

13 October 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Statements)

## On Flood Situation, Consequences and Responses



24 October 11 — Samdech Techo Hun Sen Visits the rice field in flood affected area of Pearing District, Prey Veng Province (Photo: Kampuchea Thmei)

Right after the Cabinet's special meeting Samdech Techo Hun Sen made the following selected statement to the people of Cambodia in relation to [calling off the boat race event](#), [assessed flood casualties/damages](#) and the Royal Government's responses ([emergency](#), [rehabilitation](#) and [gratefulness](#)).

Venerable Buddhist Supreme Patriarchs and monks,  
Dear country fellows and compatriots,

Today, after my first official statement on October 1, I have the necessity to speak to our monks and country fellows in relation

to flood situation. I wish to inform you that this afternoon the Royal Government's Cabinet full session has reviewed and assessed the evolving situation in relation to flooding as well as to make an evaluation on damages as well as national and sub-national rescue operations.

### Water Festival Called Off

Having reviewed the situation, I seek your understanding and apologize to our Buddhist monks and dear compatriots that the Royal Government has made decision to cancel the boat race event, one major item of the water festival, which would be held on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in front of the Royal Palace. Please allow me to inform all of you about

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## Samdech Techo Hun Sen in the Press of October 2011

**The 20th Anniversary of the King-Father's Return Observed** (For full text, visit [www.cnv.org.kh](http://www.cnv.org.kh))

On October 30, 2011, in the mass meeting held in front of the Royal Palace to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the returns of the King-Father Norodom Sihanouk and the Queen-Mother Norodom Monineath Sihanouk to the country and the 90th Birthday of the King-Father, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia,

noted: "Today's event is a great evidence of Preah Karona Preah Bath Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk's return to Cambodia on November 14, 1991 after the October 23, 1991 Paris Peace Agreement. Preah Karona Preah Bath Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk is the father of peace, national unity and reconciliation, and development of Cambodia."

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also recalled that Cambodia has achieved and ex-

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01 October 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Statements)

## 2011 Flood and Measures to Deal with Consequences

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, along with the message during the opening of the new school year 2011/12, gives a verbal statement on the 2011 flood situation, measures to be taken and challenging issues in relation to post-flood situation to the Cambodian people, selections from which Cambodia New Vision has provided here follows with English translation.

Along with my message on the opening of the new school year, I have the necessity to make a state-

ment to our compatriots and Buddhist monks on the situation of flood in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

You learn already that actions have been taken for flood affected areas by various concerned and related institutions in accordance with instructions I issued while I visited the flood affected (Baray district of Kompong Thom) and again in the special Cabinet's meeting to figure out the ways to mitigate impacts.

With data collated here I

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the reasons why we have to exercise the cancellation.

The **main reason is because of this severe flooding situation** in our country, which, after being studied and evaluated, has been literally even bigger than that of the 2000 flood in many parts and a little lower in some parts of the country. Why after flood in 2000, people could come to Phnom Penh to enjoy the boat race, which is part of the whole water festival? The thing was that in the year 2000, the flood subsided not long after it had reached its peak.

As for this year, according to the data provided by the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, the flood level stays at 10.78 meters at the Jadomuk flood monitoring station, which is above the 10.50 meter warning level. Monitored at the station at Prek Kadam, where the flood warning height is 9.5 meters, the current flood level establishes at 10.14 meters. Above warning-level floods have also been reported at other flood monitoring stations of Koh Khel and Neak Loeung.

We have less than one month time to celebrate the water festival. According to estimation from the said data, by then the water level in front of the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh, where the boat race and other water festivity

events would take place, will settle to a level that will still be high. This will present danger for people who would come and observe the event.

Even more so, sportsmen of some 400 boats coming from various flooded provinces to the boat race event are the main labor force needed for cultivation activities, especially in the post flooding time. The cancellation will allow them, instead of having to come to Phnom Penh away from home for at least one week, to stay home to participate in post-flood cultivation phase to restore their livelihoods.

This decision also takes into consideration the fact that the state would have covered financial as well as material expenses, besides people's own resources, to provide for organizing, maintaining security, which could be good savings to deal with the post-flood devastation.

These are reasons why the Royal Government is taking necessary step to cancel the boat race event in the water festival to be taking place on November 9. I am sure our Buddhist monks and people are well aware of the current flood situation and understand the difficulties that we are in altogether.

Let me clarify that though the festive boat race event in Phnom Penh will be cancelled, our people

and local authorities could still organize, according to own resource availability, these festivities either in pagodas or at communal, district or even provincial levels.

As we cancel the boat race event, **other festivities such as concerts, performance arts, floating lights, discharging fireworks, paying respect to full moon, and enjoying the Ambok (flatten rice from early harvest), will go on.** Government officials, employees and the armed forces will also have three days off as is stipulated in the Sub-decree on national holidays to be observed in 2011. It should be noted that the date of water festival celebration this year is falling on our National Independence Day on November 9.

It is in this context that I would affirm that **other royal festivities such as the birthday anniversary of HM the King Father Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the twentieth anniversary of HM's return to Cambodia and the National Independence Day will be observed.**

### **Flood Related Casualties and Damages**

I would like to take this opportune moment to inform our people of report of flood assessment and related damages. As was said on October 1, floods hit Cambodia hard since then and we have been making relentless efforts to ensure our peo-

ple's lives and properties be saved. As of the moment of speaking, we have recorded impact on paddy of some 390,000 hectares or about 16% of the total area under cultivation. As of this time, 190,000 hectares or 7.74% of the said cultivated area have been devastated.

Judging from this figures and situations, it is possible that the expected growth rate would have to reset from 7% to six or slightly over six percent. We also noted a shockingly increasing number of deaths in relation to flood. The figure has now recorded 247 people compared to the figure I declared on October 1, which was less than 100. I would in this instance invite everyone and family to pay attention to save own as well as their family members' lives. Special attention should be given to taking good care of small children who cannot swim.

In areas along the Mekong River, it is almost certain that as water recedes, bank erosion would be the case. Once the water levels up, the erosion was observed, but once it goes down, more would happen.

### **Emergency Response Efforts**

The Royal Government of Cambodia and the Cambodian Red Cross, charitable persons alike, have been spooling efforts to provide

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emergency relief assistance to people in affected areas. As of October 10, we have provided reliefs to some 76,595 families, of which 52,136 families were provided with help of the Royal Government and the Cambodian Red Cross, some 19,079 families by charitable persons and working teams of the CPP, and 5,380 families by other organizations.

In the Cabinet's meeting today, the Royal Government has decided to provide rice through the Cambodian Red Cross to assist the people. The Royal Government would take care of the rice needed while the Cambodian Red Cross would have to administer the kits of basic stuffs to provide to some 40,000 stranded families.

As of today we also have assistance from the Government of Japan of some 25 million Yen or about 330,000 USD as HE the Japanese Ambassador himself kindly presided over the distribution of the assistance in Kompong Thom province. The People's Republic of China has also rendered some 50 million Yuan or about eight million USD and we have asked the Chinese to provide us in medicines and blankets, which shall be arriving this coming Saturday or Sunday.

I would urge that they be distributed immediately to clinics and hospitals in affected areas.

### Rehabilitation Reserves

We could also utilize a part of the assistance for rehabilitation efforts together with the fund earmarked for the current year budget as well as the next year budget of the Royal Government, which altogether is about USD 100 million.

We have set aside some 221 billion Riel for post flood restoration and rehabilitation in the remaining two months of the year. We have reserved an extra 200 billion Riel plus some 160 billion Riel from the ADB support fund for the next year operation. They will be used in rehabilitating infrastructures, rural and national roads, in the post flood period.

We have some 4,469 kilometers of rural roads, of which 1,970 kilometers are severely affected, 583 kilometers are partially damaged and 87 kilometers are destroyed. Because we have built many roads in the past years, the number and length of road damaged by flood is more than what we suffered in the relatively similar flood in 2000.

It is therefore important to reserve a big sum of fund for the restoration and rehabilitation.

### Grateful for Assistance Efforts

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Buddhist monks, local authori-

ties and the armed forces, which have made tireless efforts in providing our people with basic needs in time of difficulties.

I also thank the Cambodian Red Cross together with the National Committee for Disaster Management and the Royal Government of Cambodia for their swift actions and urgent rescue efforts for the people.

Taking this opportunity I'd like to express my sincere thank to all development partners, including the Governments of Japan and the PRC, for providing assistance. I also have the news that the US also provides assistance through a Save the Children of some 50,000 USD. I also have here a report that there has been also some assistance coming from charitable persons in Thailand.

May I apologize to people for my absence for the past two weeks, unlike in the early part of the situation that I was seen being around, because of personal reason. My father has fallen seriously ill and is still in post-surgery emergency care.

This situation also has kept my wife by his hospital bed and could not allow her, in the capacity as the President of the Cambodian Red Cross to go out help our people as she did in 2000 or in August this year. However, she has made tireless efforts to provide guidance to her CRC colleagues in its cen-

tral committee. I am seeking our people's understanding on that.

Last but not least, may I urge our people, no matter where they are now, to make every effort to overcome this year flooding difficulty and to work together - state, private sectors and/or individual - no matter what political tendencies they may belong to, for a speedy relief of people's sufferings.

It is good for some political parties to organize help for the people but it is even better if they do not use that effort to insult the Royal Government and its efforts to rescue people in time of crisis...☐

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Asia expected by the United Nations to be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

### Cambodian Youth Delegation Advised

*On October 10, Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, in receiving the Cambodian Youth delegation before its departure for the 38<sup>th</sup> Ship for South East Asia Youth Program, recommended the 29-member delegation to hold on to their role as representatives of the 14 million Cambodians as well as the national sovereignty, and seek more cooperation with youths from other countries in the region. ☐*

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must say that this year flooding is of relative size with the one in 2000. In 2000, the seasonal flood of the Mekong reached its highest level and threatened all provinces along the waterway.

This year, the flood of the Mekong is a bit lower in its way, but because of heavy and prolonged downpours, the area under flooding has been extending far beyond the Mekong River to include provinces of Preah Vihear, Siem Reap and Kompong Thom, etc. In 2000, these provinces had not been affected.

It should be noted too that in 2000, along with the Mekong flood, rain flood originated in Kompong Speu province and flew down western part of Phnom Penh. The situation was dangerous and we decided to cut open the National Road 2 to evade the water pressure from threat of infiltration toward Phnom Penh city. As of this year, we are not experiencing threats of water pressure from that direction yet. We are watchful eyes and alert for it.

As flood is reaching the sea after flowing across Vietnam, more provinces in the south and south east of Phnom Penh, like Prey Veng, Svay Rieng and Takeo, and to a certain extent Kompot, have been flooded too. Moments ago I ordered the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the

Ministry of Commerce and local authorities to collaborate with the Cambodian Red Cross to administer the provision of urgent assistance to people in flooded areas of Svay Rieng and Takeo provinces. Some people in flood affected area in Takeo province might have just been evacuated yesterday or even today to high grounds.

What has been a problem for us here is that as of September 30, the number of deaths related to flooding has reached 148 persons in just a week after only 50 deaths were recorded a week ago. According to the reports filed by the National Committee for Disaster Management and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, some 17,000 households have been affected in any way from flooding.

Flooding has had severe impacts on the people's living condition, livelihood and also the pace of national development. People in flooded area suffer heavy losses of crops of all kinds. It has been estimated that over 270,000 hectares of rice field are facing damages and more have flooded since yesterday and today.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, some 80,000 hectares of the flooded rice field will sustain definite damage. It is a big figure of loss indeed.

As far as people's livelihood impacts are concerned, aside from rice, their other regular crops that provide not only food as source of security but also nutritional facts such as bananas, papayas, potatoes, etc. also suffered unrecoverable damages. They have to replant them when the flood subsides so that they have them again in their menu next year.

As for the state, damages from flooding will certainly bring difficulties as it has to redirect the capital reserved for further infrastructural development to fixing damaged infrastructures. Facing with impacts on some 100 kilometers of national and provincial road, over 1800 kilometers of rural road, 36 bridges and 244 dams, which we will certify when the flood subsides, the state will need to freeze earmarked funding for some construction projects and will use them instead in the post-flooding rehabilitation.

With regard to impacts on education, as we are opening the new school year today, it is now known to all that some 800 schools in the whole country have been under flood. These schools could not open new school year at this time and students in the affected area will have to start schooling later. Some 361 Buddhist pagodas and 75 health-care centers have been under flood so far as they have been recorded.

It is true that this does not count in private houses. As both individual and public interests have suffered tremendous impacts, I assume it would be threatening our macro-economic management as well.

We have predicted a 6% growth for 2011, while some institutions have extrapolated it to be around 7%. We will keep monitoring the situation and make sure that we will be able to maintain the drive for the growth so that we could assure our target of trimming off poverty at the rate of 1% per annum.

As a result of these impacts, among the 170,000 households recorded to be affected, certainly some of them, who may have otherwise been lifted above the poverty line, could have either gone back down or stay where they are. I hope we need to focus attention on this issue as we are dealing with impacts.

#### **Flood Monitoring Situation**

According to our weather forecast and flood monitoring works, the level of water recorded at flood monitoring station at Stoen Treng has gone down gradually from 10.7 meters, which is the warning level, to 9.50 meters as of 7 am today. It has been recorded a recession from 22 meters yesterday in Kratie to 21.01 meters

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today. While warning flood level at Kompong Cham monitoring station is 15.2 meters, as of today it has been recorded to be 10.22 meters. In Phnom Penh, as the warning flood level is 10.50 meters, today we have a level of up to 10.76 meters. The flood levels of Neak Loeung and Koh Khel of the Mekong's downstream in Cambodia record continued increase.

According to the flood monitoring station at Prek Kadam, which is to a different direction of the Mekong stream, and further north of Phnom Penh city, the flood level recorded does not seem to subside just yet. The forecast that I have received from HE Lim Kean Hor, Minister of Water Resources and Meteorology, the flood level at Prek Kadam on October 4 will be 9.94 meters, which continues to be higher than the warning level of 9.5 meters. As the level of water in the Mekong is still high, because of slow absorption from the sea down south, the flood water in the Tonle Sap Lake area, which combines both the Mekong flood water and rains, will be taking a slow recession.

In light of this situation, Kompong Thom province will be the province to suffer the most. Though some flash flood in the northern area of the province has subsided, the flood level of the area of Tonle Sap Lake, which is

destination of the flood flow from the north, has not yet subsided. This will present challenges in solving flood issues. We will have to find ways to make the best of the situation.

#### **Flood Related Casualties**

What concerns us the most has been the fact that some 148 people, 52 of which are children, died from flood-related incidents. They could have died because of parental insufficient attention due to certain state of difficulties, of poisonous creatures, but also of being drowned while in drunkard state. No matter how they died the Royal Government of Cambodia contributes a sum of two million Riel (about five hundred USD) for each death incurred in relation to flooding. We are mourning for the loss of life of our citizen, whether old or young, man or woman, or how they died. After all no one would want to die.

In the name of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to take this occasion to express my sincerest condolences once again to the families of the deaths. I would seek their acceptance of the said amount of two million Riel as a minor hearty contribution from the Royal Government for their losses and their efforts to deal with such pressing and demanding situation. Equal sympathy is also for the losses of main and subsidiary crops

as well as housing and other things of value.

It has been a sad moment and a heavy loss of what our people have been striving to produce over a period of many years. It has been noted that after floods of 2000, 2001 and 2002, our people, as their tradition, have been making every efforts to replant subsidiary home-stead crops such as bananas, mangos, papayas, and various kind of vegetables. The fish farming ponds should be included too. As some have lost all these, others may have also lost animals too – cows, pigs, chicks, ducks, etc.

While expressing grievances and sadness over these losses, I would like to convey my appreciation and sincere thanks to all concerned institutions, especially the National Committee for Disaster Management, the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, among others, for taking their utmost efforts to overcome difficulties in these pressing moments.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to sub-national level authorities, who have been immediate pro-actors, the armed forces, the Cambodian Red Cross for their punctual responses.

It is equally thankful for the efforts and assistance provided by some national and international organi-

zations as well as individuals in rescuing our people. I wish to take this moment to pay my deepest gratitude to our Buddhist monks who not only have made their monastery spaces available for flood stranded people in their areas, but also provided them with foodstuff that they have been offered during the Pjum Ben day.

I also thank every working team of the Cambodian People's Party for taking their time to visit the affected people and areas to provide them with necessary first aid kits and to figure out more follow-up responses. Their works have indeed shared some burden from the Royal Government in this difficult time.

Last but not least, I would take this opportune moment to thank our people themselves for their efforts to take care of themselves in difficult circumstances and would seek their understanding and apology for tardy responses in certain areas due mainly to objective factors. It has been the case so far that people involved in the rescue mission also have got to save their families and/or family members, whereas the road access to target areas and people have been cut off in various parts by flood, etc.

Also my apology to some people, because their situation has been so isolated, assistance has not

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yet reached them, though I am sure they surely find a way to fix their situation for the time being. I encourage and thank the people who exercise mutual help practice that is our valuable tradition in time of emergency.

Please allow me to express my humbly sincere thanks and appreciation to HM the King for his concern and care for the people's situation and condition. HM the King visited Kompot province last week and today will be staying in Kompong Chhonang province to preside over the deliverance of aid kits for the flood affected people. This is valuable model for our government officials as well as the armed forces.

My humble thanks and appreciations are also reserved for the HM the King's Father and the King's Mother, who, for medical treatment reasons are away from the country, have set aside their heartfelt concerns for their children and contributed their assistance through the Cambodian Red Cross, which have now provided helps for over ten thousand families already.

### Weather Monitoring

In general the flood level seems to have subsided in slow pace and we have this late September and early October storms of Nesat and Nalgae, which are now moving in direc-

tion of the Philippines, to monitor. The latter, number 19 to our counting, would normally reach Hainan of the People's Republic of China and then down to Vietnam. Once in Vietnam, it is anticipated naturally that it will cause more rain over the Mekong basin area, from where Cambodia would have to bear the brunt eventually. We will have to observe that.

### Five Immediate Measures

As flood starts to subside now, I would call on all local authorities and concerned government institutions to increase their vigilance and pay attention to taking necessary measures that have been issued and proclaimed prior to the Pjum Ben day on the following issues:

**Firstly, continue to provide help for people who have stranded by flood and stuck at high grounds.**

While taking them to high ground, it is equally important to provide them with food, shelters, and medicines so that they would not be left in starving situation. Though rain may be few and far between, we still have to make sure they have appropriate shelters to stay in. While providing them with basic medicines and care, it is important that we have to alert them of basic necessities so that they can help themselves.

I appeal to the armed forces as well as adminis-

trative officials and staff of medical teams to take turns to be on duty to provide security, safety and healthcare for the people.

It is equally vital that they all have means they need for any rescue mission if they have, for example to transport patients to hospitals in case of emergency. It is encouraging to see that HE Mam Bun Heng, Minister of Health, has been administering healthcare assistance himself and in various other cases local authorities have also initiated the responses by themselves too.

Once the flood subsides completely, I would urge the local authorities and the armed forces to provide flood affected people with transportations so that they could travel back to their homes like when they were brought to safety in the first place.

It is my sincere intention to urge our people, once they are back at their homes, to be cautious of poisonous and other dangerous creatures that may have hidden in their abandoned homes. The most dangerous of all is indeed the poisonous snakes.

I also renew from the bottom of my heart my appeal to urge our people to take care of their children in this difficult flood time. They should not be allowed to play in deep and strong current water or leave them alone in flooded home.

Usually, after every flood time, it has been observed that hygiene has become a serious matter. About a decade ago, it was quite a lesson to see that people suffered diarrhea and vomiting. I would urge the Ministry of Health and their relevant agencies under its supervision to take high standard measures to prevent possible outbreak of cholera.

**Secondly, try to restore rice plants as well as other crops.**

This is the most pressing issue and we have issued some urgent measures already for the Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Water Resources and Meteorology and concerned institutions to ensure that damages will be mitigated or substituted.

As there will be different type and scale of damages done to the rice farms, I would urge that appropriately responsive measures will be taken accordingly for particular state of geographical conditions and damages.

While it may be appropriate for some to work out what I called the common rice seedling beds, for certain situation and geographical conditions, we may also apply sowing seeds or drill seeding directly to the ground rather than transplanting rice seedling. What is our major concern here is seed.

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As far as seed is concerned, portion of seed either in grain or in seedling will be made available by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. However, I would once again urge our people to help each other in this time of need to share whatever seed you may have in surplus as this has been our valuable tradition.

While we consider providing our people with seeds of various vegetable plants, it is also important to note that our people, based on my experience of life along the Mekong River, have the habit of moving basic species and plants to high ground so that they could replant them after the flood retreats.

Take for instance some could have dug off the banana young shoots and keep them safe somewhere. They will put them back into ground when time comes. They may have done similarly for lemongrass, papaya, etc. Having said all this, with my confidence and heartfelt gratitude, I would solicit our people's self-help practices once again.

**Thirdly, as water retreats we must immediately take urgent actions to rebuild or mend dams and water reservoirs so that a situation of no water is left in the embankments/reservoirs could be avoided.**

Those who live along the mighty rivers of Mekong, Tonle Sap, Tonle Basac and other streams, would understand what I am talking as they have water embankments of some kinds or sizes behind houses. What they should be doing is to check their reservoirs to see if they were damaged for any reason so that timely actions can be taken. These reservoirs should normally be of help to grow flood recession rice and/or dry season rice.

There is one issue of concern here and we need to resolve it effectively too. It is usually a conflict between those who need water for growing rice and those who would want to drain the water so as to catch fish. I would urge people's and authorities' constant alert in this case so that those with immediate interest could be prevented from drying water out of the reservoir for fish.

In addition to this, every household has to pay attention to your rice field levees as they may have been demolished from the water current in one way or another. They are important rice field embankment to keep the water in and I am sure our people know about this better than I do. However, please take it as a reminder because it needs just one day perhaps to make a different from being a flooded to being dried rice field.

If there were any rice left from flooding, it would be a sad loss if we leave them to die of no water. In this circumstance, calling in for intervention would be unproductive as it adds up to cost of production.

**Fourthly, all the armed forces - police, soldiers, military police, and the CPP youth teams also included, could be mobilized to help mending and/or rebuilding the people's homes.**

I would also foresee contributions from the scouts and the Red Cross youth teams too. The CPP youth groups have been doing that already and it would be encouraging to see if youths from other political parties, judging by the fact they also have their members who are in the payrolls of the parliament and the Senate, would also do the same.

What is the most important of all here is the CPP working groups who have taken their actions to the CPP bases in districts and communes where they are engaging with to provide people with food, to help them fixing their homes, to provide them with seeds, etc. The CPP youth teams also is a crucial mechanism, along with those of the scout and Red Cross teams, to assist our people in matters of healthcare, hygiene, cleaning schools, hospitals, public parks, etc.

**Fifthly, eligible voters are**

*encouraged to go and verify their information at the registration offices in their residential administrations.*

Actually this process started since September 1 and will run through to October 15, or another fifteen days to go. I would urge our people of eligibility throughout the country to go check their personal information so that they could cast their votes in the forthcoming communal elections.

In this concern, I also call on the National Elections Committee to take areas where flood has caused the most severe impacts into consideration if they should be allowed for late registration. Maybe there could be a mobile system for such situational registrations, I do not know. We should not allow our people to flee from homes and to lose their voting rights. The registration is important as we will have the communal elections in June 2012 and the general elections in July 2013.

The Royal Government is in no position to order the National Election Committee on its work and I am not sure if the law allows the NEC to postpone the registration to a later date. I do not know if it is legally applicable to reschedule the registration process, in face of force majeure such as this, for a longer period. However, it is my request that people's rights to vote must be guaranteed...■

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panded, through the implementations of the national reconciliation policy, the win-win policy and the rectangular strategy of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the support on a gradual basis which is essential factor for our successes in the struggle movement for national salvation, protection of people's revival; defense of independence and national sovereignty, national restoration and development; and in solving the Cambodian issue on the path of win-win policy that results in larger international supports for Cambodia.

"These achievements stemmed from decisive solidarity with unfathomable historical value of our nation as a firm foundation in all fields to guarantee lasting existence and progress of Cambodia under the brilliant reflection of Preah Preahmâhvirak-sat the King-Father and Samdech Preah Reach Akka Mohèsey the Queen-Mother in the creation of policy of national reconciliation and healing" Samdech Techo said.

### Visiting Rice-fields in Flood Affected Prey Veng

On October 24, Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, accompanied by Minister of Meteorology and Water Resource H.E. Lim Kean Hor; Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries H.E. Chan Sarun; Minister of Health H.E.

Mam Bun Heng; Minister of Rural Development H.E. Chea Sophara, visited various provinces along the Mekong river, including Phnom Penh, Kandal, Kampong Cham, Prey Veng and Takeo provinces **to examine the flooding situation**, which was reported on October 20 by the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) to have affected 18 provinces/cities and 333,159 families, and claimed 247 lives. Some 1,289 schools, 101 health centers, 427 pagodas, 406,389 hectares of young transplanted rice, 921 kilometers of national and provincial roads, and 2,936 kilometers of gravel roads were under flood.

According to NCDM, as of October 22, the cost of destruction was estimated at USD 521 million. On October 26, directed by Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Ministry of Economy and Finance called an **urgent meeting to conduct flood damage assessment while preparing necessary needs for post-flood rehabilitation**.

In principle, priorities over physical infrastructure rehabilitation, the restoration after flood-water receding with the use of credits and national budget 2012, and the upgrading of infrastructures to respond to the climate change, have been set out...

### Meeting with Premier

### Wen Jiabao in Nanning

On October 21, Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen met in Nanning, the capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, with H.E. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, **to discuss and to evaluate results of the strategic cooperation between Cambodia and China**.

The Chinese Premier affirmed China's support to Cambodia's candidacy as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2013-2014 and expressed condolences to the Cambodian flood victims' families, while donating another US\$ 1.5 million in addition the 50 million Yuan assistance recently provided to Cambodia. On behalf of the victims, Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed his profound thanks to the Chinese people and government for their assistance to Cambodia and recalled that from 1992 through to September 2011, China has provided USD 2,093 million in both grants and loans for the rehabilitation and development of Cambodia.

The two sides have also pledged to boost the bilateral trade volume to USD 2.5 billion USD in 2012, in which milled rice and garments are expected to be major products to boost Cambodia's exports to China. China accepts the

Cambodian government's loan proposal of around US\$500 million annually to rehabilitate the flood-damaged infrastructure and new roads.

### Draft Law on Finance for 2012 Management Approved

On October 19, in its Cabinet's meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the **Royal Government of Cambodia approved the \$2.6 billion USD (10,767,982 million Riel) in the Draft Law on Finance for 2012 Management**, which will enable the government to maintain the sustainable annual economic growth at around 7 percent; reduce poverty at a rate of more than one percent annually; improve the fields of social welfare, education, health and gender equality; promote rice production and export; and rehabilitate the flood-damaged infrastructures, etc.

The Royal Government also continues to increase 20 percent to the civil servants and armed forces' basic salary in 2012 and stresses on the need to achieve rice export objective. **The country's poverty rate**, the Royal Government of Cambodia announced, **in 2010 decreased to 25.8 percent**, while the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita reached US\$830. It should be added that Cambodia is one of the 20 countries in

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