking inflation, etc. which are all deemed to be my responsibilities. One other person was so

irritated that s/he does not need to seek help from the Prime Minister. I would urge him to remember what he said. S/he would seek help from HM the King for royal clemency. What would HM the King do when there is no request from the Government? I do not understand if he is really what he claimed to be - an intellectual.

Also they make false comment on what I said at Phnom Tamao's tree nursery station inauguration about issue relating to request for exchanging school premises in Phnom Penh. And the most recent case is the school of Yuk Kunthor. I have the necessity to publicize letters that are sent to HE Kol Pheng and HE Nut Sokhom. HE Kol Pheng now is informed of the case of Punnhea Hok School. They have requested for a school premises of one hectare over 1.8 hectare land of the school. They would build in return a three to four storey school building. I have shredded many letters sent to me of similar purpose.

There was also a letter sent to me about the proposal to swap the navy headquarter and I wrote back to the Minister for National Defense and the Chief of General Staff not to accept any deal in exchange for that at all. In the same remark I wrote to HE Kol Pheng that from now on there must not be any proposal sent to me for swapping school premises. As in the case of Yuk Kunthor School - it was decided by HE Ung Huot, then First Prime Minister, to offer in a deal to a private company but I refused. Or else we would lose Yuk Kunthor in 1998 already.

I would say that as far as my instruction about what to do in the Government's decision. it has nothing to do with this or that person is from this or that

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 5)

We are now approaching the time of empty promises because within eight or nine months we will be having the elections. I said so because I heard that some politicians cheated the public that in 2008 they would be admitted into the Government. CPP reaffirms that if it is re-elected it will choose only Funcinpec as partner and we do not need other parties to join us... We have launched the formula that all public officials will be recruited through exam. No one is to be recruited because of political party affiliation anymore.

If they get elected, well they may work alone. Funcinpec now is one with reform and not the one with two tickets - 1) to vote for Samdech Ov (our King-Father) is voting for us and 2) to insist on a two-third majority so as to demand more power. Though the party got 20% of the vote, but with this political tool the power would be enlarged to 40%... What is the most important for us now is to maintain political and macro-economic stability, especially peace which is indeed the factor that allows for job creation, which all of you are the ones with potential help to offer... ■

Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and Samdech Preah Akka Mohesai always allowed their Sangkum Reast Niyum to be mentioned as predecessor of the Royal Government's efforts in rebuilding the country.

In my capacity as the Prime Minister I have so far reported to HM the King some angles of the rectangular strategy and there a few left to be done, etc. I would solemnly declare that I would not do things that would disappoint or devalue the trust so generously bestowed upon me... ■

04 October 2007

Keynote Address: International Poverty Alleviation & CHDR — Choices for Rural People

... It is my great pleasure and honor to attend the ceremony marking the International Poverty Alleviation Day and the Launch of Cambodia Human Development Report 2007 on "Expanding Choices for Rural People." ...

I would also like to express my profound gratitude to the Ministry of Planning and UNDP for their close collaboration to prepare and develop this important and insightful report. I highly value the fruitful results produced by this government-development partner institutional cooperation...

Indeed, the launch of this report matches the present situation when the Royal Government is greatly concerned with the issues related to the quality of life at rural areas and it is also the right time to focus on the ways to improve living conditions for rural poor...

I am convinced that this gathering provides a great opportunity for government officials, development partners, national and international policy makers, practitioners, and NGOs to exchange dialogue on critical socio-economic challenges to find options and alternatives in order to improve the living standards of all Cambodian people, in particular those in rural areas by broadening their opportunities and expanding their choices...

With the strengthening in peace, stability, national unification, democracy, respect for human rights and dignity Cambodia has achieved a proudly high level of economic development, regained national and international trust, and is well prepared to move towards a brighter future.

Clearly, all alternatives selected

and development stages achieved are the reflections of opportunities and positive contributions from our people in building the fundamentals for development in the next decade. Moreover, now it is the time for us to select and start implementing real difficult steps robustly and carefully with high level of confidence and determination.

At the same time, although our GDP growth averaged at 10.6% annually during 2003-2006, and peaked at 13.5% in 2005 and 10.8% in 2006, rural economy and living standards are still the worrying challenges for the Royal Government, due to the complex structural challenges and the weakness of economic infrastructure.

In this sense, we need to clearly identify the different characteristics between location, natural endowment, comparative advantage, specialization, and demography in rural areas. Indeed, there are common issues facing Cambodia's rural farmers, and there are different sets of challenges facing different regions in the country...

The Royal Government has put great efforts in the improvement of transport infrastructure; rehabilitation and construction of irrigation systems; land management reforms; loans, information and training for farmers; especially the continued improvement of structural challenges in order to increase market efficiency to improve the rural livelihoods.

To help set the tone for elaboration and discussion on the topic "Expanding Choices for Rural People", I would like to raise a number of critical socio-economic development issues

for your consideration and outline short and long term policy priorities aiming at improving the living standards and promoting human development:

1. *Channeling resources to rural areas*: the Royal Government clearly understands that in order to develop rural areas, we need to allocate adequate resources and make substantial investment in rural infrastructure such as roads, electricity and irrigation system infrastructure in order to stimulate rural economy...

Limited access and high cost electricity do not only affect the living quality of rural household, they are also constraints to production inputs and thus prohibit diversification and modernization of agriculture.

2. *Fair and effective land management*: land conflict is becoming pervasive owing to tremendous increase in land price during the recent years.

Furthermore, experiences show that land concentration has led to landlessness and adversely affected socio-economic development and poverty reduction. Moreover, the increasing level of land concentration results in land conflict where increasing possession of land would create income inequality and possession of natural resources.

Such situation would further widen income and opportunity gaps within the country.

The Royal Government is fully aware that land is the fundamental natural resource for socio-economic development and poverty reduction, especially in rural areas.

(Continued on page 8)

08 October 2007 (Unofficial Translation)

Graduation: Vanda Institute of Accounting, Auditing, Taxa-

... My wife and I are happy to be with the Vanda Accounting Institute on this joyous occasion of awarding diplomas for 978 graduates. I remember that in October 2005, also in this place, I presided over the graduation, where some of you can be reminded that the ceremony was in a small building. Now it is a reasonably big building that we can house a huge number of participants. I am grateful to the report by Mr. Heng Vanda in relation to the development process of the Vanda Institute Specialized in Auditing, Accounting and Taxation (VISAAT) which has been doing a good job for the last 6 years.

I may note that VISAAT may be the only training institute where there are more female than male students. This is quite obvious when 632 students or two thirds of the 978 students are female. Out of the 1,895 students still pursuing their studies, 1,472 students, which means also two thirds of them are female. It is a gender equality approach in recruitment and also belongs to subject study that it is more applicable to female than male staff.

The subject study covers issues of taxation, accounting and auditing, which is appropriate to female employees. I am grateful and taking the liberty to express my sincere joy with those of you - female students here. I also wish to express my pleasure to the fact that VISAAT has just been provided with the recognition of the National Accreditation Committee (NAC) responding to the effort made by VISAAT in improving the quality of education.

I would like to take this opportunity moment to express my congratulations to those of you

who have graduated with Bachelor or Master Degrees from VISAAT. It is lucky to be educated and knowledge that you have attained would never be subjected to theft or damages. One could not in every other way put knowledge into a person unless that person is making own enduring effort. You may learn about what I said in comparison of eggs to be hatched to those of you to be educated persons. I first mentioned this comparison at the presentation of the Hun Sen National Scholarship Awards for Outstanding Students at the University of Cambodia. Professors are compared to hens while you students are eggs to be hatched.

Hens do their job of hatching but in the end there may be some eggs that do not hatch. Professors do their best to teach you, to guide you and to tell you what they know but whether you could get them is another matter. Study in the post-graduate level requires research methodology and effort to make. I am so joyous to share with you, your parents and superintendents for your successes today. Gratitude to family is important and what we should do to pay respect to them is by showing that you have done your best in your study.

I wish on this occasion to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Heng Vanda for his provision of scholarships to students from resource-lacking families with 94 students - to study here. Sixty scholarships are also provided to HE Deputy Prime Minister Sok An. From my part, my Cabinet is streamlining our criterion of selection of scholarship so that we could select best students for such

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 7)

In the implementation of Land Law and its land policy, the Royal Government focuses on measures to improve the land management, land distribution system and land usage to ensure economic efficiency through registering, distributing, securing land ownership, curtailing illegal land ownerships, and curbing unproductive land consolidation.

Within the framework to effectively governance of land, the Royal Government in the process of reviewing the state-owned land which is either unoccupied or controlled by companies or individuals who did not properly complied with the legal standard to use those lands in an efficient and productive manner... If a company received a concession but does not use the land according to the contract agreement, the Royal Government will consider withdrawing the land and distribute it to landless people, especially through the practice of social land concession by linking to necessary procedures to ensure efficiency and justice in the distribution and use of that land.

3. Education and human resource development: adequately educated, skilled and motivated work force is required to sustain the increasingly sophisticated Cambodian economy... I would like to highlight two important issues as follows:

Firstly, in the process of human resource development poverty and general lack of resources is the primary barrier to improving educational outcomes in Cambodia, especially in rural areas...

Thus, the Royal Government will pursue a dual strategy of supporting existing initiatives

to keep poor students in school and funding institutional improvement by investing further in rural schools, teachers training colleges and vocational training school.

Secondly, improving access and quality of education at all levels will be critical to Cambodia's future development...

Obviously, to increase quality of education needs improvement in necessary conditions for teaching and learning methodologies, to raise quantity of education requires more schools and more teachers, because the number of children reaching schooling year keeps increasing from year to year, and in addition to that, society and market also demand work force of high quality.

4. Encouraging private sector participation in rural economy development: the private sector is the driver of economic growth.

Rural economy is largely based on the agricultural sector. Thus, developing the agricultural sector is fundamental for rural prosperity...

5. Fostering broad-based and sustainable rural growth: to broaden the source of growth, Cambodia must create a sustainable and dynamic framework for the rural economy to flourish...

We must address all the above mentioned issues including: making concrete investment in transport and electricity infrastructures in rural areas, rural financing, institutional reforms to ensure farmers' access to land and natural resources, private sector participations to drive the rural economy and generate employment, adequate resource allocation for education and skill development...■