



22 September 07—Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and Prime Minister Wen Jiabao in Singapore for the ASEAN Summit and Summits with Partner Countries—China, Republic of Korea and Japan .

**27 November 2007** (Unofficial Translation)  
**Graduation Ceremony of Teachers and Teaching Staffs**

... My wife and I are quite happy that we join you all today in the graduation ceremony of 579 teachers and/or teaching staffs who have finished their Bachelor + 1 Year formula training program. It is indeed a new chance that my wife and I could meet with you before leaving to become professors in designated provinces just days ahead. It is indeed a must that everyone graduated from the University of Phnom Penh has to try hard in order to be given a priority to choose one's place to carry out teaching career.

Though our teaching staff has had to choose his/her designation place through a ballot for teaching career, it is an advantage now that our country is fully in peace and our country is now better connected by infrastructure than before. If we were to put our situation in comparison with those of neighboring countries, we are now in better situation and no matter how the ballots decide you will have no worry about

insecurity or war.

I would like to take this chance to express my sincere thanks and appreciations to the Senior Minister for Education, Youth and Sports HE Kol Pheng for his report about an overall situation in education as well as that of Dr Im Koch, Director of the National Institute for Education (NIE) in relation to training programs in the School of Pedagogy or NIE.

This has indeed reminded me of the education situation in 1979 and 80. We at that time applied the theory of those who know a lot would teach those who know little and those who know little would teach those who don't. We started with this theory and at that time HE Chan ven, Pen Navuth, and Im Sethi were among those who had brought together the program. We at that time picked this place as a center where we mobilized here teachers left from the Pol Pot's genocide for re-training  
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**The Maritime Security Seminar**

November 28, 2007

... It is my great honor and pleasure to join you all at the *Maritime Security Seminar* which is organized by the cooperation between the Ministry of National Defense of Cambodia and Australia. This is a new evidence that clearly reflects new initiatives in partnership between Cambodia and Australia on maritime security and cooperation in many other areas as well.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my warmest welcome and deepest gratitude to *H.E. Margaret Adamson*, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, for her attention and effort in supporting this important "*Maritime Security Seminar*".

I would like to convey my pride and appreciation for this seminar which centers on general state of Cambodian maritime security in order to identify strength and weakness as well as obstacles  
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**14 November 2007**  
**Graduation Ceremony — The Asia-Europe University**

... I am glad to join in this ceremony of graduation at the Asia-Europe University. Please allow me in this joyous occasion to give my sincere appreciation to the leadership and staff of Asia-Europe University (AEU) for the efforts they have made in this area of human resource development. AEU has started as a non-governmental organization and developed into a university in January 2005. As a result today we have witnessed the graduation of 1,919 students. According to the report I learned that overall number of students has reached 11,683 whereas 7,305 are currently pursuing their studies.

As I used to say, to get something started is difficult but to sustain it is even more difficult. If there were no good leadership here, no matter how much assistance is provided from external sources, the university would not be able to

achieve what it has today. My assistance would be to meet some of the needs of poor students. I provide two tons of rice and two million Riels per month to them and this is very small. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the university and its leadership and wish them further positive management and thus strengthen its efforts to modernize and upgrade its education quality.

I wish to also take this chance to express my sincere thanks to the graduates for which they have made their best to study and also I would give this grateful respect and appreciation to the efforts and sacrifices made by all parents as  
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 program. I lived across the street. Sometimes I came to give a lecture in the morning and some other times in the afternoon or night. I am sure some of you might be recalled of the event.

According to Dr Im Koch, we have trained since 1979 in all over 30 thousands teachers and/or teaching staffs in all fields of studies. In 1993 alone we trained 8,373 teachers who later become professors and staff in other areas of education. Furthermore, we have regional pedagogical schools where the training program 12 + 2 (twelve years of education plus two years of pedagogical training) is applied. As far as this job is concerned we see that training of teachers has been done in great numbers.

I for once met a former representative of the United Nations who actually conducted a research program for the UNDP on public administrative reform in relation to staff reduction. He had proposed to me a slash of 20% to 30% of staff and I responded to him that I would not do this work in haste while I reject the idea of trimming down staff in the education and health sectors. Like HE Kol Pheng mentioned annually there would be at least two thousand staff either died or retired. It is in this regard that we have allowed in principle that the Ministry could recruit up to 4,400 teachers. This would also be implemented accordingly in the health sector but in accordance with the availability of the national budget.

This has to be implemented with a great attention since it is relating to the national budget expense because we will have to cover new recruits training, salary and its annual increment of 20% from 2008. Some ministries will have a sudden retirement of many staff because

they all started work at the same time in 1979. Therefore they face similar retirement date. This prompted us to recruit new staff. It is also true for teachers and teaching staff.

We are also facing the challenge by increase of students which culminates in need for provision of more classrooms in primary, junior and senior high schools, and tertiary education. They all are inter-related matters. I would take this chance to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to staff and management of the NIE for their efforts to transfer their knowledge and know-how to our younger generation teachers and/or professors. There are some buildings that need to be built but it is not yet possible taking the size of budget into consideration but sharing resources would be a means to get them built.

We have a clear policy guideline in relation to education thanks to what we have achieved in the education conference. And I am glad that we have made a correct decision on which we allow for private investment in education sector and as we all can see that thousands of students have graduated from those institutions whereas thousand others are in pursuit of their studies. We have provided equal chance of education to our citizens from the spectrum of creating a fee-paying means for those who could not get through to public tertiary education after their graduation from senior high school due to the fact that the state has a small amount of scholarship for them.

Some political parties have tried to convince voters that if they were to get elected they would use the national budget to settle this matter. We already did and it is not enough. We have to apply the art of sharing resources to get the matter done. This art is inher-

ited from generations of our ancestors and it is not created by Hun Sen. This had been actively engaged in the times of Samngkum Reasniyum or Popular Socialist Community under the leadership of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. In those days we see that schools were built with help from the community, well-to-do families, etc. and not all in those days were done by the national budget alone.

The world is demanding that developed countries provide assistance to developing countries at 0.7% of their GDP. Take for instance Japan did a great deal to provide assistance to Cambodia and to other countries in the world and what you call this if it is not the act of sharing one's resources. This is being applied not only at the national level but also at the regional and international levels. It is indeed a fortunate act that Cambodia together with Vietnam and Laos creates with the assistance from Japan what is called the Triangular Development Zone - for which Japan and the three countries already holds five forums already - 2003 through to 2007.

In the latest forum HE Prime Minister Fukuda of Japan declared that he will increase Japanese ODA for three consecutive years to the three countries. Japan slashed down its ODA to many countries but it never does to Cambodia. His declaration to increase assistance for the forthcoming three years means that Cambodia will have its bridge across the Mekong River at Neak Loeng built.

In fact I have requested this bridge to Prime Ministers Hashimoto, Obuchi, Mori, Koizumi and Abe of Japan. Take for example in the Water Festival we saw that it is a tradition that HM the King and Samdech Preah Norodom

Sihanouk the King-Father and Queen-Mother shared their resources with boat rowers that took part in the festivity.

I would also take this chance to say once again about a rumor that my eldest son Hun Manet will stand for parliament in Siemreap province. What I am trying to get at is to deny the news but it is unpredictable that some people said that Hun Sen should not forbid his children from politics as this right is stipulated in the Constitution.

I would respond in this instance that you may wait and see, the new team will be coming only it is not this time. Children of the CPP will come as a team and you would be happy to meet their challenges. This should be said not only for Hun Sen or a specific leader's son but children of the CPP leaders.

I just appoint a Secretary of State for Justice who is 29 years old because he is capable. What could be a barrier to the appointment if I was 27 years old myself when I became Minister for Foreign Affairs? Age should not be a barrier if the person has proven to be the best.

I used to mention about my age and they once criticize that Hun Sen should not use age as a condition for political involvement. I reacted to their remark that if I win another term I will only be 60 and if the people continue to vote for me I will serve them through. They have initiated a law for premiership term and it is aimed at forcing me out of power. They should just say that if Hun Sen continue to be the Prime Minister candidate, they would not be able to win the elections.

I would like to urge our graduates to continue their study  
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well as efforts in teaching and guiding those graduates as rendered by professors. As you all know that there is no way that knowledge and know-how could be given to you or instilled in you without a period of education/training. Take for instance genetics study in agriculture, genetic research and experiment have been conducted from which, Sen Pidor, a kind of widely known rice species is being formulated and produced in large scale by the Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

In fact we could not follow the genetics pattern. Your knowledge and know-how would be acquired only by your own efforts. What is done here is that professors would try to transfer their knowledge to you and whether you could get it or not will be up to you.

As far as training and education institution is concerned, we now have many institutions in many provinces - Battambang is provided by HE Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng, Banteay Mean Chey by Chief of General Staff HE Ke Kim Yan, Siemreap province, Svay Rieng province, by other generous officials, etc. They are able to follow a standard education as the widespread distribution of school would help reduce expenses for student's families as they do not have to send their students to far-off universities. A few days ago HE Kep Chuktepma, Mayor of Phnom Penh talked about getting open a new library in Boeung Trabek School, for which the money has been pooled by various generous persons, myself included.

In the present we have a big library in the University of Phnom Penh and now we have a new library here which is of more or less same standard and

will be able to accommodate users in this part of the city. This has indeed been initiated by taking into account issue of geographical access.

Everyone has to take their time to study including people of my age. I have been informed on time on every issue. Sometimes I learned an event before other ministers did. Take for instance situation in Thailand at the time of coup, I learned from CNN and Channel News Asia of the announcement that the Thai side did not expect any troop movements. I informed my ministers for National Defense, Interior, General Chief of Staff, etc. about the announcement and ordered them to place order to cease troop movement, if any, so that our neighbor would not be concerned at that specific juncture.

This is a good example that everyone has to keep up studying and you would have to do more study when you are working. There is always cutting edge technology and new development and advancement in various fields and sometimes we may be left behind and therefore losing control.

Yesterday Mr. Khieu Samphan (one of the Khmer Rouge leaders) had to be brought by helicopter to a hospital in Phnom Penh for his health condition. This has to be a concern for the Royal Government because he would have to stand trial soon. If something wrong were to happen to him we would lose a live witness to the regime, this is not to include what kind of accusation would be directed to us. HE Sar Kheng took a responsive measure to send in a helicopter and a team of medical experts. You can see how seriously we have to be vigilant on the leaders of

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and facilitation of the progress up to this time, and based on this fact the seminar will set up action plan and strategies to safeguard Cambodian maritime security aiming at effectively promoting this sector.

At the present, although Cambodia has earned full peace nationwide, Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) comprising of ground force, navy and air force, Military Police, National Police Force, local authorities and institutions concerned are still playing the vital roles in strengthening peace and political stability.

Besides ensuring security and social order such as cracking down on terrorism and armed robbery, the RCAF has been actively and directly supported ministries and government institution in many sectors such as combating crimes such as illegal narcotic business, women and children trafficking, money laundering, land grabbing, destruction of natural resources, cultural heritage and spread of illicit culture, and contributed to the construction of infrastructure such as road, bridge, irrigation, pound, well, school, hospital, pagoda, development center, de-mining, emergency relief for victims of disaster etc.

At the same time, the RCAF has also contributed actively to controlling, and confiscating and destroying weapons and explosives. Furthermore, the RCAF not only has good relationship with friendly countries but also fulfilled humanitarian missions abroad under the request of the United Nations and command from the government.

As H.E. General Neang Phat, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Defense has emphasized, the navy has functioned as core force in protecting the integrity and security of Cambodia's water territory by ensuring security and safety at seas and islands, which are the key contributions to creating favorable environment for national economic development.

While fulfilling its own mission to safeguard water territory, islands and beaches of Cambodia, the navy has resisted and fought against illegal activities and crimes and saved people from disaster. In parallel, the navy has also strengthened cooperation with the other countries' navy such as the arrival of ships from other countries stopping by and visiting Cambodia, joint patrol between Cambodian and Vietnamese navy on historical water boundary and facilitating research group for the remains of American veterans on islands. These obviously reflect that Cambodian maritime security has been strengthened and expanded gradually.

Indeed, the strong Maritime security opens a window for trade with other countries in the region and the world. Furthermore, the protection of islands and beaches that are the main tourist resorts and the protection of the potentials of the Cambodian sea's natural resources are the main sources of economic growth. At the same time, we also noted that Cambodian sea is geographically favorable, free from the catastrophic and frightening disaster and human suffering, such as the giant-wave *Tsunami*, and has enjoyed environmental protection and sustainable natural resource management.

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Along with the positive points on the Cambodian Maritime security mentioned above, the navy also faces some challenges – such as some islands of their bases are too remote and infested by malaria, with shortages in human resources, methods, technical equipments, funds, etc. These adverse factors hinder the Cambodian navy from fulfilling their duties fully and in timely manner to curb crimes and to make emergency rescue.

Almost a decade ago, Cambodia has positively transformed its images. The “*Win-Win*” policy brings about real peace, national unity, and land unification to Cambodia and its people by the end of 1998. Indeed, during the last 9 years, Cambodia and its people have been enjoying the outcome of peace, political stability and fast economic growth. Peace and political stability, safety, social order, and peaceful environment are the important pre-conditions that allow Cambodia to materialize its national economic and social potentials.

In the context of stronger peace and stability day-by-day, the Royal Government, with strong determination, has pushed the implementation of all sectoral reforms in the framework of the “*Rectangular Strategy*” for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency and the “*National Strategic Development Plan*”. These efforts have taken deep roots in the foundation of Cambodia’s socio-economy and driven the economic growth rapidly.

In this sense, peace, political stability, security, and social order are the foundations of national economic development. Therefore, the major role of the Royal Government, by all means, is to continue to strengthen the linkages of peace’s elements. The strengthening of peace, political stability, security and social order will create a “*real view*” for Cambodia to build confidence for investors and tourists as well as to facilitate our people’s trade activity and actively contribution to economic development.

In this context, the RCAF, particularly the navy must continue to cooperate with all institutions, local authorities, and other armed forces to protect maritime peace and security, which will subsequently contribute to the maritime security for countries in the region and the world.

In general, according to present situation, the positive factors of maritime security have attracted the attention and efforts of many countries, but the negative factors such as crimes and pirate attacks, drug trafficking, illegal immigration, environmental pollution by oil spills etc. still remain. Furthermore, maritime disasters still exists, particularly the global trend is also focusing on the prevention of transnational crimes and international terrorist threats that have become pandemic disease and destroyed lives, assets, and infrastructure in a number of countries.

Clearly, regarding this matter, the Royal Government of Cambodia has shown its determination to fully cooperate with international community to prevent terrorism. Although its geographic location is remote from terrorism source and Cambodian border is not the strategic location for the attacks and hideout for foreign terrorists, Cambodia is not too optimistic about peace. Particularly, Cambodian maritime security protection is an important priority because the protection of Cambodian water territory is

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the Khmer Rouge. I mention this so that you all know why it is important to keep abreast with situation.

A country could develop with one important factor - human resources, which is relating to not only intelligence but also morality of every individual. We may think that those who produce drugs are un-educated or unintelligent. They have knowledge. Only that they do not use their knowledge for good cause. They would be those who have been educated in pharmaceuticals, and not illiterate people. Those who produce explosives like bombs, etc. are those with high education and training - but they as individual tends to perform negative action. It is yet unrealistic to think of every intellectual as good person. We should try and keep ourselves from committing those bad acts but good ones for our society and country to develop.

The Water Festival is approaching. We just have the Katina from which each Buddhist pagoda has a contribution of an average five thousand dollars from the ceremony. We have experienced depreciation of the Riel currency after the Prochum Ben Day but in the last two years it has been an opposite because the market experienced shortage of the Riel currency leading to increase value. This is indeed a combination with other subjective matters like depreciation of the US dollars in the currency market in comparison to Euro or other foreign currency.

This year's water festival we will have more boats than the previous years coupled with the fact that we have a newly refurbished gardens in the city. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the effort

made by the Mayor, the leadership and staff of the Phnom Penh Municipality and hope that by implementing the 50 + 50 formula in renovating roads in Phnom Penh - the policy initiated by the former State of Cambodia in which the state and people jointly implement - by 2008, we would have all the roads in Phnom Penh paved.

For other religious and seasonal ceremony the people in the cities would go out to the countryside, the Water Festival is indeed designed to draw people back from the countryside into the city to enjoy the festivities. This festival will have a combination of both the people from the countryside and city people together. Therefore we expect that there will be many people coming into Phnom Penh.

I would instruct concerned authorities of all levels to look into this matter as there would be heavy traffic and crowd of people. I would urge them to perform duty to their best so that people could freely enjoy the festivities. As I would be away before the festival to join the ASEAN Summit and various concerned meetings, I would urge you - those who come and those do not come to look after animal feeds and irrigation, to harvest rainy season rice while continuing to cultivate dry season rice. According to our estimation this year, despite drop in yield in some places, we have anticipated a good harvest with the Ministry of Agriculture's prediction that we would have two million tons of surplus rice.

Secondly I would urge our people to be careful when traveling both in urban as well as in rural areas. We have many accidents in the past on the NR 4, 3 and 2 and also NR 5 between Phnom Penh and

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give great attention to the expansion of existing infrastructure such as building nearby schools and dormitories for poor students, especially to provide opportunity to female students to study close to their parents. Furthermore, we have had a principle to build lower secondary schools on the land of existing large primary schools to implement the 9-year-basic education program on places, namely 6 years for primary education and 3 years for lower secondary education “6+3”. This caused last year enrollment rate to reach 3,387,310 in which 1,574,900 are female students receive education from a total of 94,641 teachers, and female teachers amount to 35,953. Besides, at higher education level, there are 66 public and private educational institutions, 26 are public and 40 are private institutes. There are 92,340 bachelor degree students studying at all private and public institutes, in that 300 students received scholarship from public institutions. At the same time, in 2007, 14,397 students have successfully completed their studies from public and private institutions... The achievement pushes the 2007-2008 and the future academic years to develop further both in quality and quantity to respond to the need of children that increase from year to year, and to the meet the market and social demand for quality education...

With respect to today meeting, I would like to agree with the stocktaking report regarding the achievement on education, youth and sport affairs for 2006-2007 and directions setting for new academic year 2007-2008. At the same time, I would like to provide some recommendations for further consideration and implementation in 2007-2008 at provincial and municipal level during the stage of educational reform:

**First** - Education sector remains the priority sector and learning still stands as the strategy for poverty reduction, putting simply, the state still has the obligation to provide all people with education and training through both in-system and out-system educational programs in order to develop human resources with quality and quantity who are capable, fully equipped with *knowledge, know-how and morals* as the expected goal of education and manner of good citizens that can be used to serve the family and social benefits, and to succeed in protecting, building and developing our nation.

**Second** - Education policy, education strategic plan and education supportive program adopted by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports require further efforts within which great attention should be given to education for children and youth remaining out of school in all provinces and cities to ensure that they are enrolled equitably as enshrined in chapter 6 article 68 of the constitution of the Royal Government of Cambodia that all children should have basic education at least by completing primary school or 9 years of schooling with priority given to female and poor students in order to prevent them from exploitation, using drug, prostitution, creating chaos and committing violence in society which leads to serious obstacles and concerns for all of us.

**Third** - Both in-system and out-system education must move in parallel and complement each other to meet the Millennium Development Goal, at the meeting in Daka, Senegal in 2000 which required each member country to increase literacy rate to at least 50% by 2015 within the framework of education for all and all for education.

**Fourth** - The meeting should understand that we are in a situation when all countries are racing for quality of education and the value of degrees. This requires all schools and educational institutions at all levels, both public and private nationwide, to improve the quality and efficiency of teaching and learning, to raise the value of degrees and vocational training in order to ensure capable workforce of high standard recognized by regional and local labor market.

**Fifth** - As recommendation for leaders and the responsibility of people at all levels, to promote youth education activity in all fields of sports including people sport (keila morhachun) because all of these are indispensable components of education among the 5 components of education - *moral education, intellectual education, physical education and sport, work and art education* ...

To succeed in carrying out these 5 recommendations, I would like to remind all educational stakeholders to satisfy the 5 current needs for (1) supply of tangible materials to all schools, (2) qualified teachers (3) strengthening the quality and effectiveness of education that can meet the demand of labor market, (4) raising informatics and telecommunication literacy, and (5) harmonization of tertiary education system since the current higher education system is rather isolated and unsmooth whose managements are under different ministries and institutions, not only under MEYS alone... Political stability, peace, and security are prerequisite conditions for Cambodia in achieving its socioeconomic potential. In fact, political stability has opened up many new opportunities for Cambodia to develop its socioeconomy for the people from all walks of life...

### Selected Comments

... Senior Minister Kol Pheng for Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) has already made a report (on the overall education situation in Cambodia) but I wish to add a few notes further in relation to this topic. We have stated that we are working on the basis of reinforcing infrastructure or building more school buildings and increasing human resources or upgrading more primary school teachers to junior secondary, and from junior to senior secondary schools.

In our country, village is not an administrative unit. In our Constitution, the article 145 stipulates that the Kingdom of Cambodia is divided into provinces or cities and districts or Khans and from districts or Khan to communes or Sangkat. So village is not in any way considered to be the country's administrative structure. Take the number of communes into consideration - there are 1,621 communes throughout the country.

According to the report by Senior Minister HE Dr. Kol Pheng we have some 1,641 kindergarten schools throughout the country but we have only 1,621 communes. That means we have more kindergartens than the communes. There was this issue reported in the press about a proposal for exchanging a kindergarten school in Phnom Penh, which brought us all many negative interpretations. This proposal for such an exchange was not proposed by a company alone but there was also a push behind by (government) officials. My decision in this matter was to put an end to the move. I would urge the mayor to look seriously after this matter. I mention this today so that the press should have

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some insights and should not criticize only HE Kol Pheng. I would praise what they have done in Kompong Thom province where in every school I helped built they bought more land in expansion of the school yard. There is this example in Sandan district.

Let's now talk about the Primary School. We have recorded here 6,365 schools - or 88 new schools - and we should again compare the figure with the number of commune - 1,621 and we will see that some communes would have more than two primary schools. We have 866 junior secondary schools or 176 new schools or there is one junior college in every two communes. Our aim is to have a junior college in every commune. We have 283 senior colleges or 36 new schools and we have in 24 cities and provinces some 283 colleges or an average of ten colleges in a province.

Despite all these numbers I am not yet content for Cambodia. I do not want any Cambodian children to begin their schooling that is so difficult like mine. I had to leave my family since when I was small in search of school. That is what I want to have schools by the village. We have some 185 districts but we have up to 283 colleges. We have to make further efforts in achieving this goal.

You all may learn already that inheriting your children with wealth is not a sure way to guarantee that they have a good future. Inheriting them with knowledge would assure that wish. We of course have some schools built in good condition and some in less than good condition but we hope with greater and joint efforts we will some day achieve this goal. Hun Sen alone could not realize this purpose but joint

effort will. Education (is) for all and all (is) for education. You may see this as my revenge against the lack of school as I used to suffer in the past.

In the past, Cambodians did not allow their daughters to have high education and one of their arguments was that their daughters would write to communicate their lovers. One other objective argument was also because there was no school close to home, which made them feel insecure to allow their daughters to travel to school in long distance. Basing on this we have no choice but to move school facility closer to home so that female students could maintain access to education. It is favorably applicable though because of the situation that we have a durable peace throughout the country.

I have mentioned many times that I will strategize my development plan for the country in a frog-hopping manner and not a great leap forward. We had a devastating effect once when Pol Pot applied his great leap forward policy in Cambodia. What we do is by steps but it surely builds on. We now have more than three million and a half students and about one hundred thousand teachers. We have planned to expand payroll only for teachers - at some 5,000 new teachers per annum.

A UN researcher in Cambodia - in 1993 proposed to me in relation to public administrative reform project that Cambodia should reduce between 20% and 30% of its staff number. My response to his approach was that reducing staff could not in anyway be compared to pulling off vegetables and the area to be trimmed down could not be done in education and health. These two sectors will never be downsized, only expanding.

He proposed to me that teachers should go into retirements at the age of 55 and my response to this was no and I proposed to HM the King for a retirement age at 60.

In relation to rearing own children, I would have your attention that school should not be seen as a place where educating children is done completely and solely. Parents must take active part in looking after and guiding their children. They have a few hours with their teachers in schools so the rest is important for parents to command.

Taking my example, I have good result from my actions when I brought all of my children to Chadomuk Primary School and the process of establishing follow-up could be checked in my children's school log book. My eldest son got number 3 in the primary school and he made me happier all the time that he went up to college, to the US Military Academy at West Point and I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that nothing could be identically happy as to have a good child who is a good and able student.

What I wanted to mention here is to have all parents' attention in bringing up their children. We would be disappointed to see our children dropping off schools or engaged in "racing cars or motorbikes". Taking this opportunity I would urge the mayor of Phnom Penh to take effective measures to put a stop to gangster activities or you may have to resign from this job. These kids raced their cars and motorbikes in the park of Samdech Chea Sim and Samdech Hun Sen.

They called their parents in for intervention when the police detained them for their actions. I would urge the police to de-

tain their parents together if they appear to interfere in your affairs. The police then file a clear and true-to-the-fact report to me.

Children from poor families try hard to study and these uncontrolled and disobedient actions are normally happening within the rich families because they have money and power. I urge the head of police and military police in the city to take this matter to heart. We should not allow ourselves to become victims of our children's uncontrolled desire. I heard radio communication of traffic police and I have no doubt why we could not improve the traffic condition and reduced traffic incidents in Phnom Penh.

I for once heard on the radio that "so and so is going down this road, but let them go because they are children of so and so." It was so disappointed. I would not hesitate to act if you inform me completely and truthfully. Let's see what happens in Singapore and some of you may know about an American student who was punished for spraying someone's car. He was sentenced to get whipping. Intervention from then President Bill Clinton was also impossible to annul the sentence.

So we all have to learn to love our children, to educate ourselves to educate our children. Again, to the mayor of Phnom Penh, the task to counter act of disturbance of public order must be done gradually and constantly. You have to have the courage to do this task and I would not hesitate to help you fulfill your duties. Taking this opportunity I would like to have the attention of those involved in keeping security that we have to have a good public and social order as we will have a general election to organize...■

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both in knowledge and know-how and I am very happy that some of you continue to Master Degree. I would remind you that upon returning you should try to be polite with your former primary teachers though you have now become high-school professors. It is in this remark that I would urge you all to understand the reason why I have introduced the Day of Mentor. It is with the understanding that everyone has got to have a mentor that I have initiated this.

We all should strive to maintain peace, political stability so that we all will not be facing war, turmoil or division. Some countries in the region have been in conflict and armed clashes whereas in Cambodia land price has gone high not only in Phnom Penh but also in other provincial towns.

In Siemreap I joked maybe I should ask (the people in Siemreap) for commissions because we have made the price of land going high - from 0.3 US dollars per square meter to hundreds of US dollars. Some politicians reacted that the land price has gone up because of the land price in the world market has gone high and not because of political stability or management by Hun Sen.

We may ask in return in 1970 and 1975, the land in Cambodia was as high as in Malaysia, Hong Kong, Thailand, etc. In Cambodia, not only that no one wants land but we were running away from land while the price of land in the regions was high. Was anyone interested in land when Cambodia was under the Pol Pot genocide? Maybe they could go buy land in Afghanistan and Iraq now.

When I was in Singapore for the ASEAN summit and other related meetings, there was a

competition out of 28 programs in which a Cambodian child won the first prize for his drawing. Among 35,003 pieces of drawings his picture is the best. I gave him a prize of 3000 US dollars extra as incentive.

I have taken the opportunity to request to China for 55 million US dollars to build a 128 Kilometers road that connects O Pong Moan to the provincial town of Ratanakiri and I will go to India in the next few days to sign an agreement for 35 million US dollars for electric transmission grid from Kratie to the border with Laos and irrigation project. I have asked Japan to consider building road 76A and 78A to Laos.

As far as politics in Cambodia is concerned I would suggest an end to the issue of dual nationalities or one has to declare leaving foreign nationality before opting for the post of Prime Minister. I doubt if s/he is courageous to take this into consideration.

I would warn that when the law against corruption is adopted one is obliged to declare one's property. When declaring property in other countries, the French would be doubtful why the person does not pay tax. It is a problem of dual national person. I have a grandchild who was born in the US. What would happen if there is war in the US or the US is engaged in a military obligation elsewhere. He is now four years old.

... There is an organization that I do not want to reveal its name. It conducted a poll in 2006 on issue whether Cambodia is on the right track and 69% responded that it is. Again in February 2007, 71% said it is still on the right track and in August 2007, 75% responded same answer. It is 4 point higher in six months time...■

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Kompong Chhnang, Pursat and Battambang. I have been suggested by an old man sometimes that at night vehicles of all kinds seemed to be using long-distance light which blurred the sight of travelers in opposite direction. I hope you all take this suggestion to heart and respect the traffic law.

We all have been saved from the regime of Pol Pot, therefore we should not be dead because of own silly and careless action. We have started to build this country from scratch up to the present. But some people said we have made this country or people afraid, hungry, and ignorant. I do not agree.

What to be afraid is what happens in Pakistan right now. In Cambodia, when they say Cambodia is hungry, our TV advertised about how to lose weight, when they say we are ignorant we have about two or three colleges in average for one district ... Well it is because they are so irrelevant that they are always in the opposition.

I wish to take this opportunity to clarify the issue concerning Myanmar when somebody said that the planned visit of the Prime Minister of Myanmar to Cambodia has been cancelled because Samdech Hun Sen criticized Myanmar in relation of the crackdown.

I would respond that Cambodia has just received the Prime Minister of North Korea despite remarks by some political leader that we should not do so and/or there is no interest whatsoever to receive him. It was the same person who at the time we hosted the ASEAN Summit said he was on strike eating no rice but having bread and infusion.

As far as the visit of HE Thein

Sein, Prime Minister of Myanmar is concerned, I would inform you that the former Prime Minister, So Win, died of a prolonged illness and HE Thein Sein is appointed as his successor.

As Head of Government, it is the ASEAN custom that s/he has to travel around all member countries. The Prime Minister of Myanmar proposed a visit to Cambodia on November 10 combining with his visits to Laos and Vietnam. We responded to the proposal that Cambodia would be in its celebration of the Independence Day and our officials would be engaging in a very busy schedule, not only the Prime Minister but also HM the King.

There have been some interpretations that Hun Manet, my eldest son, because of his frequent visit to Siemreap province to donate helps to the poor, would be nominated as a parliamentary candidate for the province. I would declare that my son would not be involved in politics at this moment. If he likes he would do it in a later stage. He could perform social and cultural duties but not a people's deputy yet.

This piece of information has been placed in internet not by anyone other than the same person whose party has been headed by husband and by wife. They all become members of parliament. Some have named a political party after one's own. They at the same time claim that they are not dictators, and are democrats.

We've got to clear political concerns since in months from now (we will have the general elections to hold). CPP welcomes everyone who wishes to join with it and serve the country henceforth. We have more to do and we need to join together to achieve that end...■

**07 November 2007** (With Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)  
**Stock-Taking Conference: Education, Youth & Sport Affairs**

“... The previous academic year 2006-2007 has left some outstanding achievements and experiences which are the lessons learned for better implementation of the next academic year through improving the weaknesses and enhancing the strengths in order to improve the quality and efficiency of education under the comprehensive reforms of the Royal Government of the third legislative of the National Assembly.

On behalf of the Royal Government and myself, I would like to express my sincere compliment and thanks Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen who are the MoYES's staffs, professors, lecturers, teachers, parents, communities, NGOs, Civil Society, generous people and local authorities all over the country for paying attention and fulfilling their respective roles and responsibilities in the previous academic year for a right cause of educating our children and developing human resources in order to protect, rehabilitate and develop our nation; even though we face a lot of difficulties and shortages that need to be addressed.

Through this meeting, I would like to extend my greetings to all teaching staff and officials who are busy in the new academic year in all cities and provinces and wish them good health, happiness and success. At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank development partners and, national and international NGOs who have made active contribution to the rehabilitation, building, and development of education, youth and sport sector in Cambodia through providing aids and all kinds of support, either in the form of materials, finance, or techniques.

Clearly, these efforts and active contribution are the targets and vision of education policy which will lead in quality human resource development, in accordance with the objective of education policy which is “being educated to be good children, good students, good friends, and good citizens” and in accordance with the 4 fundamentals of education that are “being educated for knowledge, know-how, moral, and living harmoniously”

In the new and future academic years, our challenge is to improve the education quality which must be balanced and appropriate with the expansion of education quantity, the dual targets of education that cannot be separated. In this sense, it is clear that we need to improve all required teaching and learning conditions first before we can improve the education quality. Furthermore, if we are to expand the education quantity, we need to build more schools and employ more teachers as the number of children going to school increases from year to year and the market as well a society requires quality.

In the past, both in-the-system and out-of-system education have been pushed vigorously at all levels in the country in order to enable and provide opportunity to all children of our people to receive equitable and quality education, at least we must ensure that they completed primary schools or basic 9 years of schooling by linking to professional literacy movements and in accordance with education principle for all of us.

... In order to address the demand for education of our children that are increasing from year to year, we must

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not done only to ensure peace, security and development with other neighboring countries but it also ensures the peace of the whole nation, especially the prevention of transnational crimes and international terrorisms.

Base on the above situation, I would like to raise some recommendations for the *Maritime Security Seminar* as follows:

1. *RCAF including the navy, air force, and Military Police, must continue to fulfill their historical missions to protect and sustain Cambodia's independency, sovereignty, and integrity, in particular the navy must continue to take the responsibility and control the geographical areas including oceans, islands and beaches by deploying forces and ships to the targeted spots and take actions and cooperate with the police and local authorities who are involved in fighting against all types of trespassing and crime, protecting safety, security, and stability and to serve the highest interests of the nation.*
2. *Continue to educate, train, and increase various professional capacities and to seek better understanding of the maritime laws and international sea border issues for naval officers, in order for them to successfully fulfill their duties.*
3. *Repair and taking care off ships, war arsenals, and machineries of the navy according to the technical standard to ensure timely and effective deploy of rescuing missions.*
4. *Continue to set up naval posts at various sites, particularly islands, and to improve the livelihood and health of the naval officers.*
5. *The navy must cooperate with the police involved in curbing oceanic transnational crimes including robbery, drug trafficking, human trafficking and all types of smuggling.*
6. *Increase vigilance to prevent the threat of terrorism, ensure the country's safety and security, increase more strict check points at the oceans, islands, and beaches and to control the traffic of all types of illegal weapons, especially to disconnect the terrorist's network from the outside, their brainwashing, transfer of technology and flow of financing which aims to take place on the Cambodian seas, islands and beaches.*
7. *The navy must continue to cooperate with all concerned institutions and the police to protect the natural resource potential at Cambodian seas, islands, and beaches and protect various tourism spots which are important for national development, sustainable environmental protection and natural resource management as well as rescuing ships and people from various disasters.*
8. *The navy and the Sihanouk Ville's port authority must ensure the safety, and security in leading ships into Cambodia's water and port.*
9. *Continue to strengthen international cooperation to further improve the capacity in protecting maritime security and safety and environmental quality as well as improve the rescuing and humanitarian mission capacity...■*