

# Cambodia New Vision

Monthly Bulletin, Issue 3

February, 1998

## Future Cambodia in ASEAN



*"Let's have the first hole a try"*

After expressing his deep thanks to the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for their collective contributions in making "Future Cambodia in ASEAN" Seminar possible on February 20, Samdech Hun Sen elucidated his visions for Cambodia to be a member of ASEAN with edited excerpts as follows:

### **Cambodia membership of ASEAN... world trend of inter-dependence and globalization...**

"...the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has made its decision to enter this regional Association since 1994. Cambodia always upholds and observes its determination to the regional integration, although it faces many political and economical difficulties... The decision is imbued with high unanimity on the basis of recognition of the current world trend bearing the nature of inter-dependence and globalization, ... (and) is made after due consideration

on the benefits and the difficulties that we have to face when entering the regional Association in the capacity as a full-pledged member... Cambodia will enjoy great benefit as a member of ASEAN in the spheres of economy, politics, and security... Cambodia's membership in ASEAN will enhance investors' confidence in their business operation in Cambodia, set a political backing for Cambodia in international arena, safeguard internal stability, and provide a regional framework for solving the country's external security problems, especially those relating to neighboring countries... *'to be a member of ASEAN is not that we do not have to pay any prices. We have to cope with a great number of difficulties. Among them are the development of human resources, preparation of institutional mechanism, legal framework, and continuity of liberalization process in trade, industry, and investment, and continuation of the reforms in legal structure of economy, taxation etc'*... current economic crisis in the region makes no changes to the basic advantages and difficulties mentioned above... Cambodia is willing to contribute to the building of a good community for all the nations i.e. a community of peace, security, and economic development...

### **Cambodia membership of ASEAN... for the Association's tradition and principle of non-interference...**

"... Another reason which is of great importance for us to be a member of ASEAN is the *tradition and the principle of non-interference into each others' internal affairs*. The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation signed in 1976 in Bali clearly confirms this principle.

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## Selective Excerpts of Interviews Given by Samdech Hun Sen in February

**05 February**  
**TV Australia, Channel 7**

### **Orphanage should be a vocational training centre...**

"... In the July incident, fortunately, the fighting did not harm the orphans' lives... (still) it is better not to place an orphanage near military barracks... We have to move military camps from civilian zones... Many orphanages receive monthly allowance from me. There is one orphanage situated in the zone for investment (and it has been requested that it be moved to other places)... (as I mentioned times and again) anything can be moved but not orphanages... (because) the orphans have undergone lots of sufferings for the loss of their parents... (If we do so) it is like we add more sufferings to them... (Having) visited various places in the past 10 years, I have instructed local authorities to consider possibilities available to transform them (orphanages) into centers for vocational training..."

**17 February**  
**ITV of Thailand**

### **Whether CPP does not want monarchy?...**

"... CPP is the main promoter of the rebirth of the monarchy in Cambodia. In 1970, Lon Nol abolished the monarchy. In 1993, FUNCINPEC party won 58 out of 120 seats in the parliament. (With this number of seats) it could not achieve 2/3 majority (i.e. 80 seats) in order to approve the bill of the re-establishment of the constitutional monarchy... (the fact) is that people do not want the Royal family to be involved in politics, not

*(Continued on page 3)*

## RUA's "Hun Sen Research Centre" Inaugurated; Women's Rights through Actual Investment; US\$ 50 Million Needed for Rails Back in Transport Competition

**February 24, 1998**

*Conferring Diploma to the 10<sup>th</sup>-intake students, and inaugurating "Hun Sen Research Centre" at the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), Samdech Hun Sen praised the latter for the achievements in agricultural training, and reminded national interest should be on top:*

### **Faculties of Agricultural Economics and Agro-Industry... on their ways**

"... I joyously express my pride to RUA and its four faculties (*agriculture, production and veterinary, forestry and fisheries*) for their collective efforts in providing another 121 agricultural trained people to the country making the total figures of graduates 1285 in the period from 1985 up to 1998... I fully agree with the RUA for its visions and efforts in preparation for two other faculties, Agricultural Economics and Agro-Industry, to come into operation. They will be responsive to the country's need for qualified trainees in these skills... the Research Centre that we are inaugurating today will be useful to the need of the University's training facilities..."

### **Past sufferings should help us unite and consider national interest to be on top...**

"... (looking back to the sufferings) under the inhumane Democratic Kampuchea regime... though belonging to different political parties, the Cambodians should be united and putting national interest on top of the parties, factions, or individuals... in order that (we will be able) to advance towards an oasis of peace with all-round development in the future... We must not resort to arms and violence,... but base on law in solving problems..., one prefers competition by microphones, radios, TVs, etc. to that by arms... (only) when legal procedure is implemented, can the problems be definitely settled..."

### **Egoism and bigotry in leadership will make democracy fail...**

"... sharing same blood, we should join hands to solve whatever problems might happen to overcome negative

phenomena in the society. One must be responsible for what one has done and be courageous to give up egoism and bigotry... (if not) prevailing anarchic democracy will put Cambodia in face of wars and endless conflicts... Achievements such as schools, hospitals, bridges, roads, plantations, research centres, human resource training, household economy, etc. depend on peace and political stability... for its survival and operation... the reconstruction and development in any one country in the world is accountable for the trend of international relations. However, efforts have to be made to strengthen oneself, as much as possible, from within, on matters of security, social order, social dignity, law enforcement..."

**February 5, 1998**

*Inaugurating 'RACK' Vocational Training Centre of the International Friendship Organization for Development in Chamroeun Phal Village, Boeung Tumpon Commune, Mean Chey Quarter of Phnom Penh, Samdech Hun Sen drew the audience's attention as follows:*

### **One has to help oneself first...**

"... those of you with basic or immediate education have striven to come from provinces for a six-month training course... A private company accommodate 80 of the 100 trainees from the previous course. The same company promises to provide job to 100% of the 2<sup>nd</sup> intake for this course... But, you may agree with me that, before anyone else can help, you yourself have to help liberate yourself with bravery from the edge of poverty... one can not eliminate poverty by just chanting the slogan 'poverty reduction'..."

### **Enhancing Women's Rights...**

"... merely crying about providing rights to Cambodia's women, in the absence of efforts or investments, will not help them enjoy their rights... (I think the actual) provisions of help, knowledge, and vocational training for women are genuine activities... enabling them (Cambodian women) to involve in political life at the grassroot

level as well as at the top-level national institutions. To provide political opportunity to Cambodian women means not only to open a window of freedom, but to break a chain that binds them to their complicated life routine... Searching for freedom, (We are in great pain to see) Cambodian women leave their home villages and families to urban areas... to seek for a better living condition (with a purpose of setting aside some money) to support their parents in the countryside... (Unfortunately) in heaven there exists hell..."

**February 27, 1998**

*Inaugurating the Technical Skill Training Centre at the Royal Railway Station (RRS) in Phnom Penh, Samdech Hun Sen addressed as follows:*

### **Tear and blood on rails pressurized politics...**

"... from 1979 to 1996, 117 RRS's officials, staff, workers and militia were killed, and 112 of the 375 injured become disabled. 712 passengers died with 1521 were injured either from mines or open attacks... The warmongers pressurized politics by (Cambodians') tear and blood on the rails... With the integration of Pailin, Samlot and Melay at the end of 1996, 1997 was the first year of secure travel by rails, by roads as well as by water..."

### **Free-market economy puts current rail transport facilities out of competition...**

"..., compared with the past 18 years, 1997 recorded a highest load of 170,000 tons... (but) in a market economy, rail transport runs into a tough competition with the improved road transport services... To attain its superiority over the current road transport services, Cambodia needs an investment not less than US\$ 50 million to modernize its rail transport..."■

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that they want to abolish the monarchy. We want the monarchy to be held in great veneration by the people. It is a good intention and a common trend in the world. The royal family should take into consideration some sacrifices for the existence of the monarchy..."

**Impression on Rural Poverty...**

"... Poverty is my pain, my real enemy... I do not have time to practice sport (because of it). I work overtime in order to combat hardship of the people. During my first term, I constructed nearly 2000 schools, 1000 km of rural roads and canals. I set up various centres for vocational training, orphan care, and for disabled... all with an utmost aim to alleviate poverty.

**18 February**

Talking to a group of Journalists from USA, France and Japan who were in Cambodia for a Programme organized by the United Nations Development Programme, Samdech Hun Sen addressed some issues as follows:

**How to put an end to the Khmer Rouge?...**

"... The Khmer Rouge is extremely bad. However, there remain people who need them as a tool for balance. In the July-97 event, the Khmer Rouge was used for that purpose. The first condition of the four-point proposal put forward by Japan which was supported by the Friends of Cambodia, demands that Prince Ranariddh severs relations with the Khmer Rouge... One could ask why? Because they have recognized the fact that there have been relations between the Prince and the Khmer Rouge. Therefore, first of all, such relations must be severed in conjunction with cessation of outlets by neighboring countries to the Khmer Rouge. Secondly, socio-economic development, not military one, will be an effective means to put an end to the Khmer Rouge... It is now a prime time to finish with the Khmer Rouge because of three reasons. Firstly, the end of the cold war era indicates that Khmer Rouge ideology is not applicable. Secondly, the

whole region is advancing towards sharing a common umbrella i.e. ASEAN. Thirdly, Cambodia is a country with only one constitution... 'A proper method of developing the country, singling out the outdated and old-age Khmer Rouge hard-line leaders will incorporate a win-win solution to Cambodia at the collapse of the Khmer Rouge'..."

**Either a coalition government or a peaceful transfer of power...**

"... if CPP wins a majority of the people's support in the forthcoming July-98 elections, I will mediate setting up a coalition government. If CPP loses, I will stand to transfer power to the successor smoothly.

**No Justice to the powerless...**

"... between 1970 to 1975, the foreign intervention brought about heavy catastrophe to Cambodia. From 1975 through to 1979, millions of people had been killed by the Democratic Kampuchea. In both periods, those who were killed were wrong and those who committed the killings were right... (because) the killers were allowed to occupy the Cambodian seat at the United Nations... (implying that) whether one is wrong or right is up to the tongue of those with power... (Because of their ill judgements) Cambodia has been punished for the past two decades... ■

**Message from  
Cambodia New Vision**

The Cabinet of the Second Prime Minister has great pleasure to share with you its monthly publication of Cambodia New Vision which carries to you selective excerpts of speeches/statements/interviews etc. made by Samdech Hun Sen. Comments on and recommendation for the publication and its contents are welcome at:  
**Cabinet of Second Prime Minister, Cambodia New Vision,**  
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**Hun Sen School  
Project Updates**

As of February 14, 1998, Hun Sen School Project brought the total number of schools, finished and under-construction, to 1753 with 8706 classrooms scattering in 22 provinces and municipalities of the country. Here follows is the chart of the break-down numbers of school per province:

Province	# of School	# of room
Kandal	364	1,732
Kampong Cham	310	1,553
Takeo	175	867
Battambang	87	423
K.pong Chhnang	67	326
B.teay Meanchey	42	237
K.pong Thom	74	365
Prey Veng	139	695
Kratie	56	305
Svay Rieng	77	389
Porsath	36	193
K.pong Speu	98	486
Kampot	72	358
Siem Reap	43	227
Sihanoukville	44	205
Phnom Penh	19	97
Koh Kong	5	25
Preah Vihear	16	80
Stoeung Treng	7	29
Kep City	4	20
Rattanakiri	10	50
Mondulkiri	8	44
Total	1,753	8,706

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Cambodia is willing to attach itself to this noble principle which is inevitable during our advancement into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Any attempts to revise this principle will pose a threat to the strengths of and confidence in this regional Association... Cambodia considers this principle righteous and urgent for equal international relations among various countries in the world, big or small, strong or weak, and poor or rich... It is a respect of sovereignty and a recognition of equality among member countries of the international community. We should bear this particular point in mind. Cambodia never interferes into internal affairs of other countries and also wish other countries take the same stance towards it... We welcome and are grateful to the intention of and efforts made by friendly countries to help Cambodia obtain peace, national reconciliation, and success in its democracy building process as well as economic development...

### **The July incident... not a coup, an ousting, nor power rip...**

"... HE First Prime Minister Ung Huot of RGC asked: *'what does the July-event mean to us? Who is responsible? On what will we concentrate our efforts from now to the distant future?'* It is true that we have much regrets since we were held to no alternatives but to a solution by force as the only means to evade the situation from unpredictably worsening condition... The measures taken by RGC in the July incident has been understood and sympathized by many countries. Some countries and public opinions, however, are still being confused by the thought that it was a coup, a power rip, an ousting of a legal Premier etc. This erroneous judgement has led to incorrect decisions that once again punish the (Cambodian) people while the regional Association distances itself from Cambodia. Some powerful countries cease their assistance while biased media cover Cambodia with horrible news... It takes time for those misled to see and recognize the truth, and for them to alter their decisions and positions towards RGC. At present, the truth has prevailed and the mistakes of those responsible for the July-fighting are being perceived...

### **RGC welcomes the Japanese proposal... while implementing the country's law...**

"...The case of Prince Ranariddh is not political but a court case. Prince Ranariddh must be held accountable for what he has committed. The international community recognizes the fact that there is a need for Ranariddh to stand trial, and to sever military relations with the Khmer Rouge as it has been the root cause to the July incident and its protraction to the present, and to return his troops to the control of RGC... (RGC) welcomes and supports these principle as it has been stipulated in the four-point proposal made by the Japanese Government. In fact, we have proposed the same thing from the very beginning, such as in the Aid-Memoire on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1997 to the Troika Foreign Ministers in our discussion in Phnom Penh, the Tokyo Statement of November 1997, and the declaration in the capacity of the Second Prime Minister and the Co-Commander in Chief of the Cambodia National Armed Forces on January 6, 1998... What we need here is the respect and the implementation of the state law... Those who committed mistakes should admit their guilts, and let the court settle the case... (The) argument made by the Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas in a joint press conference in Manila (last Sunday) that conviction of Ranariddh in his trial is Phnom Penh's internal affairs and that ASEAN is not in a position to influence on what may happen to Ranariddh is welcome... This remark respects the court independence of a sovereign country. *We wish Prince Ranariddh's trial be fair and just, and support a legitimate legal process which, after being granted amnesty by HM the King, will allow the Prince to achieve full possibility and freedom to participate in the forthcoming July-98 elections...*

### **Election preparation in progress...**

"... The eight-point security plan issued by RGC at the end of August 1997 is yielding positive achievements. Necessary laws have been improved. The National Electoral Commission with fully independent and neutral status has been established. There are currently over 40 political parties, old and new.

They are ready for the forthcoming contest. The registration process for elections has started. Among the registered parties, so far, includes Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC. The self-exiled politicians and members of parliament have returned to Cambodia. Political activities have resumed through demonstrations which, in some cases, brought about damages to factories. The UN Secretary General has been offered the role to secure a safe return of the politicians as well as to coordinate international observers whom we welcome for the observation of the forthcoming elections.

### **Ready To Be a Member of ASEAN-10...**

"... All we have done so far envisages our determination to enter ASEAN as a country that will bring amity and progress, and not as a country that will bring harms to this regional family... May I share with HE Ung Huot opinion that the entry of Cambodia into ASEAN will be a source of strengths to ASEAN and a factor that will bring stability to the region... 30 years ago, founders of ASEAN brought to being the Association with specific objectives i.e. to secure political and economic stability from conflicts of powerful countries. The cold war era has ended bringing in a change of situation where fearful powers become important economic and political partners for countries in the region. We hope to link Cambodia to an Association that respects and implements a relationship as such, and not a relationship of paternalism. Cambodia is truly small and poor but the heart, the will, the dignity and the honor of the Cambodians are no different to others. Cambodia is ready to make its contribution to make the dream of ASEAN-10 come true..."■