

Opening 6th Angkor Sangkranta

(13 April 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)



13-16 April 2018—Samdech Techo Hun Sen at the Celebration of Angkor Sangkranta — Khmer New Year

Sangkranta Presents National Culture, Tradition, and Identity

I am so pleased to join with all of you to celebrate the upcoming sixth Angkor Sangkranta (here in Siem Reap). This the fourth participation that my wife and I have made our presences. It is true that in 24 hours the current deity will leave and the new one will take over. We are celebrating the opening of Sangkranta at the very end of the year (of rooster) and the beginning year (of dog). I hope that both of them will bestow upon us their best wishes [...] we have celebrated the Angkor Sangkranta six years in a row now. We have now celebrated the Sangkranta event to over ten cities/provinces [...] this is a very good time for us to present our culture, tradition, and pride of our effort to preserve our culture and identity. Let me take this glorious occasion to welcome Excellencies, Ladies, Ambassadors, foreign friends for taking their times to celebrate this event with us [...] we are pleased to welcome everyone, and this year, the event of Sangkranta has recorded helps from over 4,000 youth volunteers in Siem Reap [...]

180,000 Tourists in 2013, 1.6 million Tourists in 2017

The governor of Siem Reap, HE Khim Bun Song, just reported about how the Angkor Sangkranta had been organized in the past and progresses made by the province of Siem Reap in raising awareness of the Angkor Sangkranta event. According to the figures I have here, there were some 180,000 tourists coming for the event in 2013, and 400,000 in 2014. We had recorded some one million tourists to the event in 2015, 1.3 million in 2016, and 1.6 million in 2017. I sincerely hope that the figure this year will rise higher since people are looking forwards to enjoy the festivities organized in the historical site of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

A Triangular Meeting of Human, Visual and Abstract Cultures

We had in the last year been the record keeper of the giant Ansam or sticky rice cake of 4,040 kg. There was also a Madison of 2,015 dancers. We also had national level records breakers of chess, fishing traps, palm-leave hat, etc. [...] I do not

(Continued on page 2)

Royal Sands Koh Rong Hotel

(23 April 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Inaugurating the Five-Star Royal Sands Koh Rong Hotel

I am so happy today to be able to come for the first time to Koh Rong. In nearly forty years that I rule the country, the only island that I had been was Koh Tonsay. I have not been able to go to other islands yet. Secondly, I also never visit the mountains of Kulen and Kirirom. However, I have a good knowledge of those places, I am able to monitor and resolve issues there. Today, Samdech Krola Haom Sar Kheng is at-

tending the opening of the Senate session because this inauguration today has been pre-scheduled and there was lack of communication from the Senate's choice of date. We are here to put into operation the five-star Royal Sands Koh Rong Hotel.

Inspecting and Taking Back Islands Left Without Investments

I am so proud that we have finally made it happen and I hope

(Continued on page 3)

Vanda Institute of Accounting's Diplomas

(3 April 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Peace for More Than 15 Million People

There would be no successes without efforts made. As is mentioned by Dr. Heng Vanda, achievements scored because of peace have greater interactions with development. Where there is no peace, there will be no development. We also have found the plot by some to destroy peace. We do not hesitate to take measures. At whatever cost it may take, we must guarantee that peace prevails in Cambodia and the country continues to be on the course of democracy, liberal pluralism, and respect of human rights. Firstly, the right to life that is free of fear, death because of war and past genocide [...]

Need More Human Resource for Private Enterprises/Factories

[...] I hope that graduates today whether bachelor, master, etc. continue to raise their capacity. I wish to underline that as a developing country, and in the course of influx of local and

foreign investments, we have discovered that there is lack of intelligence capital or human resource [...] not only those investments coming from outside the country, those within also are in need of more human capital. We did not have enough to answer to their calls [...] it is on this note that some companies have had to bring in needed expertise from abroad, for which they have to pay higher wages [...] they had to because with imported skill at this stage, one person can do the jobs of many locals [...]

Modernizing Institutional Capacity

[...] It is on this note that I continue to call for strengthening of quality of education at tertiary educational institutions, while

(Continued on page 4)

In This Issue

Sangkranta Angkor	...1
Royal Sands Koh Rong	...1
Vanda Institute	... 1
Cambodian-Chinese	... 5
Kratie University	... 6
Human Resource	... 7

(Continued from page 1)

know if there was really a giant but everything that is big we always say they belong to the giant or giant-like. I know we are going to have more shows in the Sangkranta event this year. I hope through these efforts the province of Siem Reap will be making further progress in peace. I am so happy that in every Sangkranta event we organized, we have been able to present a meeting between three players – human, visual and abstract cultures. We have brought visual arts/culture of every forms to this historical site of abstract culture for our people [...]

Angkor Sangkranta – Young Generation’s Creativity

On this occasion, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the provincial authority, the armed forces, institutions involved, for their active participations in preparing for, organizing, and supporting this event. I also express my sincere appreciation for the Union of the Cambodian Youth Federations for their initiative to celebrate and organize this event for six consecutive years. It is our youth’s creativity and we recognize that it is the younger generation requirement and efforts. Everyone has gone through their period of youth. We the former youth generation build things for the younger generation. They would do the same to younger ones [...]

Youth Benefits from Peace and National Development

From one stage to another, youth are benefiting great interests from peace and national development. I have no hesitation to support activities carried out by the youth and would be happy to provide them chance to fulfil their tasks and dreams. The fact that the youth volunteers are growing in number shows clearly their voluntary activities to prepare and take parts in supporting national culture. That we have this year the Sangkranta in over ten cities/provinces, we are encouraged to see that we still have many youth volunteers here and

participations at every levels and places [...]

“In Admiration of Ancestral Heritages”

Under the theme in “Admiration of Ancestral Heritage,” through which 23 forms have been selected for shows as reported by the Chairman of the UCYF, which includes also Prey Prosidhi – one of the chief playwright of Samdech Preah Borom Ratana Kaod, Preah Baat Norodom Sihanouk, we are taking high national pride. I hope that the longest scarf weaving program would in the end achieve our aim of breaking a new record. We will prove that we, as a nation, are able to do it as has been proved by heritages left by our ancestors [...] we are proud and will continue to take good care of these cultural heritages [...]

I am calling on our people living nearby and doing their business in the Angkor region to join hands to protect and preserve our heritages. Their inputs to our understanding and participation for the safeguard and preservation of historical heritages would be welcome [...] please do not infiltrate forbidden areas, especially in temples that we have already earned their world heritages statuses. We must make efforts to protect – not only the three temples listed but also those ones we are preparing for listing as human cultural heritages [...]

Advantages of Angkor Sangkranta

Firstly, people in Siem Reap enjoy advantages of hosting tourists, not only in hotels but also in many guesthouses. They are the outcome of implementing open-sky policy. Providing services for tourists to stay, transport, sell souvenir objects, and other activities, gives benefits to our people as a whole, those in Siem Reap in particular. People who grow vegetables and raise animals can export their produces to meet local needs [...] the other day I hosted a meal for the Foreign Minister of Japan [...]

I noticed he had them all [...]

this proves that Cambodian foods are edible [...]

Secondly, Angkor Sangkranta provides joy for traditional Khmer New Year, and smiles from our people’s hearts to welcome foreign guests. Tonight, there will be traditional dances and Saravan will definitely be one of them. I am ready for it. Experts seem to have thought that Saravan dance originates in Laos. However, Saravan has been one of the Cambodian dances as well [...] I hope people will benefit from tourists’ arrivals and I am calling on our people to keep reasonable prices in their trades [...]

Thirdly, the Angkor Sangkranta reflects unity, solidarity, friendship, family-like spirit of the Cambodians, joy of harmony, happiness, and pride among our youth and people in the whole country. Angkor Sangkranta is not for this or that group of people. It belongs to us. We enjoy together [...]

Fourthly, Angkor Sangkranta presents to foreign guests our history, prosperity, culture, civilization, custom, tradition, religion from the time of great Angkor period to present. Cambodia, which before was divided because of war, internal division, and genocide, has become one of the most attractive tourist destinations with some 5.7 million tourists arrivals [...]

Fifthly, through the experiences of Angkor Sangkranta, we have now celebrated Sangkranta in more places. This year we have the Sangkranta in Phnom Penh at Wat Phnom and Po Senjei, in Kandal province at Phnom Preah Reajtroap, in Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kompong Thom, Benteay Meanjei, Kompong Speu, Battambang, Koh Kong, Kompot, etc. We also have Sangkranta in South Korea, where we have some 50,000 workers [...]

Four Factors for Cambodians to Enjoy Khmer New Year

... I may conclude that there are four factors that our people are enjoying the Khmer New Year in the whole country. Firstly,

peace has allowed people to travel freely without fear. Cambodia in the past had been a country of many divisions and till 1998, we were able to being a complete peace for the country, for which we are celebrating the 20th anniversary this year [...] Secondly, infrastructures in place provides connectivity for people to get to where they wish to. We now have only this segment between Samlot and Thmorda (in Pursat) and through to Koh Kong to complete round-country connectivity [...] the Royal Government will continue to make further efforts on this front [...]

Thirdly, people have means of transportation. More and more people have their own transportation means, and some travel with private means [...] fourthly, income of civil servants, armed forces, workers are better [...] it is true that we still have challenges. It is not yet sufficient. From one year to the next, people’s living condition are getting better. We have entered a status of lower-middle income country, with an ambition to become in 2030 a higher-middle income country, and 2050 to become high income country [...]

Please allow me to convey best wishes to and to ask the new deity to bestow wishes for our compatriots inside the country and abroad, the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, civil servants, our peacekeeping troops in South Sudan, Mali, and Central African Republic, and may the new deity of the year of dog blesses them [...]

(Continued from page 6)

enjoy Sangkranta and between 17 and 18 April, they roamed the streets to return [...]

... Some called disables by their disabilities – the blind, the amputated, etc. These are immoral [...] In this world, people are pity of disables but these people behave immorally [...] even people with HIV/AIDS, we must not be discriminated against them [...] Everyone must uphold moral and should not overlook this issue [...]

(Continued from page 1)

there will be more to come. I should say that many of our islands have not come out with real achievements yet. We have offered from the start chances for some thirty islands for companies to invest. However, we may have to take those islands back because they have not done anything to develop those islands yet. HE Sok Chenda (of the Cambodia Development Council) may process inspections and take those islands back. We may get them ready for new investments. We cannot allow our islands to stay without proper managements as they are now [...]

Koh Rong – A Destination of High-Class Tourists

Today, Koh Rong has become a destination for high-class tourists [...] for instance in Maldives, many Cambodians have also liked to spend their times there though their environment were not even better than in Cambodia. We have so many islands invested to attract high-class tourists such as Koh Tonsay. They are not only for foreign tourists. They are for local tourists as well. I learnt that some Cambodians are spending their night in a two-thousand USD per night hotel [...]

I am so happy to learn from the report of the director of the hotel after the project was launched since 12 December 2015 under the presence of Samdech Krola Haom Sar Kheng [...] There will be a construction of some 59 Km of road, of which thirty has already started. That our people had to travel from one place to the other by boat, they would not do that anymore once the road is ready. Koh Rong will be in connection by roads. They will build concrete road and I am sure we will have more tourists coming to spend their holidays here.

Cambodian Islands Are No Targets for Terrorists

That is a major part of the Kingdom of Cambodia's development. A country that is in peace. I have confidence that Cambodian islands are no targets of terrorist attacks. They would not

be in their interests to destabilize Cambodian islands and to cause disruption of flow of tourists to visit those islands. I am very proud of such progress. This has clearly indicated that there is no political crisis in Cambodia. Cambodia is continuing its path of development. Cambodia is among the countries with systematic democracy, liberal pluralism, and advancing with firm economic growth and investments.

Land Prices Go High Before Elections

We may make a point that 2018 is different from every other years before. I could remember that during the elections in 1998, land prices stood still. People waited to see what would happen during and after the elections. Right after the elections results came out that the Cambodian People's Party won, land prices went up. Again, in 2003, in the golf field, many went abroad because they had concerns in the period of elections. The field went quiet. Once the Cambodian People's Party won the elections, they flocked the field again. In 2008, everything stood still waiting to see who would win the elections. Once the Cambodian People's Party won, land prices went up. In 2013, it was more of the same. However, in 2018, land prices does not go down but go up even before the elections because they knew very well that I would continue to be Prime Minister and that the Cambodian People's Party will win the elections is a sure thing.

Inaugurating Koh Rong Hotel to Advertise to Tourists

My presence here on Koh Rong is a starting point. I hope that other islands that earned their contracts from the Royal Government will continue with their development plans. I will take my time to join inaugurations because this will be messages to outside world and tourists to come to the Kingdom of Cambodia to have their peaceful holidays [...]

Buildings on Islands Should Not Be Taller Than Trees

I am of the recommendation that buildings on the island should not be taller than trees grown here. HE Chea Sophara, Minister of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction, the one to approve the construction plans, must not allow construction of 30 or 50 floor-buildings. Let us keep it natural. We are interested to maintain a development covered by nature [...] we shall keep the beach for everyone. I wish to add that in every islands, development must follow procedures and master plans [...]

Koh Rong and Every Islands Are State Property

Along with our encouragement to continue with islands development according to procedures and master plans, while taking care of our environment and natural beaches, I am taking this opportune moment to affirm to people living here and in the whole country that Koh Rong and every islands are all state property. We offer people/companies rights to reside, to collect profit, but not the right to manage it. Let us be clear that Koh Rong is the state property and the state has offered rights to a company to invest to attract tourists to create jobs for our people. At a certain point in time, the islands will return to the state. It is not a private land. It is a state land that leases out to private company for investment.

We have to develop it because there will be no tourists interested in coming to spend their holidays under trees without hospitality. Many countries in this world have developed their islands even before us. People should not be of the misconception of land at Koh Rong belongs to Oknha Kith Meng. It is the land belongs to the state and the state offers it for investments to the company. There had been misunderstanding so far that people are in land conflict with company, while in fact it is the state's responsibility [...]

The Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction has made efforts to resolve the problem of land

disputes here. I issued a sub-decree for this matter. We have issued land titles for some and not for others. We have registered some 1,221 land parcels. We already issued titles of 637 land parcels for 294 families with a total area of 525.37 hectares. We have another 584 land parcels that we have not yet issued their titles because there are still some land disputes and we are working on inspecting their identifications.

Stop and Prevent Infiltration for Land in Koh Rong and Other Islands

Let us be clear altogether. How many people would have lived here before 2008? How many would really be occupying these lands? It was infiltration and claiming land by our people. Some are coming from other places. Some claimed to be islanders but they are living in Phnom Penh, etc. They use their resources to get the lands and that has caused troubles. I do not believe people in Koh Rong have had so much land [...] Claiming land along the beach has been actions not only happens at Koh Rong but some other islands too. However, many have happened here. There have also been problems with the army. According to information I gathered, people even claimed land in area belonged to the navy forces [...]

Let us offer this job to HE Chea Sophara to resolve these land disputes and identify people involved. We cannot sit and blow the smoke away. We must extinguish the fire. Coming to Koh Rong today, aside from inaugurating the hotel, I also wish to put out the fire. I wanted to see powerful officials and wealthy persons behind this land occupation endeavors. I am telling them they should have had enough already. Each would have hundreds if not thousands of hectares of land. They have more than what the Prime Minister does [...] as Prime Minister, I am not greedy. It is because of this fact that I can point my finger at those infiltrated and occupied lands [...]

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 1)

more attention will focus on institutional capacity. We also have the need to hire qualified professors and teaching materials/equipment to modernize education, especially in tertiary education. Each and every student must work to enhance his/her capacity, though after graduation, s/he may have found jobs. They should not overlook

chance of making efforts [...]

Authority at Every Level to Guarantee Safety in the Khmer New Year

[...] The Khmer New Year is approaching. Allow me to appeal to the authority at every level and the armed forces of all kinds to take up their spirits in defending people while they will be enjoying the celebration

(Continued from page 3)

Implementing Master Plan with Flexibility

... We have already developed a master plan for development. Every development project must implement master plan with flexibility. As a matter of experiences, we always decided on where the projects are on a map and failed to see it in real. Take for instance the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, as well as the Ministry of Environment, they worked on maps and came up with figures so much were under forests, etc., while in fact, where they indicated to be forest were rice fields [...]. It was in this understanding that in 2012 I sent youth to measure the lands for our people and take those lands out of our maps [...]

Let me affirm that should you (Ministers or Provincial governors) pass me a hot potato, I would hold it for a while and eat it later. However, you would not do that. You pass me only hot rock. What defined by law you failed to implement it. You just need to fulfil your obligations defined by law. I have said on many occasions that you just have to fulfil the law and not wait for the order. If the Prime Minister has to do everything, why do we have you as Ministers and/or provincial governors? [...]

New Cabinet Would Not Have Hot-Rock Passing Ministers

From now on, and the elections is not far away, I will keep monitoring your ways of working [...] I would not hold your hard rock anymore I would return it to you. In addition to that,

in the new cabinet there will not be your kind in it. It is my right to set up the Royal Government [...] we must see the values of these trees and forests. We wanted eco-tourists that HE Thaong Khon reported that in just three months early this year, we have up to 100,000 of them. Last year, there were 400,000 of tourists visiting Koh Rong and Koh Rong Sanloeu. We must see that taking profit from tourism is a better way. We must keep our beach clean and attract further investments [...]

Welcoming Tourists to and Stopping Forest Anarchy in Koh Rong

While I could have sent a Deputy Prime Minister to inaugurate the hotel, the fact that I am making my presence here is for two objectives. Firstly, inaugurating the hotel to send a message to tourists who wanted to spend their times at Koh Rong and stay in the five-star Royal Sands Koh Rong hotel. Secondly, my presence is to issue a closing of protracted land disputes problem in, and to end forest anarchy for land occupation at Koh Rong [...]

Being flexible, I mean that we must check the land against the map. Should there be people living on the land, we either cut them out for the people or trade them to different places with some kind of compensations [...] there should not be losers in this arrangement. Only those who claimed land (illegally) will face with confiscation by the state [...] it is the state role and duty [...] land and sea are the state properties. We must make efforts together to keep heritages left by our ancestors [...] /

of the Khmer New Year. I am sure this is going to be one great holiday. It could also be true that this year the weather would be cooler than years before and there could be some rains in this span of dry season period too. According to the weather forecast by the Ministry of Water Resource and Meteorology, there could be no dry season at all [...]

However, people's safety during the Khmer New Year requires attentions of authority of every level. During the celebration of the International New Year, we had a severe traffic jam in the capital city of Phnom Penh because people in the city did not go out of the city. Usually, in the Khmer New Year periods, many would flock out of the city. In this understanding, I am calling on authority of every level and the armed forces to work on guaranteeing safety for our people who travel to tourist destinations everywhere [...]

Road Safety and Beware of Some Dangerous Games

[...] I am calling on our people to pay attention about their safety while making journeys. We also have to avoid playing unpleasant games that are dangerous such as splashing water and/or scatter powder at each other. They are not Khmer tradition and custom, though. They are dangerous. One could be on a motorbike and the other may splash water at him/her. That could bring about a road accident [...] I hope that our people will keep their joy to a dignified level [...] this year, we celebrate the Sangkranta not only in Siem Reap province but in various others places and Buddhist pagodas. I hope that people will have their good times, and our Buddhist monks and the wise-men committee in each and every Buddhist pagoda will allow our people to celebrate the traditional event in their vicinities [...]

Phnom Penh City Bus Service for the Khmer New Year

[...] I have discussed this matter with the Phnom Penh Mayor, HE Khuong Sreng, about

providing bus service for our people to travel to and from provinces while they are leaving Phnom Penh for their home towns [...] I have requested every year for bus companies not to increase cost of their tickets while people are traveling to their home towns [...] they did not respond to my request. It is on this note, we have decided to run the Phnom Penh bus services free of charge on national road 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6. It is difficult for authority to require companies in a free market economy [...]

National road 3 from Cham Chao of Phnom Penh to Kompot. National road 4, from Chaom Chao to Kompong Saom (Sihanoukville). National road 5 – from Phnom Penh to Banteay Meanjei. National road 1 – from Phnom Penh to Svay Rieng. National road 6 – from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap. The bus service will be free of charge for people, workers included, to travel to provinces and will start from 12 April, and will end its service on 18 April [...] we may add more buses during the Projum Ben day and event next year [...] on the other hand, bus service in the Phnom Penh city will provide service free of charge on 13, 14 and 15 April [...] for one bus, there must be two drivers [...] they must be paid a good wages and make sure they do not charge more form our travelers [...]

Arms Race More Than Cold War Era

Nuclear weapon continues to be a serious matter. Though there would be meetings soon this April between the leaders of South and North Korea, and later between leader of North Korea and the United States of America, nuclear issue is still a serious matter and place this world in a fragile situation. The world seems to be in a serious arms race than in the time of cold war, when only the former Soviet Union and the United States involved [...] as of now, there are more than two countries involved. Some have made their efforts to master nuclear

(Continued on page 8)

Cambodian-Chinese Association Dinner

(10 April 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Cambodian-Chinese Association Contributes to Political & Macroeconomic Stability

I have a great pleasure to be able to meet up again with everyone here in the Cambodian-Chinese Association (CCA) before we say good bye to the old year and welcome the New Year. I am so happy to see real progress as presented by Oknha Pong Khieu Se, president of CCA. In the last one year, I am so pleased to see that CCA has played an active role in driving for Cambodia's socio-economic development. Please allow me to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation to leaders of CCA as well as everyone on their personal capacity for their efforts to achieve and maintain political and macroeconomic stability.

Establishing School Teaching in Chinese

As was proposed by Oknha Pong Khieu Se, I wish to convey my agreement to the three-point plan of CCA that he just mentioned. Among them, first of all is the establishment of a center to train teachers who teach in Chinese language. It seemed that they already have 55 students in the training course. On this very point, please allow me to stress that there has been increasing demand for Chinese language while more and more Chinese investors and tourists are coming to Cambodia.

The Royal Academy of Cambodia established its working relation with Universities in the People's Republic of China to provide senior level training for those who would pick up a career in Chinese language teaching, including those in the Royal Academy. I hope that Oknha Pong Khieu Se and Academician Sok Touch of the Royal Academy of Cambodia would seek ways together to provide speedy training courses in response to rapidly growing investments and tourists from China to the Kingdom of Cambodia [...] while in 2017, there

were 1.2 million Chinese tourists coming to Cambodia, for which I always asked to former President Hu Jintao and current President Xi Jinping that I wanted to have 0.01% of the Chinese population to visit Cambodia, I think we may have to rectify our demanding figure to 0.03% or about over three million in the years coming.

Establishing Scientific and Technological Institute

Simultaneously, we noted a growing size of bilateral trade between Cambodia and China and we are putting our major objectives to expand trade further. I am hereby supporting the point 2 relating to establishing a scientific and technological institute to train human resources in science and engineering for Cambodia. I strongly hope that CCA will play a critical coordinating role to realize this plan [...]

Establishing Humanitarian and Social Youth Program

I hereby support the idea of promoting youth working group to establish humanitarian and social program and youth to succeed in taking over the jobs for next year [...]

The Kuntha Bopha Foundation Needs the Cambodian Chinese Contributions

... I have something to ask for help from CCA in implementing an important program which I will announce tomorrow. I understand that CCA can make such contribution in relation to creating and putting into operation the Kuntha Bopha Foundation, which will be commencing officially as of tomorrow. Among you here, I am sure many are of ability to help [...] the Kuntha Bopha hospital play a critical role in providing healthcare and treatment for children for free. The hospital has a big expense. While there had been financial supports from the Kuntha Bopha Foundation abroad and those provided by the Royal Government,

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 7)

Korea. Unavoidably, it will come to come to this point [...] in this bargaining process, we are not sure whether it will have positive impacts on relations between the North and the South. Fortunately, these are matters to carry through later. The good news for the world now is the peace in the Korean peninsula [...]

Wars in UNSC, Diplomacy, and Trade

Let us look at what is happening in the Middle East. The United States, the United Kingdom, and France, three (permanent) members of the United Nations Security Council, after joining airstrikes on Syria, creating a difficult situation in the area. The UNSC has been seeking to condemn their actions. They failed. Three of the five (permanent) Security Council members were the ones that are launching attacks, how could the UNSC take actions to condemn their actions? [...]

There was this problem about a former Russian spy being poisoned and there have been accusation that Russia was behind it. The two people thought of being poisoned are not dead. They are alive now. However, a diplomatic war already took place. The United Kingdom chased out some Russian diplomats, and the Russians took their counter measures. Later there was a concerted actions by the US and their allies to expel Russian diplomats. Russia also had had to respond. This has become another war – political and diplomatic.

However, the biggest war of all is perhaps the one on trade. It has caused so many complications after the US introduced its taxation policy on steel and aluminum. There are some exceptional cases for the US allies but China has become one in the US blacklisted intellectual property issue, which also included Canada [...] trade war could become a world concern as the World Trade Organization seems to make no move as its member unilaterally takes measures that infringe upon the

WTO measures. They have not taken actions yet. However, when their policies become actions, problem will arise and the end-users will be the ones to bear the impacts [...]

30 April 2018 – 19th Anniversary of Cambodia's ASEAN Membership

Today, 30 April (2018), is the 19th anniversary when Cambodia becomes a member of ASEAN. In 1999, Cambodia became the ASEAN tenth member. It is 19 years now. In the past 19 years, Cambodia hosted two ASEAN Summits – one in 2002 and again in 2012. Signed in Cambodia were declarations and agreements, take for instance declaration on the conduct of parties (DOC) on South China Sea [...] in 2012, we also reached some other documents including this Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) signed in Phnom Penh by the ASEAN member countries and their six partners – China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australian, and New Zealand. In the recent ASEAN Summit, all member countries are determined to realize RCEP in 2018. It will be a huge market because the big population of China and India combined and those of 14 other countries together [...]

Remaining ASEAN Members Should Join TPP All at Once, Should They Wish to

The US have in fact withdrawn from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Other countries remain and proceed with it without the US. For ASEAN, after signing this RCEP, I proposed that we should proceed to TPP. Since four of the ASEAN member countries are members of TPP – Vietnam, Brunei, Singapore, and Malaysia, should the remaining six wish to join, they should all join together – all at once. They should not seek access as an individual because this could have presented division. We do not want to see this. Take for instance, I said, in 2004, Europe allowed only two countries to ASEM meeting – Cambodia

(Continued on page 8)

Kratie University Inaugurated

(25 April 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

The celebration of the Khmer New Year was just days ago. It is not late for me to take this chance to wish you all, Buddhist monks, compatriots, the four Buddhist blessings and successes for the Year of Dog, Buddhist calendar of 2562. I also call upon Allah to bless the Cambodian Islam who have taken their times to join in this event [...]

Making Sure of Education Quality

Since 2007, we put into use a senior secondary school. It is a big one. I was happy to have seen the old school in time and decided to build them a new one – three floors [...] with now better schooling and teaching facility, I wish to see there are many mention-A students from here. Well, we only have to grade 10 now, but that will grow gradually to 11, and 12. We have a better school, but we also have to make sure of our quality of education [...]

Choices of Youth in Peace Generation

The Kratie University not only solve problem of having to go away in pursuit of tertiary education for those students in Kratie, I also hope that the University will be able to welcome students from adjacent provinces such as Stoeng Treng, Ratanakiri, Mondulakiri, and even a part of Kompong Cham. This is what we see as choices of youth in a generation that enjoys peace. It is starkly different from lack of choice for youth of previous generations, especially those belonged to and were hostages of war. We have done everything we could to bring peace for the Kingdom of Cambodia. The University would not be standing here if we did not have peace. With peace, we have chance for development, and through development, we have made human resource an important target, for which we are investing for knowledge, know-how for youth and children.

A Thank You to the People's

Republic of China

Through HE Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, please allow me to thank President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang, and other leaders of the Communist Party, the government and people of China for providing supports for the Kratie University's construction. China has provided a fund of ten million USD for construction here together with fund for tertiary education of Kratie headed by HE Keat Chhon [...] the cost of building this university is about 12 million USD [...] Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, HE Hang Chuon Naron, already hinted that there are needs still, especially hostel for teachers and students, which we will see to it gradually.

More Infrastructure Necessary

We must take into consideration facility for female students coming from distant provinces. They cannot stay in Buddhist pagoda like boys [...] it is in this reason that we must continue to put together more infrastructures to respond to needs of teachers, who would be coming to work here, as well as of the students [...] though we see more needs coming, we may not need to provide more at this stage. By and large, we have made a great step to lay down infrastructure necessary in response to demand for tertiary education in Kratie and adjacent north eastern provinces [...]

I am taking this moment to appeal to parents to take this chance to allow their kids to pursue knowledge. It is the most important thing in their lives. Parents must know that whatever property they may have and give to their children would not help them for their whole lives. They could be subject to theft, robbery, fire accident, etc. As for knowledge, we have a saying that goes – the termite cannot eat it, the rats cannot cut it. Take for instance in the Pol

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 5)

we also have contributions from private capacity.

To further support the growing demand of the Kuntha Bopha hospital, we decided to set up the Kuntha Bopha Foundation to accumulate funding to support the hospital activities. We do not have ambition to build a new hospital but to strengthen the hospital's existing ability and capacity [...] we will be welcoming contributions from founding members, honorary members, and supporting members, besides our call on CCA, and every institution to respond to the need to strengthen capacity of the Kuntha Bopha hospital to provide healthcare and treatment for our children. Though the Kuntha Bopha Foundation abroad raised less amount of needed fund, we would not leave this hospital in limbo and inaction.

Oknha Kith Meng Contributed Land and Its Ownership

I am taking this time to express my sincere thanks for Oknha Kith Meng. I asked to borrow a piece of land about 1,300 square meters, whose current market price would roughly be eight million USD. This evening, Oknha Kith Meng will offer the land as his contribution to and will be recorded as the Kuntha Bopha Foundation's property. He will also transfer ownership title to the Kuntha Bopha hospital [...]

Peace – a Fundamental Factor for Development

I will clarify issue relating to the Kuntha Bopha Foundation and hospital further tomorrow [...] I wish to see local businessmen possess bigger ability and capacity to become rich in Cambodia. I will defend them as I have done from the beginning until now and continued to do so through maintaining peace, political stability, security, and social order to guarantee more progresses and development. Peace, as we all are to understand, is a fundamental factor for development [...] I hope that every one of you here and those who have not been present will take parts in keeping

peace, political stability, security and social order. As you are more of businessmen, let me share with you that macroeconomic stability is no less important than political one. We must hold in on one hand political stability and on the other hand macroeconomic stability to guarantee Cambodia's progresses [...]

Uphold One China Policy and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

Finally, while hailing once again progress realized by CCA, I ensure that there will be such gathering throughout my next ten years of power. I hope that you will support my policy on one-China and our comprehensive strategic partnership with the People's Republic of China. I am of the opinion that the Cambodian of Chinese origin understand how important it is to continue my position of supporting the one-China policy. The Royal Government of Cambodia and the People's Republic of China have been working together to foster and ensure firmer comprehensive strategic partnership. Let us support this policy for the sake of the two countries' friendly relations [...]

(Continued from page 8)

note that I would say presences of Hun Sen, the Cambodian People's Party, would ensure that the bridge across the Mekong at Kratie would become a reality. I hope our people in Kratie continue to vote for the Cambodian People's Party to allow me to make sure that the bridge in Kratie will be true [...]

A Difference in 43 Years – People Out of Cities for Holiday

Forty three years ago, at this time, the Cambodian people were traveling out of the cities on their ways to rural areas at the evacuation plan of Pol Pot [...] Forty three years later, between 12 and 13 April, people went out of cities with their families to their native places, to

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(Continued from page 6)

Pot's regime, they might have killed life and confiscate property but they cannot take away what is inside people's brain [...]

41 Junior, 11 Senior Secondary Schools in Kratie

It would not be appropriate (if parents) stop their grown-up children from going to school to help them with house works. They should send them to school and keep them all the way. Stopping their kids from schooling would be a decision lacking farsighted vision. Parents need to invest and encourage their kids to pursue education [...] we will keep up with our efforts to localize secondary schools to remote areas to guarantee that kids finishing their primary education would have available option to go on. In Kratie, among the 47 communes, we have junior secondary schools in 41 communes plus 11 senior secondary schools [...] this should allow children and adults continue education to senior secondary school without having to leave or go far away from their native places like in older days [...]

New Buildings for Growing Number of Students and Replacing Dilapidated Ones

We have seen that there is a need for building more school buildings to respond to growing number of students and villages because people are making new settlements thanks to (the Royal Government's efforts) to provide them with social land concession and ownerships of their lands [...] people in those new settlements are demanding more investment in schools for their children. Secondly, many of the schools we built before have come to dilapidated conditions [...] It is required that the Royal Government contributes funding for education sector, one part for scholarships, but basically for school buildings. We need more hostels for students and homes for teachers in junior, senior secondary schools, and in tertiary education institutions [...]

Human Resource Necessary

for Development

A country would need basically human resource for its development. Our country started from the fact that there remained a small and limited number of human resource. We have better human resource now, however, we still need more to respond to growing demands for socio-economic development investments. Both local and foreign investments are demanding for human resources. A local company told me once they could recruit only over 200 for the required 400 employees. Some companies resorted to recruiting expertise from abroad for which they had to pay very high salaries. We have more and more foreign companies now doing investments in Cambodia. They would not want to bring in foreign expertise but Cambodia could not provide them what they needed [...]

Human Resource – First Priority

We have noticed that in the field of garments and apparels, they have been able to recruit Cambodians to replace expertise they brought in from abroad. However, in construction and some other areas, they still have to bring in foreign experts for their investments, which contributes to our national development. To resolve these issues, we have to work hard on human resource development to not only serve needs in investments but our long-term goal to transform Cambodia from lower-middle income to higher-middle income country by 2030, and a high income country by 2050. We need to work out to speed up human resource development in a timely manner to respond to demand for development. Technology is advanced but we must also make sure that our human resource is up to the tasks.

We still continue in this last part of the fifth legislative term Royal Government on the four priorities – irrigation, roads, electricity, and human resource – that I issued since 1987, 31 years ago, of which human

(Continued on page 8)

Human Resource University Graduation

(30 April 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Going On with Vocational Training

[...] it is my fifteenth presence for the graduation and diploma presenting ceremony of the Human Resource University, which started initially as a non-government organization. Based on the report of Dr. Ek Monosen pointing on progress of vocational training, I wish to reiterate my call for the university to go on with vocational training [...] we must endeavor to achieve every level of educated and vocational expertise people [...] and specifically I encourage the Human Resource University (HRU) to keep providing this sort and level of training [...] as you know that for people who acquire properly trained technological skills and expertise have no difficulties to find jobs [...] I hope that our graduates today would continue to strengthen their capacity and knowledge through further education and also from their day-to-day experiences.

Keep On Strengthening Capacity either Through Education and Experiences

You may be advised that knowledge and know-how would not stay still because technology made regular progresses. This requires people to make further efforts to strengthen capacity to keep abreast with evolving situation [...] the world is in its phase of fourth industrial revolution [...] in this development, we cannot afford to have advanced technology, while as human beings, we are not familiar with and do not know how to use them. We also must know that from one country to another, a company to another, there have always competition. Should we not have ability to respond to increasing demands of markets and/or development of a country, we surely are not able to fix the problem [...] as we are congratulating new graduates today, I am calling on all graduates to keep on strengthening their capacity either through further education or from experiences [...]

riences [...]

Koreas Avert Nuclear Tension

Everything in this world seem to have evolve fast – in good and bad senses. In just weeks, what happened between North and South Korea has been the best news for the world. In almost half a century that the two Koreas have finally got together to conduct mutual visit, issue a joint declaration, and to coordinate a statement of disarming nuclear weapons. It is an historical turning point in Asia. We have no way of knowing what would become of the future when each side would come up with conditions in their efforts to resolve problems, but at least at this hour we have no more concern on war that everyone feared about for some years now [...] the opposition party also demanded in those years that I must evacuate our workers and students from Korea.

As of this moment, situation in Korea has evolved to détente and we welcome what has happened there. The two Koreas' meeting took place because of trust. We do not know what they would place on negotiating table [...] we are also waiting to see negotiation between the United States of America and North Korea. However, such coordination between North and South Korea would have impact on any meeting between the North Korea and the United States of America [...] we do know yet if such meeting would have positive impacts on reunification between the two Koreas – North and South [...]

Take for instance, to achieve a region of peace and reunification after a long division of the two Koreas, while the US would raise their conditions for North Korea to abandon its nuclear program, and North Korea would also stick to its condition for the US to withdraw its troops from South

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resource is now taking the lead [...] From 2013, we have made human resource our first priority. Our people may see that the Royal Government allocated its funding more than three folds to education, youth and sports. Teacher's salary also increases since 2013 from roughly over 100 USD to a minimum of 250 USD now. We also work hard along with salary increment and paying attention to teachers' living conditions to further invest in necessary infrastructures which in return will serve the needs of our teachers and students [...]

Triangular Development Cooperation Countries Have Done A Lot

... I made an intervention at the Greater Mekong Sub-regional and Triangular Development Areas Summit among Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam about initiatives concerning poverty in those areas [...] I noticed that in Hanoi, there was a short report about what had been done in these frameworks [...] I wondered why the report did not mention things that Cambodia itself has done, for instance, we have here today a university in Kratie. They only counted in a small section of foreign assistance in the report. They failed

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ability themselves – for instance, Iran and North Korea. Some do not endeavor that but purchase weapons for themselves [...] peace is fragile facing these threats of nuclear and large scale war [...]

Protectionism and Trade War

We should also note that protectionism and trade war have grown. The United States of America exercised tax policy on steel and aluminum. Yesterday, China exercised higher taxes for 128 imported items from the United States to China. It was a reciprocation. We must keep abreast with these developments. That trade war takes place, it is not just a matter between the US and China, but some countries also have severe

to list things that countries have done themselves [...] We have done so much and our Chinese friends have also helped us with connectivity roughly in the whole north eastern area [...]

The Secretariat of Triangular Development Cooperation should revise their ways of calculating growth and reporting. In every meeting they seem to have focused only on foreign assistance, while neglecting each country's efforts [...] I have listed Cambodian four provinces – Kratie, Stoeng Treng, Ratanakiri and Mondul-kiri into the triangular development cooperation system so as to benefit from connectivity and mutual assistance. It seems that the four provinces have sent some students to study in Vietnam [...]

One More Bridge in Kratie

Let me take this opportune moment to share with our people in Kratie and Ambassador of the PRC that Cambodia needs to have one more bridge at Kratie, in the city of Kratie. The bridge, as I said we still do not have enough, will facilitate relations between people in Kratie in their journeys to Kompong Thom, to Siem Reap. It would be only 129 Km [...] it is in this

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impacts as well [...] in this world, economic problem has wider inter-relations. We must continue to get ourselves prepared to cushion impacts from possible incoming crisis caused by trade conflict [...]

War of Diplomacy

Besides threat of nuclear war and trade war, we also notice a war in diplomacy, which is growing into a big issue. The UK expelled the Russian diplomats, and the Russians responded. The US expelled the Russian diplomats, and some other countries in Europe followed. Now the Russian responded [...] things in this world is growing in complication [...] In a close-door meeting in Australia between ASEAN and Australia, on fighting terrorism front, I sounded my concern on

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and Laos, while Myanmar was not. I took my stance that if they did not allow Myanmar, Cambodia would also postpone [...]

Registration of Candidates for Sixth Legislative Term Starts

Today we are starting registration of candidates to run for the sixth legislative term of the National Assembly. The process will continue till 14 May [...] though with functioning parties will post their candidates. Some have been made to believe that should Hun Sen not postpone the elections, he would be arrested. I asked who would arrest me [...] there will be many political parties getting themselves ready for the coming elections [...] Cambodia is continuing with liberal democracy. Only those committed wrongdoings could not join. Cambodia never abandons and prolongs elections. To prolong elections is countering to the Constitution [...] there is no reason to amend the Constitution for that. The elections schedules is set by the National Elections Committee. As a political party, we only have to abide by the schedules and pro-

cedures. The National Elections Committee is an independent organization. The Royal Government is to provide safety and fund for the elections [...]

Let democracy in Cambodia not be a pawn by individual or groups of people. Our liberal democracy keeps going. I do not know how many parties will contest but quite a good number. In some countries, they do not even organize elections [...] it is ridiculous now that any one political parties created, those opposition politicians quickly named them puppets of Hun Sen [...] I am in the process of thinking whether I should take up campaign or not. I took the campaign once for the communal council elections [...] I did not do that in 1998, 2003, 2008, and 2013. I had found out then that with about 200,000 supporters, our line of people stood from Jroy Jangva in the northern part of Phnom Penh to the 60-meters wide road in the southern part of Phnom Penh. Some led their campaigns for half a Kilometers and said they had some two millions attending their march. They really are good at telling lies [...]./■

A Disordered World?

the fact that countries that were collaborating in the fight against terrorism have become confronting with one another. This could have been a chance for terrorists to take advantage on [...] in this development, what will be the future of our fight against terrorism? It was not a new idea. I have been saying that in Nay Pi Daw (Myanmar) in the presence of the US President Barack Obama. I was having their attentions on that fact that we should keep our differences aside and cooperate on this fight to avert danger for the whole world.

[...] Issues in the Middle East do not die down after the US recognized that Jerusalem as capital of Israel. The US moved their embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. There is now ongoing tension and fight between the Palestinian Hamas and Israel. This has hinted what a world

we are living would be in? [...] the US also punished the United Nations. They no longer pay the amount (of contribution) they used to. In this case, we can understand that it would not be strange to see that they cut their assistances to this or that country, including the United Nations, when they do not feel satisfied. The world has become a more disordered one [...]

... Cambodia has not got any nuclear weapons like other countries but whatever they cause would have impacts on the world, and we are in there. Take for instance in Mali and Central African Republic, they are issues that require constant attention. They put ceasefires in place but fighting erupted and not only among themselves but on the UN peacekeeping troops. We would not back away from sending our troops for peacekeeping operation abroad (under the UN flag) [...]./■