

25 October 2008 (The 7th Asia-Europe Meeting in Beijing)
Promotion of Trade and Investment between Europe and Asia



24 October 08 — Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen is warmly welcome by HE Wen Jiabao, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China, during the ASEM 7 Summit in Beijing (Photo — Xinhua)

“... I am greatly honored today to once again participate in this high level Asia-Europe Meeting. I am glad to meet here with Your Royal Highness, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen after the previous meetings. First of all, I would like to express my deepest thanks to the Government of the People's Republic of China for the warm welcome and hospitality, and the excellent arrangements for this important meeting.

Our successive meetings in the past have laid strong foundation to create and maintain our efforts in strengthening cooperation between the two continents in order to achieve mutual benefits and accommodation. I believe that the discussion and exchange of views and opinions today will add further to our progress and enable us to evaluate and review what we have actually achieved to consolidate and deepen our relations.

We meet today against the backdrop of global uncertainties since late 2007 arising from high volatility in the prices of crude oil and essential commodities, food shortages and the recent imploding of the financial crisis. The development of the crises has adversely affected millions of people, especially in Asia, putting at risk our hard earned gains in development and poverty reduction. In fact, high inflation greatly and firstly affects the poor, pushing many people sliding back to live below the poverty line. The unprecedented financial crisis we are facing today is threatening to turn the global economy into recession. This is another important issue, which creates stronger uncertainties for the developing countries in bringing about poverty alleviation to the people.

We warmly welcome the joint efforts between European Community and other major
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14 October 2008
Keynote Address to Fourth Asia Economic Forum — 2008

“... , It is my great pleasure to participate in the 4th Asia Economic Forum 2008, which is co-organized by the University of Cambodia and the International Fund for Art and Culture of Tokyo, Japan.

On behalf of Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to express my compliments once again to the University of Cambodia for making effort to seek support and cooperation for organizing this important Asia Economic Forum.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to convey my deep appreciation to Dr. HARUHISA HANDA, the Head of

International Fund for Art and Culture of Tokyo, Japan and the Chancellor of the University of Cambodia for providing constant material and spiritual supports for realizing this Asia Economic Forum.

I would like to thank, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, national and international speakers and guests, from other countries in region and the world for spending your valuable time to participate in this 4th Asia Economic Forum 2008, to share experiences and exchange ideas, which is taking place right now in Cambodia. Your presence is very valuable to the
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02 October 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Hun Sen — Haruhisa Handa National Scholarship Award

“... , I am very pleased to attend the awarding ceremony of the "Samdech Hun Sen – Haruhisa Handa National Scholarships Award 2008 Ceremony" as well as to welcome all parents and guardians of students who are present here. At the same time, I would like to congratulate those students who have recently passed their high school exams nation-wide, and those students who are here today receiving double lucks, including a high school certificate and a scholarship.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Board of Management of the University of Cambodia for making effort in seeking the financial support for poor students, who are unable to afford their tuition

fees to continue their study at the tertiary level as well as to improve the quality of higher education and human resource development aiming at helping the Royal Government in developing and rehabilitating the nation for a prosperous future. Through this I am strongly convinced that, this kind of mechanism will inspire students to study hard to repay to the priceless grant in time of urgent need. On the other hand, the sustainability of such grant will encourage students studying at high schools, to
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economies in the world to solve the current global financial crisis. Of course, many experts still consider that this issue will not be solved quickly. However, we hope that while focusing to solve this financial crisis on the short term solution, all developed countries will never forget the Millennium Development Agenda. Indeed, with the joint efforts to restore and maintain the economic and financial stability for the time being, it is necessary for us to implement the long term measures aiming at ensuring the cautious financial management in order to avoid future crisis, including the strengthening of the early warning mechanisms.

In sum, we have to understand that these challenges present valuable lessons for us and need to be turned into opportunities for our two continents through mutual cooperation and support, especially through the improvement of the inter-regional financial integration in order to prevent the global financial crisis and promote the development cooperation as well as economic, commercial and investment cooperation in order to accelerate growth and reduce poverty. In this connection, Cambodia would like to welcome the joint policy measures recommended by Asia-Europe Ministers of Finance and would like to request to put these measures into an urgent and effective implementation.

Cambodia has produced sufficient food supply for domestic demand and some export. Moreover, the global food shortages provide us opportunities to diversify the economy more intensively through rural development and increase of agricultural productivity, which in turn make our economy growth more sustainable. The agriculture sector has directly contributed to the pov-

erty reduction for 80 percent of people in rural areas. Thus, we would like to warmly welcome the recommendations and all kinds of cooperation from the European partners in order to achieve the above objectives by increasing investment and technological transfer and allowing more access for Cambodian agricultural products to the European markets.

It should be noted that our two continents share 50% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP) and 60% of the global trade while our relation has reached a new level of dynamic development. But, trade between the two continents is low as we have not fully tapped from the tremendous trade and investment potential. In this sense, the two continents have to strengthen cooperation in the field of trade and promote a robust multi-trading system in the context of the World Trade Organization. Cambodia strongly supports and calls for the resumption of Doha Round negotiation for the benefits of all countries in world.

As an ASEM member country, Cambodia has actively participated in various initiatives to create the free trade areas and investment zones. Cambodia is always open for any business and welcomes all investors, who are particularly interested in investing or establishing firms in the Kingdom of Cambodia. The Royal Government of Cambodia regards the private sector as an engine for economic growth and is committed to ensuring favorable business climate including stability, transparency and predictability.

Cambodia also considers trade sector as a major factor for economic development. In this sense, the Royal Govern-

ment of Cambodia has exerted utmost efforts to respond to various requirements for regional and global trade integration through introducing laws and regulations in order to make the finance, investment and trade sectors in Cambodia consistent with the international standards and norms. Cambodia strongly welcomes the Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP) and Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP).

In the last decade, Cambodia has achieved remarkable economic growth, averaging around 9.5 percent per annum during 1999 to 2006 although there was unfavorable pressure resulting from high oil price. For the last three years starting from 2004 to 2006, the average annual economic growth reached 11.4 percent, which helps reduce poverty significantly. In this connection, Cambodia will implement the goals of international development cooperation and the outcome of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Doha at the end of November 2008 ... ■

Address on Sustainable Development

The 7th Asia-Europe Meeting
Beijing, October 25, 2008

... Globalization has brought countries, communities and different regions of the world closer together in multifarious ways. We seek to improve our own countries to achieve sustainable development through mutual support, fair competition, integration, collaboration and transfer of knowledge and technologies. Indeed, the sustainable development would not be possible if we do not address the issue of security effectively and efficiently because when there is security we will be able to ensure a strong and harmonized society. I believe that our dialogue

today will contribute to improving the climate of peace in the region and the world.

Without doubt, we are now facing uncertainty caused by the waves of financial crisis, which is taking a grip on the entire global economy. Combining with some other unfavorable conditions such as rising oil price and food crisis since late 2007, this crisis is threatening the global economy, especially it has put our hard-earned achievement in poverty reduction effort at risk. In this context, with the warm welcome for the joint efforts of the EU and other major economies in the region and the world to immediately address the financial crisis in the short-term, Cambodia believes that it is necessary for both continents to reiterate the commitment to strengthen collaboration and facilitation to improve our ability to cope with risks and challenges, as well as to promote development and balanced economic globalization that we all can benefit.

The current crisis should not be allowed to become a major obstacle in our energetic journey toward sustainable development and elimination of the development gap in the region. In contrast, we should consider these challenges as a valuable lesson which should be transformed into opportunities for both continents through cooperation and mutual support in order to enhance growth and poverty reduction. In this sense, we must be fully committed to realize MDGs, the minimum development goals for our people.

Within this context, I regret that the Monterey Consensus on the transfer of necessary resources in order to achieve the MDGs, which was approved in 2002, has not been fully implemented. It should be noted that only a few Euro-

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pean countries have so far met or exceeded the commitment of 0.7% of their revenue for official development assistance. We want to see the Monterey Consensus to be fully and quickly implemented. Certainly, the failure to fulfill this promise will continue to keep millions of people in misery.

Another serious challenge we face is the accelerating environmental deterioration and global warming which can endanger human lives, security, and social cohesion. Deteriorating climate and environment in some countries have caused droughts and famines, conflicts and regional violence. Global warming has had negative effects on food supply, giving rise to food shortage and driving up food prices which impinge adversely on our efforts to reduce poverty. Indeed, we have an opportunity to deal with climate change and energy security through the mechanisms offered under the United Nations Framework Convention in Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol as the main channels for international negotiation and cooperation.

Sustainable development would not be possible if our dependence on fossil fuels continues unabated because the cost of energy remains relatively high. As energy security is closely related to the sustainable growth of the world economy and sustainable development of all nations, each nation must address its development needs by fully utilizing the natural resources that we have. Together, we need to improve energy efficiency by optimizing energy consumption structures, developing and utilizing renewable energies, and promoting the transfer of advanced energy technologies to developing countries.

The current food shortages around the globe has compelled us to renew our attention on rural development and agricultural productivity improvement. In particular, 80 percent of the population in Cambodia lives in rural areas and relies on agricultural production. There is still a great potential for agricultural productivity improvement to raise the living standard for the people and to accelerate poverty reduction.

Agricultural productivity improvement will broaden the economic base, ensure the sustainability of growth, as well as to minimize vulnerability to external shocks as we currently witness. In this sense, I would like to appeal to all partners to help Cambodia increase its agricultural productivity to create more opportunities and raise the income for our people in rural areas ■

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treated properly without having to put his/her political inclination into consideration.

Another area of special attention in this issue is perhaps the fact that some people have gone out in search of medical attention in various clinics etc. Treatment in clinics that are not recognized by the law has been noted to be a business of prolongation of treatment. This has happened in foreign countries too. These are the issues that I wish to beg health officials to take the role in helping the people, because our people health is the precondition for human resource development.

Another matter of concern and it had happened under my nose. I remember the incident in which Doctor Thea Kruy and a few other doctors were also present. My daughter was

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17 October 08 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Press Briefing after the Cabinet's Meeting

I think as of now we can say that the situation has returned to normal and tension has also been deescalated after the armed skirmishes. The two parties have sit down and negotiated to cease fire. The negotiation yesterday was good though it did not satisfy our demand but it deescalated tension and reduced troops stand-off.

I have heard the wishes of some countries that the two countries to continue bilateral talk, and I would say this is the Cambodian aspiration. Between Cambodia and Thailand there are numerous mechanisms. I also learned of other suggestion to bring the issue to their attention at the side of the ASEM 7 summit. But I think the time has not come yet because Cambodia and Thailand agreed to solve the issue by existing mechanisms.

The two sides are still working together for a solution and there is no need yet for others to get involved. It is true though that we have informed the Security Council of the United Nations but we have not asked anything more than informing them because negotiation could be conducted still.

I have told the Foreign Minister of Thailand that any show of force should be done inside Thai territory, while Cambodia would not be excited with those forces at all. They can move artillery anywhere they wish inside their territory but they do not move them into Cambodia. Those artilleries are not the ones that Cambodia does not know because the US soldiers used them in our country. Cambodia perhaps knows these weapons better than anyone else because many of us had become their victims. Their planes and tanks

should be maneuvered only in Thailand. Cambodia would not see it is necessary for it to show any force. Cambodia is poor and its army is small. Some said in the press about our troops is small and ill-equipped compared to Thai troops but our resolve to defend our country is incomparable. But what is important here no matter who has what, they should not wage war.

After the skirmishes I observe the situation is good. I place my order to the Ministry of Interior and commanders along the Cambodian-Thai border to normalize relation with Thailand. That Thailand is getting excited to evacuate their people from Cambodia is their matter. We seem to have control over the situation along the border and passes which means confidence prevails that people should not opt for buying and stocking food at all. It is just a psychological warfare and I warn our people not to be subdued to the war. Because the two sides have exercised stringent patience as the skirmishes took place in small scale and no use of artillery.

As for the suggestion that Cambodia enjoys the military assistance from so and so, it is indeed a stupid remark. Cambodia needs no military assistance from any countries at all. This clash is indeed small for our troops because Cambodia has gone through so many big wars in the past. We call this an incident. By saying so, it is taken to mean that they pointed their fingers at Vietnam or Laos and this is also an underestimation on the Cambodian military capability.

As for mines, we accept that they were made in the former Soviet Union but were placed in the 1980s and there is no

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study hard and absorb knowledge, to be qualified for future scholarships that are available.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank **Dr. Haruhisa Handa**, Head of World Mate Organization, Founder of International Fund for Art and Culture of Tokyo, Japan, Chancellor of University of Cambodia, for providing constant support for higher education sector in Cambodia, especially for providing full tuition fees weaving for 500 students who have passed high school exam with good grade during 2007-2008 school year in 2008, in addition to scholarships provided for 500 students in 2007. On behalf of the Royal Government and students, I would like to record this precious and great contribution as an unforgettable history.

Education is valuable because it transforms people to be the educated person with knowledge and professional ethics for which our nation and people are demanding for. In this sense, intellectuals play key roles to promote a nation base on capacity, knowledge, talent and development ideas. Obviously, the bigger the number of intellectual the faster the social development. In the 21st century, IT era, the roles of intellectuals are becoming even more important and are the determinant factors for enhancing economic potential and national development. These themes reinforce the importance of education to turn our human resources into “*Good students, good intellectuals and good citizens*” in the future in accordance with the basic principle of education which aimed to promote the knowledge, know-how, professional ethics and social harmonization.

At the same time, education and human resource development are very important for a

nation, because they promote not only economic development, but also the national dignity through utilizing those knowledge, morality, wisdom, conscience and integrity, all of which are the culture which lead a society into development with harmonization and peace. Hence, a nation with better developed education sector will make citizens and institutions more competent and bring about rapid development.

In this sense, the RGC of the 4th Legislature of the National Assembly has introduced the Phase-2 Rectangular Strategy which regards capacity building and human resource development as the prioritized sectors in all stages of National Development Plan. Along with this, the Royal Government always focuses on economic growth, job creation, enhancement of social equity, and strengthening of efficiency in public work to realize the vision of the Rectangular Strategy i.e. “*Growth, Employment, Equity, and Efficiency*”. In short, human resource development during this stage corresponds correctly to the continuation of socio-economic development which is deemed to be the primary factor in poverty reduction and the enhancement of the people’s living standard.

In particular, the current number of public and private higher education institutions has expanded significantly across the country, which is a pride for our nation as well as for those related parties, especially development partners who have focused on the education sector. However, at the same time, the Royal Government will continue to monitor this sector attentively and comprehensively in order to strike the balance between quality and quantity. Through this, I would like to take this opportunity to request both public and private higher edu-

cation institutions to cooperate closely to strengthen the education quality, improve teaching facilities, expand education and training program and study curriculum with high technical and scientific standard to ensure that our higher education programs meet the quality standard in the region and other civilized nations. In this context, I believe that each of our higher education institution will become an effective centre to compete in the production of intellectual resources to respond to domestic, regional and global labor demand.

Today, I would like to draw attention once again to the provision of scholarship as well as the exchange of educational and researching experience and to provide some advice to scholarship holders in order to boost your pursuit for success at higher education level. The following points will strike a chord and direct you to attain your long-term vision:

1. We are now in the era of knowledge, competition, deepening of education, IT, knowledge-based economy, which is so-called the era of globalization. In this sense, if you are not highly knowledgeable or well educated, you cannot live with prosperity. Therefore, higher education is vital for deepening your knowledge, in terms of general knowledge, technological knowledge, morality, IT, and foreign languages. Through this, you should study on your own, absorb as much knowledge as possible in order to make a good living and contribute more to the national development.

2. Higher education differs from education at high school level. Indeed, high school education requires you to read and memorize your lessons, while the teachers are always after you regardless of your inten-

tion to study, that is to say teachers always try to feed you with knowledge. However, higher education is different. Teachers are no longer there to follow you and feed you with knowledge but each individual student must do his/her best to study on his/her own. In general, teachers will only give instructions and provide comments for your study by enabling you to comprehend, analyze, research, express and compose to prepare you for your jobs and self-employment, hence to enable you to stand on your own feet.

3. Higher education requires a number of preparations and criteria as follows:

- a. **Good time management.** Without it, your education would not have sufficient quality and qualification. Each student must know how to manage your time appropriately according to the daily, weekly, semi-annual and annual education programs.

- b. **Good concentration.** That is to avoid imaginativeness. Carelessness is the source of failure in higher education level.

- c. **Appropriate study plan and activities.** You must also maintain good attendance.

- d. **Raise questions and courageously debate issues** with teachers and classmates.

- e. **Continuous reading of research documents,** books and materials which are the sources of additional knowledge apart from school.

- f. **The University students,** who are the future intellectual capitals, are required to evaluate their academic results, reflecting their academic quality. Generally, the assessment has been done by professors, through exams in all subjects as well as through the overall university evaluation. However, the self evaluation,

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building of economic foundation and development in Asia with world economy and financial system being under disturbance from financial crisis.

I hope that, through this forum, we will be able to find new strategies to address various challenges, which are threatening the economies and development in region and the world, and also to gain some new lessons, experiences and insights for promoting the progress and development of world economy.

Financial crisis, which is now occurring in the United States of America and other developed countries, is a demonstration of unpredictable world economic downturn like what we had experienced during the Great Depression in 1930s. Financial crisis has triggered many challenges which can affect the economies of countries in Asia and ASEAN as a whole.

As witnessed, the collapse of 2 gigantic financial corporations, such as *Lehmann Brother* and *Merril Lynch* in the United States of America, cause huge impact on the financial system in US, Europe Asia and the world.

Indeed, this financial crisis has created negative effect on millions of people, particularly those in Asia, and mounted into obstacles against development and poverty reduction that we can hardly achieved so far. High inflation rate hit the poor hard, and at the same time we are also struggling with the issue of increasing number of the people living under the poverty line, in turn this phenomenon might stunt the social development.

On the other hand, financial crisis will not be quickly resolved, even though short-term

solution to some extent can maintain stability, however it is required that we must take long-term measures to manage the financial resource cautiously in order to avoid future crisis. Unprecedented chronic financial crisis that we are undergoing now is threatening the world economy with slower growth. Apparently, the change in world and regional economy has brought about increase in demand for consumption of goods and foods along with high surge in oil price recently have sparked inflation and seriously damaged the world economy.

On the one hand, climate change, drought, flood, typhoon, earthquake which have occurred so far are the adverse natural phenomena, which badly affect the stability, economy, progress and development in the region and the world. On the other hand, poverty and the development gap in the region and the world, terrorism, cross-border crime, energy security, epidemics are still the challenges that we need to come together and seek for solutions through discussion in this forum.

I realize that our Asia Economic Forum within these two days is one of the most crucial forums, which reflects not only the experience and vision for managing the challenges of globalization for socio-economic development reason but it also highlight the enhancement of peace and political stability and harmonization for other Asian countries. In this sense, I would like to ask for the permission from the forum to share and contribute a number of perceptions as follows:

1. The Opportunities and Threats of Globalization

Globalization is the undepleted potential for development. Without globalization

there will be no progress, no modernization nor prosperity. So far, globalization has made our region grow very intensively either in the field of science, technology and telecommunication and human resource development.

Globalization is the modern era of civilization, materiality and spirit. Along with that, Globalization has also provided us with various opportunities and challenges that we are now facing. For instance, the current world financial crisis is one example of the challenges of globalization.

It should be noted that the world financial crisis erupted in around August 2007, in a form of housing crisis which happened very suddenly and caused the imbalances in financial markets around the world. This financial crisis resulted from the fast-growing housing market in the United States of America amounting up to 1000 billion dollars. Also, this crisis did not only have the negative effect on the US economy alone but it also affect the economic development of other countries in Europe and also spreading all over Asia.

In this context, the solution to the challenges of globalization is to make the best use of globalization's potential in order to improve the living standard of each individual, especially to enhance the welfare of the poor people. This challenge must also includes the prevention of various risks hidden in the process of globalization such as the world financial crisis that we are now facing.

2. The Building of ASEAN Community

The building of peace, political stability, security and social order is the pre-condition to achieve the sustainable economic development. The

ASEAN governments have been trying to lead their respective countries in order to achieve the progress and sustainable development through the building of peace, political stability and cooperation. The experience of unstable security has clearly shown the intimidation to the process of economic growth. In this sense, the sustainable development will not be achieved if we cannot respond to the issue of security and political stability with efficiency and effectiveness. For instance, if we have the security and political stability we all will be able to live with harmonization and ensure a well-established society.

I strongly believe that our discussion today will create and improve a favorable climate for regional and world peace. After the ASEAN charter came into being, the East Asia has been trying to create a common market and a separate market in the region through the continuing improvement and strengthening of partnership in the context of regional economic cooperation, the reduction of the development gap among ASEAN member countries and between ASEAN and Asia.

I realize that the protection of the environment and the achievement of the sustainable economic development, food security and energy, the fight against the epidemic diseases are still the crucial issues which need to be paid attention and jointly solved by all the ASEAN countries through the cooperation for joint development for now and in the future.

In fact, the achievement of the above targets will not just contribute to the building of one ASEAN community with sustainable development, where the people can live in
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harmony and in good condition, but through it we can also build a prosperous and strong Asia-Pacific Region in the future.

3. Future Visions

One of the big threats which has always threatened the security in the 21st century is terrorism which is complicatedly spreading all over the world. Along with that, the fast changing of global climate has put Asia and the rest of the world in a great threat of natural disasters. These threats require us to put forward full-fledged solutions. A country in the region alone cannot solve the problems on its own, but all countries must join hands to accomplish this task. It is necessary to establish a regional mechanism to respond timely and provide cooperation in the management of natural disaster.

Indeed, climate change, terrorism, cross-border crime, environmental degradation, energy security, disease, poverty, and social inequality lead to instability and pose great threats to the regional peace and development. These challenges cannot be solved without having dialogues and discussions to create a joint strategy, and the effort to strengthen the partnership and cooperation, as well as the establishment of an effective institution to prevent these threats.

Along with this, acknowledging the risks, consequences, experience, and impacts of the global financial crisis that originate from the lack of financial architecture, contagion monitoring measures for the regional and global financial market, we must seek urgent preventative measures by monitoring the effectiveness of the utilization of financial resources freely and with quality.

We expect that by 2020, Asia will contribute 45% to the world's total GDP. Along with this, the magnitude of Asian intraregional trade will cover one third of the world's trade.

These reflect Asia's future prosperity. Moreover, economic growth in China, India as well as in ASEAN is an important component for economic development in the Asia-Pacific region. To accomplish this task, all Asian countries must ensure that the development of human resources, agriculture and trade sectors will result in the region's competitiveness, a prerequisite for a sustainable high economic growth ... ■

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seriously ill - she is now the director of Bayon TV - but she was refused medical attention because of rights for treatment. I was a member of the political bureau of the Cambodian People's Party at that time so it was the law that prohibited my daughter from being treated by local medical services. She was meant to be treated by medical staff from the Party's Central Committee's healthcare service. I told them to strip me off my immunity as a member of the Politbureau and let my child be treated. That is why I remind you that social stratification could also be hindering the process of healthcare provision. This should not happen again. Healthcare should also give attention to the fact it serves the purpose of attracting tourists to Cambodia as well. We have tourists and investors coming in large number, so it is important that we have to provide information about our health service in our country. Talking about this I also need to remind you of a promise some politicians made in the elections campaign that they would provide free of charge medical service ... ■

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your plan will not succeed. Property inheritance is something that is not intrinsic to human while subjecting to damages.

When I first came to Phnom Penh we had only a few people and we had to search for staff we could find to help work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - take for instance Khieu Kanharith, Sok An, etc. had all studied in what is now called the Royal School of Administration.

CPP is in the process of preparing human resources for taking over its tasks because in its Permanent Committee only a few are young and they are in their fifties already. There is a need for keeping the senior members and adding on with junior ones. Senior members will take the task of driving while younger force will take the role of fighters.

We have taken three days to get the first meeting of the fourth legislature National Assembly session done, the Royal Government of Cambodia established and its first session conducted - all in three days without any stalemate like in 1998 and 2003. Everything went the way we expected. I have signed a letter to relieve some officials like Im Setthi, Khieu Kanharith, Mok Maret, It Sam Heng, etc. from their parliamentary duties so that they could take positions in the Government. Only some ten people like Men Sam An, Tia Banh, Keat Chhon, etc. will maintain dual positions in parliament and in the Government. This will create an opportunity for those who have just taken up parliamentary seats and those who had missed the swearing-in ceremony to swear in altogether.

I thank HM the King for fulfilling his duties in accordance with the Constitution giving me the opportunity to continue

working for another five years. I also thank the King Father and the Queen Mother for that.

I will also visit them during my trip to China to wish the King Father on his birthday. We had just finished the Prochum Ben Day (Buddhist ritual to offer food to monks and passed away relatives) with joy. We have been doing all that because of the fact that we have peace and as peace is the core of all this.

I would raise the same issues after observing the ritual day - peace is the first factor that brings us things like today, second, good infrastructure thanks to the efforts made by the Royal Government in the previous terms; and three, our people acquired some resources on their own like transport means and financial ability ...

As far as the Royal Government is concerned I would reiterate that there will be only two parties - CPP and Funcinpec so those who have been promised to be secretaries of states, deputy of provincial or district heads should be well aware of this and should not allow themselves to be cheated. ■

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record as to who put them because there were many factions of conflict along the border in those days. Cambodia, you should know, is now demining and secondly we are a signatory to the Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of use of landmines. All mines in stock have been destroyed and Cambodia sees no need in laying mines in its territory, which is also contrary to the Royal Government's policy and the efforts by the Cambodian Mines Committee and other organizations dealing with mines like CMAC, Halo Trust, etc. This is just a clarification and not an accusation in return. ■

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knowing yourselves and recognizing your knowledge are necessary to reduce the flaws and promote the merits of your study. This point is of great significance, because it will improve any flaw and redirect any inactivity toward realizing your set objectives.

4. How should students select their field of specialization? One of the indecisiveness of university students is the selection of their specialization. The selection could be done for any subjects you like from the innate ability. Yet, in this case if you happen to be better in any subject you should choose that subject as your area of expertise. The wrong selection of the specialization will lower the quality and efficiency of your education. In this sense, the university students should be more careful in selecting their specialization. Please don't select any subjects by chance or imagination or by following the others' ideas. Each of you should make your own decision in selecting the specialization, which will be your future profession. You should not listen to the others in deciding your own future. Along with the subject selection you have to put in the right effort because it is the most significant and effective factor for success.

5. You have to be responsible for your education as it is your future. The academic responsibility does not only rest on the lecturers, parents or sponsors, but it is actually your own burden. Indeed, parents, lecturers or sponsors can only provide mental encouragement. Therefore, in order to become real intellectuals you have to put effort into self-studying, reading more books and research documents and doing homework as assigned by the teachers, trying to take notes and think critically as well as turning the lecturers' knowledge

into yours by seriously absorbing those knowledge so that you will become the real intellectuals who are able to put those knowledge into practice to serve your family livelihood and the society. You have to bear in mind that **"Money comes with real knowledge"**, meaning that it is only you who can determine your destiny.

6. If you are weak or fall behind the others or you have failed the exam you have to find new strategies in order to timely solve those problems. Those strategies would include consulting the lecturers, academic councilors or the school dean by asking for their suggestions and experiences and other research methods, which will make your study more fruitful and productive. You have to seek advice from lecturers if you are unclear about certain points. Meeting directly with the professors who teach those subjects is a necessity.

7. The study will be more successful with strong motivation and high determination. The important thing in education is the commitment or encouragement for research. Without motivation there will be no determination and fruitful results. The academic motivation comes from your intrinsic motivation, diligent working and your high commitment for study and research.

On the other hand, the honesty toward education is also the enforcing factor which makes your study successful and of high quality. Therefore, you have to try your best not to cheat your way through. Learning by copying from the others will make your future gloomy forever. The cheating students degrade themselves. Thus, your education must depend on you so that it will be of good quality and successful.

In sum, the points which have been raised so far are nothing new to those who have tried to study hard already, but they are, somehow, the remainder and food for thoughts for the scholarship holders of "Samdech Hun Sen – Haruhisa Handa National Scholarships Award 2008" here and for students at other higher education institutions ... ■

... Selected Comments ...

My wife and I have great pleasures to be here on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia to express our appreciation to the ceremony that is offering Samdech Hun Sen – Haruhisa Handa National Scholarships Award 2008 one day after the 2008-2009 school year opening. This is in fact the second time after September 2007 that I presented the Hun Sen – Haruhisa Handa National Scholarships Award to 500 students. This year we offer the scholarships to students in similar number. Students awarded with this scholarship will study free of charge until 2012. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and on my own behalf, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Haruhisa Handa for his initiation of the Scholarships and being main sponsor of scholarships for our students, who had to take selection contest.

According to the report by HE Kao Kim Huon, Chairman of the University of Cambodia, the cost for the scholarships for the five hundred students for the period of four years before they get their bachelor degrees amounts to 1.26 million US dollars. The cost of your studies have been covered by our friends to the University that I would take this opportunity to thank UC for its effort to look for best partner to provide assistance to our students. I thank the University of Cambodia and Dr. Haruhisa Handa for allowing my name

to be officially attached to the scholarships as in my approval in the letter dated July 11 since before the elections. If the CPP were to lose the elections and Hun Sen could not be the Prime Minister, the list of names to be awarded the Hun Sen – Haruhisa Handa National Scholarships Award 2008 would not be applicable.

According to HE Kao Kim Huon, 5310 students contested for the scholarships and only 500 have been selected, which means the successful contestants has been less than 10%. Some of the students here may not be the ones who support the CPP in the elections but they can study in the University and under this scholarship award. Since your graduation will be on 2012 and I will still be the Prime Minister by then, I would have chance to present you all with your degrees.

I would like to inform you of two fortunate things in one year. First your graduation from the senior secondary education, which of course thanks to your efforts, and according to the statistics we have achieved the graduation at the rate of 70% and 23% of which are male students. But when it comes to contesting for scholarships, male students seem to do better. I would also see this as a result of the fact that not many hostels have been provided for female students who have to come from afar to take the contest. In this case I would stress on three major points that you all have to ponder and make them into actions - first, family that is taking all the difficulties so that you could make it this far in your education; second, you should do your best so as not to disappoint the sponsors and three, having done so you would not disappoint the Royal Government, the University or the professors.

Chances for our younger gen-

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06 October 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Cambodia Health 2008—International Conference

I wish to add something here. Firstly I wish to have your attention on the gap between urban and rural accesses to healthcare. High consideration must be paid on this matter and on our objectives, the target of actions and the redistribution of medical staff. It has been that about 75% of our doctors are working in the urban areas with about 25% of the whole population, whereas only 25% of our doctors are working in the rural areas for about 75% of the population. It is an issue that needs long-term action.

Many areas will have to be given attention so as to improve people's access to healthcare service ranging from sending volunteer doctors to work in rural areas to the improvement of infrastructure such as road access. The health clinic or referral hospital at the communal level has been a vital help in this matter but we still have many communes that road access has to be improved. This matter requires therefore a solution in one whole package rather than an issue to be addressed separately.

In some places we have all we need for such a service to be provided but we have neglected some of the basic necessities. For example, we have the road built, the hospital, the doctors and staff in place, but the Ministry of Health itself has not paid ample attention as to how to get the service fully work for the people. I think we need to make some drastic changes in the next five years of the fourth legislature of the National Assembly's Royal Government. We do not wait till it comes to 2013 but we have to start working on it on a gradual basis. To get a few done is better than to let the whole

thing unattended to. I would rather warn you though not to promise our people that the Royal Government will provide health facility at the village level or one health clinic for every village as this - as is promised by some politicians - would be unfeasible.

What I wish to have your attention here is to bridge the gap between urban and rural accesses to healthcare by working the infrastructure to fit with demand of health services while redistributing the number of doctors and medical staff. Those who volunteer to work in the rural areas need to be encouraged with appropriate pay so that they would not face hardship in their living condition. I have an experiment from a village of the handicapped. What need to be addressed in order to get doctors and staff to stay and work there? The Hospital is there for them to operate but they do not have a house of their own or a functional house so to speak. The same is true for education, and to close the gap between the urban and the rural in health as well as in education requires a comprehensive solution.

Secondly I want to remind you about the ethical code of conduct which I think no one should overlook its seriousness. We have indeed addressed this matter in the previous term, but I wish to see that the public health service has improved effectively and efficiently. Every sick person must be appropriately responded with medical attention irrespective of wealth and/or political tendency. We have to show compassion of doctors and medical staff on sick people without any biases. As long as the person is sick, he should have the rights to be

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eration have been better if we compare to chances of those in the past. Only 30 years ago, if we do not wish to go back too far, youth in those days were not lucky as those of you today. After the coup on 18 March 1970 war broke out throughout the country. Schools were closed down and only some in the urban areas were able to stay on as the Lon Nol regime control an area not more than 7% of the country. Worse still the Pol Pot genocidal regime had ravaged the remaining schools and infrastructure in to ashes.

Now Cambodia is going to observe shortly the 55 anniversary of the National Independence, the 30th anniversary of the January 7 liberation and the tenth anniversary of the cessation of war or to be precise the date when Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea and their Cabinet came to meet me in my home in Ta Khmao. This is not to mention the date when Ta Mok was arrested in March 1999.

We have indeed made great efforts to push for actions in all fields including the field of education. The current Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, HE Im Setthi was before the Chief of Office of Education Ministry in here and I walked over from my house to teach our teachers. I have an obligation to give my lecture to the teaching staff. Sometimes we had to run a small generator to give lecture at night too.

We have some intellectuals present here and in other place, who, now in their thirties, had in those days taken schools under the trees or in spaces under abandoned residential halls of the Buddhist monks, and had chalk made from clay or charcoal to write with. Because of continued and protracted war thereafter our country, students and teachers,

as well as their families have faced tremendous sufferings and difficulties to restore education in particular to its feet.

From the period of 1979 through to 1998, many regions had the chance to go on with education but others had no chance in so doing. At the time that both peace and war prevailed, we had the major part of the country under peace whereas war was sporadic in location and in time. However, war is not easy matter no matter in what form it may take. War brought about fleeing, insecurity and innumerable things. But we have now come to a point that is far from there. We have changed what I mentioned earlier to a different situation that - as the goal in my speech in Santuk district of Kompong Thom province, in 2011, Cambodia will expand its education to a level that in each commune we will have between one or two junior secondary schools.

This is to achieve that students everywhere in the whole country have the opportunity to take this chance of education to better their knowledge and know-how... This has been my personal message to the first day of schooling after launching the fourth legislature Royal Government and putting into action the rectangular strategy.

I hope that you all will benefit from the opportunity of this year schooling and transform it into motivating force towards your goals which are to develop socio-economic development, rule of law and other objectives ... Human resources are the most important factor. Whatever one wants to do one has to ask if he/she has the human resources to get it fulfilled. To acquire financial resources is one thing but if you do not have the human resources, no matter how much you have,

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