

# Cambodia New Vision

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**April 10, 2001**

**Toast at the Dinner Hosted by President Kim Dae-Jung & Madame**



From April 09 to 11, 2001, Prime Minister Hun Sen headed a delegation of the Royal Government of Cambodia to the Republic of Korea where he met and discussed with his Korean counterpart, President Kim Dae-Jung. Three agreements — Soft-loan, Air-services and the Exchange of Cultural Program — were results of the Cambodian-Korean bilateral summit.

On April 10, 2001, in Seoul, the Awarding Committee of Graduate School of Dankook University bestowed the Honorary Doctorate in Political Sciences upon Prime Minister Hun Sen in recognition of contributions to the recovery of peace and stability in Cambodia, the improvement of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and the Republic of Korea, and his efforts towards East-Asian cooperation.

Seoul, 10th April 2001

Excellency Mr. Kim Dae-Jung and Madame,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me at the outset to express once again my deep appreciation to you, Mr. President and Madame, for the excellent hospitality extended to me, my wife and members of my delegation, and in particular for hosting this sumptuous dinner reception in our honor.

I also wish to express my great satisfaction with the fruitful outcomes of today's talks on matters of mutual interest to our countries. The frank exchange of views between our two delegations confirmed that we share a common understanding on

issues of bilateral as well as regional interests, in particular on how to bring the South-East Asian nations and North-East Asian nations closer together to become the East-Asia Community in the near future. To this end, Cambodia fully welcomes and supports your initiative Mr. President, to establish the East-Asia Study Group and will actively take part in it so as to complete as soon as possible the establishment of the East-Asia Community. The East-Asia Community will become an important economic hub in the world and will benefit all countries in the region. The signing of three Agreements, one on Soft-loan, two on Air-services and three on the Exchange of Cultural Program, will further strengthen the friendship and close cooperation between our two countries.

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**April 23, 2001**

**Declaration on "Say Yes for Children" Campaign**

"... In this new millennium the whole world has lots of work to do to defend the rights of children and to satisfy their needs. The whole world needs to generate more changes so that the children will be able to live a better life always. In September 2001, I strongly believe that the special meeting, to be participated by all signatory countries, and organized by the United Nations in New York will discuss and conclude measures required to bring about changes in the world creating a better space and social environment for all children.

Within the next few months, the people all over the world will be asked to express their opinions on the topic "Say Yes for Children." The main content of the campaign is the attempt to show support of all the people to all activities which will finally promote the livelihood of the children." Therefore, "Say Yes for Children" is an important starting point of the world movement for children, as it instigates a new social movement that inquires participation from all of us .. and children themselves.

It is in this super objective that the world movement for children issues an appeal for changes in the ways one works with and listens to children and teenagers.

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This is my second visit to the Republic of Korea, intended to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Korea. This is another occasion for me to witness with my own eyes the tremendous achievements and great success of the Government and the People of Korea in developing the country. Those achievements are testimony to the great wisdom and leadership of Your Excellency, Mr. President, and of your Government in making the Republic of Korea one of the economic Tigers in the East-Asian region.

The Royal Government and the People of Cambodia are very happy to note that under your leadership, the people of Korea not only successfully overcame the consequences of the regional financial crisis of 1997-98, but also have furthermore, generated greater economic growth during the last few years. As a true friend of the Republic of Korea, the Royal Government and the People of Cambodia would like to convey our sincere congratulations to the People and the Government of Korea for your outstanding success in building a modern state of Korea with a very strong economy.

On the same occasion, the People and the Government of Cambodia warmly welcome the initiatives of Your Excellency, Mr. President, in building peace and stability in the Korean Peninsular, paving the way for a future national reconciliation. We are glad to benefit from the personal experiences of Your Excellency, Mr. President, a statesman of world reputation with a vision, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and a figure who has brought deep changes to the Korean Peninsular that was greeted very warmly by the whole world.

The de-escalation of tension and peace in the Korean Peninsular will bring about detente and peace in the Asia-Pacific region as well as in the world. Your visionary policy is of historical and strategic importance for peace.

May I take this happy occasion to extend to Your Excellency, Mr. President and Madame all our best wishes of good health, happiness and greater success in

your noble and historic duties of building peace and national reconciliation in the Korean peninsula. It is in this spirit that I wish to invite all of you to join me in a toast to the good health of H.E President Kim Dae Jung and Madame, the good health and longevity of His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk and Her Majesty the Queen of Cambodia, the good health of all of you, the lasting bonds of friendship between our two peoples and countries.

### **Acceptance Speech to the Conferment Celebration of Doctorate Honoris Causa by Dankook University, Seoul, Republic of Korea**

Mr. Chang Choong-Sik, Chairman of Board of Trustees,  
Mr. Kim Seng-Kook, President of Dankook University,  
Mr. Yim Young-Jae, Dean of the Graduate School,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all please allow me to express my sincere thanks to Dankook University for its consideration and evaluation of my personal achievements. In this joyous occasion, I would like to express my gratitude to H.E. Chun Doo-hwan -- the 12th President of the Republic of Korea -- and his colleagues for proposing my candidacy to the University over achievements that I have made in restoring stability and building democracy in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

I wish also to extend similar gratitude to H.E. Kim Dae-jung -- the President of the Republic of Korea -- and the Korean people for their continuing support to the cause of reconstruction of Cambodia.

The Honorary Doctorate in Political Sciences conferred today is the second of its kind that I have been presented. I may recall that on October 29, 1996, I was conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Wesleyan College. I had in that occasion addressed that "the Doctorate Degree that was conferred to me not only was an honor and would stay with me but also inspired me of what best to do to realize peace, democracy and development for my Cambodian people."

Peace, democracy and national development is word and deed that never have I forgotten. A stable democracy is the blood stream of activities and for development, which have to be safeguarded and carefully taken care of.

The diplomatic relation between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Korea, as far as it is concerned in particular, has always been considered my personal achievement. Therefore, I have to nurture and to prove that the relationship between the twos will bring development and glittering light at the benefits of our two peoples.

I wish to once again express my thankfulness to Dankook University and please allow me to share the honor and pleasure with my wife -- Mme Bun Rany-Hun Sen -- my best partner in life. Also, I wish to share this personal honor with His Majesty Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk -- King of Cambodia -- as well as the Cambodian leaders and the whole people of Cambodia for existing in the cause for the restoration of stability and building of democracy in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The Honorary Doctorate that I am conferred today by Dankook University will stay with me and will advise me further what best that I have to do for the development and happiness of our Cambodian people. I wish all the bests to all of you who are present here.

**Kompong Chhnang, 25 April 2001**

**The Hand Over of Mine Clearance Equipment from the Government of Japan to CMAC**

“... These donations, consisting of ambulances, water pumps, generators, trailers, garage instruments and other equipment, valued at US\$3 million, are of great importance for CMAC continued operations and especially at present when it is imperative to ensure the continuity of mine clearance operations.

This invaluable assistance is the testimony to the firm stance taken by the Government and the People of Japan with regard to the disastrous legacy of land mines scattered all over Cambodia after more than two decades of protracted wars. Mine clearance is an important battle field, to which the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and its development partners are committed to ensure human security and personal safety for the Cambodian people and the country after peace and territorial unity were recently restored. It is a fact that even though Cambodia is finally at peace, millions of land mines scattered around in the forests, farms and rice fields pose a real danger to innocent people and children, especially those living in remote outback areas, remained a problem. Mines maim and kill many people everyday. Although the number of mine accidents has dropped from 200 to 50 a month, the figure is still the highest in the world... Taking this opportunity I pay homage to the late His Excellency Keizo Obuchi, former Prime Minister of Japan, who passed away in April last year. He is a world leader strongly committed to Cambodia's development, especially mine clearance... H.E. Obuchi is and will be remembered by every Cambodian citizen and generations to come for his merits and actions.

“... the RGC considers mine clearance as one of our top priorities in promoting rehabilitation and development, especially in light of the implementation of poverty reduction strategy in Cambodia... Mine clearance is not only a social security issue, but also an economic and developmental problem, in particular in terms of the provision of safety in livelihoods for many poor people living in remote outback areas. Recognizing this important agenda, Cambodia has not hesitated in signing the Treaty on the Ban of the Use,



**Samdech Hun Sen received the symbolic key from HE Japanese Ambassador Gotaro Ogawa marking the acceptance of the Japanese assistance to CMAC.**

Storage and Transfer of Anti-Personal Land Mines and the Destruction of All Kinds of Landmines.

To ensure an efficient mine clearance management and operations, the RGC established a new body called “the Cambodian Authority for Mine Clearance Management and the Rescue of Landmine Victims,” or Mine Action Authority, chaired by myself. This is a display of a strong will by the RGC and the commitment to enhance the institutional capacity of the regulator in order to ensure continued efforts to coordinate and cooperate with all players involved and mine clearance activities in the Kingdom of Cambodia. To ensure a coherent coordination of mine clearance operations, the RGC organized on 16 November 2000 a consultation with donors on mine clearance in Cambodia... We have reached a mutual understanding and the government's firm commitment to mine clearance, especially to ensure the partnership to revitalize CMAC and its operations. During this short period of time I have witnessed positive developments with the adoption of a new CMAC structure in line with the agreed reform measures and the gradual recruitment of de-mining personnel...

“... The "Mine Clearance Authority" has become fully operational. The coordination mechanism is open allowing for excellent consultation with enhanced partnership. The Secretary General holds a monthly meeting with all stakeholders, national bodies, international organizations and NGOs and representatives of donors to discuss, exchange views and

solve problems together in the spirit of close cooperation. Now we can see the importance of the establishment of the Mine Clearance Authority, after its many meetings to review the sub-decree on the Organizational Structure and the Functioning of the Mine Clearance Authority, the amendment to the Royal Decree on CMAC and consultations on mine clearance...

“... Taking this solemn opportunity, on behalf of the Royal Government and the People of Cambodia I wish to sincerely thank all donors for assisting in mine clearance operations in the Kingdom of Cambodia, especially Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, UNDP, other international organizations and NGOs. I also appeal to all our external partners who had pledged to assist CMAC to disburse timely their commitments to allow it to run its own operations and improve its performance.

“... The RGC is determined to do its utmost to strengthen CMAC again and promote it as a national operator for mine clearance. However, at the same time attention should also be given to strengthen a new regulatory body, the Mine Clearance Authority, which is recognized as an efficient mechanism for Cambodia to implement its obligations under the Ottawa Treaty.

Moreover, strengthening the capacity of the Mine Clearance Authority constitute an appropriate response to the internationally recognized need for the establishment of a national mechanism in a country ravaged by landmine, such as the National Authority for Mine Clearance, to build up an operational capacity with the view to achieving the objectives of mine clearance policy and strategy.

“... Cambodia has fulfilled its obligation by establishing the Mine Clearance Authority in September 2000. In the context of the new restructuring CMAC re-

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linquished to the Mine Clearance Authority the responsibility for preparing regulations on mine clearance...

"... CMAC has become an operator, while the Mine Clearance Authority a regulator and the government's focal point for developing policy, plan and long-term vision for de-mining operations, preparing a legal framework, de-licensing, monitoring overall mine clearance operations, ensuring continuity and coherence in coordination and cooperation between all operators, including managing and controlling land cleared from mines, distributing land to the poor and assisting the Provincial Committee for the Management of Land Cleared from Mine.

"... The RGC is conscious that to ensure a transparent, accountable and efficient use of the funds for mine clearance, it is important to have a mechanism to follow up and monitor the whole project... Another important priority is to implement mine clearance operations based on the principle of life saving, poverty reduction and development of Cambodia. Should this mechanism be strong, there will be some saving of funds, improved operational productivity and the outcome of mine clearance will be shared fairly and equitably. Moreover, with better land management at the grassroots level, we can ensure the safety of using land cleared from mines. More importantly it will be possible for us to establish a database on the operations of mine clearing operators in the Kingdom of Cambodia...

To improve work safety in mine clearance, I urge the Mine Clearance Authority to tighten the control in granting license to the operators and require them to implement rigorously the technical standards... Some compatriots have resorted to de-mining themselves. This problem should be addressed in a matter of urgency. Should this happen again, the local authorities should stop them and report to the provincial committee and the Mine Clearance Authority so that a de-mining team could be sent immediately to this place.

There was another incidence between CMAC and the HALO Trust in Siem Reap and Udor Meanchey over mine

## Bones To Be Maintained as Evidence for the Khmer Rouge Trial

*On April 25, 2001, in his address to the nation in Kompong Chhnang province, Samdech Hun Sen reiterates his determination to keep the bones of those killed under Democratic Kampuchea as evidence for the Khmer Rouge trial. Selective excerpts are provided here below:*

"... Today I have an important message to deliver to the 13 millions Cambodians and to the whole world... What should we do to the dead killed under the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia? (Why I mention this is because) there have been requests from some Cambodians, especially those in California, made to HM the King Norodom Sihanouk to demand his intervention for the cremation of the bones of the people who had been killed by the Khmer Rouge... As usual, HM the King forwards the request to me (as the Prime Minister) for consideration...

"... First, whether or not we have to cremate the evidence that the Khmer Rouge during their rule killed the Cambodian people... It is not a simple problem... As for me personally I am absolutely against the move... They are extremely important evidences for the forthcoming trial of the

fields. This could happen because there is no coordination and a master plan at the national level. Moreover, the lack of information and irregular data report from all de-mining operators is another concern for us. Without reliable data the RGC will not be able to prepare a strategic plan to ensure an efficient mine clearance operations...

"... I understand that the only way to go is to ensure the ownership and strengthen our partnership... We should not allow the innocent people and children to suffer any longer from landmine accidents. To this end, I appeal to donors to consider strengthening and cooperating with the Mine Clearance Authority... What the RGC need the most is a true spirit of partnership from all its close friends. Strengthening partnership at this time is key to solving the problem of landmine clearance at present and ensuring the continuity of future mine clearance management in the Kingdom of Cambodia...

leaders of the Khmer Rouge according to the law that is to be adopted in the near future...

"... Let me have your attention here that in the 1980's Khiev Samphan, and you can seek confirmation from him in Pailin, used to claim that the former People's Republic of Kampuchea and later the State of Cambodia, the Prime Minister Hun Sen ... made those artificial skulls like the Hollywood movies...

"... In those days, not only they did not acknowledge the killing (by their regime) of the Cambodian people, they accused me -- Hun Sen, as well as Samdech Heng Samrin and Samdech Chea Sim for setting up a false play for the purpose of an ill-fated propaganda against the Khmer Rouge. They were then allowed to take the Cambodian seat at the United Nations... Let's all analyze why they now accept that there have many skulls in Cambodia...

"... I would beg that the people of Cambodia understand my intention and take all possible measures to safeguard the bones... and we all will do this for the sake of seeking justice for those of us who had been dead already... As we have maintained them for a period of 22 years already, it would not be too excessive that we continue to maintain them for the sake of the trial...

"... As how long we will keep the bones, I think I have to send another message to our fellow citizens since after the trial of the Khmer Rouge, we may want to cremate them...

"... Prior to the cremation, I would propose that we conduct a public referendum on positions to be taken and a law to be formulated... The question will simply be whether the bones should be maintained or cremated...

"... As we all do this, the responsibility will not be falling over the Prime Minister alone, or the Royal Government, or the National Assembly ... Let's all leave the decision to the people..."

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They should also be given opportunities to speak out, and access to decision making process, which could have impacts on their livelihood.

In the past as well as in the present, and in the future, the Royal Government of Cambodia has and is continuing to pay heed to children. We have so far proudly scored a number of achievements already. In the year 2000, at the primary level of education, we have registered 2,186,885 pupils, that is, 90,350 pupils more than the previous year. The number of schools has also increased by 173.

Through both study and non-study programs, children have participated vigorously in culture, arts, sports as well as other activities that are of their interests. As far as health of the children in concerned, consideration has been doubled day after day. More pediatric hospitals have been built one after another. Preventive vaccinations have been widely implemented throughout the country...

In cooperation with various international and non-governmental organizations, we have notably formulated and implemented programs for help of children in poor community and for the combat against child labor.

Moreover, with an aim to prevent and abolish effectively the illegal exploitation of children, the Royal Government of Cambodia has put out a promulgation number 01 dated April 6, 2000 on the implementation of the national five-year plan against the trafficking and sexual abuse on children.

... It is in this spirit that the Cambodian National Council for Children is doing all in its capacity for the strengthening and expansion of its work to promote and defend the children's rights in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The priority here is the drafting of by-laws and norms relating to the efforts in promoting and defending the children's rights in conformity with the spirit that Cambodia is one of the signatories of the International Convention on Children's Rights.

To take part in the international efforts to

**April 6, 2001**

**Excerpts of Address to the Conferment of Insignia of Ranks to Members of the Royal Government**

... I have a great pleasure and honor to be present and conferred with the insignia of rank and uniform by Samdech Acting Head of State for the high evaluation of the achievements of the Royal Government of Cambodia and myself.

I am also pleased and honored to be bestowed with the rights to confer the insignia of ranks to the members of the Royal Government, the Governor and Deputy Governors of the National Bank, and Under-Secretaries of State from all institutions in the Kingdom of Cambodia...

“... In the past two years, standing on the foundation of peace, security and stability, the Royal Government introduced its political platform reflecting the primary objectives for the implementation in a period of five years, which are the safeguarding of peace, security, stability and social order, the respect of democracy, the integration of Cambodia into the

region and the world community, the socio-economic development and the reduction of poverty ...

“... The public reform program is key in the improvement of the provision of public services and strengthening of good governance. Public administration will act as a mechanism in support of the provision of an efficient public service in the socio-economic development ...

“... To expedite the process of reform the Royal Government of Cambodia has identified a number of sectors as top priority among others for the commencement of the second-stage implementation in the near future:

- *Strengthen the rule of law within the framework of public administration management*

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promote children's rights, the Kingdom of Cambodia takes a high pride in the campaign "Say Yes for Children." The gesture should be seen further that the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Cambodian people as a whole reserve ample consideration for the well being of the children ...

“... I wish to take this opportunity to place an appeal ... to take active parts in the movement to render support to the ten principles for children:

- 1) must not abandon any one child
- 2) must give children the primary consideration
- 3) must take care of every child
- 4) must combat against HIV/AIDS
- 5) must refrain from abusing and exploiting children
- 6) must listen to children wholeheartedly
- 7) must promote education for all children
- 8) must save children from wars
- 9) must keep the world for children, and
- 10) must combat with poverty through investing in children

On June 1, 2001 school children will be proposing to all of us to render our support to the above ten points by signing on a leaflet "Say Yes for Children."

The result of the campaign will be brought for the presentation to the special meeting on children of the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2001 in New York.

I have a strong hope that the campaign will stand out with the most active supports. The future of the children is in our hand. Therefore, we all have to express our opinions and let's all act and render supports to "Say Yes for Children" campaign from now to late August 2001...

## Quotes of Comments on Cultural Issues

"... I wish to ask the whole meeting today to straightforwardly discuss a few issues in area of culture... Otherwise the Cambodian culture will be subjected to degradation..."

"... I have listened through the report by the Ministry of Culture that illustrates almost every aspects of the cultural sector... But I have noticed no mentioning about Ayai (a traditional way of singing exchanging poems between two or more singers) and Chapei (a traditional soloist sings using a long handle with two-string-like mandolin in accompany)..."

"... It is already 22 years that I have noticed that the Ministry of Culture seems to have neglected Ayai and Chapei as a part of the Cambodian culture and arts... (I mentioned this) because I have never seen the two subjects be included as topic of any discussions (about culture and arts)..."

"... Ayai and Chapei is a unique (cultural and arts) identity for Cambodia... Personally I have strong admiration for the people in Ayai and Chapei careers... They have strong and rapid reactions (in the way they sing)... Very often than not they are people with handicaps, mainly sight-loss... If we all agree that they are worth considering as part of our culture and arts, I wish the meeting to set time and occasion for contest of Ayai and Chapei for selecting of successors in this talent of arts... So, the Ministry of Culture should think of organizing a contest of Ayai, Chapei and also reciting poem from memory..."

"... With regard to jurists, we have to invite the masters in this area of cultural expertise who are mostly in their 60's... Taking the lyrics for Ayai into consideration, I am prepared to cover the cost of printing them as long as they are well written/composed... Let's all do this and I am sure we can have the best selection after then because people will learn the lyrics and one day they will join the contest..."

"... Having said all these, we should think of the possibility to organize training of Ayai and Chapei right in the residence of the proficient people of the expertise like

Mr. Prach Chuon (Mr. Chuon the Eloquent), etc. I am prepared to provide financial support like scholarship for those selected and identified by the proficient Ayai or Chapei experts as having ability to succeed in this area of expertise..."

"... I wish to mention about the consideration of offering titles to the people with rich expertise and experiences in the field..."

"... Prior to suggestions to come up in response to the recommendation, I am pleased to instruct the Cabinet of the Prime Minister to issue three gold medals to three elderly and proficient Chapei singers -- Mr. Chhuon, Mr. Nay and My. Pe -- while they are going to Rokar Khnor on April 28 for the performance in welcoming the new bridge... In this moment one medal should also be conferred to the late Mam Son..."

"... We also have to screen through and offer the same honor to other people in Ayai as well in a later stage..."

### The April-2001 Speeches Available at [www.cnv.org.kh](http://www.cnv.org.kh)

28/04/01	On New Constructions at Chumnik and Rokakhnor Commune...
25/04/01	On the Hand Over of Mine Clearance Equipment from the Government of Japan to CMAC
23/04/01	Declaration of "Say Yes for Children" Campaign
10/04/01	Toast to President Kim Dae-Jung and Madame, Seoul, South Korea
10/04/01	On Conferment of the Doctorate Honoris Causa by Dankook University, Seoul, South Korea
06/04/01	On Conferment of Insignia of Ranks and Uniforms to the Members of the Royal Government
05/04/01	On Marking a Total Eradication of Polio in Cambodia
03/04/01	On Third National Culture Day and Additional Comments
02/04/01	On the Ground-breaking Ceremony of Hydroelectric Plant Kirrom I

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- Prepare programs for the operationalization of priority packages
- Continue to analyze the functions of the state institutions
- Operationalize the system of human resource management
- Prepare a system of encouragement that include new incentives and administrative inspirations,
- Prepare and implement a management system under the form of decentralization and de-concentration

... I wish to have your attention that the conferring and using of insignia of ranks and uniforms aims not to have just a nice look but to underlie the following meaning and content:

- The use of insignia of ranks and uniforms signifies the transfer of administrative management framework and attitude of the leadership from the state of war to the state of a complete peace. This necessitates the strengthening of the rule of law and democracy through the fundamental respect of the state institutions and proves that nothing would push Cambodia into war again.
- The insignia of ranks and uniforms will represent the various institutions of the whole Royal Government meaning that every one must give their respects to those in use of insignia according to the order of ranks.
- The use of insignia of ranks and uniforms indicates the discipline, the mutual respect of one another, the national unification and reconciliation in the leadership of the Royal Government as a whole. Furthermore, the insignia of ranks ... will strengthen the culture of solidarity in the leadership of the country that is adhering to a democratic and pluralistic system.
- Our vision is to create coherent and unique policy in all ministries. That we all have a common insignia of ranks and uniforms will surely guarantee the success in the implementation of the political platform of the Royal Government and the development of the country as a whole...