



22 December 2019 - Samdech Techo Hun Sen toured the exhibition at the 2-round, 8th Sea Festival in Kompot Province

## Round 2, 8th Sea Festival in Kompot

(22 December 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### Works Accomplished for Southern “Rising Star” and Tourism

I am so happy this evening to be able to join with all of you to celebrate this round 2 and 8<sup>th</sup> sea festival which clearly illustrates progresses we have realized together under the roof of our hard-won peace. Let me take this moment to welcome provinces and institutions taking

parts in the exhibitions. The sea festival has indeed become a national movement. I also welcome Excellencies Ambassadors, charge d’Affairs, and foreign friends for taking their time to be present here with us [...]

My warm welcome to artists and performers from Cambodia and foreign countries for displaying their works and skills to audiences here and on live TV broadcast [...] many works accomplished in the framework of the Kompot province and provinces along the sea, where we termed the southwestern “rising star” of Cambodia in particular, and tourism of Cambodia as a whole [...]

### Health Sciences Diploma Presenting

(16 December 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

#### Human Resource for People’s Wellbeing

Today I am glad to meet you all from the University of Health Sciences at the late 2019 [...] we are glad that you have become human resource for national health sector at the time that the Royal Government is driving forward policy of social welfare or protections. It mainly covers actions of our medical officials and staff or medical practitioners. Training of medical staff and specialists of every

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#### Development Came to Kompot in 2008

I am taking this opportune moment to make my note on progresses made by the province of Kompot, which we have considered one of the provinces that development came late [...] in 2007, I came to the province of Kompot to oversee the rescue mission of a plane crash incident near the mount of Bokor. I stayed in the same old building

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## NSCC 16-Month Stocktaking, 2020 Directions

(27 December 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

In addition to the prepared text, Samdech Techo made three additional comments/points that Cambodia New vision has unofficially selected and translated as followed:

### NSCC to Continue after 2023

After working with each other in this past period, though the royal decree limits the roles and tasks of direct participation of political parties with the Royal Government for this one (legislative term) I have a wish that after 2023, we could propose for continued mechanism of the National Supreme Council of Consultation (NSCC). Taking stock of works and effectiveness that Excellencies and Lok Chumteavs have carried out in direct cooperation with the Royal Government, we see the difference this has made to position taken by some members of the opposition parties who would rather take on Min-

isters, Prime Ministers, etc. with issues in the National Assembly. You in NSCC have the chance of working directly with the Ministers and even Prime Ministers, as well as the sub-national level authorities.

### NSCC Members Are Equal

Though we do not have many parties in the National Assembly (Continued on page 3)

## Cambodia-Vietnam Border Da Market

(24 December 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### Cambodia-Vietnam Trade Volume Goes Up 11%

I am so happy to be able to join with all of you to put into official use the border market at Da as you have already listened to the report by Deputy Prime Minister Trinh Dinh Dung of Vietnam concerning economic progresses of Cambodia and of Vietnam, as well as the trade and investment relations between the two countries [...]. I am expressing my sincere thanks to Vietnam for building and providing Cambodia this border market, an important point in the two countries trade relations [...] the market will provide people of our two countries with facilities and abilities to do businesses together and to benefit from win-win situation in the trade relations [...]

A moment ago, I asked HE (Continued on page 6)

## Western University Diploma Presenting

(18 December 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### Two Drills in Progress

I am happy to join with you on this graduation and diploma presenting ceremony. I think I will have one more of such schedule next week [...] please allow me to take this chance to inform our people of two drills in progress. The first drill was for disaster management and response for air crash incidents. It is being conducted at the Siem Reap International Airport [...] another military drill in Svay Rieng was for coordinating assistance between Cambodia and Vietnam should there

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where I used to stay with HE Cham Prasidh back in 1985, and between 1988 and 1989 [...] in 2006, I came standing at the Durian roundabout as Kompot went under flood. What really impressed us is that from 2008 to the present, Kompot has acquired certain development and proved to be one among many provinces with plenty of potentials [...]

### So Much to Prove Kompot in Development

What we have in Kompot, other provinces may not have is salt, which is for the whole country. We used to spend millions of USD to purchase construction materials from abroad. As of now, from Kompot, we put six million tons of cement in the country saving hundreds of thousands of USD. I also noticed the black pepper of Kompot in the exhibition the other day in Phnom Penh. This clearly affirms that people in Kompot are making incomes. A hydropower plant in Kompot also provide electricity not only to Kompot province itself but also to Phnom Penh and other areas. Many sky-high buildings are standing up and I have so much to count to prove to you that Kompot is advancing [...]

### Kompot Scored Real Peace in 1996

We may not forget that it was until 1996 that Kompot realized real peace. What the Paris Peace Agreement wanted for Cambodia, UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) could not realize after they spent roughly two billion USD. They left Cambodia with two ruling areas and armed forces. Conflict continued not only along the Cambodian-Thai border but also deeper inside the country, Kompot included. You may have remembered the tragedy in which three foreign tourists – a French, an Australian and a British were killed at Phnom Voar [...] it was until 1996, Kompot realized full peace through implementation of win-win policy. I came to Ta Kaen Koh Sla to witness the integration, then [...]

### Prohibition of Seaweed Planting and Sand Pumping Keep Sea Resources

Just now, I was attracted by protection area under sea. I am calling in the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Environment to inspect natural resources on the seabed [...] I have objected requests to grow seaweeds in Cambodian sea – Kompot, Preah Sihanuik, Kep, etc. [...] I always asked those who requested a question would allowing seaweed planting obstruct people from fishing activities? [...] my question has indeed kept natural resources in the sea, on seafloor and seabed. In addition to this, I also object sand pumping in the sea. It has definitely preserved sea natures. About 7,000 hectare, I just asked, are under sea grasses and many other ocean resources. They are sources attracting scuba diving tourists [...]

### 6.6 Million Tourists Arrived in 2019

Cambodia has plenty of scarce resources. Our economy does not depend solely on any one sector alone and tourism does not depend on ancient temples alone too. We have sea, rivers, lakes, forests and mountains that attracts tourists as well. Provinces along the sea do not have ancient temples but they have beautiful beaches attracting local and foreign tourists. Those far from sea have beautiful ancient temples, forests, lakes, mountains, etc. [...] a part of economic growth came from service sector, where tourism, the green gold as HE Thang Khon said it, has become gradually a reality. This year about 6.6 million tourists arrived in Cambodia. Local tourists, for instance on Saturday and Sunday, travel from place to place [...]

### A Multi-sectors Economy

Let me be frank with you that the Cambodian economy does not depend on anyone sector that while that particular sector crumbled the whole economy collapsed. We have agriculture, industry and service areas. In

agriculture, we do not grow only rice. In industry, we also have many fields that address local demand and export. We also have many business/trade partners. In service sector, we do not only base it on tourism but also banking and finance. The service sector covered over 40% of the Cambodian economy [...] I hereby issue some recommendations for provinces bordering with sea as well as relevant institutions to carry out in the forthcoming time:

**First, absolutely maintain peace and political stability** [...] before one can talk about democracy, human rights and development, one must think of peace as a precondition. We do not agree with whoever underestimate value of peace. We came through so much hardships and tragedies and lost lives of so many. We will not tolerate insult on what we are doing to keep peace [...] we must ensure a permanent peace on our pitiful land [...]

### Peace from Physical Threats/Killings and of Mind

I agree that there are combining factors to guarantee peace. There must be development in order to keep peace. Peace without development would not stand. I also accept that a democratic process and human rights respect would contribute to keeping peace and development. We also agree that violation of human rights and disrespect of human dignity would destruct peace. While valuing and keeping peace, we must also value development, democratic process and respect of human rights. They will strengthen peace not only from physical threats and killings but also of mind. We cannot accept political message or action that might lead to destruction of peace. We will take actions by law to prevent such attempts from happening [...] I hope that diplomats who have listened to translation always of Hun Sen's speech reflect on what they have learnt about the past Cambodia [...]

**Second, to maintain status of the most beautiful beach that**

**we are a member of the most beautiful beach club.** It has now become an association. Cambodia has become the Association's Vice President, will organize a congress in 2022, and host a bicycles beach race in 2020 [...] let us make efforts to protect our beach and to stay always in the most beautiful beach club in the world [...] we also have to protect our beach from polluted water/wastewater, reclamation and destruction of mangrove forests [...]. I have heard about someone – an army officer – filling land into sea. I am requesting Deputy Prime Minister HE Chea Sophara and the Koh Kong provincial authority to look into this matter to find out the truth [...]

**Third, to build more infrastructures** such as roads, rails, drinking water, electricity, hotels, resorts, etc. As we are working on widening the national road 3, traveling from Phnom Penh to Kompot now is not smooth. Once the road is ready, I am sure that more travelers to Preah Sihanouk province and other sea area destinations would travel through Kompot [...] about 92% of villages in the country have access to electricity and we must work harder to deliver access to the remaining 8% [...]. That we need to provide people with clean water in not only the city of Kompot but people in the whole province, we are discussing to pipe clean water from Kep where they produced over 20,000 cubic meters per day to Kompot [...] last year I came inaugurating the Japanese grant-aid drinking water plant in Kompot. We also have this issue of salinity as water level in the river drops allowing seawater to flow in deeper. We must have a reservoir in precaution [...]

**Fourth, to get ready to host 2<sup>nd</sup> congress of Beautiful Beach Club in 2022.** Governors of all four provinces along the sea must be prepared to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> congress of the most beautiful beach club in 2022 in Cambodia [...] I hope that we

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bly, we have a multi-party status closer to the executive power. This has become a culture of cooperation among political parties, whereas they do not have to insult parties in the Royal Government to be in the opposition. As I have mentioned on numerous occasions, I was not the one who initiated NSCC roles and tasks. We started by agreeing to take rotating chair once a month and it is now 16 months already. Though big or small, with more or less voices, political parties in NSCC have equality among them. That political party members of NSCC can take a rotating chairing role indicates equality in the political process [...]

#### Accepting Consultation/ Opinion of Parties of Different Views

I would rather accept opinions from political parties with different views rather than to take foreign orders. It was true that in our meetings, there have been issues relating to roles/tasks of so and so at so and so level and authorities that we have to spend more time on. We have been able to take actions or made interventions in a timely manner, however, on a number of issues thanks to inputs from leaders of all political parties. Example this urgent reaction from the Cambodian Youth Party on this land reclamation in the sea (at Koh Kong province). We have issued resolute order for the person to remove soil or lose his rank (in the army). I have the news now that the person has stopped the reclaiming sea and started removing process.

Legal procedure is another matter but this is the Prime Minister's discretion [...] I am happy to take comments and consultation from our people though they may belong to different political tendencies as long as we share common interest is for national progress. This could be better than we are taking orders from outside to do this and that in exchange for assistances [...]

#### NSCC Members Do Not Follow CPP's Policies

To be in NSCCC does mean that you are required to implement the Cambodian People's Party's (CPP) policies. You are working along the Royal Decreed roles and tasks. In the forthcoming 2022 (communal elections) and 2023 (general elections), you are not required to be parties in alliance with CPP [...] you are to exercise your rights fully and perform your campaign as you pleased according to law of political organizations. Some may have misconception that you are becoming subordinates of CPP. That is not what it is. It would be a wrong thought. You are still independent. As it happened, the Royal Government never talks about your parties' policies while on the other hand you have the ability to pose questions on the Royal Government.

More so, before going through the Cabinet's meeting, the Royal Government's officials in their ranks of Ministers, Senior Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers presented and sought NSCC views and inputs because NSCC is where political parties (from different political perceptions and views) are. To carry through this procedure I do not think it is a bad thing for the ruling party. Taking inputs from political parties in the framework of NSCC is a better thing to do than to ask for ones from foreign circles. We have been working together and this harmonious working procedure – though we may attack each other in the coming elections battles, we would sit down and work together [...]

Let me reaffirm that I am satisfied with opinions and leads from [...] as I have said earlier that though some matters are in the competencies of so and so, still we are taking swift actions on whatever we can [...]. Should there be no research and investigation of political parties in NSCC, there could be no reports of land reclamation (into sea at Koh Kong province) coming to the Prime Minister, not even in five years or ten years from now. This has clearly presented us of what we can do together [...]

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will be doing a great job [...] in 2020, we will host the Asia-Europe Meeting followed by the 2021 Great Mekong Sub-region, and in 2022, we also hosted the ASEAN Summit [...]

**Fifth, as always, I am calling on efforts to keep security and social order, prevent terrorist actions from happening, and obstruct drug use and gangsters that would destabilize tourism [...]** let me take this opportune moment to address this issue of online gambling. While there were that online thing, some complained about presence of Chinese in Cambodia.

#### No Recommendations, Only Suggestions

As you can see, I have no recommendations as to how you – NSCC political parties members to go about performing the Royal Decreed roles and tasks [...] as I would do to other fora or state institutions. I only have hope that NSCC – which is concentrating now 16 political parties – continues to perform their roles and tasks written in the Royal Decree. It also includes searching for points in laws/policies that are not appropriately relevant to and/or reflecting people's interests. Their works would become inputs at the executive level for the Royal Government to consider in its legal and/or policies improvements and amendments.

I have said often too that not every policies are reflecting the bests of what we hoped to achieve. Decisions at top tier, where the Royal Government may deem correct and reflect the subject interest, could sometimes be unreflecting [...] taking for instance issues relating to judicial norm and documents [...] (that I have made no recommendations is because) I am leaving NSCC political parties members with ability to carry out their roles and tasks [...]. Though I am not going to be able to have dinner with our political parties' delegates, I can still stand with each, and every, 16 political parties' delegates for a photo session [...]

dia. Once we closed them out, some are worried about the fact Chinese are leaving. What do they really want? I observed that should the Cambodian economy depend on online gambling, the country would become victim of its national security. Mafia would infiltrate. There would be money-laundering issue. Honest businessman/traders would stay away from Cambodia. We close down online gambling to make sure we keep peace and security and to attract honest investors to do businesses in Cambodia [...]

**Sixth, to promote cultivation to provide for tourists or to export on spot.** I have brought this matter up on numerous occasions. To export on spot for me is not to export produces across the border to this or that country. Cambodian farmers could grow and/or rear animals/fish and sell produces for consumption by tourists. Let us think what the six million tourists eat while they visited Cambodia [...] at tourist destinations, make efforts to set up a greenbelt where farmers can grow vegetables and rear birds/animals/fish to sell to hotels, etc. [...]. Next year, at the initiation of Senior Minister Cham Prasidh, I will have my first meeting with microfinance, especially small and medium enterprises. Weeks ago, I signed releasing cash of 100 million USD, of which, 50 million USD was for the Rural Development Bank [...]

**Seventh, to widen and strengthen connectivity of corridor from Kompot to Koh Kong province.** We must facilitate connectivity by road and by air from deeper Cambodia to the sea provinces. Once the national road 3 is ready, there will be busy traffics to Kompot and Kep. Once the national road 4 is ready, traffic will flow to the sea and it will serve not only tourism but also growing transportation demands. The national road 48 that links from national road 4 to Koh Kong, will also have a link to Thmo Da in Pursath, and

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level and professions has offered us chance to serve our people in health sector [...] let me take this opportune moment to inform our people about local medical expertise and professions concerning transplanting of human internal organs such as kidneys. Our medical expertise at the army hospital has reached a level that they can ensure safety of kidney transplant and patients only need to have someone with similar blood types to offer them the organ(s). Having said that does not mean I encourage selling/buying of internal organ(s). (I wanted to share with you that) for profession/expertise abroad we have been seeking medically, we could now find them locally [...]

### **Keeping Abreast with Medical Technology & Diseases**

Year after year, quality of (medical) training increases. While taking this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the professors and related health science universities for their efforts in training our students, I hope that, through exchange programs of experts with other countries, our medical professionals at every level will receive further knowledge and keep abreast with new diseases arisen from climate change [...]. While we are dealing with traditional diseases, new diseases are on the rise. We have this Ebola in Africa, for example. Our health service has done its job not only within the hospitals but also provide screening for contagious diseases at every national entries/exits [...]

### **Allowing More Recruits from Education and Health**

Let me affirm to you all that (the Royal Government allows) more recruitments in 2020 only in two sectors – firstly, education. We allow recruitment of 3,600 more staff since there is growing number of students in addition to more teachers going into retirements. Secondly, health, we allow recruitments of 1,300 to replace those going into retirement and for the sake

of more hospitals putting into operation [...] (as for recruitment process is concerned) we have already introduced reforms regarding ages to take entry exam. We do not limit age as a condition for people to take entry exam anymore [...] not only in health but also in other sectors as well [...]. Let me reaffirm that I do not agree with the request of the Ministry of Health to screen people's health before allowing them to take entry exam to become civil servants. My reason has been clear that, firstly, this would create a barrage for those taking entry exams, and secondly, it could become a source of corruption. For instance, those who pay money would not have to have their medical checkup [...]

### **Better Interconnectivity, Electricity, and Security Help Spread Medical Staff**

I used to bring this issue up, perhaps in 1997, at a health annual conference when HE Hong Sun Huot was Minister of Health that 70% of medical staff concentrated in urban area where there were about 30% of people, while 30% of medical staff are working in rural area where there were 70% of our population. It is twenty years later now. We could say that thanks to better connectivity, rural-area-reaching electricity and security, spreading medical staff and service has improved [...] in 1980s, to get a permission to study in the faculty of medicine, students had to sign a contract with the state to report to state's duty (after they finished their studies). In addition to this, there were quotas for students from provinces to learn medicine and they signed contracts with provincial governors. In fact, the province had no students to come to study medicine. They were people in Phnom Penh. When they finished their studies, they would not go to work in provinces. We have contracts no more and we had to resolve this contracts related problem through to 1996 [...]

### **Taking Medical Responsibility from Beginning to End**

I am calling on (the Ministry of Health) to pay attention on inspections and controls of private health clinics and/or drugstores. I have a suggestion. We have state and private medical service. Please do not fight for patients. If they do, they have to take responsibility from beginning to end. They (private health clinics) should not send the final-stage patients to state hospital only after they could no longer help them. Once the patients arrived to the state hospitals, they died. Calmette has been facing many of this situation. The Ministry must ensure that private medical staff or clinics must take full responsibility from beginning to end or they should send them right away to state hospital [...]. By the way, because of my health and I lost my voice, I had to call up Samdech Tia Banh to take my place at the ASEAN Health Ministers meeting in Siem Reap. I was so sorry that I could not make it [...]

### **Paying Heed to Medical Ethics**

I continue to seek our medical staff, as we have scored so much progress, out of medical ethics and profession, to accept that we still have shortcomings and there have been complaining from our people. On this particular point, I am calling on our medical staff to change their attitudes. It is true that the majority of them have had social attitudes or change ones already. We are asking the remaining small number of them to avoid this "one dead fish spoils the rest in the basket" words. We must be thinking about words and actions vis-à-vis patients. There should not be discrimination among patients from poor to rich. Everybody has one life. It was because s/he is poor that s/he is coming to us for help. Those who are rich seeks medical attention abroad. We should give more sympathy and care to those with limited resource. Should we not change or fix this, whether we were able to purchase more millions-worth equipment, dissatisfaction would continue [...]

### **Targeting Those Below and**

### **Not Far Above Poverty Line**

We are getting more resourceful now. We still have about 10% of our population that are living below the national poverty line. They are our targets of attention and care. Beside them, we also have those living not far above poverty line. They are our targets of attention [...] Let me clarify for you here on another issue that only teachers (in education) and medical staff (in health) are receiving higher salaries that those employed in other services. I hope they do not envy with teachers and medical staff because everyone needs teachers to teach their children, and medical staff to take care of their health [...]

### **Joint Disaster Rescue Military Exercise with Vietnam**

Since we are going to have this joint military exercise for disaster rescue purpose with Vietnam and some would take the chance to talk ill of it, let me share with our compatriots now about this event. Why would there need to be a military exercise for disaster rescue preparedness and response across border. It is my initiative as Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia to seek cooperation on this matter with Vietnam, with Laos, and with Thailand. We have hiccups a number time already. In 2011, there was flood in Ratanakiri. I had to call Hanoi to seek intervention from the military region 5 of Vietnam [...] in cooperation with military region 1 of Cambodia to evacuate some 200 families from Cambodia across the border to safety on Vietnam's side. We also have frequent bushfire and forest fire raging across the Cambodian-Thai border areas and there had been this flood coming from Thailand to Cambodia's Uddar Meanjai province. Neighboring countries, so to speak, must have cooperation to respond to and to manage disasters across borders [...]

### **Transforming Battlefields into Markets and Development Areas**

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be disaster along the two countries' border. As you may have noted these two drills, please do not be concerned and refrain from sharing incomplete or false news online [...]

### Abundance of Natural but without Human Resource Could Not Become Rich

The Royal Government has been concentrating on development of human resource. Without human resource, a country could have achieved nothing. I used to share with you about one fact that a country with abundance of natural but without human resource would not be able to make the country prosperous. Cambodia has plenty of natural resource but the country is still a poor one. Why? This is relating to wrong choice of political leadership from one stage to another. It is fortunate that we have withdrawn the country out of war in 1998. Prior to this date, by involving in destructive wars [...] the popular socialist Cambodia built by Samdech Preah Sihanouk Preah Borom Ratanakaoth came to destruction after the coup on 18 March 1970, followed by the genocide of Pol Pot [...] the "land of gold" that we called our country is still poor. Singapore could not even have drinking water of its own but, with human resource, they are becoming a rich country [...]

### Three Working and Leadership Methodologies

What we have learnt in school would not be similar to what we will be dealing in real [...] to rule a country, it is necessary to be prepared for force majeure. I have lectured the political school of the Cambodian People's Party these topics on methodology for leadership/management and works [...] a leadership has to have a plan. With the preparation of a good plan, the work is 30% done [...] without implementation of the plan, the 30% accomplishment is equal to nil. It is important that once we have put together a good plan, we must organize and implement the plan. This is

where "your will to do thing could not be beyond your (resource) ability" [...] once the two make 60% of the process, another 40% of the job was to deal with force majeure. That is where I used to say it would reveal clearly their capability [...] the financial law for management of 2020, for instance, may have come across somewhere down the road in 2020 drought/flood or other kinds of disasters.

### Delegation of Power to Subnational Authorities

Both national and sub-national authorities will seek to resolve the force majeure because the financial plan does not anticipate them. The first type of officials would report what happened to senior level and blamed his/her officials under their ranks. The second type of officials would, together with people and resource they have, deal with the issue [...] We are working now to delegate functions and powers to subnational level authorities so that they would be able to deal with local issues. It would be far to reach out from national level but we would have to transfer the subnational authorities with functions and resources, financial and human, to carry out their jobs and responsibilities. We cannot just give them empty power. Lately, concerned ministries may have noticed already that I asked Samdech Krolahom Sar Kheng to prepare, and I will approve and sign, a sub-decree listing functions for subnational level bodies to carry out [...]

### Use of French Language

Western University has capability to send their students for competition because the University has a strong English language curriculum. Two weeks ago, we had this gathering in Phnom Penh of governors/mayors of cities using French language. In my meeting with the General Secretary of Francophone, I told him about what happened in the three French-speaking members of Francophone – Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos. As we are

members of ASEAN, using English as official language, the three seemed to have used English language more [...] in 1982, in Paris, as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister [...] I told a group of French Members of Parliament about alarming low use of French language in Cambodia. I asked them to consider opening Alliance Francaise in Phnom Penh. A member of parliament then denied the chance on ground that the French government did not recognize the Phnom Penh government [...]

Cambodia, however, is not abandoning French as a language. We will continue to take part in Francophone communities. I have requested the Secretary General of Francophone to help Cambodia to send troops to countries speaking French. Among five countries that Cambodia sends its troops for the UN peacekeeping missions, three of them are speaking French – Lebanon, Mali and Central African Republic. Cambodia is using French widely in medicine and law. I have asked the Secretary General of Francophone to find ways to strengthen use of French language in Cambodia [...] in general, Cambodia sends bilingual officials working in the ASEAN and/or other international frameworks, or instance for the ASEAN cultural community, we have Dr. Hang Chuon Naron – using three languages English, French, Russian, and even Spanish.

### Three Major Historic Events on 2 December

For me, on 2 December there are three major historic events. Firstly, 2 December 1978, we announced the establishment of the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea. Secondly, on 2 December 1987, at Fere-en-Tardenois, France, there was this Sihanouk-Hun Sen meeting to begin the process of historic political settlement to the Cambodian problem. Were there no historic 2 December 1978, there would not be 2 December 1987, and there would be no 23 October 1991 – the Paris Peace Agree-

ment. There is this other 2 December (1998) when I set out this triangular strategy that we rarely talked about now [...]

### Triangular Strategy

After the formation of the Royal Government on 2 December 1998, I set out this triangular strategy, *the first angle of which was to realize the country's internal peace*. Though elections went into (the Khmer Rouge's strongholds of) Anlong Veng and Pailin, we should not forget that Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea and Ta Mok had not yet ceased fighting. On 29 December, Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea surrendered [...] *the second angle of the triangle was to ensure rapid integration of Cambodia into the international community*. In just one week, we took back the Cambodian seat suspended in 1997 at the United Nations. We led the country into ASEAN and other international organizations, the World Trade Organization included. Based on (positive achievements of) the two mentioned angles, *the third angle was to mobilize every efforts for socio-economic development and poverty alleviation*. These are the cornerstones laid before stepping into the first, second, and third rectangular strategies [...]

I should have talked about them a few days back. I only presented the three components of the win-win policy and two strategic goals of transforming former battlefields into market places and development, and of building a borderline of peace, friendship, cooperation and development with neighboring countries. The fact that I brought to mind again this triangular strategy is because its implementation strengthens and defend our hard-won internal peace and refrain from resorting to fighting again [...]

### Four Factors Taking Cambodia into ASEAN

There have been questions as to why does Cambodia have to be part of ASEAN? [...] there are

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Trinh Dinh Dung about the volume of trade between Vietnam and China. He told me it is pegging around 130 billion USD. According to the report prepared by the Ministers of Trade of Cambodia and Vietnam, the trade volume between our countries is somewhere 4.7 billion USD, noting an increase of 11%. We have planned to reach a volume of 5 billion USD trade or even more [...] Vietnam, with a population of nearly 100 million should be a big market for Cambodia. Thailand, with a population of over 60 million also could be a big market for Cambodia. So far, Cambodia has been importing from, more than exporting to, Vietnam and Thailand [...]

### **Growing Economies of Vietnam and Thailand Favor Cambodian Economy**

Cambodia must excel further to process its production and sell to Vietnam, which is a one of the important markets that we must give priority to for the sake of our people's advantage. I am happy to see progress of the Vietnamese economy in the last years, especially in 2018 and 2019 – stable and high growth. The other day I said to Vietnam's First Deputy Prime Minister Truong Hoa Binh that Cambodia has a concern on economies of Vietnam and Thailand. The problem is our economies are interrelated. Should economies in Vietnam and Thailand slow down facing with high inflation, the Cambodian economy is facing with losses too [...] the important point that I wish to single out in the economic and trade relations with neighboring countries is positive growths of economies of Vietnam, or Thailand (or Laos) are in favor to the Cambodian economy [...]

### **Formers Battlefields to Markets; Border of Peace with Neighbors**

We have here a market that is becoming a model market to improve further trade and exchanges of goods between people of our two countries. This has responded to my intention

to score success of my two goals issued after the implementation of the win-win policies. *One of the goals was to transform former battlefields into markets and development.* We have accomplished about 90% already on this as we turned fighting places into development zones and markets, or even farming areas. We are working to liberate another 10% of the borderland from mines and UXOs for our people [...] *the second goal was to build borderline of peace, friendship, cooperation, and development with neighboring countries.* The market stands in a location where it used to be a battlefield of infighting Cambodia, and border instability in the period of occupations of the US and former South Vietnam [...] I fought more than 20 times or 20% of battlefields that I had engaged in the five-year war of liberation [...]

### **Vietnam Should Buy More Goods from Cambodia**

In a period of forty years, we see now former fighting battlefields in this area and others along the national road 7 have now become areas of development where people live free from fear. We must make efforts to speed up development along the border with Vietnam, for instance the special economic zone in Bavet, where there are many factories there [...] I wanted more special economic zones along the Cambodia-Vietnam border to attract investors from Vietnam and from other countries [...] we must make efforts to process agricultural products into final products for export [...] I invite Deputy Prime Minister Trinh Dinh Dung and the Ministers of Trade of Vietnam to look at the volume of trades between our two countries. I insist on Vietnam purchasing more goods from Cambodia. I noted that Vietnam is buying from Cambodia now an amount of 300,000 tons of rice and other produces [...]

### **From Exchanging Artillery Shells to Exchanging Goods**

In the past (we) exchanged artil-

lery shells on one another and along the border there were mines. As of now, we exchange each other with goods [...] we demine and remove UXOS to guarantee safety for people on both sides. It is a victory of my two above-mentioned goals, and a part of my strategy to ensure Cambodia's development, in which the volume of trade from Cambodia to Vietnam and Thailand is growing gradually [...] according to the figures registered by the ministry of trade, the bilateral trade volume between Cambodia and Vietnam is somewhere 4,700 million USD. While in fact, I am sure that it has reached 5 billion USD already. My argument is that there is a registered figure that Vietnam officially purchase 300,000 metric tons of rice from Cambodia. However, the ministry of trade has not registered the amount of rice sold directly by the Cambodian farmers to Vietnam [...]

### **Inspection Should Not Hinder Businesses**

That fact that we are building the market here is to realize controllable trade activities. However, any inspection or control should not hinder people from doing their businesses [...] on the Cambodian side, at the border exit/entry points we have only immigration police and custom officers. We do not have officials from Cambodia Import-Export Inspection and Fraud Repression Directorate-General (CAMCONTROL) any more. Relevant authorities must not disturb businesses in the areas. Any disturbances from the authorities would cause people to loom for other exit/entry points. We will have difficulties in managing cross border crimes [...] I am stressing that this is a model market. Involved provincial governor must take high responsibilities. If it fails, the governor also fails. Should there be issues about setting "this much of goods must pay this much of money," the provincial governor would be the first to take the responsibility before it come to the Ministry of Trade [...]

### **Two More Border Markets**

### **by State Fund at Kompot and Svay Rieng**

What we have achieved here today is a market right at the place where there used to be fighting among Cambodian factions inside the country and between country and country as the former South Vietnamese troops, supported by the US, invaded Cambodia. The process of building this market, according to the Cambodian Minister of Trade Pan Sorasak, has taken a long time [...] from 2009 through to 2019. I also listened to the reports in which there had been many exchanges of delegations of the two countries on this market project, the expenses of which, I think, would have cost half of the project cost. Taking note of this long process, I have suggested using national fund to build two more markets – one in Svay Rieng province and another one in Kompot province. In the past, as we do not have resource and ability, we asked friends for help. We have already requested assistance from Vietnam to build the projected two markets and Vietnam has not yet responded, and since we have some ability now, I think Cambodia should build the two-million USD markets by its fund. I think our national fund is able to carry through.

### **Ensure Successful Markets Operations; Bilateral Trade Passages**

What is concerned here is to ensure that the markets operate successfully [...] concerned institutions must embark on preparing architectural designs and provincial authorities reserving land for the projects [...] economic and/or trade connectivity must be reciprocal. The Da Market has secured an agreement with Vietnam about trade passage. That we build the markets ourselves, we must also seek the same agreement with Vietnam, or concerned neighboring countries, recognizing them as bilateral trade passages or international passages [...] we must do the same with Thailand. Our people now are trading in the Rong Kloeur market

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four major factors for that purpose. *Factor One – it is interested in principle of non-interference in internal affairs [...]* it serves our national interests. Non-interference is Cambodia's priority for both internal and external policies. *Factor Two – it has this community spirit. By this, I wanted to single out its working mode of consensus.* There is no country considered as big brother for size or for wealth. Every member state is equal in right and in footing [...] there was this attempt in 2017 to change the working mode from consensus to voting. Should they change, I made my point that ASEAN would face division [...] I seek anyone to take over from me leading Cambodia to continue to adhere to consensus principle of ASEAN [...]

Look, it is now clear that Boris Johnson is going to steer exit with deal as he had won an overwhelming majority of 57%. There was this concern about a “no deal Brexit.” Scotland has just made a statement bringing in a new concern. Would England allow Scotland to have its referendum? In Europe, there are big brothers. In a French electoral campaign, the Le Pen group promised they would lead France out of Europe (European Union) as well. There has been a European member of NATO calling it “brain dead” [...]

*Factor Three – we are benefiting from (regional and world) integrations, especially in economics.* ASEAN has done a great deal to help us with human resource training [...] while Cambodia is reaping socio-economic benefits [...] *Factor Four – ASEAN is for Cambodia to extend its diplomatic outreach [...]*

### More Meetings Abroad, But Cannot Leave Mother-in-Law

There are many invitations for me to take parts in meetings, for instance the Davos World Economic Forum. It was the Swedish Prime Minister's initiative to have a dialogue on labor

rights and he asked for my support when we met at Davos. I also will not be able to make it to another meeting in Paris in January 2020. There are more meetings but I can send someone in my place. Someone commented in my account that I seemed to have thought only about my mom but not the nation. I replied – “if one cannot love his mom, can one love the people?” [...] I had removed some of my scheduled works. Now I can work in the country. I will participate in the Sea Festival (in Kompot province). I would fly at around 4pm by helicopter [...] and return to Phnom Penh on land after wrapping up the event [...] my mother-in-law is 96 years old. Her health could turn unstable anytime. As the pillar in my family, I have to be there for her and for the family [...]

### Adhering Steadfastly to Rights of Ethnic Minority

1 On 29 December this year, the country would celebrate its 21 years of win-win policy [...] before the international New Year 2020. We do not celebrate Christmas but anyone can do whatever s/he wanted to. When the Muslims are at their Iftar dining, I join them. I also join dinner with the Christians. It is our country's religious harmonization. How could it be possible that we owe this report on ethnic rights (to the United Nations)? On this particular topic, we have done a great job. We have no disputes with mountain tribes. There will be soon a circulation instructing institutions under the Royal Government concerning with human rights reporting to take part in preparing it, after which we would send a group of people to Geneva to present it [...]

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seven days. Hun Sen is the longest-served Prime Minister. Dignitary number sixth is Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia who has been the longest-Prime Minister in waiting. He could be taking over from Dr. Mahathir but nobody knows when? His wife is the Deputy Prime Minister, though [...]

## RULE Diploma Presenting Ceremony

(26 December 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### Without Concept of History, There Would Be No Future

HE Hang Chuan Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, made a report to us about progress scored by the Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE) [...] in the past I was also a lecturer in this university, administered then not by the Ministry of Education but by the Ministry of Interior [...]. There might be some photos at SPK or anyone from the former State of Cambodia and even the former People's Republic of Kampuchea. Those photos, if any, would help illustrate my participation (to the university) from the very beginning [...] lately, I have been passing RULE twice a day, to and from work, and I have noted progress made compared to 1996 [...]

Some have said that we play documentary movies about Phnom Penh when it was empty and in destructed condition. If we do not show our people what we came from, how could our people know where we are now? Some have been afraid what the comparison between when we first started and what we have achieved now would show. They do not want to see. They wish to hide our progress. In fact, there is nothing to be afraid. We should reflect our past as it was. We must remember them. Whoever has no concept of history would not know where s/he is now, and not even where to go [...]

### The 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Win-win Policy, Reconciling and Unifying Cambodia

On this coming 29 December 2019, we will celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the win-win policy formulation and implementation leading to national reconciliation, which not only ended the war but unifying our water and land (territory), where there were many divisions before [...]. As of 29 December 1998, Cambodia has no more internal war and the country is under one rule. That has provid-

ed our youth with chances to study. It is a diamond and gold opportunity for them [...] since 1996 through to the present I have presided over 20 graduation and diploma presenting ceremonies already.

We did not have permanent building then, sometimes even under rain [...] the building we have now is not big [...] whatever size it is or they are we must preserve them [...] people were talking about the more than 100-years-old bridge in Battambang, built under the French time, was to be demolished.

Let me affirm now that anything with its age of fifty years and more left to us now we will make efforts to keep them. They are our achievements. We must fix it if it is not in good condition. The Battambang authority issued a news release so that people avoid using the old and poor-condition bridge for unforeseeable accidents. We must find a way to build more bridges there instead [...]

### Industry's Two Major Objectives

As for industry, *the first objective is to have processing industry working on agricultural produce available in Cambodia* such as coffee, rubber, etc.

Local and foreign SME would be able to carry out this objective because it would not take too big a capital [...] before the Khmer New Year (in April 2020), I will meet with SME people and sportsmen/women [...] the second objective of industry is to attract investments in high-tech industry.

Though we are keeping interest in labor-intensive industry using more labor such as garment, we also need to absorb high-skill industry such as Minebea from Japan [...] people have ability to purchase sports dresses and wears [...] this has brought us a vision to bring our production into characterized world production [...]

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After we implemented successfully win-win policy, I have laid out two main strategies. Firstly, to transform former battlefields into market places and development areas. As of now, we have achieved 90% already in realizing this goal. We still have another 10% of the area that are still under mines and UXOs. We are working to liberate them by 2025. We must achieve a Cambodia free of mines. Former battlefields have become farmlands and there are markets activities too [...] on 24 December, I will inaugurate Da market at the Cambodian-Vietnamese border (in the province of Tbong Khmum). I fought there no less than twenty times in 1971 and 1972 along the National Road 7 with the former South Vietnamese troops and the US army in their aggression of our territory. Areas along the border are no more fighting areas but ones with higher buildings, industrial and special economic zones [...]

### Three Policies Unified Cambodia

From 1979 through to 1993, divided into four, Cambodia had had four armed forces. From 1993 through to 1998, Cambodia had had two controlled areas [...] KPRLF (Khmer People's National Liberation Front) and FUNCINPEC (National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia) were with the Royal Government. The Khmer Rouge was in Pailin and areas along the border. They made Anlong Veng their city. They even printed their own money, radio and they had their outposts in Oral and Takaen Koh Sla, and Phnom Voar. Three policies have resulted in reunification among Khmer. Firstly, guarantee of life and their physical bodies. They were not to be arrested or killed. Secondly, guarantee their employments and careers. They could continue to be soldiers if they were ones. Thirdly, guarantee ownerships on mobile and immobile properties [...]

### Forceful Physical

### Infrastructures Investments

Some asked me of leaving the Khmer Rouge at their strongholds would lead to ungovernability (from the central government) [...] some suggested we sparsely move them to Kompot, Takeo, Svay Rieng or Prey Veng provinces. I told them that was a wrong thinking. Firstly, that would make us keeping no promise to them about their ownerships on land, houses, etc. That would also cause troubles in provinces as to how could they go about finding land for them to settle in? That was a political shortcoming. We have military concern too. It could be more dangerous. If war were to happen again, it would happen only in one place, the same place – no more, no less. Should we disperse them, war would happen in the whole country [...]. The matter was we applied soundly the three policies above, and forceful investments into the integrated regions. We have built hundreds of schools, no less than in the mainstream Cambodia. We have worked on physical infrastructures, though roads are not up to standard but we have connectivity. I have said clearly that political and administrative integration would not be suffice. We must ensure functional physical communication and transport connectivity [...]

### Building Borderline of Peace, Friendship, Cooperation and Development

What was my second strategy? It was to build the Cambodian borderline with our neighbor of peace, friendship, cooperation, and development. That was what I wished for Cambodia. A country well developed has to have internal stability and good neighborly relations. Absence of these, we may have to station our soldiers all the time at the border. We also have more difficulties in financial supports and everything. As of now, our trade volume with Thailand stands at 7 billion USD. The volume of trade with Vietnam stands at roughly 5 billion USD. We have achieved this because we have peace and good neighborly relations. I have realized

the two strategies. In so achieving, we are talking today about disaster response exercise across the border [...]

### In 21 Years of Unification, Economic Growth Averages 7.7%

In days to come, we will celebrate the 21 years of win-win policy that brought us national unification and allowed us to score in average 7.7% economic growth. The country has passed its milestone from a country with low income to lower-middle income status. Should there be no peace would we have these high buildings at Koh Pich Exhibition Centre area? [...] I continue to stress on peace. Whatever you may talk about, without peace, nothing would happen. Look at the "1001 Nights" Baghdad, an old city, what has become of it now? Destruction. Worse still is Syria. Cambodia went through that. There have been this prophecy that no one could have believed it in our country – "where there would be houses but there would not be occupants ..." It all happened under Pol Pot's regime [...]

### Youngest, Oldest, Richest, Shortest-served, Longest-Served, in Waiting Prime Ministers

The other days I saw a pictures of six people placed together for comparison. The first impression was Prime Minister of Finland happens to be the youngest one at 34 years old. I became Prime Minister when I was 32 years old too. On 14 January (2020), it will be my 35 years anniversary of Premiership. I was Foreign Minister at 27 years olds and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Ministers at 29 years old. Among the six dignitaries, Prime Minister of Finland was the youngest. The Prime Minister with the oldest age at 94 years old is Dr. Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia. A Former Prime Minister of Italy was the richest with over 11 billion USD. A former Prime Minister of Australia (Francis Michael Forde) was the shortest-served one – only

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on to Samlout of Battambang province. We also have a good air connection from Siem Reap, Phnom Penh, and international flights to the airport Kong Keng [...]

**Eighth, to ensure safety for tourists water traveling.** We must not underestimate this problem because there have been frequent incident on water travelling tourists in countries in the region [...] we are sad that a British teenage tourist drown in Koh Rong [...] we must do everything to ensure tourist safety [...]

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situated in Thai territory.

We may allow the private sector to build them too [...] I have more to talk about but I have not enough time to do so [...] we have many Vietnamese present but they could not understand what I am talking about [...] I speak Vietnamese. Some people should not say I am the puppet of Vietnam because I also French and English [...] all in all, what I have said in Khmer, the foreign press has quoted my speech and translated what I said. This has indicated clearly that besides countries in the region, the foreign press such as Reuters, Diplomat, AFP, etc. have followed what Hun Sen talked in Khmer [...]

Once again, I would like Deputy Prime Minister Trinh Dinh Dung to convey my respects to HE Nguyen Phu Trong, the Secretary General of the Party, and Prime Minister HE Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. I thank the government and people of Vietnam for assisting the Cambodian people to liberate themselves from the regime of Pol Pot and providing socioeconomic supports, including this wonderful assistance today. I hope that our two countries' relations will strengthen further, people-to-people relation will be stronger and they will do business with regards and in friendships with one another [...]