

Presenting Land Titles in Preah Vihear

(23 November 2012 — Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)



23 November 2012 — Samdech Techo Hun Sen with people during the Land Title Hand-out Ceremony in the commune of Pal Hal, Preah Vihear Province (Kampuchea Thmey).

Two Different Jobs in Two Different Environments

I am so happy to travel according to my schedule to the province of Preah Vihear to hand out the land titles to people here after the conclusion of the ASEAN, EAS and related Summits. Though tired but we were happy. If I were to compare the jobs that our officials and the youth volunteers have been doing here, what I did in Phnom Penh for the summits were not so difficult compared to yours. You all stayed working under rain, hot weather and strong wind. We were in two different working environments. There were so many topics to discuss and it was not easy to carry out the task when we had the participations of so many heads of states and governments of the member countries of ASEAN and other leaders of partnering countries. However, I conducted the summits in air-conditioned rooms.

Today I am so happy that we meet and present the land titles to 570 families in the pagoda in the village of Sra Mao of Pal Hal commune, the province of Preah Vihear's Preah Vihear city. Let me remind you that the land titles that we are presenting today are the results of the works done by the youth volunteers group of 72. As you know this is not the first time that I am handing out the land titles to our people. I was so busy but I did not want our people to wait for too long to get their land titles. So I sent General Meas Sophea to hand out 861 land parcel titles on my behalf for 591 families in three different places – Sra Yang and Tbeng Pi commune in the district of Kulen and Rum Tum commune in the district of Rovieng. This is my fourth time to do so myself.

This has indeed illustrated our focal and joint efforts in our endeavor to fulfill altogether in implementing the rejuvenating
(Continued on page 2)

Press Briefing: ASEAN, EAS & Related Summits

(Santepheap Building, 20 November 2012 — Unofficial Translation)

I warmly welcome those of you who have come today to participate in this press conference aimed at gathering information for the sake of broadcasting and printing for listeners and users inside as well as outside the country. I am sure after working hard with the meetings over the past three days you and I are all tired, though we could at least now feel relieved that everything went very well.

As you all know that from November 18 through to 20, 2012, Cambodia has been honored to host and chair the 21 ASEAN summit and related summits in the Santepheap building. This has strengthened and expanded achievements so far scored by ASEAN when Cambodia chairs ASEAN and celebrates the 45th anniversary of the foundation of ASEAN as well. Cambodia has picked up the theme of “ASEAN – One Community, One Destiny” to showcase its determination and the collaboration within ASEAN in building a big friendly family of ASEAN with harmonious political, security, socio-economic and cultural environment based on the principle of law, peace and firmness of the economy.

I think the communiqués, statements and other related papers, with regard to results of the Summits, have been made available to you by the Secretariat of the meetings already, so there is no need for me to made further comments on those for you. On this occa-

sion, please allow me to list some of the important points of the Summits as follows:

The 21 ASEAN Summit

We have discussed fruitfully both in the Summit and in the retreat meeting. In general, the meeting focused on reviewing and evaluating of the progress that we have achieved and defining challenges that we have to overcome so as to implement the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Community Building Roadmap based on the three pillars – political, security and socio-economic and cultural. In implementation of the Phnom Penh agenda, adopted by the ASEAN leaders in the 20th ASEAN Summit, we proposed to related ministers, especially the ASEAN Economic Ministers, to take those recommendations in the mid-term report of the roadmap of ASEAN Economic Community into consideration, and to define the priority areas and seek unity in implementing political measures prior to 2015. Particularly, in implementing the master plan of ASEAN Connectivity, the ASEAN leaders have advised the Ministers of Finance of ASEAN countries to urge other ASEAN partnering ministers to participate and finance
(Continued on page 7)

In This Issue

- Land Titles in Preah Vihear, P-1
- ASEAN, EAS ... Summits P-1
- Land Titles in Kompong Thom, P-4
- Stoeng Meanjei Overpass, P-5

(Continued from page 1)

action based on existing policy on issue of land ownership. The effort would unleash land titles and ownerships for not less than 40,000 families on about two million hectares. However, the number of land parcels could exceed the number of families. For instance, there are 45,000 families but they own between 70,000 to 80,000 land parcels.

Just now, meeting with a sister in the Buddhist temple, I asked if she has any land title to collect. She told me she already had her husband and children waiting to collect the title already. I asked how much land the family has. She said about 30 hectares, of which five hectares she and her husband keep for themselves and the rest will bequeath to their children. I think it is a good thing and I have no objection to that. It is a wise decision to bequeath the land to them now so that they can file for their land titles (as the Royal Government) is doing that free of charge.

A Job Not to Retract

We will continue to do this job. As I said, we would not retreat if we have not finished doing it. This is the basic right for our people to own land. Human rights are not only the right to speak alone. The first and foremost basic right is the right to life as without life no one could talk of any other rights. The killing by bombardment and in Pol Pot's genocide for instance has taken all rights of human. What rights could one talk about when there is no life at all? Is it not basic to start talking about the right to life after the liberation of January 7? Human rights start with right to life, access to food, to education, healthcare, etc. How could anyone define any dimension of these accesses as rights?

What is the rights situation that we have these days? As of today, there are no less than

45,000 families whose rights to own land (the Royal Government) will be guarantee. Is this not the right? Having said that, please do not mistake my point that I am to respond to so and so. Different countries would have different sets of problems and different ways to deal with them. Some might resolve whatever issue comes first, whatever right matters, but we are resolving the whole problems and related issues altogether, every right I mean.

Take for instance, the rights that we are offering our people today will last not a few days but for generations to come. I mean the right to own the land will be passing from generation to generation. The woman I mentioned earlier said she is here and her children are here to receive land titles altogether. In 18 years or so, her children will give those lands on to their children.

Do you recall that in 1979 we had only five million people left? Thirty-three years on, we have 14 million people, adding another nine million. It is an exponential increase. I would not blame anyone for that. I have one child every year. There was no birth control measure those days. Later there was, and if there were not I would have 15 children perhaps. Facing with the population boom, we also have this demand for land to resolve too after 1979. The state in those days offered people with some stipend and foodstuffs so that people could claim land. Sometimes they went and stayed as long as they finished those supplies and returned. After the war ended, our people have greater demand for land. I met here people coming all the way from Kompong Cham province's Jomkar Loeu district to buy land here. They do not look like the people in Preah Vihear.

Land Reform – A Priority in CPP and Royal Govern-

ment's Political Platform

Land ownership is a priority issue in the political platform of the Cambodian People's Party as well as of the Royal Government of Cambodia that we have to carry on solving the titles for the people. Aside from the land that we have reserved to give the people, we have kept land for the social concession too. I told HE Im Chhun Lim, Senior Minister and Minister for Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, and HE Um Mara, Governor of Preah Vihear province to keep the land for that purpose. Looking at the map, we noticed that there remain some lands in the region. We have to protect the land. We keep it for more people who would need land later.

We have kept certain area as community forestland already but we also must protect certain area for later demand when we have another population growth. I demand that our people who already have their land titles not to encroach upon further land but to make use of their land potentially. I am so grateful for the understanding and cooperation that our people have and provide to the efforts made by the Royal Government as this would not be in individual but the people's own interests. According to the report by the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction as well as that of HE Um Mara, the whole land area concerned has a total figure of over 130,000 hectares in 198 over 229 villages, 49 over 51 communes and in 8 different districts.

The campaign (to measure land and register land parcel) has now deployed in all seven districts and a city (of Preah Vihear province). There are some 37,697 families involved in this land measuring and titling efforts. Among them, 7,874 families have had 771

hectares land problems with the economic land concession or about 18%; 7,500 families have had 8,983 hectares land problems with the forestland concession or 30% and 22,323 families have had 68,629 hectares land problems, or 52%, with other sort of state lands.

130,000 Hectares to Measure in Preah Vihear

This has indicated that the people who have had land problems so far are more involved with other types of state land rather than the economic land or forestland concessions. However, no matter what sort of land it would be, the land measuring and titling campaign would try to resolve the issue with regard to how the problem has arisen. With transference of land status from state to companies, still, we have secured to keep areas relating to the people's occupation and possession as detailed in the notification (S/N) letter. Take for instance, the land to measure and issue titles in the category of economic land concession is roughly equal to 18% of the over 130,000 hectares.

Having achieved this, we have secured safety for those who occupied and possessed the land on the one hand, and those investors who obtain the investment agreement on the other. This should be complementary action between industry, medium-scale and large-scale agricultural activities of our people. I strongly hope that this land area of over 130,000 hectares would be under rubber cultivation and some of them already have.

You may agree with me that the issue of land title is not a simple one. In the old days, not many people have had their land titles. Under Pol Pot regime, no one had land ownership of any sort. After the liberation, everyone worked on any land parcel that s/he might

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

have his/her hands on. People did not even build new or bigger home at all because they feared that the state would confiscate the houses from them anytime they could not know of. I said on various occasions that the safety elements involved in printing these land titles are comparably strong and secure as those for the Riel note.

Land with Political Intrigues – Not a Priority

I am so grateful that our people have participated and kindly supported this non-retracted and large-scale land measuring and titling efforts of the Royal Government. With the presentation of land titles this time on the total land area of almost two million hectares, we have also reserved more land areas for the social land concession program. There had been two issues with regard to land ownership in the province of Preah Vihear. First, there was a land concession problem reserved for the military division 41. While we finished resolving the issue, there was a second land issue with a group of people, led by a non-governmental organization, collected thumbprints and used them for protest in Phnom Penh.

It is in this regard that I deem it is necessary to send a message from here to everyone that as long as those land issues are fraught with the involvement of non-governmental organization or political parties, I would not take them for priority. The reason is simple. Once the land issue is involved with political motives, there is no way that we can resolve them. My message is clear that if anyone expected me to resolve the land issue for them they should refrain from involving non-governmental or political organizations in their demand for land.

I reaffirm my position through this message that the Royal

Government will help you complete your land measuring titling process as long as those lands in demand are not politically intrigued or related. I already instructed those youth volunteers from the start that they should not ask the people who demand for their land measuring and titling about the political party they belong. I forbid them to probe but treat them all as Cambodians. I made them understand clearly that political right is a different matter here. Take for instance some among those of you who have come here today to receive your land titles may not have voted for the Cambodian People's Party. That is, let me confirm, not the subject I am after.

In our endeavor to resolve the land issue, I expect no political motivation and involvement, from all political sides, the Cambodian People's Party also included. If that happens in line of the Cambodian People's Party, I would not hesitate to take reprimanding measures. It is easy to do even if it involves removing someone from his/her ranks. It would take only two days to get it done. Take for instance the General Doen Sovan. He is no longer a three star general now. He only waits for his day in court. Doen Sovan is the Cambodian People's Party member and a three star general but he has committed mistake. We cannot overlook it. We have to take legal measure.

Some has made use of other people's thumbprints for protest. However, how could one be sure about thumbprints? What if the forensic survey determines they are from just a few people, what kind of crime would those people find themselves in? Is it not a crime of falsifying the public documents? When the court finds them guilty, they then seek for intervention. Let me stress here that in Cambodia there is no such thing as political prisoners

but only prisoners who are in jail for the crimes s/he committed. When that situation comes, some seeks my help while accusing me of controlling the court.

If I were to intervene, as they demanded, I would be nothing different from what they have said. How could they accuse me of controlling the court while asking me for an intervention? The court is independent. No one should be above the law. So let me confirm that there is no political prisoner in Cambodia. We have politicians whom the court find guilty from the crimes they committed. Look, how many government officials whom the court find guilty. Several chiefs of military and/or police have been arrested for crimes in relation to drug and abuse of power. How could the Royal Government intervene in this?

There was this case of some organizations filing for land concession from the Royal Government. There are organizations in Kompot and/or Kompong Speu provinces that request for land, but after acquiring them, sell them to other parties. I urge that we no longer approve request for land anymore. We will still approve request for land to build hospital or orphanage, etc, though. Maybe you could remember of an organization that offered to build a highway of 70 kilometers all the way to the Bokor Mountain Resort. I doubted their financial capacity as enlarging the National Roads 6A and 5 to four lanes would consume millions of USD already.

No Way-out for Politically Intrigued Issues

In time of the 2011 flooding, we were so busy. We went to all corners of the country to hand out relief kits. There were people who had money to pay taxi to go demanding for relief. They surrounded and protested

at the Cambodian Red Cross Headquarter. I told the President of the Cambodian Red Cross these people were not sincere. As the true victims, in my opinion, they would not have the chance to come to protest for relief but to stay look after their animals, rice fields and farms. Those who came were the one that the political party leaders motivated only. Failing to get the attention at the fence of the Royal Palace, those people, HE Chea Sophara – as Governor of Phnom Penh then may remember - later went to the party headquarter.

There was then a foreign embassy that called to HE Chea Sophara to help find transportation for those people to go back home. Some claimed they were from Banteay Meanjei, Svay Rieng or Takeo but they stopped the bus and got off at Chbar Ampeo (eastern part of Phnom Penh). This is why I said when there is political intrigue there is no way that we could solve the problem. I do not want to send any political message but it is important to affirm why political involvement would mess up our actions.

Cambodia in Hell and in Truth

As of the moment, I do not seem to notice newspapers that run the news about the fact that the Royal Government has issued the sub-decree to cut land out for the people. This has me doubted. For that instance, when I agreed to approve land concession as a completion of the procedure according to the Royal Order 01, some newspapers had run their articles repeatedly until the Cabinet of the Prime Minister issued a clarification and reaction. They accused Hun Sen of giving out more land in concession irrespective of the proclamation of the Royal Order 01. It was a vulgar dis-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

tortion. Now I am waiting to see if the same newspaper is running any news about the sub-degrees and dozens of decisions on this issue.

They do not publish this in their newspapers but misled the public that Hun Sen has given more land in concession in violation of own order. Whatever the Royal Government has been doing is not a subject for those newspapers to run. That is our weak point. The more we do the less we talk about it. They are better. They do less but they talk a lot. Some told us frankly, you have done a great deal but you talk too little about it. Outside, news about Cambodia is so dark. Many foreigners even confirm that being in Cambodia it is so different. I responded that it is true that there are two Cambodias – one Cambodia outsiders see in the news and another is the true Cambodia that you have seen with your own eyes.

The Cambodia that you see on papers or through the news is hell and the true one that you see with your own eyes is the one that people travel wherever they wish to, speak whatever they want to, and there is no such thing as obstruction of rights to travel at all. Please do not take this as my political preach. I am just telling you the truth. As I said, I am waiting to see the same newspaper running articles or news about how much land the Royal Government has given out to the people? I am longing to see their practice of principle of neutrality in press professionalism.

Family-like Manner – A Great Source of Inspiration

I am so grateful for all the efforts made in the province of Preah Vihear. We have eight youth volunteer teams here working side by side with eight cadastre teams. I thank the provincial authority as well as

the district and communal authorities and people for their collaborative efforts together with the armed forces in looking after and taking care of the cadastre officials and youth volunteers in the course of fulfilling this land measuring and titling mission for the people. It is the fact that without their contributive parts, the youth volunteers and cadastre officials would not be able to perform this task in an orderly manner. We all must admit the truth. I also thank leaders of the Royal Government, although with busy schedule, for the visit and bringing with them some food and utensil supply to the young heroic student volunteers and cadastre officials. That is a great source of inspiration. Our youth volunteers are living away from home, parents and siblings but they certainly find our people in the villages as their relatives.

I also noted some of the active moments of the youth volunteers from various mission target areas on the Kol-bokhmer website.

Serving the People, More Schedules

It is indeed a great effort that our youth volunteers and cadastre officials have been working together under the leadership of the provincial and district authorities. This job we are doing for our people. If it were not for the people, we would not be coming here. We are not here to demand for a piece of land at all. I still have to go on November 30 to Kompong Thom province, December 2 to Kompong Som (Preah Sihanouk) province, December 4 to Uddar Meanjei province, December 7 to Ratanakiri, December 11 to the Kep province, December 18 to Stoeng Treng province, December 30 to Takeo province. I also have to figure out my schedule to go to Mondulkiri and Koh Kong provinces ...■

Presenting Land Titles in Kg Thom

(30 November 2012 — Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Deep Reform on Fishing Lot, Inflation to Stay Below 3%

In general, after the abolition of fishing lots, we see that conflicts arising from the management of the fishing lots and popular fishing activities have died down and the people appear to benefit from this policy. It is a development to everyone's satisfaction that there is no deflation of fish in the market and therefore the price of fish in the market has not gone up. All of us remember that when one item in the market closely relating to the people living condition fluctuates, change of other prices is anticipated. However, since we introduced the deep-down reform in the field of fishing lots management, the fish price in the market has stabilized. This year we expect the inflation rate to stay under 3%. Last year, while 6% was our calculated inflation rate, because of abundance of fish in the market, a great source of protein for many Cambodians, the inflation rates rose only to 5.5%. This year, once again, the inflation rate in Cambodia is somewhere below 3%. We have only one month to go, so I would not anticipate any risk within the remaining time.

You may note that if the price of fish goes up, the prices of beef, pork and other sources of protein item would also go up. According to some studies, the Cambodian people consumed a big amount of fish compared to others recorded. While we are in this great state, I demand the provincial authorities as well as related agricultural and fishery institutions to take precaution measures. As many TVs reported, there have been some anarchic fishing in various places not in Tonle Sap area but in the province of Kompong Cham for instance. I would anticipate your effective

measures and actions. I would not wait for April (the time when fishing activities are in low season) to get your report. You should do better.

We have not come to the best fishing time yet because we are still anticipating more rains. Now we are to face with the Bopha storm and that should bring rains for some days. After that, we will certainly be meeting with rather chilled weather. Fishing will then start. We must take preemptive measures to review the fishing tools. All provinces with fishing zones must be alert. We must guarantee that our people get the amount of fish they rationally need. This is not to carry out in respect of any fish merchant's interest.

From Abolishing Fishing Lots to Strengthening of Fishing Community

I would expect HE Yim Chhay Ly is the first to get his hands on it because it is your area of responsibility. I would not agree that these law un-abiding people are stronger than we are. We could annul the fishing lots management, which was 104 years old, and we did it for the people. I think you all act only when the Prime Minister arouses you. I want you to do your work as I already did all that the Prime Minister should do. However, to look after fishing abuses should not be something the Prime Minister is doing. I urge HE Bin Chhin to take inspection measures to ensure that the abolition of the fishing lots will give benefit to the people. I warn every party not to make blunders that would cause the detriment of the policy. I am of the opinion that if you all are not working to that anticipated effect, you are challenging me. This is to understand that while I am abolishing the fishing lots, it

(Continued on page 5)

Building Overpass Stoeng Meanjei

(26 November 2012 — Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Above, Ground and Under-ground Level Roads

What HE Kep Chuktema – the Governor of Phnom Penh just said is a recall of what I said at the time when we put into official use the first overpass at Kbal Thnal. I could remember saying that when there is the first, there will be the second and the third to come. We first built the Kbal Thnal overpass, then the 7-January overpass at the Pet Loksang junction. Now we have permitted the construction of the overpass at the Stoeng Meajei junction. We talk of this achievement that some people blamed us for talking too much about it. They even said that overpass as such there are hundreds of them in so and so countries. I even rebuked that we are talking about it a lot because we have only one. The overpass at Kbal Thnal is the first of its kind in our country. We will talk no more when we have twenty or thirty of them.

In one of my visits in 2004 to Chong Qing of the People's Republic of China, there is an iron bridge built in the 1960s over the Yangtze River. We could understand that China just had that bridge in 1960s. China also talked a lot about it. Now they talk about it no more because in Shanghai, from the airport to the city, traveling will be mostly on overpasses. Now China no longer talks about overpasses because they have more than they can count already. Now we have the third one built and it is a unique in its design is because it has three levels of traveling lanes – the one that run over, the one on ground level and another in the underground level. Normally the previous twos we have the one above and the ground level. Some people might come out and say there is also undersea lane in so and so country. We will be there,

maybe in our younger generation.

On behalf of the people of Phnom Penh, I would like to thank HE Kep Chuktema, Governor of Phnom Penh, as well as councilors and members of the governing council of Phnom Penh and concerned Khans, together with technical team, for conducting a thorough technical study to resolve issues and impacts for residents in projected area, drainage and electric poles.

From Bare Hands to Overpasses

I am so proud that from bare hands and ghost city we have come this far. If we were to look back a bit or watch old documentaries, we would see that in 1979 and many years later there would not need to have overpasses as we do now. Even in the street itself, there were sections where people can sleep for a week without any car to disturb them. Now Phnom Penh city is a city of trafficks. Now we are wondering if the tricycles would be obsolete. This is something we should conserve to. In France, there are horse carts for tourists around the parks. We have come this far in fro-p-leap pace. Our people also are rising gradually slowly. I first met only 70 people in Phnom Penh somewhere near the Canadia Park and most of them were kids and women ... According to the statistics, we have roughly one million cars and one million motorcycles. It is quite something when they all are in the street at the same time.

With the overpasses at Kbal Thnal and Pet Loksang junctions, we have a better hand in managing the trafficks there. Now we are building another one at the Stoeng Meanjei junction, which is also very important. Traveling to Takeo,

(Continued from page 4)

has led to fishing anarchy. With this anarchy, the Royal Government will have to reestablish the fishing lots.

I am demanding your actions. May you all be not too strict and too loose? It has not happened in the area of Tonle Sap and I demand the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) to take active measures on the issue. Take for instance, the fishing lots in Kompong Cham, Prey Veng and Kandal provinces, where fishing lots are no longer there, you must go there to see if those fishing contractors who lost their deals because of the Royal Government policy of fishing lots reform go back there to create troubles? In

Kompot or vice versa to Phnom Penh, would need to go through this road. The third overpass is indeed bigger and definitely costs more – 19 million USD and will be ready in 28 months. Having said all this please allow me to beg our people who are living in, near and passing by the project sites for understanding as within this period of construction, the traffic condition and living environment will be worse. We are anticipating a durable solution in 2015.

In efforts to resolve the traffic growth, we have either put in place or built the Monivong Bridge Thmei, the second Jroy Janvar bridge, the bridge of Prek Pnov, the bridge of Prek Kadam, and are planning another bridge somewhere between the bridge of Jroy Jangva and Prek Pnov across the river of Tonle Sap to Jroy Jangva. We already have the bridge of Ta Khmao under construction and another one at downstream Koh Thom down.

Affected Residents Accept Overpass's Compensations

I am so happy and thank our

(Continued on page 6)

some places, former fishing merchants nominate their names as leaders for the fishing community again. I think you all with PH D degrees and vested power should be able to do that. I am sure there is a possibility that you neglect and/or perhaps in some instances acting in collusion too. My message is we must ensure that people benefit truly from the fishing community and the fishing community belongs to the people not to the fishing merchants.

Deputy Prime Minister HE Bin Chhin must deploy your people to conduct inspection on the implementation by Deputy Prime Minister Yim Chhay Ly's people. This is what I call monitoring mechanism. Many of you come reporting me only positive things so I need another mechanism to monitor that. I need to know the truth. I have one Deputy Prime Minister on the implementation side and another on the monitoring side. You should pay heed to the tasks. Do not take undue actions, which I used to say: "closing the horse's shed while the horse are already galloping outside."

We missed two fishing dates already – the fifteen day on new moon and fifteen day on full moon of the months of Asoj and Kadek. We still have two more – the fifteen day of new moon and fifteen day of full moon of the months of Kadek and Meak. I anticipate swift and preemptive actions before it is too late for our measures. We must, I repeat, ensure that the people truly benefit from the policy. I would not wait for your annual report in March or April. Let me warn again that do not play "making the meat raw" deal with me. I would not let you say that Hun Sen abolished the fishing lot management was not a good thing. I would not agree with your argument and reestablish the lots at all...■

(Continued from page 5)

people very much that they have a great understanding, especially those who have to bear impacts – more or less - from the project (of building the Stoeng Meanjei overpasses). The compensation has already recorded a sum of three million USD already. That is a requirement for development. I appreciate it that our people understand and accept the compensation provided by the project. In some country, in order to prevent their people from buying more cars, they have ordered people to first buy their rights to own a car before they can buy a car.

As far as the right to own the car will be valid only for five years. After this specified period, people will have to pay again in order to maintain their rights to purchase a car. In Cambodia people make money, save them and purchase motorbike or car as they wish to. I do not know when we will have that kind of tax enforcement but let's keep it for the younger generation to decide as we may have gone to a different world by then.

However I thank everyone involved in the construction of Phnom Penh and Cambodia as a whole. Thanks to the 50 + 50 formula, the state pays half and the the people pays the other half has brought the city of Phnom Penh to no longer has dirt roads/streets. The people from different political parties have made their contributions for the betterment of infrastructural in Phnom Penh.

I wish that we all see the truth and refrain from lying to oneself, not to other people. In just days we will come to the celebration of the 34th anniversary of January 7 – the day of liberation of Cambodia from the genocide. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thank for elder sister Di Savet who used

to be our best TV star in the 1950s, who, in her interview with the CNC TV, said she has got a heart, two ears and two eyes and she could make sense of what is going on. She went to live in France and years later I saw her on local TV. She came back to help Cambodian new generation who pick up performance art careers. No one would hold his/her tears watching her movies in the old day. Well, let's not lie to one's own self. Some people who deny the truth also has a full recollection that s/he was walking without slippers on in 1979 but is driving or sitting now in either Landcruiser or Lexus cars and living in modern apartment as well.

Chairing ASEAN Altogether

Once again I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the people, Buddhist monks who live in Phnom Penh for their heartfelt participations in together hosting the ASEAN Summit, related summits and EAS Summit – once in April and again in November this year. That has showed the dignity of our people as hosting country of ASEAN. I have said it many times that hosting and chairing ASEAN Summit and related summits is not my task alone but that of the whole people of Cambodia. People clearly cooperated and the meetings went on without interruptions from traffic or other problems at all. Our armed forces, with close cooperation from the people, have guaranteed the safety and security for world leaders.

I thank the Cambodian armed forces, especially the Phnom Penh Municipality and Khans under it, for the excellent jobs they have performed for the honor and dignity of our country. Cambodia's dignity and prestige has reemerged to a new level. We have provided better facility for the summits and guests compared to the

year 2002 that we hosted the first event for ASEAN. I would not know who will host the ASEAN Summit in 2022 as I will turn 70 by then. If any political party win the task, they have the full liberty to hold it their ways. Cambodia is a pluralistic country. We have general elections once in every five years.

No Boat Race, Progress on Crematory Construction

However, I have to express my sincere thanks for the people who had to be patient with some traffic congestion and for the 19 schools that had to close for the same period of the meeting so as to evade the possibility of having more traffic in the roads. I also appreciate your understanding for the fact that the Royal Government has cancelled the boat racing ceremony which is a part of the water festival from November 27 through to 29. We did the same last year for flood emergency. This year's cancellation is because we are mourning over the death of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, who is still lying in state in the Royal Palace. On November 28, we will have a ceremony to present the late Majesty the post-mortem title – Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod.

The next day, HM the King and Samdech Preah Meada, the Queen-Mother, senior Buddhist monks and high-ranking Royal Government leaders will observe the progress of building crematory in the Veal Preah Meru field. Though the cremation will be on the fourth of February, the Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod will be moved to the crematory on the 1st of February. More closure of roads will be necessary. The Royal Government is in review of the appropriate new mourning period for the Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod.

Politically Intriguing Involvement in Land

(Continued from page 8)

Borom Ratna Kaod - that is laid in state. In this auspicious moment, I would like to report to the soul of Samdech Ov, whose new title now is Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod, of the great works his children have just fulfilled. Some of the works that Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod did not have the chance to finish, his children have now filled it. It reminded me always of Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod when leaders of all countries expressed condolences over the loss of HM the King-Father in their speeches.

May I apology to all media personnel that I do not have the strength to take up your questions. I am so exhausted. I stayed very late last night too. Normally I am a man who would take just any questions.

I could go on for five hours at a time. Now, as I said, I am so exhausted and I have nothing more to give you but my written speech. I am so sorry that I could not hold back my tears when I mentioned about Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod. You all may know that Samdech Ov, Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod, always wanted to see honor bestowing upon his nation.

It is happening while he is laying in state. I wish his soul could see all this...☐

Measuring and Titlings

I have one thing to clarify. What I said in Preah Vihear might lead to misinterpretation. I said we would not have way-out for land issues whereby political parties or non-governmental organization wishing to exploit for political gain. I wish to underline that what I wanted to say is to allow no one to take political advantage from this land issue. If political parties and/or non-governmental organizations wish to involve with pure intention, they could still do so...☐

(Continued from page 1)

for the ASEAN Infrastructural Fund for all prioritized projects to fulfill on a timely basis.

We have adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights and signed the Phnom Penh Declaration. In addition to these, the ASEAN Leaders have also adopted the joint statement to launch the establishment of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and Plan of Action of the Third Bali Agreements 2013-2017. The ASEAN leaders have selected H.E. Le Luong Minh as the ASEAN Secretary General for the next five years from 2013 through to 2017. Economic and political focus and unity has been reached in promoting the central role of ASEAN within the existing frameworks – ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, ASEAN Regional Forum, East Asia Summit and ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting and ADMM Plus. In further discussion and exchange, the ASEAN leaders have supported a report on the result of Cambodia's participation as Chair of ASEAN in the G20 Summit that took place in Los Cabos of Mexico from June 18 through to 19.

As far as the issue of the South China Sea is concerned, the ASEAN leaders have agreed to continue to resolve within the existing Sino-ASEAN framework. In addition to this, we have agreed to give importance to the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on Conduct of Parties involved in the South China Sea in accordance with instructions adopted in 2011 aimed at furthering mutual trust and confidence. In line with this, the ASEAN leaders have supported the Kingdom of Thailand as a coordinating country on the ASEAN-China relations to go on working with China in search for chance to conduct negotiation on and realize the Code of Conduct of Parties in

the South China Sea in the future. ASEAN has also reiterated its support for the efforts to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in peaceful manner, and call on especially for an early resumption of the Six-Party Talk.

Summit of the ASEAN Business Council

The Summit has reaffirmed the growingly important role of the ASEAN Business Council in promoting trade facilitation and improving the investment environment in the ASEAN region. The meeting also welcomes recommendations of the survey reports of 2011-12 on the ASEAN Competitiveness and agrees with the required new strategies to attract private sector, small and medium enterprises.

The 15th ASEAN-China Summit

The ASEAN-China leaders have come to agreement to further effective implementation in a timely manner the 2011-2015 Plan of Action to put into practice the declaration on Strategic Partnership between ASEAN and China for peace and prosperity. At the same time, the ASEAN leaders have welcomed the continued assistance of China, technically and financially, for the construction of the ASEAN Community and the ASEAN Connectivity, especially the Phnom Penh Agenda. We have noted the significance of the third protocol that requires amendments within the framework agreement on wider economic cooperation, and of the protocol to include measures for the reduction of technical barriers and quarantine into the trade agreement to usher in more steps for ASEAN and China to achieve two-way trade objective of 500 billion USD, Chinese direct investment of 10 billion USD, and 15 million tourists to and from the two sides by 2015.

The ASEAN-China leaders fruitfully discussed and adopted the joint statement on the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Declaration on Conduct of Parties involved in the South China Sea aimed at reaffirming the ASEAN-China determination based on all principles while urging more important measures so as to reach the Code of Conduct for the South China Sea to resolve problems in the South China Sea and promote regional peace, stability, friendship, trust and cooperation.

The 15th ASEAN-Japan Summit

We have underlined the bonds of friendship and strategic partner between ASEAN and Japan in guaranteeing regional peace and stability and in promoting the sharing of prosperity as stipulated in the joint statement on the uplifting of the ASEAN-Japan partnership for common prosperity. The ASEAN leaders have noted the growth in trade between ASEAN and Japan and welcome the adoption of the 10 years roadmap for economic relations between ASEAN and Japan, while urging for early conclusion of the trade, service and investment negotiation within the framework of ASEAN-Japan comprehensive economic partnership. The ASEAN leaders have supported the Japanese contributions in the implementation of master plan on the ASEAN Connectivity and highly evaluated the Youth Exchange program through the Japanese Kizuna scheme, while appreciating the Japanese energetic and active support for the ASEAN Centre for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance in disaster management.

The 15th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit

The ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit leaders welcome the progress of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit

Centre that is playing a very important role in promoting cooperation between the two sides. We agree to continue to make efforts aimed at achieving the two-way trade objective between ASEAN and Korea at 150 billion USD by 2015. The ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit leaders are determined to further strengthening their strategic partnership so to promote trade, investment, tourism and culture between ASEAN and Korea.

The ASEAN leaders attach great importance to the Mekong-ROK cooperation in contributing to ASEAN's endeavor to enhance ASEAN connectivity and ASEAN Community building. We welcome the Han-River Declaration of the Establishment of the Mekong-ROK Comprehensive Partnership for Mutual Prosperity and its move towards the establishment of the comprehensive partnership "Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund." The ASEAN-Republic of Korea leaders have indicated once again their positions for peaceful denuclearization of the Korean peninsula while urging for early resumption of the Six-Party Talk.

The 15th ASEAN Plus Three Commemorative Summit

The Summit has noted with satisfaction on the progress of cooperation in the ASEAN Plus Three framework and active contribution of the Plus Three countries for the efforts of implementing prioritized projects stated in the master plan on the ASEAN Connectivity. The meeting has adopted a joint declaration of the ASEAN Plus Three leaders on the fifteenth anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, while the Plus Three countries are promising to support the ASEAN efforts in integrating and building its economic community by 2015. The Plus Three countries are

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

also supporting the master plan on ASEAN Connectivity as well. The meeting has adopted the Leaders' Declaration on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership in Connectivity, in which the Plus Three countries promised to provide further supports in order to expedite the implementation of the master plan. Furthermore, we welcome the two reports of the East Asia Vision groups on the realization of the East Asia Economic Community by 2020 and on the agreement to promote regional understanding about culture and tourism.

The Tenth ASEAN-India Summit

We congratulate progress of implementation of the Plan of Action for ASEAN-India partnership for peace, progress and prosperity 2010-15 and support the preparation of the commemorative 20th anniversary of the ASEAN-India relations to be held in India in the forthcoming December. We highly evaluate the report of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons that provides and recommends certain measures aimed at further strengthening dialogue partnership between ASEAN and India and elevating it to a higher level.

We hope that the negotiation on ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement will soon complete. We welcome the Indian support in the implementation of master plan on ASEAN Connectivity through the establishment of discussion and regular exchange program between officials of the two sides – ASEAN and India – with an aim to coordinate and support the implementation of all projects related to the concept.

We have agreed to promote the discussion on development of a highway that will connect between India and ASEAN as well.

The Fourth ASEAN-US Leaders Summit

We highly appreciate the report of the ASEAN-US Eminent Persons that provides great vision and recommendation for the enhancement of partnership between ASEAN and US to a strategic level in 2015. The Summit supports the proposal for the expedition of implementation of Action Plan for profound ASEAN-US partnership in the course of world peace, stability and long-term prosperity. We welcome the US continuing financial and technical support for the building of the ASEAN community, the ASEAN Connectivity and the development of Greater Sub-Mekong Region so to further develop the region.

ASEAN Global Dialogue

Chaired by Cambodia, the ASEAN Global Dialogue has organized for the first time. This high-level dialogue forum is a new achievement of ASEAN. The dialogue has exchanged ideas on how to implement the Phnom Penh Agenda, which includes the ASEAN Connectivity, the financial and technical support on the ASEAN Integration initiative, and the expediting of implementation of projects relating to the narrowing down of gap of development among member countries so to achieve the realization of the ASEAN Community in 2015. In addition to these, the dialogue also has raised high the image and role of ASEAN in discussion and taking part in resolving regional and world challenges. The Summit has proposed organizing such dialogue along with future ASEAN Summits.

The 7th East Asia Summit

The Summit has discussed and exchanged fruitful ideas in the plenary and closed sessions while adopting the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS

Initiative for Development and the 7 EAS Declaration on Regional Response to the Management of Malaria and Malaria's Drug Resistance issue as a whole. The EAS reflects the progress of all six priorities areas – finance, energy, education, bird flu prevention, disaster management and connectivity. We welcomed the promising contributions by members of the EAS in promoting the implementation of the master plan on ASEAN Connectivity. We have agreed with and welcomed the promising support of the member countries of the EAS to continue to strengthen cooperation of the ASEAN Centre for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance in effectively managing disaster.

The Announcement of the Launch of Negotiations for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

Particularly, after the conclusion of the 7th East Asia Summit, leaders of ASEAN and of six ASEAN partnering countries of the ASEAN Free Trade Agreements – Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand - have announced the official launch of the commencement of negotiations for regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. That is to expand the ASEAN Free Trade Area Plus One, and to advance and effectuate further the agreement.

These are important points that I would like to underline and share with all of you. I am sure some of the leaders had shared some of the issues with some of you already. I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and thanks for the efforts made by all officials from every related institutions, namely the political and security council, the economic council, the social and cultural council for

their efforts over the last one year so that everything for this meeting could be possible, and a success. I also owe this success to higher restraint and understanding of all ASEAN member countries as well as its partners.

I would express my deep thanks to all who worked for this Summit facility, including also the security and protocol staff. Without a strong security, it would be difficult to host an event in which Heads of States and Governments of many countries, including also the powerful nations, participated. It has been a period of exhaustion and I would take this moment to express my sincere thanks for participation of the people in the whole country, especially those living in Phnom Penh for their understanding of the gravity of the event and for taking their pride as host. It is not me or the Royal Government, as I have made it clear, that chaired ASEAN but the whole people of Cambodia did. The people in Phnom Penh should be proud of being host nation.

I would share this pridedful achievement with Buddhist monks and our people and state that this is possible because of our joint efforts. I also have the need to express my thanks and appreciation for the media – local and international, especially those locally, for relaying the live broadcast of the events from the TVK Channel of all the news in a timely manner.

I would take this solemn occasion to report to Preah Karuna HM as well as HM the Queen-Mother, who are in condolence over the death of the late King-Father, the great results of the event. HM the King and the HM the Queen-Mother also graciously received heads of states and Governments who had come to pay respects to the late King-Father – Preah

(Continued on page 6)