



03 December 11 - Samdech Techo Hun Sen host lunch and distribute donations for deaf-mute and blind children at the Deaf-Mute and Blind Children Center at Sen Sok district in Phnom Penh (Kampuchea Thmey).

## 505.4 Km Rural Roads DBST Pavement

01 December 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### 505.4 km DBST Rural Roads

First of all I would like to convey to you respect and greeting from my wife and to wish you all here as well as in the whole country the four Buddhist blessings. I am very pleased to return to the province of Pursath once again to preside over this auspicious and joyous ceremony to launch the pavement of some 505.4 Km rural roads using double bituminous surface treatment (DBST) technique. This, in other words, should be understood to be the Royal Government's efforts to improve condition of 19 lines of rural roads covering twenty districts in seven provinces.

today I am presiding over the launching ceremony for the 505.4 Km project from Pursath. For similar project, Samdech Kong Sam Ol, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Royal Palace, is launching the ceremony at Kompong Chhanang province, HE Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Interior is launching it in Battambang, and HE Say Chhom, Second Vice President of the National Assembly is doing his part in the province of Kompong Speu. The seven provinces covered in the project are indeed Kompong Speu, Kompong Chhnang, Pursath, Battambang, Siem Reap, Kompong Thom and Kompong Cham.

As is said by HE Chea Sophara, Minister for Rural Development,

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## Visiting Atay Hydropower Plant

28 December 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### Hydroelectric Potential for National Development

I consider it a great chance for me, thanks to peace we have made, to be visiting district Viel Veng's Atay for the first time. Without peace that we have achieved through the implementation of the win-win policy, nothing could have happened here. This is something that we all have to remember. As is reported to you by HE Suy Sem, Minister for Industry, Mines and Energy and the Chinese company's representative, it is a great pleasure that we have come close to drawing hydroelectric potential for national development.

Kompjai Hydropower Plant in Kompot province earlier this month, through encouragement from the Government and financial provision from the Chinese Banks, the Chinese companies have access to funding for investment in Cambodia. That has brought about favorable conditions for investment projects and so far no project fails.

We also notice that some projects have been accomplished ahead of schedule. Weeks ago we inaugurated a hydropower plant at Komjai, Kompot province. And today I come to see the progress made for this hydropower plant at Atay, which sits at the joint border of three provinces together – Pursath, Kompong Speu and Koh Kong. In this area we have three hydropower projects – Atay, Russei Jrum Kraom and Ta Tay. Along with impacts for certain land area from the closure of dams here, the three power plants will generate almost 700 MW of electricity to answer to power demands of Koh Kong, Kom- (Continued on page 2)

These hydroelectric power plants may be small or medium ones for China. For Cambodia, however, this is what we can do to gather financial resources to invest in electricity generation. As I said during my visit to

## Komjai Hydropower Plant in Action

07 December 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### Three Digit Hydropower Plant

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thankfulness to all of our people who turn out today to celebrate altogether the official inauguration of the Komjai hydropower plant, which has the capacity to produce some 193.2 MW. According to the General Director of Sino-Hydro Corporation, the output could reach slightly over 194 MW. It is indeed a historic event today that the Kingdom of Cambodia, for the first time, has put into operation its first three-digit hydropower plant. So far we have only two-digit hydropower plants. It is in this note that I say today is our historic event in national development.

Energy and Mines, said in his report already that this achievement is not born out of recent vision or efforts but a result of a long-standing wish and vision from the former popular socialist community (Sangkum Reastniyum) under the leadership of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. The hydropower plant was a vision and study was conducted then. Today's achievement is just a continuation of the vision of the popular socialist community of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. The Hydro Project, so the Russian company then was called, was the one conducted the study for the generation of what could be a 127 MW power plant. If we were to have no war, which was a result of the 1970 coup (against Sam- (Continued on page 6)

Minister Suy Sen of Industry,

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pong Speu and Pursat provinces but also Phnom Penh, provinces of Bagtambang, Kompong Chhonang, Banteay Menajei, Siemreap and to a certain extent to Kompong Jam province.

As of Atay water reservoir area, the extension of water conservation covers an area of some 567 square Km, which conserves some 385 square cubic meters. The hydropower directly generated from first dam, which is standing at 46.5 meters high and 340 meters long, produces 20 MW electricity power. The project has increased the hydropower pressure through a tunnel to run the second turbine down below to generate another 100 MW, which make a total capacity of 120 MW.

#### **Solutions for Impacted Families**

As for the water reservoir up here, only four families suffer the impact on their houses. I told the company to build them new houses. Some thirty three families have had impacts in terms of their land area for cultivation that we have to look for land to provide them for the land that are submerged. As for those four families, I asked that new houses, whether from wood or concrete, need to be built taking into consideration their wellbeing. This is for the sake of achieving a harmonious investment between the company and the local residents.

I am sure the company will build larger and lasting homes for the four families. Concrete ones is my recommendation. The company has invested so much already in the construction and operation, so I think there will be chances that children of these people will later work in the company's plant too. They may train and get their children work here for the company. It is the best solution to get harmonious relations here.

There is no need to recall that the investment here is the Chinese money and the benefit is for Cambodians. I learnt that there

are over 600 Cambodians who work here for 210 USD - monthly salary of 150 USD and two USD per diem for food. I also am encouraged to hear that the company will focus on using Cambodian workers in its thirty year operation of the Atay hydropower plant. I am so grateful for the plan and effort to train Cambodian human resources to operate the plant.

#### **A Cost for Every Development**

I wish to have your attention that water from the Atay reservoir will be beneficial not only for the two-stage operation electricity of generation above – 20 MW and 100 MW. The water release from the Atay plant will go down to add pressure on the hydroelectric power plant at Russei Jrum Kraom. As we need to make use of the water pressure, it is also our consideration and interest to make sure of its minimal impacts on environment.

I have said on various occasions about environmental impacts and I refer those to extremists. No development could have achieved without suffering from impacts. Human beings need to consume and dress. Where do we get food and materials to make dress? One needs to grow cotton to make dress. Where on earth do we get cotton? If one has to grown cotton on soil, one would have to clear the forest to do so. Impacts on environment are therefore is sure to happen. To produce cement one has to get limestone among others from mountain and also to build concrete house one has to get quarried rock. How could these actions bear no impacts on environment?

Are they suggesting that no plane should ever fly as flying plane would cause so much impact from burnt fossil fuel emission to the environment? How many factories could anyone count in the world that is placing pressure on environment in so much the same way? Mining of all sorts would definitely and seriously causes such environmental impacts either and

would anyone country stop doing so? If we want to get rice, we have to put in labor, tilling, seeding and maintenance, etc. To catch a fish, one also has had to give it bait, is not it?

What is the main issue here is to balance possible impacts from one's action in order to lessen pressure on the environment. We need to be aware of what could and could not be done. Take for instance, to change the water current in certain system would cause serious destruction to the environment, we must not do it and think of a different way to mitigate the impacts as sometimes we have to lose something in order gain bigger something. There is no denial to the fact that there will be a cost for every development.

Some people have said things as if they know how to make it happen magically. There was a report in the media the other day that building Komjai hydroelectric power caused a loss of over 7,000 USD from fishing. They made it a fuss without even knowing the reality of the Komjai and water system there. Has anyone ever fished in that system? It was only a seasonal river system where there are not much fish to reside. After the Komjai hydropower dam finished building, water availability is on the contrary more constant in the system and more fish are observed and caught.

There is more and constant water for fish to reside and reproduce as well as for tourist to enjoy the water all year round. When it is implied that some 7,000 USD is lost from fishing, I doubt if they talked about fishing in the Toeuk Tchou (flow water) system or in the sea (which is the end target of the flow)? Talking about fishing in the sea, there is no correlation with the Komjai dam and about fishing in the Toeuk Tchou, there are never fish to catch. Well, I just want to clarify a few things here about impacts the media talked about as far as the Komjai Hydroelectric power plant is concerned.

#### **Power from Atay in May 2013**

Electricity generation has become an urgent matter for Cambodia. I am so glad to see that electricity poles and transmission lines mounted from Phnom Penh to Kompong Chhonang, Pursath, Battambang and Banteay Mweanji provinces. The system is in place for the electricity generated from Atay, and those from Russei Jrum Kraom and Tatay will also be coming this way. It will be not long before we get to 2013. The company has committed that the generation of electricity will be possible in May 2013.

That is a good thing because by July 2013, Cambodia will hold the general elections. That will be a plus for Cambodian People's Party in the elections. Some political parties may demand that the power generation should wait till after the elections, but how can the company put the generation on hold? It would not be possible to put the operation after or before the date set for the operation by the plant. It should be noted that we will have more electricity from Kirirom III in 2012 and Atay in 2013. It goes without saying that more will follow from Ta Tay and Russeijrum Kraom.

The Atay investment total 255.3 million USD – 199.97 million USD for the dam and plant construction and 53.33 million USD for the construction of electricity poles and wiring, and substation at O Saom and transmission line to Pursath province. It is a BOT investment which the company will spend four years to build and 30 years to operate it. After that it will be transferred to Cambodia's ownership. The state has been involved in demining an area of some 54 million square meters, of which 31 million square meters have been done, and some 22 million square meters more to go on. The operation discovered and cleared 494 pieces of mines of various sorts, 635 unexploded ordnances, 5,759 pieces of shrapnel.

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Let me now detail the project coverage. For Pursath province, the project covers a total length of 80.6 Km in three districts – Bakan, Kravanh and Krokror. In Battambang province, three roads of the total length 72 Km are in the districts of Mong Russei and Rukkhakiri. For Siem Reap province, the project builds the total length of 75.8 Km in four districts – Puok, Angkor Jum, Angkor Thom and Varin. In Kompong Thom provinces, the districts of Prasath Sambo and Sandan would receive 66.2 Km road. Three lines of DBST rural road cover in four districts of Kompong Cham – Tbong Khnum, Oraing Ov, Kroj Tchma and Memot. The project covers 69.3 Km roads in the districts of Phnom Sruoj and Bosed of Kompong Speu province and 72.8 Km in three districts of Kompong Chhnang – Rolea B'ier, Tuek Phos and Samaki Meanjei.

Please allow me to inform people in Kompong Cham province from here that the three roads to be built there will be running between the districts of Oraing Ov and Tbong Khnum, between Poes II and the village of Tria in the district of Kroj Chma and from the National Road 7 to Kabas in the district of Memot. As for Kompong Thom, we will have a DBST road from the district of Prasad Sambo and Kompong Tchoeutiel. In Kompong Chhnang, the three roads are from Pongro and Kraing Ska, between the market of Traj and the pagoda of Protiet and between the bridge of Po and Mieno. In Battambang, the DBST roads are between Prey Svay and Russei Kraing, the national road 5 and canal Jong Poar, and between Jrei and Kokoh. The two DBST rural roads in Kompong Speu run between the market of Tropeang Kroloeuang and the market of Panggasei and between Kiri Reasmei and Dak Por. And in Siem Reap, the two roads are between Puok and Angkor Thom and between Angkor Jum and Varin.

As for this project we have borrowed a sum of 35 million USD from the ADB and 21 million USD from the Republic of Korea. From the NDF, we have had a grant of 5.4 million USD in addition to 7.25 million USD counterpart fund covered by the Royal Government of Cambodia. The amount total for the project of 505.4 Km DBST rural roads is 68.65 million USD.

This should be a message to our people in all districts I mentioned above that they would soon have DBST roads and let all people residing along the said roads construction sites to give whatever and whenever possible efforts in cooperation with the project development for your own benefits. I would seek your understanding on difficulties caused by heavy machineries to come and go between and by your residential areas. It is critically important indeed to have the support of our people so that local authority could make the project a success story.

This has been a new development in our efforts to improve rural road condition throughout Cambodia. Over the past years, DBST pavement of rural laterite roads has in fact been carried out on a trial basis using loans from national budget. HE Chan Sarun, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries built a 35 Km DBST road in the Takeo province's district of Tramkak. It should be noted also that Oknha Sieng Nam did the same in Siem Reap while Oknha Sok Kong did in Battambang province. By using national loan, if I am not mistaken, we built a section of DBST road between Kratie City and the Chhlong town and on to Poes II.

Having seen that those roads were effectively built and operated in efficiency, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), under then the leadership of Mr. Putu Kamayana, the ADB Country Director to Cambodia, together with financial helps rendered from the Repub-

lic of Korea and grant from the Nordic Development Fund (NDF), the Ministry of Rural Development has laid out this marvelous project plan, which is scheduled to be concluded by 2015. We will go on with the pavement of more rural roads that meet required basement standard.

### **Flood Damaged Rural Roads and Rice**

We have made constant efforts to built rural lateritic roads so far. The 2011 flood has inflicted damages on the rural roads in length as well as in size to an extent beyond that caused by flood in 2000. As fewer roads were built by 2000 that though the flood was serious, there was not much to be destroyed. On the contrary, the 2011 flood inflicted damages on over 4,000 Km of rural lateritic roads. I would say we are lucky to plan the launching of the DBST pavement in the said provinces in the later part of 2011, which is post-flooding, or it would have suffered similar flood-caused destruction. It should be noted that some of the 505.4 Km roads to be paved are in fact those that were damaged by flood too.

I see that the project is of great meaning. I am sure that (our people want to see that) more roads to be built - rural or national ones. It is the people who will benefit from these roads. As a response to this hope we have witnessed here together a construction of the 505.4 Km roads. We also hope that the ADB Country Director, Mr. Putu Kamayana, and his colleagues would go on with more projects of this sort. I will also inform Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, the President of the ADB and the Chairperson of ADB's Board of Directors, about the good of the project for Cambodia. I will seek his further support.

I have the feeling that things would change if we were to be able to launch the project of this sort once every one or two years. Therefore, we shall not wait until this project is complete to start looking for funding for new

projects. It has to roll on. I recall that during the 2000 flood, after the country had full peace, we made relentless efforts to look for funding from all sources to build rural roads and bridges. We sought all means. We even allowed the private sector to use their capitals to build or to purchase materials for building roads and/or bridges.

The decision and policy (for rural infrastructural development) has since brought about noticeable growth in our rural economy. Without road our people could not market their products as the fare for transportation would double the cost of production already. In addition to local economy improvement and development, rural road also benefits all social, religious and livelihood activities. As we have a better road, everything will be smooth. Even the Buddhist monks would be able to go out to be offered with food and to return in time for lunch in the pagodas.

This year our country has been hit hard by flood and provinces around the lake of Tonle Sap have been the most affected ones because the level of flooding was high and the receding speed was slow. Take for instance, the district of Punnhea Leu of Kandal province, usually at this time of the year, rice would have been in its harvesting stage already. As of this year, for the same time, we only have newly transplanted rice. The rice cultivation around the lake of Tonle Sap is falling behind usual schedule.

### **Collective Efforts to Assist Flood Victims**

I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the local authorities of all levels, the armed forces and the Cambodian Red Cross, who have made efforts day and night to rescue and look after our people. Without their help I am sure the rescue efforts provided only from the central authority would not have been so effective and

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efficient.

According to the report of the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), though we initially provided relief assistance to 350,000 households of 1.5 million people affected by flood, the latest figure we have is 430,000 households or over 1.9 million people. This is not including yet the assistance that is continuing to be provided by certain program. It should be noted too that timely assistance has been provided not only by the Royal Government, the Cambodian Red Cross, Development partners and non-governmental organizations, but to a certain extent by the working groups of the Cambodian People's Party.

Judging from the report of the CPP working groups, especially those in the Pursath province, led by HE Suy Sem, Minister for Industry, Energy and Mines, incredible efforts were made to offer assistance to those affected by flood disaster. Throughout the country, it is said in the report, the CPP working groups offered assistance to about 80,000 families/households. It is indeed encouraging and here in Pursath, though I am not here, HE Suy Sem has represented the CPP leadership to resolve during and post flood livelihood problems. We have made efforts so that our people could survive the flooding and go on with their lives, while some people rebuke us of "purchasing votes."

They should in fact have seen and thought that those efforts were being given out not for the CPP members alone but to the people in general who were affected by this natural disaster. Now that the flood has receded, we have put in momentum the rehabilitation efforts. Our people all over the country are now busy harvesting and/or transplanting more rice wherever water recedes. As I said the other day we could classify our people who have been affected by flood into four categories.

Firstly, those who are happy with their rice yield as the flood did not affect their production and their harvests have been far better than the previous year. Secondly, those people that flood had affected only a small portion of their production. They are also rather happy as they do not have major problem to deal with except for some of them to find grass for their animals. This group of people also organized the boat race event in their communities during the water festival. On top of that these people are now swiftly and fully engaged in dry-season rice cultivation too.

The third group of people is those whose (rice or agricultural) productions have been devastated completely. However, these people have the possibility and ability to re-cultivate rice with the seeds provided by the state and/or borrowed from peer farmers and to make use irrigation systems built so far. The fourth group is those whose farm activities – whether it be rice cultivation or any other thing else, have been not only completely destroyed but also cannot bring it around to make it up because their areas do not have plenty of water to irrigate. These people are in bad shape and in need of further assistance. All they could do now is to engage in small-scale animal husbandry and wait for the next cultivation to start, which is next year.

It is the fourth group of people – especially the elderly, women-headed households and handicapped peoples - that we have to provide further help and the Cambodian Red Cross will have to pursue this issue according to case of need. Urgent assistance has been called off and we will have to go on with our assessment of their further needs to be provided so that they can survive till the next cultivation arrives. One solution is perhaps to use "rice for work" to dig canal. Again the Cambodian Red Cross must work out a target group who need to have further assistance.

### Poverty/Difficulty Reduction Strategy

Well as I said earlier that with better road condition, everyone will benefit from it accordingly. It is though hard to make some people understand the meaning of "poverty reduction or alleviation." Maybe I suggest another version for them – "difficulty alleviation." For instance, taking this road prior to the construction under harsh rain our people could not bike but even had to carry the bicycles over their shoulders too. Or some people had to pay up to 5,000 Riel for a trip but s/he has had to pay only 3,000 Riel per trip after the road is complete. So if it is difficult to understand what it means "poverty reduction," you may find it easier to grasp as "difficulty alleviation."

To be frank, I do not want to engage in war of words with those who may be absent minded but for a better understanding of the matter and our people could get to the bottom of the issue I have had to clarify certain issues. Some (politicians) have questioned that since Cambodia is provided with so much foreign financial assistance, why (the Royal Government) does not use those money to distribute among the people? You all may know already that no country in the world could have done what those people said. Furthermore, no country ever uses financial assistance in forms of loans and/or grants to give out to people.

Except when there is emergency situation like flood disaster or so that foreign countries provided assistance through the Royal Government's NCDM and the Cambodian Red Cross to the people who are affected by the flood. They may want to ask the Country Director Mr. Putu Kamayana if ADB ever loans money out for free distribution or not. Same question can be asked to Prime Minister of Japan, the Chinese Premier, President of the Republic of Korea, and others from Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America, Russia, India, etc. who would be coming to Cambodia

next year (for the ASEAN Summit).

### Four Priorities – Still Relevant

I will come again to Pursath province on December 22 to visit the A Tai hydropower plant. From a bird's eye view on the helicopter on my way here I noticed that electric wire has been installed from Phnom Penh and from Battambang too. I am sure the electric wire will be ready between the two main cities. I am so happy to see that the four priorities – water/irrigation, roads, electricity and human resources - that I pinpointed in 1987 have continued to be "correct vision."

We have now gradually improved our ability to provide water/irrigation system for our people to work their lands and also build our country more roads, ports, airports and telecommunication too. We are now making further progress in resolving electric demand and also developing and upgrading human resources. All efforts to develop the country are possible because of the four basic conditions. There would be no transportation while there were no roads. Even if you have to perform wedding party, it is better to do that on paved road or floor too. Well this is reducing difficulties or poverty.

### Plenty of Fish to Catch

This year, there seem to be more fish in the natural water system than every year before. I may ask our people, not the fishing zone contractors, if it is true that there are more fish in the system after I reformed the fishing zone contracting. Firstly, we have put an end to inappropriate actions in relation to fishing ranging from placing trap across the whole system to creating trap all over the waterway. Secondly, all 35 fishing zones contracted have been barred from fishing and they would be left like that for at least three years.

As of now it appears to be some regulation abusing actions and I have instructed Deputy Prime  
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Minister HE Bin Chhin to notify all concerned provinces to take matter and act seriously. This year, according to my observation, it seems that we have plenty of fish for our people to catch. I have been informed that various kinds of fish up to more than a Kilogram in weight have gone up the Mekong system all the way to Kratie province. Seeing that the fish season has arrived and there are plenty of them like this, I thought of the handicapped children – deaf and mute – and would organize a lunch and dinner for them this coming Saturday.

As we have brought back the amount of fish in the water system, we must go on keeping stringent measures so that there are always plenty of fish for our people to catch. It was said in Cambodia from the old time that “where there is water, there is plenty of fish.” Lately, it came to be a situation that there does not seem to be more fish in the water. The situation, though, appears to be improving as it is noted that fish population has increased. I will stick to my plan to keep the (Tonle Sap) system free from contracting to private bidders for three years. Constant efforts have to be carried out not only on contracting but also allowing inundated forest to grow again. Fish movement will not be hindered or trapped and they may be caught by people if they happen to travel out and far. The only thing I would warn is that people should consider using appropriate fishing tools and refrain from using those tools that jeopardize fish population – such as electrocuting tools.

In the past, after contracting out fishing zones, contractors laid traps across a large section of the lake system and would not allow our people or local fishermen to travel near or across their fishing traps. Now that our people are free to go catch fish and there are more fish to catch, our people do not seem to use electrocuting tools to catch fish and I would suggest that Deputy Prime Minister HE Bin Chhin look seri-

ously into this development as it would be a strong argument for follow-up measures.

### 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of NUFSSK & Three Events on December 2

As today is December 1, tomorrow we will be the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea (NUFSK). Samdech Akka Moha Punhhea Chakrey Heng Samrin will preside over a big meeting in the Snuol district of Kratie province in commemoration of the appearance of the NUFSSK. He also will launch the construction of a memorial site and also provide public institutions such as schools for our people there. Let me now tell you three events in relation to December 2.

At the time that we founded the NUFSSK, I was then 26 years old. I was the youngest among all leaders. I remember the night of December 1 when I had to stay late till about 4 a.m. (of December 2) because I had to draft one more speech for Samdech Chea Sim in addition to the declaration of the NUFSSK to be read by Samdech Heng Samrin. I am sure there might be some who are here could have been one of our soldiers then. My soldiers then occupied the whole of the Jub rubber plantation. As we liberated the country on January 7, 1979, the NUFSSK could not become a political force without other sectors of the whole society. We only had a military force that was spearheading the struggle but not a political organization. Meeting of all struggle forces allowed us to establish the NUFSSK and led us to the victory of January 7.

The second event was the negotiation for a political settlement of the Cambodian issue for the first time between me and Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk in Fere en Tardenois, France on December 2, 1987. It is a historic event to be remembered and it is 24 years up to now. Some (politicians) talk of peace so and so but they forgot that they were not even part of the process. They should be re-

minded that if there were no first meeting and negotiation in Fere en Tardenois on December 2, there would not be any other negotiation thereafter. So December 2 is the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the negotiation for peace and national reconciliation too.

HE Ieng Mouly was one of the negotiators then (from the Son San's faction) and a signatory of the Paris Peace Agreement too. Here (on the podium) only I and HE Ieng Mouly are the ones who were in the negotiations, whereas Khieu Samphan is in the (former Khmer Rouge's leaders) trial, Son Sen already died. Sin Sen and Samdech Son San all died. So this is a memory of the search for peace to put an end to war.

Also on December 2, in 1998, it is now 13<sup>th</sup> years already, during the establishment of the Royal Government, after a stalemate, I put out the “Triangular Strategy” - in the first Cabinet meeting. The strategy's first angle was *internal pacification* after full integration of the former Khmer Rouge forces and the dismantling of its political and military organizations were achieved thanks to the implementation of the win-win policy. The second angle was *integrating Cambodia into the international community*, which also included the reoccupation of the Cambodian seat at the United Nations as it was left vacant since 1997. We also then brought Cambodia into ASEAN and other organization such as World Trade Organization. It was based on the first and second angles, or the internal and external favorable conditions, we promoted *socio-economic development on the basis of reforms in all sectors and the armed forces*. You may see now that these are three historically important events that happened on December 2.

### Gratefulness to All Concerned

As I am here in Pursath I would like to express my sincere thanks to the people of Pursath for giving absolute support to the CPP to occupy all four seats in the National Assembly. It has been

stipulated clearly in the CPP political platform that if the Cambodian People's Party were to get elected, Samdech Hun Sen would become the Prime Minister. In other words, if people wish for Hun Sen to be Prime Minister, they have got to vote for CPP. I do not take this forum for electoral campaign but as I am here meeting with the people who voted for CPP I have got to thank them. As for the construction of the DBST rural roads here in Pursath as well as in other provinces, I am so grateful and call on our people to cooperate with the project. I also call on all contracted companies to cooperate well with the people as the two would be complementary to one another. I am sure our people will welcome the construction and the contractors must respect our people living along the construction and project sites.

I would take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Asian Development Bank, the Government of the Republic of Korea, and the Nordic Development Fund who have provided such valuable assistances. I thank the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Economy and Finance and concerned institutions as well as local authorities of all seven provinces and twenty districts for their endeavoring efforts to make the project possible. Please allow me to share my vision with all development partners and financial institutions that the DBST rural road construction will not finish at 505.4 Km but will go on. As you all can see, the country has been built and continued to be built from one stage to another...■

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viding grant through KfW Entwicklungsbank for the construction and installation of power lines between Kompot and Takeo.

I thank all development partners for providing loans for the construction and installation of distribution lines of electricity in Cambodia. ...■

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dech Preah Norodom Sihanouk), the country could have made steadfast development and Cambodia might have had electricity from its hydropower plant about 30 years already.

According to a note by HE Suy Sem various studies were conducted in relation to the Komjai Hydropower plan. There were reports in 1972 by the Secretariat of the Mekong Commission, in 1986 by a company of the former Soviet Union, in 1992 by a Japanese company, in 1994 by a group of Austrian experts, in 1995 by Canadian grant, in between 1998 and 2000 by the technical assistance framework of the World Bank, and on to 2001 and 2002 again by the Canadian experts.

Let me inform you that the Komjai hydropower plant, which costs 280.54 million USD, is a BOT project running for forty four years, four years of which are for the construction, and Cambodia will own it after forty years of operation. We will have to study about the operation, maintenance and management of hydropower plant in order to be able to take over when the time comes.

#### Extreme Environmentalists

According to the above note, there have been many studies and assessment of impacts in detail. However, I have come across this morning a piece of news in the Cambodia Daily about possible impacts. If we were to talk about development in the world, has there any one country that evades all impacts? I may have your attention here that there is no development that would not harm the environment. Take for instance, if you were to plant something, where would you do it? You would have to work it on land and you may have to claim it to do so.

As is said above the project was studied first in 1965 and it was not China who did it. The bidding was conducted internationally but finally the Sino-Hydro Company successfully bid it.

Talking about climate change, Cambodia is just a victim while many industrialized countries are the ones to be held responsible. Could you tell them to close down their factories? In addition to that who would have to take care of people's demand for food and other needs, if the world no longer drills for oil or coal? How are we going to address the need for energy? That is why I always tell those environmentalists not to go to the extremes on this matter. It is better to review the whole forest rather than singling out the tree.

#### Direct Benefits for Kompot People

It is true that the development of the hydropower plant at Komjai has brought about certain area of Kompot under water. But what we will get from that is 194 MW power and starting from March next year, people in Kompot would benefit directly from the project. HE Suy Sem suggested to me to remind about the fact that it was the people in Kompot who protested on issue of electricity prices. I was in Kompot to review the flood situation but people did not ask me about rice seed but electricity.

The electricity generated from the plant will be wired to Phnom Penh, Takeo, Kompot itself and could be to the Sihanoukville province too. Let me share with you the good news. As of current price list, small scale consumers pay 1100 Riel/KH. However, in March 2012, they would pay only 920 Riel/KH. As for medium scale consumers, from 1100 Riel/KH, the price would in the same period go down to 990 Riel/KH. As for large scale consumers, the price would go down to 750 Riel/KH. I surely hope that with the new price tag of electricity the people in the city of Kompot would be happy.

As far as the project is concerned, aside from electricity, we hope that the city of Kompot would not be subjected to flood as every year. Thanks to the water management system in the hydropower project, the city of

Kompot could be safe from unexpected flooding. I would suggest that in addition to the water management system of the Komjai hydropower plant, study should be conducted on the possibility to use the Keo River to alleviate the water pressure on the city.

#### Constant and Collective Efforts

It should be noticed that bidding was conducted internationally with thorough control. As far as power lining from Kompot to Takeo is concerned, Germany is the one to provide financial assistance. Don't you think that the German would not provide that kind of assistance if the project were to cause serious environmental impacts? I am sure they wouldn't.

After bidding, the project was brought for discussion at the GMS (Greater Mekong Sub-region) meeting in Kunming, People's Republic of China, in 2005. Until April 8, 2006, Premier Wen Jiabao and I officiated at the groundbreaking ceremonies to build the current Friendship Building of the Council of Ministers and the Komjai hydropower plant. At the time of Ambassador Zhang Jinfeng, I officiated with her at the inauguration of ten MW power on 07 December 2009 before the tenure of the current Ambassador Pan Guangxue.

It has been a great effort of all concerned in both countries and we are working day and night to get to this result as we are quite concerned about the price of oil. Our electricity production depends on fossil fuel and with skyrocketing price of fuel by OPEC, we would have serious problem. In effort to provide power for household or small-scale consumption, in absence of reliable sources of electricity and high voltage power lines, we have allowed local private investors to generate electricity to provide for the need. That is why the price for electricity consumption is high. For example in some places the price per KH has reached 3000 Riel. Now that

good cooperation has been restored, Thailand would sell five MW power to Cambodia to provide for consumption in Anlong Veng and Tropeang Prasad.

#### Hydropower and Coal Plants

I said earlier that our electricity production depends heavily on fossil fuel. The price of gas, which went down a few days ago to 5,000 Riel/liter, has now been about to go up again because of sanctions on Iran imposed by Europe and the United States of America. When there was a fight in Libya, the fuel prices also surged in Cambodia. So I doubt if we could see a more stable fuel prices. It is in this regard that we have no choice better than generating electricity by the hydropower in various places in our country. According to some studies, it has been suggested that Cambodia could have hydro potential to produce up to 10,000 MW. We are still far from this figure.

As HE Suy Sem reported, the Kirirom I hydropower generation was put into operation in 2002 with the capacity to provide 12 MW. The current Komjai hydropower plant puts out 194 MW. The Kirirom III hydropower plant to be ready for operation in April 2012 will be putting out 18 MW. The hydropower plant at A Tai of 120 MW power will be put into operation by end of 2013. I do not know if Ambassador Pan Guangxue will be able to make it but I will take the time on December 26 to visit the construction site. The Ta Tai hydropower plant, which will be ready in 2014, will be producing 246 MW power. The Russei Jrom Kraom hydropower plant, which will provide 338 MW power will be put into operation in 2015.

It should be noted also that the first-stage coal-run power plant of 100 MW has been scheduled to be in operation in 2013 and the second-stage operation of 135 MW power generation from coal will be put into operation in

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2016. The coal-run power plant II will provide its first-stage production of 270 MW power in 2014 in Sihanoukville province. As is said by HE Suy Sem, though we now have a power plant to put out 194 MW, we still need to have coal-fueled power plant because in dry season, when there is less water in the reservoir to run the turbine, the generation of power would be around 60 MW or so. The two – hydropower and coal-run plants – would be regulated accordingly to provide needed amount of electricity.

### Power Key to Competitive Advantages

I recalled for HM the King that we have now come into a different time. After the liberation, we supplied nine items for government civil servants, of which kerosene was one. They needed kerosene to light up their homes at night (because of no electricity). But now, we have come to a time that we have electricity at a moderate price. We also need to provide electricity for tourist industry and tangible industries.

If the price of electricity in our country is higher than those of neighboring countries, in addition to their transportation cost is cheaper than ours, their trade facilitation would be better and we would not be able to compete with them because for the same goods, it costs higher to produce in our country. So the price of electricity is one of the key issues here to advance tourism and other industries' competitive advantages.

### Four Undying Priorities

Having that said, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the People's Republic of China (PRC) for responding to Cambodia's call for investments. Since 1987 and I have said it on many occasions about Cambodia's four priorities – water/irrigation, road, electricity and human resources. I have the belief that these priorities will be here to stay for some ten or twenty more years. As far as road is concerned, people in Kompot can

be proud now that the national road 3 between Kompot and Phnom Penh has been rebuilt and enlarged. With the help of the PRC, we have launched the construction of the road 41 which will link Kompot's Jumkiri district to NR 4. Also in this effort to address road construction as a priority we have also started the construction of roads 31, 33, etc. of over 100 km.

This has ensured that people in Kompot – whether they are in Kep city, in Toeuk Tchou and/or Bokor Mountain - will definitely and surely be advancing for development. Also we have many schools built in Kompot, as well as throughout the country, and I have made a contribution in building 153 school buildings of 784 classrooms too. General Meas Sophea, deputy chief of general staff, has nurtured a wish to build a university in the future too.

Concerning water/irrigation, we have invested in building canals and dams so that water can be used for agricultural purpose. Here in Kompot, I have made a recommendation to the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to make use of water from the hydropower dams, the same should be done from the hydropower dams elsewhere, for agricultural purpose in area below the dams. We also have to study the possibility to release fish in the water catchment area too. Doing this we will not only generate electricity, but also raising fish and attracting tourists as well.

### More Power Lines Built and Needed

As I said above, since the electricity is being generated in Kompot, I would like to take this opportune moment to make some recommendations for the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mines and the Cambodian Electricity Authority to make it a priority to set up power lines so as to wire electricity to villages in the province. We have provided funding for the work to transmit power to electricity sub-

stations and efforts should be made to involve private sectors to invest in wiring down from the sub-stations for distribution to customers. I would have your attention here that there must be a price regulation so that they would not charge electricity price at will.

As is reported to you by HE Suy Sem, efforts have been made to install power lines. We have already lined up between here and Kompot city. The power line from the southern part of Vietnam to Phnom Penh, via Takeo province, has completed and is now in operation. The power line from Kiririom to Phnom Penh has also been installed and in operation now. We also finish installing power lines from Phnom Penh to Kompong Chhnang, Pursath, Battambang and on to Banteay Meanjei which are to be utilized later this year. We also have lined electricity in from Thailand and it is in operation already.

We are in the stage of installing the electricity line between Phnom Penh and Kompong Cham province and further, we are seeking funding for this part, to Kratie. We already have secured credit funding from India for power lines between the province of Kratie and Stoeung Treng. We also are looking for loan/funding for the power line to be installed between the province of Siem Reap and Kompong Thom and on to Skun town of Kompong Cham.

I would like to take this opportunity to seek Ambassador Pan Guangxue's support for the Cambodian need for loan of 50 million USD per year for high voltage power line. I really wish to see a speedy move for Cambodian electricity. In many parts of our country, Cambodian people are still using batteries to light up their house. According to a study, about 50% of Cambodian villages only have got some kind of proper electricity.

### Maintenance and De-mining Costs

There is a concern as I have

been briefed about the need to protect the power lines and poles. In some cases there was this incident that some took the screws off and sold them for petty cash. This is not only a theft crime but a serious issue when the poles no longer hold the lines or the lines for some reason are cut off blacking out a large part of Phnom Penh. It is in this thought that I appeal to those who may have done so – taking off the screws, cutting iron steels - in the past, to stop this unthoughtful actions. This action (if it were to cause any deaths) would be sinful, whereas in legal action, for such a crime, they could be punished seriously as a subversive or terrorist activity.

I would like therefore appeal to local authorities of all levels and at every places where the power lines are installed and running through to take drastic measures to protect the lines. I suggest the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy to call on the Ministry of Interior to convene a meeting with the local authorities and the armed forces – army, police and military police, to work out protective measures for all power lines.

The most recent incident was about a case that someone has shot and damaged a line here. I have concluded that was not an act aimed at damaging it but a shot from an air gun aimed at some birds or something but accidentally hit the line. Therefore I am calling every Cambodian to help protect their property – the power lines and poles. For this project, Deputy Prime Minister and Economy and Finance Minister Keat Chhon has confirmed that a counterpart fund of 3.3 million USD has been spent to de-mine in the project site of 17,512,100 square meters. We have found 100 mines of many different kinds, 220 pieces of unexploded ordnances and 1,193 Kg of shrapnel. The Royal Government also takes charge of all the import taxes, which is about 15.8 million USD, of all materials used for the construction.

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### Area Never Before Accessible

I have mentioned on various occasions that it has been unfortunate for Cambodia that because of protracted war, when there were bombardment and shelling, our land has been left with so many mines, unexploded ordnances and shrapnel. Take this area of Oral and Kravanh Mountain, for instance, and even from there down to Samlot, Tassanh (in the northwest of Cambodia), we all have to face the truth in our history, they never ever were controlled by any Governments before. Not when the French or the Japanese were in Cambodia or even under the Popular Socialist Society (Sangkum Reast Niyum) time.

The areas were integrated fully in 1996. Though some governments could have intruded certain places of the area, they could not establish control anyhow. There was no such feeling and atmosphere that we could come together and talk to each other like we are today. There would not be an opportunity as it is now if it were not for the win-win policy. On my way here, seeing the geographical condition down below from the bird's eye view, I used to think that there would be no way that Cambodia could end the war and mistrust.

Those who took refuge in the jungle would retreat once the government forces advanced. They would return and cultivate when the government forces pulled back. The forest looks intact in many areas except areas closer to the project site. I now am touching on issues that I would like authorities of all levels to pay attention to. At the time when we started the integration, it was registered to have 998 families living in the whole area of what is defined later on August 6, 1997 as the district of Viel Veng – which consists of the communes of O Saom, Pramaoy, Anlung Riep, Krapeou Pi and Thmar Da.

As of the present moment, we have 6,469 families or 25,626

people. As noted, there is a clear increase of population and this has brought about impacts in various ways on the environment – logging is one of them. When no people live here, there were no loggings to worry about too. I may remind that this area is marked as protected shelter for wild animals, for conserving and preserving nature and forest. We must take all necessary measures so as to protect the natural environment and to evade negative impacts in rain water collection surface of Atay, which is crucial for the plant.

### Orders for Natural and Forest Preservations and Conservations

Please allow me to take this opportunity to issue the following orders in that matter. Firstly, local authorities, concerned ministries and institutions must clearly define current land for residence and cultivation, on the basis of all existing laws concerned, to allow each family a size of five hectares of land. This policy should guarantee that no one family would be left without land to cultivate and it is applied to all families in the area.

Secondly, while doing this, annul all land tenure receipts and or related papers which has been issued and used for occupying land illegally in the areas of natural and forest preservations and conservations. As today we have the presence of the governors of provinces, districts, communes, villages, and I have said it on various occasions and even issued written instruction already, any such papers will be considered null and void. I declare annulment of all documents such mentioned. Any protest on this would result in strong action from me.

I would also warn any extreme action against those local people who have legally occupied land in this area. They must be legally recognized. For those who are not permanent residents of the area, all papers must be annulled. I warn you not to sign any such documents anymore. The Royal Government of Cam-

bodia no longer recognizes any such papers or documents.

Thirdly, authorities of all levels must cease issuing any paper approving occupation of, selling and buying of, donation of, transference of or lease of land illegally in the areas of natural and forest preservation and conservation.

Fourthly, the armed forces, local authorities of all levels and concerned institutions must cooperate with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to prevent and stop illegal logging, land claiming and confiscation, hunting so as to guarantee protection and conservation of forest and nature in the protected zones. As a matter of fact, the Phnom Kravanh area has gathered many different species of wild animals which the world has admiringly recognized. It is in this note that we have to make collective efforts for the above protections.

This will prevent action that would otherwise cause unsustainable water availability to generate the electricity with regard to Atay hydropower plant as the water could have depleted leading to no more water to run the turbine. Having done that we will be able to protect and conserve biodiversity of the slope land areas of Kravanh, which helps preventing land erosion that causes silting in the Tonle Sap Lake. As you can imagine how serious this could impact on environment and society as a whole.

Fifthly, as far as safeguarding and conserving the forest in the area, we will make money out of it. In short, we will make money from keeping our forest intact. In the world, for your information, as part of the climate change mitigating plan, any country that protects the most forest will get the most profit. Those countries that release fossil fuel emission into the air pay compensation to the United Nations, whereas the money will be paid to other countries to keep their forest

from logging. You may know that the forest absorbs fossil fuel carbon emission.

On this note, I call on all to take part in this effort to keep our forest intact, to prevent our forest from logging so that we will make more money from it. We safeguard our forest on the one hand and we make money from this good action on the other. I may inform you that money made from forest keeping, take for example the Samkok Mountain area, will be used for building roads, hospitals and schools, etc. in the area. I hope, therefore, all villages in the area will take positive actions and attitudes to protect the forest in the area for their own benefits.

I hope strongly that I will come back again in 2013 to put into official operation the Atay Hydroelectric Plant. I would like to take this time before ending my speech here to appeal to all concerned authorities to take precautionary actions to look after elderly people especially to evade possible negative impacts from coldness...■

### (Continued from page 7) Grateful to All Concerned

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the efforts and consideration given by Sino-Hydro Company in taking up this hydropower project from beginning to end. I also am grateful and admiring for the company's effort to help build the Techo Morakot Bridge in the Sihanoukville province and city.

Once again, I thank the People's Republic of China for urging and facilitating their investors to come take projects in Cambodia. The PRC not only urge them to come in words but also allow fund for them too. This is a marvelous style of the Chinese. If the Chinese government supports the project you proposed, they would urge their investors to come with their banks' financial support too.

I would like to thank the German Federal Republic for pro-

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