



24 January 2013 — Samdech Techo Hun Sen viewed the military guard of honor at the Infantry Institute in Phnom Sruoch district, Kampong Speu Province (Kampuchea Thmey)

Phnom Penh Autonomous Port Opens

(22 January 2013 — Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

New Phnom Penh Autonomous Port and Chinese Funded Projects

Today I am so happy to be able to join with all of our people, Buddhist monks and HE Pan Guangxue, the Chinese Ambassador and foreign guests to put into official operation the new container port that we call “the Phnom Penh Autonomous Port.” I am so glad that in his term as Ambassador, HE Pan Guangxue and I have been able to put into official use and operation of this large port. I would like to take this moment to express through HE Pan Guangxue our sincere thank and appreciation to the government of the People’s Republic of China for providing always its support to the development efforts of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the port is also included. I am so glad that we have the participation today of 15,000 people to hail our new port achievements.

The agreement to build this port came into effect on December 21, 2009, during the official visit of HE Xi Jinping, then Vice President of the People’s Republic of China and presently the Secretary General of the Communist Party of China, and will-be President in months ahead. The agreement consists of eight projects with a total amount of 400 million USD, one of which is the Phnom Penh Autonomous Port (PPAP). On November 4, 2010, during the visit of HE Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the National People’s Congress of China, Cambodia and China signed the agreement specifically for the construction of the port.

As I convey through the Ambassador HE Pan Guangxue my gratefulness to the government of the People’s Republic of China for the loans it has provided for the Cambodian development, I would inform you that we will soon have
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Pannasastra University Graduation

(14 January 2013 — Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Fish Eating Ants and Ants Eating Fish

They will have my full support for a political code of ethics but I would rather have it in binding law so that we can bring anyone to trial if s/he is using abusive terms. I think there should be a law to prevent using words like traitors, etc. Take for instance the slanderous words like “selling (Cambodian) land to foreigners.” They have kept saying that since when there was this

coup against Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk.

They scolded him all the time and even made it into a song that I narrated (as an example) the other day in the National Assembly. Have you not found it unbelievable that the Cambodian land was sold since the time of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk until the present? But we cannot sell them to anyone, it seems.

Bavet is still where it is, Ka
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Presenting Land Titles in Stoeng Treng

(21 January 2013 — Unofficial Translation)

Knowing Who Moves and Where to Is Helpful

Due to growth of population in the plain area of our country, there is also growing demand (for the Royal Government) to provide them with land. I think that the province of Kompong Cham has well-known experiences in resolving land issues for their own people outside their provincial limit. The model has been noted involving the provinces of Monduliri, Kratie, Stoeng Treng and also Kompong Thom. According to their experience, the governor of the province acknowledges migration conducted by own people to a new province. I think this is a good practice and other provinces, where there is not available land for the people, may want to replicate that.

cial level, who will then contact on their behalf to the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction. The Ministry will be figuring out where (what province) these people with demand for land could go. They then contact with the provincial authority who manages the land under their supervision. For instance, the province of Prey Veng is in need of land (for people who have no land to cultivate), so it is important to have better plan...

It is important to set a vision for all that after the handing out of land titles on more than 1.8 million to 2 million hectares. We have the program to provide concession land to the

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people who demand for land as they really don't have any. I fully agree with the slogan written and hung here that land is life. It is true that without land, how farmers could survive. It is with this belief that the land policy of the Royal Government, or in other words of the Cambodian People's Party, will have to be implemented. We do not withdraw on that until it is done.

As I said, the provision of land for people includes also the social concession land to those who really do not have land. After five years, the land will be their own too. It is now clear to all that measuring some 1.8 million hectares of land for roughly 500,000 families is not an end in itself. We still have more people who do not have land yet. We also have land available and reserved for this type of concession too. However, I am begging our people stop claiming land illegally.

Today marks the final approval of a policy that I proclaimed on June 14 (2012) after signing the Royal Order to provisionally cease the provision of economic land concession on May 7 (2012), when I proclaimed the campaign to measure lands – concerning those belong to the forest concession, economic land concession and forest coverage land with court's order to confiscate for people.

60% Salary Increase for Class-D Royal Government Officials

I may repeat what I already said on various occasions that on those lands that we have mapped out as forest coverage areas, there are cassava plantations instead. It is not practical that we sat mapping this land in Phnom Penh, while in reality it is a different matter. To end this problem we will have to measure these lands and give them out to the people,

whether they are Buddhists, Muslims or Christians. Population growth has led indeed to the demand for more land (to reside and cultivate). We need more measures to put the policy of giving out land to those who need them. As for those of you who receive land titles today, I hope that you will make full use of the land to create profit and benefit for yourselves. I am so thankful that our people have striven through great hardships to build up their livelihood in the region.

From the bird eye's view, I have asked if there are increased cropping lands and patterns in the whole province of Stoeng Treng. According to the report by the provincial governor HE Loy Sophat, in the province there are 8,146 hectares of rubber, where 2,052 of which are household rubber plantations, 295 hectares of Acacia, and 4,035 hectares of teak trees. This has assured me that our people will certainly make full use of the land (Samdech Techo Hun Sen chatted with Tain Ly, whosse family he is acquainted with). Along with this I would thank the local authority of all levels and the armed forces for making their efforts under the leadership of HE Im Chhun Lim, Minister of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction.

I also thank charitable persons for supporting this action, and cadastre officials for making considerable efforts together and sharing with the youth-student volunteers many of their experiences and know-how. With these experiences and know-how, thirteen of them, two are female, have passed the recruitment exam (to be cadastre officials). As for their continuing efforts in this land measuring mission, these youth-volunteers-turned-cadastre officials will go on receiving my financial support plus their salary as cadastre

officials. They do not charge extra from each cadastre data collected and registered as those cadastre officials involving in the mission.

Having come to this, I wish to reiterate that (the Royal Government) have made 60% increment on based salary of officials of D classification to be implemented from February 1, 2013.

Youth-Student Volunteers in Different Weather Conditions and Human Assistance

As of now the former team has returned to school and some have passed the recruitment exams to work in the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction. We have sent in the new team to take over the mission. In fact, both old and new teams, there are over two thousand students. They have different set of weather to confront. The Phase-I mission confronted with rain and wind in rainy season. That caused so many difficulties for them while traveling and working, which resulted in shorter working period. For the new team you will confront with cool weather. However, the weather pattern is getting hotter now. I may warn you that usually in between April and/or May, in which time we celebrated the Khmer New Year, the weather will be hot (*Samdech Techo talked about Phea, a youth-student volunteer who composed a song*).

I am so grateful that the youth-student volunteers have done so many jobs including also the humanitarian affairs. I am grateful to HE Mong Rithy who helped me in providing assistances to two women – Di Chandi and Sok Yan, each has nine kids, and one with broken marriage and another with dead husband. They (the team of Oknha Mong Rithy) have built homes for them already. I thank the youth-student volunteers for discovering that while

on mission to measure land for the people. They reported about their hardships and HE Mong Rithy set aside two pieces of lands - each is 50 meters by 200 meters and built them homes.

It is a good thing to do and I would urge the lady who has been separated to accept her husbands' return for the sake of caretaking their children and sharing lives with each other again. However, the husband must not resort to any form of household violence, selling lands and/or houses and then go back to his second wife. I see that a lady alone with nine kids is not easy and a good way of raising them. I approve it if the husband wants to return but he must not cheat her.

I thank HE Mong Rithy for his charity and his plan to prepare some 100 more pieces of land of similar size from his economic land concession for solving problems of this kind in the future. As far as I know, aside from the two families, there are also two other families that the Bayond TV Fund has built homes for them too.

Declaration of Property on Schedule

It is a good thing that our people have received their land titles right before the arrival of rainy season. I therefore think that the cultivation activity this year will be fast and increasing. People who before dare not grow or grew in smaller land size will this year do their large-scale cultivation. So I am sure that people in the whole country who already have received their land titles will be ready to do a great job cultivating at the coming rainy season.

I also take this opportune moment to advise the (Royal Government) officials to exercise their twice-a-year declaration of property. I already did mine. According to the report, as of yesterday, 14,177 offi-

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cially or 62% of 23,000 officials have declared their property status. We have ten more days to go as January 31 will be our last day to fulfill this task. I would urge you to do so as failing to fulfill it would have legal difficulties. I wrote the property status report myself and my wife stayed by my side turning page after page of questions to be provided with answers. So I urge all officials to declare their property status on time.

Roads, Bridges, Schools and Mosque

As we have learnt from a seminar before, there are four priority areas to pay attention to – roads, water for use and irrigation, schools and healthcare service - in addition to measuring and giving land titles to the people. According to the report of HE Tram Iv Toek on 18 January, and I already approved it on January 19, I approve the construction of the national road 377E of 15 kilometers through the communes of Russri Kandal and Sre Kra-saing from the national road 7 at kilometer 441 plus 250 through to Kratie along the Mekong River.

I have also approved the request of the Ministry of Rural Development for the construction of the laterite road of 23.2 kilometers and three concrete bridges of 84 meters in the commune of Russei Kandal, Siembom District, Stoeng Treng province. Today we also have the humanitarian assistance from the United Arab Emirates through HE Soh Musin, Head of the Cambodian Muslim Student Association, Head of Cambodian Muslim Physicians and Deputy Head of Union of the Youth Federation, for building a mosque.

According to a request letter brought to me by Tain Ly, I approve the construction of a six classroom school building

that Oknha An Mardy will cover the construction cost and another school building of six classrooms in the Abhivat Primary School that HE Osman Hassan will cover the cost of construction. Also, for the Primary School of Sre Beng, I approve the construction of one school building of six classrooms to be built and cost-covered by Oknha Mong Rithy.

Why Abhisit's Team Want Undisclosed Negotiation on Overlapping Areas

Today I have the necessity to speak on something that is concerning the honor and dignity of our nation. It is a foreign policy issue. In recent weeks, political tension in Thailand has taken high temperature. What I am going to say now is to urge the Abhisit team, former Prime Minister and Head of the Democrat Party, not to link up Cambodia with internal political tension of Thailand. (That I have to raise this issue up is because) the former Thai Prime Minister, or the Democrat Party and the Yellow Shirt, always links Cambodia to politics in Thailand. This has always been the issue because they always accuse (another former Prime Minister) Thaksin, who was ousted from power, for having secret interest with Cambodia. They are accusing him of caring for interest in the overlapping area (in the Gulf of Siam between Thailand and Cambodia) more to neglect the border conflict, especially the issue of Preah Vihear temple. They say it time and again.

Today, I have the necessity to challenge Mr. Abhisit to bring up the proof that Thaksin is having secret interest with Cambodia, which is also demanded by the present Government of Thailand for him to bring the proof and place it on the table. If you cannot produce proof, it means you are deceiving over 60 million people

of Thailand and 14 million people of Cambodia. This is a dirty politics from your side. I would reaffirm that on August 30, 2011, the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority issued a declaration which stressed that "... We have clarified on issue of the memorandum of 2011 with regard to negotiations ..." Let me clarify that the negotiation on this issue started and proceeded since when Thaksin was Prime Minister. After he was thrown out of power, Prime Minister Surayut Chulanont came to visit Cambodia affirming to observe all that were done by the previous government, and the issue of overlapping area also included.

After the general elections in Thailand, the People's Power Party government under the leadership of Samak Sundaravej came for a high-level negotiation in Phnom Penh. It is usual that someone elected Prime Minister or President in ASEAN member country would pay a courtesy call on other members. Samak then reaffirmed continuing negotiation. When the Abhisit team took power by luring a part of the People's Power Party to his side so that he could combine with to form up the Thai Royal Government, the border issue erupted. They then claimed that they do not negotiate with us on the overlapping area issue. However, they sent a Deputy Prime Minister (to Cambodia) for a secret negotiation.

I had no idea why Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban and Defense Minister Prawit Wongsuwan came to see me on 27 June 2009 at my residence in Takhmao, Kandal province. I told (the Cambodian public then) I would serve him with Cambodian soup of Koriko. They came to find a resolution on the border issue and on two Thai prisoners who had been imprisoned in connection to the terrorist Hambali

team. While it was about lunch time, he placed a map on the table and asked for a discussion. He said we would like to negotiate with me directly. I said Cambodia has got a team led by Deputy Prime Minister HE Sok An.

What do we draw here? Previous Thai governments negotiated with Cambodia openly but the government of Abhisit came negotiating with me in secret. It was quite unexpected that the map was placed on the table. I told him to bring the issue to Deputy Prime Minister HE Sok An. He then did not discuss the issue with Sok An either in Thailand or Cambodia but in Hong Kong and then in Kun Minh.

I wanted to defend Cambodia but also those who behave themselves in Thailand too. I would read this section of the text by the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority and urge the Quick Reaction Unit of the Council of Ministers to publish or keep posting it in English and Khmer and sent it to the Thai side. (*Reading the text*).

Cambodia finds it necessary to disclose this information for own protection and for that of HE Thaksin Shinawatra against the slanderous acts of the Democrat. I would urge Thai people to question Abhisit or Suthep why they wanted an undisclosed negotiation. HE Prawit Wongsuwan, former Minister of National Defense of Thailand is a good person and not in any way concerned with this issue. He just happened to be there with others. He would not know what to do when the other person brought in the documents (for negotiation). He just had to stay put. When HE Sok An was in the meeting in Hong Kong, HE Prawit was not present. The Thai people should give attention to him but Abhisit and Suthep.

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Cambodia does have interests with Thailand, former Prime Minister and current Royal Thai Government on issue of peace, joint development, peaceful settlement and building of a peace, friendship and cooperation border between the two countries. The true interest that Cambodia is longing to see would be that both sides are in harmonious relations.

As far as secret interest is concerned, it could be the story made up by the Abhisit's team. I urge them to disclose the fact or they would be seen as cowards. I now pass the ball to the Pheu Thai party, to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, HE Surapong Tovichakchaikul, to serve a penalty shootout at the Abhisit's goal.

Problems Created by the Democrat's Abhisit

There is one other issue here. While the two Royal Governments – Cambodia and Thailand, led by Hun Sen and Yingluck Shinawatra, the youngest sister of Thaksin, respectively are in the process of healing the wound that was opened by Abhisit, the same group of people is trying to recreate the problem.

Yesterday, there was a rally that mobilized a march to demand for Preah Vihear temple, and urge the Royal Thai Government not to recognize the power of the International Court of Justice.

I would like to inform the people of Thailand that the fighting at the border, which Cambodia later brought to the attention of the UN Security Council the International Court of Justice in The Hague for re-interpretation of its decision in 1962 on the issue of Preah Vihear temple, stemmed from the policy of the Democrat Party of former Prime Minister Abhisit Vijjajiva.

I would urge Thai people to review what Abhisit had said, especially when he, wearing short-sleeve shirt, met with protestors and said that "... will resolve the problem with Cambodia diplomatically and militarily." When this was said by a leader, it meant he was calling for a war. Cambodia kept its patience to the utmost since 2008, when the Thai rangers entered the Keosekha Kirisvarak Buddhist pagoda.

As I went to Thailand for the ASEAN Summit in 2009, again to Vietnam in 2010, I refrained myself from raising the issue because I did not want both Thailand and/or Vietnam to shift their focus of the Summit's attention. I finally had to bring the issue up in the ASEAN Summit in Indonesia's Bali.

From February 4 through to 6, there was a fierce fight then. Tens of thousands of artillery shells were fired upon Cambodia that also caused slight damages to the temple as well. During the last part of fighting, which was on February 6, I summoned Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, HE Hor Namhong, to prepare a letter to for the UN Security Council and the Chairman of the UN General Assembly to convene urgent meeting of the UN Security Council. As you know, it is not a normal practice that the UN Security Council would look into the request right away as there are heaps of issues for them to look at.

We sent the letter on February 6, on February 14, because of the serious state of the armed clashes at the Preah Vihear temple area, which Thailand imposed on Cambodia the UN Security Council has paid its utmost attention. As far as this matter is concerned, Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya hurriedly left for the meeting as Thailand authority could

have thought (that the UN Security Council) would not convene a meeting (at Cambodia's request). It was to their surprise that the UN Security Council did it urgently. It is important that Thai people have to know about this and consider it a serious matter as it has stirred the world's attention.

On the 4th of February, HE Hor Namhong told Kasit Piromya if we cannot resolve the issue, we should go to the court for the re-interpretation of its decision. However, fighting broke out the same day in the evening. At first we did not think of going to the UN Security Council or the International Court of Justice at The Hague. We wanted to resolve the problem bilaterally. To our dismay, their underestimation coupled with instigation from Sondhi Limthongkul and Chamlong Srimuang, leaders of the Yellow Shirt people urging the employment of the Thai army to chase the Cambodian people and army out from the Preah Vihear temple area broke up the peace effort.

Chamlong Srimuang then even advised a strategy to launch a fight through to the temple of Angkor Wat and use Angkor Wat as an exchange for Preah Vihear temple. They seemed to have thought that it was as easy as peeling banana and eat.

To leave the military strategy aside, they had gone this far, how could the world stand undetermined? The UN Security Council then delegated the issue to ASEAN to monitor. I refrained from raising this issue with Thailand or ASEAN while they chaired ASEAN and I always seek to find time to meet Abhisit in Brussels at the Asia-Europe Meeting, for example, to sort out our differences. However, with the use of force, we had no choice but to bring the issue to the UN Security Council's attention and to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

With this information the people of Thailand should be clear that it is not the Royal Government under the leadership of Yingluck Shinawatra or the Pheu Thai Party that created the problem with Cambodia.

All was created by the Royal Government of Thailand under the Democrat Party's Abhisit. It was because of the latter that Cambodia brought the matter to the attention of the International Court of Justice after the UN Security Council. You may also be reminded that the issue is still under close surveillance of the UN Security Council as ASEAN, with Indonesia as its contact, is monitoring the situation and reporting to the ICJ of any progress.

Cambodia is therefore entitled to file a report to the ICJ on this group of people from the district of Kantarak, Sisaket province, who have instigated by a handful of the extremist Yellow Shirt. While it is possible that we would file a report for the ICJ, we would not comment in any way to interfere in the ICJ's competency on the case at all.

We just want the current Thai problem is being resolved by the Thai themselves. They should not bring Cambodia into their conflict. I just remind Abhisit no to practice a plus one (កាន់តួនាទី) method.

However, while HE Abhisit also sent a letter to express his condolence for the loss of Samdech Ov, the King Father, I also sent a letter to thank him and to keep friendly relation, but I wish that he should be more frank in the relation.

Good Neighbor, Gold It Is

I have much regret that when I was talking in Pailin to the governor of Chantaburi about the closing and opening of the border between Thailand and Cambodia, a Cambodian member of the National As-

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more construction sites to launch and also to put into official operation. We will put the hydropower Kirirom II into official operation on February 23 instead of February 21, since I will be busy on that day. I already told HE Suy Sem about that. As far as HE Tram Iv Toek's request for my presence for the ceremony to launch the project to enlarge the national road 6 from the connection to Prek Kadam all the way to Siemreap, I have rescheduled it to March 5 as I have no more free time in February. In late March, there will be also this bridge construction at Koh Thom (over the Bassac River). We will launch the construction of the national road 44 in Kompong Speu in May.

Phnom Penh Autonomous Port – National Treasury

We all have heard just now the report by HE Tram Iv Toek, Minister for Transports and Public Works in relation to the progress of the construction of the PPAP. I am grateful for the efforts made by both the China and Cambodia in realizing this achievement. I thank the Shanghai Construction Group Co. Ltd. as well as the Guangzhou Wanan Construction Supervision Co., Ltd for their combined efforts in making this port a reality. According to the Minister's report, PPAP here in Kien Svay district of Kandal Province has container port area of 400 meters by 250 meters or ten hectares. There consists also a five storey administrative building. It is to my mark a very important part to the field of transport of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Historically the Phnom Penh Autonomous Port that we have been using (in Phnom Penh) was built in 1952. It is similar to my age. As of now, the port capacity no longer responds to the growth of the economy. It is required that we build an-

other port that functions as one part of the PPAP (in Phnom Penh) to handle 75% of the total goods activity of the previous port. While putting into official operation the new port here in Kien Svay, we still have to continue operation of the PPAP in Phnom Penh's Jroy Jangva. The new port will handle 75% of goods and the old one will handle the remaining goods.

We will have a better capability for goods discharge from visiting ships. Where we have to keep other ships waiting while disembarking goods from one ship, we now have the ability to let other ships discharge their goods at the alternative port. They do not have to stay idle waiting for their turns anymore. On top of that loading and unloading goods will consume less time which will also help reduce the problem of ships stranding in line waiting for their turn to enter the port, which would result in more costs covering.

I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and thank to the people who live around the port for their cooperation that makes our project running smooth and successful. I am glad that today we have lots of people turning out to welcome the new achievement, which is not for the PPAP alone but for the whole country and people. The 61 years old PPAP in Phnom Penh will continue to be in service and we will refurbish it. As far as this port is concerned, I am sure that even after I and some of the people here pass away more than one time, it will be here as a national property and stand serving for the country's socio-economic development efforts.

Special Economic Zone Next to PPAP

We have observed the growing demand for container area as envisaged in the report of Minister Tram Iv Toek. The

amount of containers coming and going through Phnom Penh has been up and down. In 2008, there were 47,507 containers coming and going through Phnom Penh port. In 2009, the activities had scaled down to 43,312 containers for the world financial crisis and economic downturn. In 2010, because there is a surge in the economy, the container activity had grown again to 62,256 and to 81,631 in 2011. In 2012, the number of container has increased to 95,333.

According to our estimate, we hope to improve to its capacity to handle between 120,000 and 130,000 containers per annum. Minister Tram Iv Toek said just now that PPAP is looking for development partner in equipping new port machineries, harbors and warehouses. In order to augment storage of container to 300,000 per annum, there has been also effort to seek support for the establishment of special economic zone nearby as well. As is enlightened by HE Tram Iv Toek and HE Hoen Phavi and requested for support, I would share with you that there will be a special economic zone on the size of 22 hectares land next to the port itself. I am sure there will be more jobs created for our people in the area.

In-equilibrium of Development and Supporting Elements

We have the need for capital to speed up the country's development. What is difficult for us is that we have not been able to stratify equally our development or there is this in-equilibrium between development and support. Take for instance agricultural production that has gained momentum, for example rice and cassava, our ability to attract processing investment and purchasing rice has been far too limited. We have missed this point. The production has gone up quickly to change our coun-

try's status from self-sufficient with more or less little surplus to a country with abundant of surplus rice, for example.

According to the report by Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, HE Chan Sarun, with regard to food balance, this year we have produced over 9 million tons of rice, which after keeping some for seed and local consumption we still have extra 4 million tons of paddy or roughly 3 million tons in milled rice. In spite of this increase, we lack sufficient financial and technical means to mill, store and purchase rice. Take cassava into consideration we have surplus of millions tons while we do not have factories that perform as marketing place. These are the problems that I conclude it as our inefficiency to cope with the flow of production, where more is produced but insufficient processing means has been invested.

As far as electricity is concerned, as I have said it on various occasions, according to the estimation made by major technicians and experts, Cambodian demand for electricity will be around 12% per annum. In reality, demand for electricity has gone up to 24% per annum. The growing demand has gone up in dimension that is far from our expectation. According to a report I have in hand, our demand for electricity now is 456 megawatts while our ability to supply has come to only 400 megawatts.

That is why I say our development has gone on far from our expectation. We focused so much on production, while less focus has been paid on processing. Once the production has gone up, the ability to absorb in processing has come to its limit. However, if there were not sufficient rice availability, there would not be any-

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one to invest in processing too. According to the report by Senior Minister Cham Prasidh, Minister of Trade, we have convinced our Chinese friend to allow 95% goods of free import duty from Cambodia. Previously, in effort for ASEAN-China integration, the People's Republic of China provided the early harvest benefit for over 400 goods items. Now, there are thousands of goods items to be imported into China. The question now is whether we have the ability to process so as to meet the Chinese market standard or not.

Out-ward Looking Strategy, Forthcoming Cong Xi Fa Cai

We are now pursuing the outward-looking policy. What is it? It means we are producing to serve the need for export. We will have to think of exporting and not only importing. We are bearing this outward looking strategy well that we have prepared our port in Phnom Penh and Preah Sihanouk for both export and import purpose. We have assured rather huge amount of export if we include also export on land to Vietnam, Thailand and Laos. Outward-looking strategy here means we are looking for markets for agricultural productions from our producers. To reach out to those markets we also have to assure quality through services provided by the quarantine and other quality-assuring standards imposed.

According to the report I have here, the price for fragrant rice has not gone down and is easier to export too because it has high quality, good taste and answering to the quality demand too. As for some other items like cassava, based on the report by HE Son Kunthor (head of the Cambodian state-owned Rural Development Bank), one feasible factor that make the price of cassava falls

could be because the Chinese are preparing for their new year. We expect that the price will pick up again after the Chinese New Year.

HE Pan Guangxue said that in China everything is in preparation for the New Year's coming but in Cambodia there is also Chinese New Year. He even said "Chinese New Year, Cambodians are drunk." This implies that the ones who really are enjoying the New Year are the Cambodians. While the Chinese are busy with the dragon dance, the Cambodians are busy eating and drinking. In Cambodia, there will soon be a gong xi fa cai period too.

Improve Production for Consumption and Export; Cambodia - Is No Dumping Ground

We must do anything we can to improve our production for both local consumption and for export. We have so many markets for our products but we must make sure they are of quality for export. Take for instance in ASEAN, there are five countries that cultivate rice – Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar. Because these countries also have rice, it is not the case that whatever rice we produce can bounce to other countries. They also make efforts to improve their rice quality as well. They also are after high price as well. They are also preparing their products for competition in the international market as well. India and Pakistan, for your information, are also producing and exporting rice. India has recently even reduced its stock from between 30 and 40 million tons to only 10 million tons. While attending the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit, sitting next to the Vice President of India, I learnt from him that India has a difficulty in preserving rice longer in stock.

We have come to quite similar

problem this year. We have prepared for a big flooding because it is the year of Dragon. Both state and private sector have big stock of rice in preparation for flood situation. To our miscalculation, the flood came in small. In this state of flood situation, both state and private sector have a huge stock of rice and we need to sell them out to the market in exchange for storing newly harvested rice. This development has resulted in over-availability of rice in the market.

That is why I am talking about the fact that our production capacity has overtaken the processing capacity. We have to think about competition – inside and outside the country. Take for instance the local competition of drinking water. Which brand to drink now when it is impossible to remove the cap? Sometime one can get the water spilled just to try and remove the cap. In this state how could we ensure competitive edge of local products? How about the one we need to compete in regional and world market? We still have this issue of food safety and quarantine protocol.

Talking about this I would raise an example of ten years ago when someone, I do not disclose his/her name, offered to send two ships of goats to Cambodia as charity. When we dug up information, it is known to everyone that the goats were supposed to be sent to an Arabian country. The two ships were denied entry because of so many goats were dead. So they returned and wished to make them present for Cambodia. I then rebuked that Cambodia was no dumping site for those dead animals.

As far as investment is concerned I also affirm that Cambodia is no one's dumping ground of outdated technology. We are now in the digital age. We can't accept analogue any-

more. We can't accept outdated technology in any foreign country to be used in ours or we will have problem with spare parts. In the 1980's we accepted various technologies from eastern European countries because they sold them at cheaper prices. Take for example an outdated mobile broadcasting vehicle that we had to add an air-conditioner to make it work. Cambodia has got all sorts of experiences as far as these outdated technologies are concerned.

Attaining Export Quality

You may not have difficulty in understanding that while we are careful with products coming from outside, those countries are curious about rice we export to them too. They would not accept broken rice or rice that might contain contagious disease agents. It is in this understanding that our people should know how to select rice seeds, ways to harvest and maintain the paddy's quality so that we can guarantee that milled rice will be of good quality for export. In this reason some times it is not the rice mill alone who have to be responsible for unacceptable rice quality. Over-ripe rice would also cause milled rice breaking too. Milled rice with too much broken parts would definitely be denied or sold at low price.

On my way I have noticed for instance the flowers selling business. People in Kien Svay district seem to have good flower business. People around the capital city of Phnom Penh can make good business in growing flowers. However, there seems to have greater demand for more flowers as in various ceremonies people have to fly in flowers from Thailand. We need to address the demand for local processing and to in-equilibrium between demand and supply. We now have surplus in our coun-

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try on various products such as over four million metric tons of rice. As we cannot export as is, we need to resort to processing.

Master Plan for Riverbed Restoration

Let me have the attention of HE Tram Iv Toek on the issue of deepening the river in five different places. The challenge ahead is to make way for ship to navigate in and out of the port. In the time to come I would urge us to think about deepening the waterway also for the sake of navigation and all issues concerned, environments also included. Otherwise, allowing so and so to dig deep the riverbed, they would do so only for places where they can get sand for construction and would not care about the whole river system. This has led to siltation on one side of the river and shore erosion on the other. The river has then changed its course. We have to apply comprehensive approach to solve the problem.

In the past I used to swim across the Mekong River (at my village in Peam Koh Sna of Kompong Cham province) and there were a few isles. Now I learn they are gone. In my village, the pagoda, the houses of my grandparents, which was about one kilometer from the river shore before, has now been removed to a new location. As I said earlier, if we just give the right to suck up sand from the riverbed and they only do at places where they could construction-quality sand, it would not solve our problem but create more even. As far as I learnt from HE Lim Kean Hor, Minister for Water Resources and Meteorology, there are groups of sand-sucking at night. I order you to take strict measure on them. They are the ones to cause shore erosion though of course in some instances and locations, land erosion is caused by

natural factor.

It is in this note that we are required to come up with a master plan in which we will be able to exploit sand pumping for export and use the income from the business to widen and deepen the silted waterway according to our demand. So I urge that the proposition from the Ministry of Transport and Public Works to hang on a while and incorporate its plan to widen and deepen the water way together with the Mekong River Commission and the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology.

Chinese Loans – Low Interest, Condition Free; Aiming for 6% and 7% Growth

We now have more vehicles and motorcycles while our roads are small. As there is growing demand for building more roads and bridges, we need to seek for more capital. China has been the only country who can give us the fund we need. I would demand to any country that blames Cambodia for taking loan from China to give us some loans instead the so that we do not have to get the Chinese loan. Why do you blame us for accepting the loan from China while you do not give us any? If they were to give us any loan, they place us numerous conditions. We have no choice but to accept the Chinese offer for low interest rate and condition free.

Last Friday the Cabinet adopted the three-years rolling plan that requires billion of USD more and we are hoping to get part of the funding from China and parts from other sources to expedite the development. Cambodia's development is now compared to an airplane that requires a strong power to push and fly before it stabilizes its cruising speed. Without the push, the plane could not fly. We are aiming for a long-term growth be-

tween 6% and 7% and the key issue to get this job done is the infrastructure, in which the port is playing very significant role.

Water transportation is quite beneficial because it would not damage the roads and help with the traffic circulation as well. It is a good thing that at the start of 2013 while we put this port into operation, we also have the rail running between Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville. They have reduced the amount of transportation on roads which culminates in improvement of traffic safety too.

Get Ready for 100 Day Anniversary and Final Mourning Period

Between today January 22 and February 1 there are ten more days that we will celebrate the procession and lighting (of the pyre to cremate the King-Father's demised body.) This evening we will have the Buddhist monk chanting and in the morning of the next day my wife and I will have to be present in the Royal Palace for the celebration of the 100 days anniversary of the passing away of Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod (Samdech Preah Norosom Sihanuk, the King-Father). I would therefore encourage our people to be in mourning for the second time from February 1 through to 4 as that will be the last time that we will be saying final good bye to Samdech Ov.

The funeral procession will be held on February 1, when we will have twice artillery salutes. The first salute will be at around 8 am when we move the embalmed body from the Royal Palace to a carriage to commence the procession and the second salute will be conducted at between 11 am and 12 am. We will have many foreign dignitaries coming to pay their last respects to the King Father with our people too...☐

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sembly gave his answer to the reporter that he did not understand when it was time for the elections the western border always had a problem. I wish I do not hear their remarks like that on this issue. People could have remembered that in 2008, while Cambodia was facing with foreign aggression at the western border, some Cambodian politicians also behaved this way. Today, we are putting our strong defense of the national interest, would politicians from the same group step out and say silly thing too?

Starting from July 3, 2011, when the Pheu Thai Party won the elections, Thailand and Cambodia are on good terms. We do not have the fight. Why? Is it not because of the leader? As long as the leader wants to monger a war, then war it is. I may remind you that when Thaksin was Prime Minister, there was no war between Thailand and Cambodia at the border. It was the same under Surayut Chulanont. It was no different under Samak and Somchai. But war it was under Abhisit. Under Yingluck, there is no war again.

It is therefore concluded that war happened because of that particular leader. Thai people in Sisaket, in Surin, etc. with their soldiers should review if there was or was not a war, and if there is or there is not one now. Some political leaders, especially Chinese Premier HE Wen Jiabao, say that to have a good neighbor is like having gold. I also add that while having a bad neighbor is like living next to landmines.

To have a good neighbor like the Royal Thai Government under the leadership of Pheu Thai Party, we can carry out trade, exchange tourists. That is making gold. These had not been possible under Abhisit. We were living next to landmines. We had to be ready everyday for the fight...☐

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Am Samnor is also where it situates, Jrey Thom is also where it is (on the border with Vietnam) and so is Poi Pet or Pailin (one the border with Thailand) and the border with Laos. We cannot, it is obvious, sell them to anyone. Another version is the selling of head (a way to say that someone is selling their national interest or acting in the interest of others). How many head have we sold? After the genocide in 1979, there were only about five million Cambodians (or Cambodian heads). Now we have 14 million. If we are selling head, why we are having more? Why should anyone's head is so cheap? Why is it so easy to sell?

As far as the code of ethics is concerned, you have my support for it. It should be there mainly for leaders so that they do not insult each other in abusive terms. In Cambodia, politicians use bad words to insult each other since when I was a teenager. When someone gets insulted, s/he could not refrain from returning words. It would be better to have a code of ethics that anyone using abusive term would be serving jail term of so long, for example. We should try to get it done since we still have months before the National Assembly is no longer there for the new one to come in.

I used to talk about this motto of "once the water is up, the fish eats the ants and once the water retreats, the ants eat the fish." I wish I could change this in Cambodian society. When Lon Nol removed Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk from power, those being close to Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk were jailed by Lon Nol. When Pol Pot took over the power, they executed those left from the time of Preah Norodom Sihanouk and Lon Nol. After 1979, we tried though there was war not to kill any war prisoners.

You may note that after the Paris Peace Agreement, those war prisoners were released from custody, who were illiterate before, are literate. They were in prison but they learn letters and carpentry, for instance.

It has shown clearly that while the Cambodian People's Party is ruling and I am the one to govern the country, everyone can stay with us, the one who does or does not insult altogether. Still they blame us there are no human rights. They insult us right in our face and as no one bothers them, they say we have taken away their rights. What is their right then? Is it the right to kill Hun Sen? Let's end this pattern of fish eating ants and ants eating fish, or the motto of with me is without you.

Fire Disaster, Election Campaign's Land-Measuring Break, Funeral Procession and Cremation

I have some more to add. Firstly, I would urge our people in the whole country to pay attention to issues relating to fire disaster that happened consecutively in these last weeks.

I am urging prior attention from the house owners as they cannot depend on intervention and even if there is effective intervention and help, you still have lost your property. It is in this logic that I am calling on all of you to increase vigilance in relation to fire disaster.

Secondly, I am sending a message to the youth-student volunteers that among over 2,000 of them involved in the first phase mission, only 400 of them would return to the mission because the rest of them would have to get back to school.

Those who would go back will also go to a different place so that our youth-student volunteers would have a better sense and knowledge of various geo-

graphical conditions and setups.

The process of land measuring will go on but we have to fit in a provisional break at the electoral campaign period. We do not want our youth to work in the period because political parties might make inferences on their actions. We will withdraw the youth-student volunteers, right before the election campaign. However, some of the mission fronts might have completed already by then.

As of the moment of speaking, we already completed the mission front in Kep province, while it is almost done in Takeo province. As I said on various occasions already we would not stop until we have fulfilled the mission. We may have a break at the electoral campaign only, though.

Lastly, I am seeking understanding from the Phnom Penh people about the fact that we have to enforce some road closures on February 4 because we will organize the cremation ceremony of the Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod. There will be many foreign dignitaries – Prime Minister, Vice President, Head of National Assembly, Crown Prince, etc., joining with us in saying last goodbye to the King-Father.

We will have many guests and have to take security measures and orders in Phnom Penh. We will start the funeral procession of Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod's body on February 1, accompanied by 101 rounds of the artillery in his honor, to be placed in the crematorium. There will be three rounds of 101 shots at three different times so it will make 303 shots altogether.

There will be three shots at a time. The first round of fire will be at the time that the body of Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod leaves the Royal Palace. The second round will be at the time that the body is placed on

the funeral pyre or crematorium, and again on February 4, the day that we launch the cremation. The ceremony will be a large one and there will be numerous people taking part. We will place some large screens along the way so that our people can follow up the process. They may follow it up on TV too. Many foreign guests will arrive on February 3 and some will arrive on February 4.

The cremation will be to express our gratefulness to the King-Father's respectfully good deed in demanding and securing independence from France as well as national construction in the Popular Socialist Community period in between 1954 and 1970. Under the leadership of the King-Father, we had undergone the national reconciliation and at one critical stage the King-Father was himself a major player in negotiation to achieve breakthrough toward the realization of the Paris Peace Agreement. These are great achievements for the sake of our nation and children.

I would also take this opportunity to appeal to TV stations to postpone their concert schedules from February 1 to 7 so that we can say our last goodbye to our Father, Grandfather and Great-grandfather after we have observed the one-week mourning period in October 2012, and now another one-week mourning period.

As is instructed by the circulation, loud music and dancing should not be organized in this period though our income would have fallen down, but as I said we have only one Father, Grandfather and Great-grandfather to mourn for the last time.

This should be the least that we can do as the Cambodian younger generations who have benefited from independence and peace secured by the King-Father...■