

Techo-Prayuth Joint Press Conference

(19 December 2015 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)



19 December 2015 — Samdech Techo Hun Sen gave joint press conference with HE Prayuth Chan-ocha, Prime Minister of Thailand in Bangkok

Second Joint Cabinet Retreat Falls on 65th Diplomatic Relations Anniversary

Please allow me to express my sincere thanks to Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha for a cordial welcome for me and my colleagues. It is not a coincidence that we have arranged this official visit as well as the second joint Cabinet Retreat on the celebration of the 65th anniversary of the diplomatic relation establishment between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand.

It is a foundation day that illustrates fruitful cooperation between the two Kingdoms.

I am so proud and satisfied with progresses made in cooperation with each other in the past. I agree with what HE Prayuth Chan-ocha had said in his speech.

We have covered so much progress and we still have so much untapped potential for expanding our cooperation. Take for instance, the trade

volume of 2014 has stretched into an area of 5 billion USD, in which 500 million USD is the Cambodian export to Thailand and 4,500 million USD is the volume that Thailand did to Cambodia.

The Ministry of Trade of the two countries have issued a target with supports of the two Royal Government's to achieve a two-way 15 billion USD trade volume by 2020.

In order to realize this objective, to have connectivity and transportation that facilitates trade flow is very important.

We have agreed on opening more border passing points where the number of forty trucks crossing everyday will be increasing to 500.

As HE Prayuth Chan-ocha has said, Thailand will take care of the construction charge and I will take care of writing a song about our friendship.

I think I will choose Ramvong as the rhythm for the song as we all are familiar and can

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RULE Diploma Presenting Ceremony

(28 December 2015 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

... I am so happy to return and join all of you for the graduation and diploma presenting ceremony for 3,769 graduates of Royal University of Law and Economics. It is my fifteenth presence here since I started coming to preside over graduation ceremony in 1980s. I am so pleased with efforts made by the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, in general and particularly those of RULE in the past recent years. It is true that what we have been doing together from scratch up to the present is a sacrifice for our nation and people. Our sacrifices — professors, students who are in their

study and pursuing works, are invaluable. Few people, though, have disgraced Cambodian diploma to be of no value. It is a grave insult, not only for students in pursuit of their study and/or already in career development after 1979, but also for parents, professors, teachers who have done many great things for this country, including those who support them too. For us who value local education, we have made great efforts in taking part, especially family, to contribute and share whatever they have so that their children, grandchildren, husband, wife to have
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Inaugurating Tatay Hydropower Plant

(23 December 2015 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

... I am so happy to be able to join with you again in today's ceremony to put into official operation the Tatay Hydropower plant that produces 246 MW. I remember that in this year alone, the country has received 584 MW of electricity from Koh Kong province. On 12 January 2015, we have put into operation the Russei Jrum Kraom hydropower plant, which puts out 330 MW power. In just days from now when the year 2015 will be ending, we have today Tatay Hydropower plant that adds another 246 MW, making a combined output of 584 MW to supply electricity not only for Koh Kong province but to Phnom Penh and various other provinces.

As explained in the report by Minister of Mines and Energy,

HE Suy Sem, and elaboration by the China National Heavy Machinery Corporation vice councilor, on progress and process of development of this huge project, on 12 January 2011, I came and witnessed the closing of the river to mark the final stage of the construction of the dam. There are pictures here. Among those present, brother Say Phu Thong who is not here for his health and former China's Ambassador HE Pan Guang Xue already left Cambodia. However, with the progress we make here, we have created a favorable condition
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education and possess knowledge. You may have noted that every time (there is graduation and diploma presenting ceremony) we always have family members waiting to take pictures with newly graduates in uniforms.

Moving Far from “Knowing More Teach Those Who Do Not Know”

I am so proud with what we have achieved and are happening in the pity land of ours. After 1979, how many intellectuals and teachers did we have left? Now, we have parted far away from the starting position, where students took their classes under empty Buddhist monks' residences or under people's houses. They learnt at night under light from torch and teachers were not paid. It was the most difficult time when we applied this theory of those who know more teach those who know less and those who know less teach those who know nothing. Now we have come to a new phase of education. We have now classified what level do teachers of 12 years of education plus two years of pedagogy training (or 12+2) teach and those who have bachelor or master do? It has grown in response to evolution of the country and its need. We are working still to raise quality of education. RULE has contributed in human resource training and education from 1982-83 through to 2014-15. It has enrolled now 13,767 students. According to report of the university and by Minister of Education, Youth, and Sports, 95.5% of those with bachelor degree are getting jobs after leaving their studies, while 95.7% of those with master degree do. I hope the rest will continue to find jobs as we have more jobs created in our country.

I just learnt the other day that one of my daughters in law

who graduated with a Ph D in Public Health in UK after achieving a Master Degree of the same subject in Boston, USA, has taken courses for a Ph D in Political Science in Cambodia. Some have not gone that far but dare say other people's education is not valuable. I must applause for the efforts made by the university and we have here former students of this university – HE Bin Chhin (Deputy Prime Minister), HE Var Kimhong, HE Hang Chuon Naron, who did his Ph D abroad and knows four foreign languages. He served as translator when Prime Minister of Russia conducted a visit to Cambodia. I am picking up this issue because I have the wish to defend honor and dignity of those who did their study in the country and are insulted.

Success Comes from Own Efforts

I would take this chance to express my sincere appreciation to efforts of Buddhist monks as well as our students who have made efforts to gain knowledge in local universities. I must share my thought with you that there is no success to gain without personal effort, especially the fact that no one can infuse knowledge from one person to the other. Growing a tree, one needs between 5 and 6 years to get the fruits. However, to educate a human being, one needs up to 20 years. Take for instance, you had to finish your 12 years secondary school level and you have to take another four years in tertiary education to get a bachelor degree, which has taken you in all 16 years. To get a Master, in all you have to spend 18 years and more for Ph D degree. That is the difference between growing a tree and a human being in education. However, with own efforts and support given by families, parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, husbands

and wives, you have travelled this far.

To achieve this, it is also important to have political framework (on education and related issue) set out by the Royal Government and ruling party. The ruling party allowed liberalization of education, where state education institutions can provide education service for students with scholarships as well as fee-paying ones. Many of you here are fee-paying students. There is only certain percentage of those who learn with scholarship provided by the state. If we were to follow no liberalization of education service policy, universities might have closed. Moreover, students who have finished their studies at secondary school level, where would they go for continuation of their studies? We have given them chances to continue with their education and I hope everything will function synchronously in response to demand of our nation's progress.

People to Pay No More in Using Veng Sreng Road

Please allow me to take this chance to say on one point. Last night, a few people who were on Facebook might have learnt already. Though it was a rather hasty decision to make, I think it is a correct one, though. The Veng Sreng road has its commencement since the time when HE Chhim Seak Leng was mayor of Phnom Penh. Three BOT agreements signed in those days – Veng Sreng, Sar La and 598 roads. I canceled the 598 road first. I then did the same for Sar La road. The Veng Sreng road, despite new agreement made and signed, it was worse. Firstly, I posted one message at 930 pm. I told people that I just learnt that people who used the road, either passing by or living along it, had to pay 1,100 Riel every time they go in or out or they had to purchase a sticker or a pass from company at a

price of 132,000 Riel. The authority told me 40,000 Riel, though.

I wrote that no matter what price it is, people must not pay. After posting, I keep monitoring and I saw that there were more than 10,000 “Likes” and hundreds of “Comments.” I called up (Phnom Penh Mayor) Pa Socheatvong and Minister of Economy and Finance, HE Aun Ponnmoniroth. Some commented that the road investment was about ten million USD so (the state) should allow people to use it free of charge. It was hard to respond with a decision. Some said people living along the road may have some 300 cars only but some might have in mind that though they are passing by, they would also stand to get a chance to use it free too. I then decided to take the investment back and return construction cost to the company. I decided starting from 1200 hours last night people cease to pay for using the road Veng Sreng. Early morning the next day, I posted another message, telling people in the whole country who travel using Veng Sreng road, to pay no fee. I also told them what I wanted in return is for our people to respect traffic law and rules to avoid accidents. Maybe our Buddhist monks can help by telling people, wherever they go for Buddhist rituals, to respect traffic law which is in force from 1 January 2016. It is a strict law aims to protect people from lethal traffic accidents [...] I hope that those companies with containers who had to pay every time they move through Veng Sreng to use money meant to be road fee for better living condition of workers. Truck and/or factory owners who used to set a sum of money as road fee for their transportation and who benefit from this decision must save road fee for workers, for instance a banquet

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for them on every May 1. There is one other point that HE Pa Socheatvong will have to discuss and sort out with the company. Some have already purchased stickers/pass for travelling on the Veng Sreng road. Please return money to them and return stickers to company. Last night I also instructed HE Aun Pommoniroth to lead a meeting on use of national road 4. As for the national road 4, it is complicated. People who live on either side of the toll booths have had to pay one time to go to the other side and another to come back. I just suggest that we will take counting of number of vehicles and perhaps issue them a special permit. As for people going from Phnom Penh to Kompong Som, they will continue to pay. Please organize a meeting to study this and define policy for those who live along BOT roads.

People Should Know What They Comment About

Last night, there was one thing I could not believe it. Some people, when I was in the UN (General Assembly) holding a phone, criticized “while everyone is paying attention to the UN meeting, he is with Facebook.” I was surprised that they could find thing to bother me. The other day there was a spread of news that Hun Sen patted Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha’s back and he shook his head. I just patted his back to remind him for translation. They said Prayuth shook his head because I patted his back. For this young man, Ieng Sanghar, I asked him to use polite language and comment on what the topic is.

I must tell you that since I decided to go into Facebook, do not take me wrong, I must be well prepared and should be able to know who I am talking to. I was talking about road but he brought in issue on salary and “chasing Yuon (Vietnam

out.” I just warn you, this is what Hun Sen about. I would not bother if I do not use social media. However, once I am in, please do not get angry while we play with each other. Some people bothered me again and again, when I sent a few slaps, he got bewildered. “He should not expect (that I would sign for his pardon again)” I declare. Should I do that for so and so, I would have maimed my hand. The policy of “either you or me” comes from you. It is “already over, my dear.” After many returning slaps, he talked about the fact that only Khmer would resolve Khmer problem, but he went to ask Europe to suspend aid to Cambodia. I did it once and I did it again twice but not the third time [...] I cannot accept repetition (of low act).

Use of Facebook for Information Feedback

I also ask Facebook fans to make their comments easy to understand and there was a case in Peam Koh Sna. Peam Koh Sna is my birthplace commune. Someone came in and commented in my Facebook page that “rice have gone dead in drought and requested for a five-decimeter diameter pump.” I ordered governor of the province to have a look. However, I was in doubt as that was my birthplace and I knew it very well. When they asked for a five-decimeter pump, from which water reservoir are they pumping? When we found him, he thought of pumping water from the Mekong to irrigate rice cultivation three times a year. It was too much. I could take decision to resolve matters when they are pragmatic. There is another man, 71 years old, requested a look into unresolved conflict of infringement on road since 1990s. He sounded his displeasure to me on Facebook. I sent it to HE Pa Socheatvong through Whatsapp for further research.

I am not a Facebook Prime Minister but I need information and feedbacks from all sources. I have Facebook, Twitter, Website and I receive information from officials, people at large and even from opposition [...] I would soon send through Line, SMS and other social media which is my real Facebook account as there have been many fake ones. We claimed to Facebook, Inc. to close them down. One closed down, new one created and posted more irrational message. Good people who support Hun Sen would never do that [...]

Circulation on Use of Water for Irrigation

As a third point, I wish to clarify one thing. I issued a circulation instructing relevant institutions about use of water for irrigation in accordance with low level of Mekong flood this year. The water level was low not only in Cambodia but also in others. Take for instance the river Lancang in China also was low. In Vientiane, bordering by river with Thailand, the Mekong was low that people could walk across. There is not much water in reservoirs. That is why in the circulation, it appeals to people to cultivate dry season rice only once in order to keep water for other use. In 1994, you may have remembered that buffaloes did not have water to survive for a period of about six months. Cultivating flood recession rice is one thing but to grow dry season rice would take up to 12,000 cubic meters of water for one hectare.

It is in this knowledge we are seeking our people’s understanding to diversify their dry season rice cultivation to other crops or vegetables that is consuming less amount of water. In Thailand, people are told to grow no rice, and in certain places, they would reserve water only for people’s use.

That is why by issuing this circular, we need our people to understand that there would be demand for water for human, animals and trees.

Culture Dialogue Guaranteed by Law

Just now, I slipped words off my mouth about maiming my hand [...] but it is a good thing to remind him from afar. I said so because some people have gone around saying that “their boss gains votes each time he is to be jailed, one time and again. For the third time, he would get the power.” If I were to do so, I do not need my hand anymore. I am sending a message so you cannot go on lying people. Which foreign country would pressure Cambodia? Cambodia is not hostage to a few people. In the near future, political parties will prop up level of culture of dialogue. I would affirm that dialogue culture is to be guaranteed by law. Whoever violates the law must be charged. Everyone must abide by the law [...] that I went silent for a while, some analysts seem to have no work to do. As I have said it now, I am sure today Free Asia, VOA, France Inter will be quick to comment. Some even said I lacked virtue. I went live and reminded that when they got off the car pointed to the picture of three people and proclaimed them all, especially the middle one, as thieves and selling the country, was that what you called virtue? They compared me to Gaddafi, who was shot to death, was that a virtue? They called me thief, was that a virtue? Analysts should be independent and neutral.

One Nationality for Top Leaders

Forthcoming law will define, let me share, that head and members of the National Election Committee must be of Cambodian citizen only. I am

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tion for the country through realizing its prosperously economic development.

I would take this opportune moment to deliver my appreciation to relevant institutions of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Cambodian Authority of Electricity, the Electricity of Cambodia, the Koh Kong provincial authority and the Cambodian armed forces for taking their active collaboration in this project. I also convey my sincere appreciation and thank to the China National Heavy Machinery Corporation and Cambodia Tatay Hydropower Ltd.

Hydropower and Socio-economic Impacts

It was not an easy job to work on this construction project. In the past, we would not know that places with such terrain and condition could utilize to produce electricity. When technological advancement was not there, we did not know that open space like this could generate electricity. We have come to this stage when there is a breakthrough in technology. Profit that we have obtained here is not for solely Koh Kong province or the achievement of electricity sector alone but covers every socio-economic aspect. The world is talking about energy and food security as one.

As for development, take for instance tourism, we have now come to the time when tourists need air-conditioned rooms. Hotel without air-conditioned room would not be tourists' choice. Generation of electricity here is not a matter of electric production alone. It has served a wide range of sectors such as tourism or banking ... everything. Electric power will serve need for energy in industry or agriculture, where pumping water in irrigation is one example.

We are now talking electricity. Our people may have remembered though the time when we all had to use kerosene for lighting. Prior to that, our people went through tree sap and fish oil for lighting purpose. In the past, we went searching for whatever was available for lighting. Younger generation people would not know that. Some of you could have been born in that era. That this month of year with breeze from northern hemisphere, there is abundance of fish and people use fish oil to light the night up. Torch made from sap that people took from large trees, you may have noted some with holes on them. Now, torch making and selling is not in business anymore. No one would need torch.

An Arbitrage of Electricity Meters

There is a big demand for electricity generation. HE Suy Sem already told you that in the past, Cambodia produced only a few hundred MW of electricity. Phnom Penh consumed less than 50 MW. At present time, Phnom Penh consumes about 900 MW. It has been days now that cool temperature settles down on Cambodia. This has led, according to HE Keo Ratanak, to electric consumption of 100 MW lower, only 800 MW. I think I should bring this matter of electricity meter up. I would suggest the Electricity of Cambodia to seek for an arbitrage to resolve issue regarding electricity meter. Electric reading has always been a matter, especially in the hot weather season. For the same air-conditioner, in the cooler weather season, it consumes for example 10 KVA but in hotter season, it goes up to 15 KVA.

To resolve this issue I urge a search for any company – Japanese, US, Chinese, Korean, to measure the electricity meter and make sure people are no longer holding conflict

opinion on that anymore. I hope our people reserve their understanding on this matter as in cooler weather we tend to use less air-conditioner than in hotter one. It is a very normal cause. However, while we had a rather cool weather, yesterday it rained three times. As of this morning, the weather is no longer cool and I feel sweating already.

Sacrifice for More Interests from Hydropower

I am so happy with this investment. It is true there is nothing that one would gain without paying a price. In order to gain 246 MW of electricity we have a price to pay. Over 2,000 hectares of our forest is under water. We have to make a clear decision whether we sacrifice between 2,000 and 3,000 land in order to change them into electricity to answer to the country's need and creates jobs for hundred of thousands of people or million even, or not? Extremist environmentalists always oppose to development. One best possible way perhaps is to bring them torches and to disconnect electricity from their houses. Still, bringing them torches, those environmentalists will criticize us for taking sap from trees to make them. Opposition will go on and they would not care to give you encouragement.

In another instance, would we dare to change to nuclear power generation? The other day that the Russian Prime Minister was here ... there was a talk about possibility of nuclear power generation in Cambodia.

Would we or would we not accept it? There will be tremendous demonstration against it. Not only from our people but also from Thailand, Vietnam, etc., as any incident in Cambodia would not leave them safe ... Japan had accident in 2011 and the former Soviet Union in 1985 at Chernobyl.

Need of Electricity Up

The last day of water festival, most part of the country went blackout. I could not get a TV to go live. I then had to talk to our people live via Facebook. There was comment that it was good that the Russian Prime Minister already left or we would have been disgraced. I responded that he would not because Russian had an explosion of nuclear power at Chernobyl and about 5 million homes in the US and Canada went without electricity as the national electric line of Canada failed. I then had HE Keo Ratanak to explain to people what actually happened. As of now, demand for electricity increases day after day. Every household is in need of electricity. Where national electric line does not cover yet, people pay up to 3,000 Riel or 2,500 Riel for a KVA provided by private generators. Some may have their own generator. That consumes a lot of fossil fuel. I thank our good partner – China, for our two countries' cooperation. China produced electricity of Kirirom I, Kirirom III, Komjai, Tatay, Atay, Russei Jrum Kraom and Sesan, which will add another 400 MW by end of 2017.

Three Recommendations

I would take this opportune moment to indicate a roadmap framework. In fact the Electricity of Cambodia, the Electricity Authority and the Ministry of Mines and Energy already set their goals but I just want to add some more tasks in this sector. There are three works to pay attention to:

Firstly, **expand distribution system**. If we do not have distribution system, it is no difference to producing a car while there is no road to drive. We have been obliged by contract to purchase electricity produced by the plant. In order to have distribution system, we

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need capital. I am calling on all partners, which include China, India and other private stakeholders, to expand distribution system and national level transmission lines to sub-national level. We get to bring it to some provinces that the national electricity has not yet covered and on to people's homes in villages in order to cut down dependence on high-price electricity from private generators.

Secondly, **strengthen national transmission lines**. We have experienced the other day when our weak national transmission lines could not survive cut of electricity in Vietnam leading to a blackout in the whole country. We have a national line along the national road 3 from Preah Sihanouk to Phnom Penh. We want another line along the national road 4 from Phnom Penh to Preah Sihanouk to alternate cut off on one line and we will have the other to secure. Maybe Ambassador Bu Jianguo will inform HE Xi Jinping or HE Li Keqiang to take Cambodia's plea for more capital into consideration. We have signed to receive some 100 million USD from France for transmission line between Kompong Som and Tatay.

Thirdly, **implement program to lower electricity prices**. Some countries have adjusted their electricity price from step one up to two and three, while we are working downward from step nine to eight, seven and six. Price of electricity relates directly to production competition and people's living condition. We aim to get benefit for people who consume 50 kVA and below. First, we ensure that workers in Phnom Penh will benefit and later people in various towns where workers stay. We are working to lower price for those who consume less to help them with save expenses.

Cambodia in Peace, Stability and Development

As HM the King is about take off from Vientiane to return to Phnom Penh, I am in a hurry to let the helicopter take me to the International Airport of Phnom Penh at Pochentong and change my dress to receive HM the King on his return. I think I have this much to say and for the end of 2015, we have this Tatay hydropower plant as a present for people not only in Koh Kong province but also in Pursat and further on to Battambang, Banteay Meanjei, Siemreap and Phnom Penh too.

I have no political message whatsoever. The most important message of all is Cambodia is in peace, stability, and development. Cambodia is not in any political crisis. Who would think there is a crisis, it would be up to them. It is his or her crisis. People of the whole country are happy ... Cambodia, I affirm, is in peace, stability and development ...

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the Kizuna bridge of Tunle Bet comune, Tbong Khmum district, formerly Kompong Cham province, currently Tbong Khmum province.

Samdech Techo said "it was here that I was seriously wounded and maimed my left eye. It was painful when surgeons took my damaged wound out ... one of my eyes was gone."

Remembering this painful experience Samdech Techo advised that "that was because of war created by former generation of politicians and many either died or maimed, myself also included" and said "we must defend peace that was so difficult to achieve" ...

❖ Peaceful and Stable Cambodia Develops

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the 246-

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A Visit to Kruosar Thmey Disable Children

(22 December 2015 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Working On/According to Agreement

Today, grandpa and grandma are here to see grandchildren. Grandpa does not like to promise but to work out an agreement and implement it. As far as promise is concerned, some did it but fail to keep it. As for agreement, many have implemented. Some have said they would not cause any trouble on us but they did. As for grandpa and grandma, we have an agreement with you to meet twice a year. Last April we met once. Now, it is almost end of the year, we meet again. I think we have come here today to pay what we have promised to you in 2015. We still have what we promise to do in 2016, 2017, 2018, and on, twice a year.

Disable Persons Use Social Network Too

We are so happy to see you today and to see that you have grown up year after year. I have noticed that some of the small kids have grown higher. I must say that among our leaders, some officials are not familiar with information technology like Whatsapp, Telegram, and Line not to mention Facebook or Twitter. As I can see now some of the disable children here, even the blind ones, know how to use Facebook to like or comment on grandpa's account. When we broadcast live, they also can listen to voice as he has a special program in English. That is wonderful.

As you can see now that social networking is not only for normal people to use but also for disable people. The problem is we need to provide them with training. We brought them in and raised them to allow them chance to get educated and with education, they could use to acquire skills in informatics.

Do Not Disgrace Disable Persons

There have been some bad words (on disable people). I am calling on our citizen to provide pity and love to disable people. I am using "we and our" as the term. It may be us, our or their sons. I have taken more than enough insult over my "blind eye." They called me "the blind." As a one eyed man and I am Prime Minister, they insulted me. It is a serious insult. I have told my assistants not to remove comments that called me "the blind." We must leave it there and find a way to educate them not to use such coarse language anymore. What if the blind ones are you, your grandchildren, how are you going to feel?

I wish to use social network for moral education. Let them comment and scold us handicaps. I am sure their parents would not want them to be this rebellious and immoral calling other people by their handicapping conditions. It is so unfortunate. If anyone educate younger people to use their lives this way, young or old, of scolding other people, I am sure they will turn to be neither good citizen nor able leader.

As you know, some of the handicap children have educated themselves to bachelor and master degrees and get themselves jobs. One of them has a job in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Some of them are absent today because they have jobs now. I hope that you will do your best to study.

Three Events in One Day for Disable Children

We are meeting in the same day with disable children in three different places – in Siem Reap, (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National De-

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fense) HE Tia Banh and Madame is leading the ceremony there and in Battambang province, (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior) Samdech Kralar Haom Sar Kheng and Madame. Particularly, in Kompong Cham province, Minister of Information HE Khieu Kanharith and Madame are doing many things to help disable children.

As we are meeting here today, I would urge Mr. Arminjon to discuss with the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports. We have enrolled our teachers here (into the payroll staff of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports) and we must continue to implement what we have agreed upon with regard to management framework. I learn that we have here today the presence of those from the Malis organization. We inaugurated their offices as Malis centre here and on 25 December 2015, I will accompany my wife to this Hopeless Person organization. We also have those coming from ASPECA, which in all we have 954 children [...]

Implementing What Has Been Agreed

Actually, I owe our children here not twice a year but every month because we are supplying on a monthly basis money and rice. As of this year, my involvement with Kruosar Thmey is twenty years. I did it since 1995. We are working with each other 20 years already. It has not been a promise but an agreement to implement. Here it is different from a promise.

However, an agreement can be nullified should no one implements it. Mostly it is politicians, who do not implement the agreement or disrespect their promises. I do not like promise but I implement what I have agreed to do. I do not mean to say anything between the lines. It is just a true thing.

May TV Stations Include Braille in Their Programs

I convey my special thank to the management, especially leaders of the Kruosar Thmey organization, such as Mr. Arminjon and others for their efforts to contribute with the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports and the Ministry of Social Affairs to do a very good job to respond to our children's need.

I thank every teacher for taking care of our children. It would not have been an easy job to get this far. I thank the various TV stations for including Braille in their program so our disable children can learn or be informed. I also need to appeal to other TV stations to increase information sharing to disable people, especially those with speaking and listening inability. I am sure those who are blind could hear and listen to the programs but Braille should be on TV programs.

I am calling on TV stations on numerous occasions already. Some have taken the jobs seriously and some do not. I also know that those TV stations are still making profit from running their news program with Braille. However, some of them just do not do it. I am very keen to get our disable children to learn information quickly as other people do. I notice that some of them are even better informed.

Some people neglect reading news or information. They do not watch TV or read newspaper. When they are in a group, sometimes they find themselves uninformed. These people cannot be leaders. Leaders cannot go without information.

Please Stay Away from Drug and Social Disgrace

I thank those of you who have involved in providing love for our grandchildren so for them to be able to go on. I hope they will make effort in their study. Though we are disables or

Visiting Saving Desperate Children and Adults

25 December 2015 — Unofficial Selection & Translation

A Meeting of Three Religions

Today I am so happy to be able to join with my wife and other leaders in attending this event of Saving Desperate Children and Adults Organization (SDCAO). My wife visited this place several times before. It was a good thing that she accepted to reschedule her visit this time to 25 December instead of 26 December (to allow me to come with her). Changing from 26 to 25 December, three things are happening coincidentally. Firstly, it is a Christmas day for all Christians. Around three in the afternoon, I will post my Christmas greeting message as scheduled. Secondly, it is also a full moon day of the month of Mikkase, which is the Buddhist fast day. It is rare that Christmas and the Buddhist fast day happens coincidentally together. Today is Friday. It is customary that our Muslims are going to the Mosques. All three religions are meeting today.

No Discrimination in Cambodia

Just now Grandma Mari's report has really excited me. She recalled her memory of fifty- five years ago at which time I was about nine years of

handicaps, we must prove that it is just physical and not our mental conditions. Let us make efforts. I am asking you to stay away from drug or other practices that are a disgrace to our society. Though you could comment in social media, please refrain from scolding other people and it would not be Cambodian social moral. As we are approaching in just days ahead the ending of 2015 and beginning of 2016, may I wish everyone, especially our grandchildren the four Buddhist blessing ...■

age. It was between 1952 and 1961. Her love for Cambodia has continued and finally she chose to come here. Her statement that she expects finally rest in Cambodian soil has moved my feeling. However, I am asking her not to leave us anywhere. Taking birth, being old and ill, and dying is a normal life cycle for human beings. No matter the person is a Buddhist, a Christian, or a Muslim. However, we have so many works to do here to give hope to desperate people. My wife told me things about SDCAO and I have noted when seeing with my own eyes that there are not only orphans but many vulnerable adults too. I learnt just now that there are people who has no one to depend on, HIV/AIDS carriers, especially orphans. Some who follow their tertiary education at universities are also staying here.

I am so grateful to efforts made by Grandmother Mari and please allow me to express my sincere thanks to generous people who have provided assistance through her for SDCAO. As far as I know, SDCAO has three branches – one here, one in Mongkul Borei of Banteay Meanjei and another one in Pailin. Grandmother Mari said: “We do not deserve care and consideration from Samdech and Excellencies [...]” Grandmother Mari should not say that anymore. She is now a Cambodian national and she has lived in Cambodia about 55 years. Helping each other is not a strange thing to do here. We live in a community. No matter where we are from, in Cambodia, as she had said herself, there is no discrimination.

I can say that at the time that I am the Prime Minister, it is certain that every religion in the Kingdom of Cambodia –

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Buddhism, Christianity, Muslim, and other, can coexist harmoniously. However, for those who will take over from me, you may have to check if s/he will have same policy. The one who is doing it now is real. The one who promises cannot be real yet. Who are we? We belong to a national community of Cambodia and I welcome Grandma Mari to continue to live with us forever.

Approve the Request for an Access Road

I thank teachers here for taking care of children as well as vulnerable adults very well. It is a noble work. I am so happy that Grandma has made three requests to me. Firstly, she asks for 2,500 meters access road from National Road 4 to SDCAO. I have discussed it with Mayor of Phnom Penh and since this is the border between Kandal province and Phnom Penh, and the road length is in all nine Kilometers, in principle, I approve the asphalted road construction – not only 2.5 Kilometers, but of all nine Kilometers in three stages. It will be three Kilometers per stage. If we have enough money, we may do it all nine Kilometers at once. The access road is very important for people and students of Baek Chan Secondary School in general. The Phnom Penh Municipality will cover the cost of the construction.

Children Reception Building in Kandal Province

Secondly, request for opening of a children reception building in Kandal province. Let me clarify to Grandma that it would be impossible to request for opening of gambling place or brothel. However, to request for opening this kind of organization, it would not be difficult at all. The Governor of Kandal is here.

There is no need to file a re-

quest to the Ministry of Interior. SDCAO is already a registered organization and there is no need to request for the opening of a branch to the Ministry. The Governor of the province must take care of this request. Please leave the administrative matter to the provincial authority to proceed. Grandma does not have to run errand on that. The Governor will.

Secondary School Built in SDCAO

As for the third request to build a secondary level school in SDCAO for students not to have difficulty going to study in schools outside, I think it is a good idea to have a secondary school along with primary school. However, I think the size of six and half meters by 5 meters requested to me seems to be small and not according to standard (set by the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports). We should build the right size in anticipation for future need. I would suggest that we should build the standard size for secondary school and allow children of villages nearby to take up study here too.

If we do not have enough land, please look at the option of building a two-story school and I will cover the cost. I ask HE Pa Socheatvong to make an inspection to the place and figure out if we can build a two-story school there. As I will pay for the school, Grandma may use her fund to purchase other necessary stuff.

In addition to this, my wife and I had a discussion yesterday and decided to offer on a monthly basis a ton of rice and three million Riel starting from January next year. It is already 25 December now. My cabinet should send them rice and money at the beginning of the month and not the end of the month. So, in one year, we will provide 12 tons of rice and 36 million Riel to SDCAO ...

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charge as a New Year present. I am grateful to our citizen who brought this news on Facebook about their problems regarding the Veng Sreng road to my attention." After a thorough looking into the issue, Samdech Techo wrote, the Royal Government decided to buy investment of the Veng Sreng road, while "the Municipality of Phnom Penh and the private company involved will cease their fee collection as of this moment."

Samdech Techo made it clear that the decision and implementation is a 2016 New Year present for our people, while hoping that they will be happy with the news and respect traffic law ...†

❖ "Cambodian Blue Beret Peace Keeping Troop" - A Crucial Political Decision

On 24 December 2015, Samdech Techo Hun Sen reminds Cambodian people on Facebook that in between 1991 and 1993, the United Nations sent multinational forces under the name of UNTAC (or United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) to seek peace in the country. In 2006, as Prime Minister of the country, Samdech Techo recalled, "I made a crucial decision to send our troops to take part in blue berets peace keeping mission of the United Nations in many countries in the world."

"In the past, some Cambodians hold arms and left the country to places like Algeria or Morocco," he stressed. However, in those days, they were soldiers of the French army as Cambodia was under its colony. "For this time, troops, military police, physicians, and technicians taking their missions in Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, Syria, Lebanon, Central African Republic, Cyprus are the Cambodian forces coming from an independent, sovereign and UN member nation," he emphasized.

Samdech Techo thanks Buddhist monks and compatriots for their supports of the Cambodian foreign policy that he sets out and bestows his gratitude upon soldiers who are on missions with courage and responsibility. Samdech Techo expressed deep condolences with families of the soldiers who died while performing their noble missions ...†

❖ Paddy Rice Production Up, Rice Export Target Not Yet

On 10 December 2015, presiding over the ceremony to release final results of 2013 agriculture census of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Samdech Techo Hun Sen made public that the country attained its target of paddy rice production promotion, but not that of milled rice export. "We succeeded in boosting the paddy rice production plan by transforming Cambodia from a food importer to a country with some 5 million tons of paddy rice surplus or some 3 million tons of milled rice.

However, the export target of one million tons of milled rice in 2015 cannot be realized yet as only about 500,000 tons or 50 percent of the target has been exported," he said. Explaining what causes this failure, Samdech Techo Hun Sen reasoned that most investors overlooked Cambodia's potential in rice production as it used to be a food importer, pointed out lack of investment in rice mills, rice storehouses and budget to buy rice from farmers, etc.

The fact that there are many rice exporting countries, resulting in high competitions, is another reason. Nevertheless, Samdech Techo underlined that Cambodia has to maintain what it has on hand and continues to enhance capacity and help farmers reduce production costs" ...†

❖ Defend Peace for No More Death and Maimed

On 26 December 2016, from his Facebook account, Samdech Techo Hun Sen reminded people in social media about his eye's wound in the war for national liberation that "my eye was wounded at 6:15 am on 16 April 1975 at the eastern footing of

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From CNV News in December 2015

❖ Cambodia-Vietnam Border Markers 30 & 275 Inaugurated



Photo: Samdech Techo and Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung Inaugurated border marker 275 Phnom Den-Tinh Bien border gate.

Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen and his Vietnamese counterpart H.E. Nguyen Tan Dung inaugurated the border marker No. 30 and a 450-meter road portion at O' Yadav-Le Thanh international border gate in Rattanakiri, a northeastern province of Cambodia. Speaking to the Vietnamese Premier, Samdech Techo expressed his satisfaction that demarcation of land boundary between the two countries almost completes over the total common border of 1,270 Kilometers and there remains only 16.8 percent. After finishing land border demarcation, both sides will proceed to the negotiation of the maritime border demarcation, he underlined.

While expressing conviction that Cambodia and Vietnam will be able to demarcate a full maritime border without conflict, based on principles of international laws, legal norms and recognition of boundary left by the French protectorate, Samdech Techo affirmed that the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) sticks to irreversible stance of building a precise and just border with Vietnam. Samdech Techo reiterated the RGC's efforts to work with the Vietnamese government in transforming borderline between the two countries into area free of fear, in peace, harmonization, and development.

The Vietnamese Prime Minister H.E. Nguyen Tan Dung considered the inauguration reflects true determination of leaders of both nations to build a common borderline of good cooperation, peace, friendship and sustainable development. On the same day, in the afternoon, the two Premiers also inaugurated the border marker No. 275 at Phnom Den in Kirivong district, Takeo province ...†

❖ People Pay No More for Using Veng Sreng Road

On 28 December 2015, Samdech Techo Hun Sen informed Cambodian people throughout the country, especially those who reside and use the Veng Sreng road in Phnom Penh that since after midnight into 28 December, Samdech Techo decided to take back the Veng Sreng road from private company, place it under state management and allow use without paying fee anymore. Samdech Techo wrote – “Dear people living along the Veng Sreng road, I just learnt from my Facebook account about the fact that you have to pay 1,100 Riel or a sticker that costs 132,000 Riel for your cars (to get permission to use the road) ... For me, you must not pay whatever price for using the road ...”

In subsequent postings, Samdech Techo confirmed “I am giving the Veng Sreng road back to the people to use free of

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dance together. There are many more achievements we can be proud of and can do more for the interests of our two people as HE Prayut Chan-ocha already pointed out in his speech. You have witnessed just now the signing ceremony (of various cooperation papers) and the joint communiqué along with many other issues including those involving with workers and

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sure law of political party will also have to define that president of the party must be of only one Cambodian nationality. When president and members of the NEC are to be Cambodian nationals only, why not presidents of political parties? (We then have to make) President of National Assembly, the Senate, Supreme Court, General Prosecutor, head of Anti-Corruption Unit, General Auditor, etc. of Cambodian nationality too. If the person has two nationalities, s/he has to cancel one. The Cambodian People's Party has enough voices (in the National Assembly) to adopt this. It is an ending-year message.

Samdech Techo 40th Wedding Anniversary

Soon will be my fortieth wedding anniversary ... on 5 January, I will post my story in three parts. The first part will go out on Facebook on 3 January, the second part on 4 January and the last part will be on 5 January. On 5 January, which is my wedding day anniversary, I will also declare construction of more overpasses. I would just want our people learn how my wife and I had met and come through to the wedding ceremony (under the Khmer Rouge era). Our story will remind similar fates of many other couples. With greeting for progress of education sector and RULE, in particular, I wish everyone the best of 2016 ...■

human resources.

Thank Thai Government, People & Princess

At the same time, I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere thank to the Royal Thai Government and people for always providing support and assistance for the Cambodian people, especially gratitude for HRH Princess Maha Chakrei Sirindhorn for her support of projects relating to human resource training in Cambodia as well as those in Thailand.

I wish to share with you information that the third joint Cabinet Retreat will take place in the Kingdom of Cambodia next year at a convenient time at HE Prayut Chan-ocha's choice. May I wish everyone successes and thank you so much for cordially warm hospitality and friendship ...■

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megawatt Stung Tatay hydro-power plant in Thmor Bang district of Koh Kong province, Samdech Techo Hun Sen reaffirms that Cambodia is in peace, political stability, and development. “Those who think that Cambodia is in crisis, it is [in fact] their own crisis, and those who are happy are the Cambodian people throughout the country,” he asserted. While drawing a point that every development project has its own cost, he also made a point that Cambodia needs electricity to increase competitiveness, generate jobs, and develop the economy, though we lose some forests in exchange.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen appealed to development partners, mainly China, for further financial support for Cambodia's electricity distribution and transmission projects, while recommending efforts to expand energy distribution network, national transmission network, and decrease of energy prices for households whose monthly consumption of electricity is 50 KVA and below ...†