



30 March 2017—Samdech Techo Hun Sen presided over the signing of Exchange of Notes and a Record of Discussion on Grant Aid and Loan in Total USD 140.10 million

## Kratie City's Samdech Techo Secondary School

(27 March 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### Sub-national Authority and Education Officials to Inspect Wobble School Buildings

... I am seeking your understanding that we have overlooked the school building situation putting you parents and teachers in concerns of students' safety. Before us is an old school building left from those ones we pulled down to make way for new ones. They were in wobble condition ... (during my previous visit) the teachers and I, together with provincial authority, had discussed how to resolve the problem. What to do when we have this little piece of land? We had come to a decision to pull them down and put in their place a U-shape building of 48 classrooms. We also have ten more classrooms in one other building behind we have in all 58 classrooms.

However, considering wobble condition of the former buildings, I still think that we should not have left them in such a warning state. I am calling on all sub-national

level authorities and officials in education to inspect school buildings in the whole country and figure out how to rebuild them if they are in wobble condition. I have come across two buildings so far – one in the heart city of Kompong Cham, or the junior college of Boeung Kok, which I already inaugurated and another is in this school. Looking at the pictures of former wobble buildings, the situation was quite hazardous. I did inspect it and concluded right away that we need more immediate investments [...]

Under my leadership of over 30 years, over 38 years to be exact, we have transformed our country in the field of education from the condition, in which we had to let our students learn under trees, used charcoal as chalk, and those who know more taught those who knew less ... to a developed system in the whole country. Governor Sar Chamrong just brought up a while ago that the Kratie University is coming up in 2018 and I am

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## Phnom Penh's Ring Road Inaugurated

(06 March 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

I am so happy today to join with all of our people here to (1) inaugurate the Phnom Penh-Hanoi Friendship Road, which is the first segment of the ring road running from the dam of Kob Srov to the Russian Federation road, and to (2) celebrate the groundbreaking ceremony for the second segment of ring road of over 16 kilometres.

The segment will be built with financial assistance from China. I wish to share with our people that the road will be officially open for use on 3 April, not even one month. We will have this road before

the Khmer New Year and it will help alleviate traffic jam on the national road 2.

This will be another symbol of the friendly relation between Cambodia and China, and Vietnam, for celebrating this Phnom Penh ring-road construction ceremony jointly.

The first segment of this ring road was before in a ragtag condition. We spent money from national coffer and assistance from Vietnam through the alliance between Phnom Penh and the city of Hanoi. Please allow me to express my

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## Education Inspectors Graduation

(22 March 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

I am so happy today to join with Excellencies, Ladies, Gentlemen, especially all 884 tertiary teachers' students and basic level teachers of the National Institute of Education. This has been my 19th presence for such event in the institute ... HE Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports has mentioned in his report about progress scored in education. While looking back on the road that we already passed, we may see there is still a long march ahead and we need to invest further in education [...]

### Attention Given to Educational Infrastructures

I travelled to provinces and spent most of my time in schools. I observed that some schools needed not only repairation but also reconstruction.

Some schools I built in between 1995 and 1996, especially in integration areas, cannot leave in dysfunctional condition anymore. It was not an easy job to build schools in those days because of inaccessibility and fatal diseases such as malaria. Those schools hold for twenty years, though. Some are still standing and can accommodate students, but many are desolate. The situation has called for more investments for educational infrastructural development i.e. to build more schools and repair ragtag ones [...]

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sure that I will be coming back for the ceremony to put it into official operation. We also have numerous other achievements to celebrate. We will have a two floors school building of 12 classrooms in the junior college of Thmar Kre and a Buddhist Monk Hospital to inaugurate too [...]

### **Win-win Policy Brings Peace, Peace Brings Infra-structural Development**

As far as education is concerned in Kratie, we note that in every district has a secondary school, where before in the whole province there was only one in the city of Kratie. It is currently the Secondary School of Queen Preah Kosamak. In the past, HE Im Chhun Lim and I had come and built a few more buildings in the school [...] we will continue to build our country under the roof of peace that we have obtained against all odds. The wars destroyed our country since 1970 and the genocide did too until 1979. We liberated the city of Kratie but there were still pockets of resistances in those days. We then had put out a win-win policy, which brought about full peace to the country. In the province of Kratie, while implementing the win-win policy, remnants (of the Khmer Rouge forces) from the Pram Poan Mountains area reported themselves to the authorities.

It is now an opportune moment for the people of Cambodia to rebuild, through peace we have secured and maintained, infrastructural connectivity throughout the country. At present, we travelled on road from Kratie to Phnom Penh, while before mostly people travelled by engine boats. There was only one road access between Kratie and Phnom Penh. Now there are several [...] while we are anticipating coming university soon, we also have here in Kratie a regional school of pedagogy [...] let us

organize for our pedagogical students a holiday trip before the coming Khmer New Year [...]

### **Spending on Education Would Guarantee Un-drying Advancement**

I think that though some of you may not have kids or be the ones to study in these schools, you also have relatives and friends who study here. I hope that under the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party, all schools will provide beneficial opportunity for our children in the Kingdom as a whole and in Kratie in particular. I would take us four to five years to grow a tree but to grow a man would need more. Look here, to prepare a place for a man to grow here, how much do we spend? We would need nine years for them to finish their basic education as obliged as the Constitution, 12 years to finish secondary school education, 16 years to get a Bachelor, 18 years to get a Master, and up to 20 years to get a Ph. D. We have to spend a lot but this big spending is guaranteeing that our country is never drying in its advancement.

Pol Pot killed our learned men. We have had to restore from scratch and in difficult condition. We have now come this far. We must safeguard what we have achieved. We must keep the peace that we have achieved and maintained our developed infrastructures [...] later today I will meet with more 400 local officials for a talk and share with them some recommendations.

### **Keep Security, Public Order for Khmer New Year, Communal Councils Elections**

I wish to send a message from here to our people, authorities of all levels and the armed forces to act in synchronized manner to keep security and social order to guarantee peaceful organization and celebration of the Khmer New Year, passing from the year of

Monkey to the year of Rooster, 2561 by the Buddhist calendar. We should have a celebration of the Khmer New Year in joy not in conflicts. We will also make sure that the forthcoming communal/Sangkat councils' elections will hold in a peaceful, secured, free, just and threat-free environment [...]

### **Political Parties, Candidates to Respect Ethical Codes of Conduct**

I am calling on all political parties to respect ethical codes of conduct when they perform actions. We should learn the way trade propagandists do. They would talk good about their products and refrain from criticizing others'. To criticize other people's goods or candidates would lead to conflicts, which would eventually bring about insults of all sorts. The one colored or insulted would not stay idle and would use their rights to take legal actions. I really hope that political parties as well as candidates will play by the ethical codes set out by the National Elections Committee, and defined in the Law on Political Party.

I also take this opportune moment to remind out people to know well their party's insignia. This is not only for the case of the Cambodian People's Party supporters but every parties'. As far as ranking number is concerned, in the 2008 and 2013 general elections, the Cambodian People's party picked ballots gave it number 4 consecutively. People talked about supporting number 4. It is a random picking number. We may have any number as one may pick randomly. (As for the forthcoming) communal/Sangkat councils' elections, we will have different number for different commune or Sangkat. They also have different ballots as well. We will have to pick number randomly to represent the Party again for the general elections.

It is even more important that voters know insignia of political parties that they support and wish to give their votes. My other message is that we must avoid conflicts in the campaign period and from now to the elections, there should not be any conflicts to avoid insulting and scolding each other. Some words should not be in use as prohibited by law. This would bring our society peace. With peace, we will ensure the country's progress [...] taking this opportune moment I would like to thank people in Kratie as well as in the whole country for always supporting the Cambodian People's Party. I hope people will continue to do so for the sake of keeping peace and development [...]

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Economy and Finance have been working together. A political party though has appealed to increase interest rate to 22%.

Another political party also claimed that it was their idea from two years ago [...] what a silly thing to say. On 1 April, we will also have electric price down from 700 or 800 Riel for anyone to use 50 KWH per month from national transmission lines to just 610 Riel/KWH. Those consume only 10 KWH/per month and below, will pay only 480 Riel [...]

... While price of electricity is going down, we also demand similar trend for running water. The Ministry of Industry and Handicraft will look into this issue with the National Water Supply of Cambodia bring the price down, more or less, while the cost of electricity is lower. Among these trends of prices going down, we are benefiting from the chance of our salary increase. These are what we are benefiting from for the coming of New Year – 2561 by Buddhist calendar, the year of Rooster [...]

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sincere appreciation and thank to the People's Committee of Hanoi and to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

I also take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks to the People's Republic of China through Ambassador HE Xiong Bo, for the provision of possibility for Cambodia to build the second segment of the Phnom Penh ring road from national road 4 through to Prek Samraong [...]

### **National Road 521 Ground-breaking and Two New Mekong Bridges Coming**

Well, with this segment built it is not yet what it needs. Before soon, the People's Republic of China's ambassador and I will jointly inaugurate the ground-breaking ceremony to build the national road 51, a connection between national road 5 and national road 4.

We will be able, with this road 51, to divert traffic from national road 5 to national road 4, and on to national roads 3 and 2, and even on to national road 1 because we already have the bridge of Prek Samraong or the Cambodian-Chinese Friendship Bridge at Takhmao.

People may transport goods on this ring road around the city without needing to travel through the city [...]

To make it a real ring road around the capital of Phnom Penh, I may announce a plan and we have already started feasibility study and are looking for funding for the constructions of two new bridges. I would request our Chinese friend to include the proposals for a long-term plan of the "one belt one road," which, as far as I know, there will be a summit on May 14-15 in Beijing.

I knew that the Presidents of the Socialist Republic of Vi-

etnam and of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos would also be present. I will also make my presence. May I ask you to record that Cambodia is in need of two bridges to make its urban ring road a real connection – one bridge is at the upper part of the Mekong before the Royal Palace and the other one at the lower part of the Mekong [...]

### **Socio-Economic Development for Alleviation of Poverty**

This master plan will help facilitate our people's travelling and transportations. This connectivity concerns with socio-economic development that will alleviate poverty of our people and everyone must be participating. We need development partners, the People's Republic of China included, cooperate on this infrastructural project [...]

I thank the Ministry of Public Works and Transports for the wonderful job they are preparing for the construction of the ring road. This will be of great public interest. While the construction underway there would be impacts on residences on either side. When the road is ready, we will reap the benefit altogether [...]

### **Voice of Dialogue with Kem Sokha**

This year we will have the Angkor Sangkranta at Siemreap but we may as well have a Ramvong dance on 3 April at the border between Kandal and Phnom Penh [...] that I have been in power for over thirty years, some say why do I stay in power for so long. People voted me to lead the country.

I do not know how to set myself for one. Do not say I am preparing for it. Some people, while it is too far to reach ahead and too late to get back, have threatened to do us away. They have said that since 1998 and it is 19 years now [...]

Yesterday there was a leak of my (audio) dialogue ... I accept it was my voice. I said so. That should be politicians' talk. Whether you follow it, or not, is up to you. Some said it was a cut-and-paste work. You bet. The one whose real voice is there dare not say anything [...] previously, other politicians also talked to me. Well, let me say only this much [...] In Cambodia, some say Hun Sen is a puppet but that some have allowed themselves to be puppets of the puppet.

### **The Road Should Fortify as Runway**

We will meet again on 3 April to put this road into official use. I told Oknha (Ung Bun) Hov the other day to consider any part of this road to fortify it. We may want to be prepared for any accidental event that plane cannot land at the airport. We must be able to convert this road as runway.

The road width is 60 meters. The most important thing here is to make sure it holds and can carry the plane. It is one way of preparing ourselves for the worst or a disasters preparedness management. We are not calling for such incident but it is better to get ready for anything [...]

### **NGO Analysts Should Know Where to Stop**

... Some people in NGO should be clear whether they are NGO or analysts. I noted what some said this morning. Politicians are talking politics and NGO people should not make exaggerated comments. Please do not mistake yourself that being in NGO or journalist, you have right (to get on to just anything and anyone). That will bring you to legal case.

Does law protect only you? If it does, everyone would just create an NGO and infringe upon others. When there is legal action, they just raise their voices. The person seem to

have been doing it very often ... you may note that even in the US they have taken reprimanded measures. Look at what Donald Trump said about eavesdropping. In his 46 days, not even 100 days yet, Donald Trump is infested with so much conflicts. When people comment why Cambodian politicians are in conflict, they may also ask themselves why the US politicians are [...]

I am not that upset with the one who made fire but unhappy with the one who whistle in the wind. HE Kem Sokha had the dialogue with me and he could not deny it [...] that was your voice and that was what you said. There is no double standard in the US. They suppressed demonstrators and handcuffed them from behind. They pushed you to the ground face down and cuffed you from behind. They say it is not a violation of human rights but for protection, safety, and public order of America. Hence, what we did in the past was not wrong. We keep safe and keep demonstration under control. We defend everyone [...]

### **Cambodia Democracy of 12 Parties**

It seems this is the last day for registration of candidates. There are twelve parties to contest. That is why I am telling every party not to nominate itself the main actor as there are in all twelve of them. We can have democracy even without one party. Please do not jeopardize situation with your boycott threat. Democracy in Cambodia is not between two political parties but twelve. Just contest fairly. Do not tell a lie and speak the truth.

Microfinance is not state institution but private. Whoever preaches about paying debt or removing debt will meet with legal action. Whoever owes the money will have to pay both principal and interest [...]



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**Human Resource Responsive to Local and External Demands**

... I am calling on concerned authorities to exercise decentralization and de-concentration efforts and those sub-national level authorities must take responsibility in taking care of matters concerning educational sector. I have noticed, however, progress made in relation to human resource development that has evolved into a new stage and become a source of pride for Cambodia.

While having many remaining issues to tackle, we are proud to see that our human resource capacity has been responsive to demands for local, regional, and international affairs. Now, for example, in Siem Reap, we are coordinating a meeting for the least developed countries in the framework of the World Trade Organization, with task to help Timor-Leste preparing itself for accession to the world body.

We also have human resource that is responding to demand by the United Nations in relation to peacekeeping and demining [...] we have human resources in various fields, but we still need to have more. However, when we first started to develop our country, there were many difficulties. I told a gathering of diplomats the other day about the fact that the foreign ministry of Cambodia had had in those days only three people. Now we have many diplomats who are working with partners in regional framework and the world [...]

**Reorganize the Late Samdech Vibol Panha Sok An's Works**

In fact, I have no need to talk politics. However, on this matter, should I ignore, there will continue to be confusion. The Cambodia Daily's "Bin Chhin To Take On Sok An's Vast

Portfolio" quoting HE Phay Siphon, I do not know from where did he get it? A spokesperson should not try to be famous. Some ministers would not have the idea and make incorrect comments on information that Samdech Sok An still held this or that positions, which included also public reforms. Let me tell you that the public reforms commission that I chaired already dissolved. We have upgraded the State Secretariat of Public Functions to become a Ministry. We have delegated armed forces reforms to related section. I have instructed setting up a group to conduct study on the matter. When I arrived (from Beijing), I signed the order delegating works to HE Bin Chhin to end misconceptions and misinterpretations [...]

Let me address the issue of the trial of the Khmer Rouge leaders. We will keep the same working group with possibility of adding a few more people. HE Bin Chhin will take it over from the late Samdech Vibol Panha Sok An. It is a multi-sectoral job with special attention given to keeping relations between Cambodia and the United Nations.

**APSARA, Preah Vihear, Cambodia UNESCO, World Heritage – Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts**

As for the APSARA Authority, because the job is relating to the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, we will place responsibility in the supervision of the Ministry. HE Phoeung Sakona will be chairperson of the APSARA Authority. As far as the Preah Vihear Authority is concerned, we already have HE Chuch Phoueng as chairperson, while before it was under the supervision of the Council of Ministers it is now under the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts to ensure consistency between the APSARA Authority and the natural site of the temple of Preah Vihear.

Previously, under the supervision of the Council of Ministers, the Council of Ministers was their senior manager. As we are transferring them now to the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, we will need to alter related decrees, sub-decrees, and reverse financial allocation from the Council of Ministers.

The Cambodia's UNESCO Committee and National Committee for World Heritages will also be under the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. We may need to review the sub-decree dated 29 July 2009 too on the establishment of the National Committee for World Heritages.

**Rail to Transports & Public Works, Engineering to Labor & Vocational Training**

As for the railway is concerned, we will place it under HE Sun Chanthol ('s Ministry of Transports and Public Works). The Board of Engineers Cambodia, which I chaired before and later gave it to Samdech Vibol Panha Sok An, after going through various stages of thinking, I would consider delegating it to the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training. I wish the Minister of Labor and Vocational Training take responsibility in overseeing works relating to engineering. We will again change related sub-decrees.

**Scouts to Education, Youth & Sports; Press May Rectify Designated Portfolios**

... The late Samdech Sok An was Chairman of the National Association of Cambodian Scouts (NACS). We will now make HE Hang Chuon Naron, currently Vice Chairman, the Chairman of NACS [...] Making comments about this should seek confirmations first. Even some of the Deputy Prime Ministers did not even know about it. It is my job. I need time to think about it. Would you please leave the Prime Minister's job for me as

Prime Minister to handle? You may talk to the press later. We use to allocate funding to NACS through the Council of Ministers. Now we will channel it to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports [...]

**Royal Academy, Civil Aviation Stay with Council of Ministers; Royal School of Administration to Public Function; School of Court Professions to Justice**

... There have been baseless comments about the fact that Samdech Sok An was managing the state reforms or public reforms. The Royal Academy and Civil Aviation are still under the supervision of the Council of Ministers. We do not change them. However, the Royal School of Administration will now be under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Functions. The School of Court Professions will be under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice [...] ... We have discussed the issues in steps and on various stages since before Samdech Sok An fell ill. HE Bin Chhin knew some of the matters already. We have discussed about various individuals with capacity to take over what functions and affairs. However, after my long thought and consideration, we should place Board of Engineers Cambodia under Labor and Vocational Training as I see that it may not cover everything if we place it under Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction.

**1 April – Advantageous for People, Civil Servants and Armed Forces**

... In days, 1 April approaches. It is very important day. On 1 April, microfinance's interest rate will go down from 25% currently to 18%. This should help those who may need to borrow money from them. The National Bank of Cambodia, and the Ministry of

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## Kompong Trabek Buddhist Temple Inaugurated

(10 March 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### 7 January 1979 Liberated Country and Religions

I would like to take this opportunity moment to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts made by every Buddhist monks as well as Buddhist monk inspector of the pagoda and its parishioners to build and rebuild this monastery.

No matter how old the pagodas were before 1970s, they suffered destructions by wars and the regime of Pol Pot's genocide. The Pol Pot's regime uprooted not only Buddhism but also Christianity, and other religions. After the liberation in 1979, the Cambodian People's Party and the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea allowed our people to regain their faiths according to their wills.

It has been 38 years now and we have made efforts together from one stage to another to have profound transformation and changes in our society and nation. While before they did not allow our people to practice religious faiths and destroyed their monasteries, killed or disrobed monks, the liberation on 7 January 1979 transformed those fates and people can practice their traditional faiths.

We have built over 4,000 Buddhist pagodas throughout the country, and there are over 50,000 Buddhist monks. Along with Buddhism, we also noted increase of Muslim mosques and other religious faiths. They all have survived together in harmony [...]

### Inseparable Relations of Secular and Buddhism

There has been a strange incident happened to me because today is the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my mother's decease. Normally I stayed in bed until 4 am, 5 am, or even 6 am. However, last night I could and had

to wake up at 3 am. I took it that my mother urged me to get myself ready for the trip and religious event here.

My mother passed away at a little after 3 am and my wife had her passing moment recorded. It seemed my mother woke me up. Even before 3 am, I had little rest. Today, my children and brothers are celebrating the ceremonial anniversary at the pagoda where we have her remain placed in a stupa. She left me 19 years today [...]

... It is true that there is an inseparable relation between the secular and Buddhism worlds. When the secular world is in turmoil, the Buddhist world will also face uncertainty. That is why I keep repeating that we must defend peace because when it does not prevail, no one could talk about democracy, about human rights, and even development.

Experiences show us that in 1970, in 1975 and in 1979, the country's secular and Buddhist worlds could not build but suffered destructions to the roots for incorrect leaderships. As a country, it is important to have peace so that there will be development.

### Sharing Win-Win Policy to Myanmar and Others

I had a meeting with the Army's Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar days ago. We had sought out to learn lessons and experiences from each other. From their side, Myanmar seeks to gain insight of factors relating to successes of Cambodia's win-win policy.

In Myanmar, eight warring factions joined the ceasefire agreement, while seven others do not. More so, the ceasefire observed by the eight warring factions is also fragile. I wish to send a few people of my

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... Some people say (they do not understand) why Cambodian politicians are always in quarrels. I must clarify this point. I do not seek to quarrel with anyone. They cause it and attack me. I have had to respond. Let me stress again that the one who accused my wife as a wife of a Vietnamese leader and my son as theirs will not go scot-free. He and his party may not go free if they do not do action that satisfies me. It was a grave insult. It is unacceptable. Leak of audio dialogue in the last few days was a hit from Hun Sen's left-hand blow. I still have another right-hand blow [...]

... I am declaring publicly now that Mao Monivan, Member of the National Assembly from CNRP, who texted me, and I will let it out to the press this afternoon, that "I listened to Sam Rainsy who said it directly in a meeting." I will not reserve any understanding and will not allow this to go scot-free. It is a serious insult. I have asked to get hold of all dialogue messages between Sam Rainsy and me. If necessity requires, I would post them. If he is a man of his words, he may choose to expel Mao Monivan from the party [...] we have conflict of political opinions, why do we have to bring in family matters.

I have done so much for Sam Rainsy, even if he was the one who started his slogan "where there is (Hun) Sen, there would not be (Sam Rain) Sy, or vice versa." You all may remember that from his campaign trail in 2003. In 2008, that person acted as if he was a man of unmatched moral. However, when he got out of his car, looking at the billboard of three people – Samdech Heng Samrin, Samdech Chea Sim and me, he went "the three are the cunning men, the one in the middle is the most cunning." Was that a political moral? I signed a letter to request Sam Rainsy's pardon on

the day that I father died so that he could be in the country to work together as dialogue partner. We had dinner together, went to Sangkranta at Siem Reap altogether ... and again met in Malaysia [...]

### Making Kem Sokha President of CNRP

... What is more important here is the fact that the boss is acting in words and his henchmen are doing in actions. I am not seeking to have conflict with anyone. I just look for an acceptable solution. If you cause the problem, why should I be quiet? Well, I did have a talk with Kem Sokha and I have planned for Kem Sokha to get hold of the party. I must say it out loudly and frankly. That has brought about amendment of the Constitution [...] he has said around that diplomas obtained from studying in Cambodia are valueless. You all may keep that in mind.

### Splitting or Not Is Your Problem

... Now they have started their campaign with a slogan "remove commune heads that serve the party with ones that serve the people." Let us wait and see their commune heads that serve the people. It seems they have a mess in many places about nomination of candidates. When there was that incident that one of their men burnt the Party signboard, was that one for the people or for the party? Even the official campaign has yet to start they already launch attacks on others [...] The country is in joy but these people are causing problems everywhere ... they said the (audio dialogue) was not real, and so on. They say Hun Sen is afraid and tries to cause a split. Is that so? That Kem Sokha talked with me is my act of dividing. Whether you want to split from one another is up to you, it is your problem [...] we will wait and see the commune heads that serve only the people about whom that they are talking. ☐

## 19th National Culture Day, Youth Arts Festival

(03 March 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### To Build a Big University of Fine Arts

Let me express my sincere appreciation to presence of everyone's participation in the arts festival. Like in previous festivals, the performance arts and their compositions have clearly shown new progresses, especially the way it has widened among youth. The festival is in itself an event that guides transference of experience and knowhow in the field of arts and culture from one generation to another and this has called for thinking of more human resource training in this sector. Over the recent past, with the Mayor of Phnom Penh and Culture and Fine Arts Minister Phuong Sakona, I have had discussions on where and how to build a new University of Fine Arts. We will work on a first step of 12 million USD project, which includes also a Cultural Centre, on an area of 4 hectares in size in Jroy Jangva.

The matter now is how to get the project started as soon as we can. We need to think of the different steps and figure out which one is to commence. I think our foreign friends can think of some kind of contribution, especially the French Ambassador is also here present. Maybe France can help us. I am thinking of a big and beautiful University of Fine Arts. The Cultural Centre would have facilities for circus and other cultural events. We will first commence the project on an area of three hectares. I would remind that the project must not forget a hostel for students, especially female students and those coming from far provinces.

We will have a new University and I hope that we will be able to start soon and should not wait for three years to begin it. We also have to reserve spaces for future de-

mand. We are making sure that we will churn out human resource in culture and arts as without them, there nothing that we can do. I have also had attention of the Ministry of Public Functions to look into issues relating to staff of culture and fine arts. Some died and some retired. While it is hard to find replacements, I have asked the Ministry to consider providing the Ministry of Culture some possibility to recruit as they have the need to preserves many different forms of arts and culture, performance arts, dances, songs, sculpture, and issues relating to temples preservations.

### Performance with National Identity

We must be clear on a concept that if we are repeating everything the way it is, there would be no development. However, every development or evolution must bear a sense of national identity. Take for instance those of you who perform in music band or dancing groups you must have some form of national identity. There is this concern also about intellectual property – reconstructions of arts by copying, repeating, plagiarizing, etc. Our artists going abroad for shows and/or performances could face these problems when their works do not represent national identity in anyway. We may think of some signs so that on the one hand we will have an identity of our own and on another hand to avoid legal actions from other countries about copying, repeating, and/or plagiarizing.

### Concerned Institutions to Work Together as a Team

I think we must be working on it together. For instance, we are designing and printing calendars every year. The Ministries of Culture and Tourism design and print their

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colleagues who involved in win-win policy making in Cambodia to conduct a study in Myanmar to gain their insights. We then can proceed perhaps to more consultations. We do not see ourselves as guru but consultants on issue how to seek peace and way to end armed conflicts.

We shared our experiences with Nepal on ceasefire and dismantling of armed forces after the elections. Cambodia has had one of the richest and possibly the best experiences to advance from a country of many factions' rulings and armed forces to one that in united and unified armed forces.

It is a miracle and there are not many achievements like this in the world these days. Sri Lanka used its army to defeat the guerilla forces. It was not an implementation of win-win solution.

In the Philippines, there is a division of Mindanao, with a prospect that the Abu Sayyaf militants joined with ISIS ... It is not a simple issue. In Cambodia, after being torn by wars, we have been able to make peace.

### Correct Policy by Ruling Party

It is through peace that we have ascertained and maintained for Buddhism, Islamism, Christianity, other religions as well, we are able to usher in development. With correct leaderships in the field of secular world, we have been able to ascertain these achievements.

The question here is whether the party that is leading the state conducts a correct policy or not and how much it permits people to exercise their faiths. In some countries, they permit worship of Buddhism but not Islamism or Christianity, or anyone of the others vice versa.

Another point would rest in how much people themselves have faith in religions that they respect. These are the measuring tools of progress in field of religion. If people continue to have faith and organize religious rituals, it tells how much they have faith in it.

It also measures people's efforts in the construction of related shrines or monasteries. People's living condition is also indicating how much they can worship their religious faiths. If people are having difficult living condition, they will not be able to build temples and other halls for their religious courses [...]

### RGC Paying Attention on Rice

... As of now, what could be the most difficult moment for us was to have shortage of rice. The governor of Prey Veng, Chea Somethi, has just made us a report about surplus of rice in the province. This year we have a surplus of about five million tons. However, we are facing difficulty in external markets. Thailand has a surplus of over 10 million tons. Vietnam's rice export fell. India's rice production line suffered the same difficulty. As there are plenty of rice to choose, consumers also opted for rice that are cheaper. All this has brought about a difficult condition of rice price to our rice. We are working hard to pay attention on his issue.

In Switzerland, when I attended the World Economic Forum, some complained about high price of rice. I said while they said so, farmer continued to produce at loss. They called for decrease of food prices. Some food producers said if they had to bring down food price, other parties concerned must bring down price of machineries, etc. We sold our rice at low price and have had to pay high for medicines. It was a real conflict. There was a

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## Opening of the 5th China Round-Table Conference

(20 March 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

*In addition the prepared text, Samdech Techo Hun Sen made the following selected adlib comments:*

### Cambodia's Accession to WTO Was Acting Together as One Unified Mechanism

Please allow me to take this occasion to share with you more experiences on methodology and preparation of mechanism to gain accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). HE Cham Prasidh, then Minister of Trade, currently Minister of Industry and Handicrafts, was our chief negotiator.

We organized a team like shadow government, which consisted not only a minister of trade. We need to act on that front altogether as a unified mechanism. Everything to do with it would have to go through the Cabinet's meeting. There were many questions that concerned countries asked Cambodia.

Over one hundreds questions answered, about half of them came back. In the same state, some countries answered 200 questions and 400 hundreds more asked. That was how we experienced.

Cambodia was successful to respond not just in letters or words. What I considered was a big success was that we achieved consistency between external (trade) policies and those implemented internally.

Some countries then questioned Cambodia whether and/or how far had it implemented privatization of education. In fact, some of those countries did not even implement privatization of education sector as we did in Cambodia yet. To respect the rule to gain access to WTO, we had to provide them answers.

### Taking Advantage of WTO Accession Preparation,

### Promoting Internal Reforms

Strategically, I may say, we have taken advantage of working to gain access to WTO to promote internal reforms. That may be our special point. I had put out in the first Cabinet meeting on 2 December 1998, after the second term general elections, the triangular strategy, in which its **first angle was to achieve internal pacification**.

I may remind you that Cambodia rebuilt from nil. In Siem Reap, we had only a few old hotels. Now we have hundreds of them with capacity to accommodate millions per year.

We started from receiving no tourist to now having 4.5 millions arrivals. It was because the country was in divisive war that we had made it its first strategy to achieve internal peace.

The second angle of the strategy was **to integrate Cambodia as quickly as possible into world and regional communities**, whereas ASEAN we became member in 1999, the Asia-Europe, WTO, etc. They were our main priorities. Its third angle was taking advantages of both favorable factors – internal and international, **Cambodia should make efforts in developing its socio-economic development and poverty alleviation**.

It was necessary to have methodology in making use of internal readiness to integrate Cambodia into world and regional communities. Cambodia had been using its presence in the international community to promote internal reform.

We have made it clearly our internal understanding that without reforms, we would not be able to become a member of WTO. It is therefore

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own calendars. We must collaborate on having some of the major historic events included for the sake of memorizing them. In addition to showing highlights for fast Buddhist days, we may also add in event like admission of the temple of Angkor in the list of world heritage. We may also print that in Children text and note books. Children will remember it. There are more that concerned institutions can think of doing together. The press can also do to help. It requires working as a team.

### Singers/Performers Should Learn Many Artistic Forms

Maybe I should on this topic about song. I have downloaded many songs in the last months, to my phone and my wife's. There was a song "Dad, Please Come Back," written and composed by Ms Chanthi, now Secretary of State of Information, and sung by Meng Keopichda. It was since the fifth plenum of the Cambodian People's Party.

She was eleven. The song was in those days used to appeal to different warring factions to stop fighting and return to the fold of nation to build peace. We are lucky that the country has united against secessions of any kinds.

We have the best voices of many art performers/singers like Aok Sokun Kanha, Chhorn Sovannareach, etc. My advice is that the art performers or singers should know more than one form of performance arts. The impression here is that those who have skills in folk music songs and those in pop music songs should train themselves to be able to do either. Let us see that the late famous singers Sin Sisamuth knew how to sing both folk and pop music songs. He started as a singer in a symphony band. Later he developed his skills and he could sing with both folk and pop music bands. As I have listened to your voices, I am sure you can develop those skills as he did [...].

## Vanda Institute Graduation & Diploma Presenting

(06 March 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

... Those educated in the Vanda Accounting Institute have skills relating to finance and accounting. They know more about banks and banking, taxation, auditing, etc. HE Som Kimsuor may need to recruit some for national auditors. The Ministry of Inspection may do so too. The problem is to ensure a proper and just entry exam. Our economy in the last had grown 7.1% consecutively in the past two years. Earlier we did 7% only because agricultural sector did not perform well. For 2016, agriculture did better and we had a bigger surplus of rice. I hope that this year and the year after we will continue to have 7% growth. In the region, Cambodia has become the only country that maintains the growth at 7%.

We will continue to make

efforts altogether to achieve more progress for the country and family. The two has inseparable relationship – life of family and that of community. If the country goes to war, we may ask if everyone has the ability to develop families. They do not. Some people commented in my post that let us forget the past. I asked him/her to think harder if they choose to forget the past that they were born from their mother was also the past. Anyone chose to forget their pasts would not be different from the beasts because they would not distinguish who is who. You may ask you parents, though, how it was to live in a country of war, bombardments, and genocide? [...]

### Insults from Opposition Unacceptable

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important that I conclude our achievement on this (accession) thanks to participations and efforts from all stakeholders involved.

We not only answered their questions and left them unattended. Ten years after becoming a member of WTO, We took stock and review our positions whether we had been going forwards or backtracking. We do not consider it done just to have gained accession to WTO. We make it our goal to gain the most interest from its accession.

### **Outward Looking Strategy to Keep Existing and Gaining New Markets**

I am calling on the Deputy Director General of WTO and other members of WTO to reserve understanding for the least developed countries who are working to gain accessions to WTO.

According to Cambodia's experiences, it was a fact that some countries found it hard to trust in Cambodia's true capacity. We have proven that since when we became a member.

Progress made in the country is closely relating to integration. It was not different to what then Vice Minister of Trade of the People's Republic of China had said – Cambodia and China's trade volume has grown compared to when Cambodia was not yet a member of WTO.

We are now pursuing an outward policy to keep existing markets and seek new ones [...]

### **Least Developed Countries Persistently Respect Rules**

As far as implementing the rules, I would say the least developed countries who are working to gain accession to WTO would persistently respect its rules than developed ones.

For instance, some countries are providing subsidies to their agricultural sectors. Rich countries are serious in their capital support resulting in developing countries are not able to import their produces to markets of the rich countries.

While at the same time, the rich countries themselves abuse rules of WTO. I seek the Deputy Director General of WTO to find a way to fix all this.

The rich countries produce exclusive products and demand this and that, and they got them. I think the rich countries have stronger role in facilitating trade than the developing countries [...]

### **A World of Openness, Mutual Dependence and Without Discrimination**

Countries in the world will go along and we would not be able to have a world that is divisive, where poor countries left in poverty and suffered protectionism from the rich countries. I would not believe that protectionist policy would be successful.

About two hours before President elect Donald Trump swore in, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, I reasoned that Trump's protectionism would not be successful. How could they for instance force US cars makers to return to the US, and prevent cars from Japan, Germany, Britain, Sweden, and others from coming in to the US, when their people do not appreciate using the US made cars?

When they choose to force them on their people, what would that be? It is a coercive economy or market. Maybe there is only one country in this world, and I do not have to mention by name, that forces people to use their own products.

I think that a world of open-

ness and mutual dependence is what we need. There was a professor (talking at the World Economic Forum's event) that predicted that the US and China would collide, and their fighting each other would place ASEAN in danger.

There was comment too that while elephants are in the fight, ants would be the ones to die. I then reminded the professor that was not what he should teach to his students.

I do not believe that the US and China would go into war. They have coordinating mechanism and complement each other. Though the US would be willing to go to war, China would not go along.

China will still be a big trade partner of ASEAN. In the last not even 100 days, trade relations between the US and China continues to be in good health as new signings by the US and Chinese investors indicate.

It is true that Donald Trump did say something in the electoral campaigns but trade is where goods are going to one another.

The two countries exchange 15,000 tourist arrivals to each other on a daily basis. I do not see how they can go to war.

### **ASEAN Holds Coordinating Role, TPP's Divisive Nature Ends**

On another matter, I told the meeting that ASEAN and members of ASEAN should not avail itself or themselves as grass under the elephants' feet. ASEAN plays coordinating role in every ASEAN plus meetings – with both China and the US. Why should ASEAN leave the two – the US and China to go to war, and bring about danger to ASEAN? ASEAN must play coordinating role [...] I may say that I wanted TPP to end. Why it was my wish? (I must say because I see that) it has a divisive nature. There ten

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tough competition in the world. Cambodia produces rice, while Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar also do. In the end, countries who buy rice are able to ask for lower price [...]

### **CIA Eavesdropping Going Free**

... This is all I have to say to remind our people about peace. It is required that we must defend peace. In other parts of the world, countries are still in conflicts ... There is this issue now about eavesdropping or tapping of phones and messages apps like WhatsApp, etc. To prevent this from happening, powerful nations must stop producing those equipments and, in fact, they produce those tools to listen about us. Some 70% of mobile phones these days are targets of tapping. In our country, when there are leaks like that, they bragged about being illegal. However, no one dare says the same thing to the CIA actions. CIA listened even to conversation of leaders in Europe [...]

countries in ASEAN, why only four selected to join TPP? President Donald Trump has signed an executive order to withdraw the US from TPP.

I may seek countries members of TPP understand what I am saying. Selected four only out of ten countries members of ASEAN was in fact a divisive move.

However, I am satisfied with and appreciate contributions of countries for ASEM to achieve regional comprehensive economic partnerships.

It was not because of the fact that the pact signed in Phnom Penh under my rotating chairperson of ASEAN Summit that I brought it up, but because it is a major part of economic, trade and investment relations./