



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and Madame are warmly welcomed during the visit to the Development Zone for Handicap Soldiers at Koh Sla (Kampuchea Thmei)

31 March 2009 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Samdech Techo Hun Sen Avenue, City of Sihanouk

Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, presided over the inauguration of the Avenue Hun Sen in the province of Preah Sihanouk, and he made comments on various issues as follows.

The 9.3-Km Hun Sen Avenue

I have a great pleasure to be returning to this part of the province of Preah Sihanouk once again after I was here not long ago, not far from here, to put into official use the road “Sovatepheap” which was then built at the initiative of the Buddhist Patriarch Samdech Tep Vong. I am so joyful and thankful to Chunteav Lim Chiv Huor and her partners from Japan for making such a wonderful contribution – a road of about 9.3 kilometers at the width of 7 meters - for Cambodia. It was initially proposed by HE Cham Prasith which there were only some 200,000 US dollars as startup fund, which I

called an art of sharing resources and wealth.

In similar form of contribution, in Siemreap, Oknha Sieng Nam, also MP of the Siemreap constituency has built a ten kilometer bitumen road in the district of Chi Kreng, and in Tramkak of Takeo province, HE Chan Sarun also built 35 kilometer asphalted road ...

The Hun Sen Avenue is indeed a link between the Sovatepheap road of Samdech the Buddhist Patriarch Tep Vong and the city of Sihanoukville. Having seen the constructed road on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to thank Lok Chumteav Lim Chiv Huor and her Japanese partners for their coordinated efforts in making sense what has been said in a report to me just now of the vision that the poor would not always be poor but because of their efforts and patience, they can change their status ...

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23 March 2009 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Some Comments at Annual Conference of Ministry of Health

... HE Mam Bun Heng, Minister of Health, has just expressed his concern on how to distribute doctors to various parts of the country ... he said about 73,78% of health workers work at the provincial level and 26.22% work at central level and Phnom Penh ... he also mentioned about incentive provided by the Royal Government which has led to increase of birth attendance of health workers from 39% in 2006 to 58% in 2008 and all issues relating to midwife.

I used to say that it is inappropriate to have 30% of the Doctor to serve 70% of the population while 70% of Doctors serve 30% of the population ... Many medical staff never like

to work in the province. Like under the former State of Cambodia, in order to enroll with priority, students sought approval from the provincial authority of their birth places and native residence, but when they graduated, because they are not living in those provinces in the first place, they always get themselves stay in Phnom Penh ... There are many issues concerned, and many problems concerning this have been discovered, not just for medical personnel but also teachers. Take for instance we have decided to send 100 teachers from Takeo to Ratanakiri, and by this time only two or three stay there – the war was on, no road, malaria infected area, no infra-
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21 March 2009 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Putting into Operation Pursat’s Jaret Irrigation System

... We meet today to put into use the irrigation system of Jaret that HE Lim Kean Hor reported in his speech just now as this has been his imagination and wish since after 1979 ... What I remember well is that 24 years ago in one of my trip to this part of the country I visited the broken damn at Damnak Ampil and thought to myself how we can catch water from releasing into the Tonle Sab lake ... After some studies we have included also this damn of Jaret ... the matter then — how do we go about finding money to get the two damn built?

ite in Mondolkiri. The license has brought the Royal Government some stipend to be used in social development and we first wanted to use it for building schools ... but later I decided its meaningful use for building the damn and I called HE Lim Kean Hor from Australia to go ahead with the project ... We have tried to achieve our aim to catch water before it runs through the Pursat stream into the lake ...

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**Province and City of
 Preah Sihanouk**

As we now have a good road built along the sea corridor, I would urge our people to make good use of it so as to keep the road fully serviceable for a long time and because we now have fund for regular maintenance of roads and maintenance monitoring mechanism at the provincial and municipal levels — as we by the decree change administrative management, the Sihanoukville is no longer a city but a province which includes the former district of Kompong Seila of Koh Kong and we have the city of Sihanoukville, which is itself the district of Mittapheap, to commemorate the feat of the former King of Cambodia ... to remind us of the crusade for independence in between 1954 and 1970 ... that includes the blue water port and a railway ... It was a long discussion until we have come to deciding that we will have the province of Sihanouk instead of Kompong Som and the city of Sihanoukville ...

The province and city lie in between the provinces of Kompot and Koh Kong, which has a blue water port — but not as deep in comparison with other ports in the region ... As of now huge ships have to transfer goods to smaller ships before approaching the Cambodian ports here and this is what we will have to look into solving it in the future ... As far as communication in concerned, we now have linked the three provinces together, before only by engine boats, by both water and land — by national road 48 ...

**Three Provinces Connected
 Together by Sea and Roads**

I wish to reiterate here that please take care of the roads we have just built ... I have seen taxi-cabs making extra space for

transporting more people or loading more goods, and I would take this chance to once again seek our people's cooperation in taking care of their lives while riding motorcycles by putting on helmets ...

Also in water traffic, I urge ship owners to refrain from overloading the ships as they may collide and sink ... I urge law enforcement for both traffic by water and land ... On the Kompot front we also have connected the two provinces both by sea and land, and from there all the way to the border with Vietnam at Prey Chaak ... The major problem of road construction has now been solved, the hard part now is to look after and maintain them ...

We have also make connection to this part of the country of telecommunication - radio and television and because we are making this a special economic zone, there is a need for electric production ...

Lok Chunteav Lim Chhiv Huor already made suggestion of building an electric plant of 90 MW which if not all is used by the special economic zone, she propose to sell the electricity as a low price to people living around ... I have encouraged always those who invest in building a special economic zone — like in Kompong Cham and Svay Rieng — to take care of electricity by themselves ... with extra or surplus that can be sold to local residents.

**Speed Up Electric Wiring
 from Vietnam**

Cambodia, especially the Capital of Phnom Penh, is in short of power supply. The effort of wiring electricity from Vietnam via Takeo to Phnom Penh has bumped into a problem as the work team could not get a consensus to place the electric poles in a few people's land ... I have

instructed Lok Chumteav Men Sam An, Permanent Deputy Prime Minister to look into this matter and she has a week to resolve it as we need to wire electricity to Phnom Penh ...

This has indeed delayed my commitment to have extra electricity for Phnom Penh during the Khmer New Year ... Also because of a slow process from part of the World Bank, I have also recommended a suspension of the project and it should be kept for other purpose, while private sector can take over this gridline links ...

May I say once again that from Phnom Penh to Sihanouk province — the Royal Government has defined it as a growth pole — or one of the three economic development poles — Phnom Penh, Sihanouk and Siemreap ... the Fourth pole could perhaps take shape in 2015 in the northeastern part of the country ... In this pole, Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, and Kompot have indeed shown signs of emergence and Preah Sihanouk has taken the lead ... The province of Preah Sihanouk has made its emergence with three special economic zones (SEZ) — in Prey Nub, in Stoeng Hav and in the autonomous port of Preah Sihanouk port ...

World Economic Downturn

The issue of world economic downturn has brought us some big questions as the IMF economists have said the world economy this year is facing a serious fall that never exists in 60 years and billions of dollars have been sought to renew loan capacity to its 185 member states ... Some countries put out stimulus packages but the one to benefit from it is the auto industry ... in this case I doubt if it really helps the poor as before the money trickles down it must have shrunk ... I don't criticize them but to share my

concern ... As for us because the Khmer New Year is approaching I urge the competent authority to deal effectively with tax collection ...

**Kasit Must Revise
 His Term 'Gangster'**

My next schedule will be at Taken Koh Sla — the Military Development Zone for Handicapped Soldiers — and I will head off to Thailand for the ASEAN + Partners Summits ... But before I go I wish to send a message to the Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Phirumya as to why in the last few days in a censure at the Thai parliament my name Hun Sen has been an issue in that debate. I knew he insulted me when he was formerly supporter of the Yellow Shirt. When he became foreign minister, MPs of Pheu Thai in the debate said Kasit should not be allowed to be foreign minister because he supported the yellow shirt protesters to occupy the airports and insulted leaders of neighboring country — it was me ...

Having taken the position as foreign minister, he requested for a visit to Cambodia and though I know he insulted me, I accepted his request ... In the course of our meeting I did not raise this issue but recalled that I used to see him a long time ago (since the Paris Peace Conference in 1989) and he said asking me to be his mentor, whose maturity could be sought for ... I did not hold him accountable for two completely different positions he has taken when he was in opposition and is foreign minister ...

In the course of censure as could be watched on TV, a speaker said Kasit insulted Samdech Hun Sen but visiting Phnom Penh. Even before crossing the borderline, he

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praised Samdech Hun Sen as a skilful diplomat ... in a VDO shown in the above matter, Kasit said Hun Sen is a Nak Leng (gangster) and the Pheu Thai speaker requested Kasit to make a correction ...

Hun Sen is the senior leader in ASEAN ... In the ASEAN Summit I asked who is now the youngest leaders of ASEAN, the Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vijiaviva said, “however I am not as young as when Samdech Hun Sen started” ... the best Kasit could do was to reverse his wording to “a gentleman with the heart of a Nak Leng” ... Because we may meet again on April 10,11 and 12 and perhaps again on April 18, when Abhisit visits Phnom Penh, I wish to inform you in advance that Hun Sen is somewhere in between being a gentlemen and a Nak Leng – or in one way a man for real.

Please do not be mistaken, Cambodia is small and poor but Hun Sen has led this country out of ashes, holding two-third of the parliament seats from the latest general elections in addition to having served as the Prime Minister for over thirty years ... so I suggest that he should make the correction in a timely manner - whether he corrects or not is up to him as it is his right - I just send him the message ... I do not feel angry but a clear definition of what is said does matter most as we are neighboring countries ... which deserves mutual respect ...

I could not accept his version of ‘a gentlemen with the heart of a Nak Leng’ ... Would he accept it if we by any chance insult his King or Prime Minister ... In the course of the forthcoming visit to Phnom Penh, what if I shake hands with Abhisit but not with him? He called me a gangster, what would make him to be if he shakes my hand? He

was mad with me as I gave deadline to withdraw Thai troops ... after which a clash took place and Thai soldiers died ...

I told Pol Saroeun, the Chief of General Staff in relation to incident that Thai soldiers again encroached Viel Intri. I also talked to field commanders at the front if they know where a fighting line has been set. There is no need to consult with me anymore ... I am a true Cambodian leader by will of the people as I have not usurped power or led the country by minority at all ...

There is this allegation that Thaksin stays in Cambodia ... I wish to make it clear that Thaksin is a friend of mine before, now and in the future and this is Hun Sen’s virtue ... but he is not in Cambodia. I have said so and all Thai commanders have all taken that what I said ... Lately they have taken Preah Vihear as their political hostage but now Hun Sen has become also a part of it ...

Day of the Genocidal Victims’ Respect and Justice Making

Spokesman of the Council of Ministers has issued a statement rejecting rumor that March 30 will be set as the Day of Justice Seeking Remembrance for the People of Cambodia and it would be proposed to be a national holiday ...

It is proposed by Mr. Chhang Yu, Chairman of the Cambodian Documentation Center and I have instructed on HE Deputy Prime Minister Sok An’s enclosed letter that the trial is the success of partnering cooperation between Cambodia and the United Nations in bringing the Khmer Rouge leaders to trial ... but it is not the first time that justice is sought after ...

We sought for justice for the people since when we over-

threw the regime of Pol Pot ... Would this not mean that we seek justice for the people? Preventing their return – was it not a justice seeking for Cambodia? The trial in 1979 – was it also not? I think the proposed date and its meaning is a mis-step ...

Among many stories I wish to remind one in relation to the stage of reconciliation and integration of the former Khmer Rouge forces ... our commanders have suggested on the fact that there is a concentration of the Khmer Rouge forces in Ta Sanh, Pailin, etc. It would be difficult to get back to control them if the war started again ...

Some suggested that we should move some out to other places like Svay Rieng, Takeo, etc. I said those suggestion were strategically wrong as it contradicts with the three elements of the win-win policy – 1. Personal security, 2. Jobs, and 3. Property.

If we were to send them from Pailin to Svay Rieng, how can we find land in Svay Rieng for them – it is indeed strategically wrong and contradicting with point 3 of the policy. Militarily speaking if the war was to happen again, it would be in just the confined area from before like Samlot, Kamrieng, Ta Sanh, Phnom Prek, Melai, etc. But we now have achieved fully the win-win policy ...

HE Serei Kosal formerly Funcinpec and now is a CPP officer ... He knows a lot and I wish one day he tell us all about what he has known ... When Funcinpec run for the elections, it was known that the Khmer Rouge stayed outside as a fighting forces to back them up, but when Funcinpec cooperated with CPP, Funcinpec turned to be puppet of the puppet in the eyes of the Khmer Rouge ... When Funcinpec bumped into

problem here, Samdech Krom Preah sent Serei Kosal and Nhek Bun Chhai to negotiate with the Khmer Rouge and their signed agreement had led to the armed clashes in Phnom Penh ...

Having said all the above I would suggest that the proposed date March 30 could not be accepted, but meaningfully, we should try and attach it with the May 20 which has already been set as Day of Respect to Souls of the Dead under the Khmer Rouge Regime and Justice Making for Them ...

With regard to some ill-intention propaganda of the possibility of enlarging number of leaders to be tried, and issues of financing the trial, I wish to make clear today that they are lies and I may have to reiterate that Cambodia would rather see the Tribunal fails rather to lose peace as the country falls back into war ...

Banning Gambling and Cock-Fight

Some people have thanked me for closing down of gambling, which they say for them is like providing protection for their houses. Why? Firstly, people gamble and become robbers/thieves because they lose gambling, and secondly, their husbands and children are home dining together, as they no longer go gambling ... Because of this development I hereby declare banning cock-fight as well ...

Good Words, Bad Intention

I also have a message to HE Sam Rainsy who has written good words in the letter dated March 23 to seek my cooperation in lessening and/or setting free five of his activists who have allied with the CFF movement – a terrorist movement in
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04 March 2009 [Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments]
Inaugurating Buddhist Achievements and Tramkak Road

I have a great pleasure today to be able to return to Tramkak once again after my visit nine months ago to inaugurate the College of Techo at Ang Tasom ... Today I am here to put into official use achievements in the pagoda of Ang Satharam or Ang Sangke and the 103A asphalted road of 35 kilometers ...

Taking this opportune moment I would like to express my sincere thanks to the people of Tramkak district for the Cambodian People's Party, which help bring the number of seat won by CPP in Parliament to 90 out of 123 ... or two-third majority status ...

Having achieved this much, I have made some thoughts, just thoughts, that it would not be possible in 2008 or in 2013 or 2018 that CPP loses its support if it continues to do good actions for the people ... As you can see the CPP officials, they reserve no free time for themselves during weekend because you see them almost every weekend in community activities. Now there are countless projects by these officials in all parts of the countries ...

I wish to thank HE Chan Sarun and Lok Chumteav for their efforts in getting this temple built After the liberation of 1979, the pagoda has been reduced to ruin like other pagodas in the whole country ... Project to rebuild the pagoda started in 1985 and the head monk who led activities to rebuild the pagoda died in 2000 ... the current head monk mobilized a sum of 169,028 US dollars to get the pagoda taken shape once again ...

I wish to take this time on behalf of the people and Buddhist monks in the area to thank those who have sacrificed their valu-

ables as contributions for reconstruction of the pagoda ... Along with the pagoda we also have the Ang Sangke college to inaugurate ... I am so happy of this achievement and I would have the attention of those who do not know the situation here that not in Anlong Veng or other western front, Cambodia also had this place as its front-line battle to defend the district of Tramkak and province of Takeo too ...

The province is also a place where I came and learnt a lot of indicators that were later incorporated into my land reform policy ... I went to places in the province and stayed in the districts of Kirivong, Koh Andet, etc...

One good thing I learnt from Takeo when Pol Saroeun, the current Chief of General Staff, was Governor is that he hid rice stock figure, and later he said he would rather missed the production target on paper but we would not let his people die of hunger at all ... because extra or surplus production recorded would be paid to the Government ...

The third achievement we are celebrating today is the 35 kilometer of DBST-asphalted road from the cross road at Ang Tasom through to Boh Ta Phang ... which is kindly provided by HE Chan Sarun and Lok Chumteav ... Having good road in place now I have some suggestions as – 1) To drive too fast that could bring about accidents of any sorts, 2) To refrain from overloading vehicle capacity, and 3) To actively join efforts in taking care of the road ... It is indeed an encouragement to learn that people in Tramkak produce rice at 2.6 tons per hectare and if the figure is replicated to all parts of the country I would say Cam-

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I have stated from being a soldier to becoming leader of resistance against Pol Pot and joined with other leaders to set up the Front ... I have been in the seat of power for 30 years ... it has not been easy because it is desired by many ... However, if I were to hold on, they may not stand a chance to get it ...

The economic situation has not been good the world over ... We have a situation to fight against - job losses because of closure of factories, by creating jobs for those who graduated from university, to diversify our production to cater to partly the new need for exports but also to reduce imports ... In anyway we do not opt to policy of protectionism because it is the cause that small countries find it difficult to export ...

By forthcoming March 2010 through to 2012, Cambodia

will hold in hand opportunity to master in rice production and share a section of rice market, though this would incidentally cause price dropping ...

But it is even better to also learn that people from other places also come to learn expertise in rice cultivation from the district ... where intensive cultivation is a form of technique that is the most sought-after experience ... because every elements of requirement have been addressed – land, water for irrigation, cultivation techniques, and change of cultivation techniques ... Takeo's Tramkak is also transforming itself into fish culture province where there are many fish breeding sites ... It is fascinating to see that they have even been able to breed lobsters as well ... There is this issue of people's congress that I wish to make clear today ... People's congress at the time of

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needs an international standard meeting hall because we will host various meetings – ASEAN, East Asia, ACMECS, GMS, CLMV, CLV and also possibly Non-Alignment meeting ...

I am looking to build a building by the Cambodian architects, like the national Assembly building ... The new building will be next to the new Office of the Council of Ministers ... and it should be ready in fifteen months ... It will be the five – storey building to be sophisticatedly equipped and it will be inaugurated together with the new Office of the Council of Ministers hopefully before next national day in 2010, so it will be ready for ACMECS, CLMV and CLV meetings ... We then will have His Majesty for the inauguration of both – the Chinese assisted and the Khmer self-developed buildings...■

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Cambodia whose leader has been tried in the US. In his letter, ... to joyfully greet the birthday anniversary of Samdech Prime Minister ... requests Samdech to lessen or set free ...

The wording has hidden his intention to mean that I am assuming myself as the King ... All of the above actions could happen only by HM the King during his birthday, major national events like Khmer New Year, etc. If we were to do so according to what he said in his letter I would be the target of attack for acting the role of the HM the King ...

I do not know if HE is making a mistake while wording the letter but, intentionally or unintentionally, Excellency team will attack me anyway ... I would not buy that anymore ... ■

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Having said so, we will benefit from the hydro power at A Tai and then at Russei Jum for electricity and further down the stream we will catch water in two stages – at Damnak Ampil and Jaret for agricultural cultivation. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Economy and Finance for their steadfast efforts in making this project reality ... We have a nine kilometers main canal and more subsidiary canals need to be built as it has a potential to cover an area of 11000 hectares of rainy season rice, 3500 hectares of dry season rice and 210 hectares of farmland but our intention has been to expand irrigation system throughout the country ...

We have started from about 2% to 4% of irrigation land capacity but according to HE Minister Lim Kean Hor we have now increased the area of irrigation to about 49% of total cultivable land ... All I want to beg from people in Pursat is that we should cultivate our land when we have water, plant anything rice or other crops ... the price of rice has gone down but still higher than before the food crisis last year ... In our courtesy call on HM the King, together with a number of Deputy Prime Ministers, we have committed to produce rice while reducing tendency to purchase luxury cars as to whatever might happen from the economic crisis, our people will have sufficient food ... The safest country is the one with food security, it may weather impact to a certain extent but more flexible than those with only industry ...

I would like to thank our people in Pursat for voting all four parliamentary seats for CPP ... the people understand well about

those Prime Ministers in example whose promises are illogical and way beyond trust is the promise to increase salary for civil servants while the people are in poor condition, ... War and peace is a matter of concern, but tax on agricultural land will be a heavy burden for our farmers ... This is the point our people thought of before making their decision on ballots ... Maybe they opted for increasing salary by printing more money ... which the result will be counterproductive ... Some foreign diplomats said I have been too generous as I do not impose tax on land on farmers ... You now know that if CPP continues to lead the country, I and other leaders – Samdech Chea Sim and Samdech Heng Samrin, as long as I am the Prime Minister – aside from peace, we have guaranteed that the state imposes no tax on people's cultivable land ...

History is not far from here - the village of Terechhan (Beast) in Kompong Chhnang – under the French colony, Bades – the French representative – led the team to collect tax from our people in the village. because they were so poor, Bades could not collect what he was told to ... he threatened with forces causing our people to get angry and lead a mob that killed him ... the village has then been called/named the village of Beast. As I do not impose tax on our people, I also see that the Royal Government has more to do to provide help to our farmers – water canals, roads, bridges, ... Before soon Pursat will be a big battery that provides power to many parts of the country from its hydro-power dam at A Tai and Russei Jum ...

It was because of the coup on March 1970 against then Head of State Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia lost its chance to build the country

06 March 2009 [Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments]
Comments at Ministry of Interior's Annual Conference

... In just three days we have brought to an end what is called illegal gambling sites – take for instance slot machines, which we have allowed only foreigners not Cambodian players ... We have fulfilled our task according to the regulations as to the sites where players gathered for their gambling but we also have to find out and put an end to those sites that are being set up for secret operation as well ... We must have continued measures in this matter, which I request the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance and the Office of the Council of Ministers to discuss further actions to be taken on this issue ...

I have no hesitation in asking our people's understanding for being late in putting out social reforms and it is, if I am not mistaken, my fifth time to have sought your understanding in public in my position as the Prime Minister ... In 1987-88, I have sought the people's understanding on land reform issue though it was a difficult and objective decision to be made as whether we should recognize the ownership from before 1975 or the present ownership ... I sought our people's forgiveness for taking a long time to make this difficult and controversial decision ... Henceforth, reform was put into practice and ownership title was provided where its legitimacy

... on that day, my brother Hun Neng and me were on a motorbike on our way from Suong to Phnom Penh to join with the demonstration, but the Lon Nol people blocked us at the bridge of Jruoy Jangva and on March 23, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk called on our people to take to the forest to join the struggle. On April 4 I joined the struggle and the date has been kept as my birth date ever since

has been recognized up to the present ...

The second apology, in 1989 and 1990, concerned with the military strategy, which after the withdrawal of the Vietnamese voluntary forces, I left our troops scattered around ... That had created a situation that the Khmer Rouge forces recaptured some of the strategic positions, leading to speculation that without the Vietnamese forces, the Phnom Penh forces were smashed or blown away like paper. However, in no time, the Phnom Penh forces returned with strength in recapturing lost positions ... I took full responsibility for that mistake in the military strategy ...

The third to recall is the anarchy in deforesting and logging in between 1993 and 1998 ... Prior to establishing the second legislature Royal Government, on October 22, 1998, I took the liberty to apologize for those actions, though there were in fact two Prime Ministers in government ... Prior to 1993, permission granted for logging only about 160,000 cubic meters per annum, but the Government led by two Prime Ministers extrapolated logging. As a result I had to take actions to prevent further anarchy in this matter ...

Fishing zone reform has been the fourth issue that I have asked for people's understanding publicly ... In 2000, after I apologized our people for bureaucratic discrepancy in fishing zone management, I have decided to trim out about 56% of the whole fishing zone, defined without a review since 1927, for people's use ... When the zone was defined back then, the water area was large and deep, but by the year 2000, the water area has shrunk

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structure, etc. Here we have a different situation, and they all are related with peace if we were to have no peace nothing could be achieved ...

I have seen a poll published in the Cambodia Daily that Cambodia has high political risk than

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Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk under the Sangkum Reast Niyum – which is not a political party but a political movement that ruled the country at that time ...

It was a sole supreme organization that ruled the country alone ... As of now we have up to 57 political parties, and at least 50 are registered at the Ministry of Interior, and according to the Constitution the people's congress will have to be convened by the Prime Minister and presided over by HM the King ... The Prime Minister, according to the Constitution, in this case will invite people who support him ... In this retrospect why else, should we have people's congress? ... The question here is do we respect decision of the Assembly or the people's congress ...

The supreme representation of the country is the National Assembly which is born out of the general elections where all eligible voters expressed their rights ... Should it be more representative by the National Assembly and the Royal Government which is the child of the Assembly, or by the 50,000 people or so at the people's congress? I think the congress part should be taken out of the Constitution ... because it is inapplicable since 1993, why else should it be kept in the Constitution? The Cambodian People's Party now has enough voices to do so ... leaving it in there without implementing it would make it a subject of criticism ... ■

countries like Sudan, Zimbabwe, Angola, Chad, etc. Some neighboring countries are not stable because of political uncertainty has been better in the poll ... Two NGOs disagreed with the finding anyway ... Sri Lanka is still in fighting – why it is not in the high political risk category? Cambodia in 1970 and under Pol Pot – why were then they not in high political risk? The poll has been formulated in such a way that its result is being exploited for political purpose ...

We have a different state of situation now – we have peace all over the country, better infrastructure and more roads and bridges ... more facilities in place so we have to make better progress in sending medical staff to all parts of the country ... Before I frequently talk about how to distribute educational facilities to local level but now I am talking health geography as where to put medical centre, referral medical clinic, etc.

We should also benefit from the present situation to increase further birth attendance in the presence of midwife as we have already achieved 58% birth attendance at health centre now ... birth attendance is important and some situation could have gone beyond knowledge and practice of traditional midwife ... therefore, properly trained midwife would be key in this matter ..

To guarantee good maternity and childbirth while reducing death for both mother and child, our solution is to continue to train more midwives and they have to be redistributed while putting up an appropriate incentive policy for them to take up this job ... Those provide assistance to midwife should be included in this package of incentives ...

09 March 2009 [Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments]
Inaugurating Buddhist Achievements in Kompong Speu

... As far as the pagoda is concerned, despite it is situated a long way from town and in remote area, I have been to this pagoda four times already – first in 1993, again in 1996, 2008 and now 2009 ... Aside from the pagoda of Samraong, there are eight other achievements, according to HE Kang Hieng, Governor of Kompong Speu ... They include water reservoir, which is supplying water not only for the pagoda use but also for people living around, ... Throughout the country, and this makes me so happy, among 1000 pagodas, there are about at least 800 water reservoirs ...

On top of information provided, the pagoda is an important one among others in the country, especially efforts made by Samdech Preah Dharma Likheth Luos Lai, with the help of HE Sim Vanna, who organized a Katina collecting sum of money for the sake of constructing various infrastructural needs ... Because I am one of the students of Samdech Preah Dharma Likheth Luos Lai, I have, according to discussion among his students, decided that two Buddhist temples built in his residential pagoda in Phnom Penh at Sansam Kosal and the other at Van Raingsi here in Kompong Speu ...

It goes without saying that we cannot just send doctors to local hospitals while no proper equipments being equipped ... I would also urge not to implicate world economic crisis as impacts on medical expenses and medically related matters ... What has been decided and adopted in the Budget Law seems to leave the Ministry of Health unaffected, so, it would not be acceptable if lateness of medical supply is being pointed at the crisis ... ■

Having been elected by the people, CPP officials and I myself never consider us to be bosses but faithful and gentle servants of the people, except I have to act in law enforcement, who make efforts to keep social order and maintain social harmony, conduct free and fair elections in a liberal democratic, free from violence atmosphere last July 2008 ... These achievements have been possible thanks to constant and continuing efforts made by HE Sai Chhum, former Governor of Kompong Speu and currently Vice President of the National Assembly, and HE Hem Khan, former Governor and currently member of Parliament ... Perhaps by 2013, HE Kang Hieng also will have to become a parliamentarian as he is going to be older for the job ...

Together with the above dignitaries, my late mother and my wife made various contributions for the development of the province both in terms of Buddhism and social harmony ... When my mother was alive, a lot had she done to the people in Kom Pong Speu, take for example the pagoda of Kdai Lovea. My father has taken the role of continuing her help to Buddhist society in the area ...

... I have directed two main projects – One is the project of development of western part of Phnom Penh, which includes districts of Samraong Tormg, Chbar Mon, Kong Pisey of Kompong Speu province in connection with the district of Dangkao of Phnom Penh, and districts of Ang Snuol, Kandal Stoeung of Kandal and the district of Bati of Takeo, and the other is the project of development for Kompong Speu or northern part of Phnom Penh, which includes the district of Oral, Thpong and Udong of

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the Khmer Rouge and at some stages in the history, they dared not shake hands with me ...

Tips of History

I talked frankly to various Japanese Ambassadors that the first Japanese to shake my hand was former Foreign Minister Mitsu-taka ... who stared most of the time at me in the Paris Peace Conference ... When I met him again in 1990 in Tokyo - I asked him why he gave me that stare. He said - having seen me, it reminded him of the past history of Japan which was full of division and a young fellow came out and united the country. He just imagined that that young Japanese has resurrected in Cambodia - Hun Sen ... It may sound weird but it has proven to be a correct imagination too because I have done the job of uniting the country ...

Indeed I have teased Japan yesterday that Japan was not independent as before sending envoy to Phnom Penh, Japan had to consult with the United States first, while I was named the Vietnamese puppet but I went everywhere as a free man. In fact I have made so many consultations with Japan too ...

As for the trial issue I would urge a way through ... I have a good experience to prove that Cambodian issue could be well understood and resolved by Cambodian themselves ... In the process to get a political settlement for Cambodia, and because Japan had been involved largely in it, I wish to give you a piece of record as to how did we get to have Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk as President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia ... There were many attempts by friends to get us along but in the end, then Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and I reached an agreement through a straight talk by which Samdech

became the Head of SNC ...

We have done everything we can to achieve peace for the country, to safeguard human life and development ... It is unacceptable to just come out of nowhere and shouted 'change and change' ... Change will be but through elections, by democratic means, no shortcut allowed, ... What we have left from the former regime in incomparable to any dialectical relation like when the French left Cambodia for Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk ... Though they built or made using the Khmer money but they did not destroy them ... Lon Nol took over Cambodia in good condition too, whereas Pol Pot also got Cambodia from Lon Nol in conditions that were intact as well ... ■

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lessen their demands, the result of which affects a great deal to our production line and exports ... What I have said just now is not for Kampong Speu province alone but for all of the workers and factories in Cambodia ...

I have made leaders of ASEAN laughing when I said it was like a goat died and fell on the elephant's feet when there was this Asian financial crisis, but now it is the elephant that fell over the goat ... I wish the economies of Europe, the United States of America, China, Japan, Republic of Korea ... to recover and reemerge so that economies in the region will get better ... I urge our people to make efforts in producing food as no matter what happens I wish they have food for consumption ... Some economic studies have predicted some countries to achieve not only less, but suffer negative growth ... However, please pay attention to actual happening and not to predicted figures ... ■

11 March 2009 [Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments] Graduation at Royal University of Phnom Penh

... It is indeed my pleasure to have seen this University emerges strongly after so many years of efforts in getting its role and functions shaped up ... According to the report about 20,000 students have graduated from the University and about 10,000 are in their studies ... I wish to take this opportune moment to thank the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for the efforts made in strengthening such a professional institution to be a leading state University ...

Many students graduated from the University have taken up jobs in some state institutions and some have also got promoted to governors and deputy governors of districts and provinces and some secretaries of state and undersecretaries of state ... HE Im Setthi said in his report that Cambodia registers 29 public education institutions and 44 private ones with a total number of 57, 828 students ... This has proven that the vision laid out by the former State of Cambodia is not wrong and if it is wrong Hun Sen would have a bigger share, and not less if it is right ...

Talking about contribution for a course of action - everyone wants to share the positive ones, whereas the negative ones no one wishes to take responsibility in ... UNTAC was so eager to take credit for what happened in Cambodia but they were intimidated by the Khmer Rouge but no one ever talks about Cambodia's win-win solution ... Not only local but foreigners also take credit for what they fail to accomplish too ... I have instructed against all odds and criticism to allow state universities to provide services to two kinds of students those with state scholarship and those on own school fees ... this has proven to work and work so far

... also I have allowed private education institutions to take extra students where state universities have not been able to provide placements ...

It is a good solution so far that those students could be absorbed by private institutions ... or we would have placement crisis ... It has proven indeed that it is a correct decision and because of this we can see that investment in education from the state and private sector has been huge and I am to continue and expand this policy ...

I have noticed that in some countries, private and state institutions have been competing with one another - some countries have stronger private education institutions and other vice versa. For Cambodia, I wish the both systems to be strong and effective ... It is a good time to review if the Royal Government is not on the right track in terms of education policy ... Because the Cambodian People's Party champions this correct policy on education, our people voted two-third majority for the Party ... Some people hold firmly on to two-third majority parliament in order to serve their bargaining purpose ... While the Constitutional amendment has been made from two-third majority to 50 + 1, the Cambodian People's Party has secured two-third majority and kept Funcinpec as its sole partner ...

As a tip to graduates, to live an unremorseful life, one has to commit no sin, in order to have no sin, one has to do good/merit deed, to live harmoniously in the family one has to be good in family, in workplace one has to be good in workplace, and in the country one has to be good for nation, to do otherwise you will be remorseful ...

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18 March 2009 [Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments]
At Annual Conference of Education, Youth and Sports

Secondary Schools in Comparable Number with Communes

... I wish to have your attention on HE Minister Im Sothi's report in relation to growing number of schools, students with a special remark on increasing number of kindergarten ... According to the report, we have an increase of 101 schools at the primary level, 151 schools at the pre-schooling level, 1,006 placements at 160 schools of junior secondary level, and 315 placements of 32 schools of senior secondary level ... These were the objectives declared in Kompong Thom's Santuk, which since has been known as the Santuk Policy 2002, and was reviewed in 2008. When the plan has been finalized, by 2012 we should achieve our aim to have a junior secondary school for each commune ... based on the figures provided on both junior and senior secondary schools, we see that among 1623 communes, we still have communes which are yet to have a secondary school ... It is true that we cannot establish schools without taking population and geographical data into consideration at all but educational geography has to be arranged in such a way that our children in all parts of the country have access to nine-year education ...

Quality of Education

We now have the accreditation committee for the tertiary education, but I see that it is also necessary to set up accreditation committee to provide inspection and review quality education at the primary and secondary levels as well ... We seem to have achieved quantity of providing education but quality should now be our concern as well ... It is a must that we have to make sure that our children have strong basic education as it is necessary to get a firm founda-

tion if we wish them to go far in education ... This should also be part of our plan to distribute teaching staff as well ... As we now have better road, everywhere in the country is in peace, and more basic infrastructure have been made available, we should think again about re-distributing our teaching staffs to rural areas ... It is true that we have more to do so as to bridge the difference between rural and urban development aimed partly to serve this purpose of sending teachers and medical personnel to rural areas ...

Trial of Senior Leaders of the Khmer Rouge

Today is March 18, which means on the same day 39 years ago, there was a coup against Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and the war started to ravage the country ... but less has been said as they wish to cover up the truth ... In fact they should be the first to get tried because if they did not bring Samdech Preah Norodom down, how could there be a war, ... I have told HE Ambassador of Japan that I would rather have a failed court in trying the Khmer Rouge leaders but not to have a war again ... If we did not have the coup on 18 March 1970, Cambodia would not need to have these de-mining tools, and within 39 years we would have had more population ... It was true and I agree with the remark by Khieu Kannharith, Minister of Information, who said those who do not know about the killing should not stand trial, those who know that Pol Pot killed his own people but continued to support him should be brought to serious trial ... I told the Japanese Ambassador to provide more money for trial because Japan indeed supported

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and is shallow ... I was sorry for keeping the matter so long before making decision on it ...

To day before all senior officials and also the people of Cambodia, I would once again form this podium seek your understanding on combating gambling in our society ... you may ask why I didn't take strong measure sooner ... Before our senior officials - whose responsibility and competency together with their decision making powers - I would seek their cooperation in providing additional supports to these measures ...

Our people are welcoming this decision to close down gambling sites while the Royal Government is in pursuit of taking further look on legal matters of all gambling systems ... As far as drug is concerned, as I have said the other day, we have made a lot of progress as to identifying and verifying the system ... Cambodia is not a country that produces drug, but it is in a chain via which drug is being trafficked through ...

There was one case though in Phnom Sruoch that there was an attempt to set up production but it had been crushed effectively ... But I wish to draw your attention that if we have caught more it could mean that there are more being trafficked in the market ... so it is wise to increase our actions ... A report of what has been discussed in the conference has brought to light that border police has not charged any tax on our people transporting products to trade with neighboring countries ...

However, our traders continue to use unofficial border points ... This is a major issue, as on one side they may be able trade prohibited products like valuable woods and/or even illegal materials through which drug

could be one of them ... Therefore it is my duty to appeal to our traders to circulate their products/goods to and from through official border points ... In order to get this job done more comprehensively, we will soon have HE Ke Kim Yan, a new Deputy Prime Minister to look after the matter. This should be seen as the Royal Government's commitment and action in resolutely combating drug and issues related ... Having said all this, I would say it is better we put out fire rather than trying to fan the smoke away ... ■

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Kompong Speu and the districts of Kompong Tralach of Kompong Chhnang and Punnhealeu of Kandal ...

Various achievements have been put into use while many others are under construction ranging from the water gates of Ta Vai, Korpeu Trom, reservoir of Anlong Jrei and Prambei Mom irrigation system ... These are for the benefit of the people in this area and we need time, in addition to money, to get a good job done ... As of today, HE Kang Hieng, the Governor told me there has yet any factory to close down in face of world financial crisis and economic downturn ... Cambodia as a whole suffers the impact less than other countries because most of our workers have got their land waiting for them if they do not have job in factories ... Unlike in industrial countries where workers have hard time when factories close as they do not have fall-back mechanism ...

Having said so does not mean I wish to turn our people to work in the field but because there is less demand from countries placing orders to our products, as they are in serious shortage of money or jobs as well, they

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