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Presenting Diplomas at the Royal School of Administration



Samdech Hun Sen was warmly welcomed by HE Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan (Photo: WorldPhotos.com) during an official visit to Japan for the ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year event between 09-13 December 03.

“... I am very happy and honored to join you all today to present diplomas to the Graduates (Win-Win Civil Servant Course) and Certificates to the Interns of Senior and Middle Officials, 2003. The closing of these courses would be another testimony of the Royal Government's strong interest in developing human resource and retraining of necessary skills and knowledge to our civil servants who will perform a key role in social and economic development.

This especially contributes to the poverty reduction and improving the well being of our people, which is the ultimate goal of the Royal Government.

On this solemn and joyful occasion, may I extend the most sincere congratulation and appreciation to the Board of Directors, the management, faculty members and all the staff of the Royal School of Administration as well as to all the graduates

for their efforts in achieving this excellent and pridelful result. On behalf of the Royal Government, I highly appreciate the Royal School of Administration for the continued success in the development of human resource that has helped strengthen the capacity of our civil servants.

As His Excellency the Director has reported, since 1992 the Royal School of Administration has trained 1,826 government officials including the 30 graduates of the "Win-win Civil Servant Course" and 181 interns of Senior and Middle Officials who will receive their certificates now. May I also take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to the donors, private sector, civil society and the national and international organizations for their financial and technical contributions to the development of tertiary education in Cambodia. Through HE Ambassa-

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11-12 December 2003

Addresses at the ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year

Overview of the Japan-ASEAN Relations

11 December 2003

“I am honored and delighted to participate in the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit here in the marvelous capital city of Tokyo. To begin, let me express my deep personal appreciation for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for the summit.

The strong bonds of friendship between Japan and ASEAN date back to the historical policy an-

nouncement made in 1977 by the former Prime Minister of Japan, H. E. Takeo Fukuda, when he called for all partners to focus greater importance on Japan-ASEAN relations.

At the initiative of H.E. Fukuda, the ASEAN Cultural Fund was established, and in 2003 we have celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ASEAN Cultural Fund, by setting 2003 as the ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year.

Japan-ASEAN relations have entered a new era, when H.E. the

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04 December 2003 [Informal Translation]

Inaugurating Schools Built by the Nippon Foundation

Please visit www.cnv.org.kh for the prepared speech. The following reprint is the selected comments.

The Nippon Foundation of Japan has built a sum of 100 school buildings in Cambodia's rural areas and Samdech Hun Sen was invited to give a symbol inauguration on a school in the district of Phnom Sruoch of Kompong Speu. Following is the selected comments that Samdech shared with the guests and the Cambodian public on the occasion.

“... Today, I have a great pleasure to participate with all of our people and guests here to inaugurate the Porprith School building in the village of Kaun Trom, O commune, Phnom Sruoch district, Kompong Speu province – an invaluable donation of the Nippon Foundation (NF) along the national road number 04. This is

one of the 100 school buildings that NF built for the Cambodian rural people in 14 provinces throughout Cambodia. Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, the President of NF recalled of one of his meetings with me in Tokyo, Japan and if I am not mistaken, it was on February 26, 1999, in my visit to Japan for a Consultative Group meeting. It was correct that then I told him that key to future development of Cambodia lies in education.

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... Let me inform our people that this Porprith School building is one of many others built throughout Cam-

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dor Yvon Roé d'Albert, I would like to convey our special thanks to the government and people of France for all their invaluable contributions to the development of education in Cambodia, particularly that of the tertiary education and training of Cambodian civil servants via the support provided to the Royal School of Administration.

From development experiences, it proves clearly that the progress of any nation depends on intellectual class who play leading roles in the leadership and consideration of issues of national interest. Moreover, educated people are the "knowledge" providers and educators via their art works, literatures, research papers, and the maintenance, conservation and development of national culture, as well as through other scientific studies and findings. In this context, a level of development of any country is reflected in the richness of educated and experienced people with knowledge and know-how. They are the mentally-leading force and the catalysts for the country's competitiveness.

However, the above indication does not mean "intellectuals" are all those educated in colleges or universities. Some world experienced people, leaders and famous writers did not go through formal education, but they have indeed undergone the "universities of real life" which would be an effective path for them toward success. On the contrary, not all university graduates are the "intellectuals". Thus, the "intellectuals" are the "knowledge" people with full qualification and they are able to use their knowledge and know-how and intellectual capacity appropriately for the benefit the whole society, no matter they are educated in universities or not.

Indeed, in the "knowledge" and

information era of the 21st century, the role of intellectuals in the society is increasingly important and the knowledge has been and becoming a determining factor, promoting the country's economic potentials and its comparative advantage. Thus, I strongly believe that "universal value attached to education is an effective mean for the development of personas and personality, thus promoting sustainable development of the country".

Given this importance, the Royal Government has exerted its utmost efforts to implement the public Finance reform and demobilization programs, aimed at increasing revenue and reorienting priority spending to social sectors, such as education and health. At the same time, the Royal Government will continue to implement the liberalization policy and strengthen partnership with civil society and private sector, both domestically and internationally, in order to improve the quality of tertiary education in Cambodia.

Today, you are honored to receive the certificates certifying your academic accomplishment, or in other words, your life long career. Indeed, you all will become civil servants in the near future, thus you are the hope of the Royal Government and our entire society. You all have learned the theories and gone through practical internships in various line ministries, in provinces and municipalities and even in some districts; thus I believe you understand the core value of civil servants, and the challenges and advantages they are facing.

I urge all of you to remember that competent public officials with good ethics are key to success in reforms and improving the credibility of the country, thus they deserve the respect from the society. Therefore, I call upon all of you to work hard and best, in performing your respective

function and developing your personality, using the knowledge you have learned from the school for your successful career. I would like to take the opportunity to bring to your attention some of the points concerning professional ethics as civil servants.

Ethics can be defined as a package of conducts which is applied to the prospective member and to others as they agree upon. It is very important when members of a group are powerful and influential. Since long time ago, ethics was adopted as part of free lane professions, such as lawyers and physicians, and also ethics can be applied to sports as well as journalism. Moreover, ethics is even more important when the regulations are critical and the officials are increasingly respectable and more powerful.

Ethics requires imposing disciplines on the officials for their conducts and ethics. The ethics, I just raised now, particularly refers to the one for civil service. As you all know, the government needs highly competent and clean officials with good moral. The "cleanness" can be found initially when officials enter into the civil service through competition instead of buying positions in the public service, the practice seems to exist in most countries. Thus, the ethics for public service should be defined based on two elements.

First Element: the service is a public good, as all the activities of the administration ultimately aim at satisfying the citizens who are the consumers of public service. Thus, civil servants shall behave properly with good personality and morals as a model for others. That is the reason why civil servants must be punished for the incidents occurring after working hours or outside the service, for example, driving when they are drunk. Rules imposed on civil servants outside the service time are intended to help civil servants to

become dignified, respectable and to uphold their authority.

Second Element: the principle of power, i.e. the punishment does not come from the civil servant himself, but exclusively from the hierarchy, the structure provides power of punishment.

Ethics is based on some obligations stated in the Status of Public Service, including the respect, compliance with the orders and hierarchy, obedience and obligation to principality and special assignments so on and so forth. However, for separate cases such as the police, who are with the uniform, specific ethic codes should be designed to include such the provision as "bringing the orders during riots, which requires specific proportion of actions". Thus, ones should remember that the rules of ethics are not static; they are changing according to the modernization of public service and political statements of the government. Moreover, civil servants shall win the confidence of citizens so that they happy that they get equal treatments before the administration. Also, the decisions made by civil servants shall be transparent, because the public does not tolerate the delays, unfairness, inequality and other irregularities. They want solutions to their respective case but not a negative response. Thus, civil servants have serious responsibility, including the threat of facing courts for their wrongdoing or irresponsible acts.

Moreover, the civil servant behavior toward politics does not mean the civil servants must be definitely neutral or independent. They are neutral in performing their function, but free to express their opinion though restricted by principalities but the principalities do not mean compromise. There is no case cited that officials are obliged to perform their function to serve particular politics,

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though political commitment could speed up progress in their career. The civil servants behavior toward citizens means the officials are the servers of people who are the citizen.

The power of civil servants comes from political power, which in turn comes from the people. Thus, citizens are the owners of government officials and politicians. Civil servants serving the public service must be competent, ready to help and be pleasant to their citizens...!

[Informal Translation]

Selected Comments

In addition to the prepared speech, Samdech Hun Sen contributed some concepts of being good civil servants, wisely solving day to day problems, and made some comments on the current political affairs of Cambodia.

... As an honorary lecturer to the RSA I wish to give you some recommendations in relation to the role of Government officials. In Khmer we have a term "take both wrong and right" or to be responsible in English. Our officials can not afford to be irresponsible as it would give negative image to the public. Some officials take what is right and leave what is wrong at others and I would say that some political leaders are also doing the same—when they get elected, they say it is because of their efforts and would argue it is because of so and so reasons when they fail to get elected. So it is primary for leaders to study ones' failures. So one should not try to claim others' success to be one's own as the public will give justice to what they are seeing by their own eyes.

... I wish to share with you an example of a family whose children commit wrongdoings off their supervisions. Those who committed

mistakes would have to be reprimanded by laws but it would be improper to say they all are guilty at their own course. We should look to other reasons because the children are their own blood and were brought up from childhood by parents, who sometimes might have urged their kids to behave wrongly. Some parents love their kids but they never take note of their kid logbooks and their relations with the kids are facing wider and wider gap. Some parents purchased motor cycles, cars for kids when they are still underage and when their kids committed mistake they are the one to take all the blames. Problems that are arising in society, institutions are quite similar to those within families. So in short, when you all are going back to work, no matter what you might be, you should not claim all that is right and push aside all that is wrong.

... One more issue in relation to the concept of leadership methodology as civil servants is in fact the ability to deal with force majeure or unforeseen situation. Any work would have to go through three different stages. First, it has to have a stage of planning. This can not be neglected or committed with carelessness at all but has to be done with serious considerations given to all and comprehensive aspects. A country's planning has to be formulated by taking into consideration not only own environment but also all regional and world aspects because they stand to have interactive repercussion, no matter when it is being done, prior to or after the Cold War era, or liberalization or globalization. Take for instance, planning for 2004 on tourist industry, one has to include unforeseen factor such as possible threats of SARS. In 2002 and 2003 planning, not only Cambodia but also other ASEAN countries, did not foresee the SARS outbreak and its consequences.

... Some people say planning is a communist way of doing things but in my conviction a country with good planning has a good roadmap. If we need a master plan to develop a small city, we also need a master plan for a country. One should be clear with what they are saying as a planning economy would indeed be contradicting with a market economy. Take them by natures, the market economy depends on the theory of supply and demand, which requires the producing sector to provide production that are corresponding to requirements in the market, while the planning economy would care to no demand but clinging to just the plans. In those days, our students to the former Soviet Union made a great fortune out of selling jeans and Casio watches. But the situation in Russia is now different but what I have said is to prove the differences between planning and market economy. I would say that having a good plan is achieving about 30% of the whole process.

Second, it is indeed a gain to have a good plan but it is also important to organize an implementation of the plan. This stage would require human resources, financial means, management skills, etc. Unless that plan is being implemented or it will stay idle. If this stage is fulfilled, I would argue that about 30% more has been achieved. Third, another 40% of the process for a complete success lies in competent leaders in solving unforeseen situation or condition while the plan is being implemented. No one could predict unforeseen situation take for instance natural calamities – excessive rain and flood and earthquake, which have stricken France and Iran, etc. That is what I called unforeseen situation, through which the competence of officials should have presented in dealing with the situation. Good officials would take full responsibility and deal with the situation first, while

negative ones would either blame their junior level officials or report the situation to their senior officials. Some officials could maintain their courses in time of normalcy but would disappear in time of difficulty.

... I have raised this issue so as to remind our officials of their obligation to face and deal with unforeseen situation as everyone would have to face frequently or infrequently... The audience granted by HM the King to the course has been honorary and we should all watch the replay on TV to the end. HM the King mentioned about three points that Lon Nol and his men blamed HM – 1) corruption; 2) selling the land to Viet Cong and Viet Minh; and 3) destruction of the national economy. I talked to myself that I am now being blamed of the same things.

... They blamed me of being corrupted, selling the land, and destroying economy, making people poorer. If they could blame HM the King who have guided for marvellous achievements, it would not be weird that they could do it on me. Some people said they accompanied HM the King but they failed to prove it in action. HE Loeu Laysreng (the FUNCINPEC Minister for Information in the current second term Royal Government) used to tell me that he was a member of the National Assembly and one of the members of In Tam, Cheng Heng, Sarik Matak group who joined in the overthrow of HM and some people said they accompanied HM... They blamed me of the above three and sought out means to oust me from position and I would like to make clear that the people need me and they voted for me but if you keep saying you do not need me, I would not bother with you anymore. I have made it clear when HE Nhek Bun Chhay came to see me that I am elected by the people so no one

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could chase me out. If the elected is chased out, maybe the world should encourage the non-elected ones or give them medals and how could we name democracy in Cambodia?

... They have proposed that in any form of coalition, if a political party withdraws, the whole cabinet has to seek approval from the National Assembly once again. I am taking this as an intention to violate the article 98 of the Constitution which states that the Cabinet could be dissolved only by the National Assembly and no one political party could do so. No one could afford to have the new Government voted in just to handicap it later because of the withdrawal of so and so party. In the article 125 of the Constitution, a new Government could be formed only when the post of Prime Minister is left definitely. ... The only chance they have is to assassinate me or the current Government would go on till 2008. The price has been set very high and I could not accept it that I have no ground to talk to. I am prepared to conduct a negotiation when the November-5th agreement is implemented fully. The agreement states who would be Head of the National Assembly, and it is not my problem whether you accept it or not.

... The agreement was signed with the presences of HM the King and Samdech Patriarchs of the two Buddhist sects, and one can not be kidding in this matter. Some people wishes to stop HM the King from going for a medical checkup. Some politicians seemed to be asking for a quick solution to the stalemate but why didn't they do so before? If they are keen for a solution, two days is enough for a collaborative effort for we already have the November-5th Agreement as the framework of action. All we need to do is to follow every line of it and produce a package of

agreement for HM the King to give his royal signature on. ... I know they are facing issue of quota arrangement. When I announce the share of 60% (for the CPP) and 20% each for the two remaining elected parties, I was proposed to be a referee, but I am not a fool to do so and you may like to divide the 40% among you. I will take a full 60% and will not negotiate a dime. I have said it clearly and the resolution of the CPP congress reiterated that CPP is seeking a two-party coalition. It is not Hun Sen's or CPP's wish to have a tripartite coalition but if you like to, we accept to offer with the compromise which has already been made on November 5.

... I heard that one of them likes to replace Kep Chuktema as mayor of Phnom Penh. In the election campaign, his subject was that if voting for "A," then there will be no "B." The subject has become an obstacle after the elections so he seeks all means to root me out so as to slash his thirst for power. But if one does not want power, why one proposed a scenario of November 29 for posts of Deputy Prime Ministers with a neutral Prime Minister? But the price one has set has aimed to win over me while I am an elected winner. ...

(Samdech Hun Sen then quoted messages of HM the King from the 1950s on issues of keeping close to the people, works to be done and how to do them after the winning of independence, and other useful advice to the Government officials in those days but still valuable in the present.)

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party should bring in its secretarial team and prepare lists of candidates for the positions in the National Assembly, in which Prince Norodom

Ranaridh should be candidate for the post of President, etc. The same should be done for the part of the formation of the Government. As far as the power sharing principle is concerned, I have prepared for five Deputy Prime Ministers – three from the Cambodian People's Party and one each from FUNCINPEC and the Sam Rainsy Party.

Though the November-5th Communiqué has not mentioned 60% for CPP and 20% each for FUNCINPEC and the Sam Rainsy Party, I have presented it. So the CPP would get 60% of the 25 ministries, which should leave 12 ministries for FUNCINPEC and the Sam Rainsy Party to divide among them.

... In order that no one would fail to get the approval, the CPP has proposed to conduct a "bloc vote or simultaneous vote." I reiterate that a meeting could be held only if the November-5th Communiqué is brought in as a framework for actual implementation. It is normal that any elected party has its own political platform, by saying so I do not dismiss taking other parties' constructive ideas, but CPP should not be forced to implement political platform of so and so party...!

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Prime Minister of Japan Junichiro Koizumi proposed in January 2002 that ASEAN and Japan should be "sincere and open partners" who "act together and advance together" in the twenty-first century and proposed the five initiatives encompassed in Japan's policy toward ASEAN under the banner of "Cooperation for the Future", announced during the ASEAN-Japan Summit held in Phnom Penh in November 2002.

Our relationship has evolved in scope and in nature. In the beginning, Japan was a major donor to the ASEAN. Japanese ODA has been critical in creating conditions for foreign direct investment from Japan into ASEAN countries, especially new ASEAN member countries.

Now Japan has become a major trading partner of ASEAN and our economies have grown increasingly interdependent. ASEAN-Japan's two-way trade and investment from Japan to ASEAN exceeds the \$100 billion mark respectively. I am convinced that in the future, through our utmost efforts, we will create, over the long run, a caring and sharing East Asian community, and we will witness the enhanced movement of people, goods, and funds among our economies.

Japan represents a strategic anchor for the region, having positioned herself at the core of the political and economic landscape of East Asia. Cambodia sincerely appreciates Japan's role in strengthening regional security and stability, as well as in promoting the development in the region.

Together, we have established a viable ASEAN+3 framework, in which Japan has played an active role. The Chiang Mai Initiative has been successfully implemented

with the establishment of a network of bilateral currency swap arrangements. These innovative finance mechanisms will help avert any future crises. We are now deliberating on the development of the Asian bond market in order to further mobilize regional savings and strengthen the region's financial architecture.

Furthermore, networks of bilateral Free Trade Areas between ASEAN members and the +3 countries are evolving into more concrete form. The ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers have been meeting at least annually to consult on unfolding political and security issues which are of mutual concern. The other Ministers of the ASEAN+3 nations are also forging cooperation agreements in other areas.

Historically, Cambodia and Japan have had a long-standing relationship. I am pleased to say that Cambodia is now celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Cambodia and Japan. This friendship has enabled our people and two countries to develop the tradition of mutual respect and support, in various aspects of the development process, including politics, economy, culture, social affairs and religions.

On behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, I convey our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the people and government of Japan. Japan is a rare and exceptional friend of Cambodia. The Royal Government and people of Japan have provided continuing and significant help and support to Cambodia in all fields and in all circumstances. Japan is not only the biggest donor to Cambodia.

Japan also plays an important role in Cambodia's national reconciliation efforts that have successfully ended the protracted wars and brought full

peace to the entire nation. Cambodia is forward looking to another new level of relationship for the mutual benefit between Cambodia and Japan through enhancing growth of tourism, trade and investment inflow of Japanese private sector into Cambodia.

Before I end my remarks, allow me to inform you that as a member of international community, Cambodia has seriously fulfilled all her commitments and obligations in the United Nations and has extended all kinds of support and cooperation to this World Organization, especially in preserving and enhancing international peace and security.

Nevertheless, since Cambodia becomes a member of the United Nations in 1955, we have not received any important role within this important institution. With this argument, Cambodia wishes to receive a status of non-permanent member in the UN Security Council for 2006-2008. I hope that Excellencies, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and Japan will support this appropriate aspiration of Cambodia. As I emphasized earlier, ASEAN and Japan has a long-standing relationship, linked by heart-felt friendship and solidarity. I am convinced that our Commemorative Summit represents another great momentum to strengthen and expand ASEAN-Japan cooperation in many aspects including politics, security, trade, investment, industry, education, science, technology and culture.'

Future of Japan-ASEAN Relations *12 December 2003*

... I am greatly delighted and honored to share my views on the future of the relations between the ASEAN and Japan. Once again, I would like to echo H.E. Junichiro Koizumi, that the ASEAN-Japan relationship has been a sincere and open partnership among nations that

act together and advance together.

The proposed Tokyo Declaration for a dynamic and enduring ASEAN-Japan Partnership in the New Millennium and its Action Plan that we are going to adopt during this Summit will guide the strategic partnership between Japan and ASEAN in the 21st century. I am convinced that in the long run our cooperation within the ASEAN+3 framework will evolve gradually into an East Asian process that will help attain our shared goal of sustainable development and common prosperity.

Political and Security Relations

The ASEAN-Japan strategic partnership is critical to ensuring peace, stability and prosperity in the region. In this regard, Cambodia warmly welcomes Japan's intention of accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. We sincerely appreciate Japan's role in strengthening regional security and stability, and in promoting regional development.

On this basis, I would like to see more coordination of positions between ASEAN and Japan on regional and global issues. This requires us to look forward to enhancing our cooperation in political and security matters so as to consolidate regional peace and security, and especially working together in the peaceful settlement of regional disputes, bilaterally or through the ASEAN Regional Forum and other regional and international fora.

Economic Relations

The heart of our partnership is the "Initiative for ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership", proposed by H.E. Koizumi in 2002. This initiative, which is projected to be realized by 2012, will promote not only the liberalization of investment and trade in goods and services, but also encourages advanced

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cooperation in a wide range of fields, from tourism to human resources development and the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises.

I would like to thank Japan for granting special and differential treatment to the ASEAN Member Countries and taking into account the economic level and sensitive sectors in each ASEAN member country and Japan, including the extension, by another five years, of the deadline for completion by the new ASEAN Member Countries of their existing commitments. I am encouraged by the emergence of new areas of cooperation, particularly in science and technology, including research and development, industrial development, tourism, and in ensuring safe and efficient transport networks.

At the same time, I believe that strengthening our financial and monetary cooperation in areas such as capital market development, capital account liberalization and currency cooperation will create a new era of financial cooperation between ASEAN and Japan.

Development Relations

I take this opportunity to reiterate Cambodia's full support for the "Koizumi Initiative-IDEA" and Japan's "Initiative for Reinforcing ASEAN Integration." I share H.E. Koizumi's view that foreign direct investment, market integration, trade and investment, in conjunction with Official Development Assistance, play a significant role in the economic development of the ASEAN countries, especially for the new members.

I am pleased that we have implemented the good tradition of East Asia where countries at different levels of economic development help and complement each other. In this regard, I am grateful to Japan for

supporting the full implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), including Japan's continuing assistance for the development of infrastructure, human resources and information and communication technology (ICT) in ASEAN, especially in the newer member countries.

While we thank Japan for taking concrete steps to support the development in the GMS, such as the first East West Economic Corridor, connecting Viet Nam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar and the Second East West Corridor which will connect Cambodia with her neighbors by the Neak Loeung Bridge. I would like to propose that Japan also consider contributing to the building of ASEAN's rail links, especially in the construction of the missing rail link between Phnom Penh to Ho Chi Minh City. Overall, I would like to emphasize that GMS programs are of vital importance to us, because they help bridge the gaps in the development status among the members of the ASEAN – especially the newer members.

In this sense, I highly appreciate the decision of Japan in attaching priority to this important program and its commitment to enhancing partnership with donors and other international institutions concerned including the ADB, the World Bank, ESCAP and the Mekong River Commission.

Social and Cultural Relations

At present, when ASEAN and Japan are entering upon a new stage in our history of cooperation for a shared peace, stability and prosperity, trust between our people is essential. Only trust that can ensure to build a foundation of shared knowledge, understanding and appreciation of regional and community identity, especially our ties of regional history and the awareness of the heritage and culture of each nation.

To this end, we need to project our cooperation to the world beyond, through the hubs of international media, linked to the centers of global political and economic power, to those who make decisions in investment, trade and tourism. Therefore, we must strengthen cooperation among our representative institutions, public information agencies and all other media units and thereby harness and more efficiently use information and communications technology in disseminating information about ASEAN and Japan in our countries and in the international arena. Thus, we need an Action Plan with concrete projects that benefit both ASEAN and Japan. We must also strengthen the existing funding mechanisms for effective coordination and implementation of the Declaration and the Action Plan. In this sense, I welcome Japan's commitment to providing additional resources required for the above objective.'

bodia – two school buildings in Kompong Speu, six in Preah Vihear, three in Koh Kong, three in Kompong Cham, five in Kompong Thom, nine in Pursath, ten in Banteay Meanchey, two in Munduliri, one in Steungtreng, two in Takeo, 38 in Battambang, nine in Kratie, three in Uddar Meanchey and seven in Pailin – that we symbolically inaugurate today. When Mr. President Yohei Sasakawa and his team arrived in Cambodia in November, 2000, there was a fighting in Phnom Penh caused by the Cambodian Free Forces (CFF) and I was on my ASEAN mission to Singapore. He could have cancelled his trip to Pailin but on the contrary he did not hesitate to be present in Phnom Penh and to travel to Pailin.

... What may have impressed us all is that in his speech he mentioned about selecting most places which were formerly under the Khmer Rouge influence for the construction of school buildings. We are grateful for this gesture and decision and this has in fact promoted the implementation of the win-win policy that I have put out for the completion of the national reconciliation since 1996. So far, NF has provided a sum of close to nine million US dollars for the assistance to Cambodia. In response to UNTAC Head – HE Yasushi Akashi's request, NF had provided assistance in media coverage relating to the elections and there followed by assistance in various forms for the humanitarian benefit such as in the fields of prosthetics and orthopaedics in Cambodia...

... In general the Royal Government of Japan and its people has been the biggest donor in grant to the Royal Government of Cambodia so that the latter could rebuild its infrastructure such as the national road 6A, the Kizuna Bridge, hospitals, seaport, etc.

... More projects that are going to be

funded by Japan and this include also the feasibility study for the construction of a bridge across the Mekong at Neak Loeung to join Cambodia's ASEAN road together. According to expert's estimate, the construction may start in 2006. Some Japanese tourists have also contributed their own resources for the construction of schools, water ponds and wells, canals, etc. upon their visits to Siemreap province.

... Through HE Shinohara, Chargé d'Affairs of the Japanese Embassy, I wish to give my sincere appreciation to the assistance for peace, reconciliation and development of Cambodia. Also on this occasion, I have scheduled to meet with the Japanese Prime Minister HE Junichiro Koizumi in Japan upon my forthcoming visit to Japan for the Japan-ASEAN Year of Exchange event, where I am sure that further progress between our two countries' relations would be brought into light... It is worth mentioning that Japan is maintaining its level of assistance to Cambodia despite the fact that it has scaled down its foreign assistance due to its economic difficulties.

... I am grateful for the report made by HE Governor Ou Bun that the province is in steadfast development and the armed forces are fulfilling their duties well since when we organized the general elections on July 27, 2003. Kompong Speu was one of the provinces that were keeping stable and good security at the time of elections.

... I wish to also express my sincere thanks to all Cambodian voters, no matter what political parties they may vote for, for their participation and fulfillment as citizens of the country. In 1998, we had 39 political parties in contest, while in 2003 we had 22 parties. All registered parties have won some votes and we should see this people's power that the elections has to be organized once every five years on the fourth

Sunday of the month of July according to the Cambodian Election Law.

... According to the Constitution, the National Assembly cannot dissolve before the end of its mandate unless the Royal Government is dissolved twice within twelve months. Otherwise an election is held according to schedule. As of present a new Government has yet to be formed, the current Government would continue and the Constitution states the existing Government will be replaced by a new Government and it doesn't mention of a provisional Government.

... By all accounts I wish to thank our people in Kompong Speu for giving their confidence in the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) where it obtains four of the six seats with one each goes to FUNCINPEC and Sam Rainsy party. In 2003, the Cambodian people gave CPP 73 seats in the National Assembly or 60% of the total seats, where in 1998 it received 53% of the seats. If we were to have a simple majority (50+1) Constitution, CPP could have formed a unilateral Government & ready.

... Our Constitution is the one with compromise for the sake of national reconciliation but it is so unfortunate that some parties have used its essence to place conditions on the winning party. If I were to walk out, there would be troubles as the National Assembly which is not functioning yet cannot deal with the position of Prime Minister that is left empty and the whole cabinet would dissolve automatically. What is the most severe problem, however, is the fact that the majority of Cambodia people voted for CPP with Hun Sen as the candidate of Prime Minister.

... I could not afford to neglect the voters' will, so I would rather go against the will of the opposition rather than that of the people. It is

unbelievable that on November 11, under the presidency of HM the King, in a get together to clarify issues relating to the misinterpretation of the 5th November Communiqué, the opposition took advantage of stating that the opposition's would like to have a tripartite coalition Government with a "new" Prime Minister. They dare to lie under oath to HM the King so they would keep no promise to people like us. There will be a meeting on December 04 and CPP would leave them no room for cheating. CPP could not trust them. The National Assembly will not be functional as long as there is a confidence that the Royal Government will not be left in an uncertain state. The two have to be approved all in one.

... By doing so the two organs could take births at the same time or we may have a situation that one is voted in the position of the Head of the National Assembly while another could not be assured of the formation of the Royal Government. So "bloc vote" is a good way to save mutual confidence – who and who would be the Head of the National Assembly and all its commissions, and who and who would be Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, etc. So this formula is brought in here because we are lacking confidence and this has been explained by their disrespect to the election results and lately to HM the King. After the elections on July 27, they used too many tricks as they proposed for a national salvation Government, neutral Prime Minister, no Hun Sen, etc... The November-5th communiqué written by HM the King has not been respected and they publicly announced that they were forced and they dare not contradict HM the King. Samdech Chea Sim and I do not know French, and HM the King wrote the communiqué in French and HM translated for us. They all know French so they listened twice to the

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reading, why didn't they tell their disagreements and why did they say the text is correct? They have asked for signatures to be signed under the text.

... Let me tell you that with or without a new Government, we all have to harvest rice and we should move on to grow dry-season rice, the teachers have teach in schools. We could not depend on the normal procedure of who is approved first, but both are approved together. If the "bloc vote" fails to give parties concerned what they need, then the CPP 73 members of the National Assembly could go on working as CPP would made loan so that they all get paid, while the 50 others – 26 FUNCINPEC and 24 Sam Rainsy party members – will have to wait for the President of the National Assembly to be elected and to approve their payrolls.

... According to the formula, the formation of the new Government has to abide by the principle of 60% for CPP, 20% for FUNCINPEC and 20% for Sam Rainsy party. Before CPP was thinking of forming a coalition Government of two, but later accepted to form a coalition of three that was suggested and supported by HM the King too... Taking this opportunity I wish to declare my order that all illegal checkpoints have to be banned and I would not hesitate to remove Governors or Deputy Governors for leaving this situation going on. Normally those who place checkpoints are those from the military, police, military police, forest control and environment. I have my reports that there are many of them in Siemreap. They all have to act on this issue or face removals...!

**22 December 2003 [Informal Translation]
Inaugurating the Phum Prek Water Treatment Plant**

"... I have a great pleasure to celebrate with all of our people here today the inauguration of the Phum Prek Water Treatment Plant which has been built under the non-interest aid provided by the Government of Japan...

... Taking this opportunity I would like to express on behalf of the people and Government of Cambodia our gratefulness to the people and Government of Japan for the provision of so generous and valuable assistance. The inauguration has in fact happened at the time when the people of Cambodia throughout the country, especially Phnom Penh, Siemreap and Kompong Cham provinces, are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic ties of the two countries – Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the 30th anniversary of the ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year.

... Thanks to the assistance provided by Japan together with that offered by the World Bank, the water supply capacity of PPWA has reached out to about 85% of Phnom Penh inhabitants and is expanding to include the district of Takhmao in Kandal Province.

... Because of this development, I have discussed with HE Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy on altering the structure of the current PPWA from being under the supervision of the Phnom Penh Municipality to that under the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy.

... Among all public enterprises operating in Cambodia, PPWA has been the one that proves its capability in paying back the loans taken from the World Bank prior to the set deadline. The Government, however, has not done so since we still

have more time before the deadline and needs to address. As far as the rate of water loss along the supply line, I am glad to hear that we have brought the rate down from 72% in 1993 to about 16% this year and I encourage the management to continue to slash the loss rate further so as to help economize the supply as well as increase the size of supply coverage.

... No country in the whole world suffers similar fate as Cambodia because of leadership changes in decades. When I first arrived at the capital, 70 people were all I found and so one could not imagine of having water supply in what was then called "A Ghost City."

... We are now approaching the January-07 anniversary and a number of documentary films will be replayed to recall us all how difficult everyone was in those days.

... I could recall of why we have the loss rate of water along the supply line. In between 1975 and 1979, a period in which the capital city of Phnom Penh was left empty and without residents, the water pipelines were either oxidized or clogged completely. People in some places had in those day drilled holes into the main pipes and scooped out water for their own use and for sale. The same is true for electric supply. I just want to have your attention on how far have we marched and in the past 25 years, Japan has been playing a very important role for the development of Phnom Penh as well as throughout Cambodia.

... With the Japanese assistance we now have clean water, electricity, hospital, sewage release system, and various others. The reconstruction of the Chroy Changva Bridge, the national road 6A, the national road 6, the part of road between

Roluos and Siemreap twon, the Kizuna Bridge, the national road 7 and the national road 2, etc. have all been considerate assistance kindly provided by Japan.

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... Taking this opportunity I am declaring that we will reduce (import tax) on vehicles from January 01, 2004. Import tax of brand new vehicles that was set at 230% should go down to just 50% and tax must be collected from the maximum number of vehicles. We collect smaller amount but we collect from a large number of tax payers. In the recent summits in Tokyo on December 11 and 12, 2003, between the ASEAN Heads of States and the Prime Minister of Japan, Junichiro Koizumi, I had a thought on Japan. Japan seemed to be a country in debt to many countries because it has so many obligations to fulfil – here in Cambodia and ASEAN as well as many other countries in the world such as Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. While Japan said it would downsize its ODA to foreign countries, in my meetings with four successive Prime Ministers of Japan I have been proposing that "Japan should maintain its current level of assistance if not more."

... By the way the formation of a new National Assembly and a new Government is still in deadlock, so the current Government would go on. A country could not be left without a Government and there has been a request to conduct a summit meeting (among all political parties). My answer to this request is short and succinct "no meeting should be held if it does not base upon the framework of the November 5th Communiqué."

... If a meeting could be held, each
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