



04 January 2010—Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen is warmly welcomed by people in Battambang Province (Photo: Kam-puchea Thmei, Jei Phumipol)

**28 January 2010** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)  
**Five Year Reforms — Royal Cambodian Armed Forces**

**In relation to the issue  
of district armed forces**

Previously we have used the terms regular troops, regional forces and militia, which means we have three different types of armed forces. The regular army was then taken to mean those armed forces under a military region, directly subordinated to the General Staff. It was also called then as the central armed forces. The regional forces included those at the provincial and district levels. As far as the militia is concerned, we refer to those who are at the local levels.

Subsequently, we demobilized the militia, after we signed the Paris Peace Agreement, if I am not mistaken, that was recorded to be 240,000 of them at the time. There had been various points of thoughts and views in relation to the demobilization of the militia. Some thought the demobilization would make it difficult for our recruitment into the regular armed forces as they considered that the militia was a reserve number. Another opinion then

expressed was that if the militia was to be allowed to exist, it would create so many difficulties at the local level when we put into practice a democratic process.

It was a good thing then that we have put the issue for discussion to figure out its pros and cons. If we look into this issue from a perspective that our country is in war, keeping the militia on the consideration that they could turn to be reserve for national armed forces would no doubt be a good option. But in a democratic process, where an election was to be held afresh, that would not be an option as those forces might be used by one party against the other, whereby violence could be expected incidents at the local levels.

We have so far maintained the armed forces at regular and regional levels. The issue here is how many troops should be reserved as regular forces? And we also have to take note that there are at least three types of  
**(Continued on page 2)**

**27 January 2010** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)  
**Building National Road 62 to Tbeng Mean Jei of Preah Vihear**

I have a great pleasure that once again I have a chance to meet with HE Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Zhang Jin Feng, Cambodian officials, Buddhist monks and people of Kompong Svai district of Kompong Thom province on this occasion to start the construction of the 128 Kilometer national road 62, a junction from national road 6 at Kompong Thom to Tbeng Mean Jei, the city of provincial Preah Vihear. A 150 Kilometer section of this road has already started in 2008

at Tbeng Mean Jei, where HE Zhang Jin Feng and I were present. Since we have come to add another 128 Kilometers to the previous project, it makes this road 244 Kilometers long for a trip between Kompong Thom and Preah Vihear and also on to the Preah Vihear temple. It is true that I am so happy to see that my ambition, which HE Zhang Jin Feng also said an ambitious project, is being realized. In fact my ambition never stops not for myself but for prosperity of our  
**(Continued on page 3)**

**12 January 2010** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)  
**Graduation & Diploma Presenting at University of Specialty**

I am so glad to be here at the University of Specialty of Cambodia for the graduation ceremony and diploma conferment for some 3,114 graduates, which is the first time of its kind in the beginning of year 2010, after my presence at the inauguration of the SOS School on January 4 and the third phase segment of the national one, followed by the celebration of the January 7 victory. Let me take this opportune moment to wish you all a happy new year, good health and success in whatever you all are doing.

established branches in various provinces like Kompong Thom, Battambang, Kompong Cham, etc. I am sure this progress has been recorded not only on material basis but quality of education service too.

I may take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the scholarships that are being offered in my own name, and other Cambodian leaders', for students who are resources-lacking and wishing to continue their studies. It is indeed the best way to share resources and to provide better chance for them to go on with tertiary education. I have noticed that our children who are born after 1979 have expressed interests in learning and being knowl-  
**(Continued on page 5)**

I am so happy to have heard progress made by the University as I listened to HE Sdoeung Sokhom's progress report, which is a culmination from the whole development process of the 31 year period. I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for efforts by the leadership of the university. Not only have they made progress in Phnom Penh, but they have es-

**In This Issue**

- RCAF Reform Achievements — p. 1
- Building NR 62 to Preah Vihear — p. 1
- University of Specialty Graduation — p. 1
- Sixth Asian Economic Forum — p. 7

(Continued from page 1)

regular forces where one of them is under the chief of staff, two others for infantry and other military regions. How many troops should be assigned for the provincial level, with number varying according to size of the province, and the same condition must be applied for district level. We have allowed for maintaining district armed forces on condition of necessity. For example, so far we have permitted for some districts to maintain their armed forces, like in Preah Vihear and Uddar Mean Jai that are bordering with Thailand.

We should take a close look and study as to where such maintenance is necessary and we should not expand this design at all. If we were to increase regional forces, it is indeed a must that we have to decrease the regular force number, and vice versa. That is the only option in terms of number of troops as it is how far our budget reserve would allow.

There had been decisions to reduce the number of armed forces and rearrange them to regional level without my acknowledgement, especially from the military region IV. That is why I have instructed to the Chief of Staff and Minister for National Defense that before making a decision to transfer troops from one place to another, they need to keep me posted. I could not accept it when they mobilize soldiers from local to be concentrated at a certain place without the knowledge of the Prime Minister. I wish you to take note on that.

Take for instance, effort to integrate the brigade 31 into navy force must be implemented by a sub-decree, though it is true that they are being moved under military command. The reason is they are being taken off the list of infantry unit and deck crossing into navy force.

Let me now come back to the issue of maintaining command-

ing structure of the district armed forces because whenever we need them there we have their commanders ready – be it their Head or Deputy Head of company. Also increasing number of soldiers, even one person, would indeed have a direct relation to financial commitment. I have permitted for a recruitment of some 7000 soldiers in the course of 2008.

We need to decide at some stage as to how many troops need to be maintained at the higher command levels – for instance, what percentage of the total armed forces should be placed under direct command of the Ministry of National Defense and the General Staff. For example the Logistics and Accounting Departments - they seem to be two of a kind when we see that these two offices have been functioning under the line of the Ministry of National Defense and that of the General Staff as well. The two should be merged and only one document would be developed.

Therefore I required that logistics and accounting should be merged to that of the Ministry of National Defense. It is also better that if ever any irregularity is to be noted, it is the Minister of National Defense who will have to answer to the National Assembly, and not the Chief of Staff.

#### **Some Reform Issues in the RCAF**

I have a few issues to bring directly to your attention now. We need to learn of negative developments so that we could go on improving our performances.

Let me share with you the case of Gen. Sum Samnang, who has not implemented my approved 5000 Riels per diem for a new recruit training. He disbursed only half of the ordered amount. If it were not because of HE Tia Banh's pleadings I would have you removed the following day already. You have given me a

disapproved clarification that the other half of the amount is for reserve. Your task is not to do a financial reserve in that matter but that of the Royal Government and me and the Ministry of National Defense. I wish that Gen. Sum Samnang takes full responsibility that per diems for trainees reach them in full and I will follow this matter up.

As for Gen Chao Phirun what has happened now to your arms depots. How many weapons and ammunitions that can be repaired and reused, and that cannot be repaired and used, aside from those on fire in Battambang province? It is in fact the Ministry of National Defense that is entitled to provide and supply military tools and ammunition but because their spirit of responsibility is rather low, in the later stage I have to take the matter in my own hand – starting from reequipping weapons to uniforms and per diems.

I must take my comment out straightforwardly. We had many malfunctioned weapons and lately we have had them repaired and hence better maintained. I am sure now I would not hear from our troops that so and so ammunition does not function anymore. I have had ammunition prepared and stocked for at least several years, if ever there needs to be. And because of a good preparation, brand new producing date, I would not accept incident of ammunition defect.

That is why I have had to take care of thing myself lately as to how much ammunition do we need and how many of them are for where and whom. All brigades have received new weapons and ammunition but also those provincial forces that are at the border areas. I wish that the Ministry of National Defense is taking this issue seriously. There used to be a time when weapons and ammunition are available in the local black market. Because of those incidents in the past that I have ordered that we diversify

our stocking ability as to where to store what.

It is also true the case of the navy headquarters at Jroi Jangva, the one that I went for an inauguration of more achievements last week. They have proposed to sell the Navy Headquarters on ground that there are no more Khmer Rouge's threat. This was the case relating to Gen Choeun Chanthan. After it kept coming to me for a second time, I had that request shredded. How could they come up with such an idea? The Navy Headquarters is there since the French (colonial) time. Even if there is no more threat of the Khmer Rouge, one could not deny the fact that the Navy Headquarters is situated in an excellent location that any rescue mission from water access could be performed in full competence – be it on Tonle Sap or either section of the upper or lower Mekong or Bassac Rivers.

#### **The Don'ts for the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces**

This is to be read as point ten in the future direction setting. I have written it myself. The Royal Government of Cambodia is implementing reforms in all fields, the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces is also included. The armed forces have to stay as a strong backing force for other competent authorities to fulfill their tasks that would also include actions against illegal business, smuggling, illegal logging, land encroachment or illegal fishing. However, before they could fulfill these missions, they first have to strictly follow the don'ts rule, which are 1) do not perform these illegal activities and 2) do not provide protection for those who do.

Whatever happened must now be stopped. Soldiers who are to perform illegal business must not be in the military apparatus any more because their presence would harm the image of the armed forces as a whole. Many

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 1)

nation. I strongly hope that our good friend China, who is also our good cooperation partner and resources, will be able to provide further assistance so that Cambodia will continue to realize its socio-economic development, first and foremost the physical infrastructural development.

To start with today I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks, on behalf of the people and Government of Cambodia, to the people and Government of the People's Republic of China, for their steadfast assistance as well as financial help for the construction of the Kingdom of Cambodia. I already said on numerous occasions that China is the country that builds the longest road in Cambodia – in all 1500 Kilometers, which some have already been complete, underway and some are future projects.

At the same time I would like to share this appreciation with the Shanghai Construction Company for taking these projects seriously with the monitoring service provided by Quangjov Company. Shanghai Construction Company has completed various projects in Cambodia from a segment of the national road 7, Sekong Bridge, national road 8, Prek Tamak Bridge, Prek Kadam Bridge, national road 78 from O Pong Moan to the city of Ratanakiri and is in the process of building the national road 59.

Ambassador Zhang Jin Feng said already that the Company has involved in numerous projects that remembering how many is hard. I have been closely working with the Chinese Ambassador to get many of the projects implemented and in the near future I will join her in unveiling a new irrigation project in Banan district of Battambang province.

The recent visit of HE Xi Jinping, Vice President of the People's Republic of China to Cambodia, as is just recalled by HE Ambassador, has brought about a new

peak of cooperation between the two countries – Cambodia and China, because there have in all been 14 agreements, in which the one on infrastructure has been recorded to be 260 million US dollars. Six of the agreements would cover the project of building the national road 62, plus a section of 21 Kilometer road between Anlong Jrei at the national road 8 at the border with Vietnam to Krabao Moeun Jai at Punnhea Krek district, which I declare the groundbreaking from here today, and it is to be implemented by the Shanghai Construction Company too.

The second project is to continue the construction of the national road 76 from Sen Monorom city of Modulkiri to Dak Dam. I also suggest the project to start thereof as we do not need to launch the groundbreaking ceremony anymore. The third project would be the irrigation system at Kong Hort in Banan district of Battambang province. The fourth project is the flood wall along the River at Kompong Trabek in Prey Veng province. The fifth project is the construction of electric poles and gridlines around Phnom Penh. There have also been agreements for other use as well like that providing help for our people to deal with the aftermath of the Ketsana typhoon effect.

Coming back to the background of how we plan and come to constructing this road today, I would like recall that the project has been proposed in China in my visit to Chendu of the PRC, where HE Aun Poan Munirath, Secretary of State for Economy and Finance and his Chinese counterpart have signed a bunch of agreements. I also would like to take this opportune moment to express my thanks and appreciation to the efforts rendered by local authorities and armed forces of the provinces of Kompong Thom and Preah Vihear in providing security and safety for the projected sites and construction machineries as well.

Appreciation also goes to the de-mining and clearance of UXOs efforts by the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces. This road 62 was before the national road 12, which took us three years from 1985 through to 1988 to build it. HE Tram Iv Toeuk, Minister of Public Works and Transports already mentioned that it is a new achievement over an remaining structure. Our capacity in mine and UXO clearance has vastly improved and this will help us better our position in responding to demand for help in de-mining and UXO clearance abroad. We already have proven our capability in our mission to Sudan.

However I have turned away many times request for us to send our de-mining team of up to 1,000 troops to Afghanistan and Iraq. I will not send Cambodians to get killed in those politically unstable and hostage taking countries. Though the two are placed under the UN umbrella, still I reason it with the fact that Cambodians have died because of mines and wars for too much and too long already. More should not be suffering the same ill fate. Those who want us to send our de-mining and UXO clearance teams to Afghanistan and Iran may take note on this. I will not send my people there. As for mine and UXO clearance efforts here are not only for the construction projects to get going but it is a duty that Cambodia has had to fulfill so to evade our people from life threatening risk.

I have no different feeling about this road to that of our people in Preah Vihear. Take a look at the map now, especially those living in the Preah Vihear area. Now people could travel to Tbeng Mean Jai city of Preah Vihear province from three different roads – on national road 6 and at junction 62 directly to Tbeng Mean Jai city, and on to Sa Em district, from where there is a road straight on to Preah Vihear temple, from national road 67, and we are pooling efforts to find

funding for the construction of national road 64 which would extend our reach from Preah Vihear province to Stoeung Treng. I may ask for Chinese help as well.

The latter would serve as a quick access between the triangular development zone for three countries – Cambodia, Laos and Thailand and the triangular development zone between Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. I will allow for building the gravel the road from the point where the three roads in Prea Vihear meet to Stoeung Treng. To Preah Vihear temple, travelers could also take the national road 56 from Serei Saophoan of Banteay Mean Jai all the way to Samraon Jongkal in Uddsar Mean Jai then to Sa Em and on to Preah Vihear temple. So Preah Vihear province and temple would become an easy traveling to destination.

This road 62 could mean a great deal for our development effort for the border areas. I still see fit the four priorities that I have listed since 1987, that is road, irrigation, electricity and human resources. Though I have set them out 23 years ago, they are still relevant as of today and perhaps they will continue to be for the next 20 to 30 years. First priority would be irrigation for agricultural field. Our Chinese friend has in this new package of financial assistance provided for the development of two major irrigation systems. We also have a couple more projects to be brought to our Chinese friend's consideration.

Road, transportation and telecommunication have in fact been another area of priority. We have a new road built today with the Chinese financial assistance but also many more to be constructed with the latter's help – national road 59, 57B, expansion of the national roads 5 and 6, national roads 8 and 76. For all roads we have currently asphalted only 7 meters within the

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

total width of 9 meters, so that some money could be saved and allocated for other road constructions. However, all bridges have already been built at a full width of ten meters.

Aside from these roads we also are building and asphalted some 1,371 Kilometer road with our own resources from Anlong Veng, Tro Peang Sangke, Srah Mlih, via Juan Ksan and then to Kirivoan, Sa Em by national budget. These roads will come to meet with the Chinese-built roads. So we have some two thousand Kilometer roads to be asphalted, while this does not include building some thousand Kilometer gravel roads as was reported to me by Gen. Kwan Siem, Commander of the military engineering team.

The third area of priority would be developing and providing of electricity, which it is truly important to say that there has been major contribution from our Chinese friend too. The Chinese investments have been taking full operation in developing hydroelectric stations at Komjai, Kirirrom and Pursat's Jaret, etc., and also in putting in place gridlines that will transfer electric power to destinations throughout the country.

The Cabinet already decided last week to get electricity from Phnom Penh to Kompung Cham and we will have to see through the need for the connection of gridlines from Kompung Cham to Kompung Thom and on to Siem Reap so that the whole country will be well supplied with power.

Human resource development has been our fourth area of priority. We also have the pleasure to note that our Chinese friend also does a great deal to help us in this area. As far as poverty reduction, in simple term for equitable distribution of growth, is concerned, there would be no better way than building or sharing via con-

structing of infrastructure.

In Cambodia, if we take a closer look, there happens to be three different groups of people – the majority, the minority and the neglect or isolating group. We have seen that in the parliament there consists of the three types I mentioned. However, the majority has had a good work with the minority, but it has been hard to seek cooperation with those who isolated themselves.

The latter have preserved their indifference to the truth and have resorted to a method of insulting and scolding. Though it is a fact that they have traveled on new roads or bridges and their children go to a new schools, for example, still they blamed the Royal Government for being incompetent and doing nothing.

It is obvious that the self-isolating group seems to have accepted foreigners as their superintendents. These people are not patriotism but **xenophilianism** if I may define. Whatever is said by foreigners would be their worthwhile belief and acceptance. At one point I have brought this issue directly with the US representative here that it is lucky for the US that those in the self-isolation group did not get elected, otherwise the US would have hard time in fulfilling the promises that those people had fooled themselves and our people.

It was kind of frustration, while in the election campaign those people used not only the national flag but also that of the United States of America. I have related this matter to US diplomats that those people not only failed themselves but also the US did in their campaigns. Well that is what I used to infer that there are also three types of people – those who do, those who just say and those who just watch. We are those who do and let those who just say and watch go on with what they see fit...◎

(Continued from page 7)

geographically India is not in East Asia. It was then that there was this proposition that Australia and New Zealand could participate. I would like to thank the positions taken by the ASEAN + three partners, especially HE Wen Jia Bao, Prime Minister of China, who have assured that China would accept whatever ASEAN would come to the agreement on the form and formula of participation. It has reassured that China has a high trust in ASEAN.

Let me take this opportunity to deliver a message to Ms Magaret Adamson that I am not in opposition to the Australian initiative to set up Asia Pacific Community at all. I just wanted that the ASEAN efforts in promoting some mechanisms be granted in full. Firstly, integration of ASEAN; Secondly, promotion of East Asia, in which a discussion focuses on whether we should have ASEAN + three or should it be enlarged to ASEAN + 6, etc. We also have so many meetings to attend too, for example in the last year we had to have three ASEAN meetings in Thailand because of its political development there.

This year we will have two meetings in Vietnam, one before Khmer New Year and another to be held in October. Also in October we will have to go to Belgium for the ASEM meeting, which is also to be conducted twice a year. These meetings have put leaders in very busy schedule abroad. On defense issue, perhaps the idea could go before the establishment of Asia-Pacific Community because they have sorted out many different formulas: + 6; + 7; + 8 and + 10.

Plus 6 – means the ministers of national defense of ASEAN nations are to meet with ministers of national defense of the East Asian countries, where Heads of State and Government are to be present too. Another formula is + 7 in which in addi-

tion to the six countries of East Asia, with a possibility to have either Russia or the United States of America. This has brought to the concept of + 8 too where both Russia and the United States of America are to be included, and this will be + 8 formula. The last formula would be ASEAN + 10 which means that we add Canada and European Union into the + 8 setup.

If they reach for + 8 formula, in which the United States of America and Russia are to be included, then the APC idea will be realized first in the area of defense. According to the information I have it seems that there is a move for a consensus on formula + 8 (ASEAN + 8) where the eight countries are China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, and Russia and the United States of America. So to me it looks like an Asia-Pacific Community already, which could be addressing the vision of such a community and I have been therefore cautious to say it is not yet the command of the time...◎

(Continued from page 7)

neering machines of the armed forces for own properties development. I warn that these actions will not be allowed and I would not keep you in position for doing that.

Aside from those in the armed forces, I also have some information about land grabbing by provincial leaders. If it is coming to a level of serious concern I will have your actions echoed on microphone. Today I have brought up some major issues ... I am sure all of our commander in chief, deputy commanders in chief, commanders, deputy commanders, officers and armed forces understand what I have said and at the same time our people also have listened to it on radios and TVs too.

As part of our reform process, in the near future we will have this

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 1)  
edgeable. It is a good thing that the University here and others have made every effort to respond to their demands.

May I offer my appreciation and thanks to professors who have worked for the quality education in the university and I also join with our graduates today for their new step of success in life. It is hard to grow trees because it is to take many years to give fruits. However, growing human resources is to take 14 long years for those to graduate with a Bachelor degree. Going higher will definitely take longer.

Let me take here a case of my own children. I was the one to bring them to school and to give my remarks with approved signature in every page of their log-books. As for one of my children I saw him off to school since when he was barely five years old and he graduated completely at 32 years of age. He spent more time in tertiary education than in the secondary education level. He had chance to go for practicum in Congo, and also had his study and teaching mathematics in Brighton, England. Upon his return, we both always have some discussions. My wife always noted that we both seem to have some disagreements.

It was not a conflict but just he liked asking questions and I said to him I have sent you for study and when you finished and come back with more questions. It should be me who had more questions to ask you about. My wife said it was because he did not know that he had to ask. He finished and achieved many degrees – the first Cambodian to have studied and graduated from the Military Academy at West Point, and in UK, etc. but as he had all his studies done, he came back asking me questions.

One day on the issue of Constitutional amendment in 2006, he waited in England until I got out of the Parliament and called me

to find out why there was a need for amendment.

I have taken a long time to explain him. I have brought up the Canadian case as an example, where whoever gets the majority will form the Government. Where there is higher democracy, there could be lower voice. However the matter is far deeper than just this concept. Though elected by majority, the winners had become hostages by the minority with smaller voices or people's support. The only way to bring elected winners by majority to fulfill their missions in response to the wish of the people is to have constitutional amendment.

We have come to this because it gives our country a chance to get out of political trouble at every elections time. With a two-third majority approval, it has taken us a lot of lobbying before drafts can go into discussion and approval. We need 7/10 quorum for a meeting on so and so matter. We do not have that required quorum and when we ask them to join us in the meeting, in fact to fulfill their duties as elected parliamentarians, they gave us their uncompassionate remark 'if you are the best why you need us.'

7/20 quorum requires 84 or 85 sitting parliamentarians so that a meeting could go into session. CPP had at the time only 73 sitting parliamentarians. We had to beg the opposition even for a meeting to happen, far more for adoption on drafts. We are always under threats from the minority. That is why I say 'where there is higher democracy, there could be lower voice.' The opposition has become the one to offer power for CPP. The opposition was angry with Funcinpec, the ally of the CPP in the Royal Government, for having betrayed them twice. That was indeed a long explanation to my son.

As you can see here those with

majority have been under constant threat by minority leader, and this case has been taking its toll in one of our neighboring countries. Without the minority we would not be mature so amendment of the Constitution is a way out. I have spoken to you about the case of my son who has posed me the questions. Since I have five children, five more of my in-laws sitting around the table make us ten, then shedding light on many issues.

Having given you this experience, I would reassure you that human resource development will take at least 16 years and more for some people. One fact still is that some graduates, even after finishing their long-time development could not promptly activate their knowledge in their fields of work. I would therefore urge you all to go on studying together with works that you are going to involve in the near future. HE Sdoeung Sokhom has just mentioned about percentage of graduates who have not been able to find jobs that are corresponding to their areas of expertise.

As far as this point is concerned, I have an experience to share with you that those who have the chance to work or find a job in accordance to their training background is a good thing but the 25% of graduates who had to work in a different field of expertise should not be a matter of underestimation. Because they will gain new knowledge and experience, but also if they are self employed, it would be a great job creation pattern. That is why we not only pay attention to creating job not in line of duty but also encourage and facilitate whenever possible for self employment too.

In the course of dealing with impacts of job losses due to world and regional financial crisis and economic downturn, the Royal Government of Cambodia has had to spend some

three billion Riels for urgent training to provide and diversify skills for job. Among those who have taken up the opportunity provided by the program, I wish to single out one encouraging fact that some have opted for borrowing loans for self employment, which I am so proud that 4% of them could go for their own business, which will keep not only himself busy but also the rest of his family members.

Some of you who have come to study here do not wish for a government job or those in private sector but to acquire knowledge for their own business development. A country could not afford to provide everyone with Government or private sector jobs, especially in the time of financial and economic difficulties as such. Many countries have had to cut down number of workers and tied up financial resources, whereby repercussion impacts on various investment projects, and our country could be no exceptional case.

Income of citizens in various countries has gone down because they lose jobs. Their losses have a great impact on us. Firstly, garment where exports to these markets have had to reduce since the purchasing capacity has shrunk. Secondly, tourists traveling to all destinations have reduced in great number too. Fortunately, in Cambodia we still have achieved a positive growth of 2% in comparison with the figure achieved in 2008. However, it is worth noting that amount of money spent by tourists has shrunk too.

Therefore, in light of what I have said, I suggest that you all continue to make efforts in your study and go on studying. Do not let yourself be a conservative for not probing with new knowledge. Thing happens everyday in the world. We need to be ahead of the situation. Information is keys. No matter who you may be – politicians, businessmen, etc. -

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

have to have accurate, clarified and certified information so as to benefit from evolving situations – whether in economics, financing, marketing, culture, technology and science or politics.

For me, if ever a day goes by without information, I would give a comparison as I have had no food. That is why it is my usual habit that before going anywhere, take for example coming here, I have some primary reviews of the situation and information that reaches to me everyday on my mobile. I have taken it this much that sometimes we have problem in keeping abreast with what is happening. I wish our people achieve sufficient and correct information that they can use in making their judgments. I do not want our people to receive information from the press that is lacking professionalism and providing only deceived facts, which could not lead to any judgment at all.

That is why I wish to mention here about the fact that according to my observation, opposition parties, because of their deception in information, have grown smaller and less influential by the day. That would be exceptional in Japan, where I do not think Prime Minister HE Hatoyama, while he was in opposition, may have done information deception at all.

I would again urge you to ponder on what I have said regularly when I have to offer my vision for jobs for graduates. Leadership and work methodology have three stages. Firstly you have to have a good plan, and this has proven to be true in all sectors of society – from government, political parties, companies, down to families. Having done that I would say you have achieved some 30% of what you need to do and it will be your guidance of actions. The second stage is to get the plan organized and implemented because if you have a plan but neglect its implementa-

tion, it will be good for nothing.

Having come to the stage of implementation you have achieved another 30% of whatever you wanted to do, which together with planning you have a score of 60%. The last point is the most important factor as either government officials, business agents or family members will have to remember, that is to deal with accidental situation or force majeure in the course of implementing the plan.

This is a very important point as we could figure out who among our officials have appropriate capacity and responsibility. These are important criteria for functional appointments. All plans rarely get implemented smoothly without obstacles. According to experiences there have always been force majeure or unpredictable conditions. Take for instance, as a country Cambodia has its planning for five years, ten years, etc. However as everyone can see the world financial crisis has been unpredictable making impacts on our country's planning but also at the other level we have had impacts from local disasters like flood and the Ketsana typhoon.

It is those conditions that we could measure up capacity and capability of our officials at all levels, which to my experience I have always found them to be of two categories of officials. This is in fact not new as I have raised since when I gave lecture to the senior party officials in the Party Cadre School back in 1980s. The first type of official is the one whom I define to be taking responsibility and resolve issues on the spot. They would not leave the issue unresolved or unattended. This type of official deserves to be considered and if they lack background education, complementary training should be provided.

The second group of officials is usually seen to be doing two things. Firstly, they are to do

nothing but reporting to their seniors and secondly, they are to leave responsibility to low level staff. Having done so it is indeed a good thing to leave them where they are in terms of responsibility and rank pending their retirement time. They evade their responsibility leaving the matter for their seniors or supervisors to resolve, and/or put all faults on their lower rank officials for whatever goes wrong. This group of officials is normally found out to be devious.

These are exerted from my long experience in leading and managing (human) force. This year is in fact the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day when I started my mission in the national liberation movement in response to the appeal made by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk in 1970. I was then not even 18 years old as I joined the Marquis on April 4, 1970, whereas my birthday is in fact August 5, 1952. I have since then changed the birthday to be that of when I joined the national liberation movement.

Over the past 40 years I have tasted so many different ways of life. Life as a soldier whose commander ordered to get him tea and/or get their clothes washed. The nature of my career ascension is not like a helicopter that gets off from the ground. I have had so many hard times. That is why I never like it when someone makes a shortcut in their career ascension. Today is also indeed the anniversary of my 33 years as the important leader.

While Samdech Chea Sim (President of the Cambodian People's Party and President of the Senate) and Samdech Heng Samrin (Honorary President of the Cambodian People's Party and President of the National Assembly) never once claim to be my superiors, a man in his insincerity claimed he were the father of December 2<sup>nd</sup> (the day when the National Liberation Front gets established) and the January 7 victory (the day when

the Pol Pot's genocidal regime was toppled), and worse of all he claimed himself to be my superior.

Since when did he come to Cambodia and involve in the liberation? How could he claim himself to be Hun Sen's superior? I never had a superior to answer to since June 20, 1977. I became my own commander and I was the only one who bore the highest rank at 25 years old. I may recall too that today is the anniversary of my 31 years in the Government and 25 years as Prime Minister. I became Minister when I was 29 and the Prime Minister when I was 33 years old. I am the Prime Minister for 25 years now and I have another three and a half years more in my term. Samdech Chea Sim the other day has declared my candidacy for the post of Prime Minister for another term and I will not accept any proposed term limitation.

We have now achieved, according to the July 31 – August 26 polls by the IRI (International Republican Institute), 79% approval rating on issue relating to whether Cambodia is on the right path. In response to the question whether those respondents will cast their votes for CPP, the rate has increased by 1% - which is 53%, comparing to 2008. There have been 31% who responded they may vote for CPP, which similar category of response is also 5% more than last year, and those belonging to twelve percent who would not vote for CPP has now recorded a 2% less.

I am sure IRI has shared this information with some political parties already. They even ranked the different areas of support base for the CPP-led Royal Government – building roads, schools, hospitals and health centers, irrigation systems, electric generation station, peaceful state of the country and better business environment. There

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 2)

have taken up uniform to make physical and spiritual efforts but some have taken uniform for the sake of one's own business. This is a bad example. As a commander or commander in chief, if one is involved in illegal logging, how could one expect that those under command to obey order. Commanders who have encroached hundreds of hectares of land, would so commanders be in effective positions to warn those under command against taking up one or two hectares of land?

That is why I am demanding that all must be serious and back off from all sort of illegal actions. In some instances I agree that there are incidents that so and so fake Colonels or Generals performed those illegal duties. But I am sure that there also are incidents that real Colonels or Generals who committed these acts as well. Now it is time to stop and we need a reverse that will help our reform of the armed forces. We now have to work out together for a plan to provide land for soldiers, retirees, the handicapped, the disabled, and families of deceased soldiers.

I would have your attention to be mighty armed forces or commanders or commander-in-chief should not be involved in illegal actions but in combating with illegal logging, land grabbing and fishing. They should act as a backing force for justice police to take actions because they do not have a mandate to do all this. The army should see it as their duty to help provide intervention to legal actions by forest administration, fisheries and custom house, for example.

Concerning with the above issue, I would like to bring to our attention again on issue of reforms in the forestry sector and land issue because these are life and death issues for the Royal Government of Cambodia. We all have seen that an effective action has been taken against drug. But why

logging and transporting of high value logs always find a way around. Usually because they have powerful persons behind, log transport bypasses our authorities. So I place my order today that whoever performs this illegal action and claims to have so and so powerful person behind, s/he must be arrested immediately.

As I have come to this issue of depending on so and so power to conduct illegal business, let me once again remind all of them that whoever claims to have the powerful protection of the Hun's family, whether it be my children's or my in-laws', they would get arrested. There had been a recent incident that someone issued a name card introducing himself as "Special Envoy of Samdech Techo Hun Sen for the District of Mehmot." In fact we know the man but I never made him my special envoy at all. There have been so many cases so far.

I would seek your understanding and stop any involvement, if you may have, for the sake of our nation's budget collection, keeping land, forest and fishing resources for many of our generations to come. If you, with the power to prevent and crack down, become the power to do in reverse, you will have our nation destroyed. I have so far rebuked only those who have performed illegal duties but not those with proper businesses.

Also a matter of serious concern too is the fact that some commanders or commander-in-chief have so taken conscripted soldiers to stand guard at personal properties at all. I demand that this must be fixed immediately as we are in need of troops. Take for example as we have been talking about lacking effective soldiers at the district forces. Soldiers are for national defense. They are not for your own property protection. Some have gone too far to also make use of engi-

(Continued on page 4)

**20 January 2010** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)  
**Sixth Asian Economic Forum — Opening Session**

Let me bring up this issue of the proposed establishment of the Asia-Pacific Community (APC) which is relating to the initiative set forth by HE Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia. At one of the meeting at Pataya, the ASEAN leaders made a preliminary discussion in preparation for a discussion with HE Kevin Rudd, the Prime Minister of Australia. We have come to the agreement that any comments should be made only after asserting comments of HE Kevin Rudd.

In fact we are having this East Asia mechanism which is not even operating in full as we have expected yet. So there is a question whether it is necessary to have APC established in place of incomprehensive functioning of the East Asian Community concept. Unfortunately due to disturbances at Pataya, the ASEAN + meetings were not held. In the October meeting of ASEAN at Hua Hin, also in Thailand, we have brought this issue up for discussion among the ASEAN leaders and we have come to a consensus that we will listen to any explanation that the Prime Minister of Australia would have on that matter. However, the explanation made during a lunch time has not been clear on the initiative too.

To establish a mechanism is a difficult process and HE Ong Keng Yong, who have involved in this task for ASEAN could have well noted on this. In 2002, Cambodia hosted the ASEAN meeting, in which, together with other ASEAN member nations, India was invited for the first time at the top level. I could recall that to have India joining the ASEAN + meeting, if I am not mistaken, the discussion on the matter started well since 2000, at which time Singapore was hosting the ASEAN meeting. I remember that HE Goh Chok Tong, then Prime Minister of Singapore, proposed the idea but

there was no consensus at that time.

Until 2001 we reached a consensus in Brunei for the Indian participation, and India joined the ASEAN+ top-level meeting for the first time in Phnom Penh thereafter. If I may recall there was also this problem on whether India should be invited for the meeting on a regular basis or in if-and-when case. With coordination with India, Cambodia, as Chairman of ASEAN Meeting, a consensus was reached that India will join the meeting on a yearly basis. Well that is about the history of establishing membership or mechanism with regard to India.

At that moment we also had this proposition from Australia that it wishes to be high-level partner with ASEAN. The matter has been brought up to ASEAN members but the consensus was not reached. The matter has had a tour from there to the ASEAN meeting in Indonesia and then Vientiane of Laos. As Myanmar did not host the ASEAN meeting, the issue has come to Malaysia. HE Ong Keng Yong could probably remember that we had a long discussion, till late at night about the East Asia Summit.

The East Asia issue had been brought for a discussion between me and HE Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Singapore, in Phnom Penh. I tested the water if it is time to start having annual summit of East Asia. I can remember that HE Goh Chok Tong thought it is not yet time, though back in Vientiane we had a discussion as to what form would East Asia be. Whether we include three ASEAN countries + Japan, China and Korea or to take a wider form.

Coming to the time of Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Lung, he suggested that India be incorporated into the forum. But

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 6)

have also been many diversified responses as to why would they cast their votes for the CPP. They were giving supporting facts to the liberation of the nation from the Pol Pot's genocide, economic growth and better road conditions as well as leadership by Samdech Hun Sen, etc.

Solving unexpected business is indeed a major factor for all level officials. As responsible persons in a political party or in an institution, one should be prepared for all sorts of incidents, take for instance the fight against financial crisis too. I have an appreciation for the provincial or sub-national level authorities as well as the mechanism of the Cambodian Red Cross and the National Disaster Management Committee at all levels for their actions in time of disasters. It is true that intervention from superior level is unavoidable but first local actions and solutions must be applied and encouraged.

I also would like to send a message to provinces along the border that the weather in the forthcoming days will continue to be cold according to the information and forecast that I have from the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology. Last night I called (deputy commander-in-chief) Gen. Chea Dara at Preah Vihear and Sar Thavi, Deputy Governor of Preah Vihear inquiring their information and observation about chilly weather. I have provided since December some 20,000 sets of casual jackets for our troops along the border and on islands.

We have to keep following up the weather so that we will have to take timely measure to help our people deal with unforeseeable conditions. We have to provide accurate and updated information for the public, as access to information is primary in getting oneself informed, instructed and prepared for upcoming.

After the liberation, our country

was in a state of partly at war and partly at peace. The country had been at peace for a wider area and most of the time, but for a smaller part and less of the time that it was at war. The win-win solution has brought peace for the country and a complete cessation of war, a condition on which we have been able to urge for national reconciliation and unity for the very first time.

Peace and political stability is primary condition for development. Students and professors do not have to take shelters from bombardments as they did in the past. It is now the best time for us. Let's hold on to it tightly and don't let go of it. I am so disappointed to the fact that some of our youngsters have involved in drug and rebellious association. I want to have your attention here that alarmingly most of them are children of soldiers, police officers and officials. I wish that this indication be taken by all. Parents should take their best chance to educate their children or they could not prove themselves to be leaders of our people.

I have a few responses for our friends in the western border of our country. Yesterday Foreign Minister of Thailand, Kasit Phromya said our pagoda Keo Sekha Kirisvarak has been built in Thai territory ... Let me clarify that what you have said is an insult that is not to be forgiven. It is always the case that when you have internal political problem, you always divert the public attention to the border issue. Yesterday in your country there had been a red-shirted demonstration against Surayudh Chulanond and maybe there had been some kind of compromise that the red-shirts had dissolved.

I may give this remark for Kasit and also if Abhisit wishes to have better relations, he has to find a way to manage his foreign minister. You have made a small issue of Thaksin being appointed Cambodian advisor as a huge matter but you ignore the whole

issue of Preah Vihear temple. I have wished to leave the situation as quiet as possible, but you have stepped on my foot again and again. You have threatened us of your cut in assistance and loans and because I have returned them to you, what else do you have to put Cambodia under your pressure?

I have what is called confidential documents in my hand. It is a plan prepared by the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in addition to the letter by Kasit Phromya, consists of 18 points, in which positive and negative points are laid out for different political decisions and scenarios ... You don't have to talk about sending back the Ambassador. I can wait till there will be a new Government. It is alright now that we have had Charge d'Affairs. You threatened us with border closure, are you not planning so now? Cambodia will not buy Thai goods. They may be sent to before the Thai Government House in Bangkok.

How could they consider Katina as Thai assistance? As of today I am asking any Buddhist pagoda in Cambodia to first seek the Royal Government of Cambodia's instruction before making a decision to accept Katina from Thailand. Also as of now no more aid and/or loan would be discussed or accepted from the Thai Government, though we will continue to accept individual assistance. They seem to have included the Kompong Cheuteal project administered by Princes Mahachakri Sirindhorn in a form of Thai Government assistance, if it is so considered I would not let any Cambodian to go study there at all.

As far as Ambassadorial posting is concerned, Cambodia will take action in reciprocation. Fifteen minutes after the sending of Thai Ambassador back to Cambodia, we will follow suit. I have made clear already that Thaksin's appointment is not the beginning of the fall in bilateral relations be-

tween Thailand and Cambodia, but the July-15-2008 Thai army invasion of Cambodian territory is.

If it was truly your intention to accept me as your 'teacher,' as you had demanded while you came to see me in Phnom Penh, then as your teacher, I tell you no to do that anymore. Cambodia does not recognize the unilaterally-drawn map which encroaches upon our territory. Cambodia will continue to uphold peaceful means in solving the problem but will not allow for your ill intention ...

I have told Abhisit already I will not take opportunity to launch actions at the border while you are in turbulence at all. I will not give order for my army and/or people to do so too. But the former PAD-activist Foreign Minister seems to have expressed his rudeness on us. Let me warn you that no condition so to speak about sending back Ambassador. Cambodia will not die because of that and we will wait for the next Government ...

You (Kasit Phromya) have accused me of interfering your internal affairs. But the fact that you acknowledged to have known me for twenty years means you did recognize the tripartite coalition (of Democratic Kampuchea) in the past and that was an interference in the Cambodian internal affairs ... was not it? ... ©

(Continued from page 4)

obligation to fulfill that everyone must declare their property and if anyone fails to declare all property they have, there would be measures concerned. The anti-graft law would soon be going into force, whereby officials, officers and politicians are required to declare their properties. The General Staff Headquarters has now become the Headquarters of the Anti-Corruption National Committee ... ©