

Presenting Diplomas for RUPP Graduates

(27 May 2014 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)



27 May 2014 – Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen presents diploma to graduates of the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

It is a great pleasure indeed that I have a wonderful chance to come meet professors and students of the Royal Phnom Penh University (RUPP) to celebrate two important events (1) graduation and diploma presentation ceremony for scholarship and fee-paying students and (2) launching of the RUPP's five years strategic plan for 2014 through to 2018.

Progress Made by RUPP & Job Seeking Opportunity

Acting Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, HE Pit Cham Nan, made a report already about progress made by the RUPP. I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and praise for every effort made by the RUPP's leadership as well as those at the Ministry level to create a favorable condition for successive development in the history of this oldest University in Cambodia. The Uni-

versity went through destruction under the regime of Pol Pot. We have made great efforts to restore it and to make it a leading University not only for human resource development in general but importantly in teachers training as well.

Noted these developments, RUPP has put out today its 2014-18 strategic plan, the first among Cambodian tertiary education institutions, aimed at setting direction and momentum for reform relating to tertiary education and the University itself. Taking this opportune moment, I am declaring the official launching and implementation of the strategic plan of the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

As we observe the RUPP's advancement, today I offer my congratulation to all graduates for the efforts they made so far in their study until they get official degrees.

(Continued on page 2)

Marking ICRC 151st Anniversary

(08 May 2014—Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Today I am so happy to join with you all once again to celebrate the 151 anniversary of the May-8 Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. Last year and years before last, on May 8, every year, we gather here for the celebration of the day. We can say that the gathering is like a mark of ending dry season and entering the new rainy season. I would like to take this opportune moment to express on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and my own behalf my deep thank and gratitude for the contribution made by Excellencies, ladies, Oknha,

gentlemen in this remarkable event of solidarity, humanity and a culture of sharing.

Every year we gather here to show our friendship, which then illustrates sustainability of humanity action based on the spirit of sharing. I would take this chance to express my sincere thank to Dr. Anne E Leclerc, Head of South East Asia Regional Delegation of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, for her speech.

The Red Cross and I – an

(Continued on page 4)

Selected Monthly Recaps

(Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Samdech Techo Hun Sen Congratulates International Children's Day

31 May 31, 2014

Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed his strong support to the celebration of 65th Anniversary of the International Children's Day (June 1), the 13th Anniversary of the World's Day Against Child Labor (June 12) and the 2014 Cambodia Children's Day. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and as the Honorary President of the Cambodia National Council for Children, Samdech Techo Hun Sen urged all Cambodian authorities and people to respect the Convention on the Rights of the Child in order to

advance child development, according to his message to his compatriots dated May 28.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also laid stress on the royal government's endeavors in enhancing children's rights and in dealing with children's challenges, especially child trafficking, violence against children, and the worse forms of child labor. The Cambodian premier further called on all relevant institutions to do

(Continued on page 7)

In This Issue

- Asia-Europe University, P-1
- Human Resource Uni., P-1
- Vanda Institute Acc., P-1
- Recaps of May, P-1
- Monk Luas Lay 100 Ann., P-6

(AEU ... from page 1)

According to the report I have here, I am impressed that all 3,038 graduates have had their jobs according to the following classification. The first group, 1,347 or 44.35%, is working in private institution; 803 graduates or 26.45% are becoming professors or staff of education institutions; 215 graduates or 7.1% work in various organizations; and 198 or 6.55% are either in pursuit of one or continuing their study.

Reform in Tertiary Education Framework

In his report, HE Pit Cham Nan mentioned of developments in relation to both RUPP and education sector as a whole. Our aim and ongoing action here is to address the issue of reform within the framework of tertiary education. Days ago, HE Hang Chuon Naron issued a statement to put on hold the establishment of more universities. Though I may not have time to be elaborate, I wish to stress to all of you that this is in fact the move to ascertain quality of the up to more than 100 existing universities – both state and private.

I have noticed the five objectives of the work outlined in this strategic plan – (1) improve and upgrade living standard and capacity of professors, officials and staff (2) upgrade quality of education among students (3) improve teaching and learning capability (4) widen and improve research and (5) augment and widen practical community action to bridge student's understanding between theory and practice. Cambodia is a small country but surprisingly it has up to more than 100 universities. While pursuing the aim of improving

quality, we are leaving option open for well-known universities abroad that are considering their education business in Cambodia.

However, as I said on various educational occasions, it is now important to focus on quality of education and not on a great number of facilities in the area. Still, I am of the opinion that to create university and put into function is a hard work but to guarantee their sustainability is harder.

Job Market Oriented Curriculum & Short-Term Skills Training

I am calling on all universities – state or private, to focus on strengthening quality of education and more importantly provide a more relevant curriculum of education to respond to the need for job market and society that is growing in a rapid manner and demanding more technicians and specialists. We have now noted the fact that some graduates, after finishing their study, could not find a job. Among other factors, I would advise not to forget the role of job market as it bears subjective influence over objective factors. Saying that I mean if the market needs engineers or architects, it would be irrelevant if we orientate our students on the path to philosophy.

Though we do not deny the fact that philosophy is also important to be in our curriculum but we need to respond to the need of the market or the actual state of demand out there. Take for instance, as construction is mushrooming everywhere and Cambodia needs people with engineering and architectural expertise and knowledge. If we give wrong focus in our education, graduates would have less chance of

finding jobs. I am calling for a double-checking on this trend in effort to further reform and expand curriculum for every tertiary education.

I found this short-term skills training provided by the Asia-Europe University and Human Resource Development University very relevant to the market demand. I think it would do a lot of help to our students to find their job at some stage in life if every university not only provide formal curriculum but also short to medium-term trainings, like for three or six months, in skills that they would need when they are out there in workplace. Aside from the Asia-Europe University and The Human Resource Development University, as far as I know, the Chea Sim-Prey Veng University will carry this need in its curriculum too.

I think each education and training institution should work closely with the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, which has under its administration state skill training center. The private sector should also take part in this work.

Wide Gap of Jobs and Expertise

There lies a huge gap between job availability and expertise trained in Cambodia. In construction, we have architects and engineers working with laborers in absence of a middle-level expertise staff. The same goes for medicine, we have surgeons but they all do not work in one operation room together at one time. They need one or two surgeons with certain number of assistants like mid-level physicians and nurses. This is one recommendation for every tertiary education institution

to take into consideration as they keep on going on this path.

It is in fact an approach to resolve the need through short-term response. This is true among those who go on self-employment path. They may find themselves in need of certain skills and they do not have a lengthy period to go all the way to achieve that skill. They just need them quick and clean to get thing moving in their business. This should be what I want to say about quality of education in the tertiary institutions of Cambodia.

District, Provincial/ Municipal Elections – A Success

I wish to reiterate my appreciation for the efforts made by every student with the help of every family to have come this far and earmarked this achievement. We all will continue to proceed as normal where professors, leaders and ministries will continue to function daily in a normal manner. I would speak about how things evolve in Bangkok when it turned out there is this need to close down school for a while. In Cambodia, we do not need to do that. We only need to close them down during flooding since it would cause damages to our country. Otherwise, it is business as usual.

I would like to take this chance to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts made by all concerned for the smooth 15-day campaign and successful district and provincial/municipal elections on May 18. In days ahead, the National Elections Committee will announce official results of the elections, after which the elected district and provincial/municipal council-

(Continued on page 3)

(AEU ... from page 2)

ors will start work officially. I hope that councilors of the new term from the non-universal election will continue to work with municipal, provinces and districts governors in providing services to our people. I am delivering from here my sincere appreciation for the Cambodian armed forces, especially police and military police for taking part in keeping order during the campaigning period as well as ensuring a smooth process during the election.

I also convey my appreciation to local authorities of all levels for their active duties in this event though, as was noted, while many of the five contested parties campaigned only among electors, some extrapolated it into campaign procession with non-electors. They even cause traffic jam with the procession of theirs. Well, it is freedom. However, what has come out importantly is the electoral process, in which those who have been dissatisfied with the National Elections Committee have also accepted the existing electoral process. I am giving no political message here. It is just bizarre that such thing happens in Cambodia, not only in Thailand. All and all, I offer my congratulation and appreciation to all contested parties in the elections.

No Interference in Thai Internal Affairs

As we all noticed the latest development in a neighboring country, please allow me to take this forum to affirm clearly Cambodian position in relation to the recent political development in Thailand. Firstly, I wish to declare that Cambodia considers what happened in Thailand is Thai

internal affair. Cambodia will not interfere into Thai internal affair. While the Thai army declared martial law at 3am on May 20, there was a question from inside Cambodia to me (in China) whether the act was good or bad? I responded: "it is peeling off a section at a time." My analysis has been clear that while declaring martial law, they allowed the then Thai government to go on. Why would they declare martial law, if they did not consider a coup? I told the person who put me question that the coup was coming only that it came in steps.

The government should be the one to declare martial law and the military would abide by the order. However, in that case, that the (Thai) army declared martial law, why else the coup would not happen? It was on that thought, I told Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, HE Sar Kheng, to pay attention to the development of the Thai situation and to refrain from any move to relocate armed forces at the border. The coup would be imminent. It was only a question of when. I was in Shanghai. When the coup took place, HE Sar Kheng issued a statement to the armed forces and local authorities along the border to stay calm and nurture normal contacts while prohibiting any troop movements.

The civilian government in Thailand effectively toppled and the military government replaces it. The question is what is our behavior? As is affirmed clearly already our position is to consider that as internal affair of Thailand. However, because we share the border, we must keep normal relation with the Kingdom of Thailand, whether is civilian or mili-

tary. We have no choice. As of this moment, the military government has the approval of HM the King of Thailand to justify the military government leadership. Everything should be legal at the King's approval. Take for instance, after the parliamentary elections, in Cambodia, HM the King will issue it a royal decree to approve it. There would be nothing else.

In Thailand, there would not be anything more than that too. After the coup, HM the King approves the coup maker to the leadership. Nothing we can do. I hope former Prime Minister Thaksin and former Prime Minister Yingluck as well as Pheu Thai party would understand the position that Cambodia is taking. When neither Thaksin nor Yingluck is Prime Minister, whom are we going to work with? We have no other choices but work with those who have secured the approval of HM the King.

Maintaining Cambodian-Thailand Relations

The thing we need to do now is to maintain relations between armies and police of the two countries along the borderline and secure business as usual between people on either side of the border. I would call on Thai authority to consider the best course of action concerning border trade between our two countries. We are aware that the fact Thai is under martial law and before the situation returns to normal, the border passes between Cambodia and Thailand closed down.

I am sure that will be provisional because the trade volume between the two countries annually has reached a size of over four billion USD, a major size of which is the Thai goods coming into

Cambodia. The concern is that the border trade is on hold for too long, it is undeniable to foresee losses on the two countries' trades, though Thai side sells more to Cambodia. It is in this understanding that we have made it clear from the beginning that we order no troop movement and maintain calm. We never move our troops whatsoever anyway.

Appeal to Cambodians in Thailand

Secondly, I am calling on Cambodian people who are working in or now entering Thailand to abide by Thai laws. As there have no TV broadcasts in Thailand for the time being, maybe it is a good idea for their families members or friends on the Cambodian side to call or send them messages advising them to respect Thai martial law for their safety concern. They should keep themselves away from affiliation with whichever political gathering but concentrate only on their jobs. The martial law of Thailand this time covers the whole country and we have no knowledge as to when the military government remove it. Whatever it is I just call on Cambodians working or entering Thailand to abide by Thai laws and order.

Cambodia – No Place for Exile Government

Thirdly, it is the most important point of all. There have been comments in relation to this statement by Robert Amsterdam, a lawyer and advisor to Thaksin, regarding the possibility of having an exile government, which Cambodia could be one of the considered places for such thing. I have not heard it from Thaksin or Yingluck at all. I only learn about it from his

(Continued on page 4)

(RUPP ... from page 3)

lawyer Robert Amsterdam. My affirmation is Cambodia is no place for any country or any group, whether Thailand or any other country, to set up exile government. The Cambodian Constitution forbids that.

Information Minister, HE Khieu Kanharith, already talked on this and the spokesperson of the Council of Ministers, HE Phay Siphon, already clarified this matter. However, in his comment in the Phnom Penh Post, HE Cheam Yiep, member of the National Assembly, seemed to have misleading when he said that would depend on Hun Sen's mood. Otherwise, there would not need to clarify the issue again. I must underline that Cambodia will not allow its territory as establishment for opposition forces against any given government of other country.

In my analysis, not from my point of view as Prime Minister, I think that Robert Amsterdam should withdraw this idea as it may lead Thaksin, Yingluck and Pheu Thai party to danger. If I were Thaksin or Yingluck I would have denied it immediately. With the exile government to be established, where will it stand and operate? Cambodia refuses and Laos may surely do too. No ASEAN would do that. In Thailand, people detained by the military have been released within seven days and in one or two years, the new elections will take place. Well that is what I could say as an analyst of the situation.

As far as coups in Thailand are concerned, as soon as the country is in stability, the military government would allow elections. If Thailand in this case has two govern-

ments, consider who would work government in Bangkok and who would do with the exile government? Well, whether to establish one or not will be within their rights but as an analyst, I would urge Thaksin's lawyer to withdraw this thought.

The ASEAN Statement on Thailand

Arriving back from the ASEAN Summit on May 11 to welcome HM the King's return from France on May 12, I discovered in the news that Hun Sen initiated an ASEAN declaration on Thailand. Please allow me to give some backgrounds to those researchers on ASEAN that draft of the declaration was prepared by Foreign Minister of Indonesia Marty Muliana Natalegawa in the ASEAN Senior Officials meeting in Naypyidaw, while at the time I was on my visit to Belarus. The declaration at the ASEAN Foreign Minister level did not gain consensus since one of the ten member countries requested for time to consult with its leader. The said country came back with approval but the situation in Thailand moved fast they did not issue the declaration.

While waiting with President of Indonesia on May 11, there came this situation in Thailand since we also had the presence of then Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, Pongthep Thepkanchana. The issue of declaration on Thai situation came and we discussed, in the presence of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, whether the declaration is still relevant. Indonesian Foreign Minister assured us that he would work with the chair country and the country that asked for time to secure senior opinion. In the meeting, HE Thein Sein in-

(ICRC ... page 1)

Interesting Subject

I think the theme "The Red Cross and I" is interesting. It is simple in words but its meaning is unfathomable. I would take this time to elaborate a bit. I think the theme "The Red Cross and I" celebrated this year will indicate activities carried out in the name of the Red Cross. It should include everyone from officials at the central level to those at lower levels - its youth and volunteers - who have involved as key operators of the Cambodian Red Cross. It also refers to the contributions made by those of you in fund as well as in materials for the operation of the organization. We also cannot exclude those who have donated their blood under this theme.

They all are inter-related one way or the other to the theme "The Red Cross and I." The theme also carries the benefits to those of you who have been victims of either natural or man made disasters, as an individual or family or com-

mitted head of governments to take the floor alphabetically. Malaysia - the next chairing member took the floor first, then followed by Brunei and Cambodia was third in line.

After my speech, not written therein, I brought up what we talked about before the meeting asking should ASEAN issue the draft declaration or not? Why else they came up with this idea that Cambodia spearheaded the declaration on Thailand. I have had to clarify things up, especially when there is this issue of establishing exile government. I have not seen correction in the newspaper column but I think it is worth ending it now ... ■

munity, in various forms. In short, the theme "The Red Cross and I" means a lot to almost everyone in the whole Kingdom as well as in the world. To count the number of people in the three major action groups of Red Cross - operators, providers and recipients of assistance, there should not be many people left in the community.

Red Cross -Assistant to Public Authority in Humanity

I am so glad to be present in this event to show the Royal Government of Cambodia's supports to the Cambodian Red Cross. Taking this opportune moment, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thank for actions implemented by the Cambodian Red Cross as has been reported by its President to the meeting. I reserve my appreciation and praise for the leadership of the Central Committee as well as of those at the local level to provide prompt response as an assistant to the public authority in the field of humanity.

It has been a few years now that the Cambodian Red Cross is on its deep reform card through a defined decentralization effort. Along with the Royal Government's efforts in its decentralization and de-concentration efforts, the Cambodian Red Cross also has its decentralization in its framework to take place to provide more power to provincial and local branches. Thanks to this reform, we noticed the effect and efficiency of the Cambodian Red Cross's junior and local level operations in time of disasters like fire or storm. As far as funding is concerned, in recent days, we have noticed contributions made to the

(Continued on page 5)

(ICRC ... page 4)

provincial level CRC branches in addition to its funding from the central headquarters.

That has contributed further for the CRC to react fast, more effectively and efficiently to its tasks. I would spare no more time to thank the sub-national local authority for taking active involvement in humanism and for providing all the helps and supports that they could to the Cambodian Red Cross to perform its duties. This is the one impressive thing that we draw lesson from the Cambodian Red Cross. I would therefore encourage the organization to continue the spirit of decentralization and strengthening its sub-national level power structure more independent from the central level. We notice that spirit of ownership at the local level has been of interest to the local people.

The second thing learned from this development is the balance of coordination with authority and the independence of the Cambodian Red Cross. Coined by the representative of the IFRC that pursuing independence was no simple work, I have shaken his hand to promise him that I will continue to work for the strengthening of the CRC independence.

CRC Requires Two Actions

I would announce from this forum to members of the Cambodian Red Cross as well as authorities of all levels that the Cambodian Red Cross requires two types of actions. Firstly, *cooperation and coordination with agents of the Royal Government, the Cambodian armed forces and local officials included, so that the CRC agents would*

have access to disaster-affected area. This is sure a matter of concern because they would not be able to do the job alone. They need some kind of coordination so that they can get to the target area.

Secondly, *its independence needs to be respected and upheld.* Therefore, I would urge that every party concerned continue to perform their relevant duties as they had been doing all along. Sub-national level authority should only help with the coordination to guarantee operation of the Cambodian Red Cross. As far as the national level is concerned, we have the National Committee for Disaster Management of the Royal Government to coordinate and support the Central Committee of the Cambodian Red Cross in its fulfilment of its task.

Frequent Disasters for Climate Change

I would once again give you my sincere appreciation and thank to the works carried out by the Cambodian Red Cross and would urge it to carry on. As we can see, with effect of climate change to be unavoidable, more frequent and bigger outbreak of disasters is imminent. In 2009, the Kingdom of Cambodia experienced the Ketsana typhoon; in 2011, a huge flooding season; and in 2013, there were heavy downpours and flooding. These are just a few to mention here. There are various other natural and man made disasters to be worried about. In face of these, the CRC needs to sustain its action for the sake of our needy victims who will find themselves desperately in hardships.

Well, the fact that I am confining these praises for the

Cambodian Red Cross is not because my wife is the President of the organization. My wife alone cannot carry all the works that the Cambodian Red Cross has been performing so far. I am of the opinion that these achievements have a share of everyone involved – the three groups under the theme “The Red Cross and I.”

Cambodian Red Cross Youth and Volunteers

On behalf of the Royal Government and my behalf, I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation for the Cambodian Red Cross youth and volunteers whose roles have been important actions of the Cambodian Red Cross not only in humanism but also in traffic coordination. Their peer education on issues of drugs, violence, gambling, involvement in safe village-commune action is also of special significance.

It has been noted also that the latest development, more youth have participated in blood donation as a mean to extend help to victim. I am proud because the youth has been actively involved in humanism actions. Their actions respond vividly to actions that involve rescuing and strengthening society as well as embolden social morale.

Thanks Political Party, Charitable Persons and Majesties

I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere thank and appreciation for the sub-national level institutions and the Cambodian armed forces for providing our people with assistance so far. Help and indication provided by relevant authority to the Cambodia

Red Cross in getting to the victims is a matter requires further attention. I wish to thank political parties for their help offered to the people regardless of their political tendency.

I am so grateful to those of you who have contributed to the Cambodian Red Cross on May 8 every year. The contribution will then become a foundation on which the Cambodian Red Cross can build up its action plan. Contributions by generous fellows at central or branch levels would all go to helping victims and/or those in needs. We devote our thanks to partners and foreign friends for taking part with us in providing assistance for the Cambodian Red Cross or the victims directly. It is true that we are a country of more than ten million and poor too, but our people are also gathering under the roof of humanitarianism and with the help of the Cambodian Red Cross taking part in various humanitarian actions.

Last year the Cambodian Red Cross made a one-million US dollars contribution to the hospital of Kuntha Bopha. According to the speech of Mme the President, the Cambodian Red Cross will make another one million USD contribution to the hospital too.

It is important to contribute to the funding of the hospital Kuntha Bopha, which is in need of financial assistance to provide treatment to children. This has in fact helped relieve the burden of the Royal Government that is bound to assist in the whole health sector, where hospital Kuntha Bopha is included.

Finally, please allow me to express in this auspicious

(Continued on page 6)

Monk Luas Lay's 100th Anniversary

(12 May 2014—Unofficial Selection and Translation)



This is a remarkably auspicious day that once again the students of Samdech Luas Lay, one of our chief Buddhist monks, have celebrated for him his 100th birthday anniversary on this day of 14 on the full moon of Pisakha of the year of horse in the Buddhist year of 2558 or May 12, 2014. I could recall that on his 94th birthday anniversary in 2007, I did mention that we should choose the best time for this anniversary for Samdech Preah Dhama Likhet Luas Lay in the full moon time of this month and year. Dr. Pen Siman sent me an SMS inquiring what to do with the 100th anniversary of Samdech Luas Lay.

In my reply, I made it clear that we must make sure the anniversary take place at the best date and time. Although it was hard, we still did a good job choosing the best one. Yesterday I was in Myanmar attending the ASEAN Summit but now I am here for the celebration. Taking this opportune moment I would like to thank the organizing commission headed by Samdech Preah Pothivang Am Lim Heng for making sure everything

is going according to schedule and protocol. It has been 7 years now since when we last celebrated the event and many had passed away.

In his 99 years, Samdech Luas Lay is still in good health. When my father passed away, Samdech Preah Dhama Likhet, accompanied by the Chief Monk Nun Nget, came to my house to provide sermon to my father's soul. That is unforgettable. Just now, HE Min Khin read the biography of Samdech Luas Lay already. I do not have much to say. Today it is important that we are gathering here to celebrate the birthday anniversary for Samdech Preah Dhama Likhet Luas Lay. I hope that all of his students and I would offer more merit by becoming his grateful students through the celebration of the 100th birthday anniversary of Samdech.

In fact, on the way here, my wife and I were discussing about our children's request to organize for us the Buddhist ritual of four requisites (clothing, consumption stuff, shelter and medicine). In fact, we agreed for them, requested on

(Recaps ... from page 8)

dropped out of schools, the Royal Government of Cambodia has provided more resources to build vocational training centers in every province and municipality, which from 2009 to 2013

their behalf by one of my daughters in law, to organize the ritual in 2012 but it turned out my father's health worsened. We decided to postpone. Already celebrated my father's parting anniversary, my wife and I are now of the opinion that we should allow our children to do for us whatever ritual they wish to. I also recall that my wife and I celebrated the Buddhist ritual of four requisites for my parents when my father was 60 years of age. Now that I am over 60, I should allow them to. If it were not for the dye, my hair would be seen whitish all over.

I do not have more to say. We cannot keep Samdech Luas Lay in his 100 years of age waiting for us. I had a muscle cramp when I gave my respect to Samdech and the fact that my schedule has been busy – Myanmar yesterday, this morning to welcome HM the King back from France, now I am here. I cannot bestow you with medals in this moment. I wish in this auspicious occasion the best wishes of longevity and good health to Samdech Preah Dhama Likhet Luas Lay. Though, his two eyes can't see, but his memory is far brighter than those with eyes to see. I wish the four Buddhist blessings to all head and chief monks who have taken parts in this auspicious occasion...☐

provided training for some 633,450 students.

As of December 2013, in the garment and textile and footwear sector, there were increases of up to 960 factories that employed about 620,000 workers with a total monthly wage of US\$70 million, amounting to approximately US\$870 million in a year. The value of total exports increases every year since 2008, from nearly US\$2.8 billion to US\$4.6 billion in 2013...[AKP]☐

(ICRC ... from page 5)

occasion my sincere thank to Samdech Me, the Queen Mother, honorary President of the Cambodian Red Cross for being always with this organization since its foundation in the time of Samdech Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod and for always supporting it in that matter.

In this moment, allow me to express my deep gratitude for HM the King who always provides consideration to the Cambodian Red Cross by making regular contribution along with his actions to meet people in local areas – flooding as well as drought-affected places, to meet with people living in difficulties. Those are the models on humanitarian actions for officials and armed forces of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

In days, we will be celebrating the birthday anniversary of HM the King Norodom Sihamoni. We shall wish HM good health and longevity to be cool shade for the Cambodian people. I hope that those of you present here will make contributions to the Cambodian Red Cross for the sake of humanitarian action and I would leave you with a promise to see you again next year...☐

(Recaps ... from page 1)

their best to meet the children's basic needs without discrimination, particularly to enhance children's health and education, to end violence against them and to encourage them in social participation.

Cabinet Meeting Approves Three Documents

30 May 2014

Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen chaired at the Peace Palace a weekly cabinet meeting. According to a press release of the Press and Quick Reaction Unit of the Office of the Council of Ministers, the Cabinet discussed and approved three important documents – the draft law on insurance, the draft national policy on property assessment system, and the draft national strategic development plan 2014-2018. The draft law on insurance is an amendment of the former law on insurance. This 14-chapter of 114-article draft law, elaborated by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, covers all insurance business activities including general insurance, life insurance, and small-scale insurance in Cambodia. It is aimed to ensure sustainable development of the insurance sector, public interests and increase confidence on insurance services, and so on.

Cambodia's insurance sector has seen notable progress. Last year, the total premium revenue of the sector was US\$43 million, while the total assets reached US\$111 million. This sector employs some 3,500 workers. For its part, the draft national policy on property assessment system has been compiled by the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction with an aim to orient the implementation of property assessment in response to the country's social and economic progress. The draft national strategic development plan 2014-2018 has been drawn up by the Ministry of Planning to boost the economic development, reduce poverty, promote health sector and social development. To achieve these goals, Cambodia may need at least 109,017 billion Riel or US\$26.58 billion (US\$5.3 billion a year).

Samdech Techo Hun Sen's Visit in China

25 May 2014

The high-ranking Cambodian delegation led by Samdech Techo Hun Sen returned home safely after concluding his visit in China from May 18 to 25 with fruitful results. In China, Samdech Techo Hun Sen attended the 4th Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held on May 20-21 in Shanghai, during which he laid stress on Cambodia's commitment to deepen the cooperation with other CICA's members for the cause of peace, stability, harmonization, prosperity, and sustainable development in the region.

On the sidelines of this regional meeting, the Cambodian premier paid a courtesy call on Chinese President H.E. Xi Jinping, who announced the provision of 700 million Yuan in grant aid and 200 million Yuan in concessional loan to support the social and economic development in Cambodia. Besides, Samdech Techo Hun Sen met with some senior Chinese officials including H.E. Wang Jiarui, Vice-Chairperson of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Director of the International

Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; and H.E. Meng Jianzhu, Secretary of Central Politics and Law Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Samdech Techo Hun Sen and his entourage also attended a presentation on China's experience in reforms and decentralization presented by H.E. Chen Fengxiang, Vice-Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China's Central Committee. They also visited Shanghai Aircraft Design and Research Institute, Hangzhou city of Zhejiang province; as well as held talks with leaders of some Chinese companies investing in Cambodia.

Cambodia Pledges Cooperation with CICA's States

22 May 2014

Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, pledged at the 4th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Shanghai, China, to further deepen more cooperation with the CICA's Member States. Samdech Techo Hun Sen was quoted as saying that Cambodia has been ready to play an active role to deepen the cooperation with other CICA's members for the cause of peace, stability, harmonization, prosperity, and sustainable development in the region. This 4th CICA Summit will encourage all of us to speed up doubly our efforts in building a peaceful and prosperous community in Asia based on the principle of mutual understanding, non-discrimination, as well as of respecting the differences in culture, custom, tradition, religion and views of each nation, he underlined.

CICA is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. It is a forum based on the recognition that there is close link between peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world. Today CICA Member States are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cambodia, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Republic of Korea, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. There are also 9 countries on the observer lists including Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Ukraine and USA.

The Member States, while affirming their commitment to the UN Charter, believe that peace and security in Asia can be achieved through dialogue and cooperation leading to a common indivisible area of security in Asia where all states co-exist peacefully and their peoples live in peace, freedom and prosperity. The idea of convening the CICA was first proposed by H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on Oct. 5, 1992, at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The moving spirit behind this initiative was the aspiration to set up an efficient and acceptable structure for ensuring peace and security in Asia. Unlike other regions in the world, Asia did not have such a structure at that time and earlier attempts to create a suitable structure had not been very successful. This initiative was supported by a num-

(Continued on page 8)

(Recaps ... from page 7)

ber of Asian countries who felt that such a structure was the need of the time.

CICA was formed under 9 objectives such as enhance cooperation through elaborating multilateral approaches towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia; eradicate the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; combat illicit drug production and trafficking; promote trade and economic cooperation for the prosperity and stability in Asia; cooperation on all issues relating to environment; prevention of proliferation and eventual elimination of weapons of mass destruction; develop measures to address humanitarian issues; promote mutual respect, understanding and tolerance in the relations among civilizations; facilitate implementation of Confidence Building Measures among Member States.

Cambodian Premier Welcomes International Labor Day (01 May 2014)

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen has called on all concerned parties and institutions to conduct proper and thorough study to set a minimum wage in the textile, garment and footwear sector. In his recent message welcoming the 128th International Labor Day (May 01), the prime minister urged the concerned government ministries and departments, the associations of employers and employees, trade unions, relevant non-governmental and international organizations to make efforts in conducting the study by considering the comprehensive economic, legal and social aspects in developing technical methods for setting minimum wage in the textile, garment and footwear sector.

He requested the Labor Advisory Committee, the concerned expert agencies and all stakeholders and international organizations to participate in the comprehensive consultations aimed at building transparency, trust and stability and reducing conflicts in the garment industry so as to create harmony between the workers and employers. Samdech Techo Hun Sen also called for further improving the working conditions, and strengthening the implementation of labor law, law on social security regime, law on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and relevant regulations and international conventions.

He recommended the preparation and implementation of a single labor inspection mechanism at the same time, using the same evaluation standards aimed at improving the quality, transparency and efficiency of the inspection works and reducing the burden on employers in order to strengthen harmony of professional relationship, to raise awareness about the legal rights and obligations of workers and employers, to increase effective measures to prevent and resolve conflicts peacefully, and especially to avoid public disorder and the use of violence, which would lead to the loss of benefits to all parties, including national society.

He further urged to strengthen and improve the occupational health and safety system, focusing especially on environmental sanitation, nutrition and healthcare services at the workplace and health check-up to prevent infectious diseases; to strengthen and expand the freedom of trade unions and profes-

sional organizations to prevent discrimination by speeding up the passage of the law on trade unions and enhancing efficiency and transparency of the professional organization registration procedures.

He also suggested that the employees, workers, young people and parents should take the opportunities to send their children to get vocational training to improve the skills, production capacity, competition and the capacity to get into the labor market quickly and easily, and to be ready to take the maximum advantage from the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. Samdech Techo appealed to people who wish to find a job to use the employment service of the national employment and labor agencies to obtain information about all kinds of employment opportunities and get the jobs quickly and less time-consuming and to avoid the illegal and risky migration to work abroad.

Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen also said that the fifth-mandate Royal Government of Cambodia, which was born from the national election on July 28, 2013, has continued to focus on the main priorities to create better jobs, especially for young people, approximately 300,000 per year because the employment is a key factor in determining the standard of living and effective way to alleviate poverty.

The benefits from the rapid economic growth has been allotted to people through the increase in new better jobs, especially in the sectors other than agriculture, Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen pointed out, adding that in the field of textiles, garments and footwear alone, the 960 factories employ some 630,000 workers. Besides working in the country, more than 100,000 workers were sent officially to work abroad, which brought in the average income of over US\$300 million per year.

This makes unemployment rate across the country decrease significantly to only 2.7 percent, especially among the youth. The poverty rate has rapidly been reduced as well from 47.8 percent in 2007 to 19.8 percent in 2011, he said. Moreover, the growing of well-organized economy is a base that enables the government to improve the working conditions and health of workers and employees. As an evidence, Cambodia as a member of the International Labor Organizations (ILO) has ratified 13 international conventions, with eight of them being core conventions, which basically reflect international evaluation and recognition that Cambodia is a country that consistently applies international labor standards, he underlined.

Better employment plans in Cambodia have continued from 2014 to 2016, Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen said, affirming that the increments of minimum wage were made 9 times in the past 10 years, from US\$40 to US\$100 per month, and more employment opportunities have been increased for women and people with disabilities and vulnerable persons; while the heavy form of child labor has also been reduced remarkably from a previous total of 20,520 children.

In order to improve the productivity, competitive wages of workers, employees and labor force of Cambodia as well as to provide the second opportunities for young people who

(Continued on page 6)