

# Cambodia New Vision

Issue 74

<http://www.cnv.org.kh>

March, 2004

**29 March 2004 [Informal Translation]**

**Pile-Driving for Doem Sdao Bridge at Koh Sotin District**



29 March 04 - In the commune of Pongro, Kohsotin district, Kompong Cham Province, Samdech Hun Sen is giving a symbolic pile-driving for the construction of a bridge across the Tonle Touch (Small River), a tributary of the Mekong.

*At the groundbreaking ceremony to construct the Doem Sdao bridge in Kompong Cham, some comments of Samdech Hun Sen has been selected for reprint as follows:*

... A year has gone by since my presence last year on March 29 to inaugurate the 96-metre Bailey Bridge of Pongro with eleven solar energized lights, the 75-metre Bailey Bridge of Roka Kaong with seven solar energized lights and the eleven-kilometre road between Pongro and Mohaleap.

... We are gathering here today to celebrate

another groundbreaking for a new 160-metre long and 7.2 width bridge across the Small River (Tonle Touch), the longest one to be built by the military engineering team in Cambodia.

... I have a great pleasure to see that my determination and will, as well as those of our people, has been realized for the benefit of the people in this area.

... I wish to extend my gratitude to Ms. Lim Tho, Yoeung Chan, Mr. Kuy Lo, Sun Kimsoeun and Thai Bunthan for providing parts of land in their property on either

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**26 March 2004**

**Closing Remark at the 25th Health Conference**

*I have a great honor and pleasure to join you all in the closing of this 25th Health Conference.*

On behalf of the Royal Government and myself, may I extend my warmest congratulation and appreciation for the efforts and outcomes that the management and staff of the ministry have attained during the past year 2003 in imple-

menting the RGC's agenda and reform programs, especially the implementation of Health Strategic Plan 2003-2007.

I have observed that the health conference have been well organized and held regularly, highlighting the progress and achievement as well as the potential opportunities.

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**24 March 2004**

**The Cambodia Millennium Development Goals—2003**

*Today, I have a great honor and pleasure to address the launching of the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals Report 2003 during this Sixth National Poverty Forum.*

At the outset, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, may I express my deepest thanks to the Council for Social Development and the Ministry of Planning for organizing this launching.

I also thank, in particular, the United Nations Development Programme, other UN

agencies and the Swedish International Development Agency for supporting this endeavor.

In September 2000, the Royal Government of Cambodia, together with 188 other member-states of the UN, adopted the Millennium Declaration.

In doing so, the world leaders agreed to a set of time-bound, measur-

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side of the bridge for the sake of the construction.

... Though the Government has paid them a sum of money in order that they move out of the land to start a new residence somewhere else, their gestures in doing so have been a good example and I understand that they should be encouraged by the gratitude from the Royal Government of Cambodia and people who would travel across this bridge.

... If it were not of their contribution, we might have a hard decision to make to have a bridge across this place. Again our experience has shown us clearly that no one could achieve anything – roads, bridges or water canals, etc. -- without the participation of our people... Taking this opportunity I wish to express my sincere thanks to the People's Republic of China from whom, through its former President, the Bailey bridge on our right hand is provided to me.

... In 2000, HE Jiang Zemin visited Cambodia and I was asked what I wanted? I told him I wanted some Bailey bridges as I know that the People's Republic of China produces plenty of them with good quality which is suitable not

only for use in Cambodia but in many other developing countries.

... I was offered the 7.2-meter-width bridge for 1000 meters. Later on Cambodia had a visit of HE former Premier Zhu Rongji who then donated another 1500 metres. Last year, in 2003, the People's Republic of China offered a non-project grant of Yuan 50 million aside from the project to build road from Kratie to Laos and I have requested it in Bailey bridge... In China they say if you want to be rich you have to build roads while in Cambodia we also say there is a way or not to mean that road/way is important in our daily life. We have used a length of close to 20,000 meters of Bailey bridge from China already.

... I am also taking this opportunity to convey my thanks to Mr. Su Jisin from a Korean Corporation for the provision of 30 solar energized lights to five bridges and we will have eleven of them on this bridge. As far as assistance is concerned, donors would not hesitate in making offer as long as they see that their assistance is being of effective use.

... Again I am grateful to the local authority as well as our people who

have supported the project of building a bridge across the Small River, a tributary of the Mekong River... The bridge will be a great achievement as it will serve as a connector between areas along the eastern side of the Mekong of Kompong Cham and Phnom Penh.

... Thanks also go to the CPP activists in this area, namely HE Khiev Kannharith who have also brought with him to work in this area his aged old parents. As long as we have solidarity we will all be able to do everything... Why don't we look at termites, they are small but they can build a huge nest and what we are putting together today will be left for our children's sake.

... In the second term of office we have built in Kompong Cham, according to HE Cheing Am's record, 45 bridges of 2,394 meters – 39 bridges of which of 2,232 meters are Bailey bridges and the rest of 162 meters are concrete. It is not a complete statistic though, as we have various achievements to get recorded here and elsewhere throughout the country.

... We have built so far roughly 1965 bridges and in just weeks from today the figure will

reach 2000. Some people say that the country is getting poorer as the Royal Government is putting efforts in improving infrastructure and I do not understand what they are aiming at in their speech. We will continue on this track.

... Some people may ask whether the bridge will be finished or not if the new Government is not taking shape. The bridge will be finished waiting to no Government to get formed.

... The working groups (of the partner parties) are in the process of negotiation and I should not say anything so as to let the discussion proceeds. But I wish to tell you all a few things of the meeting on March 15th with Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh. Samdech Krom Preah called me on Thursday in order to coordinate for the meeting of the two teams led by HE Say Chhum (of CPP) and Samdech Krom Khun Sirivudh (of FUNCINPEC).

... I made it clear with Samdech Krom Preah that the phrase "no Hun Sen" must not be heard again or I will no longer talk again. Another person, whom I will not speak about and to, is seeking an inclusion under the plaque of someone else...

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... When people ask if the bridge could be constructed while the Government is in the making, I would recommend you to ask if you would eat at all while waiting for a Government to be formed. During the call on Thursday that lasted nearly half an hour, Samdech Krom Preah assured me that the phrase "no Hun Sen" will not be heard. Samdech Krom Preah said to me "I myself could not stand it if I were to be rebuked the way you are." If Samdech Krom Preah could not accept it how could Hun Sen or voters who supported Hun Sen stand it... Things seem to have calmed down but, as to when the new Government is formed, I could not and I don't want to predict as some politicians do, which would cause complicated problems. Let it be, whether before or at the time or after the inauguration of the bridge that we are starting to build today.

... This year seems to be odd. From the end of October last year to the present some places have not got any rain at all. On March 28, there were some rains in Kanchreach district of Prey Veng, Kravanh of Pursath and few other places... On the contrary the Prek Thnaot canal is almost com-

pletely dried. It seems that rain is approaching and may be in the next few days we could have some rain...

... Tonight there is going to be a show and I hope our people enjoy it while refraining from splashing water at one another as this could cause serious accidents. Days ago I met a relative of mine who own a passenger boat between Sihanoukville and Koh Kong... He told me after the national road 48 is in use his business is going down. We also have a line of road from Kratie to Phnom Penh and from the Chhlong Bridge to the Peam Te Bridge and people do not travel by boat anymore.

... I wish to have our people's attention that the effort we made in putting together all these achievements is hard but we have to try harder to protect and look after them or these achievements could be damaged for nothing. I was told in Kompong Speu the other day by the authority that the Kun Kru bridge (In Gratitude of Mentor's Bridge) is facing heavy-load traffics from huge lorries that are taking shortcut from the national road 4.

... I wish the Ministry of Public Works and Transports to come up with a regulation aimed at maintaining and car-

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This has also provided forum for the discussions of set measures aimed at finding ways to solve various issues that helps improve the health status of our people and ensure effective delivery of health service.

In addition, I am also convinced that all the members of the conference have been very proactive in the discussion and have provided many recommendations and advice which are very useful for the development of health sector in Cambodia.

This especially presents an ample opportunity for dialogues and exchange of experiences among the physicians, pharma-

ing of Bailey bridge. We have two types of Bailey – short ones along the national roads and those that are built along the dirt roads or provincial roads...

*Samdech Hun Sen on that occasion offered ten million Riel to the pagoda of Serei Charam, to renovate a 4500-meter road to the national road 11 and a school building of five classrooms to the Primary School of Pacnam of Pongro Commune in the Koh Sotin district of Kompong Cham.'*

cists and all the health personnel and staff in order to reach our humanitarian objective and for the benefit of all Cambodian people.

With all these efforts, I strongly hope the conference would help promote the profession and ethics of our medical doctors, pharmacists and that of all the health personnel in term of morality, humanity, effectivity and the quality of service for the benefit of all Cambodian people, the sustainable development and the poverty reduction among our people.

Indeed, poverty reduction could not be achieved through an economic growth alone, as enhanced social development is also important for improved social equity which contributes to the elimination of gaps and disparity in the society as well as increasing the capacity and opportunities for our people so that they can effectively participate in the development of the national economy.

Thus in this sense, for a strong and solid society it requires well educated, culturally vibrant and healthy population, as well as reduction of poverty and other diseases.

All these efforts should go in hands with the ad-

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herence to democratic principles and social justice which provide opportunity for each member of the society to progress based on their merit and potential in order to contribute to promoting economic growth and sustainable development.

Thus, the provision of good health service would positively contribute to economic development, as this service is key determinant of increased productivity, employment, the levels of investment and savings through citizens' better performance in their education and professions.

The experience of countries in the region show clearly that the improvement in health status is one among key factors that created the "miracle of East Asian economies," though good health alone is not sufficient for generating higher economic growth.

Thus, I would like to indicate that the health policy of the RGC does not focus only on the economic aspects, however, it is our strong will to take care both of health issues and to improve the living of our people to be prosper.

In this sense, the Royal Government considers the strengthening of ca-

capacity and focus on population health as top priority to respond to the agenda of poverty reduction and the implementation of reform programs in all sectors.

In this context, the Royal Government has increased the allocation of public resource and foreign aids as well as provided more incentives for private sector to increase their investment in the health sector, aimed at improving the health of our people through health education, treatments and prevention of diseases in urban and rural areas to reduce the infant and maternal mortality rates and prevention of all types transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and others.

Moreover, key priorities for this sector include the focus on gradual construction of referral hospitals and health centers across the country that can ensure sustainable, effective and equitable provision of basic health services to all citizens, especially the poor and vulnerable groups of people.

Thus, the Royal Government has made use of all the possibilities to increase basic and more professional health services at appropriate level, including initial focus on change of service pro-

viders' attitude and increase of quality through strengthened effectiveness of human resource utilization, management planning, distribution and improvement in capacity of staff and health personnel.

Moreover, the Royal Government has committed to enforcing the effective formulation and implementation of laws and regulations related to health sector that is to ensure higher standards in the provision of health service and medicines, safe supply of foods, as well as to promote effective use of health information and data for implementation and monitoring of the plan.

Indeed, after our hard and utmost efforts in the last few years, we have achieved considerable results in improving the well-being of our people, bringing many positive changes.

However, there are a lot works need to be done to reach the standards of health status and population comparable to more developed countries in the region, especially on the mortality rate of mothers and children, because the lack of nutrition and poverty, the issues of effectiveness in health service delivery, as well as that of human resource and the limited knowledge

among our people about health service.

Being aware of all the situations, the Royal Government has adopted Health Strategic Plan 2003-2007 which clearly defines all the resource available for health sector, either from domestic or foreign sources, or from private sector that will be used to improve the health status of overall people and the poor through the provision of quality and equitable health service with any discrimination in term of sex or age, the improved quality of financing for health, the development of human resource and institutions which is aimed to develop a sustainable health system, to improve health of Cambodian people especially the poor and vulnerable who live in the remote areas.

Moreover, this strategy will further promote opportunities in receiving health service among poor Cambodians and those who live in the rural areas through further development of health infrastructure, construction of building and providing of priority public health service.

To achieve all these targets, the policy of the Royal Government will continue to focus on the following priorities:

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(1) *Plan location of health bases that is effective and reaches the poor and the rural people, combined with strengthened technical capacity of health personnel across the country by motivating them to take good care of poor people in rural areas and feasible provision of incentives such as allowance.*

(2) *Strengthen close cooperation with line ministries and institutions concerned, especially the Ministry of Economy and Finance in order to increase the release of cash payment to operational provinces and districts that need the most.*

(3) *Ensure transparency and accountability in implementing the health strategic plan with line ministries/institutions concerned, with donor countries and community, and the NGOs as well as with the private sector and the civil society.*

(4) *Follow up and evaluate the achievements in*

*health sector effectively to ensure the implementation of the RGC's common objective as planned.*

Indeed, throughout our experiences there is still a lack of mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of the progress in implementation of the strategic plan yet. Thus, the MOH shall focus on establishing an effective arrangement for this tasks with close cooperation with concerned line ministries and institutions.

In the context of implementing the above policy, the Royal Government will try its best to gradually increase the budget both in term of current and capital expenditure for the health sector. I believe, in this 25th Health Conference, we have very productive and proactive discussions and have contributed many recommendations and advises, especially the exchange of good experience among physicians, pharmacists, staffs and health personnel in the cause of health sector development in Cambodia, as well as for the objective of humanity and common interest for all our people.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that health profession is the most honored and

humanitarian practices in the world, but these honored and humanitarian aspects need to be based on honesty and professional moral.

In this respect, if any physicians, pharmacists, staffs and health personnel who conduct immorally and unconsciously, they would be disregarded. For this reason, strict adoption of the physician code of conduct, health service delivery and saving human life are the basis of an honored moral profession and high sense of humanity. I strongly hope that the result of the 25th Health Conference would boost the improvement of physicians, pharmacists, staffs and health personnel profession and code of conduct both in moral and humanitarian sense and in work efficiency and quality for the benefit of all Cambodian people, the sustainable development and poverty reduction in Cambodia.

May I appeal to all the development partners of Cambodia, international NGOs and the private sector to provide cooperation and supports to the Ministry of Health in improving health sector and people's health...!

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able goals and targets for combating extreme poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and gender discrimination.

The Royal Government has fully committed itself to the Millennium Declaration and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

This reflects the Government's strong determination to measure national development performance against the MDGs as it prepares the Millennium Development Goals Report on a regular basis.

We have now prepared the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals Report of 2003, and today we all participate in its launching.

Together we shall ensure that the report is widely disseminated and used to guide the formulation of sector strategies across our country.

The report we launch today is the result of "contextualizing" the MDGs, now called Cambodian MDGs in order to better reflect realities in Cambodia. Unlike the eight global MDGs, Cambodia's MDGs consist of 9 goals.

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The 9th MDG of Cambodia is about demining, unexploded ordnance and victim assistance. The other 8 goals are very similar to the global MDGs, with the exception of the 8th MDG on Global Partnership in Development, which has yet been fully “localized” as its achievement does not entirely depend on Cambodians alone but requires cooperation with all international partners.

The report also provides a diagnosis of Cambodia’s major policies and programs contributing to each CMDG, and identifies major challenges to attain the CMDGs.

However, the report is a work in progress and will be further fine-tuned in the future as the country strengthens its statistical and overall policy analysis capacity.

This MDG report is in fact the second report on the status of MDGs in Cambodia.

The first report was made in 2001, facilitated by the UN Country Team, and which laid the foundations of future reporting and sensitizing a large audience of stakeholders.

The report that we launch today has been

prepared under the leadership of the Council for Social Development, which applied a participatory approach that has included all major development stakeholders.

Indeed, the ultimate objective of the RGC is to ensure that by 2015, there will be much improved human resources, less poverty

### From the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals Report — 2003

*Unlike the 8 global Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations, Cambodia’s MDGs consist of 9 goals... and its 9th MDG is about demining, unexploded ordnance and victim assistance.*

*... The proportion of the population in poverty fell from 39% in 1994 to around 36% in 1999, thus falling by only 1% per year...*

*... efforts must continue, taking into account the following important points:*

- ☞ striving toward a long-term high economic growth rate not less than 6 to 7% per year;*
- ☞ further strengthening of implementation of current population policy to promote birth spacing; and*
- ☞ further implementation of governance reform, especially anti-corruption, to help achieve equity in the distribution of the results of economic growth.*

and inequality, reduced prevalence of HIV/AIDS, enhanced conservation of Cambodia’s environmental heritage, and a society without discrimination against women and where all girls and boys have better and equal access to education.

We do recognize that we have many challenges to overcome in our journey toward achieving the CMDGs.

In response to those challenges, in a past decade, the RGC has designed and implemented many policies and strategies, such as the Governance Action Plan, Decentralization,

For success, they also require adequate capacity in human resources and the establishment of effective and efficient institutions and government for substantial progress.

Indeed, the improvement of human capacity remains imperative in reducing poverty, improving the well-being of people, and the sustainable development of the country.

Human capacity must be improved to ensure the improvement of the impact of resources committed to reaching the CMDGs.

Over the long term, the increase in the skills and schooling of the population will set the nation on a more dynamic, prosperous and diversified growth path toward socio-economic development in Cambodia.

The development journey that Cambodia has embarked upon is long and arduous, strewn with many, seemingly insurmountable obstacles on the path to prosperity comparable to the level enjoyed by the more developed neighbors.

Indeed, poverty reduction remains to be the most important objective of the Royal Government. The Royal Gov-

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ernment acknowledges that poverty cannot be fully resolved in a day, a month nor a year.

However, with a clear program, and united in determined, continuing and sincere effort, we can certainly achieve many incremental positive improvements that uplift the lives of the Cambodia people day by day.

In this context, the key economic strategy of the Royal Government is to ensure a favorable macro-economic and financial environment that fosters sustainable economic growth that provides the fertile ground for poverty reduction via the rapid expansion of employment and effective mobilization and use of national resources.

The Royal Government will further promote domestic investment activities, particularly by boosting the development of SMEs and manufacturing. Entrepreneurship and private sector capacity will be strengthened while enhancing incentives for foreign investments.

An important area of work is to focus on improvements in bilateral and multilateral economic development cooperation.

Policy dialogue shall be

facilitated with all development partners, while governance – particularly anti-corruption programs, is strengthened as reform programs are implemented across all sectors. These tasks need to be approached on a broad, common front that is mutually-reinforcing, to maximize effectiveness toward the socio-economic development of Cambodia.

The Royal Government will continue to promote the development of the market economy by enhancing the stability of the policy environment.

Such continuity will enhance the dynamism of the private sector which is the true engine of economic growth. The Royal Government realizes that partnership and mutual support must be established between itself and the private sector, with state interventions kept at low levels. Such partnership must be governed by laws and regulations which are strictly and consistently implemented.

Over the past decade, Cambodia achieved significant economic growth. Even with such growth however, poverty was not reduced as required for sustainable economic growth. The proportion of the population in poverty fell from 39% in 1994 to around 36% in 1999, thus falling

by only 1% per year.

Moreover, economic growth in rural areas is not consistent with population growth. Together with other factors such as increasing rural unemployment and poor employment in non-agriculture, this indicates a worrisome trend.

The trends indicate that the estimated proportion of poor people in Cambodia will be 28% by 2015, more than the MDG set at 19.5%. Thus we cannot achieve the poverty reduction goal. But our best efforts must continue, taking into account the following important points:

- ☞ *striving toward a long-term high economic growth rate not less than 6 to 7% per year;*
- ☞ *further strengthening of implementation of current population policy to promote birth spacing; and*
- ☞ *further implementation of governance reform, especially anti-corruption, to help achieve equity in the distribution of the results of economic growth.*

The Cambodia Millennium Development Goals that have been adopted will only be

achieved if we all make sacrifices, if we all commit to wisely use all available potential to assure continuity, sustainability and equity in development.

The Royal Government stands strongly committed to the achievement of the Cambodia MDGs by adopting these as the key pillars of Cambodia's national development policy and strategy.

Again I thank the CSD, Ministry of Planning, UNDP, SIDA and concerned agencies that have contributed to the success of the development of this document. I believe that such participation from all concerned agencies and development partners will help create the strong basis for the achievement of our MDGs. Let me wish you all, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen and dear compatriots, the five gems of Buddhist wishes.

I declare the formal adoption and dissemination of the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals Report 2003, knowing that such will contribute to growth, employment, equity and efficiency in the Cambodian economy and society.!

## List of Speeches of Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen (Prepared and Adlib) as Collected and Posted on [www.cnv.org.kh](http://www.cnv.org.kh) in the First Quarter of 2004

29 March 04	Selected Adlib Address at the Groundbreaking Ceremony to Build a Bridge over the Small River at Doeum Sdao at Koh Sotin District of Kompong Cham.
26 March 04	Closing Remarks at the 25th Health Conference, Ministry of Health.
24 March 04	Address at the Launching of Cambodia Millennium Development Goals Report 2003 At the 6th National Poverty Forum.
26 February 04	Address to the Inauguration of the Health Education Centre in the Angkor Pediatric Hospital in the Province of Siemreap.
25 February 04	Selected Comments during the Visit to the Construction Site of the Bridge of Kompong Raing in Chhlong District, Kratie Province.
23 February 04	Samdech Hun Sen Addresses the Hand-Over Ceremony of Medical Equipment and Supplies, and the Opening of Samdech Hun Sen Maternity, Radioscopy and Neurology Building, Calmette Hospital.
19 February 04	Address at the General Assembly of the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) -- Taking Stock of Performance 1992-2003.
16 February 04	Address at the Inauguration of a Water Reservoir and Achievements in the Commune of Kraing Liev, Bati District, Takeo Province. Click to see selective comments.
15 February 04	Selected Comments at the Visit to the Construction Site of the Water Canal Meroleangchrey in the Rokakoh Commune, Kong Pisey District, Kompong Speu Province.
12 February 04	Address to the Presentation of Degrees to Graduates at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.
06 February 04	Address at the Closing of the "Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction - 2004," Siemreap Province.
04 February 04	Address at the launching of the "National Population Policy," Phnom Penh.
29 January 04	Address at the Presentation of Degrees to the Graduates at the Cambodian Institute of Technology.
28 January 04	Selected Comments at the Inauguration of a Buddhist Hall of Common in the Commune of Baray, Srey Santhor District, Kompong Cham Province.
26 January 04	Toast at the Official Dinner hosted in the honor of H.E. DATO SERI ABDUL-LAH HAJI AHMAD BADAWI, Prime Minister of Malaysia.