



21 March 11— Samdech Techo Hun Sen with people at the groundbreaking ceremony to build National Road 57B in Battambang province (Kampuchea Thmei)

28 March 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments) Presenting Diploma for NTTI Graduates

Along with the prepared text, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen made the following selected comments on issues of bizarre weather pattern, efforts by NTTI and the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MLVT), forecasting Cambodian economic growth, world trends of competition (military, human consumption, clothing, and children toys), training pattern, clarifying Cambodian positions on border conflict resolving mechanisms, possibly raising the matter for the ASEAN Summit, and Cambodia's wish for peace.

Bizarre Weather Pattern

Well as we all notice this year we seem to have a bizarre weather pattern. After off and on cool weather from October through to February, now the cool weather has returned along with some rains and also

lightning. Besides rain and cool weather, we have this strong wind too. According to CTN weather forecast and recollection, there have been strong winds in Preah Vihear and Banteay Meanjei provinces. According to a radio talk show in which people from various places join the talk, everywhere in the country seem to have similar weather and of unanimous opinion that this year Cambodia experiences two cool seasons.

Efforts by NTTI and MLVT

It is indeed a great pleasure to have listened to the report by HE Vong Soth, Minister for Labor and Vocational Training, and Yaok Sothi, Director of the National Technical Training Institute (NTTI) in relation to efforts made and developments scored so far. I may have your attention that this is my third time to be here as my first presence was in 1996 and again in 2005. Aside from this I would like to express my sincere thanks and

(Continued on page 2)

16 March 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments) At the Annual Work Review of Transports & Public Works

In addition to the prepared text Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen made comments on issues of road standard, repair, extracts on vision about transports from the Ten Years of Cambodia's March, non-technical upgrade of transport means, illegal checkpoints and traffic laws.

In Search of Viable Road Standard

Road construction should be well planned in accordance with country's development. We have had many experiences on this. In the 1990s we see roads of six and seven meters in width as large ones. Assistance provided to Cambodia in those days was done also along with this trend of thought. Now, road of seven

meters in width is no longer viable for traffic in the country any more. In various places we have enlarged our national road standard to eleven meters wide. We also have to enlarge the national road 6A, from Phnom Penh at Jroi Jangva starting from the Cambodian-Japanese Friendship Bridge to the junction (between Prek Kadam and national road 7), into a 19 meters wide roads of four lanes. This may also be the case of the national road 5 from Phnom Penh to Prek Kadam too.

I would urge for a thorough study on road construction basing on demand and future need. For instance, perhaps we could build, with available

(Continued on page 4)

14 March 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments) Presenting Diplomas for RULES Graduates

RULES's Self-Financing

It is a great pleasure indeed that I have a chance to join with the Royal University of Laws and Economics (RULES) to celebrate the graduation and diploma presentation ceremony for 1,315 students. I have presided over such event eleven times already for RULES since 1996. And this is the first time that the ceremony is being conducted in a new building. It has also reminded of my lecture here in the 1980s as is recalled by HE Yuok Ngoi, the Rector, in his report.

I am so glad that RULES has fully developed as a university in latest efforts. It should be proud that RULES has

achieved self-financing from educational service, by which new infrastructures and buildings have been initiated and progressed in firm steps. I think that this could be a good model and example for other schools and universities to follow.

I am so glad that we have made tremendous progress in field of education as is sounded out by the report of HE Im Setthi, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, and echoed by that of HE Yuok Ngoi. So far some 11,049 students have graduated from RULES and some 17,775 are in pursuit of their studies. It is our pride that we have foreign students com-

(Continued on page 6)

In This Issue

- NTTI Graduation — P1
- On Transport & Public Works — P1
- RULES Graduation — P1
- Handicap Soldiers — P1

(Continued from page 1)

appreciation for MLVT and all 38 vocational training institutions under its supervision for making so much efforts in providing training for our people that is corresponding to market's demand.

Particularly, according to the report by the NTTI's Director, so far NTTI has graduated 2,465 of them who will be presented with diploma today. This has in fact contributed a great deal to the need for human resources in our country. Technicians, so to speak, are of necessary demand for the country's development. To recall the past development, after the liberation of January 7, 1979, with the help of the former Soviet Union, 1962-established Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC) was put back into operation.

While longing for general development, since people seemed to have less interest in pursuing technological training as life career, there used to be this situation of less number of students applying for training in ITC. Lately, thanks to the country's overall development, where market demands for skilled and trained laborers, ITC has again picked up its deemed status. In ITC we have been offering training for two sorts of students – (the Royal Government) scholarship ones, who have pursued trainings, some to be trainers, in agricultural machineries, metal engineering, general mechanics, electronics, electric appliances, auto mechanics, civil engineering, aquaculture, agronomy, veterinary, management, accounting, marketing and English language, and the fee paying students who mostly picked up only two career trainings – electricity and civil engineering.

It is true that every subject is equally important but I noted that fee-paying students are lining up for training in elec-

tricity and civil engineering because they could find a better chance for job in the market. I am so proud that according to the report some 73% of graduates have had a job, while some have been sent to work in vocational training schools in all 24 provinces/cities.

Forecasting Cambodian Economic Growth, Job Markets

The goal of training should be set according to market demand and economic growth. Take for example, in 2004/5, when the economy boomed till 2008, then the world financial and economic crisis hit the world, we noted a strong rise in construction sector as it contributed up to 13.03% to the national economy in 2005. That situation had continued around 10% through to 2007 before falling in 2008/9. According to recent survey, the construction sector seems to have picked up again.

In 2010, while we were expecting a growth rate of 5.9%, it has been finalized to be 6%. Days ago the World Bank has predicted Cambodian growth to be at 6.5% while our prediction planned in the national budget was set to be only at 5%, with effort to maintain inflation below 5% as well. Still, we have reassured our effort to bring the poverty rate by 1% further. Well if we could achieve higher result, I am sure it will be for the benefit of our country.

I am so glad that not only training has been provided but also job seeking and providing have been an endeavor by MLVT and training institutions under its supervision, as well as foreign organizations like JICA, KOICA, AOTS (the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship) Japan, UNESCO-UNEVOC (International Network on Technical and Vocational Education Centre), IOF (International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development) together with various

companies like AmCo, KTC, K Cement, etc.

World Trends of Competition

It should be noted that where there is training, there must be job available so that once they graduate from these training institutions, our graduates could find something they know how to do it. More information awareness services and advertisement of jobs must be provided to students/graduates so that they would not miss a chance of being recruited to fill in the need of so and so institutions/companies. However, let's not be stuck with the idea that once graduated, everyone will get a job automatically. Along with making efforts to seek for jobs, it is equally important that we also have to think of creating own job and/or self-employment. In order to do so we should try to figure out which area in the world that there has been strong competition in.

It should be noted that despite the fall of the former Soviet Union and end of the Cold War, the world arms races do not seem to go away. Look, lately every country is boasting about their *military means* and more resources have been put into producing weapons and/or purchasing weapons at own disposal. It is a sad development as the world is moving along the trend of acquiring power by military means. They are trying to get the best technology possible to best kill their opponents. In Libya, as everyone can see, conflict of opinion and interest has now evolved into a real warfare, in which all means are pursued so as to eliminate those with opposite opinions.

To make war in Afghanistan, the US spend somewhere like 100 billion USD per year. It is so wasteful. I am sure if the US is using the amount of money they spent in Afghanistan and Iraq for their people's sake or

for the sake of developing countries, they would get a great benefit from it. Well, they may have a different reason and interest to pursue. The world has now come to a state where every country is in pursuit of nuclear power and even of missile access and capability. It is a competition for so modern weapons for killing one another.

Also in the world trend is the competition to answer the demand for *human consumption* where there has been strong challenge in food production, quality and safety. In various restaurants, you may take Cambodia in this case too, owners imported beef from countries like Australia, the US, Japan, etc. They competed in animal husbandry technology so as to get the best quality meat. Like in Japan, they raise cattle for meat with techniques to massage them, for example. They do that not only for own consumption but also for export markets. Aside from beef, the world has been addicted with foie gras (product made of liver of duck or goose) and caviar that is best known to be from Russia. Another product is wine which there is a strong competition and France seems to be one of the best.

All these need of course technicians. In Cambodia, formerly we needed technicians in cigarette factory but now the world is under the launch of a no smoking world. We should look into what we have, though our resources and technology may not be up to competing standard, so as to gradually replace imports. We are looking to income from animal husbandry to the extent that they could address the need for consumption by hotels/restaurants as number of tourists to Cambodia is increasing. We would be able to retain as much as possible income from tourists by not buying products from other countries.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Clothing/Fashion is indeed one other trend that is quite popular and commercially viable too. If you have a chance to watch CNN, BBC or other TV channels, you may see that from time to time there has been this spot of fashion show. Some brands are very costly. Since Cambodia also exports clothes, I am sure those factories producing expensive brands would need highly skilled and trained laborers too. I think women would find this industry fit with their hobby and nature.

Another industry that has been commercial and acquires millions of dollars too is *children toys*. We should not overlook its importance and commercial viability. We may never know that maybe in the near future some toy factories might want to relocate to Cambodia, where again highly skilled and trained technicians are in demand. I may include in here also sports equipments such as golf, football, volleyball, basket ball, etc. So it is important that we are getting our human resources ready and oriented for these developments.

Training Pattern and Consequences

I would like to seek concerned authorities and institutions to ponder on the need for orientation in our training pattern so as to adapt to the market requirement and development. I noted that we used to set a goal of training engineers level while less, it seems, consideration has been placed on training more skilled workers. This gap would bring about a situation where there could be immigrant workers to come and challenge local workers with the jobs available. Look now in construction sites, supervisors are coming from foreign countries whereas our workers are mainly laborers handling lifting and carrying jobs.

I can give you another simple example. In medicine, if everyone is pursuing the goal of becoming a Doctor, who would then be medical assistants? Training of middle and primary medical assistants is indeed to be aligned with number of Doctors. So I would like to urge attention and consideration from the Minister Vong Soth not to overlook the necessity for small-scale training programs at all.

Let's figure out how many tractors, pulled tractors, water pumps, etc. we have now in Cambodia. Engineers would not be doing the job of fixing these mechanical problems. But mechanical repair is a good source of money. People with this skill can also provide services on mechanical repair upon request or on mobility. Electronic repair, like mobile phone for instance, would be a good source of money too. In my report to HM the King on infrastructure and telecommunication, Cambodia has in all 10.8 million pieces of both mobile and stationary phones, and 10 million pieces are mobile. This figure indicates that one 75 persons out of one hundred have got their phones. Let's not aim too high while neglecting many things that are more viable beneath it.

Cambodian Position Re-clarified

I have one thing to inform our people with regard to the border issue between Cambodia and Thailand, especially the forthcoming GBC and JBC meetings. As we have the presence of someone from the Thai Embassy here, I would like to clarify Cambodian position once again since there has been so much interpretation among media (on this topic). In his March-25 letter to HE Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, HE Marty Natalegawa, Foreign Minister of Indonesia wrote in response to the March-16 letter

of Cambodia and March-19 letter of Thailand, both of which were responding to the March 16 letter of the Indonesian foreign minister. Well there are no longer confidential anymore.

(... *Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen reads the letter ...*)

As you can see now, in the letter, the foreign minister of Indonesia has acknowledged that Cambodia has accepted the term of reference and schedule set for the meeting, while Thailand is in consideration with concerned parties in the country. Here is the difference. In Thailand there are those who say Thailand will go to the meeting and those who deny. So this is not my problem. I would let this matter be handled by the ASEAN chair. In relation to what the media has written/publicized that Thai Defense Minister, HE Prawit Wongsuwan said he had written a letter to HE Tia Banh, Cambodian Defense Minister, I would like to clarify that the letter was written by the military attaché.

The letter was to seek for a meeting of (JBC) either in Cambodia or Thailand. Let me reaffirm Cambodian position that there will not be such meeting either in Thailand or Cambodia. Such meeting will take place only in the third country as has been called for by Indonesia. I would not do any otherwise to diminish the role of Indonesia. As chair of ASEAN, Indonesia has been recommended with this task by the United Nations Security Council. So it would not be appropriate for Cambodian and Thailand to meet without the Indonesian presence. I would not do that as it would be a kick on Indonesia and a gross violation of the ASEAN February 22 meeting. It would not be a slap on Indonesia alone but also the UNSC.

Cambodia has fulfilled its duty

in responding to each of the three letters on term of reference in less than 24 hours, except there was a slight modification in which this phrase 'exchange of letters' has been omitted from the previous draft, and the phrase 'to be signing by the three foreign ministers' remains. Cambodia has fully accepted the TOR, and it is now up to Thailand to behave. Cambodia is ready to go to Bogor, and whether Thailand would do so or not is up to them. It has been a situation that Thai Prime Minister and Foreign Minister take a yes position and the military commander said no.

As of today ratification of the previous three minutes of the (Cambodian-Thai) foreign ministers' meetings has not made any progress. Thai parliament has been in lack of quorum to discuss this matter and nobody would know when they are ratified. The yellow-shirt leaders – Sondhi Limthongkul, Chamlong Srimuang, Pantip, Thepmontri, etc. have assumed the role of a state when they claimed anyone raising hand to approve the minutes would be considered traitors with life sentence. Whether there will be ratification or not, in the face of threat from the Thai yellow shirt, Cambodia will go for the meeting as we have obtained some satellite photos on issue of searching for border demarcations.

Cambodian has maintained its unified position that the JBC meeting will have to be conducted in Indonesia and we deny any interpretation in contrary to this. I urge the media to make a clear statement on this.

Again, in absence of approval of the three minutes, Cambodia will go ahead to the meeting. If the previous three fail to be ratified, and if the forthcoming will produce another one, there will be four minutes to be

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 1)

resources, shorter length at a time but wider standard ones. If it is the case we must do so. Foreseeing future need would enable us to assume the amount of needed resources, the sort and size of roads to be built, on what sort of base and sub-base, etc. Though we may have built shorter length of road but we have strong base to continue and will not demolish old one to build a new.

Road Repairs Must Be Timely, Illegal Checkpoints Must End

I have said it on several occasions that road repair must be done before small scale damage turn into bigger one. We

now have a commission established with composition from the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Transport and Public Works. I have said and even organized a Cabinet meeting in a bus along national road 1. In similar situation, I pushed for the national road 5 to be built without waiting for the Asian Development Bank's decision. It was ready in time for the Dhammayatra (Buddhist pilgrimage). The same was true for a number of roads inside the city of Siem Reap and access roads to Angkor Wat temple complexes.

Once reason why the roads had been left without care and repair was because we were

waiting for outside assistance and another reason was we did not take immediate repair action when the damage was small. Let's remember, a small damage today would grow bigger in the following days. Therefore it is my urgent call that districts and communes where there are national roads running through, with provincial transport and public works units at their disposal, they are supposed to take care of these holes/damages in a timely manner.

I would say there would not be improvement if we were to follow the above protracted working style. Remember, the bigger the hole the more the repair would cost. Also, repair

must be done in general because I heard some people who said 'if it were not for Samdech Hun Sen to come through this road, repair work would not have been the case.' I would have your attention here that Hun Sen should not be a motive for the road should be repaired. I want concerned institutions to take initiative and act in their duty and responsibility.

When you have written and hung it on the wall that 'Always Look after the Roads' you should understand that there are two components in it. First, you look for and repair damage and second you are checking out for illegal checkpoints. You may as well see the problem when traveling along the road to and from Phnom Penh. Passing by once in a while, you may not find it boring and annoying. For people who are on the road everyday checkpoints have been their disgust. I would like to urge actions by the Ministry of Interior, who also chairs the land transport commission, to enforce the law. I would also seek stern action by the Ministry of Justice in issues relating to court actions for traffic law offenses.

As for the illegal checkpoints, I say it again, if, under your jurisdiction and administrative boundary, there are any, you all should resign for not fulfilling your duties. If you cannot enact this law I allow you to leave your posts and positions. Let's leave them for younger officials who are even more competent and determined to get the job done. I also contributed articles to newspaper in the past about issues of abuse of power, corruption, etc. Take for instance my article titled 'Permission Letter Number 50,' which was figuratively meant that anything can be done and permitted with the permission letter with number 50 or 50 Riel banknote in the

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 3)

ratiated then by the Thai parliament.

To Be Raised in ASEAN Summit

On the verge of dissolution of the Thai parliament, one Thai politician suggested leaving the issue to be resolved by new government. I see there is no other choice left here. Last night I discussed with HE Hor Namhong and I told him to get everything ready for the forthcoming ASEAN Summit. If we could not sort it out now, by foreign ministers' level, the issue will have to be brought for the attention of the ASEAN leaders. So the war problem between Thailand and Cambodia will be placed on table of the ASEAN Summit.

There has been a media report that the Foreign Minister of Indonesia said if the matter could not be resolved, it must be returned to the UNSC. I could not ascertain that this information is true yet. However, I think it is a good thing if the ASEAN mechanism, recommended by the UNSC to help solve the problem but could not do so, returns the matter to the UNSC. The UNSC has done its part of

respecting the role of ASEAN.

On February 17, in a press conference, I have proposed for a ceasefire to be observed by a third party but I did not mention Indonesia. In a meeting at the ministry of foreign affairs of Thailand later on February 20 led by Prime Minister Abhisit, Kasit Phiromya declared accepting Indonesian ceasefire observers to come to Thailand and requested that Cambodia reciprocate in kind. Despite all these, now Cambodia has accepted the deal why there should be any obstacle? Cambodia has done its part preparing from vehicles, radio communication to hotels for the arrival of the Indonesian observers.

Again I stress that bilateral discussion would reject the role of ASEAN and Cambodia will not be part of doing so. If Indonesia could not implement this role, Indonesia (as chair of ASEAN) has had to report it to the United Nations Security Council.

It Is Peace Cambodia Wants

Cambodia will continue to show patience while creating a favorable atmosphere along the border. Let's all stay where

we are. I would like to express my sincere thanks to our soldiers and commanders at Preah Vihear and elsewhere for making efforts for national defense. They would not have a chance to enjoy the coming Khmer New Year and I would seek understanding from sisters and nieces, whose husbands, sons or fathers are performing their defense duties and cannot this year join them for the New Year festivity.

It is so encouraging though that various ministries have taken their time to visit our soldiers at the fronts and bring them food and supports. Defense is a work for all and all must take up defense. It is our national defense foundation and HM the King also wishes to relay through me to all of our people and soldiers his support for such a noble task of defending our territorial integrity.

I hope the Thai Embassy representative here will make a clear report to Bangkok. It has been quite usual that misinterpretation is the case for Thai media and this would therefore leads to misunderstanding and making wrong statement by politicians...■

(Continued from page 4)
past. It was back in 1986/87.

Account of a Book Written 20 Years Ago

Here is the book ‘*Ten Years of Cambodia’s Journey – 1979 through to 1989*’ that I wrote twenty years ago. Let me get back to a section where I outlined my vision on transport and public works back then.

In fact the book was a compilation of various writings I did in the country, Vietnam, India, former Soviet Union, France, Indonesia and finally in Vientiane. Since there was different understanding on various issues, I took the initiative to put out ideas on several issues as food for thought. I also wrote another book, which is literally my thesis and which a part of it was repackaged and compiled for a publication called ‘*Thirteen Decades of Cambodia’s Journey.*’

The first book was published in 1988, now it has been reprinted using computerized Unicode Khmer fonts that allows posting on (and uploading and downloading from) the internet (www.cnv.org.kh).

Let me read pages 212 through to 214 for you so that we all see what problems were then and what have been repeated now. Please take them as my vision from twenty years ago. Here quote:

“There remain various issues to be resolved in the field of communication and transport. Wearing out and damage of roads, bridges, including also rails, demands for urgent and major repairs, but we are in short of cash and materials to get these demands answered. In addition to these, overloaded capacity transportation beyond road and bridge weight limit has aggravated further the road condition and broken bridges. Means for public transportation are not up to demand for travelling demand. Transport means –

whether trucks or engine boats – are overloaded with passengers and goods, which then caused fatal accidents. There have not been adequate numbers docking places, thus leaving them docking anywhere they wish along the riverbank. This is also a risk of fatal accident for our people. These have added in all so much difficulties for our people to travel, both because of time consuming and/or fatal accident. Worse still, in recent years, in addition to all the above, there have been too many legal and illegal checkpoints where engine boats and/or passenger buses had to spend hours waiting to be checked. This also further complicated travelling, loss of time and in many instances adding costs, for our people. In late 1987, the Council of Ministers ordered for closure of a large number of checkpoints, which then improved travelling a bit. However, with more time continued to be spent at the remaining checkpoints, in some instances from illegal ones set up by bad elements.

We have not yet worked out a sophisticated way to control and manage private means of transportation such as trucks, buses, engine boats, etc., and no clear policy has been set on issues of private transportation yet. The problem here lies on the fact that as the State has not got sufficient number of transport means that are corresponding to growing travelling demands of our people, we shall allow for use of private investment and means for transportation under the state control and management so that we could address this issue of travelling demands. Since we have allowed people to have and use private cars, we should also allow them to import passenger buses – both medium and large size - to address these demands. In fact, in the past years, some people have started this private bus

and engine boat service business, large and medium, already. So what remains to be done here is to work out principles needed for expansion and better management on transport means of all sizes. Lately, the state has come to a decision allowing the private sector to do business in passenger transportation, while encouraging through tax incentive for import of transport means.

Another point to be raised here is the rising traffic accidents in the cities and along national roads due largely to overloaded transportation and over-speeding in addition to disorderliness that caused loss of human lives and heavy property damages.”

In page 378 of the Chapter on Reform, I have suggested and quote:

“We must dare encourage the private sector to use their capital for building or importing means of transports such as engine boats and trucks so as to serve for the need of our people’s transportation. What we should be afraid of here is not owner of the buses and/or engine boats. What we are afraid of is indeed fatal accidents among our people, their hardships and loss of time while journeying because of lack of transport means. The state has got sufficient means to control and manage them.”

The book was written and was never brought for consultation within the Party. The book has in fact covered so many issues. Most of my reform ideas have been raised in the book and they have been proven successes. I take this opportune moment to thank Samdech Chea Sim and Samdech Heng Samrin as well as other Party leaders for the time and experiences they have offered me.

Though it was written some twenty years ago but I still keep consulting with it to see if

my vision then has become a reality now.

The book argues topics of political development, military and diplomacy but also socio-economics. It carries a large deal of information and notes on political negotiations (on the Cambodian issue). Now the whole book is available on www.cnv.org.kh in Khmer.

Non-Technical Upgrade of Transport Capacity

Now let’s look into issues of overloading, over-speeding and checkpoints that we encountered in the past and try to figure out the way to prevent them from happening. As for this problem of people non-technically extend their vehicle’s length and loading volume exceeding the weight-to-length ratio for road and bridge, I would command you to not talk to the owners but get their truck disengaged, as we have warned them so many times already, and reprimand owners to pay for the work done.

I would suggest that you do not check their weight while they are on the road but before they got off loading places.

Checking them on the road would not stop them because they may give money to truck load check agents and pass. Transportation companies whose trucks’ tires are wearing away, they must not be allowed to run in the roads. The case of So Nguon Company that I mentioned the other day is an example. The company wrote to me and assured me they would change the situation. I order that strict measures must be applied not only for So Nguon Company but all. It is now no time to repeat what has been said many times already.

Container carrier is also a matter of concern. I would suggest that you concerned authorities – police, military police and

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 1)

ing and studying in our tertiary institutions such as the Royal University of Phnom Penh, the Royal Academy of Cambodia and RULES, and perhaps others too.

I wish to take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks and appreciations for efforts made and patience uphold by rectors, professors, managerial staff in the course of providing knowledge and knowhow for our younger generation. I also take this moment to give my appreciation and share my joy with our graduates today that they have become new human resources for our country. I would like to thank also families and parents of graduates for taking all hardships in their income making efforts so as to support and finance their studies.

Upholding Personal Income Tax Law

So far there have been so many requests for tax exemption from both schools that are run by locals and foreigners. When I am talking about this, I also mean diplomats who used to ask for personal-tax exemption. As they have come from afar to tell us about the need to get stringent with tax, they in fact should be aware that paying tax on personal income is an obligation.

In this instance I urge other training institutions, local and from abroad, that are present in Cambodia to take the law on personal income tax seriously. A favor granted to one institution would indulge a favor for another. Let's all heed the obligation.

Fee Paying Students, a Way for Equal Chance of Education

Among the graduates, it is worth noting that only 232 students have been on scholarships (provided by the state), whereas 982 of them were fee-paying students. This once

again proves that our policy to allow public institutions to provide training opportunity for fee-paying students as private education institutions has offered chance for education for so many people.

Cambodia Needs More Teachers & Doctors

It is in this trend that from day to day, more and more human resources have increased and this is a starkly different situation compared to some 32 years ago when Cambodia was starting from scratch. Despite the progress, we still have to take up the challenge of continuing to prioritize human resource development, especially through education, by building more schools and providing more teachers at the local level. I would have your attention here that as far as need for teachers is concerned, in time that staff recruitment is forbidden across the board, the Royal Government has allowed two ministries to go on recruiting staff – Education and Health. So every year we have allowed recruitment of some 5,000 teachers in replacement of retired ones.

Let's Get Things Done and Ready for Rabbit Years

As Cambodia is anticipating the coming Year of Rabbit (in April), I hope that we all are making efforts to fulfill our tasks and missions so as to get ready for the New Year. I would urge our people to accomplish whatever they wish in their daily-life aims and refrain from committing offenses. Since we have here today presence of Mayor of the city and Head of Khan/districts, I would urge them to take counter measures against drug use. Let me remind heads of all police offices at the Sangkat/commune level that it is their duties to see that these matters be addressed.

Let me warn you that if you do not fulfill duty, senior level law

enforcement mechanism will see to that. I would urge also that efforts and measures taken in this campaign must be straightforward and objective. We should try to root them out and jail them if need be. I would have your attention that crimes and offenses are always the case when the authority is engaged entirely in urgent affairs.

Take for instance logging, while in 2000 we were so busy engaging with rescuing our people from flood, had gone wild and out of control. As of the present time that the Royal Government is devoting its efforts and synergy in defending the country from foreign aggression, these crooks would deem it their best chance and time to conduct their harmful business to our country and society such as drug trafficking and logging. Let me warn authority about taking bribe from these crooks.

Talking about this I also warn officers who may take bribes by all means, take for example this case of fabricating or forging evidence so as to sway the verdict in court. This has been the case and we have taken stern measures so far that two or even three star generals have been arrested. It is because of fabrication of evidence that cases which deserve long-term imprisonment had in the past been either misjudged and delivered with a much shorter time of imprisonment or even suspended. Criminals benefiting from this had then gone wild and created worse case for society.

They could not be stronger or above the law when we all are enforcing the law and act in our duty. However, I would urge that actions should be taken within the legal limit and not to take it to the extreme as we are not following Pol Pot's example of eradication or execution. As I said earlier, I would not forgive or argue it

when officials of the Royal Government, police and military police, are found tainted with a case where 'smaller fish fed bigger ones' (lower in rank officials sharing bribes with higher rank officials).

I also would like to urge our people to control speed limit while driving as I have noticed numerous cases of severe road accidents. The one on the national road 4 the other day had taken lives of some twenty people, and wounded so many others. I am calling all of our people to limit their driving speed to within and below 80 km/h. I hope that from now to the Khmer New Year and on accidents as such would not happen.

Japan Quake & Tsunami - Horrific Contemporary Disasters

Last Friday, our people may have known it already that in Japan there as a horrific natural hit on Japan – earthquake and tsunami. According to the press, there have been over one thousand deaths and over ten thousands are unaccounted for. The holocaust also caused indescribable damage to property while putting Japan's (Fukushima Daichi) electric plant run by nuclear power in a state of imminent threat. This natural hit is far bigger than the one Japan suffered 140 years ago. We are concerned that this will bear a huge spell on Japanese economy and hence more in the region and the world even would share the brunt.

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and the people of Cambodia, I have sent a letter to Prime Minister Naoto Kan to share our sympathy and pity with our Japanese friends and contributed a sum of one hundred thousand USD for the people of Japan. This amount of contribution is very small but it is the Cambodian people's heartfelt feeling for

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

the difficulties that the people of Japan are in. Together with the people of Cambodia, I would like to share with the people and Government of Japan our deepest condolence for the deaths and concern over the destruction.

Accounting for Cambodian Students in Crisis-Hit Foreign Countries

As for Cambodian students studying in Japan, according to preliminary information so far, it seems that no one is reported struck in the incident. I have asked the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to keep contact with the Cambodian embassy in Japan to keep an eye on this situation though. In case of any sad development, the information should be relayed to us the soonest possible so as to take appropriate and timely action.

However, on another instance, Cambodian students in Egypt, because of the incident out there, we have asked Malaysia to help flown them out. Some have chosen to stay on and as the situation returns to calmness they continue their studies. We also have evacuated all of our students from Libya with the help from Vietnam. They all are back in Cambodia now. Since we have students in so many countries, it would be wise concerned authorities are keeping their eyes on developing and evolving situation so that appropriate and timely measures could be taken.

International Students Contest – a Way to Go

Just now HE Yuok Ngoi mentioned about sending our students to an international contest. It is a good thing that now Cambodia is making its presence in international arena where some over one hundred countries have joined. Cambodia lost its identity and prestige in the world arena under Pol Pot's time. After January 7 victory, there was a period of

time that Cambodia was never fully affiliated to any specific forum or organization. Cambodian political factions had competed for seats at the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, etc., where Pol Pot, who committed crimes against Cambodians and humanity, was recognized, and so were for the seats in the International Olympic Committee and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).

Cambodians Unite, Foreigners Come By

As of now, all seats are represented by Cambodian people's representatives. This has brought me to a synthesis that as soon as Cambodians fight each other, foreigners would take side and further aggravate conflict and when Cambodians unite, foreigners would come by in favor of our unity. Take a serious case as an example, the Thai-Cambodian conflict at the border of Preah Vihear temple. The fact that this matter has been forwarded and heeded with response by the United Nations Security Council is not a simple development.

Firstly, only one out of five permanent members of the UNSC vetoes the request, the UNSC's meeting on the said conflict would not happen. Secondly, in similar instance, there would not be a communiqué too. One political party's head in Cambodia has echoed that he had recommended long ago that this matter should be brought to the UNSC's attention. I would respond that the person should learn more about the way things work in the UN and the UNSC, especially if the person wishes to make him/herself future Prime Minister.

To get the issue to the attention of the UNSC is not a simple matter and we have not brought for them the issue of border conflict (as maybe deemed by the person) but a

matter of war that is posing threats to regional security. If it were the border issue per se, I am sure there would not be so rapid or even no response. I would urge politicians to study this matter through.

Ready for GBC & JBC Meetings in Indonesia

Where are we now? Cambodia is getting ready for a journey to Bogor of Indonesia for the meetings of General Border Committee (GBC) and Joint Border Committee (JBC) for Land Boundary Demarcation with coordination and involvement of the ASEAN rotating chair (Indonesia). The chair would open the meetings and stay there while the two sides will proceed with the meetings. In light of any meetings' outcomes, the Indonesian chair would be co-signing as a third party. There is no more closed door bilateral meeting anymore.

There have been so many lessons already that such closed door bilateral discussions had brought us indecisive moments as what had been discussed and agreed upon in the meetings were not properly told to the press, which then caused so much misunderstandings. This has happened more than one and we cannot let that repeated. I agree that negotiations on trade and tourism can go on bilaterally. For things concerning ceasefire, observation and border issues will have to be conducted in third party's presence.

Cambodia Wants No War but Life without Intrusion

It seems the situation has improved somewhat as there was a volleyball match among them (Thai and Cambodian soldiers) yesterday at Ta Thao according to my recommendation. Talking with each other out of differences is indeed difficult but it is better than we fight and shed blood. Let's talk and play ball and even perform arts together. Let's not fight.

No matter who has what (weapons), once hit, there would be casualties and death. Who suffer most are the people.

It is in this realistic understanding and because we had spent so much time in the civil war that Cambodia wants no more war. All we want is to survive as a nation and no intrusion and abuse of any kind would be brought upon us. It is so ironical as it has been said lately that Cambodia invaded so and so country. I have said that it is the first time in the modern history of Cambodia that a country has said to be invaded by us. Take for instance the yellow-shirt demonstrators in Thailand always call us invaders. They claim we took their land but where their land is we do not know (according to the map recognized by the International Court in The Hague).

We will do whatever we need to defend our land and would resist all forms of aggression, forces included. We are no sheep. In instance of a ceasefire, all must stay where they are awaiting border issue solution. This means we will need for the International Court of Justice in The Hague to clarify (its 1962) verdict (that recognizes Cambodia's sovereignty on the Preah Vihear temple). Cambodia would accept whatever the court would explain, i.e. if we are in the land that belongs to them (Thailand), we will move out, and if they (Thailand) are in our territory, they also have to reciprocate in kind. Both sides must respect the court's decision.

Indonesia Can Send Observers to Cambodia Right Away

Now we have a ceasefire in place but we need to have ceasefire observation team from Indonesia to come to guarantee it. We have responded to the Indonesian side already and Thailand has yet to

(Continued on page 8)

05 March 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
A Visit to Takén Koh Sla Handicap Soldier Development Centre

Visiting Once a Year, A Close Look on Family Development

Today March 5, 2011, once again, my wife and I are coming to the Handicap Soldier Development Centre after my visit last year on March 8. It has been exactly one year since when I have promised that my wife and I will try to visit all of you once every year. Whatever I say, either in the local community context or in relation with neighboring countries, will not be backtracking ...

Healthcare - A Delivery Clinic

As I have come this far I am so certain that your children have access to education not less than when they were with you at the handicap centre at Kien Svay district. In addition to that we have a clinic here specially built and prepared for child delivery. As you all may know that delivery before was being attended in general ward. As of March 1, if I am correctly reported, there was this first delivery in the new building. My wife said before arriving here that if anyone is to deliver while she is here she would attend to the delivery herself.

It is an encouraging result that the general ward here, as is reported by Gen. Tit Meng Long, has been providing treatment for some 12,195 patients in addition to 101 women who came for delivery. It is a satisfaction for us that in our society no one is being disregarded for physical reason and/or background when it comes to wedded pair. Take for instance my wife disregarded my handicap to get married with me. And it is also the case here where families of handicap soldiers are marrying their kids, or sometime between handicap soldiers' families and those from outside the handicap soldier centre.

Water Resources and Supply

Today I have asked the Minister for Water Resources and Meteorology to come along. It should be recalling of the past experiences in Prey Veng province where there was a big flood in 1994 and drought in 1995. As of now, as far as I am informed, some wells have gone dried already. To say it in other words, the water table underground has gone further down and various ponds, including those at my place at Takhmao, have had the lowest level of water. It is amazingly bizarre because in October 2010, 600 mm of rain in 48 hours had been recorded. Now, only a slightly little water level remains. This has warned us of how to go about preparing for a water shortage both for consumption and for irrigation.

It has been the case here that only eight wells have maintained water level that is catering to need for washing and cooking. In 2010, the Ministry of Rural Development provided 33 drilling wells that are sufficient for household use but not for irrigation. The Ministry has indeed requested to me to drill some 30 more of the wells plus a 100 m by 200 m at the depth of 3 meters. That would include also a number of ponds for fish culture. Let me now instruct that this task of supplying water will be conducted by two ministries involved. I would permit the Ministry of Rural Development to continue its project of drilling some 30 wells more in order to increase coverage area with wells ... I would leave the issue of searching for a more potential sources of water supply for irrigation to the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology ... We have to go beyond water availability for household consumption to addressing agricultural development demand.

(Continued from page 7)

do so. I would stand by my position announced on February 20 that if Thailand does not allow the Indonesian ceasefire observation team on their side, Cambodia will accept them on our side still. I would urge for the sake of time saving for sending the team to Cambodia as we had the visit of Indonesian military attaché to the conflict sites already.

Cambodia has got a commission in place, to work with the Indonesian team, under the coordination of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense, HE Tia Banh. We also have a commission set up on legal affairs concerning this matter also chaired by a Deputy Prime Minister and

Handicap Quota in Public and Private Workplaces

It has been requested to me by HE Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Interior, to establish a new commune boundary and authority here. I would ask HE Khoy Khun Huor, Governor of Kompot, to consider placing the commune authority out of the Handicap Centre. My reason is for the centre not to be plagued with incidents that may arise from electoral campaign season. Some opposition candidates may enter and reprimand handicap persons, who may, directly or indirectly, return with anger. I think it is best to put a commune office out of this centre ... Some people are so disrespectful that they may say scornful words to handicap people in general not to mention only those soldiers who have been handicapped for national defense. I am one of handicap person in Cambodia and I take that as disrespectful and immoral acts to do. In fact, handicap people deserve to be treated well ... I hope our people will be able to distinguish and make good judgment as with whom to entrust the job of leadership.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, HE Hor Namhong. As current ceasefire is so fragile, without waiting for the approval from Thailand, Cambodia urges Indonesia to send in to Cambodia their observers...☐

(Continued from page 5)

public work officials - should convene transportation companies for a meeting to discuss ways to deal with these problems.

I think it is good if the Minister of Trade is also taking part in the meeting because if those companies are not paying attention to what have been discussed and agreed upon, the Ministry can cancel their trade licenses ...☐

Thai Backtracks, Cambodia Goes Forward

In fact we have here some houses ready in preparation for handicap soldiers in the war of defending our territory at Preah Vihear area. Yesterday, a letter has been sent to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia and Thailand and also all Foreign Ministers of ASEAN. Cambodia has accepted completely what is proposed in the letter and has pointed out 14 locations, more can be decided later, and a timeframe of twelve months, with possible extension, for the observation team. The Minister of Indonesia is considering proposing meetings of the General Border Committee and Joint Border Committee on Demarcation for Land Boundary in Indonesia.

How come (the Thai side) continues to insist on bilateral (negotiation)?... Indonesia will host and co-sign the outcome of the meeting. (Thailand) claimed to be welcoming (the Indonesian observation team) and also challenged Cambodia to do so. But when Cambodia accepts and goes forward, why do they backtracking ...☐