



Samdech Techo Hun Sen welcomes President Xi Jinping of China at the Peace Palace, Phnom Penh

Opening First-Ever National Games

(28 October 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Opening of National Games on HM's Coronation Day

Today is a new historic event in the efforts of reforms in the sports sector. It is ushering in a new page in our history, in which we all are working together to raise high once again our sports sector. Prior to making comments on sports, please allow me to take this opportune moment to affirm why I chose 28 October 2016 as the commencement date for our first-ever national games. The meaning to bring up here is that 28 October 2016 was the 12th anniversary of the coronation day of the revered HM the King Preah Boromnead Norodom Sihamoni. From this forum, on behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, I wish HM the King good health and longevity to stay as cool shade for people in the whole King-

dom of Cambodia.

The Games Event Infers Peace and Stability in Cambodia

His excellency, ladies and gentlemen and foreign guests participating in this event, please allow me to take this opportune moment to deliver my sincere appreciation for the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and the Cambodian National Olympics Committee, the organization commission of the national games events for their efforts to get this event up and running. This is a political message that indicates and affirms that peace and stability prevail in Cambodia. No one individual and/or group is able to hold Cambodia hostage. The national games events clearly assert Cambodia's gradual advancement from one stage to the other, from regional
(Continued on page 2)

20th Anniversary of Pailin Area Integration

(19 October 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

UNTAC Left Cambodia With Two Governments

Before starting our meeting, please allow me to take this chance to deliver a message live from Pailin in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Pailin area integration as well as the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement.

the anniversary of the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement.

I wish to emphasize, for Buddhist monks and people, that what the Paris Peace Agreement was supposed to do, and UNTAC did not fulfill it was UNTAC, after spending over two billion USD and using a great number of force for the operation in Cambodia, withdrew and left Cambodia with two control areas and Governments. War did not end.

Please allow me to take this opportune moment to share with venerable Buddhist monks, compatriots inside and outside the country that on the forthcoming 23 October, Cambodia will celebrate

The area of Pailin and others

(Continued on page 3)

RULE Graduation & Diploma Presentation

(06 October 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Making Progress in Education

Today I am so pleased to be able to join with all of you again for the graduation and diploma presenting ceremony for 3,354 graduates of the Royal University of Laws and Economics (RULE), after my presence on Monday this week to do the same for graduates of the Cambodian University for Specialty. In truth, both the private and state universities have been competing for my presence within my tight schedules. I have certainly been busy with my state affairs and my trips to provinces and foreign countries.

when Prime Minister has done all the jobs of presenting diplomas for students. When I presided over the inauguration of schools, they said it is the job of the Minister of Education. When I presided over the inauguration of hospitals, they said it is the job of Health Minister. When I look after the work on irrigation, they said it is the job of Minister of Agriculture ... I would consent that when those people are insane, why would we be with them. Let them go their way and we just take it down
(Continued on page 4)

While doing so, some have said that what else the Minister of Education would do,

In This Issue

National Games	... 1
Pailin Area Integration	... 1
RULE Graduation	... 1
CUS Graduation	... 4

(Continued from page 1)
to national level games, in a process of making a firm advancement towards 32nd SEA Games in 2023.

Configuring Infrastructures and Human Resources to Host SEA Games

In this circumstance, please allow me to express my sincere apology to sportsmen and sportswomen and the Cambodian people as a whole for that fact that we have to schedule our hosting of SEA Games in Cambodia to 2023. Country members of ASEAN, except Cambodia, had hosted SEA Games event one, or more than one, already. I wish to indicate that our resources are limited and I have already sought understanding from other ASEAN leaders for Cambodia's need for relocating of resources to other necessary requirements such as roads, bridges, water canals, schools, etc. They all have granted us understandings and it is in this preparation today that Cambodia decides to schedule its hosting of SEA Games to 2023. It is more than six years from now.

Our reforms in the sports sector, on our way to SEA Games in 2023, require us to build infrastructures and human resources in response to regional level competition requirements. That would oblige us to spend no less than building two bridges over the Mekong River. It is in this meaning that I am seeking your understanding for the delay. That our resources are limited, we need to attend to other priorities, especially in dealing with our people's living condition.

Thanks for Everyone Involved for the Event

Today, I would like to take this chance to deliver my greetings and appreciations to participations by everyone involved – from provinces or institutions in Phnom Penh, as well as those of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, the paratroopers of division 911, active military officers, and students, to make this forum colorful, lively, and active today. I am sending my appreciation also to artists and performers – traditional and modern, for giving their bests to make this event auspicious and enjoyable. I would take this time also to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for our people everywhere in and outside the country for providing their supports for sports movement in Cambodia, for every competition either inside or outside the country. I also avail my deep thanks to all sports federations for their efforts to strengthen and betterment of their sports activities.

Every Citizen Exercises

I am taking this moment to appeal to the people of Cambodia to active formulate a campaign that every citizen exercises and/or be an amateur of at least one sport type. They may not do it for competition but for their health. I am referring especially this recommendation for the Cambodian youth and children. They should be better alternatives to them from going for other bad stuff like drugs or other socially unacceptable actions.

May Companies and State Institutions Sup-

CUS Graduation & Diploma Presentation

(03 October 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Proud to See CUS Growing Development

I have a great pleasure today to join with all of you in bestowing diplomas for 6,251 graduates of the Cambodian University of Specialty (CUS). Please allow me to apologize for choosing to come on this day that we are still in the holiday of Phjumb Ben. As I have a very busy schedule, I have no choice other than to propose that we meet today or I would have to send someone to represent me. It was fortunate that the rector Chan Sokhom as well as management of the CUS and students found my suggestion acceptable and understood the difficulty I had in relation to my work schedules.

I have a great pleasure be-

ports Sports

I am calling on companies as well as state institutions to set up alliance with sports – one or more than one sports types, according to their resource ability to encourage and support national games and sports event. I hope that companies will choose certain sports and the state institutions will choose others, to make sure the alliance with sports will encourage and promote our sports sector as a whole.

I know that participants here would be waiting for live coverage from this event. To end this remark, with our congratulation to the opening of the first-ever national games, may I re-ascertain my firm hope that victory will be for winners, but what is even more important, our nation wins. I am declaring the National Games open ...

cause on various occasions I had the honor of presiding over the graduation and diploma presenting ceremony for the CUS event. With this pride and honor, I am pleased to note progress of CUS that is growing itself from being a small one to the current size, contributing to the overall development of education in the Kingdom of Cambodia. CUS now has nine buildings of 356 classrooms covering services in various provinces. CUS also provided tertiary education to over 26,000 students who, 96.39% of them already found their jobs. CUS has some 10,430 students pursuing their studies.

Graduations and Diplomas Presenting Showcase Progress in All Fields

I am thankful to the serious measures taken in strengthening management capacity as well as increasing quality for tertiary educational level. I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation for the graduates who will receive their diplomas today. I hope that human resource as a whole that we have worked together to achieve a better results will offer significant contribution for Cambodia's progress and development in all fields. We will try to realize in this sense an economic growth of 7% per annum and lower poverty level in context of low inflation.

I hope that graduates receiving their diplomas today will not abandon their studies and research no matter what level of education they may have achieved now. I have urged on various occasions that graduates should keep on doing research and study, not

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 1) along the Cambodian-Thai border, we could say in general that a part of the country continued to be under the control of the political and military organization of the Democratic Kampuchea.

In this situation, the Paris Peace Agreement was able to put together only three out of four factions. The faction refused to join the process led by Pol Pot and Ta Mok, with a few other leaders. They continued to wage war.

Three Core Elements of Win-win Policy

Faced with the fact that the Cambodian people are in need of peace, I initiated the win-win policy with its main objective to end protracted war. The policy consists of three core elements.

I wish to reaffirm them from Pailin where the initial rebellion took place. It was a very important step along with forces in Malai.

The three elements are (1) to guarantee life and physical safety for those who disintegrated from the Khmer Rouge; (2) to guarantee their employments and business; and (3) to guarantee ownership over mobile and immobile property.

It is a coincidence that traveling to meet with people in the northwestern areas of Cambodia, I came across former battlefields from twenty some years ago.

The division 415 under command of Ee Chhien rebelled along with division 450 led by Sok Pheap.

With my correct instruction and leadership of the win-win policy, the small rebel groups have grown until we achieved a real peace in which no Cambodian was loser. We all won.

No Peace Negotiation on December 2, There Would Not Be Paris Peace Accord

As we are celebrating the 20th integration anniversary, we have seen with our own eyes the fact that we are transforming former battlefields into market and development areas. Over the road of more than 200 Kilometers, I have seen the complete change from division and bloody battles to developments of all kinds.

This is an achievement that the Cambodians are making it happen after the Paris Peace Agreement.

We will not forget the Paris Peace Agreement but let me take this opportune moment to share with our Buddhist monks and compatriots that should there be no Sihanouk-Hun Sen peace negotiation in 1987, and later in January 1998, there would not be a Paris Peace Agreement.

I hope that politicians would interpret this event to its original fact rather than irresponsibly exploiting it for political gain and some had even falsified the content of the Paris Peace Agreement, which has now become the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

I have had a belief that what we had achieved initially at the Sihanouk-Hun Sen peace negotiation on 2 December 1997 had in fact evolved from a forum of Hun Sen to involve other political factions, the Jakarta Informal Meeting (JIM) I and JIM – II, and to a conference on Cambodia in France.

I have been one of the two actors of the process. Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Preah Borom Ratanakaod already passed away.

The Paris Peace Agree-

ment and Win-Win Policy Bring Peace and Development

The most important thing here is after implementing the Paris Peace Agreement, and the withdrawal of UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia), the country was in a state of endless war, and was still a divided nation with two factions – the Royal Government and the Democratic Kampuchea.

Cambodian children then stood together for a solution for the country's problem.

We are the younger generation and we worked out together to untie the knots left from former generation.

I have brought this point up on 22 October 1996 and in various other places such as Samlout, Kamrieng, Phnom Proek, Sampeo Loune, and Malai, along with other areas with integration.

Hun Sen and other secession leaders are not responsible for war created by people of former generation. We just did our best to end it. We have been happy to do so. As of now, former war fields have had peace, transformed into development areas instead of fighting.

I have noted with pleasure that people living along the border areas – Malai of Banteay Meanjei, Phnom Proek, Sampeo Loun, Kamrieng, all the way to Pailin, are quite happy with their achievements.

I have contributed in reorganizing educational geography for them ... the road distance is long but the road is good. It did not take us too long to get where we needed.

However, people, teachers, and students are in dire need of infrastructures relating to

education and I have the duty to address their calls. I did so too in areas, also former battlefields, along other parts of our border with Thailand such as Preah Vihear, Uddar Meanjei and today in Banteay Meanjei, Battambang and Pailin.

This is what I wish to share with our Buddhist monks, compatriots on the occasions that we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement. Please let me stress again that should there be no groundbreaking Sihanouk-Hun Sen peace negotiation, there would certainly be no Paris Peace Agreement.

Secondly, if there were no win-win policy that I set out and led the implementation – with supports from involved stakeholders and people – there would not be peace as present.

I hope that politicians and our people in general will make fair judgments on what have been happening on the land of Cambodia...■

(Continued from page 8)

Tourism Co-Prime Mover, Cambodia is pleased to host the 2nd ACD Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Siem Reap in 2017.

I would like to invite all ACD members to attend this meeting, and visit and explore Cambodia's Angkor Wat temple, which is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

Finally, I also would like to congratulate the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for its role as the incoming ACD Chair; and I am confident that under the UAE's chairmanship, more progresses will be made towards realizing the ACD's Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030 ■

(Continued from page 1)

for record keeping.

... HE Pith Chamnan, on behalf of Minister Hang Chuon Naron, who is now in Singapore, has made a report about the overall development of education of Cambodia. I am so satisfied with the progress, especially every reforms taken over the past recent years as they are giving us fruits so far. Outstandingly, we are reaping benefits from reform of education practices from Primary to Secondary, and to Tertiary education, for which quality education is the objective. It is true that in every country there always are challenges, no matter how advanced they may be. Look at the debate between the US Republican and Democratic candidates we would learn right away that in their countries there are still major challenges. Poorer countries are facing particular sorts of problems of their own, while richer ones also do for their own.

Used to Teach Two Subjects

As for RULE today, I would affirm my pleasure to see the progress the University has attained. I could remind you the short and medium courses we had in the past. I could recall that I used to teach in this University three to four times in the 1980s. I had my lecture for some 3,000 students and there were two topics that I addressed. The first topic was about evaluation of international and national affairs. This is the topic that only people in leadership would be able to do it in those days.

The second topic covered areas like in the Royal School of Administration (RSA) about methodology of leadership and works and

organizations. Some of those taken the course, heads of deputy heads of districts or Khan, in those days may still be alive [...]

Today we also have the presence of some of the former students of RULE and are working in the Royal Government – HE Bin Chhin, HE Cham Prasidh, HE Var Kimhong ... they are former students of RULE. As for me, since 1990's, I have made my presence in graduation and diploma presenting ceremony for RULE almost every year. From 06 August 1996, I presided over the graduation of diploma presenting ceremony for 296 graduates, for 2,434 on 08 September 1997, and increasingly more every year thereafter. Sometimes I had to come twice.

Private Sector's Participation in Human Resource Training and Development

I am so proud and happy to see that policy laid out in the Royal Government's political platform provided chances for the private sector to participate in investment for human resource development. Human resource training and development have been the state's efforts too. We were a bit hesitating initially for the steps taken but later we decided to widen the trail. In the beginning, we allowed on the National Management Institute to go on this path and later it has become National University of Management. It is no longer part of the Royal University of Phnom Penh and it allowed before any other state University courses for fee-paying students. We then build up on this initiative to encourage other state universities to provide tertiary education by both the state scholarships and fee-paying programs.

It is in this concept of liberalization that some universities grasped the chances to apply methods of using their own ability and resource to develop their facilities or I may call it using whatever the university has to develop it.

Aside from providing courses for those enjoyed the state scholarships, universities are providing courses for fees. That has brought about solutions that help with salary for professors as well as for constructions of required buildings. I came for the inauguration of three buildings. If we were to foresee no such need what could we do now to deal with situation like this year that we have over 50,000 high school graduates.

Now we have the state and private universities to absorb high school graduates and this has marked the provision of wider chance by the Royal Government for private sector participation as well as for the state university to provide more fee-paying programs for them. This has resulted in bettering salary of professors and developing further infrastructure required. It is relieving indeed pressure entirely on the national budget. I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation to efforts and progress made by RULE as a university so far [...]

Achieving Diplomas – A Gratitude to Parents

With appreciation and congratulations to the progress, I would take this opportune moment to join with graduates of both state scholarships and fee-paying programs, though the majority of you are from the fee-paying programs. This has in fact illustrated efforts made by every individual and family to sacrifice times and resources for this educational endeavor.

This is the point for which I am appealing to graduates to return success to your parents, superintendents, and family members as a whole for their times, resources and efforts to pay for your studies.

I am so thrilled and respectful to efforts of our youth. I happened to meet with young girls who worked in the golf fields pulling golf bags along golfers. They mostly are students in universities and some of them are in their last years too. I am so proud with their efforts because they value education and knowledge. They are willing to serve while studying. They choose to study at a certain time to reserve their working hours to pay for their school fees or for their other needs. They worked hard and sometimes have less time to study, while some are too free to take drugs and be a gangster.

Let Us Act to Stop Drug Use and Trafficking

It was sad indeed. I hope that our youth in the whole country will not bring suffering to parents because of own actions, especially drug use and trafficking. We would not resort to harsh measures as in Thailand or in other countries, which brought about killings. However, we will not forgive those in the drugs ring. I am taking this opportune moment to appeal to authority of all levels and the armed forces to act together to suppress drug crimes that are raging from one country to another. Each country has different measure to deal with this issue and Cambodia will implement its laws.

Some have suggested that we reinstate death penalty to execute criminals and drugs dealers. We will not go that

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4 B) far. We will just apply life imprisonment for those who commit the heinous crimes.

We will not go back to make amendment of the Constitution to bring to life the death penalty but those drugs criminals should not see that that was a loophole for them. I had chance to sit briefly with President of the Philippines and we exchanged on drugs issue. I also did the same with other leaders, President of Indonesia for instance. We had come to an amazing fact that despite being in prisons, some of the criminals could also organize their trafficking routes and business [...]

There are challenging issues and we need to find ways to address them. With my joy for the graduation of our students today, I should bring to attention one fact that some of you are from poorer families and you had to request scholarships from different sources or to seek financial help to pay for your studies. Today, you are proud. However, some parents are today in suffering and tears because their kids involved in drugs, gambling and or hateful public actions. I would take this auspicious moment to express my congratulations to parents, family members and their supervisors for their successes today.

To Expand China Market for Cambodian Agricultural Produces

I would share with you that on the coming Sunday I will be taking a one-night trip to Thailand to join in a meeting of heads of State and/or Government. I will take that chance to meet with Prime Minister of Thailand and leaders of some other countries as well. As usual, meeting like that, we could have talked about a particular issue and normally it is not for

public attention. On 13 and 14 October, President of the People's Republic of China will come for a visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia. If all go according to plan, there will be not less than 28 papers to sign. It is a big number. When I was in China in 2004, there are many papers signed but this time we will have more.

One major issue here is to seek an expanding market in China for Cambodian agricultural produces – ranging not only rice but also cassava, and others, including also bananas. We are also seeking to have increasing tourist arrival from China. Some people mocked me about my call for 1.3 million Chinese visitors. Now we had some 800,000 of them. That we have now direct flights between Chinese provinces to Cambodia, we hope number of Chinese tourist arrival will move to a bigger number. We are now facing with the reality that there is a growing demand for Chinese language tour guides. In Cambodia, to find Chinese food is easy [...]

This is what we call mutual assistance. We go to China and Chinese will come to us. Our two-way trade has top realize target of 5 billion USD in 2017. We will be able to achieve this because we already topped 4 billion USD in 2015. In 2014, we did almost 5 billion USD already. Now our export is getting bigger to the Chinese markets, it will be a better chance for Cambodian farmers and people.

As for rice, China is not a rice-shortage country. However, China accepted to buy 100,000 tons from Cambodia. At the same time, from a country that is short in rice for food, Cambodia is now a rice exporting country, how-

ever, at the time of fluctuating prices and uncertain world economic growth.

Uncertain of World Economic Growth

It is now clear that world economic growth is not certain. IMF has brought down its prediction again, and again. In the latest ASEAN summit and related summits, and other meetings, the meeting between ASEAN leaders and IMF Managing Director on world economic growth seemed to have no optimism. The US growth takes a slow pace, while EU has had to deal with the Greece debts. They also had this major issue of Brexit thing. I think in this month, we will have a special envoy from the UK to Cambodia. We will have to renegotiate trade deal. We exported some 882 million USD to UK under the regime of European trade. That the UK left EU, we have to know if our trade deal will stay the same that continues to offer us favor like those under the European regime.

While strengthening existing markets, we are also working to access new ones. Existing markets would count in those of China, South Korea, Japan, Europe, the US, and new ones would include focus to Eurasia ..., which include some of the former Soviet member states with who we have signed observer or partner agreements.

We also are looking to the Middle East. We are trying to get there so that our Muslim people will stand a chance to produce Halal food and export to the Arab countries. We are working hard to expand markets and we do everything we possibly can to achieve that [...]

Income Tax to Apply on Salary of One Million and Over

... Last night I had to go through a 20 pages document seriously before allowing it to go into agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 21 October. It is the Law of Financial Management for 2017. We are planning to bring it to the National Assembly by the first week of November and the law should be ready, after the Senate's approval and HM's signature, for implementation in mid December.

Let me clarify a thing about salary that I brought it up in this place early this week. There have been complaints and demands about (the worker's) minimum salary. Well, the most important point here whatever the demands are, we do not have money. I wish to share with you though that our income tax which applied before for any salary that was 500,000 Riel and above, and later 800,000 Riel and above, will move next year to a new ceiling.

To help with officials, armed forces, teachers ... the Financial Management Law next year will exercise income tax for the salary that is 1,000,000 Riel and above. This means that those with 500,000 and 800,000 salary and above are no longer subjects of taxes. Only those with a salary of one million and above will pay income tax. However, there will be a norm to impose tax. That is for state income.

According to our budget goal, in one year, we aim to increase 0.5% but we will have to strive to reach 0.7% of income, making way to 18.5% while countries in region have reached 20% already. We are rolling a small step at a time through public financial reforms. That we are working on tax

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 2) only according to their ability but also making it a must. Situation evolves and could pick up speed anytime. We may not be catching up with it and risk of being a conservative person and for being so, danger could arise.

An Increase in Teachers' Salary

I have a strong hope on contributions from every section of society in our country in the promotion and development of human resources. We have proven to carry the task through in the past 37 years already. From my visits to provinces and speaking to numerous teachers in local educational levels, a majority

of them has had their salary and benefit together up to over one million Riel (a month) already. For next year, net salary, sometimes referred to as the minimum monthly salary, for teachers will reach over 900,000 Riel, not yet including other benefits. This year, teachers' salary stands at 805,000 Riel, and will reach to 853,500 Riel in April and continues to increase until it reaches 953,500 Riel. Those teaching in rural areas will also enjoy their regional benefits from an extra payment of 80,000 to 100,000 and even 120,000 Riel. I did remind those teachers that when they were in schools, their teachers then taught for rice and later nine

(Continued from page 5) payment culture, the Royal Government has taken into consideration other issues such as tax on transference of property from parents or grandparents to children and/or grandchildren. They no longer need stamping taxes [...]

We Will Keep Up Our Works, Boat Race on the Way

As for political situation, I do not have anything to say. However, political situation in Cambodia seems to rest in people's tongue. They may say it is tense and later it is a détente. It seems that the tongue has its say. As for us, we are working. We are moving forward. The majority of people do not seem to care about whether it is tense or détente like some said it to be [...] Let us just prepare for boat race [...]

Well that should be enough about politics. As you may see, venerable monks, though people bragged about crisis, you would still have to go to the dining hall and be

strictly in rainy season regime. When the rainy season is over, some may want to get back to secular life. That is normal.

Peace, Infrastructure, Income Keep Phnom Penh Quiet during Phjum Ben

Before ending, I would once again thank the authority of every levels and everywhere, the armed forces and pagodas throughout the country for taking parts in allowing our Buddhist parishioners to exercise their Ben and Phjum Ben religious and traditional ceremony in a peaceful and joyful manner ... the country has been safe.

I am so happy to see that our people are going to every corner of the country because we have ensured peace, infrastructural connectivity and people are more resourceful to travel wherever they wish to. That has left Phnom Penh quiet during the Phjum Ben day holiday. People left cities to go to their native villages to see their relatives and to exercise traditional and religious rites and offering... ■

basic items. The Government officials also worked for the same stuff. We survived and progressed together.

Education Reform Serves Long-term Development

You may as well know that (regional and world) economic condition is not so good. That has brought impacts on our economy too. Take for instance, markets for rice and agricultural produces. However, to grow another 7% of our economy is not hard to achieve. This year we are sure that we will achieve 7% economic growth. However, we must strive together to achieve the goal. I hope that our human resource – that we have trained since when the country was in difficult condition with small number of properly trained teachers – will have roles in it. In those days, those with six years education had to teach those in fourth year. Now we have ascertained a new standard. We may end our practice of a nine years plus two years to make someone a teacher. We may start soon a twelve years plus two years system.

Sometimes a teacher received diplomas from me twice – once at the Royal University of Phnom Penh and again at the National Institute of Education. It is like moving up the stairs where one stair up is higher than before. We are making efforts together to ensure such progress. Along with this, deeper reform in education increases human attentions and efforts on education. The various measures taken by the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports (MoEYS) have been steps leading us to a better education standard, with better quality and serving Cambodia's long-term development.

Well, growing a fruit tree you may expect it to give fruit in six or seven years. Growing a human resource would take us at least 16 years for them to get their bachelor degrees. For anyone to go for higher would need to spend 18 years and for PhD would have to work on a twenty years time.

Sometimes, with higher education, some would not be able to do a very good job. Some PhD holders could not do everything. Some with PhD degrees know many things but they would not be able to explain and make other people understand. Some would be great in writing. Human are born to be of different ability.

Hailing High School Graduates and Progress in Education

However, no matter how different we may be in term of ability, we are sharing one common objective to build our country. On this point, I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere congratulation to all graduates today – including also Buddhist monks who just finished their studies too. I am sharing joys with parents, spouses, siblings, and/or superintendants of all graduates for making joint efforts to let them hold on to chances and transform themselves into intellectuals for our country.

With this congratulatory message on education sector as a whole, the CUS progress in particular, and the efforts made personally for this achievement today, I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks for scholarships that CUS has kindly provided to me. I am sure some of the students here are present because of

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)
the scholarships they received from me.

Win-win Policy Brings about Peace

I would like to take this opportune moment to address on a number of issues after we have spent some holiday times during the Phjum Ben festivity. First, I have made trips to 20 provinces/cities out of 25. I still have trips to make to the remaining ones in the near future. However, since my schedule is so tight, we are going to have some guests coming to visit our country, and I will have to go for meetings in foreign countries, I am seeking your understanding that the trips will be rescheduled to a later dates. For Phnom Penh, I think I would not have to go to meet people but bring them to Koh Pich. I am calling on HE Pa Socheatvong, Mayor of Phnom Penh, to make an appointment. Kandal, Prey Veng and Svay Rieng are not far from Phnom Penh too. I will go to Pailin. I will go Bangteay Meanjei again. I still have to make a trip to Koh Kong, though.

While traveling in provinces, I was of a long thought on how those places would be should war did not stop. I travelled thousands of Kilometers and about two third of my journey was passing through former battlefields – for instance my voyage from Preah Vihear to Uddar Meanjei. I travelled to Ratanakiri, Mondulkiri (in the northeast) and came back down to Stoeng Treng. I took the National Road 9 and turned down to the districts of Chheb and Rovieng. I was on deep thought should there be no win-win policy, what those places would have become? The districts of Chheb and Rovieng were formerly

military stronghold of the former state of Cambodia's division 5, who stood guard between Preah Vihear and Kompong Thom.

I did not take the National 62 though. I took a different one to see the protected zone of Boeng Pe, which is a part of Prey Long. The trip was on partly paved and partly unpaved roads. I noticed sea of palm trees (Trang) of which a few years ago not much left. It was the same in cases of Kompong Speu, Kompong Chhnang, Takeo, etc. where palm trees were chopped off for trees or leaves. People need palm leaves for roofing. Now people no longer need palm leaves for roof anymore because there are plenty of alternatives – tiles, corrugated zinc, cement, etc. That has explained too why there are more palm trees growing. This is the benefit of peace that we have made efforts to achieve altogether.

Urban and Rural Education Development

I have a great pleasure to see that in the course of my trips to provinces, teachers and parents made building schools for their kids a bigger request. I have noticed educational development in comparison between those in rural and urban areas. I am so proud to see a high school that I visited in Kon Mom district of Ratanakiri, all twenty two students passed the exams. Last year 98% of them did too. It was quite encouraging. I reached the district of Rovieng in Preah Vihear, about 78% of their high school students passed. In the whole country, Mondulkiri has the highest rate of high school students who passed exam – 80.80%. While in Phnom Penh and Kandal, some schools, only 44% of their students passed

the exams. Maybe students in rural areas did not suffer distractions from their studies.

Please Go and Register for Voting Right

After we spent a holiday during Phjum Ben, please allow me to make some appeals here. Firstly, I am calling on people to continue to register for their voting rights in response to appeal by the National Elections Committee. It has been made known that there have been nearly four million registering for their voting rights. In this instance, I am calling on everyone who has not registered for votes yet to do so.

Please Purchase Rice from Our Farmers

We have rice cultivated in odd season in three provinces – Banteay Meanjei, Battambang and Pursat, and we did not have market for it. I am calling on our people to continue to purchase rice from our farmers. People cultivated the Sen Kro Ob rice and they have harvested a sum that is exceeding exporting ability. Thailand also had the same problem. Vietnam's rice export also fell by 23%. We suffered some percentage too. Many people have their ability to produce for own consumption, for instance Japan. Though industrialized, Japan did not have rice shortage problem and they even exported their food abroad. Many countries exported their foods to Cambodia. We may find cheese, foie gras, butter, red wines, etc. in our market. They are foreign products. I am now addicted to Japanese ice cream. I tasted a small bit from my grandchildren's ice cream and now I am in the habit of taking one or two before going to bed.

Rice Production Goal

Achieved

I am calling on people to continue to purchase rice from farmers. Some millers would not need fund from the Royal Government but they also had to purchase rice not less than 840 Riel per kilogram for dried rice delivered to millers. I have seen people are drying their rice and I am calling on farmers to go on doing that. Our country formerly imported rice for own consumption. However, when we formulated and put into practice this policy to export over one million ton of milled rice by 2015, we achieved only one of our goals. We have ascertained a surplus of 4.8 million tons in the cultivating year of 2015/2016. However, we failed to realize our goal of exporting one million tons of milled rice. We see the need now to increase our ability to have more drying silos, warehouses, and fund to purchase rice. We are facing with tough competitions too. In the Middle East, our rice could not break into their markets because they are accustomed to rice from India. Our best quality rice is finding its market in Europe instead. Poland was the first biggest country that buys rice from Cambodia. France stands in second.

Keeping Water for Cultivation

Thirdly, I am calling on our people to keep water in their reservoirs. It is now sure that we would not have flood calamity from the Mekong seasonal flooding. We may have flash flood from rain in some areas though. Our forecast of seasonal flooding to 9.30 meters in Phnom Penh had in fact reached its maximum level of only 8.13 meters in 22 September. The Ministry of Water Resource

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

and Meteorology already started a few weeks now pumping water into reservoirs along the Mekong, the Bassac and Tonle Sap Rivers for our people to cultivate flood recession and dry season rice. However, people must also make efforts to keep water on their own for cultivation of those rice species. I am sure our people know what to do and will reap a good harvest from it ... Please protect your dams and/or reservoirs and prevent people from digging them open to fish.

Boat Racing at 5.9 Meters Level in Tonle Sap River

On another note, according to forecast, water in the Tonle Sap river by the time of boat racing ceremony will stay at 5.9 meters – more or less similar to in 2003. On average, we organize boat race when the level of water in the river is 6.95 meters. Last year we cancelled the ceremony because water was at its lowest level – 3.41 meters. Fortunately, the water level this year will allow us to organize boat race during the water festival event. I also wish to share with you that on the day of ending rainy season, there will be a boat-racing event on 16 October in Takhmao town. I would not fail to attend.

Since the water level is low, I am sure there will be a number of difficulties concerning bringing long racing boats out from small rivers to the Mekong or Tonle Sap rivers. I am calling on the pagodas committees to figure out the safe way to bring their boats down and send for the boat-racing event in Phnom Penh.

... It is indeed our tradition to have boat race in the water festival event and this year we will do it ...

Extensive Speech Excerpts of 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue Summit

10 October 2016

... Please allow me to begin by thanking His Excellency Prayuth Chan-Ocha, Prime Minister of Kingdom of Thailand, for inviting me to the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit. I would like to express my profound gratitude and deep appreciation to the people and Government of Thailand for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation.

Cambodia is of the view that this summit serves as an important platform for exchanges of views and experiences on cooperation policy for Asia as a whole. The expansion of ACD membership from just 18 countries in 2002 to 34 countries this year reaffirms credibility and relevancy of ACD for other countries in the world. As all of us are fully aware, we ASEAN member states have just embarked upon a new phase of the ASEAN Economic Community this year. In this context, I believe that ACD's mechanisms would complement our existing ASEAN frameworks and regional cooperation frameworks led by ASEAN or with ASEAN as the core.

Certainly, achieving an Asian Community is a long and strenuous journey.

Nonetheless, to realize this long-term goal I think that we should start by working together to ensure that Asia is a continent of shared peace, stability, harmony, progress and prosperity. In this regard, I would like to share my perspectives on the roles of ACD as follows:

First: Cambodia supports the strengthening of the ACD as a regional dialogue to promote Asia's cooperation based on the ACD's founding principles such as

positive thinking, informality, voluntarism and respect for diversity.

Taking into account the diversity of ACD members, I would like to stress that two other key principles of cooperation – inclusiveness and complementarity – also play important role in increasing efficiency and ensuring harmony of our cooperation.

Second: Cambodia stresses the importance of having a balanced agenda on cross-cutting issues and challenges in Asia such as poverty alleviation, connectivity, the nexus of food, and water and energy security, coupled with climate change.

In this context, I fully support the ACD's decision to consolidate the 20 areas of cooperation to just 6 pillars of cooperation and the Adoption of ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030, which is well in line with the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Cambodia is of the view that the adoption of this vision presents an opportunity for the ACD Member States to contribute to the success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and welcomes the initiatives and practical activities that complement the six ACD's priorities.

Third: Amongst the 6 priority pillars, I would like to highlight two of them.

The first one is "Regional Connectivity", especially physical infrastructure connectivity, which is regarded as one of the most important priorities and requires a large amount of financing.

As such, the ACD should seek to ensure the synergy with other important regional

initiatives like China's "One Belt, One Road" and "Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)" as well as Japan's "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure" in Asia. These are the new sources of financing that would respond to the massive needs for infrastructure financing in our region.

The second one is "Culture and Tourism". Cambodia regards this pillar as a major contributor to its economic growth, and views tourism as an important part of people-to-people connectivity.

In this regard, ACD could promote greater flows of Asian tourists within wider Asian region through more cultural-exchange activities, youth exchange programs, festivals, sports events and academic seminars.

Fourth: I am very pleased to see that ACD has evolved from a Government-to-Government initiative to an initiative that engages private sector as another pillar of cooperation.

In this spirit, I welcome the launch of the 1st ACD Connect Business Forum under the theme "Innovative Financial Connectivity for a Sustainable Asia".

Moving forward, I encourage more organizations of this kind of forum in order to allow businesses from ACD countries to promote stronger business networks, in particular the SMEs as well as female and young entrepreneurs.

Before ending, I would like to congratulate Iran for hosting the 1st ACD Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Tabriz last August 2016. As a

(Continued on page 3)