



Samdech Techo Hun Sen and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on the sidelines of China-Eurasia Expo at Xinjiang in early September 2012 (Xinhua).

Build Bright University's Graduation

15 August 2012 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

5,559 graduates, 14 Foreign Students

I am so glad today to be able to join with all of you for the fourth time to preside over the graduation and diploma presentation ceremony for 5,559 graduands of the Build Bright University. I am so glad to hear the report made by Mr. Diep Seiha, the BBU's Rector, concerning the progress made by BBU as illustrated by a sum of 30,090 students who have graduated so far and some 25,626 are pursuing their studies.

It should be noted that among the students pursuing their studies here in the BBU, there are 14 of them coming from Vietnam (4), Japan (2), China (2), Nigeria (1), Arabia (1), Korea (1) and the Philippines (3). This has proven that there has been certain level of trust from outside for the BBU and that BBU as well as other universities in Cambodia has the ability to provide education not only to Cambodians but also to foreign students.

Taking this opportune moment I would like to express my sincere

appreciation for the effort made by students so far to strengthen own capacity. It is witness to us all here that 3,993 of them have got their bachelors, 814 have got their masters and 8 have got their Ph D degrees. That is a great victory among all efforts made by the Royal Government in the field of education and human resource development.

81% of Graduates Get Jobs

What is even more impressing is that the students who have finished their studies in BBU, according to the report of Mr. Diep Seiha, have gained certain knowledge and skill that 81% of them could get jobs either in state institutions or private sectors. Also noted, 27% of them have got on to self employment of all sorts. Those who have created self employment should be considered making contribution for job creation for the society. This is the result of what we have been trying to achieve – the promotion of entrepreneurship so they could become job creators in the field of small-scale industry, handicrafts as well as
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Inaugurating NR 62's Southern Segment

08 August 2012 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

The NR 62 Project Completed Prior to Schedule

I am so happy to come back here and meet all of you once again after I first came with HE Zhan Jinfeng, former Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Cambodia to launch the groundbreaking ceremony to build this National Road 62 on January 27, 2010. I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation to the good words by HE Pan Guangxue, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, about the past relations and co-operation and his prediction of the future friendship relations between our two countries - Cambodia and China.

Please allow me to take this opportune moment to express my sincere thank and appreciation to the efforts made by the Ministries of Public Works and Transports, of Economy and Finance and related institutions, and through the embassy of the People's Republic of China to those of the Chinese friends and economic consultants for a wonderful cooperation in getting this construction project fulfilled prior to the schedule, which should be mid of 2013. It is so fortunate that the Shanghai Construction Group Co. Ltd, with the consultancy provided by Guangzhou Wanan Construction Supervision Co. Ltd, has been able to complete the project ahead of schedule. In fact the road construction was completed since June 2012 and has been put for public use since.

It is with this pleasure that I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the authority of all levels for provid-

ing protection and to the Cambodian people for their good cooperation with the companies so that the road construction in the region is fulfilled successfully. I also thank the engineering team of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces for their contribution in clearing mines and UXOs on an area of 3,527,400 square meters. They found 188 anti-personal mines, two anti-tank mines, 502 pieces of unexploded ordnances and some nine tons of remnants of war.

Fruits of the Win-Win Policy

I should remind us all a bit about the construction of the NR 62, which before was the impassable NR 12 due to war and no maintenance. Even during UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority for Cambodia) time, there was fighting in this area. (The former Khmer Rouge force) also placed logs across the road to slow down if not preventing completely traveling through this road into their area. I think we have some commanders with us here today. You may want to ask Mr. Yim Pim and Pen Voy if they laid mines in the area or not. These commanders – one is the head of division 3 and another is the head of division 42 - are now military generals of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.

In this meaning, the win-win policy has offered our country the best chance. Our brothers and sisters from the other side (former Khmer Rouge force), who laid those mines during the war time, have now come out to demine them. The win-win policy has transformed the state in

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which Cambodians killed other Cambodians to a chance that we could do everything altogether. Since 1998, the win-win policy being put into practice, the country being reunited, Cambodians no longer die or maim from internal conflict. What remains to be fulfilled is to continue to rebuild what have been damaged from the war that broke out in 1970.

Due to war consequence, the NR 12 has been considered one heavily mined. As we have achieved a durable peace, we have now the best chance to build more roads. HE Pan Guangxue and I, and it was the same when his predecessor HE Zhan Jinfeng was here, we came together to observe the groundbreaking ceremony of the northern segment of the National Road 62 from Tbeng Meanjei city to the temple of Preah Vihear and then the southern segment of the NR 62 from Kompong Thom to the city of Tbeng Meanjei. In December 2011, HE Pan Guangxue and I came here to put into official use the northern segment of the NR 62 and today, we are here again to officially inaugurate the southern segment of the NR 62. The NR 62 is now complete and there is a road linking it to the Koh Ker area.

Ambition for the Country Continues

According to the excerpt from the website of my cabinet, at the time that I was here with HE Zhan Jinfeng, I said: *"I have a great pleasure to achieve this ambition that HE Zhan Jinfeng said it is a big ambition. It is true that I have a big ambition and even bigger for our people and nation, not for myself."*

We should not forget that in 2009 the Ketsana typhoon landed in Kompong Thom province, especially the district of Sandan. It was in the same year that I went to Chengdu city of Sichuan province (of the People's Republic of China - PRC) to participate in the Chinese exhibition. At the time HE Wen Jiabao of the PRC provided me

with a sum of 100 million Yuan, which I proposed to set 50 million Yuan for use in the rehabilitation of damages caused by the Ketsana typhoon and the flood of the Mekong River. Later on I proposed (to the Chinese friend) the project to build the NR 67 from Preah Vihear province to Stoeng Treng.

Following what I said on 27 January 2010, the construction of the NR 67 with the total length of 134 Kilometers and another bridge across the Mekong River were launched in Stoeng Treng province on 5 May 2012. This has illustrated that my ambition has been framed within an infrastructural master plan. It is important that we have to have vision and clear plan or not only would Cambodian itself have difficulty in defining what to do but the Chinese friends, who would provide us money, also are not able to provide us in accordance with our prioritized needs. I am sure that in his term, HE Pan Guangxue, as that of HE Zhan Jinfeng, would have to travel a lot and frequently with me to launch the road and/or bridge constructions and to put them into official use too.

At the time that HE He Guoqiang, Permanent Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China, came to visit Cambodia, we signed for the construction of two more roads – 1) *the enlargement of the 240 Kilometers national road from the NR 6A juncture to Prek Kadam all the way to the province of Siem Reap, via Kompong Thom, and 2) the construction of the NR 44, which will link the NR 4 through to Oral of Kompong Speu province.* As you know, we have reconstructed the segment of NR 6A into four lanes and the project has been implemented by the Chinese companies with the Chinese funding. However, the state of the road from the NR 6A juncture to Prek Kadam to Skun (of Kompong Cham) and Kompong Thom is in inadequate condition. The segment from Kompong Thom to Siem Reap province is in a better state.

It is in this thought that we have to rebuild the NR from NR 6A juncture to Prek Kadam to Skun, Kompong Thom and to Siem Reap into a twelve-meter wide road with thick bitumen. It will become a standard road of the central part of Cambodia which links the capital city of Phnom Penh to provinces to facilitate free flow of tourists and transportation of agricultural produce. Talking about this, in the past six months, we have received over 1.7 million tourists. It would be helpful if we have better road condition as that will facilitate further flow of tourists, while ensuring that people's living conditions in rural areas will further improve.

Kompong Chhnaing and Kompong Thom to Be Linked Up in 2014

Let me stress that in 2013, we will need more roads as proposed to me by the Ministries of Transports and Public Works, and Economy and Finance. I also approve the proposed project. They will be the 190 Kilometers NR 55 which will extend from Pursat to Phnom Kravanh and on to Viel Veng, Thmar Da at the border with Thailand, the NR 23 in the commune of Peam Raing Loeu, the NR 118 in the district of Loeuk Dek, a bridge in the district of Koh Thom, and the NR 2 from Bati to Takeo town.

(Based on the project that we have submitted to the PRC to seek their financial support in 2013) there will be four major roads. First, it is the NR 50C to link the Phsar Kraom of Kompong Chhonang to the village of Rokar, the commune of Srayov, Kompong Thom province, and also a bridge of 3,500 meters across the river of Tonle Sap. This will allow people in Kompong Thom and Kompong Chhonang to be able to go to and from by crossing the bridge over the river of Tonle Sap. People no longer have to detour the river/lake to Pursat and Battambang on one front and to Prek Kadam as another anymore. The people of Kompong Thom will benefit from this marvelous

achievement thanks to the project to be submitted in 2013 and the construction would commence in 2014.

Road and Bridge Visions between 2015/17

I wish to inform you of another project, which is also beneficial for the people of Kompong Thom, for the period between 2015 and 2017. Among all 13 road projects, the people of Kompong Thom would enjoy the benefit from the construction of the NR 60B which will go from the district of Kompong Thmar to the city of Kratie via the NR 7 across the Mekong River. It will be the most direct link from Kratie to Kompong Thom. I wish HE Pan Guangxue informs the government of the People's Republic of China so as to provide support to the project. In all we will have some twenty more roads to seek funding from China.

Just now HE Sun Chanthol has reported to me of a project that will study the possibility to build a road from Battambang to Siem Reap across the river of Tonle Sap. I also learnt that the feasibility has been conducted one by a Chinese company and another by Asian Development Bank. It will be the most direct road between the two cities/provinces. People in Battambang and Siem Reap provinces will be able to travel to and from without having to detour to Svay Sisophon of Banteay Meanjei. The people of Pursat will also benefit.

These are some of the visions for infrastructural constructions which have not yet completed despite the fact that most of the projects have been financed by the People's Republic of China. In the future, we will have a number of roads, including the one of 86 Kilometers from Sambo Prey Kuh to Kompong Thom, to be constructed by national budget. I am so happy and hoping that these projects will surely enjoy the people's supports. Months ago I watched the reportage by Bayon TV on the benefit of the NR 62. Inter-

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viewee also told Ouk Piseith of CNC TV too about how difficult it was in both rainy and dry seasons. There won't be more dirt any more.

What remains to be our concern is the issue of traffic and accident. Who causes the accident? In the past, accidents were caused by war and mines. At present accident is caused by traffic accident. We have better roads now. So I advise our people to follow instructions as is portrayed in the report by HE Tram Iv Toek, Minister of Public Works and Transport on issue relating to traffic safety such as refraining from over-speeding, drunk driving and/or sleepy driving.

People who will benefit from this road are those living along the road itself and those who travel on it. Once we have a new road built between Preah Vihear and Stoeng Treng, people in these provinces can shorten their traveling time to and fro without making a detour. In the past, to go from Preah Vihear to Stoeng Treng, Ratanakiri or Mondulakiri, one will have to travel via to NR 7. Now, once it is completed, traveling between Kompong Thom and Kratie, which is only 140 Kilometers, we do not have to travel through the road between Kompong Thom and Stoeng Treng. This will save a lot of gas. In the past, to go to the temple of Preah Vihear, traveling through Siem Reap, one has to take a 546 Kilometers distance from Phnom Penh. With the NR 62 in place, one would travel only 415 Kilometers. This saves us 130 Kilometers or two hours.

The construction of the NR 62 costs 52 million USD by credit from the People's Republic of China plus some budget of our own, which HE Keat Chhon drafted it, including tax, to be some 12 million USD. This has rounded up the total cost to over 60 million USD.

Local Products More Competitive

Let's talk about the importance

of this road. In the past, every trip would take our people like four hours and the cost would be 50,000 Riels. Now the trip would take only one hour and the cost would be 20,000 Riels only. People should consider that the Royal Government puts the deducted amount into our people's pockets and they have better road to travel on too. We are talking about increasing agricultural production. What good does it do if we do not have road to bring them out to the market. Without the road, the price of product would be high for the cost of transportation has added up. In the end, whatever they produce, people could not make their price competitive in the market.

The same is true, it is difficult for industrial and artisanal products to come to the rural areas as to go to local markets would take a longer time and cost more. Without good road, it is likely that some people could die of simple or treatable diseases. It is in this note that the Royal Government focuses attention on infrastructural construction in relation to systematic transportation by interconnecting one road (s) to another so as to reduce the gap between urban and rural, the rich and the poor and also serving the policy of equitable redistribution of economic growth of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

For Growth and Equitable Redistribution

In this meaning, use of resources received either from foreign loans or grants or national budget, which is a collection of tax paid by the people, on infrastructural investment would have positive effect on promotion of economic growth and its equitable redistribution. The Royal Government is making further efforts to implement its set four priorities – irrigation, road, electricity and human resources.

Having said that does not mean we are neglecting other areas/projects such as tourism, industry or other sectors. As is understood by many tourism, for ex-

ample, is a sector in which private sector can participate. The state does not have the need to invest in building hotels but to prop up a plan to provide support such as security, public order, sanitation and infrastructure, etc. for the tourism sector. As of the present, it has been reported by TVs that there are plenty of local as well as foreign tourists coming to visit the temple of Preah Vihear.

It is with this development that I am making further efforts, though some have insulted me that (I would) say goodbye in the fifth term. I only want to make them fully aware that once they would be declared winner, I would give them. However, I urge they do not use short cut or any means other than the elections. If the people no longer vote for me, I will step out.

Dogs Fight

As to one of my pictures used by some CPP communal elections campaign managers in public places which illustrates me waving my hand, a radio commentator said that "Prime Minister Hun Sen waves his hand as a sign of saying goodbye" and then went on to say "Our President waves his hand as a sign that he will get the power." The 2008 elections passed and now is the year 2012. Hun Sen is still Hun Sen, though the age is different. With the picture that I waved my hand, the CPP has made it from 73 to 90 seats in the National Assembly.

I wish to send a message to them that because of the words they used, more and more people vote for Hun Sen. They now are saying that Hun Sen is afraid of the alliance (between the oppositions). I would urge our people to think of dogs. When s/he is alone, s/he has no one to fight with and nothing to fight for. On the contrary, when there is more than one, dogs they would fight and crash the bowls into pieces. What can one expect, even as one party, their members of the National Assembly have had to split their terms into halves so that they could take turn? When they have two parties in one,

who would stand and who would not?

I am ready to welcome and I would not mention this in the National Assembly tomorrow. The fact that I mention it here is because I do not want them to misjudge that we are afraid of their moves. I was not hurt by four B40 grenades and I went to sit in the National Assembly session as if there was nothing happened. Have you ever won the elections? As far as it is known to me there has been chaotic shock as to why so and so is not on the list. Whatever it is, the fifth term elections will take place on 28 July 2013. As HE Tram Iv Toek reiterated what has been said in the Party and in his name as Minister "to support (my candidacy) for the fifth and successive terms thereafter," I am so concerned of it when I am getting older. At present, I am still fine and can make marathon speech too.

From Teheran of Iran to Xinjiang of PRC

If ever I continue to have the people's support, all projects or over ten roads – including the one between Kompong Chhonnang and Kompong Thom, the one between Kompong Thom and Kratie - will continue. If I no longer stay in power, I would not be responsible for any failure that these projects are not going to be fulfilled. The newcomer to power may do whatever they wish to. They may decide to close all projects because they hate China. They are not happy to see China help Cambodia as they said China is putting pressure on Cambodia. Has HE Pan Guangxue ever pressured me?

I have decided to leave Teheran (where I attended the Non-Aligned Movement meeting) in the morning or afternoon of August 31 and we should be reaching China's Chengdu before the exhibition opens on September 2. On August 31, I would arrive in Xinjiang late in the evening already. So, let me have a good meal of Chinese food. Please fill in the program

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for me starting from September 1. If HE Wen Jiabao allows, please arrange the meeting on September 1 as I wish to return to Cambodia on September 2, after the opening of the exhibition. I would be absent from August 29 through to September 2. I have got to rush the program in China because I have an ailing father and a flood risk at home.

District/Communal Roads to Be Paved

In Kompong Thom, the rural development project financed by the Asian Development Bank and the Republic of Korea will build an asphalted road from Sambo Prey Kuh to Sandan district. Now we are talking of asphalted the communal/district roads. As far as this project is concerned, we have not yet asked for Chinese assistance. I think to depend totally on the Asian Development Bank and the Republic of Korea is not sufficient. I would urge HE Tram Iv Toek, HE Sun and the Ministry of Economy and Finance to discuss and map out a plan as to how many Kilometers of communal/district asphalted roads and we shall ask China for help. China has got more experiences in managing such a huge country.

The fact that China is able to link up central government with the various provinces, it must have a strong administrative and management system. We should really focus on learning from the Chinese experiences in paving the rural roads and figure out how to fit that into Cambodian context. We should think of how much we need so that we can ask China for help to get the job done.

This is a new initiative in making use of the Chinese fund. I wish HE Pan Guangxue to record it and inform to Premier HE Wen Jiabao and ascertain him that I have said this in public. The road we built covering with laterites could not last longer than six months. Considering my thought that the communal and district roads would be five to six meters-wide, at the

rate of 300 or 500 Kilometers per year, I think it would not be too costly. So, if we have secured some 300 or 400 or 500 million USD, we should secure 10% of the amount for this project.

Cambodia's Rectangular Strategy and PRC's Five-Year Plan

I think that the project will have positive interactions in relation to rural development, alleviating poverty, narrowing down the gap between the rich and the poor and solving issue of migration from rural to urban areas. The Asian Development Bank and the Republic of Korea have helped us with the 505 Kilometers rural roads. I do not know how long it would take for them to approve more of our needs. So, maybe it is quicker to ask this help from China.

Once again I thank HE Pan Guangxue, and through you, convey my sincere appreciation and thanks to leaders, government and people of China for always providing support to the development of the Kingdom of Cambodia, as we are comprehensive strategic partners. The joint declaration issued during the visit of President of the People's Republic of China and Secretary General of the Chinese Communist Party, HE Hu Jintao, has become a roadmap for the relations between Cambodia and China, especially when the synchronization of Cambodia's rectangular strategy and PRC's five-year plan has been requested.

It is totally the idea of President HE Hu Jintao. He threw out this in the negotiation. He told me he had studied the Cambodian rectangular strategy and thought that it was aligned with the Cambodian political agenda, which China can help in various forms – irrigation system, electricity, water resources, human resources, etc. The synchronization of the two countries' major (socio-economic) platforms does not require Cambodia to fulfill any duty for China at all but the PRC would have to reserve funding it earmarked for

ASEAN for Cambodia.

Construction Halts for Flood Risk

I would seek our people's understanding that according to our estimate of flood risk situation. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economy and Finance, HE Keat Chhon proposed to me to halt provisionally the construction projects in various sites, especially those along the Mekong River. However, with this instruction issued, construction projects in highland areas are to continue normally.

We have got to halt some of the project sites so as to evade the possibility that the newly built works would be destroyed by flooding. I am sure our people will understand that we have to refrain from wasting money due to flood. However, if the flood is in small scale, we would advise all construction sites to resume immediately. This halt is just provisional.

Prediction and Prevention of Natural Calamity

I would urge people who are living along the Mekong and the Tonle Sap Rivers and other flood affecting places, to get themselves ready and identified their safe highland areas. For people in Kompong Thom it seems that a number of highland areas have been identified, which some are scattering around. HE Nhim Vanda of the National Committee for Disaster Management has been going from province to province to identify those areas in the light of the 2011 flooding experience. It is better to prevent than to cure.

I urge all radio and TVs, state and private, to broadcast news about the weather condition and meteorological updates. The national TV seems to have been doing regularly, though I urge that they do it at a more frequent manner as this sort of news evolves so fast. I urge the radios especially, no matter whom they support, to broadcast the news because our people could benefit from it in their daily life.

Thank for Welcoming and Care for the Youth Volunteers

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks for the authorities of the province of Kompong Thom, the district of Kompong Svay and other provinces for welcoming and giving care to the youth volunteers to measure land and prepare the title for the people. I am so happy to see that the new action in accordance with the existing policy are a deep rooted reform on land issue and has been well received by the people.

In Kompong Thom province, HE Chea Chanto and Lok Chumteav, HE Nguon Nhel and other leaders, such as HE Thaong Khon, have gone to visit the youth volunteers and I urge that all provinces work together to provide care for them. I left these children with you all – Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, fathers, mothers, uncles and aunts, sisters and brothers - while they fulfill their missions in your places. These youth volunteers have also performed various humanitarian works such as mending leakages in classroom's roofs and/or walls. In one of the Cabinet's meeting, the youth volunteers from Uddar Meanjei province have requested for four school buildings, two water reservoirs and a 25 Kilometers road. Aside from materials, they also have shared their knowledge with the people and help with financial difficulties of some poor families too.

Real Life Experience

That I have responded positively to the youth volunteers' request is for them to have chances to participate not only in measuring land for the people but also carrying out various social works. Please allow me to express my profound thanks to their parents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and wives or partners of those youth volunteers for allowing them to be in this mission. I am sure that these volunteers will gain more knowledge and know

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how as they learnt from the people's difficult life, and also the way to cook.

I am sure that having learnt these they would become good civil servants, husbands, wives, and parents thereafter. They know about people's hardships. Shortly, we will send some ten groups more to target provinces. My wife talked to those youths and learnt of where would need the jacket coats. I order that everyone must be given a jacket coat now and a rain coat on top for land survey personnel who have not got the rain coat from the start. It is better to give them now because the temperature at night could be harsh in some places.

5,000 More Will Reach 100,000 Families

Let me share with you some of the data that the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction sent to me last night. We have measured in all some 172,845 hectares, whereas 95,068 families have been registered and 78,433 families have been verified. We have measured some 74,047 land holdings. We will have to work on 5000 families more to reach 100,000 families compared to our plan to measure some 1,200,000 hectares of land for 300,000 families.

In the past people cultivated land in fear of being chased out and their cultivated land would be confiscated because they never have ownership titles. As they now have land ownership titles I suggest that they build a more steady home and grow more strategic crops as no one would chase them from their lands. I am also insisting that you do not sell these lands but keep them for your children. Another proposal that I must bring to your attention today is that you must not claim new land.

Recently, while we are measuring and preparing to issue land titles for people, some have come from unknown places and pointed their fingers claiming their lands are from here to here

and demanded that the youth volunteers measure for them.

As we cannot do that for them, we suggest that they go to verify their identifications at the local authority they are living in so that we will be able to provide them with social land concession. We have hundreds of thousand hectares of land to be given out to really landless people. Let me fit in with the fact that the Manual on Poverty Level in Cambodia prepared by the Ministry of Planning has been very helpful. I think we can check against this Manual to identify who really is landless and give him/her three, four or five hectares of land for them to cultivate. So those of you who do not have land should not be fooled by rogue people to claim land illegally because the Royal Government will provide land as social concession to you.

Border Issue Presentation and Response at the National Assembly

I would also inform the people in Kompong Thom that the youth volunteers, who had a break from their mission to see their families and would return on August 9, will have to delay one more day to August 10 so that they could stay home and listen to the presentation of border issue of the Kingdom of Cambodia, especially that with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Those of you on the missions are also having one day off tomorrow for similar reason. All of you should rally where you have access to TV or radio and I am sure there are plenty of them.

The government officials and the armed forces will go to work as usual but can also listen to the presentation which will be broadcasting live on TV and radio from the National Assembly plenary session. As I will dig out all concerning this issue, please prepare the means from which people can listen and see it. I am sure there are TVs in every noodle shop, taxi station, café, etc. in Phnom Penh.

It is going to be a historic documentation and wherever possi-

ble, people can record it. This is an historic issue to be presented by the Prime Minister himself. In the past responses had been made only in written form but this time in verbal presentation. As we have many slides to show all along, I may need at least four hours.

Yesterday I worked till 2pm before I could get a break for lunch. Last night I stayed till 9pm to get all documentation together. This morning I have asked for more documents to back up my presentation. I will have to make this issue clear to all. As these people (in the opposition) attack Hun Sen on border issue, they in fact attack Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk also. What Hun Sen has done so far is just continuing what was left on land and sea border by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. Therefore, frankly, their utmost aim is to target Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk so that they could justify the coup they launched against Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk in 1970.

They even wrote songs and I will present some of them, for example "Goodbye Mom to Become Soldier," to the National Assembly. They aim to get two birds with one arrow – the Royal Government and the throne. Who is actually on the throne? Isn't it the son of the former Majesty? So we have to resolve all this in the National Assembly tomorrow. So everyone stays where s/he is so that we can spend this time not to rest but to study Cambodian history in relation to border issues.

I hope that the opposition (members of the National Assembly) will not leave the National Assembly session. According to their meeting on August 3, I heard they planned to leave the parliamentary session and as for today's afternoon, I heard they will convene another meeting too. I hope you do not leave the session as what I am going to talk or say is not as cruel as how you insult me/us and compare me/us to traitors

everywhere you go at all. You posed the question to me. Now I am preparing to give you answer. Why do you plan to walk out?

Let me tell you that this session will be broadcasting live. That you are walking out will be a shame. Let me tell you one trick. Last time, while leaving the National Assembly, you put a mask on your mouth to suggest that you do not have the right to express your opinion. As for this time I would suggest that you ban your eyes with a piece of cloth to mean that you do not want to see and put plugs in ears to mean that you do not want to hear. No matter what I will show maps from the time of Cochinchina and Annam and we will see where Cambodia is...■

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It is tremendous task of the National Elections Committee to manage lists of millions of people so I urge that each and every eligible voter go check your name on the list. We also need to clear this issue of misspelling someone's name and the person could not cast his/her vote. It is important to compare your name on the ID card to the one on the voters' list. We must ensure that one voter has only one name in the list so that the number of voters on the list will tell the correct number of voters who cast their votes on July 28, 2013.

As for those youth volunteers, instead of giving five days break for teams from Koh Kong, Pursat, Preah Vihear, Uddar Mean-jei and Takeo, I would suggest that we give them one extra day between September 1 and October 10 so as to fulfill their registration procedure. Maybe those of you students who travel to the province could be transferred to vote in Phnom Penh but they must remove their names in the provincial lists. I also urge the Buddhist monks to register as well because they also have the rights to vote. Whether you do vote or not is up to you but we have the need to know the true number of eligible voters...■

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related services such as tourism, and other service rendering sectors who can provide works for students and people.

As far as salary is concerned, in general, our graduates have received in a range between 200 USD and 1,000 USD. In percentage, 49% of them who have got their bachelors and masters have had their positions as staff, 20.5% had their positions as either heads or deputy heads of sectors and 2.5% are holding positions of general manager or deputy general managers. Among them all, 57.2% have received a range of salary between 200 USD and 350 USD; 8.8% of them received between 351 USD and 500 USD; 2.9% between 501 USD and 1,000 USD and 1.2% over 1,000 USD.

Vocational Orientation – A Common Objective of Education

This achievement has illustrated a wonderful and respectful progress made by the University and I would urge the Rector to go on monitoring job accessibility of graduated students from the University for the sake of using those data to orientate training curriculum in the University. This work is of course not an objective to be pursued by BBU alone. I am of the opinion that it is a common issue of our education and we must do more to reach the level of professional and skill training orientation so that our people can better find jobs in the markets.

As far as this point is concerned I would like to appeal to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and all related education institutions – both state and private – to pay further attention and make further efforts on job accessibility survey on students who have graduated.

2,100 Scholarships for Resource Lacking Students

Once again I am sharing the joy of all the students – the Buddhist monks are also included, both scholarship and fee-paying students – for the efforts they made all these past years. In between

2001/2 and 2012/3, the Build Bright University has provided me 1,191 scholarships. Among all of the graduates I am sure there must be some of you who have studied on the scholarships provided in my name. Every year, various tertiary education institutions have provided me with some 2,100 scholarships to give out to resource lacking students so that they could continue their studies. Thanks to the efforts made by a youth movement to establish contact with various companies to help provide scholarships for needy students, I have the confidence that more scholarships will be available in the coming time.

While presiding over the inauguration of the Cambodia Beer Factory I urged the company to provide scholarships to students and my recommendation was that they should start first of all providing scholarships to children of their factory workers. Doing this, they not only make their workers happy but also increase work efficiency for the factory/company too. I think other companies should also think of a way to follow this trail.

Students' Own Efforts and Their Families' Are Determinant Factor

It should be noted that whether there are scholarships available out there, knowledge acquiring would not be possible without own effort by each and every student. Even though the Royal Government has good policy on tertiary education as I always mentioned on various occasions – such as allowing private sector making contribution to the tertiary education or building state of the art school building with many talented professors working in them – a good result would not have been achieved if there were no great efforts made by the students themselves, their families' sacrifices in financial as well as in labor terms.

While giving appreciation to effort made by each and every one of you, I would like to take this opportune moment to praise the families, parents, supervi-

sors, grandparents and in various instances husbands or wives and/or children for making efforts to shoulder financial and labor burden so as to let these fellows pursue their studies.

Professors – A Career to Expand Knowledge

I would take this solemn occasion to express my appreciation for the efforts invested by the leaderships, officials, staffs and professors, rector and deputy rectors and board members for the sake of sound operation and management of the University. As far as I know HE Heng Vong Bunchhat (with rank of Deputy Prime Minister) is also teaching here. To have attracted good professors to work for the University is a great success of the University too.

In fact holding a teaching career widens one's knowledge. When I was a soldier, I was appointed first of all as a group supervisor. Over less than one month, not even 18 years old, I was appointed leader of a platoon. In this development I learnt that it was not at all easy when there was a meeting of soldiers. Where I stationed at the time there were so many Stien ethnic people and I was chosen to teach them Khmer letters. It was because I had to teach Khmer to them that I developed myself a lot from doing that. In such development that I held on to top positions.

In order to establish an army, how do we go about doing it and what do we start with? As I was in leading position I was required to write paper and to lecture about it. We had to create a new army to liberate the nations from the regime of Pol Pot. I was then 25 years old. It was because all those works of writing a paper of morale and political concept for the military development had brought me always to a new level. I also had gone through so many negotiations for peace. Recently, on 9 August 2012, I had to make a presentation for about more than five hours in the National Assembly's plenary session.

It seems not simple for anyone to wait for Hun Sen to dwindle. As for the presentation, we will soon have a booklet coming out and DVD as well as tapes. The intervention and the elaboration on the border issue between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will be published in both Khmer and English as a contribution for all analysis and for those of you to know what did happen yesterday before we have what it is today.

Historical Concept – A Crucial Factor

In fact I did not want to respond to this issue as I know full well that even if I explain countless times to them, they would pretend to not understand. However, it is logical that in order to understand what is happening today, it is essential to know what had happened the day before. We are younger generation and it is important for us to know what had happened in the past since depicting a particular point in the history would not give us a comprehensive understanding. I already stated in the National Assembly that in order to be a whole banana tree, there has to be its stump, tree trunk and leaves. If any part of it were to be removed, it is not a complete banana tree anymore.

That is why in all research, one has to work on its historical factor. The historical concept is always an essential element in all research methodology. It cannot be overlooked. If you do not base your research from the historical concept, you would not even know from where you are coming. I wish to urge those who will have to write thesis that the three elements – historical, dialectical and logical concepts – are so essential in not only thesis writing but also normal work procedure.

We may have one example. As it is now time to make a decision to put an end to all fishing contracts and to remove all fishing lots, we have to know and un-

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derstand since when the lots have been there? We have to find out relevant documents such as regulations issued by Samdech Preah Baat Preah Norodom on how to guarantee traffic in the waterways and on how fishing barrier should be placed. Later we had this regulation by Preah Baat Sisowath in 1908 on the establishment of fishing lots to be leased out and controlled exclusively by contractors and on the permission to fish with tax to be paid on fishing tackles.

In 2000, we cut out fishing lots in the first-step reform. However, there were discrepancies between fishing lot contractors and the people. Then we decided to move to the next and final radical reform which is to remove all fishing lots and return those lots to the people. Starting from March 8, 2012, Cambodia no longer has fishing lots and fishing contractors. As for the highland areas, this started in April 10. What we have retained so far is the fish species conservation area, where both state and private agents are not allowed to fish at all. It is reserved for fish recuperation and for people to catch.

A Half Hectare of Phnom Penh Land for Youth Centre

On last Saturday I met with some 4,000 youth in Koh Pij (Exhibition Centre) and there was a consensus that there needs to be a youth centre aimed at developing and strengthening capacity of the youth with focus mainly on training skills of information technology. I learnt that yesterday HE Say Chhum provided a piece of about a half hectare land in Phnom Penh for the construction of this youth centre. HE Say Chhum told them that it is lucky for them that they could have this land as a heritage from January 7.

I have consulted with HE Say Chhum and these youths that we will use this location to build a training centre on information technology. We will also have one other place to assist our youth in finding jobs or provid-

ing them with job market information. As for this information technology centre I think a seven floor building which could adequately house between 200 and 300 PCs for our youth to get training free of charge. We need to help our youth develop high IT skill. I hope the construction will start fairly soon and our youth who could not afford the school fee anywhere could come to this place. Let's all do a computer literacy.

A Great Chance for Everyone

Since I talked a lot about coming from where and going to where, I believe I should talk a bit about chances. I think our students of this generation are acquiring a great chance. I mentioned this a bit already on August 1, but I wish to add a bit more about comparing with childhood and youth in the past that did not have education chance under the Pol Pot's regime between 1970 and 75, and again between 1979 and 1993, and in some places in between 1993 and 1998 before we had this win-win policy. The win-win policy brought the country full peace and allowed our students to learn and professors to teach.

In addition to political chance provided by the Governments of the former People's Republic of Kampuchea and State of Cambodia, permission for state sector investment in the field of education by the Royal Government of Cambodia is not at all a small matter. This has brought to my mind about the conversation of two elderly people in Battambang. One of them posed a question "we have what we have today because of what?" The other responded "because each one of us makes effort." The first then continued "but each one of us made effort under Pol Pot's time, why we did not have anything?"

Among all factors, unless we have a correct leadership of the Royal Government or Government or we would not be able to achieve all this. It is so ridiculous that some said that what they have gained is not because of the victory of January 7. I do not

urge them to recognize that as I already mentioned in the National Assembly that the beast is by far not human. However, a short question can be posed "if your parents have not been liberated by January 7, would you be able to survive? If no one comes to liberate the country, Pol Pot could have killed all already. In that case would you be able to take up studies? ..."

Correct RGC and Ruling Party's Policy

It is therefore important to recognize a combination between personal effort and correct policy issued and implemented by the ruling Party. There are for example 50,000 students who have graduated and are continuing their studies in BBU.

If the Royal Government were to limit involvement from the private sector to invest in the field of education, tertiary education for instance, where can these students go for studies since the state facility could not absorb them all? We have 25,000 students who are fee paying students here and there are many more in other universities.

Speaking about this last night I had a conversation with my wife and we were of the opinion that our grandchildren could have studied in the country as by the time they get to that age, schools in our country would have been advanced such as the North Bridge, International School of Phnom Penh, etc.

By the time our grandchildren finish six more years of secondary level education, we believe those schools would have upgraded to be Universities. There is no need in that case to send our grandchildren to study abroad except when there is going to be a need for specialized training or higher education.

As far as this point is concerned, there is a need for a clear political framework. Let's take the war from 1970 through to 1975 into consideration. It was certainly caused by politics. In those day areas under General Lon Nol's control, schooling

was possible. However, some students and teachers, professors had been incorporated into the military and even become soldiers too. Schools in rural areas were closed. The same is true for business. If the Royal Government does not allow this sector to operate, there were not correct encouragement policy, on taxation for example, our economy would have been stagnant.

Prepared for Economic Slowdown & Financial Crisis

As a number of measures had been taken in precaution of the coming financial crisis and economic slowdown, the Royal Government has provided leadership to channel Cambodia through the crisis safely.

Take for instance, as far as financial sector is concerned, we have taken effective measures to prevent the falling down of the banking sector as was the case of Asian Economic Crisis in 1997. As part of the measures, we had increased bank reserve requirements from 8% to 16%. I know that some of the bankers, including also Mr. Pung Khieu Sae, were not that happy.

However, at the end of the day, these measures had ensured safety and therefore increased confidence in the banking system. We have set borrowing ceiling at 15% for any purchase of estate as part of our effort to better manage loans giving. It is to everyone's concern as to why the economic police such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) pay attention only to small countries. Why it cares less what happened in bigger countries. Take for instance the Lehman Brothers bank that crashed.

It is because of lack of inspection on various big banks in developed countries, including also debt control, starting in the United States of America and now mushrooming in various countries in Europe, that has caused this financial crisis for the world. While it is now getting back on track in the United States, countries like Greece,

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Spain, Italy, etc. are experiencing their bumpy conditions with side effects dashing to Cambodia.

In Cambodia, as I said, we have set the 15% ceiling in loan for asset purchasing and all commercial banks must exercise reserve requirements of up to 16%. We then lower the requirement back to 12% while the ceiling for loan to purchase estate has been removed. All this is done in light of better management, especially bank's own risk management approach in Cambodia. We have done this within our package of macroeconomic management which achieves low inflation rate compared to neighboring countries.

As far as debt management policy is concerned, Cambodia has got a clear policy with two important points on borrowing money from foreign sources. The new Cambodia's debt ratio is still low if we compare it to the GDP. *Firstly*, we borrow money from foreign countries only for development of infrastructures such as roads, bridges, irrigation systems and power distribution systems.

As for the power generation itself, we have attracted private investment into coal and/or hydropower in BOT form. *Secondly*, we allow borrowing only at concessional interest rate and not at commercial rate. As we have strictly implemented this policy, we have been able to manage our debt.

“Punishing the Poor”

Let me talk on this point a bit and I do not mean on anyone personally but in general so that we all know what could be relating to the chance that someone has been offered for studying abroad.

After the liberation in 1979, Cambodia was under international political and economic pressure like what Eva Mysliwicz of Oxfam wrote “Punishing the Poor.” Eva Mysliwicz, because our close relation as brother and sister, said before leaving Cambodia

for Mali “it was because of you that I no longer have work to do in Cambodia.” She was in Mali then before coming to Cambodia. She was faced with pressure by the military government there. She is the US citizen. When her father passed away, she made a commitment to come to Cambodia for a few months. It turned out to be over 30 years. She has become a Cambodian citizen and even has a home in Cambodia.

Now she is back in Mali and she has a project to build schools for family members of nomads. I wanted to help her build a school there. Unfortunately now Mali is back in military government regime. So it is not an easy task for her.

Well, facing with the difficult situation in Cambodia back then, Eva and her colleagues those days such as Onesta Carpena wrote “Punishing the Poor.” In those days, we just recovered from death but we were disappointed and denied. It was the Khmer Rouge that sat at the Cambodian seat at the United Nations then.

PRK and State of Cambodia in Search of Scholarships

You may be reminded that the world then was divided into two blocs – east and west. Near us, only Vietnam and Laos recognized Cambodia. We sent some students to Vietnam and some to Laos. In Europe, we were provided scholarship only by the WARSAW treaty (The Warsaw Treaty Organization of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance – 1955/1991) or CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) countries such as the former Soviet Union, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, former Czechoslovakia and former East Germany. Though communist countries, Yugoslavia, Romania and Albania did not recognize us.

Therefore we could only send students to former Soviet Union, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, former Czechoslovakia and East Germany, which were then called “communist countries.” I

would like to advise some people, though on different political tendency, to rethink their actions. Some politicians stated that s/he is a physical Doctor trained in the European Union. I would suggest they tell people that they were trained in the former communist countries instead, which some of them have now become members of the European Union. Poland just became an EU member (in 2004).

As foreign minister of the former People's Republic of Kampuchea and the State of Cambodia, I was the trail blazer to get scholarship from those countries for Cambodian students. I am so happy that there are now human resources, who were trained from that time, though they may belong to different political parties and I do not care. It was the result of what we had done in the past. There was a story that in the former Soviet Union, some did not even recognize Cambodia...

Now let me count for you countries that recognized Cambodia. In Latin America, countries that recognized us were Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada, where US President Ronald Reagan ordered an invasion. In Africa, there are groups of countries that are Francophone, Anglophone and Portuguese speaking countries. African Anglophone countries that recognized and had diplomatic relations with Cambodia in those days were Congo Brazzaville, Benin, Mali, Guinea Conakry and Burkina Faso. Countries in Portuguese speaking Africa were Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and Mozambique.

Anglophone countries in Africa that recognized us were Tanzania, Gambia and Serra Leon. There was a surprise fact at the time that Serra Leon disapproved, after signing diplomatic relations with us, the agreement to give their support to Khieu Samphan. There may be some other countries that I could not recall. That was how things were when the country was divided.

Surplus versus Shortage

In 2015, it is expected that there will be a strong competition as far as human resource flow is concerned. In Cambodia, you may want to go back to the book that I wrote in 1988 and published in 1989 entitled “10 years of Cambodia's March” I mentioned about the fact that after the liberation Cambodia's infrastructures were compared to a huge head but small feet. I mentioned about surplus versus shortage as well. By surplus, I meant those with insufficient capacity and by shortage, I meant those with sufficient capacity.

That is why I need to remind us all that at this time we must expand our qualifications so that we could expand our chance for job. Some investors have expressed their concerns about lack of human resources in Cambodia. Therefore we have to orientate our training in such a way that trained resources would be able to get a job in both local and external job markets.

Voters Registration and Verification

Let me now address another issue. I would take this opportune moment to give support to the National Elections Committee by appealing to the students here and the people in the whole country to get their names registered according to schedule specified by the National Elections Committee from September 1 through to October 10. I am calling on the youth who turn eligible (on the voting date) and those who have not registered to go register, check your name and go to vote in your residential area. Please register only one name.

If any of you move to new residential place, please kindly remove your name from the old list. Those of you already registered also have to go check your name too. We should do this to help clean the list of voters of the National Elections Committee.

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