



14-16 April 2017—Samdech Techo Hun Sen Honored the Celebration of the Angkor Sangkranta Ceremony of the Rooster Year

HRU Diploma Presenting Ceremony

(27 April 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Human Resource Becomes First Priority

[...] It has been a rare opportunity for Cambodia to have peace. With this hard-won peace, we have chances to develop Cambodia, in which Human resources has become one of the highest priorities. We have started with four words – water, road, electricity, and human resource to indicate our order of priorities for investments. We used the four words to indicate our priority areas for developments. In the fifth legislative term National Assembly Royal Government, we have reordered human resource to precede the four priorities. This reordering has pointed out for us to see how much now we have focused on human resource training, especially when the ASEAN Economic Community has become a reality.

Tomorrow I will leave for the ASEAN Summit. Minister of Education, Youth, and Sports HE Hang Chuon Naron will also join me in this trip because he is chairing the social and cultural community. ASEAN has three pillars – politics and security, led by Ministers of Foreign Affairs; Economics, led

by Ministers of Trade, and social and cultural affairs, for Cambodia, we have chosen the Minister of Education, Youth, and Sports as President.

Looking for External Job Markets

In the framework of AEC, flows of goods, services, and human resources, require skilled labors. To be able to work in foreign countries or not requires capacity or we cannot compete with locals. People may understand that it has been great efforts by the Royal Government to achieve external job markets for our people. We have been doing many works to get our workers legal status to reside and work in Thailand. We do the same in Malaysia [...]

We are seeking for jobs in numerous other countries. As I said the other days, we have now 40,000 workers in South Korea. It has been a tough competition among many countries for jobs there. Yesterday, in my discussion with the Prime Minister of Vietnam, I learnt that there are now 130,000 Vietnamese workers in South Korea. Thai also has many. We

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The Rooster Angkor Sangkranta

(14 April 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Today, my wife and I are so happy to return once again for the opening of the Angkor Sangkranta 2017. About five hours now, we have entered the year of Rooster. I thank Deputy Prime Minister Men Sam An for representing other leaders in welcoming the deity to take her turn to take care of human being. We have noted that to this year, Cambodia continues to be joyful in organizing the Angkor Sangkranta. On behalf of the Royal Government, I would take this opportune moment to welcome presence of Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Ambassadors, and foreign guests for joining us in this event.

Angkor Sangkranta – Five

Years in a Row, of the People and in Many Places

On behalf of the Royal Government, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the provincial authority, the armed forces and institutions concerned, for supporting works of the youth in preparing the Angkor Sangkranta five years in a row. I am taking this opportune moment to deliver my praise to the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC) for the initiative to organize Angkor Sangkranta in the last five years. It has been clearly their initiative and the event is getting bigger from one year to the next. Ang-

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Rewarding Petanque Gold Medalist

(22 March 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Khmer New Year and Gold Medal

May I invite Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, ladies and gentlemen, to join me in welcoming sportswoman Ouk Srey Mom, who has brought Cambodia, during the Khmer New Year, a new success and honor for the our nation and people [...] I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts made by both sportsmen/women and their trainers. I hope that we will continue to score more successes through tireless training to increase your skill and strength. The medal Ouk Srey Mom won today has gone through competition among 45 countries. It is not a simple matter. I am conveying my thanks to the federations of Petanque for their hard works [...]

I used to have information about Petanque development and successes in every competi-

tion through the late Deputy Prime Minister Sok An. That he already passed away, I am glad that Samdech Krola Haom Sar Kheng agrees to chair the Petanque federations. I agreed to allow Cambodia to host the world Petanque competition in 2019. I hope that more of our sportsmen/women will attend the competition and score more medals.

Today, with pride, I wish to thank the presence of Ms Ouk Kimly, mother of Ouk Srey Mom for her wonderful daughter who has brought fame for our nation. Captain Ouk Srey

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kor Sangkranta belongs to no particular person or group. It belongs to the whole people of Cambodia. We now have Sangkranta not only in Siem Reap Angkor but also in many other places. We hope that in following years, we would be able to have Sangkranta event organized according to the will of our people and local authority.

As we are organizing the Sangkranta event on the land of Angkor and heritages, may I join our youth and people in expressing our grief and thought of the late Samdech Vibol Panha Sok An for his contribution and support, and representing me twice in opening the Angkor Sangkranta [...]

Abstract and Visual Cultures Come Together

Well our gathering here in the next three days will bring to sight Cambodian cultures for our compatriots and foreign guests. I could remind you about what I said last year concerning a tripartite meeting of abstract, visual cultures and the organization by the UYFC. This year, we have added more art and cultural forms to the event. We have here the Cambodian Labok Kator martial art that has been around for thousands of years.

We have now made it one of our martial arts in the royal Cambodian armed forces. This has shown that Cambodia is a country of thousands years of age. We have brought to sight our national culture on the ancient land with abstract culture and become one of the world heritages. We are here to celebrate Angkor Sangkranta to put together various other abstract cultures on the land of culture in visual [...] as we have seen so many temples left throughout the country.

Benefit of Peace from Win-Win Policy

I have a great pleasure with sustained organization of the Angkor Sangkranta with supports given by authorities, but also participation of our youths who are themselves artists, sports-

men and sportswomen, and our people at large. No victory would come by itself and without the people's participation. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I have been so proud with our people for overcoming obstacles and standing up from ashes of wars and division, and finally prospering in peace.

We are actually benefiting from various achievements thanks to peace that we have won with many difficulties through the implementation of win-win policy. Siem Reap was the last part of the country to join national unity and to end the status of one country under many rules. In 1998, the country historically recorded its transformation from one under many rules at the same time to one united country, one Constitution, a King, a Royal Government and armed forces.

Average Economic Growth 7.7% in 20 Consecutive Years

Thanks to the achievement of peace and security, our people have been making great efforts to stand up and ensure the country's average economic growth at 7.7% in 20 consecutive years. Peace has brought us chance for socio-economic development and poverty alleviation.

With infrastructural connectivity, our people can travel wherever they wish, not only to Siem Reap but also to other sites. People's income has increased that allow our people to travel to enjoy the Sangkranta events on various sites. Workers in factories and enterprises have increased wages. Civil servants and armed forces also have increased salary and pension. Soldiers with disabilities also do. This is all possible because of peace.

I am taking this moment to express my sincere appreciation for our Buddhist monks, people, authority of every level, for their efforts in taking this country out of low-income or least developed status, and making it one of the lower-middle income countries. We have done this together. That we are together here today is an indication of

peace and security. We would not be able to do so in 1998 when travelling in the country would not be that free because of war.

Patience and Negotiation to Solve Conflicts in Syria and North Korea

Though it is our Khmer New Year, as a country member of the United Nations, Cambodia expresses its deep concern on situation that evolves in the Middle East, especially what is happening in Syria and North Korea. We are calling for restraint and patience to resolve all conflicts through negotiation. Strike by missiles or chemical weapon is a tragedy. Cambodia had been victim of such act and use. We understand how hard it is for the people in those countries torn by war. I hope the Cambodian people will work with me to defend the country's peace.

In Gratitude to Former Kings

That said, we must be grateful to our grand ancestors, our Kings and Queens, for the construction of so many temples and castles in this land. If they were to neglect with this efforts, we would not have a place where to organize the Sangkranta event. We also think of Samdech Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod Preah Norodom Sihanouk, who, since when Cambodia was under the Supreme Council of Cambodia, had sought national agreement to list the temple of Angkor Wat as one of the world heritages. Our current King, Samdech Preah Borommneat Norodom Sihamoni has always given high consideration and supports for national culture. That is our country's pride.

I am so proud that our people and leaders at all levels have been able to protect and safeguard magnificent cultural heritages left from our ancestors. The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts will continue to work to enlist both abstract and visual cultural heritages in the world's list. We must defend this pride and smile of Cambodia.

Open-Sky, Open-Water and Open-Land Policy to Welcome Tourists

In three days, we will be here together. My wife and I will also join you. I have a vision that more tourists will come to the land of Angkor in Siem Reap. We have brought to this country from nil to about five million tourist arrivals. We see that Siem Reap has grown from one or two old hotels there are now hundreds of them to welcome tourists. Through the implementation of open-sky policy, we have allowed direct flights from other countries to Siem Reap and that has attracted local and foreign investments to Siem Reap. I must recall recommendations of the former Prime Minister of Singapore Goh Chok Tong who said – "if I were HE Hun Sen, I would allow direct flight to Siem Reap." I was able to do that in 1997.

Local investors were not happy with this policy in Phnom Penh and had even prepared to go to the street against me. They thought the decision would bring down the tourist arrivals to Phnom Penh. However, some years later, those opposed the idea came and operate business in Siem Reap too. Cambodia implements open-sky, open-water, and open-land policies to attract tourists. I hope that our people in Siem Reap will enjoy the benefits of peace and security, and good infrastructure. I am sure the Angkor Sangkranta would bring them successes in businesses, especially those around the Angkor area [...]

A Happy Khmer New Year to All

Today, on behalf of the Royal Government, along with the Khmer New Year message in paper broadcasted already, please allow me to wish once again the New Year to His Majesty the King, Her Majesty the Queen Mother good health and longevity to stay as shade for the Cambodian people. I am delivering same wishes to the civil servants, the armed forces, to our people inside and outside the country and those troops who are fulfilling peacekeeping missions under the United Nations banner in South Sudan, Lebanon, Mali, the Central African Republic, etc...☐

NR 6 Jroy Jangva - Juncture Prek Kadam Inaugurated

(06 April 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Achievements of Comprehensive Strategic Cooperation and Friendship

... The wind and rain last night blew down tents erected to give shade to our people. People have had to sit or stand without roof today to put into operation officially the some Forty-Kilometre former national road 6A, running from Phnom Penh through Kandal to Kompong Cham provinces, financed by the People's Republic of China. I am so happy that we are here together with the Chinese Ambassador for the inauguration of this great achievement before the Khmer New Year, after we threw similar ceremony for the Morodok Techo Sports Complex the day before yesterday. These are achievements born from fruitful comprehensive cooperation, friendship and partnership between Cambodia and China.

Please allow me to give some background about how do we go about building this road. While visiting Cambodia in his capacity then as Vice President of the People's Republic of China, HE Xi Jinping approved my request. We had a signing ceremony to mark the agreement to use an amount of some 400 million USD on eight infrastructural projects on 21 December 2009. Among them, we had approved the funding to expand the National Road 6 from a width of 7 meters to 20 metres, two lanes on each side. Some economists in those days did not believe the National Road 6 play such important role in the Cambodian economic development.

In the 1990s, because of limited understanding of such role, road construction in Cambodia was only seven meters in width. In reality, the national road 6 has played a critical role in national economic growth. Minister of Transports and Public Works HE Sun Chanthol and HE Ambassador of China already shared with us on the road's importance. The national road 6 is in fact one of the busiest roads

in Cambodia and this section of the road connects Phnom Penh to various provinces through Kandal to the border with Thailand [...] I am sure that now economists understand how farsighted we are on construction of this road and the various roads connecting to it [...]

Looking for Help from China in Building a Road from Samlot to Koh Kong

... (the Chinese assistance) also built us the Cambodian-Chinese Friendship bridge at Prek Tamak and the national road 8. In the time to come, thanks to the visit of President Xi Jinping in Cambodia, we will rebuild the national road 11 that links the national road 1, crossing national road 8, through to national road 7. On the other side of the Tonle Sap River, the Chinese assistance helps us build the national road 5 with the Prek Kadam bridge [...]. Aside from ring road around Phnom Penh, we inaugurated recently, and I have a road construction map here with me, we are looking for assistance in building a ring road along the Cambodian border with neighbouring countries. We are considering asking our Chinese friend for a road that runs from Samlot of Battambang, through Thmoda of Pursat to Koh Kong/Kompong Som.

Thank China and Will Join the One Belt One Road Conference

I am taking this opportune moment to express to HE Ambassador and our Chinese friends and through them to the government and people of China, for always supporting the Cambodian infrastructural project. Whatever the Cambodian side decides is a priority, our Chinese friends always respect our decision, for instance to enlarge this road into a four lanes one. Now, in the comprehensive strategic partnership framework and this initiative of One Belt One Road, put out by President Xi Jinping, Cambodia and

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should look at the work availability beyond our border thanks to regional integration and relations that we have made with other countries. We are working to get more jobs in some countries in the Middle East for our Muslim community [...]

Family Incomes from External Job Markets

Aside from incomes made by workers in factories and enterprises in Cambodia, which is billion of US dollars, we also have in-flow of income that our workers are sending to their families. They are our national revenue. The Philippines has sent so many workers abroad. Some people have come in with comments that "before they know it, Cambodians have become waged workers for other countries." What do you say when we have over 8,000 Philippines workers in Cambodia? They are welcome [...]

Improve Capacity to Respond to Development Demands

We will need to have skills and capacity. When I visited Timor-Leste, I met with our people who are working as technical advisors for organizations, including the United Nations, there. I also met one Cambodian working for World Bank, while I was in Singapore. The World Bank sends him for a job in the Philippines. That is what I wanted Cambodia to become. I wanted Cambodia to be able to participate and many of our citizens will have chances to work for various UN organizations or international organizations. However, we must first strengthen our skills and capacity in order to respond ably to those sorts of jobs.

Knowledge Is the Best Property to Inherit

I have noticed happily that we have been making a stark difference from the time we commenced. In those days, we had to send many students, current Ministers of Education, Youth, and Sports and Economy and Finance included, for their studies in the former Soviet Union. Former generations have made efforts for the later generations

to grow and attain capacity to do jobs. We are doing that from one generation to the next. There is nothing better and long lasting than delivering knowledge. Parents may have some properties for their children but without inheritance of knowledge, it would be a mistake.

People can lose money in many different ways, gambling or fire, etc. However, people would not lose knowledge they have. Pol Pot tortured people physically and mentally, however, they could not remove knowledge and skills from them. It is in this note that I am calling on our state, families and each individual to make further efforts. From its part, the state has made it possible now for the country and family to grow because of peace. We have transformed our country from one with many rules to one under one Constitution, King, the Royal Government, and the armed forces [...]

Would Not Leave Youth/Children in Despair

(From my travels to provinces) I have seen that what we have achieved in the field of education in Monduliri is no less than in Phnom Penh. We have been able to ensure equal chance for our youth and children in education. It has not been by chance that we scored such achievement. I used to say that I would not leave Cambodian youth and children in despair as when I was their ages. I had to part away from my parents at 13 years old to continue my study (in Phnom Penh, where I stayed with Buddhist monks). Our major issue now is how to encourage parents and superintendants to send their children to schools and we are increasing investments in education.

We are putting in more new school buildings. We need more schools because of there is real growing demand out there. Some families had allowed their children to drop out of school to help with their works. We need to raise their awareness of im-

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Inaugurating Morodok Techo Indoor Stadium

(04 April 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Two Events in One Ceremony

Today, with HE Xiong Bo, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Cambodia, I have a great pleasure to welcome foreign and national guests, athletes, and sportsmen, to celebrate two events in one ceremony. Firstly, we inaugurate achievements constructed since 12 May 2013, and secondly, we launch the groundbreaking ceremony to build the main stadium sections with grant provided by China.

Why Cambodia Will Host SEA Games in 2030

Today our sports have scored various new achievements for the sake of its development. Please allow me to beg for your understanding once again as to why we have to prolong hosting of SEA Games to 2030. As is said by HE Thong Khon, President of the National Olympic Committee of Cambodia, countries in the region are taking turn to host the games every two years in alphabetical order. Cambodia failed to do so in 1960s, through to 1990s and in 2000s. As we all know, the country has the need to put together our devastated infrastructure and human resources. We also have the need to for the country's overall reconstruction and development.

We need to mobilize our financial resources for the construction of roads, bridges, water canals, hospitals, and schools for our people. It is in this reason that in 2011, we have decided to postpone our hosting turn. Until 2011, in Indonesia, I made it known to heads of states and governments of the ASEAN nations and asked for their understanding that Cambodia would not be able to hold its turn of hosting the games in such a short time and asked for it to hold the event in 2023.

I am taking this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks to heads of states and/or governments of the ASEAN

nations for their understandings of Cambodia's demand for its internal national construction and socio-economic development. We all know that to host such an event, a nation would need to spend as much as what it needs to build three or four bridges across the Mekong. That was why in those days, we did not dare ask our Chinese friend for financial help for the construction of the stadium. We instead asked its help to build bridges and roads.

I am sure our people, especially our sportsmen and athletes would not see failing to host SEA Games event as incapability of the Royal Government or the Cambodian People's Party. The decision was all because of our people's true need for infrastructure and socio-economic development, betterment of family's livelihoods after the country rose from war and genocide.

4-April Birth Date

Today is April 4, and people sent me birthday wishes. Let me clarify this a bit. In fact, it is not my true birth date. However, it is the day that I commenced my life transformation from a civilian to a member of the national liberation movement, after the coup on 18-March 1970 that brought down then head of state Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. War broke out and the country suffered foreign invasions. I recalled that on 4 April that year, there were 300 other young men reporting to the marquis. When they asked for my birth date, I just told them that very date, which is the date that I reported to the marquis – 4 April 1970. I pretended 4 April 1952 as my birth date.

My true birth date is 5 August 1952, or Tuesday, full moon day of Srap, dragon year. There is this problem than why it is 1951 and not 1952? On 8 January 1979, the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea made me its foreign minister, using my new birth date 4 April

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Mom will be a Major bestowed upon by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense. Captain Nhem Bora is also now a Major. This is our way of encouraging our sportsmen/women in both military and police ranks to make further efforts [...]

On April 4, 2017, we had a meeting to inaugurate the indoor section of the Morodok Techo Sports Complex and launched the groundbreaking ceremony to build other sections at the cost of 157 million USD. We have already built grounds for volleyball and basketball and other indoor sports competitions. We have moved in gradual step to victories or we can say a status of being equal in rights and footing with other countries. As I said, it is not always true that a bigger, richer, more populous country is doing better in sports. The key here is to have knowledge and to make efforts in training to betterment our skills and strength. Time has passed. We have tried together to avert the past tragedy, to remove obstacles and destructions, and make our way in gradual manner to a new era. That we never score gold medal before, we now do in world, regional and sub-regional (Sea Games, etc.) level competitions. We will have to make it to more sports subjects. I am calling on people who like sports to continue to offer encouragement and support our national sports movement as we have always done in the past ...

An Honor for Our Nation

Today, almost the whole cabinet is here present to welcome a victory that is bringing fame for our nation. The honor does not belong only to Ouk Srey Mom, Nhem Bora and Sreang Sorakhim, but to the whole nation. People who never like Cambodian achievements will continue to dissatisfy. Why do I say so? If they are satisfied with our national achievements, in this auspicious occasion, they could have sent a congratulatory message in social media to our heroes. They did not. They would not do anything like that be-

cause it would be an applause to the (ruling) Cambodian People's Party. It is a sad thing. They should know that this is not political party issue but one of our nation and political tendency should not be a matter here.

Is there congratulatory message from any social media of those groups of people? Not only for this victory but also for every victory the Cambodian sportsmen/women did before. That is one very strange nature of Cambodians. They would rather talk around later that Hun Sen spent too much money on sports. It could be a topic for their attack. When we organized boat race event in the water festival, they said we wasted money. When the water was low and we cancelled the boat race event, they blamed us for disrespectfulness of the tradition and/or mocked us for being afraid of demonstrations. Well, we have enough supports to represent our nation – the Royal Government born from the elections with a majority of the people. We represent the nation [...]

A Political Naivety

It is indeed a good time to say a few words. When I received the ASEAN Lifetime Achievement Award, for some clever dudes, they would send a few words to Hun Sen. Doing so would put Hun Sen in an awkward position. However, thanks to the naivety, Hun Sen owes no gratitude to anyone. In fact, a message saying "To Samdech, my congratulation to your award," would corner me and I would have difficulty either to reply or not to reply.

To reply, there would be no other words by thank. Not to reply I would be seen a mean man. That is politics. With such naivety, there is no need to communicate. We must remember that when one is in despair, we share it. On the contrary, in our despair, not share with us, but also insulted us. However, such extremism would leave a mark for our people to note of their discriminatory nature. That is how

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some other countries will benefit from it. China already earmarked 40 billion USD in 2015 for the Silk Road initiative and added up more of their assistance to the China-ASEAN framework. I thank China very much. I will take my time to participate in the conference on One Belt One Road in China in May, and conduct my official visit to China too.

Infrastructural Development Policy Distributes Economic Growth Equitably

... Our main objective is to focus on infrastructural development. It continues to be the prioritized policy of the Cambodian People's Party in the course of its leadership. There is no better and more equitable choice than using economic growth and receiving support from friends in developing infrastructures such as roads, water canals, electricity, and those relating to education and health. For example, to build a road. People – rich or poor – are traveling on it. It also narrows the gaps between those in urban and rural areas. While people in the city have access to asphalted roads, people in rural also do. The same is true with regard to electricity. It is in this regard that we have the need to seek more funding from development partners, and our friend, the People's Republic of China, has become the biggest financier [...]

Cost of Road Construction Adds Up Impact Costs

... To build or expand a road is always bearing impacts. We have provided counterpart funding of about 6 million USD to resolve issues relating to impacts, and mines and/or UXOs. As for this road, along with loan of 68 million USD from China, we also spent, with tax included, this much of money making its total cost 88 million USD. However, the cost of building this road in cash total 70 million USD [...]

We have decided to build up this road to help with settlement of our people in this part of the city. People could have under-

stood why the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to build a sports complex Morodok Techo in the area of Prek Tasek. Well, in any case, Prek Tasek in 2023 will not be far (because of infrastructural development) [...]

This is what we have achieved in infrastructural development and it gives us the opportune moment to realize high economic growth within 7.7% over the past 20 years, and later after the world and regional financial crisis and economic downturn, we have maintained a growth within 7%. It is because of such sustained growth thanks to the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party and the Royal Government that Cambodia has liberated itself from low-income country status to lower-middle income country. We will keep the momentum [...]

There Will Be Development As Long As There Is Peace

I think I should not continue because I have spoken too much. Tomorrow I will hurry to participate in the National Assembly session and listen to the message of HM the King. After that, I will leave for another meeting with some four thousand civil servants [...] I thank the company Shanghai and its technical consultant for their very good jobs. I thank Samdech, Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, especially people from Kandal province and from Phnom Penh, for their presences in this auspicious ceremony.

Originally, this section here was formerly parts of Kandal province. They have just become parts of Phnom Penh lately. In 1988, I made a decision to cut out some parts of Kandal province (to make them parts of Phnom Penh), while its border was before up to the bridge of Jroy Jangva. In those days when HE Thong Khon was mayor of Phnom Penh. We sent youth and officials from various institutions in Phnom Penh to clear the forest in this area. The idea was to take away former Khmer Rouge forces to mount

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importance of education for their children. However, now people at younger age are not as desperate as I was [...] for knowledge and know-how, you must make efforts. We now have better chance ever because we have peace, infrastructure and school buildings throughout the country [...]

Authorities to Respond to Natural Disaster

Please allow me to make an appeal to local authorities of all levels and the armed forces to be prepared and get ready to respond to natural disaster as we had come across in the last few days. This year, the weather condition seems to have been a menace and creates our people in some regions many hardships.

According to weather forecast, the first typhoon Muifa is on the move. Each country has rights to name two typhoons. Now Muifa is in the Philippines but it seems that Muifa will weaken in the sea. However, in Cambodia, we have a clash of weather between hot and cold temperatures that is very hard to imagine. We are anticipating, according to Water Resource and Meteorology Minister, HE Lim Kean Hor, there will be strong winds and lightning on 28 and 29 April in Cambodia.

[...] I am calling on concerned authorities to be vigilant and prepared, to respond with immediate interventions in impacted areas, along with assistance provided by the Cambodian Red Cross and their local offices everywhere. Where such bad weather impacts caused human death or injuries, and/or damages of housing, they would need intervention to help with the housing reconstruction and/or whatever that the real situation of the place demands.

I would seek Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces to issue orders to local forces to get ready to help people in cases of emergency. Last year we had this calamity of drying water sources and we had to provide people with drinking water. This year, rainy season seems to

have come early.

On this occasion, I would ask the media – traditional or online, to provide news on weather condition to our people so that they will be informed. Many of our people are using smart phones and they have access to internet too. They would be able to know as soon as the news is available [...]

Cambodia Asks for Amendment of the 2002 Repatriation Agreement

There is one other thing that I have to elaborate. The Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation have already elaborated to a certain extent, days ago, concerning the **Repatriation Agreement between Cambodia and the United States of America**. It was about deportation of Cambodians who are permanent residents in the US to Cambodia if they are convicted of felony. Some people said that Cambodia annulled the agreement between Cambodia and the US unilaterally. We do not annul it but ask for amendment on the Agreement on ground of humanity and human rights. It is a sad thing.

You may think about this with me. Being jailed in the US was one thing but when they are sent to Cambodia away from their families who are in the US, what do you think? It is a separation. It is indeed one of the basic human rights. We wish to amend the point. It is a life separation. It is immoral.

I hope the US administration understands the good will of the Royal Government of Cambodia. We are not asking to annul the agreement, especially the point relating to article 98 of the **Rome Statute of the International Criminal**, but we seek to make an amendment on deportation of felony convicted Cambodians who permanent residents in the US to Cambodia. We consider this a family separation of our people [...]

This is to inform our people so that they clearly understand the

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1952. However, in a CV sent out, there was a typical error that my birth date had become in 1951 instead of 1952. It has gone on until today. However, I am grateful to everyone who makes me a birthday wish [...]

I have always used my birthday as my day of action to put into official use or to launch a construction. This afternoon, we will have a gathering and solidarity dinner with sportsmen and athletes with some 3,000 participants. I hope we will have some good songs and music to dance [...]

Indoor Stadium Facilities Welcome

I take this moment to express my sincere appreciation for HE Thong Khon as well as the working groups for their efforts to make these achievements possible, whereas here we have swimming pools with ability to host dancing-in-water sports or synchronized swimming. Aside from what we have in the provincial city of Kompong Cham, here we have international standard swimming pools [...] the indoor stadium facilities can commence related training and competitions now. The stadium of Morodok Techo will stretch over an area of 85 hectares. We have now completed the first phase of construction. People may come from near and far places to visit the stadium [...]

China's Biggest Non-Interest Aid Ever to Foreign Country

As for the second phase of the project, we will launch the construction of the main stadium with the grant aid from the People's Republic of China. President Xi Jinping told me in one of our meeting that China offered its non-interest assistance for the construction of the Cambodia's national sports complex, which is relating mainly to football field section, with architecture and organization that HE Ambassador just said, is the People's Republic of China's biggest ever non-interest aid to foreign country. I depend on HE Ambassador to relay my sincere appreciation and thanks to HE President Xi Jinping, HE

Premier Li Keqiang, and other leaders of the Communist Party of China, the Government and people of China for their generous support for sports of Cambodia. This is a part of cultural and sports relations between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the People's Republic of China in our comprehensive strategic partnership framework [...]

Morodok Techo Sports Complex Hosts Local, Internationally Friendly Games

It has been a thorough effort put into the construction either architectures or constructors. We have figured out different options and possibilities to resolve needs of security. We have to figure out how to evacuate 60,000 people in seven minutes should there be any incident while watching competitions. It will become a sports complex where we will host local training and competition, but also internationally friendly and regional hosting games. It would be difficult if we were to depend solely on own financial ability. The third phase mentioned by HE Thong Khon to complete the construction of the Morodok Techo Sports Complex, we would need international standard tennis courts, hockey halls, shooting hall, hostels for 400 sportsmen and 300 trainers. We have not had the source of funding yet and I hope that China will fill in any shortcoming we may face. I will not raise this matter in my forthcoming visit in May because China just offered us a big help and we have not even finished with the construction yet. We may prolong the time but will surely think that China could be helpful.

The Country's Peace and Stability Allows Sports Practice

We have now buildings and facilities needed for competition, either here and in some other places. We must strengthen our sport capacity. This evening, I will have an off-the-cuff speech in a dinner that we throw for our sportsmen. That

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tiate in the World-Trade Organization framework to search for a more balancing trend of selling goods from developed countries into developing countries, and developing countries' goods into those markets of developed countries. Perhaps the most urgent and bigger issue is to reduce or stop immediately agricultural subsidies policy. Should it continue we would have less hope that goods from developing countries could get in markets of developed countries [...]

We noticed that trade war between rich countries is going on. It has been so frequent that so and so produces are infected. It is all trade war and it bears a heavy blow on agriculture. In South Korea, farmers would go on strike against imports of American beef. I hope countries in the framework of World Trade Organization would seek to work together to harmonize trade and economic relations.

Seeking Markets for Farmers

I am seeking our farmers to understand this gravity. The Royal Government would wish very much to open up new market access. We export our rice to Europe because we have less competition there since our rice is fragrant type and organic. It is in this understanding that we are asking our farmers to choose the best seeds and refrain from using toxic chemical solution in their culturing techniques or we may risk losing markets. We have words around about hiding this or that in the sack. Losing a market and market trust is another major disaster. We export most of our fragrant rice to France, and secondly to Poland. In Asia, we export some 300,000 tons of rice to Vietnam. We have export quota increasing from 100,000 to 200,000 tons of rice to China. With these two countries, we have secured export of 500,000 metric tons of rice.

On the course of the visit by the President of the Philippines, I brought this issue up with him. The Philippines is food insufficient and needs to buy rice.

Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam are bidding to supply rice to the Philippines. Cambodia failed because its cost of producing rice is higher and therefore its bidding price is high. I then asked the President of the Philippines to invest 100% in purchasing, processing and exporting rice to the Philippines by its investors. They could serve as supplier of rice to the country. This is one example of how the Royal Government of Cambodia is seeking for market for the country's agricultural produces. I am appealing to our people though to respect production and trade rules in ensuring true seed quality and free of chemical, etc.

Agricultural Crops Zoning

In time to come, we may have to do crop zoning. We should start zoning where we grow rice for export because our farmers and agricultural technicians all know what it is. Let say, we have reserved 10,000 hectares of land for export-quality rice cultivation, and a few hectares of land nearby grow a different rice species, we would not be able to ensure the pure quality of rice yield for cross pollination. All in all we all should see that our farmers have moved away now from subsistent agricultural farming to farming to serve market demand locally and for export. Our farmers should see that to achieve high price, they would have to use the best quality rice seed that will answer to demand for export [...]

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issue. I have offered you background information, and its involvement now. I hope (the United States of) America, father of democracy and human rights will consider our request for amendment of the Repatriation Agreement between Cambodia and the United States of America to allow felony convicted Cambodians with permanent residences in the US to stay on and close to their families in the US, should they be deported back. They should not receive punishment for their whole lives [...]

Meeting 317-Kulen Handicapped Soldiers

(13 April 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

More Attentions Paid on Soldiers with Disability and Veterans

It is a great pleasure for me that my wife and I, with other leaders, have come back again to meet with all of you after our meeting last year also before the Khmer New Year. I have listened to the report by the Director of the (317 Kulen Maimed Soldiers Centre) with regard to its development. I also have chance to talk to a soldiers and a maimed soldiers in the group sitting in front of us about salary, pension and other entitled regimes. I satisfy with the way the management has been doing for our soldiers. That may include also other national institutions such as the Ministry of Economy and Finance, which provides, through the logistic department of the Ministry of National Defense, salary – adding up with increase and Khmer New Year bonus – in a timely manner. According to information that I gathered here the minimum salary or pension here is no less than one million Riel.

It is indeed a great thing that we have been able to set up the centre that provides shelter and residence for our maimed soldiers. That I have come here I still have not had chance to make it to other centers such as Ta Ken Koh Sla and Phnom Chhat. Though I have not been able to go to inaugurate the centre in Phnom Chhat, I have report that they have been doing very well in putting up a centre and buildings homes for maimed soldiers. I also have many orphanages and centers of handicap children to visit too. In the last years, we have been paying more attention and doing more works for people with disability not only though residing in the centers but also through veteran associations to provide homes construction. Maimed soldiers may have homestead land and we provide them with materials and/or money to build their own homes.

National Peace Inseparable from Sacrifices of Maimed Soldiers

A maimed soldier in Siem Reap commented in my Facebook account. I do not know if he is residing in this center or not. He talked about the fact that the Royal Government has provided him a house and he told me about his two children, one who studied with the Hun Sen scholarships and finished tertiary education and the other is in his third year. We have indeed paid attentions to families and families' members of soldiers with disabilities and veterans. We are not able regain losing parts of our body. You are not able to get back your foot or hand, or arms, and I will not get back my eye. In three more days, 16 April 2017, it will be the 42nd anniversary that I lost one of my eyes in 1975. That eye is not going to return. However, I can stand up and prevent myself from falling into physical disability and poor mental condition.

There have been many examples of maimed/disabled soldiers have overcome their difficulties and provided chances for their children to continue their studies. Some of them have finished their tertiary educations and found jobs for themselves. I must keep on appealing to every disabled soldier, the veterans included, to stand up for your dignity, your family, and your children's proud future. I am calling on wives of maimed soldiers to take no shame of being their partners. When you are becoming couples, either before or after your marriage, please do not leave them. I am calling on maimed soldiers to take no blame on own selves for being maimed fathers but be proud for sacrificing their flesh and blood for the motherland [...]

CPP and RGC Not Abandon Soldiers with Disability and Veterans

I am grateful to efforts made by our maimed soldiers in the cen-

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much already they could do even when they are not in power yet.

Voting for Peace or War

That the Cambodian People Party is in power everyone can live together. Peace is real. Everyone can do their business according to their ability and resources. Youth would also have rights to choose what they wanted for their lives. We also have open chances for everyone in sports. When the Cambodian People Party is, however, not there, are we sure that there is going to be peace? Accusing so and so of being so and so, insulting, disgracing continues to be in the minds of their leaders and supporters. It is an advice for the forthcoming elections. Shall we vote for continuing peace or returning to war? The Cambodian People's Party

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H12 rockets threatening Phnom Penh [...]

Look, in 1970s, the war exploded and people suffered. They had to go through bombardments and deaths every day. The genocide also took people's life and property. We have made great efforts with involved parties for the achievement of national reconciliation and peace. Finally, after spending some two billion USD, UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) withdrew and left Cambodia under two controls – one under the Phnom Penh government and another under the Khmer Rouge along the Thai-Cambodian border.

Once again, I had to risk my life again to enter the former foe's areas for the sake of ending protracted war created by the former generations. With rebellions led by Ee Chhien and Sok Pheap in Pailin and Malai, I took the opportune moment to work for integration of Oral area under Keo Pung's leadership through win-win policy. We all are sitting together now. We all are Cambodians. This has been the core essence of national reconciliation ./.☐

would definitely be a choice of peace and chance for development. This is not a campaign. It is just an advice for peacekeeping for the country to guarantee continued development.

Now look at what tragedy they have had so far in Iraq, Syria, Libya, etc. Would our Cambodian people want those? The role of a ruling party is so important for peace. It would not be peace and national reconciliation because of just a few words as Pol Pot promised in exchange for drops of arms (when they took power from Lon Nol). What happened then? War and genocide came. Would it be a way to go about changing the country to do thing like the coup on 18 March 1970? It changed the country indeed, from peace under the leadership of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk to a real war, and went on to genocide. Is that what voters want? Do we vote to build up peace or to remove it? We vote for continued development or remove it?

There would not be sports competitions under exchange of fire. Our sportsmen/women would not risk their lives to compete in such situation and I, as Prime Minister of the country, would not allow you to go too. Aside from ISIS threat, we have other risks of terrorism. We all should see the value of peace. For those shortcomings, we must continue to rectify them. The same is true in sports [...] Trainers have rules to follow and no one can just make them sound good in words.

Perhaps I have spoken too much. I just remind you that the Peace Palace is not a war headquarters and I did not build it for me to be in here until I die. No one lives to be one thousand. I do hope though to live to no less than 90 years old. I would not be a Prime Minister until I got to that age. However, these buildings are for younger generations ... This is a meeting room where heads of states and governments, including the President of the United States of America, gathered. We bestow congratulatory and reward on our sports heroes in here too ...☐

Closing Annual Conference of Agriculture

(10 April 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

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

Continue Research and Development of Seeds

I think that CARDI (Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute) will play very important role in the context of world's difficulty in the climate change era. I hope that CARDI will continue to make efforts in seeds research and development that will be resilient to a changing climate. We are now surviving in a climate condition between 35 and 36 degree Celsius, however, once the weather temperature rises, we cannot keep using seeds that we have. We need to get new seeds ready. I am encouraging our officials and technicians in CARDI to make efforts in searching and developing for new seeds – staple food, crops and even flowers [...]

Processing Industry to Increase Agricultural Value

Our challenge has been how to advance our agriculture. We need to address the currently limited processing industry issue since we have not made advancement in processing, rice milling included. I have met the other day with director of UNIDO and I have informed him about wish for processing industry development to increase value for material resources that are available in Cambodia. We may see that as one disadvantage and are making tireless efforts to figure that out. We are calling on private sector to invest in this front.

Agricultural Prices Alternate to Low

Exporting agricultural produces or marketing them has been a challenging issue for farmers in Cambodia, in the region and in the world. So far, the price of rice has been dropping that makes our farmers unhappy. In between 2008 and 2010, prices of agricultural produces were

better and our farmers were taking that chance to reap the benefits of it, while the world was in financial crisis and economics downturn. The price of rice or agricultural produces went up. Our farmers saw that as an advantage to increase their production. We have a surplus now of more than five million tons of paddy rice, or about three million metric tons in milled rice. However, we should remember that Cambodia is not the only country that produces rice [...]

Vietnam has been exporting roughly five million metric tons of rice yearly. Laos has been subsistent in its rice production. Myanmar also exports rice. India, furthermore, has one of the biggest rice stocks because it has a population of 1,300 million. So many countries are producing rice. While so, countries of similar produces are competing with one another. Developed countries, in this instance, are producing other goods that not many countries can compete. Example, there are companies making planes like Boeing of the US and Airbus of Europe. Many other countries are making helicopters. Many customer countries buy from them [...] their competition is different. In Davos, Switzerland, attending the world economic forum, it took me to my surprise that representatives come from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Middle East, and Europe, were complaining about high price of food, while developing countries are considering it low [...] there was a time when price of food was not balancing with price of oil. In Cambodia, about 92% of our farmers are using pulled tractors already. People bought them at a dear price and paid for oil and maintenance. They also have to purchase fertilizer too.

Trade War

This is a big issue and we will have to work together with other developing countries to nego-

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we have good sports facilities is not sufficient. We have noticed that our sports field has progressed from one stage to another. I am so satisfied with what HE Xiong Bo has just said about that fact that Cambodia is currently benefiting from a great achievement, the prime reason of which is the environment of peace and stability.

Sport is a good activity that proceeds well in environment of peace. Some country and regions, where war is real, sport is a valuable goods of one's dream. They cannot achieve it. When we are practicing sports with pleasure, please do not forget about peace and be grateful to it. It is an undeniable truth that Cambodia itself had come across and some other countries too. Countries in war would not be able to yield their imaginations to realize sports dream. In 1960s, under the leadership of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's sports made big progress. However, they fell when the country had war.

We have made gradual recovery and because of the fact that war has ended and there are no more divisions of the country, one country one Constitution, one King, one Royal Government and armed forces, we are able to make all these happen. It is in this understanding that we all must hold tightly to peace that we have achieved with lots of difficulties and loss of lives [...]

Sports Federations to Strengthen Capacity

I thank every sports federations for their efforts in various stages and hope that they will continue to strengthen capacity of their related sports activities. I am calling our people to also participate and support sports. I have appealed to our people on the opening of the first national sports day for our people to practice at least one sports [...]

Morodok Techo Sports Complex – A Heritage for Generations

I have no more to say as I have

spoken a lot yesterday, today, this evening. I hope that our people will be happy to receive the national achievement that will last for generations on this 85 hectares land. I am sure our people are thankful to the government and people of China for its provision of non-interest assistance to build such a huge sports complex for international standard competition not only for our generation but for the younger generations to come./

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ter. According to the report of the director, I have learnt that there have been contributions to build a Buddhist pagoda. I have also learnt that some houses are inaccessible to water. I am sure my wife (as President of the Cambodian Red Cross) will look into the matter. We must do whatever we can to make water accessible to them even if we have to dig a well for each house. I am urging the Ministry of Rural Development to take charge of digging more wells. Some soldiers who have severe disabilities, they may need a well in their houses. You can rest assured that the Cambodian People's Party and the Royal Government of Cambodia will not abandon you. With limited resource ability, we will continue to respond to your conditional requirements.

... We will continue with salary increase. You may note that when the overall salary for civil servants and the armed forces increase, you also will receive the advantage. However, I am calling on your personal efforts to work on and make use of the land provided to you and your families. Wells provided will not only serve the need for daily consumption but also for family cropping.

I urge that teachers and medical practitioners pay attention to helping children of maimed soldiers so that they can have proper education and good health [...] it is my advice that the management will maintain pride of the soldiers who had sought peace for the country .../