



31 July 11— Samdech Techo Hun Sen accompanied by Kitti Pritbundit (Distinguished Senior Doctor) Bun Rany with Handicap Soldiers in Siem Riep's Handicap Soldier Development Centre 317 (Photo: Kampuchea Thmei)

22 July 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments) Press Briefing: Explaining Stance on the ICJ July 18 Ruling

The ICJ July 18 Ruling

Today I have the necessity to brief the press as well as our people on the ICJ July 18 ruling on Request for the Indication of Provisional Measures made by Cambodia. I may stress that as soon as the Court issued its ruling, a declaration has also been made by the Royal Government of Cambodia to offer its entire support to the ruling of the Court, leading to a reaction from the Prime Minister of Thailand Abhisit Vajirajit that “Cambodia supports first, so Cambodia has to withdraw troops first, too ...” I think that is so childish. Let me have his attention that it is neither a child’s play nor a matter between two countries – Cambodia and Thailand, and ASEAN as before anymore. The Court’s ruling bears the obligation to be carried out internationally. On this note I hope Thai out-going Prime Minister will moderate

his words to be more polite in making related statement, while causing no disturbance to the incoming Government to be headed by Lok Chumteav Yingluck Shinawatra.

As for Cambodia, we have been able to move on the subject swiftly because we work as team. It has always been Cambodian way that we have those officials, including some commanders at the front and those commanders at the rear, who work alongside together. Look when Deputy Prime Minister HE Sok An went to UNESCO and Deputy Prime Minister HE Hor Namhong to the ICJ at the Hague, we at the rear – other Deputy Prime Ministers, Chief of Staff, General Director of the National Police, Commander of the National Military Police and specialized officials – have all followed up with them on all developments. That is why in just hours from the time of ICJ ruling, the Royal Government was able to put together a comprehensive declaration on the

(Continued on page 2)

In This Issue

- Press Briefing—ICJ July 18
- National Fishery Day
- Takhmao Bridge Construction
- Cambodian Coastline’s Membership

01 July 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments) Celebrating National Fishery Day at Svay Rieng’s Vaiko River

Release of Over One Million Aquatic Animals

My wife and I are so happy to be able to return to the province of Svay Rieng once again to celebrate the National Fishery Day. The event, which is being celebrated annually, was organized last year at Kompot province. Since I had a swine flu, I designated Deputy Prime Minister, HE Yim Chhayli to take my place. While being in the city of Svay Rieng again, let’s give our appreciations to its astonishing changes in both infrastructures and development projects in general.

I am so happy that we are conducting this event on an annual basis and this year we are releasing over one millions of aquatic animals, vertebrate or invertebrate – all sorts of fish, turtle, frog, eel, lobster, etc. into the system of the River of Vaiko. I am of the opinion that

action must be taken to promote aquaculture and related activities in further breeding and hatching, especially endangered species of aquatic animals.

By celebrating this important event, I would urge concerned institutions and people to gain a better knowledge and sense on inter-relatedness among three factors – science, nature and demand for food/protein by the people. Let me have your attention that we now have more people to feed than before with a much scarcer resources.

Hailing Aquatic Breeding and Aquaculture Expertise

In so far as this work is concerned, it should be noted that there has been an increase in training programs in relation to aquatic animal breeding ranging from fish to lobster, and

(Continued on page 4)

06 July 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments) Constructing the Takhmao Bridge at Kandal Province

China’s Assistance for Economic Efficiency

My wife and I are so happy to be here with all of our people to witness the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Cambodian-Chinese Takhmao Bridge – which our people are longing for. As is said by the Chinese Chargé d’Affairs, what has been waiting for is now becoming a reality. I would like to take this opportune moment, through H.E. HE Leping, Chargé d’Affairs of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China, to express my sincere gratitude to the Government and people of China for the provision of assis-

tance for infrastructural development projects in Cambodia.

H.E. He Leping already mentioned about the visits of former Premier Zhu Rongji to Cambodia in 1999 and again in 2002, when Cambodia hosted the ASEAN Summit and related meetings with its partner countries. I wish to restate the fact that the PRC is looking for economic efficiency in providing its assistance while leaving project decision entirely up to the Royal Government of Cambodia. As long as the projects are envisaged from studies to have economic benefit, ap-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 1)
matter.

According to the ICJ communiqué issued by the ICJ, in its conclusive paragraph, there is a reminding set of obligations that each Party shall inform the Court as to its compliance with the all related provisional measures. I see this as an international legal obligation that all parties concerned have to abide by. The ruling also notes that decision given in the present proceeding on the request for the indication of provisional measures in no way prejudices any question that the Court may have to deal with relating to the Request interpretation. It consists of two points in our understanding of the ruling as follows.

Firstly, the order (on request for the indication of) provisional measures is international legally binding obligation, for which Abhisit could not childishly say it otherwise. Secondly, the order is in no way to be understood to prejudice any question relating to the Request interpretation. I do not look for win – lose situation here, but it seems the Thais have made it their advantage gaining interpretation. As has been clarified in the Thai media, including newspaper The Nation, the Court has unanimously rejected the Kingdom of Thailand's request to remove the case introduced by the Kingdom of Cambodia on 28 April 2011 from the General List of the Court. I would leave it to the Cambodian and Thai public, considering this development, for their judgments whether that is Thai victory. The decision has been a slap in the Abhisit's face and I should suggest that (he) should keep silent and leave the issue to the Court.

As you all know Cambodia is also requesting for interpretation of the judgment of June 15 1962 in the case concerning the temple of Preah Vihear and is taking urgent measures to save

this world heritage.

Next Step: Simultaneous Withdrawal Plan

As a party to implement the Court's ruling, Cambodia sees it necessary, within its own right and obligation, to take the initiative to put forward succeeding measures. It is in this effort that Cambodia has come up with a Draft Agreement on Compliance with the Order of 18 July of the International Court of Justice. Yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister HE Hor Namhong sent a copy of the Draft Agreement to Government of Thailand via the Embassy of the Kingdom of Thailand to Cambodia. A copy has been sent to Indonesia, also a concerned party in the provisional measures order, and to the ICJ in The Hague as is demanded by the Court Order. We also send a copy to the UN Security Council.

I understand that you all have a copy of the Draft Agreement I would just make some comments on a number of points relating to the issue so that we all could see how to proceed to a provisional demilitarized zone (PDZ) in compliance with the Court Order. The Draft Agreement obliges (the Kingdom of) Cambodia, (the Kingdom of) Thailand) and Indonesia, currently rotating Chair of ASEAN, to fulfill the following:

First – to withdraw military personnel currently present in the provisional demilitarized zone, as defined in Paragraph 62 of the Court Order, with the cooperation of Indonesia and each party will inform the Court of its compliance on the number of troop stations as of July 18 in the zone.

Second – to guarantee Cambodia's free access to the Temple of Preah Vihear and Cambodia's provision of fresh supplies to its non-military personnel in the Temple, with the cooperation of Indonesia, and each

party will inform the Court of its compliance on status of non-military activities as of 18 July 2011 in the demilitarized zone.

Third – upon the two tasks entered into force, both parties shall propose for immediate organization and sending of Indonesian observers, on behalf of ASEAN, as is stipulated in Paragraph (B) 3 of the Court Order, and Paragraph 10 of the declaration of the ASEAN Chair on 22 February 2011 in Jakarta.

Fourth – after the arrival of the Indonesian observers, with the cooperation of the latter, actual delimitation of Points A, B, C and D of the provisional demilitarized zone will be carried out in accordance with the coordinates defined in Paragraph 62 of the Court Order.

Fifth – with the cooperation of the Indonesian observers, both parties shall set a timetable for immediate withdrawal of all military personnel from the provisional demilitarized zone.

Sixth – in compliance with Paragraph 61 of the Court Order, the tasks to be carried out in this Agreement shall not impact works to be carried out by the General Border Committee (GBC) and Joint Boundary Commission (JBC) in delimitation and keeping security and order along the border.

Seventh – in compliance with Paragraph 69 of the order of 18 July 2011, a separate agreement between Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia shall be formulated so as to define terms of responsibility and reference of the Indonesian observers, who take the duty on behalf of ASEAN, and those of Cambodia and Thailand aimed at facilitating the mission of the Indonesian observers.

Well these are points in the Draft Agreement that we have sent to relevant parties – Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia

– for further discussion. We welcome all inputs on the Draft Agreement and will consider them seriously while preparing for taking part in upcoming negotiation.

On Informing the Court of Each Party's Compliance

I may now make a few comments on issue of informing the Court of each party's compliance to its order with the cooperation of Indonesia in giving number of troops and their stations as of 18 July 2011 in the demilitarized zone.

First of all, it is necessary to start with the present status so as to have a better knowledge of who is stationing where. It is necessary, for instance, to know the whereabouts of the Cambodian troop positions prior to their withdrawals. If it is required that number of weapons needs to report, Cambodia may also comply, if Thailand and Indonesia agreed.

Second, as ordered by the Court, only military personnel shall be withdrawn, while non-military personnel shall be allowed to stay. It is therefore necessary to inform the Court of status of non-military activities on the both sides of Thailand and Cambodia in the provisional demilitarized zone. On the Thai side, they may have non-military personnel such as forest rangers, national park staff, etc. at Srah Trao, Red House, etc. On the Cambodian side we also have Heritage police to protect the Temple, tourist police to protect the tourists, and forest rangers to guard against illegal logging. But there will be no military forces.

Please allow me to clarify this point to our people that to do that will not mean that Cambodia withdraws out of and/or abandon rights to control its territory as has been provoked by the opposition. We will safeguard our sovereignty and the benefit we will achieve is to

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

have no more military clashes. Both people and armies of the two countries – Thailand and Cambodia, will benefit from the PDZ. Military confrontation and armed clashes will come to an end when the two troops have moved out of the area.

On the Provisional Demilitarized Zone

In event that anything happens from the withdrawal of the troops, Indonesia has to uphold what is stated in the Paragraph 3 of the Court Order. This time, let me stress, the role to be played by Indonesia is not that has been expected before. It seems Prime Minister Abhisit has made a contradicting statement to the Court Order when he said that foreign troops, namely Indonesia, shall not be allowed to enter the conflict area. The Court Order, however, states that both Parties shall continue the co-operation which they entered into within ASEAN and, in particular, allow the observers appointed by that organization to have access to the provisional demilitarized zone.

The newly defined PDZ covers an area of 17.388 square kilometers, which is bigger than the area previously under consideration, to which Indonesia observers have full access. The term of reference under the ASEAN (conflict resolution) framework is now obsolete. It is also inapplicable to have only fifteen observers for each side as originally planned.

On issue of actual locations of Points A, B, C and D of the provisional demilitarized zone to comply with the coordinates defined in Paragraph 62 of the Court Order, as you all have seen on the map, we have to follow two factors – actual geographical conditions and coordinates defined by the Court. I need to clarify a few points here in relation to what has been said by Prime Minister Abhisit and quoted in NNT Pataya Mail

dated July 20. He said that the area of over 17 square kilometers defined by the Court at the Thai-Cambodian border includes 8.5 square kilometers on the Thai side and 8.8 square kilometers on the Cambodian side.

I have the duty to clarify to the Court today on the size of the PDZ in Cambodian territory. It is not at all as stated by Abhisit. This is because Abhisit is using Thailand's unilateral or pirate map. According to the Dangrek map – the Annex 1 map used by the ICJ Judgment in 1962 – the area of the PDZ belonging to Cambodia amounts to 14.363 square kilometers of the total of 17.388 square kilometers. When Indonesian observers arrive, both Cambodia and Thailand must cooperate in order to locate the four points of the PDZ.

Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia will have to work together to determine the locations on the ground of Points A, B, C and D in accordance with the coordinates defined by the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Once the locations are fixed, a review of the military personnel on the ground will be conducted in order to allow for setting the date for the withdrawal. Cambodia wishes to see that no one should be allowed to take advantage of the situation and hopes that people of the two countries are living in peace.

Please note that the map of the PDZ attached to the Court Order does not show the boundary line, as this will be the subject of the final interpretation of the Court as requested by Cambodia. I am speaking on this topic only in response to Abhisit's misleading and incorrect statements on the relative size of the Thai and Cambodian parts of the PDZ. Abhisit, for his own domestic purposes, deceived his own people, saying that Cambodia 'lost' more territory than Thailand from the Court

Order. Even though our territory subject to the Court Order is much greater than the Thai territory, we do not regard it as lost. This is only a temporary measure awaiting the final interpretation. As it will bring to an end the bloodshed in this area, and save our Temple from attack, we support and are fully committed to comply with the decision of the Court.

The Role of Indonesian Observers

Let me now emphasize on the role of the Indonesian observers. As I stress primarily that the ASEAN 22 February 2011 declaration is still in force, and even strengthened by the recognition in the Court Order. I would, however, indicate that the previous draft TOR for the observers and the "package" solution of 09 May 2011 are now obsolete. Now we have to implement and comply with the Court Order.

Now we do not need to talk any more about the positions of the Indonesian observers. As far as Cambodia is concerned, they can decide themselves to go anywhere within the PDZ, and we will facilitate. We hope Thailand will do the same.

On the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in Bali

The Indonesian Foreign Minister has drafted a statement on behalf of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers, reporting on their discussion on regional developments, including the Thai-Cambodian border issue. The draft reported that all Foreign Ministers agreed to welcome, respect and comply with the Court Order. This draft was supposed to be released on 21 July 2011, but it was opposed by Thailand, and so it has not yet been released.

If Thailand continues to oppose release of this statement, then I will instruct the Foreign Minister to inform the Court and to send a copy of the draft to the Court, so that they will under-

stand the situation. The document is marked 'confidential', but we can't keep this confidential as the Court and the world need to know.

As owners of the Temple of Preah Vihear inherited from our ancestors, including His Majesty the King Father, Norodom Sihanouk, who reclaimed it for the nation in 1962, we children agree to withdraw our armed forces from 14.363 km² of our territory to save our Temple from possible attack, and for the sake of peace for our two peoples and nations...■

(Continued from page 5)

ond phase for the project, which would require 100 million USD more to complete. The project coverage extends from Kompong Cham through to Prey Veng and on to Svay Rieng provinces, which includes waterways, canals, sub-canals, ditches, water levees and water control structures, etc.

The project would then irrigate over ten thousand hectares of rice land from the first phase project and another 13,000 hectares of rice land from the second phase project in area where there are insufficient sources of water. The total land to be irrigated by the two projects would be over 24,000 hectares. While making such effort, we are confident that the country will experience further achievements in agriculture, on which the majority of our population depends, and we are sure that we can...■

(Continued from page 7)

nancial crisis and economic downturn. They seem to have taken too long to recover. Now that the Koh Pouos Bridge will be inaugurated tomorrow, what about other proposed investment projects? I am calling on the Cambodia Development Council to review all investment projects and take them back (cancel them) if they were not to be implemented...■

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before too long, I heard, there will be what they call “crab bank.” According to data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (MAFF) and the Fisheries Administration (FA), we have now in the whole country 273 places where some major fish and lobster are bred. Among them, 260 places belong to the people.

According to the same sources, there are 650 places, most of them located in the province of Kompong Speu, 155, followed by Siem Reap province, 90, where people keep them as aquatic ponds or shelters protected and conserved by community. This has clearly underlined our efforts to balance between conserving our reservoirs for natural fish and raising fish to meet the need of everyday demand.

Having come to this I would like to thank MAFF, especially FA, for the efforts they have made in promoting this task of aquatic animal husbandry, and most importantly, the people of Cambodia who take active part in the movement. I noted with satisfaction that in the provinces of Svay Rieng and Takeo, where aquatic animal resources are scarce, aquatic animal husbandry movement seems to have taken a firm and fast pace.

Household Aquatic Animal Husbandry Projects

It is a good thing to do in pooling our farmers together to set up extension networks of aquatic animal husbandry, where private sector is also encouraged to make investment. Take the case of Svay Rieng province into consideration, in the decade of 1980s, fish culture was noted to be a great success. In several of my visits to the province, where I was joined by then Governor Heng Samkai, I noted family size aquatic animal husbandry projects, in which people raise their own fish in their house-

hold compound.

What I learned from the project was that people benefit not only from the products they raised but also water for their cultivation too. I also noticed similar trend in villages along the national road 1. As of now, this model movement has been replicated to other provinces, where Pursath is a remarkable one. HE Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Energy and Mines, who leads the Cambodian People’s Party working group in the province told the other day that the CPP Pursath working groups have been making some two thousand family size fish ponds for our people.

Based on this experience I would urge our people to set aside, if they have larger land, a part of their land for ponds for aquatic animal husbandry. They would not only get aquacultural products but also water that is a scarce resource in many areas of our country. Let me remind you that we can no longer depend on aquatic resources from natural lakes and/or water systems anymore. We have to find a way to remedy this shortcoming and releasing baby fish and other aquatic animals into them is one of the best ways to do.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciations to all development partners, especially JICA of Japan, for the efforts and resources they kindly made available for Cambodians to work on preserving aquatic animal resources and developing modules of aquaculture.

Shallower Water, Less Fish, Larger Population to Feed

In about 30 or 40 years ago, the situation of Cambodia was different from today. It then had a smaller population, whereas its water systems were deeper and therefore more aquatic animals were available. As is mentioned by HE Nao Thuok, General Director of the FA,

there was only some 30,000 fishermen in those days (1945). While now our population has grown to some fourteen million, the number of fishermen has also grown to over one million. However, let me state that then we had deeper water systems, therefore we had more fish to feed a small population.

However, with the population growth and general development trend, we are experiencing a reversal of development pattern – a shallower water system, which impacts on the fish population and therefore is unable to feed a bigger population. Siltation has caused so many lakes to face short physical depth problem. Take my home village as an example. There used to be many huge lakes when I was young but due to both objective and subjective factors, they have suffered lack of physical depth.

As far as objective cause is concerned, issue of increased concentration of suspended sediments and sediment spill. Usually, you may be aware, in the natural water system, there grows various aquatic plants. They cause sediment spill over time, when they are in the river system of regular flood season areas. The sediment causes siltation and leveling up the river or lake bed leading to lack of physical depth. The case has been noted with parts of the Mekong River that cause us serious concerns on reversal or diversion of water current.

Having said that let’s be reminded of subjective or man-made factors which cause similar impacts on the water system. Fishing tackles such as bamboo traps spanning long distance across the water flow in several places of Tonle Sap Lake for instance, have surely trapped the sediment, and caused siltation. Prohibition must be strictly placed and monitoring must be implemented so that such traps will not be mounted in the river,

stream and/or other water systems. I also urge that action must be taken swiftly and regularly to remove and to prevent building fish shelters from bushes and tree branches. These are recipes for sediments.

Order 01 – No Withdrawal

I would like to take this opportune moment to address issue of Order 01 dated May 22, 2011, and its implementation as has just been mentioned by HE Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery. The course of action that we undertake would of course not satisfy everyone but we will have to do it to prevent further destruction and disaster. We have taken one step already concerning issue of demolishing man-made reservoirs and deforestation of inundated forest in the floodplain areas of Tonle Sap.

Now look, if we were to put the two actions on one scale, we would see that on the one hand we release over one million aquatic animals, breed endangered aquatic species from fish to lobster, to crab, and on the other we are taking measures to help protect aquatic animals in the natural system. You may agree with me that it does make any sense if we release over one million aquatic animals into the system but we let the mother fish in the natural system be caught or dead because of illegal and unscientific fishing. So I urge all concerned on the attention that we must undertake two tasks at the same time – aquaculture and aquatic animal husbandry and preservation of such animals in the natural system.

As far as inundated forest is concerned, we must uphold similar approach. It is important to grow them on the one hand but it is even more important to preserve them. On July 9, HM the King went to plant tree in Kompot province and today the Prime Minister is here to re-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

lease fish. But what good does it do if we plant one million trees here but two million trees were cut there, and we release one million fishes here but mother fishes are allowed to be caught or left to die of sediment-caused siltation in the natural system? Replanting trees and/or repopulating aquatic animals must therefore be conducted along with preserving them.

Order 01 – No Expiry Date

I wish to clarify that my Order Number 01 is of no expiry date, unless I am no longer the Prime Minister. Let me explain why the Order is defined with no expiry date. Take building fish traps from tree branches and/or bushes for instance. You see that in order to have branches of trees and/or bushes to build those shelters to trap aquatic animals, these fishermen would have ordered for trees to be chopped off and inundated forest to be trimmed. So you understand that these cut off forest or trees while we are planting them. Mind you, their traps are huge that even vessels have to travel in detour.

What is worse still is the fact that their traps made of tree branches and/or chopped inundated forest would bring recipe for sediment spill to the lake basin itself. This has been speeding the process of increasing short physical depth to the system. This is an example from one angle of the issue and I would argue that this is one of the reasons why I make the Order 01 a regulation with no expiry date. Well, when someone is getting elected to replace, s/he may see it differently and change it. However, as CPP already declares that I will continue to be its candidate for the post of Prime Minister for the fifth term, I would not withdraw from this.

I will run till people no longer vote for me. I would take this opportunity to thank the people of Svay Rieng for their support

which has clearly shown through their vote for the CPP to win all five constituent seats. I will not back away from your support and will see through the implementation of our policy vis a vis the Tonle Sap Lake, which is crucial to the life of Cambodians. Without the lake, I would say, nothing of the same would remain.

The Fishing Lots Inspection Work

Having implemented the above steps – demolished man-made reservoirs, prevented and reprimanded illegal deforestation of inundated forests in the floodplain, removed fish traps, we now have come to the phase of implementing inspection duty of all fishing lots in the Mekong basin. I would designate this task to HE Bin Chhin, Deputy Prime Minister, to head the inspection mechanism with the participation of the Ministries of Relations with the Senate, the National Assembly and Inspection, Justice, Environment, Water Resources and Meteorology, Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, Land Management and Construction, Interior and the Tonle Sap Authority.

As far as inspection duty is concern, income from the fishing lots is not the focus. Inspection must be mainly on fishing permission logbook. I have information, which I still need to find out, that in fishing area 2 of Battambang province, the person who got permission from the state to administer fishing in the area did not do the job himself but, with the permission given, he sold it to small-scale fishermen. This is contradictory to the rule and regulation defined in fishing permission logbook. The inspection therefore must focus on what really happened in the reality that is not going along with the stated regulations.

Regarding these offenses, fishing rights will be suspended and areas will be prohibited for

an unspecified period, perhaps until we are sure that the fish population comes back. The management in that period will be under state's authority and no fishing is allowed still. I warn you that this is not a laughing matter. We will have to make it a public policy and action plan needs to be drawn up.

Need for Fishery and Forestry Restructure

In order to facilitate the (investigation) work I order HE Chan Sarun to remove the chiefs of the fishery administration containments in five provinces – Kompong Chhonang, Pursath, Battambang, Kompong Thom and Siem Reap. I would also urge Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, HE Sar Kheng, to discuss with HE Chan Sarun concerning the structures of the fisheries administration and forestry administration, as it has been ineffective, because of their odd structures that are not aligned with the rest of the country, so far.

I am sure that the structure has been difficult not only for the provincial authority to deal with the matter but also for the Fisheries Administration itself. It could have been the case that Nao Tuok, Chief of FA, would sometimes have difficulty in giving instruction to chief of fisheries administration cantonment/division as s/he would receive order only from the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery. We now give more power to the provincial authority. I was on VDO link to all provinces the other day and I allow the provincial authority to arrest those who commit these offenses – be it fishery or forestry.

I Am No Historical Criminal, More for Development

I would urge our people not to fish during the recuperation season as one fish with thousands of eggs we eat would give us after the recuperation

seasons thousands of grown up fish. I would also urge you not to catch smaller fish to feed bigger ones. Our fish recuperation period would extend between July and October or November, after which period we allow our people to fish again. By then, baby fish will be grown up.

All in all, I do not wish to be criminal of the Cambodian history. It is more so that I have the support of the Cambodian people and trust of the Cambodian People's Party to lead the Royal Government, I could not let them be disappointed on this issue. We need to increase the fish population in natural fish habitats and shelters. More fish releases into both the natural habitats and shelters, and the aquatic animal husbandry projects at the household levels, need to be done in a wider scale.

From the bird's eye view, on my flight here, I noticed green landscape of grown up rice field in Svay Rieng as well as in parts of Prey Veng provinces. According to the report of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, as of June 30, our people have already cultivated 34% of the total rice field already. This figure suggests that our people are doing a better job compared to last year. It has been predicted that this year we may have a bigger flood compared to previous years from the Mekong River. It has been foreseen to be somewhere over ten meters at Phnom Penh (from normal level) compared to over nine meters last year.

For our people in Svay Rieng, Prey Veng and Kompong Cham provinces, in my visit to the People's Republic of China in December last year, I have secured a sum of 300 million USD. We have planned to spend some 100 million USD in designing and building the first-phase Vaiko River hydraulic project. We also have a sec-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

proval will be provided accordingly. The Cambodian side too would not propose unsoundly economic projects.

Cambodian Four Priority Areas

It should be noted too that the Chinese assistances in recent years have addressed the four areas of priorities defined by Cambodia. If we were to count from when I first proclaimed in 1987, the four priority areas are 20 years old now. As I usually said, these priorities – water, road, electricity and human – will continue to be Cambodia's focus (of development) for at least 20 more years. Without (development made in) the four areas, the country would not be able to reach its development goal.

Lately, the (PR of) China has been involved in providing assistance for the construction of large-scale irrigation projects aimed at addressing agricultural needs. As for road and bridge, through its assistance, China has been building road and bridge with length that are longer than assistance in same area provided from other sources. With loans from the Chinese State Banks, the Chinese companies have been investing in Cambodian major hydropower stations, in which two of them will be providing electricity by end of this year – The Komjai Hydropower Station of 193 MW and The Kirirom III Hydro Power Station of almost 20 MW, to address the need for electricity not only in Phnom Penh but in the province of Kompong Cham, etc.

Having accomplished that I would say Phnom Penh residents will no longer suffer power outage. Especially the Chinese Embassy will not be out of electricity as well. In one of the meetings with the Chinese delegations at my house, we suffered power outage and I said to the Chinese that this clearly indicated the need for

China to help Cambodia in area of electricity production. Also to mention here, every year, scholarships have been provided for our students to continue their studies in China, which definitely addresses issue of Cambodian human resource development.

China's Growth, Developing Countries Benefits

You may note that I have mentioned on more than one occasion that the Chinese economic prowess not only benefits China itself but also the developing countries, where Cambodia is one of them. Premier Wen Jiabao, in the ASEAN Summit, declared providing some 7.5 billion USD for the ASEAN member countries. Cambodia has received a chunk of over 700 million USD already from the package. Today, we have made use of the 400 million USD earmarked during the visit of the Vice President (of the PRC) HE Xie Jinping to Cambodia in 2009 for seven projects, one of which is under negotiation – the Takhmao Bridge, the Phnom Penh Container Port, the National Road 71, the Pursath River Development, the Rural Electricity Development Project, the Irrigation Project of Stoeung Treng, the Enlargement of National Road 6A into four lanes, and the Enlargement of the National Road 5 into four lanes.

During my visit to the PRC on December 13, 2010, Cambodia and China accorded an additional sum of 300 million USD, for which development projects have been underway. Among them, about 100 million USD has been earmarked for the jointly studied development project for (Svay Rieng province's) Vaiko River irrigation. For 200 million USD, we are looking at the construction of a road from Preah Vihar province to the province of Stoeung Treng, including also another bridge across the Mekong River, and the remaining 100 million USD has been ear-

marked for the construction of the national road 76 which will connect the provinces of Ratanakiri and Mondulokiri together.

Having said that you now have no doubt that the Chinese economic might would not benefit only the people of China but also developing countries in their endeavors to achieve national development. China has twice proven its important role to play in saving world and regional economies from crisis – the Asian financial crisis of 1997 and again the world financial crisis and economic downturn of 2008-2009. In the course of remedying world economic crumbling, China's economy continues to grow strong. What could we expect if in that state of world economy, China and India, with a combined population of 2.5 billion, are also falling on their feet? It is because the Chinese economy remains in shape that its financial assistance and investment in Cambodia has not been downsized.

Takhmao Bridge's Benefits

As far as the bridge is concerned, by 2014 the bridge will link people between the east and west bank of the Bassac river. There was a sound of slight disapproval when HE Tram Iv Toek, Minister for Transport and Public Works, mentioned in his speech that the bridge will be ready by 2014 – or 42 months from now. Well, this is going to be a concrete bridge that extends across a river of almost one kilometer. So the construction of such a bridge would definitely require certain time. However, taking the constructions of the Cambodian-Chinese Friendship Bridges of Sekong, Prek Kadam and Prek Tamak into consideration, the contractors always finished their works before schedules.

Again by then, the ferry service along this river will eventually come to a close. This would have impact on ferry business

but million commuters will make big earnings whether in financial and time resources. They could cross the river for whatever purposes and needs in a speedy and free of charge manner from one side of the river to the other. Imagine one small experience when a sick person had to travel on one side of the river upstream all the way to the bridge of Monivong, which is kilometers away, in order to cross the river to get to medical attention. Would this prolong and/or endanger his/her chance of being recovered?

For your information, Takhmao Bridge costs 32.89 million USD, in which 168,998 USD is counterpart fund covered by Cambodia. The Cambodian side covered a sum of 750,000 USD of de-mining and removing unexploded ordnances, other impact related costs of 2.5 million USD, and some 3.9 million USD of tax exemption. It is in this understanding that I have the necessity of acquiring a sum of money in hand as a counterpart fund to implementing the various projects whether they are to be administered by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and/or bilateral donors. It has been in some case that Cambodia also covered some 20% and over as counterpart part fund.

Visions for More Infrastructures

I would in this instance also lay out more of my visions for furthering Cambodian infrastructural development projects. We are seeking more funds to accomplish this vision too. As far as bridge is concerned, by early November, we will celebrate the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the fifth bridge – the Cambodian Chinese Bridge at Jroy Jangva with financial loan from the PRC. Negotiation is also underway for the sixth Cambodian-Chinese Bridge at Stoeung Treng province – the second of its kind in the province – to

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 8)

connection I must confirm to the Cambodian public that we have refrained from committing mistake by letting any of our islands to be used as dumping sites of other countries' wastes. Let's all imagine, would the Club of the Most Beautiful Bays approve Cambodian request for membership, if we have a factory that generates electricity from waste as fuel on one of our islands here? This also urges us to always reconsider about projects where the risk of pursuing for one interest would jeopardize another.

Conservation versus Development and Vice Versa

We have yet committed mistakes. It is indeed a serious matter that we have to be imbued with conservation concept in our development effort, and to design development in benefit of conservation too. That is why I have called for serious examination and careful studies on sand pumping and land reclamation mentioned above so that we can prevent mistakes being made. It is indeed a blessing for Cambodia that the 440 km of its coastline bordering with all four provinces (Koh Kong, Sihanoukville, Kompot and Kep) has been admitted altogether at once as the most beautiful bay.

If I am not mistaken, in Vietnam, only the beaches of Nha Trang and Ha Long have been honored with this rank. The beach at Vung Tau and various others have yet to be admitted so. With this remark I would instruct all four provincial governors to emulate in city beauty contest, which we have discussed the other day in the Cabinet's meeting about setting up criteria and conditions that one could be approved as a city of beauty or so. We now need to set up similar criteria for contest of all four cities of the best bay members of Cambodia.

Achievements from Scratch

I may have the attention of all foreign guests here that Sihanoukville today is way different from what it was (after the fall of the Pol Pot's regime). In Phnom Penh then there were only 70 people in the whole capital. We have tried to build urban and rural areas from scratch after we traded our lives to drive away the regime of genocide from the country. In condition that the country was in context of peace in some parts and war in others, and on top of those, economic embargo and attempt to return to power of the genocide had made us busy defending and constructing the country at the same time.

I am sure it is to everyone's knowledge that the admittance of Cambodian membership to the Club of the Most Beautiful Bay follows not long after the temple of Preah Vihear has been registered as one of the World Heritages. I do not know full well about criteria set in their study, but according the Radio France International, there was a study (by Travel Leisure magazine) that Cambodia's Siem Reap city where there is a well-known magnificent Angkor Watt temple, was ranked as the 7th best city among ten top cities in the world. Paris has come tenth.

For Sihanoukville, many have come to see me about working on a golf course on which I even gave my recommendations. As of now, unfortunately, there is not even a single hole here. I am calling out for thought. If we were to have golf courses, tourists would enjoy playing golf in the morning and bathing in the evening. We could then link up flight from the city of Siem Riep to the city of Sihanoukville for tourists to bathe in the afternoon after a visit to Angkor Watt in the morning.

I know that some projects have endured the impacts of the fi-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 6)

bridge between Preah Vihear and Stoeung Treng provinces. According to my vision, along the River of Bassac, we will have two more bridges built – one in Sa Ang district at the point of Prek Koy on one side and Svay Proteal, Talun and Troeuy Sla on the other, and another in Koh Thom district at the point of Prek Thmey or Kompong Kong. I also have in mind more concrete bridges along major tributaries of both the Mekong, Tonle Sap and Bassac rivers – take for instance the rivers of Pursath, Sangke, Mongkul Borei, Sen, etc. We may picture one bridge within every ten kilometers in between at least. This would lessen hardships in travelling for people living along the tributaries.

Since the stretch of river of Bassac along the two points at Sa Ang and Koh Thom district would be within 500 to 600 meters, and the water level would not be that deep, I would foresee the projects implementable as the bridges would not bear too big a cost. As for the Tonle Sap River, now we have the bridges at Jroy Jangva, at Prek Phnov, and at Prek Kadam – which I think is quite accommodating. As for bridges along the river of Mekong, aside from two bridges, one is to be constructed, at Stoeung Treng province, I think that we will seek more funding to build two additional bridges – in Kratie province at the point around Chhlong district, and in Kompong Cham province in between the districts of Kroj Chma and Stoeung Trang. I also anticipate two more bridges across the Tonle Sap River and the Mekong River to carry the train from Phnom Penh to the border with Vietnam.

Local and Regional Integration

I am so proud that in the last ten years, we have made great achievements in terms of infrastructural developments. I

never buy this philosophy of national unity and/or development from the angle of administrative and political integration, while lacking infrastructural links like roads and bridges. If we were to leave Ratanakiri and Monduliri remote and inaccessible, how could we expect people there would achieve development? In the endeavor to integrate locally, after success of win-win policy implementation, we have made efforts to integrate former (Khmer Rouge controlled) areas into the fold of the nation.

Roads to (former Khmer Rouge stronghold of) Anlong Veng and Pailin have been built. We do not overlook the need for physical links after the political and administrative integration. Having done so, we have achieved a status in which Cambodia after local reintegration was not cut-off in parts for lack of physical links. If Cambodia were to lack local integration, how could one think or say of integrating regionally. Our Chinese friends have done a great deal to help us fix this matter.

In real term, through the Chinese assistance, Cambodia reintegrates with its neighboring countries, among other links provided by friends and partners, through the national road 7 to Laos, the national road 76 between Stoeung Treng and Ratanakiri, 78 between Snuol of Kratie and Monduliri, and the national road 8 to Vietnam, the national road 57 between Battambang and Pailin to the border with Thailand. We also have more links with Thailand like the national road 57B at Thmor Kol, 62, etc. The Chinese have done a great help to this effort of integrating not only within Cambodia but also with its neighboring countries.

Still Here in 2014

Let's wait together till 2014 to cross the bridge. I am sure I will

(Continued on page 8)

11 July 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Cambodian Coastline's World Membership

No to Electricity and Fertilizer from Waste

In the course of duty so far I have never committed mistakes on investment related decision. HE Chea Chanto (Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia) may have remembered that in 1991 there was a proposal to use an island of Cambodia to set up a waste-fuel factory to produce electricity. I mean they use waste as energy source for a factory which is to generate electricity. In his capacity as Minister of Health then, I think HE Yim Chhay Li also could recall this matter. I have not been much of a technical person but my instinctive question then was why they have to transport wastes from thousands of kilometers away, from one continent to another, just to generate electricity for Cambodia. What is lying behind this move?

In 1991, Cambodia was locked politically and economically. Technically and truthfully it was a country under embargo. In this context why else that particular person/company/country was generous to help us generate electricity from waste? I did not approve it. I asked them about radioactive risk and no matter how much it maybe, it would be dangerous enough for our coastline. That was one case before we established (the first-term) Royal Government.

During the time when we had the first-term Royal Government established, this incident had bounced back. In 1996, I expressed my disapproval from the Ministry of Environment on a request to use an island of Cambodia to generate electricity using waste imported from foreign countries as fuel again. By 1997, there was a multinational corporation coming to see me at the Takhmao residence and explaining to me about the latest technology of

its kind that electricity could be generated to provide low price power. They said Cambodia would not be able to provide enough waste and had to import waste from other countries. I suggested to them that they may keep the best technology they have for themselves.

Again, on another occasion, HE Hor Nam Hong (currently Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation) called me on phone and consulted about a request by a country to produce fertilizer on an island in Cambodia. It was similar one as they requested to make fertilizer for us from waste. I told HE Hor Nam Hong that the country should consider providing Cambodia with ready-made fertilizer rather than having to come this far to burn waste to make fertilizer for us here.

Cambodia – Not a Dumping Site, Pursuing One Interest, Jeopardizing Another

It is in this note that I always declared openly that Cambodia is no dumping site for modern technology at all. Along this line I have requested to all Cambodian experts, even in telecommunication, to choose the best and modern, not the outdated, technology for Cambodia. However, sometimes because of silliness and incomprehension, you even had shown gratitude to those who introduced outdated technology to us.

Take for instance here at the seaport of Sihanoukville, some custom officials have been relegated from position and duty because of irresponsibility to allow import of mercury from Taipei. Last year we also caught containers of waste that were brought in for cremation in Stoeung Meanjei – you may know that we have a waste-fuel electric generation there. In this

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 7)

still be around in 2014. Some in the opposition, when Pheu Thai party in Thailand won the elections, have voiced with their suggestion that we follow changes in Thailand. Well, nobody is to oppose your coming to replace me. I will always welcome it when you win (the elections). I will recognize the election results and will get myself ready to transfer power to you in the Santepheap building. They may not have to pour scorn on me with that. They praised Thai Prime Minister (Abhisit) for walking out, and I assure I will do so when people tell me to.

For note taking, it was they who blamed those (in Bangkok) who came to power not by electoral means. It is a special case in Thailand that the opposition (Pheu Thai) has more seats in the parliament than the ruling party (Democrats). It has been stipulated by the Constitution to allow for any elected party with enough coalition partners to set up government. Well, let's wait till 2014 together to cross the bridge as I will turn to be 62 years old. Let's leave this issue be decided by the people on July 28, 2013 and if I were to lose the elections, I will declare my recognition and urge for a quick formation of the Royal Government.

All ministers and I will get ourselves ready to transfer power, and each ministry will have to sign transferring ministry, its property, cash and staff to new comers. However, they first have to have people's votes in their supports. I have the info that internal strife has been more imminent in their parties. I only wish that they do not hold the ruling party accountable for their internal rifts and disagreements. I hope they would resolve the issue in open, not by "invisible means."

Hailing Pheu Thai's Electoral Victory

As far as the Thai elections are

concerned, HE Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Cambodia has issued a declaration already and I have sent a letter to the Prime Minister elect Yingluck Shanawatra to congratulate her on the Pheu Thai victory and to express my sincere wish to work with her. However, from here, I would like to take this opportune moment to express my appreciation for the elections that were held in Thailand. I express high esteem for all political parties in Thailand for their recognitions of the electoral results, which, through their actions, serve as an example, and Pheu Thai will form a Government.

I strongly hope that all problems will be peacefully resolved and the bilateral relations between Cambodia and Thailand will enter a new era. We feel encouraged with the coming elected government of Thailand and hope to work together in partnership of cooperation between Cambodia and Thailand, as well as within the Greater Mekong sub-region, ACMECS, ASEAN and other mechanisms. Our people and armies along the border, either Cambodian or Thai, are happy with the electoral outcomes.

Pheu Thai, judging by its long rule in Thai politics, started from being a Thai Rak Thai party, then People's Power Party, and then to its present name, has won consecutively, despite many difficulties. Let's hope that this time around Pheu Thai will be ruling for long and be able to build and reconcile the Thai nation, and again, to restore relations with neighboring countries, Cambodia is also included.

I wish the people of Thailand, Pheu Thai Party and the Prime Minister-elect Yingluck Shinawatra to form a good government that will become a working partner with the Kingdom of Cambodia. ■