



Kingdom of Cambodia  
Nation Religion King



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN  
President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Cabinet

## Press Statement

The Cabinet of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, is honored to inform the public, both domestically and internationally, about the criteria used by three universities in Thailand to evaluate the merits of Samdech Techo Hun Sen before deciding to confer upon him honorary doctoral degrees, as follows:

1. Ramkhamhaeng University awarded an honorary doctorate to Samdech Hun Sen, former Cambodian Prime Minister, in 2001 to recognize his contributions to fostering good neighborly relations, friendship, and cooperation between Cambodia and Thailand. The award's criteria centered on his perceived role in promoting peace and stability in the region.

The primary reason for the honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree in Political Science, conferred on November 15, 2001, was to acknowledge Samdech Hun Sen's efforts in strengthening the relationship between Thailand and Cambodia. The university's official statement at the time praised him for promoting peace and cooperation, which aligns with the general purpose of honorary doctorates: to recognize individuals who have made significant, positive contributions to society, whether at a national or international level.

The basis for the degree was an evaluation of Samdech Hun Sen's contributions. The university's regulations state that honorary degrees are for individuals who have made significant contributions to society and who uphold the values associated with the degree. The criteria applied would have included an assessment of his actions and policies as Prime Minister of Cambodia, specifically those related to improving bilateral relations with Thailand.

2. Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat University awarded an honorary doctorate in Education for Local Development to Samdech Techo Hun Sen, former Prime Minister, in 2006.

The specific criteria cited for this award were:

- **Contribution to Education:** The university recognized Hun Sen's significant contributions to the field of education.
- **Dedication to People's Well-being:** He was honored for his unwavering determination to improve the well-being of the Cambodian people.

- **Improvement of Cambodia-Thailand Relations:** The degree was also a tribute to his role in the vast improvement of relations between Cambodia and Thailand.

3. Krirk University, a private university in Thailand, awarded an honorary doctorate to Samdech Techo Hun Sen, former Cambodian Prime Minister, in March 2019. The degree was a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Communication.

According to the university's president, the degree was conferred to recognize Samdech Techo Hun Sen's achievements in "liberating and rebuilding Cambodia." The university's statement highlighted his use of political communication in his efforts to overthrow the Khmer Rouge regime and to bring an end to decades of civil war. The award was also intended to acknowledge his role in national reconciliation and his leadership, which, according to the university, led to a landslide victory in the 2018 election.

The criteria for the award to Samdech Techo Hun Sen in this case were tied to:

- **Political Achievements:** Recognizing his long tenure as a political leader and his success in navigating Cambodia's post-conflict era.
- **Political Communication:** The specific nature of the degree suggests that his use of communication to achieve his political goals was a key factor.
- **National Reconciliation and Development:** His contributions to ending civil war and rebuilding the nation were cited as primary reasons for the honor.

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