



President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation welcomes Samdech Techo Hun Sen for the Sochi ASEAN-Russian Summit in Sochi.

Presenting Diploma for AEU Graduates

(25 May 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

I am so glad to be able to join with all of you in this ceremony to hand out diplomas for 1,819 graduates of the Asia-Europe University (AEU). On behalf of the Royal Government and my own, please allow me to express my high appreciation for progress made by AEU as reported by Rector Duong Leang illustrating its gradual development until AEU established links with various universities abroad, through which there are students and professors in exchange programs. Those graduated today have become a major part of human resource of Cambodia – thanks to joined collaboration of both state and private sectors. I am taking this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and thanks for the management and professors of AEU in making their efforts for human resource development. I am also grateful to AEU for its scholarships provided to me to give out to students who need them.

Successful Efforts of Handicaps/Disables

What we have achieved today is a symbol of efforts made by

handicaps/disables in various universities. Sreng Vandy is one of them. She did her study in information technology. This has clearly pointed out that we cannot consider people with physical disability to be mentally handicapped too. On the other hand, we have noticed that some people with good physical condition but have mimed themselves through their various improper actions such as taking drugs, engaging in gangsters, and so on, inviting concern from whole society. I am so grateful that Rector Duong Leang allowed Sreng Vandy to have education in AEU. Many disables – mute, deaf and blind, have graduated from AEU and two have taken jobs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and two in the Council of Ministers. People, in this era, can educate themselves because of high-tech availability. Disables can reap on that benefit. I am taking this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation for the graduates of all levels for making their proud achievements. It is indeed individual efforts made by our

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Agricultural Annual Review Conference

(12 May 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Establishing Agricultural Associations

As for this point, I wish to affirm that shall we leave farmers unorganized their bargaining power would be small. In fact, our Japanese friends advised us to set up cooperatives a while ago and I told the Japanese Ambassador that the word “cooperative” had misled people by what happened under the regime of Pol Pot. While some countries use this term “cooperative,” we will use the term “agricultural association.” Our association aims to produce together an item, for example rice seed, which can sell to other places. In another instance, association can

help people strengthen their positions against price lowering of their produce by merchants. When they are together, they will be strong and will dictate the term of their exchange with merchants. Being in association, people with better resource could also provide credits to those who need them urgently so that they do not have to sell out their produce immediately (for example to repay their debts). The bargaining power of our farmers in that case is growing stronger. Some of our farmers are afraid to be in association because of what happened under Pol Pot. Association can also various other jobs such as water man-

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ICC University of Technology Graduation

(12 May 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

I am so happy to come and join you all in the ceremony to present 860 graduates of IIC University of Technology with diplomas. Today is one of the hardest working day as I would have to receive a guest after this event at the Peace Palace, followed by closing the annual conference of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries this afternoon. I also have so many papers to go through. Institutions may have known that I am going to leave for Russia next week and they wish to have some of their urgent matters approved. I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to progress made by IIC University of technology as they are working to produce trained human resource. It is also a pride indeed as 96 foreigners also studied in this university.

Sickness of Being the Best Led to Isolation and Disaster

I have said that sickness of being the best or individualism leads to isolation and disaster. They will make people think of nothing and no longer give interest in research or studies. They think they know everything better than anyone does. People should not learn from this. Today the IIC University of technology is doing a very good thing and I am joining with graduates to celebrate their successes with their families and friends.

I have talked to the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports,

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students – through own efforts to pay for school fees, help from family and/or charitable people, like in form of scholarships provision. I have offered scholarships given to me to those who really need them. Should there be no individual efforts, however, there would not be achievement today.

Knowledge – the Best Inheritance

I used to talk about the difference between infusing blood from one person to another to save life of similar blood type and transference of knowledge. It is impossible to transfer knowledge from one's head to another as they do in blood. There needs to be personal efforts from primary to tertiary levels. This pointed to a fact that were there no personal endeavor, one could not have come to this. Everywhere in this world, not just in Cambodia, no one could transfer knowledge in a way that people do with blood from person to another.

Please allow me to share my joy with families of graduates and signify that it is with their supports that our graduates have come to this day. It is the wisest thing to do from their parts as inheriting anything else would not be sure to be the best option. If they have thing to inherit is even better but property inheritance would not be sure they could keep them for their whole life.

Knowledge is the best option to inherit and passing to them in a gradual manner since when they were young. In this note, graduates would of course have to be thankful to their parents, brothers, sisters and others in their families for taking care of times, works, etc. so that one could go to university. They also may work to earn for your school fees, hostels, travels and others.

Top-up Scholarships for Students Studying Abroad

... We have sent a great number of students to study abroad too. I had a chance to meet with representatives of students

studying abroad in Russia. As Russia is one huge country, we could not have all of our students together for long travel. We only have some of them studying near and around Moscow. As our students have been facing with difficulties from depreciation of Ruble and small scholarship provided since 1991-92, with the presence of HE Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, HE Aun Porn Moniroth, Minister of Economy and Finance, we have taken immediate decision to top up scholarships. It is still small but it would do to help to an extent.

With Laos, we have a principle of reciprocation that we will provide equal amount of scholarship salary – we pay Laotian students studying in Cambodia whatever amount Laos would do to our students studying in Laos. In my visit to Laos last year, I asked Laotian Prime Minister to increase scholarship and I have not heard of it since. I hope our students in Laos reserve understanding on this matter.

End to Large Scale Water Provision Campaign

Please allow me, from this forum, speak on a few topics today. Today, as we are talking about concern of heat wave and prolongation of drought, coincidentally we are conducting this ceremony under rain. According to the report presented by HE Lim Kean Hor, last night, if there were not strong wind that came, Phnom Penh could have had a big rain. While people in the suburb and countryside need it, rain comes to Phnom Penh. What can anyone do to regulate it with the sky? We could see that in this world no one could do anything to control weather. Some countries suffered forest fire, some with flood and earthquakes, and some with storms.

Please allow me to take this chance to convey my appreciation and thanks to National Committee for Disaster Management, national institutions, armed forces, sub-national

authorities, Cambodian Red Cross and persons of charity involved in water provision campaign from 26 April to 25 May, to save our people from lack of water for consumption. It is unprecedented in our history. We have campaign to distribute food, to provide medical assistance and save people from flood. We never had to provide people with water for consumption.

Today, on behalf of the Royal Government and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I am declaring a closure of the large-scale campaign in providing water for consumption for people. However, please allow me to clarify what it means. We are ending the campaign in general but wherever people are short of water for consumption, we would continue to address the problem for them.

By large-scale campaign, I mean that we stop channeling fund, using armed forces, and those water headquarters under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts. We have mobilized a large-scale operation and members of the working teams of the Cambodian People's Party have been active in this effort. We are ending the large-scale campaign, but we would continue to provide for areas where water is not yet available.

The armed forces must call back their vehicles sending out on this mission, again, except a number of places where continued services deemed necessary. We will continue with the tasks to restore wells and reservoirs and to dig new ones. HE Ouk Rabun, Minister of Rural Development, sent in a report about how many wells the Ministry of Rural Development had built. HE Nhem Vanda, First Vice President of the National Committee for Disaster Management, should make a report listing reservoirs and wells restored in time of disaster, which we have transformed into opportunity.

Paying Attention to Strong Wind

I am taking this opportune moment to thank efforts made by everyone, including those helps that continue to provide in resolving needs of people and community, such as blown-off homes and schools. Provincial authorities have been working tirelessly to deal with consequences left by strong wind as I could tell from what I saw in reports sent to the group of provincial governors with Prime Minister. There is a place in Kratie province that I am asking HE Hang Chuon Naron to figure out help for a school building whose roof had blown off since April. Schools and hospitals are targets that require prioritized attention. We also have to provide assistance for people who suffered home damages from wind. It is indeed important to continue with this work.

"A Bereaved Wife" Narration Soon to Post on Facebook

On our way back from Russia, where attended the ASEAN-Russia commemorative summit, our plane stopped in Urumqi to fuel and then again in Chongqing. I could not sleep. I then wrote a text "A Bereaved Wife" and will post it on my Facebook page on 20 June. It should detail what happened. However, I noticed that some singers, while singing my song "A Bereaved Wife" to mistake its title to "The Pity Mehmot District." In another case, the committee declared that a person singer winning the first class medal for singing my song "Saying Good Bye to Dad and Mom," while originally it is "Life of Farmers, Destiny of Rice Growers" [...]

Entering Cambodian airspace, along with reports from various provinces, we noticed that our people have prepared themselves for cultivation. I am also happy, according to the chance predicting ceremony of the Royal oxen, to see the positive prediction. Let us believe that it will happen that way. We had suffered ill-fate farming two years already. We

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HE Hang Chuon Naron that should we be able to work it out next time, we must let their families and/or friends come into the hall. We may let two people for each graduate to attend. They may like to see how the ceremony goes and/or see Prime Minister is delivering a speech. I have a hard feeling to see them standing and waiting outside. If we could somehow let them in next time, it would be great.

Reducing Gap of Property Hard to Achieve

Our country is in its efforts to develop. We should not forget that should human resource be absent, development would not be happening. Our country has transformed from being a country to produce only to feed itself to do so for export. We have scored agricultural surplus and are seeking external markets. In industry, we also are producing more than we need in local market. We export to foreign markets. In process of development, in every country and society, no one could guarantee equality of property. Only Pol Pot attempted to do so and failed. They made people wear black clothes, work, and eat collectively. As for countries of development in general, there is always division between those who have and have not. To reduce gap between rich and poor, urban and rural, or property is difficult to achieve. Only Pol Pot would expel people from cities, confiscated people's property and put them in a collective way of life. They could do it but may die and the regime failed before long.

Reducing Gap of Intellectual, Peace Is Core

We do not adhere to what Pol Pot did. We do not have the ability to make every one rich too. In every country there is to be farmers, workers, traders, laborers, industrialists, and division, of course. One way to reduce gap between them is to make them achieve knowledge. Everyone is born without anything coming along. They all came naked. It

is not true that those who were born to well-off families are cleverer than those who were born in poorer families.

To give them chance is to maintain rights and peace. It is a big thing. The Royal Government is ready to pay whatever price to maintain peace allowing no one group of people to destabilize the country and cause turmoil leading to loss of chance for majority of people. The Royal Government is resolutely determined to defend peace and stability. I hope some of them here record what I am saying ... yesterday, the Cabinet, and Quick and Reaction Unit reacted to a title ... I just wanted to affirm that first of all what we must provide our youth and people is peace lost since 1970 and will defend it from destruction. We fought hard to attain peace [...]

Now that we have just passed the Khmer New Year ceremony, with peace intact, people travelled around the country. They went up to Siem Reap, return to Preah Vihear, Stoeng Treng, Ratanakiri. Mondulkiri and back to Phnom Penh. It is like a half tour of the country. That was possible because we have peace and there were no threats of any kind. That is why I said to achieve a reduction of intellectual gap, we must have and protect peace.

Hardware and Software of Education

Whoever intends to destroy peace and stability of the country will face with punishment by law. We make law to protect the Constitution, to maintain country's security. Law is not for whoever wins would do whatever s/he wishes. We need infrastructure – hard and soft – to support education. Hardware infrastructure relating to education is the provision of school buildings and we have provided them to various parts of the country. I said I do not wish to see any Cambodian youth suffering ill fate like me. I parted my family at 13 years old to search for education in Phnom Penh. As for the present, we have schools everywhere waiting for students to

study.

Even after 1979, how many youth had abandoned study for lack of school? Or emigrated from their native villages to search for education ... We now have many schools and colleges in local level. We have state and private universities too. As far as software infrastructure is concerned, we have trained so many teachers and now we have up to more than 110,000 of them. We have 190,000 civil servants, and 110,000 of them are teachers and 30,000 are physicians.

Contracted Health Workers to Be Civil Servants

I am declaring here today that contracted physicians ... those who were what they called "floating staff" will incorporate into the list of civil servants in 2016. Specialized doctors who worked as contracted officials but have worked in hospitals for nearly ten years. We then need to incorporate them into state servants so that they would benefit from salary and pension when they retire. I am responding to requests made to my Facebook page. This is to say I have seen your requests but I need time for the Ministries of Health and Public Functions working it out [...]

We are working hard to form up generations of teachers. In the past, we used this theory of those who know more teach those who know less, and those who know little teach those who know nothing. We have come away from that now. We have our teachers trained with formulas of 12+2 and/or 16+1. They may not have higher salary but we have tried to increase salary of our teachers. Now for teachers at primary and maternity level of education receive a minimum salary of over 800,000 Riel or roughly two hundred USD. In 2018, we have aimed to increase minimum salary base to not less than one million Riel. It is not an empty promise but a true vision with financial ability to carry it through.

Making Hat to Fit a Head

I heard rector Chhuon Chan-

than mentioned in his speech to make our country advanced as other countries. Well, which country should we learn from in the world, if I may raise a question? Some rich countries brought conflict and fighting on others, should we learn from them? Some punish other countries by this or that means. There are multi standard in the world. That is why I would rarely say this word "like other countries." There are many advanced nations. Which one shall we follow? Sometimes, those countries have gone before us 200 years already and we just started, how could we match up speed with them?

When I started reform in 1985 on land and housing properties, the former Soviet Union soon started its perestroika and glasnost policy under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev. I have received a photo that they printed on cover of Asia Week with a title "Sinking or Floating." Before taking a bath in the river, I gave an interview to Jacques Bekaert for about one hour. He asked me if what I did was to follow what Gorbachev did. I responded that "I would not have my head trimmed to fit in a hat. I would have a hat made to fit with my head." Situation in Cambodia was not similar to that of the former Soviet Union them. I could not take anyone as teachers. I would do it as my country recommended.

At present, who do we follow? In Europe, look at what happened to Greece. In France, President Françoise Hollande advocates a stimulus package but does not seem to go anywhere. UK is in process of having a referendum whether to stay on or exercise Brexit from EU. In the UK itself, Scotland demands for secession and referendum for that purpose each time brought more power to it. We must do thing our way and learn from others. Look our ancestors must have learnt from others too when they build the wall of Angkor. However, you shall notice if Angkor temple is in any part similar to temples

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also anticipate more water so that we could resume boat-racing ceremony this year.

Communal Council Elections – 4 June 2017

Please allow me to take this time to affirm that ... received request from the Ministry of Interior, in which Samdech Krola Haom proposed the communal councils elections to take place on 4 June 2017, while he was accompanying the royal plowing ceremony in Siem Reap, I called to discuss if we should make it public now. According to law, Prime Minister must make the elections date public at least nine months before due date. I made it more than one year. There is nothing wrong. This should instead help facilitate every works of concerned parties – National Elections Committee, authorities involved in issuing identification cards for some two million more people, concerned ministries such as the Ministry of Economy and Finance, who need to prepare financial package for 2017.

Political parties – both with infrastructure in place and those that are newly established, could figure out how to speed up their actions. I have now made it known to them all one year before the due date. I hope there will not be commentaries that are not objective to what I have said. This is for every party's sake. People too will readjust their schedules to fit in their obligations to vote. People will make sure they get identification cards in order to prepare themselves to vote. Parties will also figure out how to prepare their candidates and make sure they get the Party's supports. People with identification cards will have to register for voting rights organized by NEC, probably on 1 September. I also will have to register again.

This should reassure accuracy of voters' lists, which our people want. We will see then. Some claimed that the 2013 lists missed out 1.2 or 1.5 million voters. In the course of continued registration, there

are about 200,000 of mostly newly eligible voters. While water is clearer, we could see fish, riverbed, and other plants in it. It is not a simple matter. Some had even caused trouble one day before the elections that indelible ink was removable ... We must do a good job.

People to Issue ID Cards and Register in Voters Lists

I am calling on competent authority, and people who have no ID cards to seek for their identification cards made. It is impossible to place responsibility of the National Elections Committee if you do not have your name in the voters' lists. You must know how to exercise your rights. In the past, people insulted NEC for their mistake or carelessness.

You would not have voting rights too, if you only have your ID and fail to register. People must have their identity cards and register their names in voters' lists. We issue identity card for people starting from the age of 15 years old. When they reach their eligible age, computer will transfer his/her name into the eligible voters' lists automatically. As Prime Minister, my obligation is to inform the whole nation one year prior to due date for every concerned party to get their job ready [...]

Recreation Program on Prime Minister Facebook Page

In my Facebook page, there will be more songs. I will have programs – Cambodia's Idols and The Voice Cambodia, heel-digging dance, etc, posted with some live recreation spots. My Facebook transmits faster than some TVs. We have now come to a time when writing and sending is all at one's figure tips. My handwriting is hard to read. I used to have a very good handwriting but, in demand of time, it has grown more difficult to read. It is not legal to present Prime Minister's writing or instruction. They will issue a notification by the Council of Ministers according to instruction of the Prime Minister ...

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anywhere in the world. I could not imagine that. We should learn this from our ancestors. To do it as other countries, I could not recall one to follow. We should not be theoretical but practical to the situation of Cambodia [...]

Opposition Party Defamed Hun Manet as Vietnamese Son

There is a matter beyond thought. They posted on Facebook that Hun Manet is not Hun Sen's son. My son, Manet is one pitiful. My wife and I went through many odd things. I wrote and spoke a lot about it and about how did we meet? ... My first son died and my second son, I left him when my wife was in her five-month pregnancy. I had to take it to the forest to lead resistance. After liberation, I could not account for them. On 24 February 1979, I met them again. Hun Manet addressed me as uncle for two months [...]

However, I could not imagine that those in the opposition would do such cheap thing. I must take a strong position on that matter and made it clear as long as you do not leave me peace, you will not get one. They had gone this far to say my wife was wife of a Vietnamese leader and Hun Manet was their son and they left him in Sok An's care.

The fact that they could slander thing like that there would be nothing else they dare not. They organize protest against Hun Manet's visit to the US. Their plan gathered only about 50 people, while Manet's address attended by ten times more. When they could not do anything against him, they posted things like that on Facebook.

... What the opposition had done is nothing new. I would send them a message, as long as they like to play with it, I will accompany them. My son said that I should declare out loud and come with a condition. "Let us check DNA. If the result points out I am your son, they had to withdraw them-

selves from politics. On the contrary, if I am not your son, we on our part will leave the Prime Minister's post." I responded to his message that "let us not bother ourselves with them." Hun Manet is the most calm among my children but he could not stand that. On this point, I am determined. You cannot seek my help. Let the court procedure continues and there is nothing for Hun Sen to involve. This is a message. I hope you do not twist it again or you will have to be responsible ... Maybe it is the best that you stop talking about me.

The Voice Season 2, Cambodian Youth Models

... Let me talk about the four coaches (in Khmer, the spelling of coach sounds like a Khmer word to mean a nasty person.) The Hang Meas TV's The Voice, Season I and The Voice Season II, have proved to be a good program. What is amused here is that the English word for someone who trained is "coach." They said let the four coaches say something (or the four "nasty persons" say something because of the sound in Khmer). I am longing for Live Show. I will continue to vote. This show takes place under the time of my leadership. I must understand about it. It is fantastic. [...] On Sunday, I sometimes waited until midnight.

In another program, "Cambodian Youth Models" in my Facebook page, they started voting already. They have done it two rounds now. I took part in the first round. I sent a representative to attend the second round. The third round is under voting.

I am thinking that maybe after five or six round, I will invite all top 10 candidates to an hour lecture or so ... it will be a meeting of everyone who take parts in the contest of youth models ... It will take time to have a youth movement to work towards doing merit works and technology for society. That is what I would like to achieve ...

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agement, crops zoning, etc. Please make further efforts to explain it to our people.

Fertilizer Issue to Re-examine

... I have made it before anyone else my remark on agricultural fertilizer and pesticide. Some imported into certain area and use of it destroyed agriculture and environment. People purchase fertilizer with an aim to let their crop grow and give a good harvest. However, there were cases that using those fertilizer led to killing people's crops, especially what happened in Banteay Meanjei. Merchants brought fake fertilizer and pesticide to sell to our people. Using of which would not only destroy people's crops, but in long run, would also damage our land. Using of pesticide, which is not certified, would cause health problem for people but also depletion and changes in the mother nature that we would have no way to knowing it.

Don't Cheat in Trade

... As for export, we must be careful with quality issue. Please do not compromise your ways. If items exported, people found things that were not up to standard, Cambodia would end up in their blacklist, and they would not let Cambodia's products to reach their ports anymore. We must pay attention on this matter because in some places, we have noted that farmers would soak their rice in water (to let rice absorb water and its weight increases) before selling them to merchants the next day. It also happened in the case of those who trade chicken because they would stuff water and rice into their mouths hoping to gain weight when they sell them later. This is not a good practice. Either local or external trade, we must abide by a common norm. Do not cheat in trade.

Contagious Diseases among Animals

... This morning, I saw TV footage of animals dying in Ratanakiri. They were not

dead for lack of water but from food. Please make efforts to take precautions and counter measures against contagious diseases. Time when they would die of lack of water has already gone. It seems this death caused by what they ate prior to drought [...]

Measures to Protect Fish Species

... This is the point that I have the conference's attention many years now. The level of water in Tonle Sap has gone down leading to shallowness of water in conservative reservoirs, where lived fish species, and now they have died in abundance. Recommendations to pump water elsewhere to the reservoirs are inapplicable. How about dig a big reservoir in the lake. It must be a huge one. If we do not take measure now, we would lose many species of fish. It seemed that we have encountered dead fish issue every year. Please look into this matter and figure out what to do before the other. I am appealing to our people to take part in protecting this zone and do not go into the reservoirs to catch fish. Leave them there until they grow bigger and it is time to fish. Let us do a good job on this issue.

Forestry and Fisheries Administrations – Sub-National Management

Firstly, in 2010 or 2011, if I am not wrong, from the Tonle Vaiko in Svay Rieng, I had proposed an amendment to law on forestry and fisheries to go along with law on land management. In the past, administrations to deal with forestry and fisheries were not under the supervision of sub-national authority. They were independent and paid no heed to no one's suggestion. We are in the process of making one unified administration. Offices of agriculture in various provinces do not oversee forestry and fisheries issues, only agronomy, animal husbandry, etc. As of now, provincial offices of the Ministry of Agriculture will carry out works on forestry and fisheries too and will be part of the provincial

administration. Otherwise, as happened already, when things go wrong, we could not get anyone to take up responsibility. I said it since 2011 and it is five years now. Let us have one unified administration. When there is thing to sort out, let us talk to provincial governors, who happen to be chief of unified commanding team.

Secondly, we have taken a step forward already. It is the initiative brought up by Minister of Environment Say Sam Al about distinguished functions of management between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. HE Sam Sam Al and HE Ouk Rabun had taken a step together in identifying economic land concession which formerly approved by each ministry. As we are working out new roles, we have given forests under protection that are under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Environment, and those land approved by Environment to the Ministry of Agriculture. I have approved with my signature for 18 areas already.

HE Say Sam Al has been working with international community and local organizations on this matter and I hope they will keep on doing that with recognition that forest and natural resource protection community is for same purpose. We have taken measures to protect our forest but we could foresee only some part of them. There are still actions of illegal loggings. Since 1998, there were no more logging allowed. However, illegal logging went on and we have now collected some 70,000 cubic meters. The authority alone would not be able to do this huge task. I am calling on everyone to take part in defending our forest. Communities working to protect forest and administrations in charge of forestry and natural resources must not consider each other enemy but collaborators for the protection of our natural resources.

New Jobs for Those Depending on Logging

We all are Cambodians and we are of the opinion and wish to protect forest and trees. From today onward, we must receive with open arms to those who love and truly protect forest. We also need to create new jobs for our people who previously depend on products they got from forest – tree sap, hunting, etc. We must seek to identify this problem and come up with a solution. We had the feeling that they wish to collaborate on this work. We would see that our partners wish to join with us in vocational training for them. We could foresee activities of handicrafts here and there would be tourist presence also. We would be joyful to see they could earn more than when they depended on forestry alone [...]

Officials to Collaborate with People Arrest Illegal Loggers

... Forestry community people are not justice police but they can help justice police to do their work. With a large forest area to cover by a small number of forest rangers, it would be an insurmountable task to fulfill. In some cases, thieves and police would be acting hands in gloves too. People have more eyes and they hate people who log forest/trees, so they would be happy to collaborate. However, we must be faithful to them in return. If we do not pay attention to their reports and do not take effective and urgent measures, they would no longer report or collaborate with us.

This morning I had a meeting with new Police Minister of Vietnam and I requested him to close border for illegal logs trading across the border from Cambodia. I will meet with Vietnamese new Prime Minister in Sochi, Russia, next week and will bring this issue up with him. I will ask for his cooperation at the time that Cambodia is combating with forest crimes. I would also suggest that the Ministry takes extra care for people working in the protected forest areas – wages,

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uniforms, etc. People in community in the protected forest zones should enjoy our care as well. Give them raincoats or coats to protect them from harsh weather conditions of rain or coldness. They are there to help us protect the forest and we want to protect our forest too. We are no more enemies. We collaborate. As long as we do, bad people dare not do bad actions there.

... As for logging is concerned, I may recall about coalition government in 1990s where forest concession grew. As of 1998, we no longer allow logging. Now I ask for negotiation with companies to return them to us and if they do not, we will just take them back. This is the work to carry out by the Ministry of Agriculture, but I am asking for cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, mobilizing those companies to write letters to return forests to the Royal Government. They are forest concessions but no one is there. They do not even know where their forest starts or ends. The Royal Government will look into it further to see how much more forest can go into protection and management of the Ministry of Environment.

There are twelve more companies. Mobilize them to return them to us. Whoever volunteers, write to us or we also take them. I do not demand anything at all. I just ask the Ministries to follow their defined functions and roles stipulated in the sub-decree on organization and functioning of the Ministries/institutions. If you are the one to deal on forestry issue you must take action and do not wait only for Prime Minister's recommendations. You may remember at times that I asked you not to wait for recommendation from Prime Minister. They should know their tasks and what to do. I hope that the two Ministers – agriculture and environment will present achievements because they have the support of armed forces, and those of forest protection communities ...■

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framework allowing for private investment in area of human resource training, our youth would not have the chance to have access to education in great number too. The Royal Government's policy was to allow private sector to partake in human resource development through the establishment of private educational institutions and fee-paying programs. State universities would not be able to absorb all of them.

Adding on to what the private sector investment in education, the Royal Government has also allowed its educational establishments to provide fee-paying in addition to full-scholarship programs. Own efforts made by students along with savings of families for their studies are more important, though. We will continue to work hard for human resource training. The Royal Government, among its four priorities, which used to be water/irrigation, roads, electricity and human, has in this term made human resource its first among all fours [...]

Establishing Auction Commission of Confiscated Illegal Logs

It was in this meaning that we had added more resource into education ... I have declared that confiscated illegal logs will not be auctioned to export for external markets. All confiscated logs could be of use in interest of education like building schools, homes for teaching staff, etc. However, going through various serious discussion, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports does not have the ability to manage a nearly 70,000 cubic meter logs itself. It is in this state of mind that the Ministry requested for an auction for local use. As Prime Minister, I also see that the Ministry would not be able to get those logs out of forest for that purpose. Therefore, I agree to the request. We also see that there is growing local demand too. It is in this understanding that we will establish a commission to auc-

tion the confiscated logs for local use in local markets and not for export. Fund earned from the auction will add to the budget of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. It is a way of converting from logs into cash and the cash will go into building homes for teaching staff. We need to be flexible here [...]

Knowledge – Subject to No Loss

I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and greeting to graduates who will receive their diplomas today. This dignifies their efforts and symbolizes not only their individual endeavors but also those of their love ones and families, who could be waiting outside for memory photos. That is a heritage. It will not subject to loss by anyhow. Parents could share some of their wealth with their children, and it is good if there are, however, property as such would not last forever. They could deplete by any means ranging from fire to mismanagement. However, sharing or inheriting knowledge is the most important as it will stay with them forever. It is not drying. I am giving you all my appreciations and would like to share joy with your families and our nation. I hope that every family will take similar benefit in own families' development and contributing to national development as a whole.

No End to Study

I am appealing to you to make further efforts and consider that achieving diplomas today is just an end of another stage and a new stage could commence. No one could have learnt everything and ended his/her study. Study has no limit. Situation evolves. We must learn every day and cannot be idle. Being inactive, we may become conservative and it would be dangerous. Conservatism resembles figuratively a piece of stone preventing new growing buds. However, I think number of people with conservatism dwindles down. In older day, when you are

young, people would say you are not able to do anything. They would see maturity in someone with white hairs.

In 1980s, as I could remember, I struggled hard with many of this issue. I was foreign minister in 1979 when I was 27 years old. I became Deputy Prime Minister when I was 29 years old. Some ministers in those days teased me that I was a kid. However, I have proven all along that this kid minister was the only one that stands in the Government from 8 January 1979 to today. This is not what we have achieved with any force outside but our efforts and attract supports from in the leadership as well as from the mass. Incompetent leader would be unable to lead the country. It is in this note that I am encouraging graduates today to make further efforts, either by pursuing formal education or by own study.

Right, Freedom of Expression Must Abide by Law

Situation evolves every day. Climate change evolves and requires knowledge. Technology advanced rapidly and challenges are out there without rule of regulation to teach us how to respond to them. There is no school in the world where they teach people to become Prime Minister, minister or President. In Cambodia, perhaps there are a few people, who claimed to be ones to teach others so. Some thought they are more competent and knowledgeable than Prime Ministers or Presidents. Every time they take the floors, they would brag Prime Minister should do this, President should do that [...]

Some have claimed to know everything. Sometimes, without even listening to the end of the story, they threw out their concluded ideas. It is their rights. I just wish to reiterate that your rights stops where other people's rights begin. If you infringe upon other people's rights, you definitely violate law. The Royal Government will do anything to keep
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Response on Salary Tax

On my way, I posted some photos to let people know that I am making a journey to the Keo Muni pagoda in the village of Angkor Ban IX in the district of Kangmean, Kompong Cham province for the ceremony to inaugurate a Buddhist temple there. I have noticed that as the country is making progress in secular as well as Buddhist world, under the roof of peace, people residing along the 120 Kilometers road to the pagoda have shown clearly how they benefit from peace. In just about one hour, I have a reaction of about 30,000 on Facebook ... There was a comment asking me about his concern when he grows older and he could save money because his salary is deducted for tax. I responded that the deducted amount will be given back to you as retirement pension.

River Land Erosion, Sand Pumping

As far as pagoda here is concerned I am so grateful and appreciating the efforts made by head monk and parishioners to rebuild this pagoda from scratch. In 2004, land of former pagoda area eroded into the river and people, with appreciative cooperation, have chosen a new location to build this pagoda anew.

A pagoda in my home village also had to move as river current took chunk of soil until it was impossible to rescue. This is what we could say life of people living along the river. We had to build a new pagoda too. The new one is also a few hundred meters from the riverbank and my home is about a hundred meters to the riverbank too. I had a bird eye's view the other day and noticed that soil there seems to have stopped falling off and grown up.

In this situation, we need to make efforts to direct water current. As you may have noticed, naturally, because of the water flow or current, while silting on one side of the river,

it creates soil erosion on the other side. It is in this case that we have to spend resource to direct the water current. It is rather unfortunate that some people did not understand and misled by bad people's opinions, they criticize sand pumping to direct the current. Well, if they do it unlawfully and not for directing the water current, not only that people should criticize them, but also the Royal Government will take action.

Peace Precondition for Development, Democracy, Human Rights

I would like to take this opportunity to share one thing with all of you. People know and understand our bitter past experiences. We have come this far and will make further steps into the future. War put our country in a state of destruction – secular and religious world. They both suffered. No sacred institutions of Islam, Buddhism, and Christianity escaped destruction under war and genocide regime. Inter-relationship between peace and development is important. It demands people's unity to keep peace because without peace, no one can do anything about development, human rights, etc. Looking at Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, etc., have these countries had freedom and human rights? Everyday people there have to take shelters from bombardments, shelling, and emigrate for safe refuges.

In Cambodia, emigration within or to foreign countries by our people is for jobs and income. We do not do it because of war. In the past, people fled the country for war and genocide. Now Cambodians are emigrating for income generating purposes, in or near their areas of residences. Tens of thousands of people are living and working in Phnom Penh for an annual increase of benefit.

They send some of their earnings to their parents and families. Were there no correct policy framework for keeping peace and allowing for devel-

opment, would there be a situation like that, particularly so in the religious front. Inter-relationship of Buddhist and secular worlds is strongly bonded and inseparable [...]

More so, as I was one of the pagoda boys, Buddhist pagodas have become a good place for students to take shelters while pursuing their studies away from homes. That is why I mentioned that pagoda has been the most suitable place for elderly people, youth, and children too.

Growing old, people have no better place than going to pagoda. Some have come to stay for the last part of their lives and some came to celebrate Buddhist ceremonies of any sorts. They all are possible because of a realistic leadership, not because of promise making [...]

National and Sub-national Institutions Participate in Water Providing Campaign

I would take this opportunity to send a message from here to people in the whole country who are yet to be free from heat wave disaster and water shortage situation. I am taking this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks to national and sub-national institutions, the armed forces, Cambodian Red Cross, especially our youth, for taking active participation in this campaign to provide people with water for consumption. As the situation has evolved, not only we provide people with water that they need, now that some rains have come, we have come to a different calamity situation – strong wind that brought down houses, injuring and killing people and animals.

This is all natural calamity and people living along the river have had a better condition compared to those living further away. Up to this moment, some places have now received some rain that people can collect for their consumption or water providing by working teams, we will keep on monitoring the situation. In some areas, we have to carry

out two actions at the same time – providing people with clean water for drinking, and restoring or drilling new and old wells/reservoirs.

I no longer appeal to other parties to take actions along with the Royal Government because up to the moment, none of them has stepped out. Not only they initiate no actions of their own, they would not even give encouragement to actions taken by the Royal Government or charitable persons. I have rights only to appeal to charitable person, ruling party who happens to be with people always in bad and good time. We are not waiting only for time to collect votes.

... In this instance, I am calling on officials, armed forces and CPP officials to teach themselves information technology ... to make e-government possible. People make lot of comments in my page and they cover many issues and areas. Take for instance the province of Kompong Cham, perhaps it has a team that monitors people's comments in my page, they should know what people think and say on my page and took the gut to respond when it is a matter that concerns their responsibility.

610 Riel/KWH Will Take Effect on 1 April 2017

... Taking this opportune moment, I would say one thing to BTV, reported from Tbong Khmom province. On my way to the Council of Ministers, I heard BTV from Tbong Khmom reporting that people demanded price of electricity to go down to 610 Riel/KWH.

To clarify this matter for all, especially for journalists, I am declaring that 1 April 2017 will be when people who have their lines hooked up with national lines will benefit from our new electric price of 610 Riel/KWH. There are eleven more months before that time will come. People whose households consume 50 KWH and less, will pay only 610 Riel/KWH then an price for electric use for agricultural purpose would also be less ...☐

Vanda Institute Diploma Presenting Ceremony

(10 May 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Vanda Institute Making Progress

I am so happy today to be able to join with all of you again to present diplomas for 4,174 graduates of the Vanda Institute. On behalf of the Royal Government, I would take this occasion to express my sincere and high evaluation of the progress made by the Vanda Institute in relation to human resource training, which is playing a major part in the country's development. With the work carried out by the institute, batches of graduates have recorded and more than 7,000 are still pursuing their study. Progress from one stage to the other has eventually given the institute chance to expand to a stage in which it consists of so many faculties.

I am giving my appreciation to

the efforts made by leaders as well as professors of the institute who contribute to training human resource and give my sincere thanks for 444 scholarships provided to me and I have distributed them among those who need them. I am sure some of the scholarship students are among those of graduates today [...]

Peace, Private Sector Investment Better Chance for Human Resource Training

Dr. Heng Vanda mentioned about our hard-won peace that is the core force allowing us to do what we need to. Were there no peace, we would not have the chance to set out national development like this. Should there be only peace, without appropriate policy

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Inaugurating Angkor Ban Buddhist Pagoda

(05 May 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

I am so glad today to be able to join with our Buddhist monks and people, excellencies, ladies and compatriots to put into official use this Buddhist temple of the Keo Muni (Angkor Ban) pagoda. I am taking this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks for the Buddhist monks, head monk of the pagoda and its parishioners for giving me the honor to cut the ribbon inaugurating this temple.

Different Religions Not Obstacle to National Development

I am so happy to have noticed that for this Buddhist event, we also have the presence of our Khmer Islam people. It is a very important point relating to the harmonization of different religions, races, about which a number of countries around the world have experienced divisions. For us here, this event is not particularly for the Buddhist followers alone, but Khmer Islam people are also attending. It is not a prohibition in Buddhism for Khmer Islam

people to participate and to have presence in pagoda. It is my joy as I see this aspect of our society and we must protect it – harmony of religions and races, and all religions instruct people to do no harm or bad things.

Furthermore, differences in religion or faith would not be a hindrance to national development. I hope that countries in the world will experience what Cambodia has. We are not providing any country our example but I think this very good experience shall be going on. Next month, I have already marked in my schedule, that I will attend the ceremony to end Ramadan or break the period of fasting of our Muslim people at national level on 11 June organized by the Royal Government. However, I also have a schedule to attend the ceremony in one other mosque. I will continue to take part with other ceremonies – Buddhism, Islamism, or Christianity.

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peace and political stability for the country's development. Committed wrongdoings, those people must be held accountable before law. Some people must not confuse about unconditional release. If we were to do so, there would not be law. We have some examples in this world. Peace is hard to find and we had lost many lives to secure it [...]

Illegal Color Revolution Will Face Arrest

... I have made it clear to Samdech Sar Kheng and other leaders to worry no more about color. Whatever the color will be, we must take actions. I would warn those who mobilize such thing. The one who has provided money to print (T) shirts should be careful. We know who you are. They refer to different colors in various places – orange, red or black. I would tell them, whatever the color maybe, we will take actions. The court is there to implement laws, the armed forces to defend state, jails for prisoners [...]

As long as it is the court procedure, I would not have rights to intervene. When the procedure is over, the verdict is in place, it will then be the Prime Minister's power to act. The law permits Prime Minister to propose to HM the King to grant a pardon. If you are doing thing worsen the situation ... the Royal Government would not back down because it is a matter of security for millions of people, not a few. I would urge them to seek the best lawyers to discharge the issue according to law and refrain from putting pressure (on the Royal Government) by so and so color [...]

You must remember that rights and freedom go along with respect of law. You cannot have all the rights in negligence of other people's rights and rule of law. Your freedom of expression must respect law. Our aim is to keep peace, political stability and driving development [...]

People Can't Grow Dry Sea-

son Rice, Crops for Drought

... We have seen already that this year we are facing a prolonged disaster of drought and unprecedented heat wave. We now know that people will not be able to cultivate second-time dry season rice, the one that people normally cultivate after they harvested in July the one they started growing in late April or early May ... The weather condition in this year is the worst. Drought prolongs. Water table level drops lower than usual. Many wells dried out. We are in midst of largest campaign ever to supply people with water for consumption. We are working to get water five million cubic meters from the Komping Puoy reservoir in Battambang province to Banteay Meanjei province through a 100 Kilometers canal. It has now reached the river at Bovel district and we still need to continue with pumping [...]

People's cultivation of other crops such as corn, sesame, etc. is also suffering impacts. There had been some rains in some places but the amount of water were just for feeding animals. In some areas, rains had come with strong wind blowing down people's homes. While we are this busy, they bothered us with freedom of speech. Please exercise rights within a space allowed by law ... I would take this moment to appeal to our people to continue to make efforts in helping our people in time of difficulties. We must keep up providing people with water for consumption. We also keep on with the works to restore old reservoirs and dig new ones, wells, etc. I sensed that we need a certain time to provide water to people in areas where rains have yet to come [...]

Next week I will conduct a visit to Russia and attend the 20th commemorative ASEAN-Russia summit ... with technology such as Whatsapp, Telegram or Line, through which one can get information quickly ... I will have information as things happen ...