

Cambodia New Vision

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Keynote Address at the Bo'ao Forum for Asia, Hainan(Samdech Hun Sen was on an official visit to the PRC in between 19-26 April, 2004)



10 April 04 - Samdech Hun Sen was conferred an Honorary Philosophical Doctor of Political Science by the Irish International University of the European Union.

At the outset, may I express my deepest appreciation to the founders of the Boao Forum for Asia and the Government of the People's Republic of China for organizing this important meeting and inviting me to address this August forum.

In exchanging the experiences related to this year's conference theme: "Asia Searching for Win-win: An Asia Open to the Outside World", I am honored to share with all of you today my thoughts on the Challenges in East Asia in the 21st Century and the importance of integration in the region.

The 21st century has brought and will bring about a profound metamorphosis in the political, economic and social fabric and landscape of Southeast Asia and East Asia a whole.

These changes present to us both

opportunities and challenges that we have to address and overcome. Our region and beyond are also required to implement wide-ranging, in-depth and bold reforms, with strong political will.

In this context, our main objective is to ensure peace, security, stability, sustainable development, shared prosperity and co-existence in a harmonized regional community in the spirit of sharing and solidarity, while marching toward integration and mutually beneficial cooperation.

This vision becomes the heart and soul of the "Win-win" Strategy for ASEAN and East Asia in this 21st Century, which, in my opinion, encompasses the following three main aspects:

☞ *Transformation from a region of internal conflicts, mistrust and*

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06 April 2004

Closing the Conference on Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
(Taking Stock of 2003-2004 Performance and Setting Directions for 2004-2005)

..., I have a great honor and pleasure to address this very important 2003-2004 stock taking conference of agriculture, forestry, and fishery. Here, I also happy to share my view, with your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, regarding the many challenges in advancing development policies in agriculture. Indeed, this has been progressed along with other efforts in "reform policies" of decentralization and de-concentration taken by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), with the aim of reducing the poverty.

Taking this opportunity, on the behalf of the RGC and my own self, I would like to extend my congratulation and appreciation to the management team, all the civil servants, staff and workers of the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) for their tremendous efforts, including good cooperation with international partners in achieving the objectives and overcoming challenges faced during 2003, attaining positive and encouraging results.

I have followed the report of His
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01 April 2004

Launching the Coastal Zone Resources Center

Today, I have a great honor and pleasure to address the joint launching of the Coast Zone Resources Centers of Sihanoukville, Kep City, Kampot and Koh Kong provinces, here in Sihanoukville. All these are the new achievements attained under the corporation and with contribution from Danish Government.

This joyful gathering testifies our participation in witnessing the very important historical event in the protection of the environment of coastal and maritime zones. The centers will support the government efforts in the development of human resource, dissemination of technical information and the development of environmental and socio-economic information system of coastal and marine zones. It is indeed a priority area consistent with the Royal Government's objective to strengthen decentralization and de-

concentration policies, which have made considerable progress. On the behalf of the RGC, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the management team and all the civil servants of the Ministry of Environment for their cooperation in establishing these resource centers, covering the four coastal areas. These will ensure the strengthening of capacity, information shearing, monitoring and controlling of the environment and natural resources, and they will also ensure an appropriate planning and decision making process. On behalf of the People and RGC, may I take this opportunity
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instability into an integrated zone of peace, security, stability and cooperation.

☞ *Transformation from a region of imbalanced development into a center of comprehensive and harmonized development.*

☞ *Transition from a region, mainly stricken by poverty, to become a dynamic epicenter of prosperity in the world.*

I am proud to note that with these virtuous aspirations we have started in earnest many useful enterprises that will shape our future and inspire our hope for the better.

The evidences show that considerable achievements have been accomplished in these endeavors. Specifically, we have witnessed that the vision of an integrated ASEAN has become a reality before the dawn of the new century, in the form of ASEAN-10.

In an effort to address the challenges of globalization, the Leaders of ASEAN have adopted long-term visions and promoted the implementation of action plans and specific projects to ensure that ASEAN remains attractive to foreign direct investment and international trade, especially to deepen intra-regional trade and investment.

We all want the ASEAN countries, both new and original members, the more developed and less developed ones, to move forward on the path of sustainable economic growth.

Our ultimate objective is to bridge development gaps amongst ASEAN countries, as quickly as possible, through the implementation of specific measures, especially the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and the Roadmap for the Integration of ASEAN (RIA).

At our last year Summit in Bali of Indonesia, we agreed to set out the long term vision of ASEAN Community through the declaration of the Bali Concord II, which is based on the three pillars of political and security cooperation, economic cooperation, and socio-cultural cooperation, that are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing for the purpose of creating the ASEAN Community by the year 2020.

In particular, the establishment of an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) will make ASEAN a single market and production base with free flow of goods, services, investment, skilled labor and freer flow of capital.

Thereby it would enhance ASEAN competitiveness and narrow the development gap amongst ASEAN members. At our summit later this year in Laos PDR, we plan to adopt the Vientiane Action Plan (VAP) designed to reach these long-term objectives.

Indeed, with the aim to accelerate growth and development we have established sub-regional arrangements complimentary to the regional ones, including the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) with participation of China's Yunnan province, a triangle development area between Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam, the Emerald triangle development among Cambodia, Laos and Thailand and the Economic Cooperation Strategy (ECS) between Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand (CLMT).

I believe that all these initiatives will provide us with opportunities to increase trade and investment, enhance our competitiveness, and create more employment, as well as increased income and improved

the standards of living in the sub-regions, especially for the lesser developed members of ASEAN.

In a broader context, the integration of East Asia is on the right track since the ten ASEAN members and other three countries, the so-called ASEAN+3 agreed to expand and strengthen their cooperation.

The ASEAN Plus Three framework is vitally important in providing region-wide, geo-political and strategic umbrella for East Asia to prosper. Cambodia welcomes India, China and Japan's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

The Code of Conduct in the South China Sea was adopted during the ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh in 2002. This strategic partnership and other comprehensive, strategic economic partnerships between ASEAN and the Plus Three are critical to ensuring peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

Managing these relationships of friendship and cooperation present both challenges and tremendous opportunities for ASEAN and East Asia as a whole. In this regard, we have agreed and been convinced that the building block approach is the best way forward for the evolution of ASEAN+3 process, which will be strengthened and transformed, in the long run, into an East Asian Community, by striking a right balance between the needs and benefits of us all, both in the short and the long run. China has become a political, diplomatic and economic powerhouse in East Asia.

ASEAN has much to benefit from a more developed China, which absorbs more and more imports of goods and services from all of us. It is my conviction that in 2010, the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area of nearly 2 billion people will take shape and determine the dimension

of our and the world's engagement with China.

Japan also represents a strategic anchor for the region and positioned herself at the core of the new configuration of political and economic landscapes of East Asia. The heart of this cooperation is "the Koizumi's Initiative for ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership", projected to be realized by 2012, which will promote not only the liberalization of investment and trade in goods and services, but also encourages advanced cooperation in a wide range of fields from tourism to human resources development and small and medium-sized enterprises.

ASEAN is also discussing with the Republic of Korea on trade liberalization, investment, and economic cooperation. At the Bali Summit, ASEAN welcomed the proposal of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to study the possibility of an ASEAN-ROK Free Trade Area.

India will become another economic powerhouse in the region and a promising growth center. The establishment of an ASEAN-India Free Trade Area by 2011 would facilitate the effective linkages of ASEAN to the free trade area of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Some people have expressed concerns over the future of ASEAN amid the emergence of the giant neighboring countries in the region. In my opinion, the greatest challenge for ASEAN is not the economic might of China, India or the others. The stability and the economic ascendancy of great neighbors like China or India would be crucial for promoting economic growth in the entire region. On the contrary, the decline, social disruption or poverty in China or India would pose only potential threats and dangers to their

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neighboring, smaller countries in the region. Thus, for me, the core issues lies in how ASEAN itself will take improvement measures and make further efforts to increase its own competitiveness. In this regard, I think that ASEAN is moving on the right track by choosing greater openness and closer cooperation with all its major and key partners.

Allow me to emphasize that we will not be able to move smoothly forward, if we are still obsessed with mistrust, the legacies of past history and the Cold War, territorial disputes, races and religion, as well as the divergent views on various international and regional issues, the cooperation in combating terrorism and the economic isolation or economic embargo imposed on a country with different political or governance system so on and so forth, which can be used as an impediment to realizing our objectives of regional integration.

Cambodia is proud of being able to specifically and appropriately contribute to regional efforts toward firm security, peace, stability and development, providing mutual benefits in the spirit of friendship, solidarity and cooperation. The restoration of peace, the policy of national reconciliation, as well as Cambodia's strict adherence to the principles of democracy and market economy, respect for and protection of human rights, peace and genuine national reconciliation have been invaluable contributions to ASEAN and East Asian peace, security, stability and progress. Our agenda is to integrate our national economy into the regional and world trading system as fast as possible so that Cambodia can appropriately benefit from globalization.

My ambition is to have Cambodia regain its destiny, playing an effective role on an equal footing in the regional and world affairs. We are

aware that "if one wants to learn swimming, there are no other choice than jumping into the water and do it..." Nevertheless, we in Cambodia recognize that much remains to be done in order to fulfill our far-reaching objective and ambition.

The building of a nation and the concomitant reform measures cannot be completed in isolation in a day, nor just a single, even a giant step. Development is attained through a steadfast, continuous process. Indeed, reforms are not an objective of journey by itself, but it presents the process of long journey. In this journey, we need a sincere partnership and close cooperation with all our partners, – based on the spirit of sharing and mutual trust which is the key principle of our "Win-win" Strategy.

Once again, I thank for the opportunity to share my thoughts with all of you at this important forum. I wish the conference success as expected, and wish the organizers and all the participants good health and success in their future endeavors./:

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Excellency the Minister of MAFF on the two days conference, clearly indicating the results of the conference. May, I also express my sincere thanks to all participants that have taken part in this conference. Particularly, my thanks go to those who have expressed their opinions in an open manner and provided many constructive recommendations to address the challenges in term of policies, infrastructure and the working system. This has also helped identifying the strengths and weaknesses for consideration in the adoption of strategies and other additional measures to improve the capacity, ensure the progress and the dynamic development of the sector, contributing to successful implementation of the National Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Indeed, in implementing the development strategies for the past 5 years, the RGC has successfully achieved many objectives and progress, especially in term of peace, security and social order, prosperity, cooperation and progress. Particularly, in the international cooperation, there have been considerable results. Cambodia has gained strong support from international and donor community in its rehabilitation and development efforts.

This presents the success of the second component of the RGC's Triangle Strategy, – the key factor for guaranteeing good result of the third component of the strategy, the policy agenda of socio-economic rehabilitation and development, where agriculture is one of the priority sectors. In fact, we have observed gradual growth of economic activities, such as the increase in trade, investment and tourism. All these have been key factors for job creation and income generation, thus finally leading to poverty reduction and better welfare for Cambodian people.

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We all aware that 36% of Cambodian population lives below the poverty line, while 90% of the poor live in rural areas. Thus fighting the poverty in Cambodia, one must begin with the improvement in the rural livelihoods, through agricultural development and food security.

Indeed, even a little progress in agriculture sector it will have a big and positive impact on social and economic status of many Cambodian poor. This is because agriculture remains a "number one" sector contributing the most to the economic growth and development, that it is a primary source of employment for rural population. I strongly believe that sustainable management and use of natural resources would contribute to poverty reduction.

In this sense, the MAFF and other relevant institutions must find out what we can do more to help household farmers in developing local agriculture in term of improved food security, quality of work and outputs, as well as opportunity creation for income generation, for the poorest and vulnerable groups.

In the last year conference, I also emphasized that one of the priorities of the RGC is the development of agricultural sector, considering reasons of stagnant growth in agricultural outputs to find common solution to restore this sector. I also recommended 9 points with respect to each key area, which the MAFF has assigned all its units to implement. As we can see now, there have been fruitful results, though we still face the many challenges need to be settled on a continued basis.

Indeed, we have overcome many constraints and obstacles, helping increase the rice yield, one of the main crops ensuring food security. The output has exceeded last year

level, resulting in more than one millions surplus for export. Thus, we should be proud of this achievement!

In particular, I have noted that because of the favorable market environment and economic growth, a semi-industrial production of livestock has grown up noticeably. This year, we have faced the unfortunate event of bird flu outbreak, which has affected the whole world. Thus, may I express my appreciation to the MAFF as well as relevant ministries/department and other donor communities that have had an effective cooperation and implemented preventive measures on time to put the bird flu case under control and eventually eliminating it.

Another important thing that I have also observed is our continuing growth rate, with high increase in rubber price in the international market (up to USD1,450/ton in the Malaysian and Thai market), while last year the price was only USD600/ton.

Indeed, this price still at its low level compared to the 1995-1996 price that reached USD2,300/ton. Thus, these are the key factors the MAFF has to pay additional attention to increase rubber productivity, in order to be able to compete in the international market.

Moreover, research activities and selection of best seeds that would give higher quality and increased productivity of rice, industrial and other crops, the use of agricultural chemicals, natural fertilizers and expanding the irrigation system remain the issues requiring greater attention in order to ensure the quality and quantity of production for export to ASEAN and international markets.

With the aim to strengthen the momentum gained in the reform of agriculture and other development

programs which have produced good results, I would like to take this opportunity to share my recommendations and discuss some other specific issues with MAFF and concerned institutions. It is intended to add on the set targets and address the works which have not been fully accomplished during the past year. Those include:

1. We shall focus our effort on further enhancing existing irrigation system, including the maintenance and repair works, and the strengthening of institutional capacity in improving water resource management and the provision of key services supporting the agriculture. This especially covers timely intervention by the government in the events of natural disaster, to help the farmers gained greater control over floods and calamities. As a gesture of goodwill, I urge the private companies and able families to help provide our farmers with water as much as you can.
2. The promotion of agricultural product processing for household use and import substitution is important. This would serve as a key instrument to address the issue of market access for raw and processed, value added agricultural products. Moreover, we shall strengthen the implementation of legal framework with regard to land concession in order to encourage the existing and prospective investors in the agro industry. This is crucial for bringing investors, whose role is a producer, a farmer, a processor and a marketer, close to farmers who are their partners.
3. Our cultivation is still dependent on nature. Thus, the responsible departments and provincial offices of agriculture, forestry and fisheries shall conduct studies and reviews on potential crops and seeds to be planted for each individual location, accord-

ing to the changing agronomical system and socio-economic and marketing environment, especially focusing on higher value added crops.

4. In the livestock production and veterinary service, the issue of preventing movement of animal products is still a hot issue where the implementation has been negative, especially the outbreak of all kinds of animal diseases such as the birth flu.
5. The management of agricultural inputs shall be further improved, especially enabling the farmers to have appropriate supply of equipments and materials through the formulation of laws and regulation on agricultural input standards in the market. This requires the MAFF to take stringent measures in the effective management and control, thus avoiding the attempt of disposing foreign out-of-date "technology waste" into Cambodia.
6. The Institute for Agricultural Research and Development shall continue its research activities on key agricultural crops, which is a priority of the Royal Government contributing to the establishment of "One Village One Product". We shall also improve the productivity of organic crops in the region especially rice, and promote the management and conservation of genetic resource of traditional crops for sustainable use and exploitation.
7. Cambodia has the type of climate and fertile land which are good for rubber. With abundant labor force available, it will allow for sustainable future development of rubber plantation and finally the poverty reduction in the rural areas. In this sense, I propose the MAFF and the General Department of Rubber Plantation to

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consider the following activities in order to advance the works in this field:

- ☞ Conduct studies on rubber species, breeding technology, processing and production of rubber products and so on.
 - ☞ Promote the development of rubber plantation within at the state, private sector and household levels across the entire country, through mobilization of investments both from domestic and foreign sources, including grants and loans from international financial institutions.
 - ☞ Promote research on techniques and procedures to improve the quality of Cambodian rubber so that it meets the international standard, thus enjoying greater market access, more clients and higher price. This effort will especially respond to the requirement of the International Rubber Association in helping promote the quality of Cambodian rubber to be competitive in the world market.
8. Further promote research on inland fisheries covering the areas of biology, ecology and fishing activity, which includes the promotion of fish raising by rural farmers and the prevention of use of illegal equipments harmful to fish stock and biodiversity. Moreover, continue implement better management of fishing areas in all provinces. In cooperation with concerned ministries/institutions, the management of maritime fisheries shall be strengthened by studying the natural stocks and designating conservation sites which is crucial and urgent for maintaining biodiversity, marine natural resource and the balanced and sustainable use of the resource.
9. With regard to forestry, I would

like to declare unauthorized use of all kinds of saw machine illegal and strict control over its use shall be imposed. All saws captured and seized from illegal activities shall be destroyed as we have done with illegal fishing equipments. Moreover, I urge all the RCAF, concerned ministries/institutions and local authorities to cooperate with the Forestry Administration to crack down on all activities, including deforestation (cutting trees and firing forest), incursion on forest lands and other forest and wildlife crimes. Thus, the policy of transparent forest exploitation, prevention of and cracking down on all forest crimes will remain our vigilant work, requiring steadfast cooperation and efforts.

10. *Further focus on the development of human resource, especially the promotion of personnel information management system, which will enable proper management, distribution and use of staff at all levels, according to their knowledge, technical skills and expertise. Moreover, attention shall be paid on strengthening and promoting responsibility in assigning staff to help disseminate information on agricultural techniques to farmers in the remote areas.*

We all are aware that sustainable development including the management and use of natural resource cannot be achieved without addressing the poverty issue.

Along with this, it requires clear and realistic policies, planning and programs, as well as the political will in the implementation and mobilization of support from the society, in order to reach the set targets.

Indeed, Cambodia, within the globalization context and as a member of ASEAN, shall develop wider frameworks and arrangements for a productive yet flexible cooperation in agriculture sector.

This will cover not only the cooperation with individual member country but also the whole regional cooperation.

In this meaningful occasion, on behalf of the People and RGC may I extend my profound gratitude to our development partners and donor community, as well as to all the IOs and NGOs for their proactive contribution, for the cause of poverty reduction and sustainable development in Cambodia.

In particular, I thank you for either financial, technical or spiritual support which have helped us achieve considerable progress in the reform of agriculture sector promising better future for our Cambodian people.

I particularly thank the WB and ADB for the credits and aids provided to Cambodia to support the development of agriculture during the period of 1997-2005, which have had very good and encouraging results.

Thus, I urge the two IFIs to continue their support after the programs end in the coming year. I am strongly convinced of the achievements and directions for 2004-2005 agreed by the conference, which are based on the extensive recommendations drawn on experiences in the past.

I also hope the government officials will work hard in performing their respective function and gaining new innovation and techniques in the spirit of responsibility, thus helping realize the government policy to be highly effective. . ./;

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joyful time.

Once again, please allow me to express my deep gratitude to the Irish International University for this great honor. Specifically, I thank Professor H. Sandhu, the Chancellor and Executive President, Professor Joel Redding, Special Awarding Secretary, Dr. Hashim Ahmad, Secretary General of the International Academic Board, Dr. Mazaki Ujud, Secretary of Special Award, and Dr. Edwin Varo, Coordinator for Special Award of the Irish International University, who have come over here to bestow the honor on me. In closing, on the eve of upcoming Khmer New Year I extend to you all, Samdech, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Success, Happiness and Prosperity. I also wish you all, who present in this conferment, the five gems of Buddhist blessing.///

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nity to express my deepest thanks to the Danish Government for its financial and technical contributions to the development of the Coastal Zone Resources Centers, and also for its support in strengthening the role of research, monitoring and evaluation of the environment and natural resources in sustainable development and efficient use of coastal and marine resources, both for the current and future generations.

Due to rapid world population growth and depletion of natural resources, all individual countries are forced to have the development plans in place, which take into consideration the balance between development resources and environmental management, - in order to increase welfare, ensure food security, and provide shelters, energy and other necessities. In particular, the population density is high in coastal areas across the world, resulted from urban developments including the expansion of tourism and industry sectors, - thus causing threats to natural resources and biodiversity. The growth of cities and expansion of tourism sector in the future will inevitably have an affect on the provision of water and unpredictable environmental changes that could lead to ecological imbalance in the coastal, marine and wetland areas, and will have an impact on other vulnerable elements.

Being aware of this importance, the RGC has the mandate to manage and use the natural resources in an environmentally sustainable way. Thus we have adopted laws with regard to the protection of environment and natural resources, as well as the land law, the law on forestry and fisheries, etc. All these are the response to needs, and guarantee the effectiveness and sustainability.

Indeed, the Coastal Area Resources Centers are the focal points in capacity building. It is a forum for

exchange and dialogue, and where the technical knowledge, lessons and experiences can be shared for the purpose of identification of priority issues, development of strategies, plans and activities, and the education and dissemination to the population and public at large, through documentation, research and actual implementation through learning and replication. Furthermore, proper and reliable information on scientific and technological developments will contribute to appropriate planning and decision making process with the aim to enhance social standards and preservation of environment in coastal areas of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the National Committee for Coastal Area Management, that during the past 7 years it has tightened its cooperation efforts in the administration of the protected coastal areas, - including the prevention of illegal activities along the coastal areas, the improvement in term of de-concentration giving greater power and rights to provinces/cities in the management of coastal areas, as well as the delegation of power in using natural resources, with the objective to increase living standards and strengthen the people participation in the establishment of local communities within the coastal areas, thus promoting sustainable use of natural resources. As we all aware, the Kingdom of Cambodia is well located geographically, with the total coastline of 435 km in such provinces/cities as Koh Kong, Sihanoukville, Kampot and Keap. At present, natural resources of the coastal and maritime areas greatly contribute to economic development activities, including "boat tourism", transportation of goods, port and fishery activities, development of industrial and tourism sectors and other opportunities for people to earn incomes. Furthermore, the development of coastal areas is considered by RGC

as one of the priorities in our economic development strategy, which is focusing on the welfare and sustainable development of natural environment for our future generation.

In this context, in the implementation of the socio-economic development plan with the objective to reduce poverty among our people, the RGC has given a high priority to a sustainable management and use of resources, which is the most important factor to ensure balance and continuity of development including preservation of environment in coastal and sea areas. In the past, RGC has been invested considerable resources to promote economic development and improve the living standards and population welfare. Indeed, this development effort needs support from bilateral international donors in short run. However, in the future it will largely depend on sustainable use of natural resources. In the Second 5-year Socio-economic Development Plan 2001-2005, for all these reasons, there is a clear emphasis on the need to ensure a balance between economical, cultural and environmental objectives as well as between economic effectiveness and equity in the use of those resources. We have raised key strategies, such as preventing environmental and natural resources depletion, developing and implementing legal frameworks regarding natural resource management, increasing human capacity in the management of natural resources and planning and implementing of land management framework to provide the poor people with a proper land, taking into consideration the rights of local communities in using public and common resources. In the framework of all these strategies and policies, the RGC recognizes the linkage between poverty reduction strategy and the environmental protection as well as the preservation

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of natural resource. Furthermore, the RGC also recognizes the importance of civil society responsibility in ensuring the best practice of environmental protection and environmental development.

The RGC profoundly understands that in order to resolve the environmental problems of coastal and marine areas, such as sea contamination, illegal fishing, deterioration of biodiversity, shortage of clean water, declined quality of environment, improper use of land and so on, it requires harmonization and coordination among partner institutions, and cooperation between public and private sectors including participation of local community in taking responsibility and also mobilizing efforts at community, city and provincial authority levels and at national level, in the environment protection and natural resource management. Indeed, if there is no participation and support from the people, environment in coastal and marine areas cannot be assured of its balance. Moreover, in order to assure the efficiency and sustainability of the protection of coastal and marine areas, we must continue our utmost efforts in implementing and preparing laws, regulations and policy on coastal zones and in strengthening the capacity within each institution as well as building capacity of public officials in all level of the administration. At the same time, all these tasks have broad dimension which requires participation and cooperation from all partners at national, provincial/municipal level, especially from local community, civil society and donor community in order to ensure the environmental continuity of the use of resources and development in coastal and marine zone for the benefit of current and future generations.

Within the framework of international sea environment policy, Cambodia has entered into several inter-

national conventions such as "International Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution" in 1994, "International Convention on Climate Change" in 1995, "International Convention on Biological Diversity" and "International Convention on Wetlands" in 1999. Furthermore, the RG has cooperated at regional level with "East Asian Seas Coordination Organization" in 1995 and has joined the "Joint Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in East Asian Seas" in 2003. At the same time, the RGC highly appreciates the efforts in active participation and the important supports provided to Cambodia by bilateral and multilateral donors, the private sector, civil society and NGOs. These participation and supports are of great importance in preventing the degradation of natural resource, especially in assuring that response to development needs would not destroy natural resource and that high quality environment is preserved. On one hand, main strategies are to build capacity of state institutions in planning and implementing programs for the management of long term sustainable development. Specifically, in many environment management projects, we have implemented training and human resource development programs, planning for provinces/cities in coastal zone, establishing communities for natural resource management and developing environmental, socio-economic information management system of coastal and maritime area.

I take this opportunity to appeal to all the fishermen in maritime areas to stop illegal fishing activities including the using of equipments that are harmful to maritime resources, – such as using fishing net in the areas with less than 20 meters depth, destroying corals using explosives, razing sea grass, cutting mangrove forest and ruining fish shelters. All

these destruction have degraded biodiversity resource and ecological system in coastal and maritime area as well as destroyed environment quality. Likewise, sources of maritime pollution are broad: industrial factories, oil transport, solid and liquid wastes from houses and hotels as well as tourism development. This would have great impact on environment quality that requires preservation and protection for clean environment in order to preserve well-being and prosperity of people.

In addition, the Ministry of Environment with other concerned ministries and local authorities must pay greater attention to protecting and preventing the above mentioned sources of destruction. so that the "Coastal Zone Resource Center" which is to be inaugurated today would contribute to scientific and technical environment research. This will surely contribute to the national economic development and poverty reduction, especially to the objective of decentralization and deconcentration which are mutually supporting and consistent with policy of the Royal Government.

On behalf of the Royal Government and the Cambodian people and my own self, I propose Your Excellency Ambassador or the Representative of the Kingdom of Denmark to convey our thanks and profound gratitude to the Royal Government and People of Denmark for your contribution to the creation of these "Coastal Zone Resource Centers" in the four provinces and cities, as well as the support to human resource development ensuring sustainable use of natural resource and national development... The Cambodian people will surely engrave this kind gesture in their mind and heart forever... The Ministry of Environment will successfully implement human development plan and coastal/maritime zone environment research for public and national benefit, in order to contribute to rapid

poverty reduction and integration of Cambodia to regional and international community, with the potential both in term of quantity and quality.../

10 April 2004**Addressing the Conferment of the Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science**

Today, I have a great honor and pleasure to be conferred an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Political Science by the Irish International University of the European Union which is based in Dublin of the United Kingdom. On this wonderful occasion, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and my own self, may I extend my deepest gratitude to the Irish International University, the Review and Evaluation Committee, as well as to all the Professors who are the faculty members, for the great honor the University conferred on me.

Indeed, this great honor also belongs to the Royal Government, the People and the entire Kingdom of Cambodia. Moreover, this proudful honor also highlight that we must work hard and make sacrifice for the cause of strengthened peace, stability, democracy, respect for human rights and human dignity, as well as sustainable and equitable development in Cambodia. With this great honor and the responsibility of the Royal Government and People of Cambodia in implementing far-reaching reforms in priority sectors, as well as with the blessing of His Majesty NORODOM SIHANOUK, the King of Cambodia and Her Majesty NORODOM MONINEATH SIHANOUK, the Queen of Cambodia, Cambodia has stepped forward with strong hope for future and confidence on the path of reform and development, progress and prosperity for our people.

Cambodia has invested considerable time and efforts over the past decades, overcoming uncountable threats, difficulties and obstacles to rehabilitate and rebuild the country from the devastation left by the genocidal regime and decades of war, and thus far achieving full peace and firm economic stability.

Specifically, in our effort to overcome obstacles on this difficult path over the past 5 years, we have faced many challenges. As a result, with our strong determination and steadfast implementation of the "Triangle Strategy", we have created a favorable environment and prerequisites for Cambodia, both domestically and internationally, to step forward on the path of reforms and sustainable development, with strong hope and confidence.

Through our win-win policy, we have successfully overcome all the challenges and constraints thus attaining considerable and proudful results which are now having positive impacts on the fabrics of the society, the culture of peace, safety, social order and respect for democracy, human rights and dignity, as well as on the cooperation and development.

In a shortest period, if one compared with the long history of any developed country, without hesitation we can show to our international partners that Cambodia is now capable to participate in the regional and world affairs in equal footing. All these have opened up a "new horizon of opportunities" that provides the hope for future through increased confidence on Cambodia, – resulting in the increased trade, investment and tourism inflows into Cambodia.

These are the factors contributing to job creation and income generation for Cambodian workers, – thus finally help reducing the poverty and increasing the welfare of people. All these indeed present the success of the RGC in implementing the "Triangle Strategy", which is also an ample "diamond opportunity" for Cambodia to promote long term development, – a firm foundation for the Royal Government to move forward into its third mandate.

It is true that we cannot address all the consequences of war, the genocide and internal conflicts which had destroyed Cambodia in almost 3 decades, in a period of four years, or in one day or one month or in even one year. We need more time and efforts than that.

Thus, the next government will really need to maintain the momentum of development and advance on the achievements Cambodian people have difficultly attained so far. Thus from this point of view, further strengthening of the momentum of reforms which have been successful to be fast tracked, expanded and deepened, will be very crucial for the sustainability of the development and the speed of poverty reduction. In this context, while poverty reduction is needed to ensure social equity and justice, it has also become the art of "an innovative and lively economic management".

Thus, the most challenge faced by the government in its development efforts is poverty reduction, and especially the improvement in the quality of life of the fast growing Cambodian population. Moreover, the Royal Government is aware of and considers the poverty as a serious economic loss which is morally unacceptable and causes separation in the society. Thus on this philosophy, we have introduced the poverty reduction strategies, which has the following key elements:

1. *Further strengthen peace, security, stability and social order through specific measures, aimed at improving the rule of law, protection of human rights and democracy, in order to create such a favorable political and security environment for the long term sustainable development.*

2. *Ensure long term sustainable, higher economic growth, between 6-7% annually.*
3. *Equitable distribution of fruits from the growth among the have and have not, the urban and the rural, and men and women.*
4. *Ensure sustainable management and use of natural resource, and sustainable environment.*

In the context of the above mentioned poverty reduction strategy, it is clear that the next government will continue fine-tune and sharpen its policies on the path of reforms in all sectors for the development and poverty reduction. On behalf of the Irish International University's Honorary PhD Candidates, I wish to deeply and most respectfully thank His Majesty NORODOM SIHANOUK, the King of Cambodia and Her Majesty NORODOM MONINEATH SIHANOUK, the Queen of Cambodia, who are the source of endless knowledge for me; and I wish them longevity to be with us all. I wish also to dedicate the today honor to the Senate and the National Assembly, in particular, to Samdech CHEA SIM and Samdech HENG SAMRIN and other CPP Leaders who have provided advice and guidance for my actions. I would like to pass on the honor of this award to all my advisers and assistants, including civil servants at all levels, RCAF personnel and all Cambodian people, who have been supporting my leadership and the place where I have learned a lot.

I wish also to dedicate this achievement to my deceased mother and my beloved father, as well as to my brothers and sisters, that all what I have today indeed belong to them and to the entire our family. I would like also share this pleasure today with my wife, BUNRANY HUN SEN, and my children who are always with me, in every moment of my life, both in the most difficult or

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