



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen with people in Kompot during a flood observation (Photo: Ngjin Sophea, TVK)

22 August 2009 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
At Drought Affected Area of Bakan District, Pursat Province

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be able to come here and be with all of you but I am also feeling unhappy about the fact that many areas have been affected with drought though we have solved water shortage situation here. In 2004 I also came to Bakan district of Pursat. It was when rice showed their grains and there was water shortage. It was worse. As we are in the stage of transplanting now it is easier to help with.

In 2004 I went to Sante commune and saw the “camouflage rice” seeds being transplanted there. When I arrived in Damnak Ampil, I saw that “showcase rice” was in its graining stage. Having been to many places throughout the country, I may give my remarks that Bakan could be one of the most serious drought affected areas. Other areas include Kravanh, Kroker and Kandieng districts of Pursat province; Preah Sdech, Kanjriech and Mesang districts of Prey Veng province, and Samraong, Bati of Takeo province.

However, while we suffer drought in some places we also have had good rain in others. Now it seems that rains started to be more regular. What is more important for us is that we have water reservoir which could be used when drought as such is being observed. There have been positive efforts to help our farmers with – take for instance pumping machines are provided by the Water Resources Ministry and some by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, whereas oil is being provided by generous persons. Take for instance the military of the region has provided oil to some communes of Kravanh district and the same is being observed in Kompot.

I may take it as the effect of my order since 2004 that places where there is water sources we must do everything we can to save rice. There are two orders that do not have their expiration dates – 1) in 1985, soon after I became the Prime Minister I

(Continued on page 2)

12 August 2009 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Conferring Diplomas of Law and Economics at RULE

I am so glad today to have come here again to do two things – 1) to confer 1,312 graduates with their diplomas and 2) to put into official use a new four-storey building under the name “Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.” This is my 10th presence since the University operated in 1996, not to mention my visits when it was then the “School of Administration and Legal Cadres” which was established in 1982. I gave lectures a couple of times here at the time. One of my latest presences here was to put into official use the library building which is in the compound of Boeung Tra Bek High School and to confer also diplomas for RULES graduates.

Today’s celebration is being organized at a place, which was before inundated and unknown to me, a building as such could be built. It is a new achievement. On behalf of the Royal Government and my wife, I would like to share with all of you joy and success that you have made by your efforts. This should also be shared with your families, parents and/or superintendents whose efforts and hardships have contributed to your successes. This is a magnificent gesture as the graduation will indeed contribute to the development of human resources of our country as is mentioned clearly by HE Im Sethy, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports and HE Yuok Ngoy, Rector of the

(Continued on page 3)

05 August 2009 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Conferment of Diplomas at Build Bright University

... I am so glad that we have a chance to be together once again for this ceremony to confer diplomas and celebrate graduations for 4,709 students, some of whom have already taken up jobs, of the Build Bright University (BBU). May I seek your understanding that my wife has a prior engagement that she could not make it today to be with me here and I have come a little late too because of latest communication about possible flood in the Mekong due to influx of water made way down from Laos to our province of Stoeung Treng. I had to contact the Minister of Water Resources and Meteorology and Governor of Stoeung Treng for updates since negligence on this matter would catch us off guard in terms of flood management in

the Mekong.

However, we are now meeting and I am so happy for that. I have been informed that some of the graduates have already taken jobs but we have made it our meeting today to celebrate graduation and diploma conferment. I wish to take this opportune moment to give my appreciation to the progress made by BBU which up to now has been in service nine years already, as it was first in operation in 2000 as a faculty and then a university. According to

(Continued on page 4)

In This Issue

- Bakan Drought Area — p. 1
- RULE Graduation — p. 1
- BBU Graduation — p. 1

(Continued from page 1)
order that no one should be left to die of hunger without our knowledge or help. The order to save rice from being affected from drought in areas where there are water sources became the second one. Still some places we do not have water sources that make us difficult to fulfill this ambition.

Why do I come back again to Damnak Ampil where the water management system is being put in place? I wanted to clarify the meaning of water expansion or expansionism. It is political or diplomatic term so I need to simplify the term for our people to understand what it means. According to our master plan, if it were to be finalized, we would be able to irrigate an area of 27,000 hectares of rainy season rice and 2,500 hectares of dry season rice. The area coverage would reach all the way to Mong Russei of Battambang province.

However we could not get everything done in one stroke here in Pursat. We have 24 provinces and municipalities. There are enormous and numerous tasks to be fulfilled. So parts of the plan for Damnak Ampil have not yet been fulfilled. However, in the commune of Tropeang Jung, we have a canal being dug and would be ready after we finish the remaining 8 kilometers. I would order to HE Lim Kean Hor and HE Suy Sem to bring in and manage construction machines as fast as they can to get the water up here and let's bother about its pavements later. We have to work as fast as we can to get canals done for areas where we have water sources.

Another issue of concern not only for people in Bakan but elsewhere in the country is rice seedlings. Take for instance the seedlings that I transplanted just now is over its potentially growing age (seedling that is left untransplanting beyond its normal time). But our people have no other choice. I would suggest the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries

and Forestry to pay attention together with provincial, district and communal authorities to come up with what I would call common seedling beds.

According to our prediction, there would not be such a drought. Please be understood because it is a prediction or forecast, it is just a guess of what the weather would be. The forecast is that there will be rain in September, but because the Chinese have rescheduled their water god blessing from August to September, we could no longer wait for our chance to get rain. We should be prepared and one of the steps is what I called the common rice seedling beds. So each province should prepare its own seed beds in accordance with the level of rain water—like in Pursat, the amount of rain has been recorded to be 577 millimeters, whereas in Kompong Cham, 1,063 millimeters, in Kompot, 1,400 millimeters and Koh Kong, up to 2,161 millimeters. However, Kompong Speu recorded 585 millimeters of rain only.

Based on these records, I would appeal that first, areas where there are water sources, pumping machines must be provided to bring water to needed rice fields. But once the water is there in the canal, I would seek our people's efforts to get the water from there by their own means. We also need to change old habit. Some places rain has come in April, May and June but our people tend to wait for until later to transplant rice. It is our old way that is left long ago by our ancestors. Old habit dies hard. Judging from the report compiled by the Ministry of Agriculture, by August we have accomplished rice cultivation of up to 82.56% of our plan. It is our common view that if it is the figure that is reported to the Ministry of Agriculture, the true figure could be 7% more.

The rice cultivation area is 300,000 hectares more than the same period last year. This could be a clarification that our people

have been working hard and what has been accomplished here in Damnak Ampil is a motivation for us to increase help. Why? It is simple to understand. People started cultivation right when there is rain or water. I used to say that when we have water we have to work in the field. Some areas not far from here have been discouraging because they have water and pumping machines, but there is no rice in the field. That is why I said we have to work hard on changing our habit.

Elsewhere in the world, there is this report of Tsunami, land erosion, storm, global warming warning, flood, etc. whereas Cambodia, despite some minor incidents of flooding caused from rain in the area around Preah Vihear, some strong wind in Ratanakiri, is still considered lucky and safe from those harsh disasters. However, if we were not to change our habit in response to climate change, or if the climate does not really change in Cambodia, Cambodians need to change their habit from growing long-term rice to medium or short-term rice. Doing so would help us to reduce dependency on rainwater. As we are here now I still have concern toward end of the season.

I have not allowed use of reserve fund yet. Cambodia has got its reserve for flood situation and also for drought. We also have in reserve our seed and food stock. As a state buffer stocks they are not for everyone but only for those in immediate and real need. Even if we have good weather pattern, I would suggest that our people opt for cultivating medium while reducing cultivation of floating and long-term rice. This year we have increased the cultivation area of short-term rice to 433,000 hectares, which 83,000 hectares more than last year. Medium term rice cultivation has increased to 839,000 hectares, which is 170,000 hectares more than last year, while long-term rice has been cultivated at 453,000 hectares, which is also

49,000 hectares more than the previous year too.

Taking this opportune moment I would like to appeal to all state institutions to bring down use of oil. All institutions, except the military and intervention agents, will have to exercise oil use reduction. While this policy is not being implemented for the military and police in defense purpose and social order, however, in other sector it is bearing its effect too.

Today is August 22, which is almost a month ago it was my real birthday, which was on full moon on lunar calendar, the year of dragon. My official birth date, which is being taken after the day when I entered the marquis in response to the appeal by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, is on April 4. It was because of the fact that the country was invaded and because of the invasion that we had this Pol Pot story. It all started when Gen. Lon Nol launched a coup against Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. The coup deprived the country of peace and had brought to the country the most serious damage that no one would dare talk about.

Some people are afraid that if they talk about the issue they would have to raise the involvement of the US, which they think would make the US stop its assistance. I am not afraid of that and therefore I am talking about it. It is the truth in our history that cannot be hidden like what Kaing Guek Iev (Duch—the head of Pol Pot Security Camp 21) said the mandarin leave (which small in size) could not bring to hide behind it a dead elephant.

Every body knows about this fact that the US brought their troops into Cambodia. Some ASEAN countries also had come to Cambodia in the past—the Philippines and Thailand. There is no need to be afraid of talking about this. Vietnam entered Cambodia in

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 1)

Royal University of Laws and Economics.

I would in this instance share with you my thought and appreciation on a remarkable aspect of private sector participation and investment in the field of education. Weeks ago I talked about private investment contribution for the development of the school and to offer fee-paying education opportunity. Today, conferring diplomas in a state university, where students are also allowed to pay for their studies, I wish to reiterate once again the wise management or organization for those students, who have finished their secondary school, to be able to continue their education as fee paying students.

Let me have your attention that, in all, the size of investment in the field of education has been quite big because aside from the amount covered from the state coffer, each family has also made its own contribution too. This has indeed augmented the meaning of education for all and all for education policy. The fee paid by students not only pays for teaching but also, as we have seen in front of us all today, for marvelous achievement that we have seen before us.

This is a special development and achievement that we have realized and come across. This has clearly demonstrated efforts by each individual and family which results in not only education achievement but also building and maintenance of school building as well. Once again in the name of the Royal Government of Cambodia and my own name, I would like to express my sincere appreciations and congratulations to all graduates and their families and from here place my hope on every one of you to make use of your works for family and society. I also encourage you to continue your study according to the possibility you may have so as to garner further knowledge.

Let me take this opportune moment to give a few remarks. As HE Yuok Ngoy reported, two students have finished their semi-final competition in international court consultation in the University of Las Vegas in the United States of America, for which participants came from 19 different countries. Five other students had competed in audience of International Court in Washington, also the United States of America organized by International Court of Justice, in which students from 80 countries took part. Our students had finished first round of competition.

They were competitions in artificial court and it was good that our students had stood the chance to compete with others. I have the great feeling and wish to praise for the efforts made by both students and the university. It has proven that the University has been recognized internationally. In addition to that we also have 13 foreign students who came to study here, whereas many graduates have now taken up their continuing higher level and professional education in universities abroad. This has also proven that there is this gradual trend of accreditation of university education in Cambodia because of the fact that those who have scored their bachelor's degree in Cambodia could get acceptances to universities elsewhere.

I am sure you all still remember how hard our lives were after 1979. However those hard lives have now turned to be national pride and this is a success that is born out of hardship, and it is therefore so meaningful. It is not an artificial achievement. We must be proud that we all have united and started from scratch, which (Minister of Education, Youth and Sports) HE Im Sethi said those who know more taught those who know less, and those who know less taught those who do not know. This is where and how we started.

The country was under both

political and economic embargo. We had been punished in all fields. We were saved from the Pol Pot's genocide but we were going through this indirect killing until now the Pol Pot's group is being brought to justice. It is after 30 years that the matter (genocide) is being formally admitted to have happened. However there does not seem to be any remorse from those who never before admitted what happened in Cambodia. It should indeed be a political and diplomatic shame.

Those of you who are born after 1979 may ask your parents or senior family members how lives under the regime of Pol Pot and in the time of war between 1970 and 1975 were like. After the fall of the Khmer Rouge (in 1979) war was going on in remote areas and there was still that threat of Pol Pot's return under the so called tripartite coalition, who had been allowed to occupy the Cambodian seat at the United Nations.

A country that was under embargo, we could not get all sort of assistance ranging from chalk to book. Among those who had been the first to come to Cambodia were the International Red Cross and UNICEF. Having talked about this I may have your attention that on the forthcoming November 24, there will be a celebration of 30 years of partnership between the Royal Government of Cambodia and especially those foreign-based non-governmental organizations, who provided us a lot of help in those days.

In that very circumstance not only that our students were not accepted by foreign countries to further their education but me who was foreign minister and then Prime Minister, the person I could get permission to talk to was only the one at a rank of department director. I sometimes could not even get a handshake with them because they did not recognize us but the Pol Pot

clique at the United Nations. Today we have here HE Ambassador of Australia and I may talk it in her consent that the first so called foreign minister of a western world with whom I shook hand was the former Australian foreign minister HE Bill Hiden. It was impossible to organize a meeting in Phnom Penh. Our first meeting had to be organized in Ho Chi Minh City.

The Australian Labor Party, which is back in power now, took a policy that gives no recognition to Pol Pot in between 1982 to 1983. Things started to change gradually. So Bill Hiden was the first western nation foreign minister to have reached out to us after then foreign minister of India Narasim Harao, who later became Prime Minister. I had a meeting yesterday with a former Minister for Posts of Japan, whom I met in Paris when he was a member of parliament. The meeting was not made known to his embassy because his Government did not recognize us. It was so sad an experience.

It has been great effort we made that gets us this far. In other countries, Prime Ministers seem to have no hardships when taking power because they have financial resources, infrastructure, etc. while in Cambodia there was nothing of that sort. The situation has now changed as everyone on a visit to Cambodia wishes to meet Hun Sen. We have succeeded in making us a person to talk business with. However, what done is done. The sad time has now passed. This illustrates that personal effort is a determined factor, while assistance from friends is essential.

The late (General) Lon Nol's leadership has written Cambodia a debt to the United States for the bombardments throughout the country. We are in the process of solving it. But Lon Nol was incompetent and the USD seems to be assisting only the incompetent
(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 1)

the report of Mr. Diep Seiha, BBU has made its progress obvious because of its many branches opened in Phnom Penh and provinces – Siem Reap, Battambang, Bantay Man Chei, Stoeng Treng, Takeo and Sihanouk.

BBU also plans, as far as I know, to have a new building which is eight stories in between 2010 and 2013, with a size of 120 meters by 40 meters on a two-hectare land at Khan Russei Keo, Phnom Penh, with a capacity to accommodate 300 study rooms. Well mentioning 120 by 40 meters, reminds me of the centre for international symposium which is also under construction and adjacent to the building of the Council of Ministers. It is my architectural requirement of 120 meters by 45 meters, five stories but with a height probable to 7.5 stories because each story is 9 meters. We have many important international and regional meetings to host. Lining up in 2010, there are ACMECS meeting, CLMV meeting (Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar and Vietnam meeting) and in 2011, Cambodia will host an international meeting on Mines whereas in 2012 the ASEAN Summit and ASEAN + partners meetings.

Because we have so many international meetings lining up and because every time there is one we have to make it to hotel, etc. and since we have our Chinese friends help in building the Council of Ministers, we have set aside our fund to build this conference hall and it will be for next generations too, as I won't be sitting forever. However, I would not be easily evicted as long as I am elected by the people. No matter what they (the opposition) have said, the more they say the more I will do for the sake of the people. Everyday, on Radio, though I do not say a thing about them, still they make us their direct target of criticism. When we take action they say we have blocked their rights. However I have the feeling that these people are apparently

undeterred ...

It has been stated in the report that BBU has got in all 35,171 students, among which 12,416 have already graduated so far, including the 4,709 today. It is indeed an important achievement as a contribution from BBU and what is more breath-taking is that the University has prepared and made it possible for about 80% of graduates to take up jobs. According to a research (conducted by the University) about 67% of the 3rd and 4th intakes would be able to get a job in fields relating to banking, tourism, private sector, non-government and various other public foundations ... It is indeed a pride that 698 of them have got a job at the ACLEDA Bank and 113 at Hattha Kasikor Bank ... Having noticed this development, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the management and faculty members of BBU whose common efforts have brought about so impressive achievements ...

Because of the development I would have your attention on interrelation which is core to every work we have done. The establishment of this university requires so much number of professors, management and teaching staffs. It is also true in companies, take for instance media ones, where there involves both direct and indirect workers. In art and performance for example, many indirect staffs are needed for movie making, music performance, etc. so we could see that dancers, reporters ... all have a role to play in it. Some dancers have taken their performance arts that are so care-free that they are mistaken to have lost their mind on stage.

Some critics have said that the country is under dictatorial regime, but judging only from freedom that dancers have showed, I think those who said so could be in danger ... If the term is to be defined they may be in serious problem again ... The

regime is not Hun Sen's if they wish to say that Hun Sen's regime is a dictatorial one. I am just the head of Government whereas the regime is the constitutional monarchy and also pluralism ... any criticism should be aware of the danger that would befall them because they made a wrong accusation ... This cannot be considered blocking freedom or rights of speech but you have made wrong speeches ... they should be aware how liable it is to have claimed oneself a lawyer, learned person and politician.

To be a dictatorship there has to have the constitutional monarchy abolished and a different one to be established in its replacement ... If they say the Royal Government is a dictator then that will fall only on the Royal Government, or on Hun Sen ... But they all joined in the elections. Because I am elected and a real Prime Minister I have made the country peaceful and any concern about war would not be in question, including the war at the border ... If there were going to be one it would be very small because we have practiced the policy of using no force and vowed to resolve conflict bilaterally.

All these remain hypothetical questions for those "exemplary" Prime Minister (this literally means that every five years all contestants in the elections have to tell or act among people as if they are Prime Ministers, or if they are elected Prime Ministers) ... Trust could be of no avail because some had split a party into many, and their presences in any party would put it in a state of limbo ... I would raise one case that happened in 2006 ... A political party leader came to meet me and if I am not mistaken he also has taped the conversation as I did too ... We could compare them if he likes. I asked him (about another person) what does he want? He said he (the other person) will be taking categorical opposition ... In another instance I asked about his politi-

cal nature whether the person could affiliate with anyone he said (the other person) will continue to be categorically opposing ... Also in 2006, the other person, who asked me if it is time for him to set up a political party and I said yes it is. He also said the other one is opposing persistently. The two have said about each other that they will be in absolute opposition.

Prior to the elections, one defined oneself to be a mountain whereas another defined oneself to be sand ... but they now have sought after each other to make an affiliation like a Cambodian saying that goes "the good would go to the good, the bad would go with the bad" ... I do not care what they have done but what I want us all to take note here since they have blamed enough of each other, lost the elections, exhausted, etc. Who would be in a position to help whom? They both don't swim. Well it is up to them. All I am saying here is to warn them of what they have said wrongly.

Returning to the University, what we have achieved is because we have right path and operation and, I mean, being sustainable. To have a university established is a difficult job but to sustain. It is no easier task. The same is true for setting up company or political party ... For instance some political parties are no longer in existence ...

In 1998 we had 39 political parties registered with the Ministry of Interior in contesting in the general elections and 2003 there were 23 of them and in 2008 there remained only 11 political parties. I just want to say no matter what to be created, one should be ware of what will happen in the future. How to sustain it? How to proceed? And this reminds me of the fact that the Cambodian People's Party being ranked number 4 in the list of contested Political Parties.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

A Radio station then made a broadcast saying that this number, according to Khmer, Chinese and Vietnamese beliefs is a bad-luck sign ... The whole night of that day I woke up many times to write down one or two sentences and I have brought it up the next day at Punnhea Leu and my analyses of the number 4 are – it represents the four main directions, the four elements (soil, wind, water and fire), the four Buddhist wishes, the four faces of Brahma, etc. Whatever it is, what I wanted to mention to you here is that how qualified these politicians are when they fought because of the rank number like that. When they have picked up number 1 and 2, have they been assured of their victories?

Let me give you as example – the Cambodian People's Party was ranked 35, in 2003, 17 and 2008, 4 except in 1993, CPP was ranked number 1 and won 51 seats only ... while for other ranks mentioned thereafter the number of seats have gone from 64 to 73 and to 90 ... They have demanded so and so commissions but they could not assure because there were not enough votes to support them ... Because they do not have their people in those commissions ... (they would say) there is no freedom and democracy.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to those who have graduated after excelling in their studies together with participations and contributions of resources from families and friends which help your studies successful. I would like to take this opportune moment to express my gratefulness for the University for providing around 820 scholarships to me so that I could offer them to applicants whose financial resources have been limited ...

The same amount was also allotted for HE Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, and others. I will soon go to the University of Laws

and Economics to preside over the diploma conferment and also to inaugurate a new building as well.

All this is possible because we have provided an opportunity for all state education institutions to incorporate a program that allows those students who fail to get the state scholarship to be able to get admittance as fee-paying students. The fee collected has a part been allocated for bettering living conditions of professors and another reserved for further development of the University ... About one month ago I have approved a proposal from the military medicine school to also provide fee-paying courses ...

This policy has been defined and put into practice in view of the fact state universities are not able to absorb increasing number of students who have finished their secondary education ... The policy also allows private sector to take up active role in providing education services ... This is not a particular situation for Cambodia but all over the world ... It also allows our students and also our government officials to have better chance to go on with their studies ... This is indeed an encouragement ...

However, what remains to be critical here, while we have efforts by students and encouragement by the Royal Government policy, is how we go about improving quality of education ... I have learned in some case that some people never come to school but appear to have graduated too ... This is studying for diploma and in the last few months I have appealed to various institutions involved to work out this situation ... thesis presentation and defense is also included ...

Praise should also go to the Accreditation Committee of Education who have been doing this important job ... Knowledge could not be transferred in way of infusion but by self effort ...

No matter what you want to do and what you have, without human resources you cannot achieve your goal. This is not new as I have said it since when I mobilized forces in 1977-78. The most pressing issue that I encountered was human resources. There were so many battalions which together could form into brigades and regiments but I resolutely disagreed at the time ... Judging by effective figures in battalion, only four of them would make a brigade already because in each battalion we had up to about 600 effective soldiers at the time ... But my question is at that very time whether we have human resources to lead and command the brigade or regiment level. This is not to mention about commanding three brigades and one regiment with three infantry brigades at all because there needs to have nine battalions plus its commanding mechanism ...

Gathering forces could be done but commanding them we could not do ... Our capacity to command troops was not there ... It is not simple as it looks because it requires capability in various sections involved – general staff, logistics, paramedics, which also include chemistry group, while our army officers at that time just started their military training ...

If we were to make them commanders what cost of lives would they make from inexperienced and incompetent command ... When I arrived in Phnom Penh, what I did first of all is not my house but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for which I started gathering human resources ... I was able to find at that time some economists and engineers, who had their studies in former East Germany and West Germany, and even some education specialists who after a while I sent them to help with other areas ...

Some of them have now become Deputy Prime Ministers, Senior Ministers, Ministers, Secretaries of State and Under Secretaries of

State ... We did our best to get on our feet and as of now that situation has been far off now ... as is said by HE Dieb Seiha without January 7 victory there would be no today or any lives at all ... If those who were born by that time were to die, who would have given this generation their lives as you have seen that most of our students here are under 30 years old. However I would urge those of you who have graduated to go on with your studies and do not take this wrong opinion that when taking up important position there is no need to learn more as there is nothing that one might know all about it.

According to my experience, it has been quite enough for me to conclude that from one stage to another of my life, there has not been an instance that I was in a particular situation forever ... The current situation could not be approached using 1979 or 1980 ways when we only thought of getting everyone alive and to survive embargo from outside while internal reform was undertaken, which gradually transferred us from centrally planned economy to a combined state of both centrally planned and market system in the transitional period ... We were in the stage of bettering market economy ...

The nature of being state employees, they work not better than those working in the private sector. They tend to think no matter how much or efficient they may be, they will benefit from a fixed salary and despite the fact that we have now implemented incentive system in order to screen for able staffs, still we have this situation of too many but too little, which I mean we have so many officials with less qualifications but less officials with better ones. I may take this opportunity to share with you one good example. In my life, I never compare so person to so person ... for who they are but only for what they are ... What is important is not where you go for your study – inside or outside of

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Cambodia, but your competency and quality ...

Because of financial situation, some of our students could not go for well known Universities or to go abroad to further their studies ... According to my experience, there does not seem to be any major differences between studying abroad and locally. First, I have around me those who have studied abroad before and after the Pol Pot's regime and I never have made any evaluation as to who would be better than whom because of where they studied at all. I am looking at how best their work result could be.

The second example is my review of my children and in-laws who have studied abroad and got higher degrees ... From my observations I see no differences between those who studied inside the country and abroad, except of course foreign language, which as we know, being there for a certain period of time, one has familiarity with language in particular and culture as a whole ... That is perhaps the main differences.

This is my clarification for those of you who may have the thought of being inferior and invaluable because failing to have a chance to go for study abroad ... every institution must give a proper and similar value and also should not deny those who come from abroad as unworkable or incompetent. We need to gather educated people to work together. Being pessimistic is not what we are after here.

Another example which is perhaps a good one, if you observe the trial of Duch or Kaing Guek Iev in the Extraordinary Chamber in the Court of Cambodia (ECCC), I am so proud to have noticed that, and what is going to be the outcome from the trial is the Court's matter, our lawyers have competently showed their working ability and skills no inferior to those from abroad ...

If you have followed the trial closely you might have come across some stages that Duch has been able to catch some foreign lawyers off guard for questions that are not relevant or naïve. In some instances it has indicated to me pretty clearly that it is not true always that those with sharp noses are the best. Months ago we also have acted as host of Asia-Europe meeting and coordinated between ASEAN and Europe, the relations of which was celebrated in Singapore in 2007, and last but not least Cambodia also was host of ASEAN Summit once and would soon be hosting and chairing the second one in a not too long future ...

All this should be a good example for all of us who do not have the ability and chance to go for further studies abroad ...

Today I would like to take the opportunity to inform provinces, especially those along the Mekong river – especially Stoeung Tmg, Kratie, Kompong Cham, to pay attention to flood situation as more water is coming from Laos and Vietnam and together make their way to the Mekong in the part of Cambodia, which prompted flood level prediction from between 9.5 and 9.75 to 10.25 meters at our flood monitoring station at Chadomuk. The station is the central indication whether flood is high or low.

According to our records, if the flood level here reaches 10 meters or more, it indicates that the flood level is high. However, many years have gone by with flood level never reaches 10 meters at all. So the prediction of 10.25 meters would be an alarming situation but not like what we called “millennial” flood in 2000 at all.

My appeal here is for those provinces to look after areas where flood is making its way as in a short time the flood could level up to half a meter within 4 or 5 hours. With this speed there is a need for preparing an evacuation,

especially those who are living along the river banks and streams because they may face with land erosion issue ...

I also urge all sub-national level officials and the armed forces along the concerned areas to take this matter seriously ... In the coming days, because of the flood in Stoeung Treng has been reported to be one meter, by the time it reaches Phnom Penh perhaps about 0.5 meters will be recorded ... Also, if our record and experience is not wrong, the first flood period will extend to end of September and early October ... and there normally is a second flooding after Phchum Ben ... The mother nature has been so unpredictable ...

So, HE Keat Chjhon, Deputy Prime Minister, under my command, has agreed to keep a package of fund at hand for bad situation and relief efforts until the flood is over. As far as agriculture is concerned, because of sporadic rain, rice cultivation has been unevenly cultivated. In some parts of Takeo province there has no rain for rice cultivation though in general the speed of cultivation has been fast. As of last week, about 64% of rice cultivation in the whole country has been recorded. If this is the central figure, then at the local level we might say it is 70% already. The speed is good and at the same time our people are busy harvesting their short-term rice too. It is good that Cambodia has made every month a harvest time.

We must try to bring our agriculture to forge ahead. We have talked about social safety net system and the Ministry of Economy and Finance together with Asian Development Bank have prepared for a program that provides financial assistance in replacement of food or rice for labor. This is also a good thing for our people to find jobs as well. They dig canals or build dirt roads which we have used as strategy in 2000 and 2001 when the country was hit by a high

flood ... We strategize providing works to local levels throughout the country, which included building hydraulic stations and roads so that these works for food will keep our people from coming to Phnom Penh to look for jobs ...

It is a sad moment that we have to fight to better our economic situation while the world economic crisis hampers us though at a lesser impact ... Taking one example, I just returned from France and the price of gasoline is 1.39 Euro which is at least 1.7 US dollars there or 7,000 Riels per liter. You may be reminded that France is a country that produces gasoline. Why some economists who have boasted to have studied in France never mention about this?

What I am saying is not to encourage gasoline dealers to increase the price at all but to continue to appeal on the contrary to companies to bring the price down ... So far the local companies have been doing a lot to help but it has been difficult for those coming from abroad ... According to the report of HE Keat Chhon, these companies have got a share holdings in the security markets so they could not bring their prices down ... Do they need to make profit here to help weathering their loss elsewhere?

Another issue of concern today is that I wanted to reiterate once again the need to strengthen traffic rules in which wearing helmets has been an obligation. However I noticed that there are still people who do not wear the helmet. I wish to take this opportune moment to once again appeal to our people to wear helmets for your own safety and I would urge our law-enforcing agencies to see through that the law is fully implemented ... I also notice our uniformed not wearing helmets too and they should be the first to be an example ... ©

(Continued from page 2)

1979 but we also have to say, for what reason that the US, the South Vietnamese troops come to Cambodia? If we go back further in history, why the French was here and so was the Japanese? Let's talk about this a little bit because some people have been so afraid to talk about it, about the US while confirming that they are independent.

How could they be if I learned that they have used foreigners to write them strategies? I may go further that a German national has come to write a strategy for a leader of a political party and another US citizen has come to do the same for another party leader. But how far can they go? No matter who or what helps them, they are just a useless bunch.

We have now moved some of our troops back to their station in Kompot and also in Siemreap and Kompong Thom provinces, whereas about 50% of the bodyguards have been cut down. This means that there will not be any fighting at the border. We then had to readjust the troops and sent some troops back to help our people cultivate rice. They could be back in their positions in no time if anything happens. We are in the state of being prepared all the time. We are pursuing the strategy of wasting words not wasting flesh and blood. As long as there is room for negotiation, negotiation we pursue. If they come in by force, then force we will confront with. No one is life protected and if we are being encroached upon, then fight is what we will do, no matter what weapons those encroachers have.

Today I have planned to come quietly but for some reason the news spreads so fast. However, there have been two requests for school building being filed and sent to me here. I was also being asked for help by teachers of Bakan. I am so glad that people dare come to me to ask for help. It is true if they do not trust me how

could they ask me for help. We have been together for 30 years that this is a confidence building base between our people and me. I am so proud for such a confidence that our people place in me. This has clearly been illustrated in the latest elections that our people here gave their support to the Cambodian People's Party, which won all four seats in the parliament.

I have a story to tell you about my visit to a house that I have along the beach in the province of Preah Sihanouk. It had taken me till ten o'clock at night to know that people waited to see me. It was about this issue concerning the Psar Loeu market. There was an incident of the market being on fire some time ago like what happened to the market of Pursat. Re-roofing the market at the request of traders in the market costs me half a million dollars because the size is about three times bigger than the one in Pursat. I have ordered that a large road be built so that there would not be any traffic congestion at the market. The person in charge cleverly used the trick to build only 6.5 meter road and leave a large space about 9 meters along the road. Is it reserving for building kiosks later? I had to go the place and made sure that the Governor had to see through that the road be enlarged the following day to nine meters and 6 meters only left along the road for other purpose. Because the Governor is a friend of mine I talked to him the following day that despite spending the whole night thinking I could not find a good thing out of the bad thing done. As far as I could think, the area that is intentionally left larger than the area reserved for road, where kiosks are being built, would eventually be a good place for building apartments around like what they had done around the Olympic stadium.

Provincial or sub-national level authorities dare make decisions that are relating to their interests but not if they are not involving

their interests. Demonstration has come to my house, whether I am in Phnom Penh or in Preah Sihanouk province. As far as I am informed there five other groups that are preparing to go to my house.

I told him in such case I do not need to go take a rest there but traveling to the countryside to see rice field and leave the house where it is, while governors of the province will be taking turns to be stripped off from position. Some problem has happened because collusion and injustice have been brought for people's forbearance. But I would not deny incidents that our people have been tricked to seek Hun Sen's help just to intercede interest of person behind. But the case of Psar Loeu I must do to help.

I have a transcript provided to me by Bayon station and it was about a leader of a political party that was making a calculation that if Cambodia develops one million hectares of rubber, people would not be poor anymore. S/he also proposes a prognostication of so many people would go into industry and so many to agriculture ... and calls that the country's leadership. How is that being different from what actually happened under Pol Pot's regime?

I was once asked by the French if there left anything about the Khmer Rouge. I assured them that the Khmer Rouge had fallen completely – politically, ideologically and militarily. Unfortunately I did not think of such people who would come up with this stratifying people according to areas of production. That is one fact. Another fact is rubber plantation in Cambodia that is left from the French up to now has been a size of over ten thousand hectares and the person seemed to have invented it to be one million hectares – a prognostication of the 21 century. That is the freedom of expression and I also have my freedom of analysis too ...◎

(Continued from page 8)

opposition leader position and Hun Sen would have to be no longer Prime Minister. That will not be acceptable.

Today I have been requested that this building in front of us be named after Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Hun Sen. I have no other choice but to agree with the suggestion. They may want to change later if need be but I see that there is very slim chance for that even after 2023. I have planned to stay on till 2023, not 2018.

Furthermore I would like to express my sincere appreciation and praise to efforts made by Rector and Deputy Rectors, Management Committee as well as professors and staff of RULE who have been putting into effective practice of making use of university's ability to sponsor their actions. As we can see here this method has been practiced not just in private educational institutions but also in the state universities, and the example in this university is the construction of a more than one million US dollar school building that they have achieved without even bothering to ask for help.

Phnom Penh is expanding twice its size if we compare it to 1979. The city boundary has now reached Ang Snuol, Kandal Stoung, Punnhea Loeu districts. One in every four Cambodians is now a student or 3.5 million out of over 13 million people. I would like to take this forum to seek once again our people's understanding on issue of traffic. Concerning this matter I would take this chance to declare that all motorcycles, which never pay tax properly before, to be accepted to pay taxes. I have already instructed HE Deputy Prime Minister Keat Chhon and customs officers there under the Ministry of Economy and Finance to take this matter into action. Cyclists must put on helmets to protect themselves ...◎

(Continued from page 3)
 ones. They helped Nguyen Van Thieu after the overthrow of Ngo Dinh Diem only to bring the latter to an end. The US seemed to have picked a wrong horse. The one assisted by the US did not have a record of staying long. Take Lon Nol for example, he was placed behind the US interest as the US has other interests to take care of and not just those of Lon Nol's and Saigon's. Marcos in the Philippines was the one whom the US provided a lot of help. But when the US got to a point and a replacement had been found, it was time for him to go.

However, many Cambodian politicians seem to be fond of believing that they are the most important to the United States. History has indeed shown that the US always has its interest to defend. Well that was a history. This is said about the new generation President George Bush or Barack Obama and not those before them like Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. I may have your full attention here that people self determination is the most important. They have to be the ones that decide own destiny.

These arguments are for you to understand how difficult it was when we started rebuilding this country in those days. We were saved from Pol Pot but were not recognized while being punished. We did all we could to survive from scratch. It is indeed the nation's pride that you have been able to participate with students from 80 and 19 other countries, which could be in fact considered as the recognition of Cambodia in the international arena.

I just returned from a visit to the most democratic countries in the world. I was invited by President of France for a visit on the occasion of the French National Day on July 14. After being as a French guest during this important event, I also went on to visit the United Kingdom, where my son graduated. Some people in France have been so talkative

about Elysée Palace. HE Heng Vong Bun Chhat said to me in 2005 that he thanked me for the whole of his life for taking him with me to Elysée Palace. It was in Jacques Chirac's time. HE Heng Vong Bun Chhat is a French national and Pundit.

Yesterday I met with former Minister of Post from Japan and we talked about our past stories. While the Japanese policy was not in favor for Phnom Penh Government at the time of political negotiation, the Japanese foreign minister Mitsusaka seemed to have stared at me and when the meeting was adjourned he stayed to shake hand with me ... the place where this happened has now been sold by the French Government. When we met in a party, again it took me a big surprise to see that the foreign minister of Japan approached and talked to me. In 1990 I went to Japan to sign an agreement to form the Supreme National Council (SNC), it was the same foreign minister who came by to chat with me. In 1997 he became minister for finance of the Hashimoto Government. In one of our meetings there after I asked him if he indeed had a staring eye on me in Paris. He told me a brief history of Japan that in the old time of divisions there was a young man who came out and united Japan and he took the man in that past to have been born in Cambodia and it must be me – the young fellow named Odano Bunaka and it was in 1580. So his approach to shake hands with me at that time was not politics or diplomatic but because of his sixth sense ...

Our past with the genocide has been a great pain and unbearable. The trial of the top leaders of the regime, which is going on, has shown us how horrible the killings were. We came to a thought of how painful they were - those of our relatives who died under their rule. Some of our people could not even discover where their remains could be ... As for me I do not even know where

my first child was buried or thrown away. I was so sad and depressed that I was denied access to my dead child and I could not give him a proper burial as a father to son.

I was in great pain that one of my eyes was removed. But how much more would the pain be when our relatives were beaten to death. I just wish that every one of us remembers this. Some are against the January 7 victory. But to be realistic, how could they be alive till now if the victory was not happening? Only two more years, not 30 years, with the regime, the rest of our population might have been killed - if not by their torture, we would surely be dead because of hunger. They said it was the day when Vietnam invaded Cambodia. If it was not for Vietnam to help us, in that circumstance who would then be willing to do so?

To be realistic, it was not the first time that Vietnam came to Cambodia. In between 1970-1975 there was also this incident of Vietnamese presence in Cambodia – both the US-supported army and the Vietnamese liberation front army. Who then had created such an incident? It was started from the US-led coup. While the Vietnamese presence in 1979 was for a unique reason to save lives of the Cambodian people, and they left Cambodia after they finished their mission. Why the US was in Cambodia in 1970? Many of their soldiers have been missing in action (MIA) and some are still unaccounted for. Why the US keep their troops in South Korea and in Japan?

In those days the US also maintained its troops in the Philippines and Thailand. Why that is not being said? They were afraid to talk the truth. Well it is not at all easy to talk the historical fact. How come everyday they (the opposition) preach about Cambodian territory to the east being annexed by Vietnam and to the west by Thailand? What do they

want to happen? Is it fighting that they want? It is understandable that they could not utter a single word that might give the Royal Government a praise, and because of this naïve politics that they could not be anything more than an opposition.

You have studied law here so you know that everyone is equal before law. Even if I am Prime Minister I have the rights to defend myself. I am also a citizen. They called a press conference and sued me which led to my legal counter-action. They have no chance to make themselves look like Aung San Sukyi. There is no hope for that. It is a fortune that such a provocation was not rebuffed by power or force but by court. If I were to be a dictator, in just two hours the whole city would be blocked. There would be no chance for escape. But my reaction is why they recognize only the rights of the opposition and not the legitimate rights of those in power.

They have to recognize me as a citizen. I want all foreign forces to consider their disengagement and come to terms with the fact that rights in Cambodia has been flourishingly rich. At the moment of speaking, a radio station scomed the Royal Government even I never bother them. However, Hun Sen has been well known and re-elected because their disparagement and opposition. Our support base has been increased to 64, then 73 and the latest to 90 seats in the parliament. By 2013, we may have more seats or retain the same number of seats or some minor loss. But even if we are to lose ten more seats, we will still be retaining 80 seats, which is enough to win. Even ten more to lose in the 2018 elections, we will still be the winner.

Based on this our opposition will have to reconsider their position with regard to their ages. I would not agree to a suggested scenario that so and so would leave the
 (Continued on page 7)