

**19 October 2010 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Inaugurating Mitterphap & Santeppheap Buildings**



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen accompanies HM the King Preahbat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihamoni in a tour in the Santeppheap Building (Office of Prime Minister) - Photo by Kampuchea

At the outset, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to express my great pleasure and loyalty to warmly welcome Your Majesty the King, Preahbat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihamoni, who has decided to preside over this solemn occasion of the inauguration of the "Office of the Council of Ministers, the Prime Minister's Office and the International Conference Hall" today.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my deepest thanks and gratitude to His Majesty the King, who has always provided all kinds of support to the Royal Government for the cause of national peace, stability, extensive solidarity in order to upgrade the living standard, welfare and harmonization of Cambodian people. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Queen Mother, **Norodom Monineat Sihanouk** and the King Father of Cambodia, **Noro-**

dom Sihanouk for having extended their congratulation to this inauguration ceremony. We believe that this achievement is impossible without the Sangkum Reastr Niyum era which was guided and led by both the Queen-mother and King-father of Cambodia.

At the same time, I would like to express my warm welcome to Samdech Head of Monks, Directors and Deputy Directors of Monks, Venerable Monks, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, National and International Guests and all Compatriots, who have participated in this auspicious event. I would like, now, to report to His Majesty the King, Samdech, Venerable Monks, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, National and International Distinguished Guests about the background of the construction of these two buildings as follows:

For so many years, I have always refused to rebuild the Office of the Council of Ministers, which is responsive to the daily increasing
(Continued on page 2)

**18 October 2010 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
IIC Uni. of Technology Graduation and Diploma Presentation**

Congratulations to Graduates

I am so happy that I could make it here today to preside over the graduation and diploma presentation ceremony of 834 students of the IIC University of Technology. It is a great pride that the families, society and nation as a whole have attained new human resources as a result of training effort by the IIC University of Technology. According to the report by the Rector, in the period between 1990-2000 and 2009-10, there have been 5,249 graduates and some 1,163

that are pursuing their studies. It is a contribution from the University but also personal commitment and effort by all of our students.

Absorbing Capacity

This has indeed signified that every student requires personal absorbing capacity. I have some experiences from the 1980s, when the country had been provided with education investment from the former Soviet Union. There had been two major factors that limited our absorbing capacity in face of

(Continued on page 3)

**13 October 2010 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Western University Graduation and Diploma Presentation**

Congratulations, Thanks for Involved Efforts, Job Opportunity

I have a great pleasure to preside over for the second time the graduation of the 1,059 students of the Western University after my first doing so in 2008, when, as I could remember, it fell on June 20, the day of anger against the genocide and about two months before the elections. The elections have indeed given the Cambodian People's Party an overwhelming majority of seats in the parliament and I have continued to be the Prime Minister and today here I am with all of the graduates of the Western University once again. I wish to thank the rector of the University for extending his invitation to both I and my wife to preside over the ceremony, but unfortunately she could not make it for her work (as the President of the Cambodian Red Cross) in managing disaster crisis.

national authorities who are present here. Of course I must convey my warmest congratulations to graduates who have made it this far in their studies. It is true that our society will benefit from a new generation of human resources and I would like to share my satisfaction with you all on the remarks by the University's Rector that (so far) about 90% of graduates from the University have got a job one way or the other. It is remarkable that some 60% of those who are in the course of pursuing their studies are also benefiting from job opportunity too.

Based on these figures, it is not unrealistic for an inference that with 300 new workers prepared and graduated from one University, we have some 3000 new workers in their jobs if we multiply with ten. These are people who go for actual jobs but there also are people who benefit from job opportunity indirectly too. Take for instance a TV station. It is true that some people/staff have benefited

(Continued on page 6)

I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for efforts by all involved persons and institutions, as well as those of the sub-

In This Issue

- Peace and Friendship Buildings — P 1
- Western University Graduation — P 1
- IIC University of Technology — P 1

(Continued from page 1)

requirement, so that the financial resources that we have collected can be kept for building physical infrastructures, especially building roads, bridges, irrigation systems to serve the rural people. The previous Office of the Council of Ministers was constructed in 1960s during the glorious *Sangkum Reastr Niyum* under the wise leadership of the King Father, *Preahbat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk*, who was the *Head of State* at that time. This building was abandoned without any maintenance during the war and the Khmer Rouge genocidal regimes. This building was scrambled and the west wing, working offices, meeting and reception rooms, and modern system of this building, which is to serve the efficiency of the working operation almost collapsed.

The vision of complete change was initiated during the visit of **H.E. Vou Yi**, Deputy Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in March 2004. Having seen clearly this shattered building of the Office of the Council of Ministers and the requirement of the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Deputy Prime Minister of PRC pledged to propose to the Government of China to assist in constructing this new building for the Royal Government. After then, the Government of the People's Republic of China assigned a team of delegation, including the representatives from the Ministry of Trade and the Peking Institute of Architecture and Research to work with Cambodian Plan Study Working Group and promised to draw a plan signed on 06 January 2005, presided over by **H.E. Sok An**, Deputy Prime Minister. During the official visit on 08 April 2006, **H.E. Wen Jiabao and I** presided over the ground breaking ceremony of the construction of the new building of the Office of the Council of Ministers, which took about 19 months to have the construction completely finished.

The new building of this Council of Ministers consists of 7th floors with the height of 40 meters and

the total space of 32, 580 square meters. In this building, there are offices of the leaders of the Royal Government, Office of the Council of Ministers that is the Secretariat Office of the Royal Government, Authorities, Councils and other Committees of the Royal Government. In addition to the working offices, there is a big Conference Hall, which can accommodate 20-200 people. This new building of the Office of the Council of Ministers is one of the symbols and achievements among other accomplishments that have stemmed from the friendship and close cooperation between the countries and people of our two countries Cambodia-China.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my deep gratitude, through **H.E. Pan Guangxue**, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Cambodia, to the people and government of the People's Republic of China for the valuable grant to build these buildings that will be used to improve efficiency and delivery of public services for Cambodian people. Since the completion of construction in December 2008 and the handover ceremony in February 2009, this building has been the Royal Government's busiest office which hosted cabinet meetings, reception of international guests, inter-ministerial and inter-institutional meetings, administrative coordination and reform tasks.

In spite of its high accommodation capacity, the building cannot correspond to our preparation needs for the international summits and meetings and Cambodia's increasing role in the regional and global arena. To respond to this need and the improved national economic welfare, I then decided to build another building alongside to act as the Prime Minister's office and host international conferences.

This building covers an area of 50,790 square meters, almost two times larger than the building of the council of ministers and is 51.91 meters high. It is a five-storey building with three mezzanine floors measuring at 5.5 meters

high. Each floor is reserved for different purposes. The structure of this building is derived from both modern architecture and Angkor Wat era style. The building will be used as the personal office of the Prime Minister, cabinet of the Prime Minister, ministerial meeting halls, international meeting halls such as ASEAN summit, ASEAN plus 3, East Asia Summit, multi-purpose halls that can accommodate more than 700 guests, medium-size meeting halls, bilateral meeting halls, more than 50 office compartments and technical, administrative and security offices. This building is equipped with hi-tech security equipments, gate monitoring system, CCTV, electricity supply, data network, and other necessary systems for the organization of large conferences.

The special characteristic of this building is that it is fully developed by Khmer people and the construction is financed by the national budget. Engineers, architects, construction workers, decorators who take part in the construction of this building are all Khmers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Royal Palace **Samdech Choa Veang Kong Som Ol** for leading the study committee and overseeing the construction of this building. Moreover, he personally instigated and managed the decoration of this building by skillfully combining the modern architecture with Angkor Wat era style. The construction of this building has been contracted to two Cambodian companies, including Ly Chuong Construction led by Mr. Ly Chuong and Vispan Company led by Mr. Unpheng Puthvisal and Mrs. Kung Panha.

Peace, political stability, national integrity and territorial unification achieved through the implementation of the "Win-Win" policy and socio-economic development over the past 10 years have allowed us to mobilized resources for the construction of this building, following the construction of the Parliament Building. Another special characteristic is the overcoming of time constraint. Both the study and construction phases

took only 18 months. Engineers, architects and construction workers worked around the clock and expertly dealt with various issues arising from this time constraint.

Along with this, although the construction of this building is completed with a short period of time, the standard of this building perfectly responds to present and long-term needs as the design is based on future needs and the study team has been dispatched foreign countries such as Brunei, Singapore and Vietnam and bring back information to build and decorate this building. I would like to praise the study and construction committee and the study team for hard work and close collaboration with both companies to complete the construction of this building within a short timeframe. Cambodia is proud of this building as the construction is purely done by Khmer people and purely financed by the Royal Government. It will be an inheritance for the future governments.

In general, both buildings perfectly complement each other. The combination of the Council of Ministers building, Prime Minister's Office building and the international conference center will be jointly called the New Government House. This attests to the Royal Government's firm commitment to improving the efficiency and quality of public service delivery to serve the people better. Parallel to this, the Royal Government has also recognized that even so far Cambodia has made many achievements in all sectors; Cambodia still has to continue her efforts in solving many important issues including improving human resources, developing capacity of institutions, expanding and strengthening physical infrastructure socio-economics. In this regard, Royal Government is committed to encouraging the implementation of key measures in order to achieve the priority goals mentioned in "**The Rectangular Strategy Phase 2**" ...

... I would like to highly value and
(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

such assistance and opportunity. Firstly, we have a problem of fulfilling our counterpart fund obligation. Secondly, we did not have human resources who could go on to further education.

The same is true now that despite we have had so far capital investments from various sources in forms of grants, loans and other private investments, still we have to have between 20% and 30% of counterpart funding. And to benefit from these forms of investments, we also have to have sufficient human resources who could benefit from these investments or we could never absorb them at all.

On another front, students have to have the ability to absorb lectures. Of course absorbing capacity varies from person to person. However, some students have proven to be industrious and possessed strong absorbing capacity as they not only absorb knowledge from professors in the course of his/her studies but also conduct own research.

Younger and More Capable

In light of this effort some students will be more knowledgeable and capable in the future. It is a fact that now they are students thanks to their effort they could prove to do better. This can be the case in every family. As a general rule for Cambodia that parents treat their children always as kids no matter how old or knowledgeable they are, even after they get married and have children. It is the Khmer nature. I am sure there are many people who would find themselves in the same situation as I mentioned.

I also have a part in following up my children development. All my five children and in-laws have now assumed continuing education. What I wanted to share with all of you today is that today s/he is our child but in the future s/he would become intellectual, and some of whom may acquire higher knowledge than we do.

This is a true nature that lecturers,

leaders, etc. have to understand and accept as a natural rule.

Mentor for Life

In response our students, no matter how far they could go in their education, Ph. D, or higher, should also behave accordingly. Take for instance some could have gone farther in their education than their primary teachers. I would not want to see that these students underestimate or look down on their teachers at all as it is not a good manner. There has been as saying that goes 'mentor one day is mentor for life.' You may notice that it is in this gratitude that we have set October 5 as the 'Mentor's Gratitude Day' since 1997. I am at the centre of the move to set the date and the philosophy of the day.

Human Resources Investment

Investment in human resources is in fact a key activity. According to the figure I have here there are in all some 89 state and private tertiary education facilities, of which 35 belong to the state. Thousands of students have been offered chance for education in each facility. Look we people who are sitting on the tribune are people with gray hair already and some with deteriorating health conditions. That is why we have younger generations to follow us up. That is why there needs to have education and training so that new human resources will be available and able to take over the tasks.

We have made great efforts in consolidating education from primary to secondary and to tertiary educations. It is like the form of a pyramid. There are millions (of people) at the lower part of the pyramid, but as it goes up, and remember there is no barrier for anyone whatsoever between junior and senior secondary levels of education, less number of people would make it to the top part. Entry exams will define that.

Take for instance this year some 87,000 students have finished their secondary educations, so they have to pass screening exams in order to get a seat for furthering their educations.

Each country is pursuing a different way and setup for continuing education to tertiary education. Let's take Kuwait as an example. Each year only 25 students will be allowed to graduate with tertiary education. They have a policy to orientate their citizens who finished their secondary education to taking up vocational training. In this note you will understand that those students will have hard time to get University's admittance.

As for Cambodia, we leave it widely open that for 87,000 students who have finished their secondary education to further their studies either with state or private education establishments. As a result, between 20,000 and 30,000 of them has been absorbed by the system. The rest will have to benefit from vocational training facilities and go on with their lives.

Quality education is indeed key in this endeavor. It would be a loss or in vain if people who have been trained and could never fulfill any work. It is a loss of money, time and other resources. However, in general, I would like to convey my appreciation to all Universities for the fact that they have made a good job in their training and educating our human resources. Some of their graduates have now come to the fore in state and private positions and jobs. Some have assumed positions as Governor and Deputy Governor, State Secretary or Under State Secretary, as far as state function is concerned.

Growing Share for Education and Health

I hope that those of you who have graduated will continue to make efforts in finding jobs and also to continue your studies. I would suggest that you are doing a good job in whatever you do so as to provide a good reputation for your University. You may have learned already that the budget law, in which more investment is made for the share of education and health sectors, has been approved by the Cabinet and is on its way to the National Assembly. We also have approved the annual incre-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 2)

deeply thank Samdech Chaveang Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Royal Palace **Kong Som Ol** for always diligently providing active support to this work till it is done. ... I also highly value and praise the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Urban Planning and Construction, the Phnom Penh Municipality, and relevant ministries and institutions for always giving importance to and facilitating all the tasks to build this great building and finished in a determined time. ...

Taking this opportunity, I would like to dedicate "The Inauguration of Council of Ministers' Building, Cabinet of Prime Minister's Building and the International Conference Hall" as a symbol of opening a page of the new century for the prosperity of Kingdom of Cambodia and all her people. I would like to name the council of ministers' building as "**Friendship Building**", the Cabinet of Prime Minister's Building and the International Conference Building as "**Peace Building**" from now on; as these two buildings are established due to the friendship tie between Cambodia-China and during the time that Cambodia is fully at peace...■

(Continued from page 5)

interview so as to move and live far away. From thousands of kilometers there would not be a way for them to hatch up any actions in Cambodia. However, I do not leave out anyone with a warrant of arrest from the court.

As in the case of Sok Yoen, who is involved in the murder attempt on my life in Siemreap province, has left for Finland. I am sure from this far he would not be able to shoot me again.

An opposition leader used to make an Ambassador of a foreign country his/her support. From the embassy, in a diplomatic flag vehicle, s/he is brought to the airport to board the flight. I told that Ambassador that if I were to arrest the person, I would do it otherwise by ordering the plane to return and arrest him/her...■

(Continued from page 3)

ment of twenty percent of salary for the Government officials, the armed forces as well as teachers/teaching staffs.

We do not do it the way some people have demanded otherwise. I am clinging to my principle of not making promises that one cannot keep, especially when the promise (of salary increment) cannot be supported by the state budget. As for those who do not care about making empty promises, what would s/he do when there is no money? If one resorts to printing more money just for the sake of increasing salary, their time in power would not be long.

Locally Educated & Valuable

It should not be misunderstood that unless one has got education from abroad, one would not be able to come up with working ability. To get a chance for further education abroad is good but if you don't get one, please do not be disappointed and blame yourself for that. I have a true story to share with you. You all are aware that I have five children, and after they got married, with my children in laws, I have in all ten children. They have all finished their tertiary education and postgraduate studies. One day we had meal together and in the course of our conversation my children seemed to have unanimously agreed that human resources that are trained inside the country are doing great.

They all have got remarkable results in their education abroad but their evaluations on locally educated human resources seem to be appreciative. They agreed that foreign language skill needs to be improved and it can be done. People who are educated by local education establishments get a better knowledge and understanding of local condition and situation compared to those educated abroad. By saying so I do not mean to underestimate those who have been educated abroad because my children also have been educated this way too.

What I want to say about this is

that despite they got educated abroad, my children and children-in-laws have unanimously made an assessment that locally trained and educated citizens are in fact quite capable and doing a good job. It is true and most of my staffs are locally educated too. I joked with my kids at the dining table that I like MIC and not MIF and asked them if they could guess the abbreviations stand for. By MIC I mean 'Made in Cambodia' and by MIF I mean 'Made in Foreign' (Countries). Well, it is just a remark and it is not to distinguish between those who have been educated locally and those from abroad at all. We must make use of all to build up a common force for national development.

Personal Performance, University Reputation

That is why I am stressing on quality education. It is usual that people with quality education have been screened for and recruited by private sector. Take for instance, for private sector as well as for state, selection and recruitment of able staff is important. However, despite conditions, criteria and contracts and many other tools, recruitment of new staff has always had some problem that not all of the new recruits are performing according to the standard expected. It should not be the case when one person is not doing a good job and blame is placed on where he is educated.

In some countries, selection and recruitment of best-performed students has started even when the students have not yet graduated. They came and signed a contract with the student whom they have selected in advance. This has been the case mostly because of the University's reputation. Also it has been the case as in other universities job opportunity is scarce. I would suggest that staff recruitment should not cling too much to the University's reputation because the curriculum and professional development provided by a University is one factor but personal absorptive and performance capacity should also be a matter to be considered. Sometimes, there are capable people in University with

reputation but there is also this case of University of high reputation but not well performed students.

Macroeconomic and Political Stability

Macroeconomic stability is indeed a decisive factor as losing it the country will face immediately with political instability. Look in Europe there have been demonstrations in many places. It has been up to months in Greece. What happened in Greece is a good example as to what could happen when the politicians are making promises in the course of their elections campaigns about pay rise. When elected they had to fulfill their promises and in the end the state debt has reached some 200% of GDP. That has prompted the last measures which are to lower the salary and increase tax. (PR) China has come to the rescue. (The PRC Premier) HE Wen Jiabao conducted a visit to Greece prior to the ASEM Summit. He was enthusiastically and cordially welcome because China has indeed purchased the Greece's debt.

Asia Asked to Share Experience with Europe

In the ASEM Summit there has been one remarkable trend about asking Asia to share experience with Europe on economic recovery. The United Kingdom under the Prime Minister form the Labor government used to propose to China to help with its economy and in the ASEM meeting, the British delegation of the Conservative government led by Deputy Prime Minister has asked for a share of experience in economic recovery.

Together with the Commissioner of the EU, President of the EU and Prime Minister of Belgium, and the President of Korea, and in my role as a coordinator of the meeting I found it a surprise. This has showed clearly that things have changed. Asia, which used to depend on markets in America and Europe, has been able, through the recent experiences in resolving financial crisis and economic downturn to recoveries, to recover before Europe and Asia. This has

brought about change of not only political course but also economic structure in the region.

Outward Looking to Existing and New Markets

I have mentioned sometimes about outward looking behavior and strategy. By that I am talking about two main areas of concern. First, we have to hold on to existing market; and second, we have to expand into new market. Outward looking means that we are working out to increase export. As we have already established markets in America and also Europe, we should go on maintaining our positions there. Now we have more and more of our rice going to markets in Europe and some three billion US dollars worth of garments have been exported to markets in America.

However, we should not overlook potential markets in the region. (PR) China is a big country that provides Cambodia with early harvest position for hundreds of favored items within the framework of ASEAN integration and Cambodia has yet to provide to the offer. As of now we are intensively working to bring our rice into China's market in addition to the latter's import of rice from Thailand and Vietnam. On coming Sunday there will be a signatory ceremony in which Cambodia and China will agree to issues relating to rice export to China, and that would include also quarantine.

Aside from rice, Cambodia is also working for a recognition and importation by various markets in the Middle East of Cambodian cassava and Muslim halal food. These are some of the issues that are contained therein with regard to outward looking strategy and market oriented actions for local production. The world before has been in the order that America is number one, followed by Japan. Nowadays China has taken the second rank. In the last few days there has been concern about depreciation of the US dollar and this also has a particular effect on Cambodia because our people are hold-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

ing more US dollars than other currencies.

Cyber Info/News

In all aspects of life, let alone education, it is very easy nowadays as there is this cyber information system where Cambodia also has posted many websites. I have found out that so much information has been made available out there. Take for instance I visited the everyday.com.kh site in which there is this section on poem. There is this latest poem dated October 16 entitled 'Flood Brings Love' and there is this other one 'Bye Ferry,' which is dated May 3, the day we put into official use of the Prek Kadam bridge.

News and information service have been fast. Unlike before it has taken so much time to get information from one person or place to another. This service has definitely shrunk the world and no matter where you are on the face of this earth you can find information. However, taking precaution for security and also in order that the Cabinet meeting would not be disturbed by phone incoming and outgoing calls I have instructed the special unit to block all incoming and outgoing calls. Let me remind you to turn off your phone and restart in order to get back to unblocking state. This technology has been developed in order to prevent phone call that activates the bomb, which has been widely used by terrorists. So it is used here for the sake of ensuring the focus of the Cabinet's meeting.

Thanks for Effort to Cope with Rain Flood

I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to authorities of all levels for making every effort to overcome difficulties and challenges by rain flood. Though it has not been devastating as that caused by the Ketsana typhoon effect, but it has extended widely to various provinces, which therefore makes it more disastrous. A preliminary comparison between rice destruction in Pursat because of the rain flood to that of Kompong

Thom province because of the Ketsana typhoon effect, the former has been more severe. I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the efforts by the sub-national level authorities, the National Committee for Disaster Management and the Cambodian Red Cross for taking every possible measures to look after people. I also thank the CPP working groups who have been working to help restore situation to normal. I wish we all continue to do whatever we can to fix the problem as it has been quite a disaster for our nation.

I received a report from HE Suy Sem (Minister for Industry, Energy and Mines and Head of Cambodian People's Party Working Group for Pursat province) last night about the flood situation. He told about some six thousand hectares of rice field that has been damaged. The point to draw a lesson from is that we have mobilized our people there to swap from long-term to short and medium-term rice cultivation. Some are in the stage of being ripe and some are in the stage of giving flower and grain. That is a severe situation beyond redressing by any means. As for other places, rice is growing quite well and we have exceeded plan up to 100,000 hectares or about 4% more than plan.

Phnom Penh also has been hit by the rain and flood but we could do a great deal to relive it because of two main draining pump stations. The rain had been remarkably heavy at more than 600 mm within the span of 48 hours. Provinces affected by rain and flood have been Phnom Penh, Kandal, Kompong Chhnang, Pursat, and Banteay Meanjei to further north and northwest, where flood has come from Thailand. Flood has been a threatening calamity now in Thailand. Since yesterday there has been a storm on Philippines, and that has in fact relieved our state of being in a depression. Because it has been predicted to go up to Hong Kong and other parts of China and back down to central part of Vietnam, we also must be careful and get ready for the worst

(Continued from page 8)

ceremony of the Prek Kadam Bridge, I said that the Cambodian Muslims are not that stupid to work as hired soldiers in the South-

that could happen.

Individual Vs Law Conflict

As far as political matter is concerned I just want to have your attention that there seems to be an intention to transfer conflict from between individual and legal system to between individuals. I heard that there will be questions raised to me. I have not received it yet but it seems that these are questions that could have been asked on behalf of foreign nations. When there was an aggression by foreign forces, not a single word was mentioned about that. Now they pose questions about Cambodian interference into other countries' internal affairs and they made it their argument that the actions are in violation of the Paris (Peace) Agreement.

May all compatriots look into the nature of the question? When Cambodia was being invaded, why was it not a case of violation of the Paris Peace Agreement? This in fact has brought me to a precautionary thought that they may try to transfer the nature of conflict from that of themselves with laws to between themselves with me. If it is the case I would not be easily tricked.

(It has been decided by the court that) in all, the sentences will be 12 years in prison. S/he must serve at least two-third of the term. Furthermore, the matter is not with me or within my authority to act. It is the court matter and it is in the jurisdiction of the Appeal Court and the Supreme Court. It is not my problem. It seems they have tried to leave no stone unturned to get me to respond. As I used to say to HE Nhek Bun Chhay (Deputy Prime Minister) back in 2003 that 'I no longer talk to loser' as they raised a political scenario of 'anyone but Hun Sen' (in augmenting their bargaining power in the post elections) ...■

ernmost of Thailand. If they were to do so, they would do it from the northern part and did not have to travel there.

On April 11, 2010, there was a call to HE Khieu Kannharith from Foreign Minister Kasit Phiromya to seek 'Cambodian cooperation in shutting down the Red Shirt TV Channel.' How could they expect us to do that when we did not know where the station was. They also said that the Cambodian army had gone to help fight in Bangkok and now retreated to Ubon province. (If it was so), I rebuked, why didn't they shoot them?

With regard to this, I may let a mystery out a bit, in New York HE Abhisit told me that there was a day when he had been informed eight times about the whereabouts of Arisman (Pongruongrong). 'I also have no idea,' I told him. Cambodia would not be that provocative. If Cambodia were to poke its nose into Thai affairs, things would be messy. Cambodia would not do that, though.

I had said since before the demonstration that firstly Cambodia would refrain from making any troop movement that might cause misunderstanding from the Thai side; secondly, to appeal to Cambodian citizens who work in Thailand not to join in the demonstration with the Red Shirt; and lastly, I suggested that the two countries should exercise good cooperation. What has been said and done is actual contribution for a favorable atmosphere with the Royal Government of Thailand (from the part of Cambodia). With regard to the accusation, upon his return from the visit to Myanmar, Prime Minister Abhisit said the information needs to be verified ...

I told HE Abhisit that I knew there are twenty Cambodian citizens, who are criminals, in Bangkok now. One of them is the criminal from an opposition party from the district of Memot of Kompong Cham province and I even know who sponsors him. I do not demand an extradition. It would be even better if they could pass the

(Continued from page 1)

directly from being on the payroll of the station. However, there are people who also working indirectly with the station too, in an outsourcing manner, like a ban of musicians, singers, film makers, people who dub the sound, cameramen, etc. Well, you can see this is what is called job creation.

Learning from Reading, Human Resources Inflow and Outflow Challenges

I wish to have your attention though that study is a continuing process and I urge that you will make further efforts for long-term goals. Study can be by any means. Sometimes a movie, a book or even a small article could make a world of difference in one's knowledge. According to some study, readership in our country has not been high. I could not tell how many in the Royal Government of Cambodia like to read newspapers. Reading nurtures and better one's knowledge. Study does not have to be confined and being conferred with a diploma. Sometimes, informal research and reading can make a progress.

I hope that you all are not stopping here, but go on to higher degree of education so as for the country to attain better and able human resources. Our country is facing the challenges of time and human capacity. It is anticipated with fact that by 2015, there will be off-limit inflow and outflow of human resources, services and goods. Will it be the case that our human resources outflow from or only outside human resources inflow to Cambodia?

In the course of attending the 8th ASEM in Brussels of Belgium, in my coordinating role between ASEAN and Europe, I have been working with a protocol official, who is French by nationality and coming from Paris. He was there to help with the Belgian Government on protocol issue. That is what I term inflow of human resources. We must make further efforts because we should not be confined to a situation whereby there is only inflow of foreign

experts and human resources, but we need to have outflow too. It is in this case that there requires clear orientation in the course of human resources training and development.

Is It Human or Society that Doesn't Evolve?

Learning from reading applies not only for our graduates here but also those who do not change their mindsets and/or styles. We have come to this question whether it is the society or human that does not evolve. Some people continue to preach words that have been said since decade 1990 of the twentieth century. Take this case of "where there is so and so, there will not be so and so, and vice versa."

Let me remind them that in 1990s, Cambodia did not have the Kizuna Bridge, the Se Kong Bridge, Prek Tamak Bridge, Prek Phnov Bridge and Prek Kadam Bridge. Time has evolved and things have changed. However, these people have not changed and said only one thing in repetition that "Cambodia is getting poorer by the day." Some who said so, however, have in fact changed from one car to a more modern car. S/he sometimes went abroad between five and ten times per year. They stayed in luxury hotels in foreign countries for months. They said, however, nothing (in the country) has changed for them.

Be Prepared and Catching Up

I would like to urge, in this case, not those in the opposition parties, officials in the Royal Government of Cambodia to continue to make efforts or they will turn to be obsolete that I do not know how to make use of them. As you all know in many forthcoming meetings, they are not bilateral anymore but multilateral ones. Take for example the CLV (Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam), the CLMV (Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam) and ACMECS (Ayeyawadi-Chaopraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy) meetings in November in Phnom Penh. In 2012, Cambodia will host the ASEAN and East Asia Summits. For these meetings, it is not

only the Prime Minister to conduct discussions with foreign leaders but there must be advance debates and negotiations.

We are not alone anymore. We have to be prepared and catching up with others though we would not like to gain advantage over anyone. We have no ability to gain over anyone too. But we should not be left behind too far away. That is why I urge that everyone needs to make efforts to learn and gain knowledge. Officials should take more time to listen to radios and/or watch TVs for information awareness. As for me even I go abroad, I always watch and follow up what happens inside Cambodia. Thanks to this I keep abreast with the situation, which recently allowed me to stop by and oversee the discharging of winter coats for soldiers, on our way back, before going home.

Human Resources – Key to National Development

I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and thanks for efforts that are made by the University in providing human resource development service, which is key contribution to national development. A country would not prosper only by natural wealth. In absence of human resources or gray matter, a development would be out of reach. We could draw a conclusion that countries with abundance of natural resources/wealth are not sure that they could (make use of them to) become rich. It is a certainty that countries with insufficient natural resources/wealth for their uses would end in being poor.

Perhaps Singapore could be a case in this region. Singapore is short of natural wealth and resources. It does not even have drinking water. However, with a great level of human resources, Singapore has achieved the goal to become a small dragon in Asia. While Cambodia, let's look, when we call our country a "Sovannaphum" (land of gold) we have been in a vicious cycle of poverty, in which more problems are to be resolved.

There can be two factors with regard to this development. One of them could be said to be a wrong leadership, as this would reverse the trend of (national) march, while others are pushing the march forward. Let's take the war time between 1979 and 1975. It was because this (stupid idea) of launching a coup against the legitimate Head of State, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, that war broke out and spread throughout the country. We must be clear that if there were no coup, such a war would not take place and the country would not be falling into the genocide regime thereafter that plunged the whole nation into destruction.

Another factor that we should bear in mind is definitely human resources. The might of human mental power will bring about creation, and contribute to knowledge economy, by which national production will be realized. Having come to this I would like to stress the on the important contribution by the Western University and other Universities, both state and private, for human resources training and national development as a whole.

State and Private Investment in Education

I must admit that as far as investment in education is concerned, we have noticed that there are more private education foundations than those by the state. If we look at financial aspect, any investment in this sector would not generate quick return. In my book "Ten Years of Cambodia's March," in between 1979 and 1989, I have pinpointed an issue relating to investment in the field of education. The Ministry of Education would not be able to get any return for the state, which I could say "money out, no money in." As for the private schools, they do generate return from their spending, and it is a long term gain too.

As far as capital generation and return is concerned, investment in the field of education is in fact not making any return in one or two

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

years as is gradually done by (investment in opening) a factory. However, the product is different – whereas factories, enterprises and other sectors produce commodity – it (investment in education) produces social product. It is in this significant stand that sometimes one has to cater to the need for an overall economic gain rather than clinging on to only its financial aspect.

There are areas of investments where private sector can participate like education and some BOT form of investment in roads and bridges, and electric generation. However, for some roads and bridges as well as dams, the private investors do not seem to express their interest as far as return in concerned. We may ask in this case, will the state take care of those investments? The state's investment will not generate direct return because people in Cambodia have not got a habit of paying for water to irrigate their rice fields like in the case of many other countries.

State Investment – Long-term Macroeconomic Gain

In Cambodia, not only farmers do not pay for irrigation, they also do not have to pay tax on agricultural land. A few days ago I have come across a recommendation by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the Royal Government of Cambodia to increase tax on the ground that tax in Cambodia is still lower than those in countries in the region. I said to the delegations from the World Bank and IMF that (the Royal Government of Cambodia) not only imposes no tax on farming land but also helps farmers with their needs too.

This has come to the question of investment in dams by the state. The question is whether the state should continue with the investment in the condition that the project will not generate (direct) return to the state, if we were to put it in financial context only. In some case, once the project completes and is put into official use, a gen-

eration of community contribution for maintenance has not yet happened. In many cases, for canals that have been silted up some time after dredging, the state has them combed again. So the state investment is to take into consideration not just in financial aspect of the project but an overall economic gain.

Thai said, whatever investment the state does in canal dredging is characteristically for helping our farmers better cultivate and manage their crops. (The state investment's) economic efficiency is to measure by how would every meter of the canal to be dredged beneficial for so number of farmers. It would not be a good project if we focus only on its financial aspect. Having said so I have come to making clear that for every investment project, there will have to be immediate and long-term returns, whereas, (the state's investment projects) will have to weigh in macro-economic gain/advantage.

New School Years and Teachers' Day

I would like to take this time to express my sincere appreciation for the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, all-level Education Offices, teachers and parents and sponsors of all students throughout the country for their active participation of making awareness of new school year and the Teachers' Day. Unlike last year when the country was struck by the Ketsana typhoon, this year schools in every part of Cambodia are open for new school year. However, because of the heavy rain in the last few days, a number of schools have to be closed. I must say that it has been a good opening and it seems that the registration rate this year is higher than the past years.

Right to Life – Basic Human Rights

The state has been making major contributions in the form of investment for education and health and many others. To have better human resources, it is important to make sure that our people are

healthy since childhood, in which mortality rate of children and mother must be brought down, especially illnesses that are related to malnutrition. These are true human rights and not those sorts of right that are written only on paper. How could one talk about human rights when one never does a single thing to help the people with. What are defined as human rights? They should start with livelihood. As is said by the Rector of the Western University, the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) has fulfilled its obligation.

The Cambodian People's Party liberated the Cambodian people from the genocide and effectively prevented the return of the genocide. These are historic missions that the CPP's actions have done to topple the Pol Pot's genocide, while reducing their ability to go on killing people. That is undeniably true that what the CPP did was responding to the basic human rights to life. If the people are dead, where could one talk about human rights? It is so naïve that some people, who were saved also by the January 7 Victory, have now preached about so and so human rights. Even some who lived abroad (in the time of the genocide) also had some of their relatives inside the country. Besides life, people must have the rights for food, education, health, etc. When talking about rights, one has an obligation to perform action. (And I wish to stress that) what we have been doing these days are in fact about human rights. We are making sure our people have the rights for education, healthcare, jobs, etc.

What else that they have preached to be rights? What seems to be nurtured in their mind and heart is the rights (for him/her) to become the Prime Minister. (For the fact that) they have complained about lacking of so and so rights is perhaps because they have not come to the position they want to be. One should again be reminded that it is the people's right to vote who would be the Prime Minister.

Agriculture Offers 72% of Jobs
Our people might have seen on

TV that I travelled between cities in Belgium by train. You may notice on the background that on either side of the rail is long stretched fields of farmland. Some people have tried to fool us that in foreign countries people do not work (in agricultural sector), or tricked us to believe them that all are working as officials. In Cambodia, agriculture provides some 72% of job creation for our people.

Our policy to export rice to foreign market has been welcome. However, our challenge here is to break it in. It is not a simple matter. Take for instance, in order to export rice to China, we have to resolve issues of quality and quarantine, and many works need to be done with the Chinese counterparts. A set of standard and formality will have to be formed and followed. Various needs have to be done for every other markets, including those in the US and Europe. Some have come to create simple-minded expectation among our people about exporting stuff like flower of water hyacinth, etc. Thailand has the ability to do so because they have been in this business for a long time already. They ship parsley to France for instance.

There is one remarkable point that I would like to share with all of you. In the first two weeks of September 2010, pace of rice cultivation had been slower than in 2009 for the same period. However, by the third week of September, the rate of cultivation has surpassed that of 2009. The cultivation area has now reached over 103% of plan and there has yet been any threat from drought or diseases. Our farmers have shown better adapting techniques in their cultivation too. However, there may arise this situation of need for seeds of all kinds because our farmers may have conserved only rice seeds, in the wake of flood like that, they may need other seeds such as potatoes, bean, etc.

In this case I would urge concerned authorities especially the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of
(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Water Resources and Meteorology to get ready for providing assistance to our people in area where dry season rice cultivation faces problem of water shortage.

Unprecedented Rain Flood, Low Water in the Mekong

There has been some 620 mm rain and Takhmao district of Kandal, and my residence at Tuol Krasaing (highland of Krasaing Tree) has turned to be Lake of Krasaing. Fishes of up to 30kg or 40 kg have been swimming wild because the ponds were inundated by rain water. I have a suggestion that if ever any fish of that size is caught I just wish that they do not eat but release them into a viable system. Those fishes have their identity tags marked by the Department of Fisheries for the sake of observing their living habits and also their weight developments. There had been similar case back in 1995.

According to (the Minister for Water Resources and Meteorology) HE Lim Kean Hor, in our country's history, within a span of 48 hours, the amount of rainfall has never been more than 300 mm. The recent rain that fell in Takhmao district of Kandal province has actually broken the record because there are 628 mm of rainfall in 48 hours. Parts of Phnom Penh capital, Kandal and Takeo provinces have been under flood from rain water but as of now the situation has improved. Siemreap province has been under sort of constant threat but according to the report by the Governor HE Su Phirin, the threat seems to have elapsed.

I have called HE Lim Kean Hor to acquire his observation if rain falls in the area of Oral Mountain, the capital of Phnom Penh would be under threat from its west. In this case I see that everywhere in our country must be alert and prepared for any circumstances that may arise because of flood from unprecedentedly heavy rain. It is the rain flood. It is not flood from the Mekong River, which this year we noticed an unprecedented low level of water in the river. It has

been predicted that the water level in the Mekong would reach between 9.20 and 9.50 meters. It turns out to be only a little over 8 meters.

According to the report by the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, the Mekong flood this year has not reached the expected level. For instance in Kratie province, flood has not reached reservoirs that water could later be used for flood recession and dry season rice cultivations. It is a big challenge for our rice cultivators in face of lacking water to irrigate their rice fields. It is important to figure out now if they have to swap their farming from rice to other crops.

Adapting To Climate Change

The world has discussed a lot about adapting to climate change, and so did the ASEM meeting. Why do we have to adapt to the climate change situation? It is because no one could command it. Let's find a way to adapt like one rice species to the new environment. Take for instance, if a seed could tolerate heat of up to 36°, we may have to find a way to hybridize new seeds that tolerate the earth heat that rises to 40°.

In practice, farmers in Cambodia have observed that after the festivity of Projum Ben (offerings for ancestors, which normally falls on October every year) they can start cultivating rice because there will not be any more flooding by then. However, lately, their observation has not been practically correct anymore. There have been instances that cultivation after the Projum Ben Day (in October) has a bad flooding experience. It is vitally important for us to keep abreast with the environmental patterns.

There used to be local observation that there would be less and less rain when the rain starts falling early morning of the next day. Still this pattern also has not been the case anymore. The Mekong used to have high level of flood like in 2000 and 2001, but for two years already that the level of flood water

were lower than expected. Let's remember that in face of climate change, it is important to find ways and means to adapt.

Be Prepared for the Worst, Precautionary Measures

Facing with this circumstance of heavy rain, I place my appeal to all level authorities to be prepared for the worst and take necessary precautionary measures. As of now, aside from news of missing fishermen, which we have not yet had confirmation, out at sea, we do not have any fatal case yet inside the mainland. As far as electricity is concerned, I urge that extra precaution must be exercised until you are sure that no chance for anyone to get shocked before a decision to turn it on is made. For those of Put Sar commune who have been evacuated from inundated homesteads to higher ground, in this case the Buddhist temples, I would urge the local authorities and Red Cross to look after them.

I demand that you make sure that they have food and doctors should also sent for their needs, as because of flash flood situation they are forced to escape so they may face with various sort of water born diseases. Also, as the water recedes, our people will return to their houses and they should be careful and make sure to double check before turning on electricity. For those who live in remote areas, they should take extra precaution for poisonous beings. I would urge concerned authorities to also evaluate and urgently repair physical infrastructures, first of all roads and bridges, while preventing heavy transport means from driving on water-saturated road base ... Before allowing kids to go back to schools, inspection must be made on the schools' infrastructures. All referral health centers and clinics also have to review every detail before assuming daily duty.

A Meeting with Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vijjajiva

Our people may want to know, I am sure, what have been discussed between me and Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vijjajiva in another round of meeting. This time from

my part I do not hit the issue of principles like the first meeting. I have singled out two points. Firstly, ratification of the minutes of the three meetings of the two countries' foreign ministers, in which issue of readjustment of troops from the Keo Sekha Kirisvarak is included, and secondly, I seek Abhisit's resolve to move troops out and have the two defense ministers work on that.

If this can be achieved then everything will be sorted out and I told him in that case tourist service can resume like before July 15, 2008. Generally, the atmosphere is good along the more than 800 kilometers border. We do not want the conflict in one small part to extend to other parts or become obstacles for bilateral cooperation. I have said it already that the two countries are like teeth and tongue, pulling away either one would not be wise option. The two armies had meals together in O Smaj and the two defense ministers met in Hanoi. Now we are waiting for the ratification of the minutes and the troop readjustment.

As for the accusation that some Red Shirt activists have had their training in Cambodia and have been arrested, I think the communiqué by the Council of Ministers' Quick Reaction Unit and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied it already. I and Abhisit have communicated with each other through SMS. I asked him if what is said by the general secretary of the National Security Council (of Thailand) represents the (Thai) Government.

In 2006, there had been an explosion in Bangkok and they said the bomb came from Cambodia. They later on said between 200 and 300 Cambodian Muslims travelled to the southern part of Thailand (to join with the Thai Muslims there). HE Khieu Kannharith, Minister of Information, and HE Osman Hassan, the Secretary of State and representative of the Muslim community in Cambodia had denied many times but they did not seem to accept it. In the groundbreaking
(Continued on page 5)