



16 August 11— Samdech Techo Hun Sen Presides over the Inauguration of the Third Segment of 9.1 km of the National Road 1 in presences of the Japanese Ambassador and senior Cambodian officials (Photo: Kampuchea Thmei)

16 August 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments) Inaugurating Third Phase 9.1 Km NR1 Construction

Hailing the Third Phase NR1 9.1 Km

It is my great pleasure today to join with all of our people and Buddhist monks here, with the presence of HE KUROKI Masafumi, Japanese Ambassador, to put into official use the segment of 9.1 kilometer of the national road 1 (NR1), under the Japanese assistance, which links Phnom Penh at Kdei Takoi pagoda, Viel Sbov commune to Koki commune of Kandal province. This is another segment that helps lengthen connection between Phnom Penh on NR 1 to Neak Loeung ferry station, where we will have in 2015 a new bridge also built with the Japanese assistance.

I may recall that on January 5, I came here to preside over the inauguration of the second phase construction of 42 kilo-

meters of NR1 while launching the third phase 9.1 kilometer road. Now we have this segment done as is reported by the Minister of Transport and Public Works, HE Tram Iv Toeuk, and also as is mentioned in the note by the Japanese Ambassador KUROKI. HE Tram Iv Toeuk already reported to you all that constructing the concrete bridges was the first phase of the project. Building the 42 kilometer road was the second phase of the project, while this 9.1 kilometer road construction is third phase of the project.

We still have another four kilometers to complete in order to link the last segment to the bridge of Monivong. Construction of the segment has not yet commenced not because we have not got financial assistance from Japan but we have not sorted out policy for impacts along the remaining segment of the road. You all might have seen already that this segment of the road has

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18 August 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments) Conference on Achievements of Second Term Commune Council

Bigger Female Quota for Communal Councilors

I hope that the June 2012 elections will increase female quota for the communal councilors to some 16%, after the provision of about 8% of female quota in the first communal elections. I would also hope to project a quota of some 20% by the third elections. It would be a good development if we can maintain this trend of achievement. It should be noted that some political party's lists have got so many female candidates but they were placed in ranks that may not be elected. It has been the case that a political party that expected that only two of their candidates would be elected, it put their female candidates in

the order of 7 or 8.

In this case, if the top two were to be elected and for reason of death or incapacity they were replaced by the next two in the list, their female candidates would still not be the ones to take over the jobs. Thus I would say there is no commitment for female candidates to be elected. I would also recommend those parties to list no females in their list. On the contrary, I would appeal strongly to all political parties that to uphold the gender equity principle they should list their female candidates in the most probably elected orders.

As far as (female) appointment is concerned, we have done the

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11 August 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments) Diploma Presenting for Human Resource University Graduates

Congratulation and Go On

My wife and I are so happy to join with all of the Human Resource University graduates today (for this very important occasion). If I am not mistaken, this is my ninth time attending the University's events. From September last year, up to the present, I have been present twice already for the University's events. Please allow me to take this opportune moment to avail my greetings and congratulations for all of the graduates – 1,519 of them, which means they will become additional human resources for the country.

go on with education cause, some by paying own fee. I have often pointed out that the policy allowing private sector to participate in human resource development investment is important because the state tertiary institution is not able to absorb them. The private tertiary education facilities have been able to satisfactorily cater to demand for post-secondary school education.

We also express our grateful thanks for the parents and/or sponsors of the graduates for making all the sacrifices so that your children, people under your sponsorship could make their way this far. I strongly hope that the graduates will go

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been enlarged to serve as a four-lane road.

Japan's Heartily Assistance

I would like to take this opportune moment to express our thanks, through HE Kuroki to the people and Government of Japan for providing assistance to the Kingdom of Cambodia. As of March this year Japan suffered from the tsunami calamity coupled with leakage of the nuclear electricity plants. Despite all these hardships Japan does not cut off or reduce its funding package of assistance to foreign countries, Cambodia is also included. Cambodia, though is not a wealthy nation, has shared deep sentiment and hardship, as well as condolence with the people and Government of Japan.

In just two weeks, Japan has been quite busy in Cambodia. Last week, you may have learnt that Japan provided Cambodia with over 100 engineering machines to the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology to strengthen the Ministry's capacity in dealing with flood. I talked to HE Ambassador Kuroki yesterday that he engineering machines will also be able to dig canals and help in building roads too. I notice that the excavators provided by Japan have got long booms that they can be useful in digging deep canals, while building roads at the same time.

Yesterday, Monday 15 August, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, we signed agreements on grant and loan of the total sum of 50 million USD for the irrigation projects to west of the Tonle Sap – Kompong Chhonang, Pursath and Battambang provinces. There has also been provision of equipments for education, mines and human resources in addition to today's inauguration of the Japanese built third

segment of the NR1. As of now Cambodia received a sum of over two billion USD, a major part of it is grant, already from Japan.

Let's Wait for the Neak Loeung Bridge

As I thank our Japanese friends, let me also express my appreciation and sincere thanks to the Ministry of Transport and Public Works, local authorities concerned at all levels and our people for their constant efforts in providing smooth cooperation for the construction project to come this far. I would like also to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation to the Daiho Corporation contractor and the Katahira & Engineers International consultant for taking all technical efforts to complete the project.

As we will have the full road completed by 2015, along with the constructed bridge of Neak Loeung, I am sure traffic flow along the road will be better. As far as the Neak Loeung Bridge is concerned, I hope that elder people would be healthy to stay on and will observe the joy of the constructed bridge altogether.

It has been quite disappointing that (when under Pol Pot regime) we had almost nothing to eat now we tend to eat too much that death from food intakes has been noticed. Take for instance people have been diagnosed to have diabetes or other diseases because of their food intakes. This is partly true as the country is in peace and our people's wealth and health have been improved so that they can live longer. It is in this note that I hope our people could look after their health so that we all will be able to put the Neak Loeung Bridge into operation together. Let's wait for the Neak Loeung Bridge.

Concerning Traffic Safety

As is reported by HE Tram Iv Toeuk and mentioned by HE

Kuroki, traffic circulation and safety have been a major and serious issue in our everyday's life. As we have better roads, the number of road accidents has been on the increase. As I used to say and supported by the recent speech of HE Kuroki, building good roads is not the major cause of traffic accidents but speed that is one of the issues. All drivers must abide by the traffic rule and the speed limit. I therefore demand that all drivers of all means of transports respect their own lives.

On my way here I ran my eye over Kampuchea Thmey and there was a piece of news about an army general who lost his wheel and ran his Lexus into another vehicle. Traffic accident happens irrespective of rank you may have or who you may be. It is noticed that traffic accidents have been caused often by over-speeding and drunk driving. I have demanded my convoy to travel on a high way to Siem Reap province early this month at 70 kilometers an hour. Even at that speed, in one instance when the vehicle had to put on the brake suddenly, inconvenience was caused inside the car.

One other concern is the overloading practice not only for trucks of all sorts but also motorcycles. It is important to reinforce respect of and abide by the traffic rules aimed at reducing the number of accident. It has not been a good thing for a small country like Cambodia to record so high mortality rate from traffic accidents.

Concerning Flood Threats

Regarding flood threats, as of the moment of speaking, the flood levels at the northern provinces of Stoeung Treng and Kratie have been marked to have gone down. The same is also true for the flood level in Kompong Cham. The Ministry of Water Resources and

Meteorology is monitoring all factors concerned so as to predict the next turn of flood. Traditionally, the next turn of flooding occurs by the time we celebrate the Prochum Ben Day, or about over a month from now. Meanwhile, for provinces down the stream of the Mekong like Pearaing and Sithor Kandal districts of Prey Veng, water level has risen high and the rice fields have been flooded.

In Kompong Cham province, as is told by the Governor on the phone, there have been efforts to move some houses in my native village (of Peam Koh Sna) deeper into hinterland as the riverbank has been eroded by flood water current. In flood area, care and alert must be kept high on children and navigation of high speed engine boats. Concern must also be addressed on issue of healthcare, especially water-borne diseases. We also need to be prepared in term of rice seed and seeds of other crops and vegetables.

Despite concern I mentioned I thought it would be better if the flood water reaches to 10.3 meters in Phnom Penh, whereas at the Phnom Penh flood water monitoring station, the level of water is at 9.60 meters. As of the moment of speaking, flood has been high in the northern and northeastern parts of the country, while lower in the southern area. My reason for higher flood is we would have more water flowing into the Tonle Sap Lake so that fish will be able to recuperate and increase its population.

Inspecting Reports of 35 Fishing Zones

Having come to this, please allow me to continue with what I have declared on July 1, 2011, the National Fishery Day, in the province of Svay Rieng about measures to be taken vis a vis the fishing lots. I

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would like to take this opportunity to speak to the people in the whole country and to apologize for the second time from our people after my first apology about the need to reform the fishing lots in 2000.

Then, I asked our people in Siem Reap province for an apology and trimmed out some 57% of the fishing lots for their access and household fishing operation. Again today I am seeking another apology from the people who reside in the Tonle Sap Lake basin on my shortcomings in giving authority to junior level officials. You may remember that from Svay Rieng, I have assigned a Deputy Prime Minister, HE Bin Chhin, and concerned ministers, to conduct inspections of all the fishing lots.

For me the report of over ten pages is shocking and I think that I have to break it out. I also think the report should be for public knowledge so that people will understand why the Prime Minister has taken strong measures in relation to this issue. I am of the opinion that the matter must be transparent.

Fishing Not Allowed, a Review in 2015

Along with shock, I have decided to revoke operational licenses from all 35 fishing lots. I have agreed totally with the inspecting committee that the 35 lots in all five provinces – Kompong Chhonang, Pursath, Battambang, Siem Reap, and Kompong Thom - must be suspended. No fishing allowed. This does not apply for household fishing in community fishing area as is recognized by the state.

I am of the opinion that we may have to suspend fishing up to three seasons - 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 - in those lots so as to let fishes grow big. We will take stock of our measures and policies in

2014/15, whereas decision on which lots should be conserved or allowed for fishing again would be made by then too. It has been shocking that inappropriate fishing has been found as is said in the report where nets with hole as small as that for mosquito have been used to bar fish from traveling out of the zone.

For about three seasons, I am anticipating that the fish will be able to travel as far as Stoeung Treng province, where traveling this far has been impossible every year because of the net. It is already a compromise that the state does not bring those lot operators and fishery officials for punishment. Let me instruct HE Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to order all lot operators to move their equipments out of the zone. I am not worried to lose their supports as long as I have the supports of people in the whole of Tonle Sap Lake area. It has been warned and re-warned but abuse has gone on and on.

Actions taken by the Ministry of Interior and/or National Police have not been effective, while sometimes their officials have been threatened too. It is painful when you have to listen to a story that people could not even row their boats across the lots. I find it when a man was arrested for fishing with a fishing net in the zone completely unacceptable. Well this is what I have to send as message to the fishing lots in the Tonle Sap Lake basin. However, this should also be treated as message for those operating in fishing lots elsewhere as well. They have to abide by the law.

I would urge urgent technical review and inspecting of fishing permission logbook. Bamboo bars used as barrier to fish movement needs to be defined and thoroughly inspected. We also have to urge that those with rights to operate the fishing lots must deposit a certain

amount of money in the bank. Household fishing may go on except large scale fishing which requires permission from the state. And for the permission, they would have to wait for further notice. We must do everything we can to regain population increase of the fish.

Policy Options for the Lots

Once the review is over, or after the specified no fishing seasons, I would suggest a look into a possibility with three scenarios. We may come to conclude that a part of the lots would be trimmed out for people's use, a part would be conserved totally and a small part would be allowed for large scale fishing again but with strict technical norms and operation. In case of violation to the said norm of operation, the deposit that interested party put at the Bank would be confiscated.

As far as income from the fishing lots is concerned, the state earns some two million USD per year only. I think the people could earn more from fishing by themselves. So I do not hesitate to come up with this policy. I am not afraid of losing support from those fishing lot operators but I am sure people at large will give me support. Abuse has been large and serious. That is why we have come out with order 01 and the formation of an inspection which leads to the revocation of the 35 fishing lots in Tonle Sap Lake.

As we have a rather big flood, let the fish travels far and breeds and if we fail to catch them, they will not be decayed ... The message should also serve as warning to those in fishing lots other than in the Tonle Sap Lake... I have now put out the fire. HE Chan Sarun should now be looking at delegating works (to the provincial authority), managing and controlling violations from recurring in all lots ...■

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have issued 10 million birth certificates, a big contribution to child's rights and protection.

Achievement #5: Promotion of gender equity in local governance.

The process of decentralization and de-concentration reform has contributed to the promotion of gender equity in local governance, and that has further strengthened social and political capital for bolstering democracy and national development. Female commune council members accounted for 8% of the total in the first mandate and the ratio rose to 16% in the second mandate. We hope that ratio will keep increasing in coming mandates.

Furthermore, women also serve as village chiefs, village deputy chiefs or village members, and in the governing committee of each capital, provincial, municipal, district/khan council, there is at least one woman serving as the governor or deputy governor. More importantly, the committee in charge of commune woman and child affairs have been established under each sub-national administrative councils to give greater attention to gender issues and respond to the needs of women and children.

Achievement No.6: the establishment of the National League of Commune/Sangkat Councils.

The establishment of the National League of Commune/Sangkat Councils is an important medium of collective voice of sub-national administrative councils in their dialogue with the government on development-related issues. Moreover, this national league has been playing an important role in building capacity of council members to fulfill their duties according to the law and regulation ...■

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on with their studies.

I also like to take this occasion to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the University for providing me and HE Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, of its scholarships so that we can give them out to poor students who could not afford fees on their own. HE Sar Kheng and I are also providing the University with basic materials needed.

Development after 30 Years

If we were to look back on the path that we have travelled over the past thirty years, we would definitely see that we have made so much progress. Back then there were not many educated people. As of now, you may agree with me that we have more educated people. Take this case when I first started the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we had so much difficulties recruiting staff for so many intellectuals had been killed under Pol Pot. Starting with a few people, then Ministry of Foreign Affairs initiated a test to recruit staff.

HE Uch Borith, currently Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, then students of the Faculty of Medicine, was taking a test of French language under the supervision of HE Ho Sithi, Director of the Prime Minister's Cabinet, then former student of the French School of Rene Descartes. Look that was how we started our journey. As of now, you may agree with me that we have more capable people that we have to offer them equal chance to compete for a place in any job opportunity. In some instances, we have thousands of contestants for less than a hundred jobs.

In 1980s, it should be clarified, for every student to get tertiary education s/he has to sign a contract with the state that upon completion of her/his studies s/he would have to stay

working for the Government/state. I think the situation had lasted till 1994-95. We also applied various compromising options for those in remote provinces who took exams in those days in the aim of giving them the chance to be recruited and working for the state authorities in their respective provinces. However, the situation was more often than not that the province could not find people in the province to continue to tertiary education in Phnom Penh, for impossible infrastructures.

The situation has now proven to be different. We will put into official use next year the national roads 76, national road 8 (between Kandal province and the border with Vietnam), and the national road 57 from Battambang province to Pailin province.

Development Inspection Trip

Last week I invited HM the King to think about making a road trip one day together with Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers, and Ministers to the remote province of Mondulhiri, etc. It can be a trip around the country to review the national development. As you all know, years ago in order to go to Mondulhiri, our people had to go to Vietnam and entered the province from the Vietnamese territory. If we decided to go to Mondulhiri within our territory, you might have seen on TV, the Cambodian Red Cross's trucks caught deeply in mud or skidded downhill in various instances.

The situation has now improved sparkly. We have finished the construction of the road segment to Mondulhiri province and it is just a matter of time that we will put it into official operation. As we will have this election campaign (for the Senate) from January 7 through to 29, I would say it is not wise to launch the inauguration within the span of this

specified period. I therefore suggest that we will put the road into official use on January 31, 2012.

We also have another road to be constructed as a link between Mondulhiri province and Ratanakiri province. This should serve as a direct link between the two provinces. You may note that we do not have direct link from Mondulhiri through to Ratanakiri province except to travel back on national road 76 from Mondulhiri to Kratie and from there up north and northeast to Ratanakiri, which is a long way back and forth. The studies and negotiations for funding are underway for the 90 million USD and 100 million USD projects which will provide for the construction of the said road between the two northeastern provinces, and of a road as well as a bridge over the Mekong between Stoeung Treng province and Preah Vihear province.

More Short Courses Needed

While sharing the joy with the Human Resource University, I would like to also express my sincere appreciation for the efforts made by the University, as is reported by Mr. Seng Phally, in transferring its status from a non-governmental institution to being a University. We may remember that HE Sar Kheng was the honorary President of the then vocational training organization that provided short courses to a large number of people. With its current development I would suggest the Human Resource Organization, which coexists alongside the University, should consider providing more of the short-term courses, which are now being provided for some 1,355 students.

It is so encouraging that the organization has provided since 1988 through to 2011 a great number of people – some 17,249 students. I would urge that the organization continues

with this activity as I am sure young people will benefit a lot from it. Please do not overlook this sort of short term training as it will quickly and responsively deliver to the people's demand for appropriate skills and technology. As our country is in its stage of development, we are in demand for various skills – maintaining engines, repairing motor cars, motorcycles, radios, TVs, mobile phones, etc.

In rural area, it is normally in high demand for mechanics who would fix the water pumps, pulled tractor motors, etc. I hope that the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training will collaborate with private education institutions to provide instructions on labor markets. I have come across a TV spot on how to grow bananas and what type of bananas that is in market demand? We are in the stage of moving habit-based agricultural activities to knowledge-based activities.

Upon my visit to the Kulen 317 Disabled Soldier Development Centre at the province of Siem Reap, I met a lady who raised a good big Yorkshire pig, she told me. My wife, who raised the same species of pig back in 1980s, then said to me that those are the ones she did too. We then raised the same species of pig, the Yorkshire ones, but we could not bring them up this big. That is why I am saying that short courses designed to cater to market demand would be a viable option for a long time to come.

Grateful for Blood Donation

I would like to take this time to express my sincere thanks to those who have responded to my appeal to donate their blood so that the Ministry of Health could administer supplying to those who need the most. As far as the record I have here, there have been some 400 donations from the Human Resource University
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alone. I may recall that I have made appeal twice for blood donations in previous weeks. The Ministry of Commerce has taken the appeal seriously as their officials went to donate blood under the guidance and participation of Senior Minister Cham Prasidh.

I also noted participations from various private sectors such as Bayon TV and Radio Company, VITAL drinking water, etc. Yesterday, staff and leaders of my Cabinet, the Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC) and the Bodyguard units, have responded to the call. This has indeed increased our stock of blood. Let's remember that it is a crucial donation for human life saving. It has now become a national movement that our people participate in the spirit of humanity. We must do everything we can to make full use of the blood.

I am so thankful to donors and urge that more blood donation must be administered by the Ministry of Health so that we do not have too much blood at one time and nothing at another. The Ministry of Health should be coming up with timetable that so and so would go at so and so time to donate blood because the blood donated would not be useable after 6 weeks. We also must figure out if there is a way or equipment with which we can preserve blood for a longer period. If there were, we should purchase them. There should be a timetable for rotation in blood donation.

Flood Concern and Preparedness

It should be noted that the seasonal flooding of the Mekong River is now starting. It has been recorded a high of 1.75 meters rise or 0.5 meters higher than the emergency warning level. What further develops this concern is that low pressure has been noted

that possible rains could give the Mekong a further rise. As is recorded in Kratie, the water might level to 22 meters as the emergency warning level is at 22 meters. The flood monitoring station at Kompong Cham province recorded a rise to 15.2 meters, while the emergency warning level is at 15.2 meters too. It is in this development that I would urge our preparedness as Cambodia may have early flood.

For me personally I would like to see a bigger flood compared to the previous years. We do not foresee a flash flood or natural calamity like Ketsana though. This is a tangible proof that it is not because of the dams in China, as were said by some people a few years now, that low water level in the Mekong River had been noted. The issue is whether there were or there were no rains, and because we have rain in the Mekong basin, the flood has come. It is natural anywhere – Japan, the US, no one could stop the natural calamity – whether it be storm or earthquake. I advise those people not to be extremists.

I have kept a close watch on the provinces up north of our country like Stoeung Treng, Kratie, Kompong Cham so as to monitor the flood development. I notice that this year is bringing a rather big flood before the year of dragon - known to be the year that brings the big flood - is coming next year. It is to everyone knowledge that in the year of dragon in 2000, the flood was a big one. My parents told me that the flood of dragon year is normally the biggest of all. If next year we will have a big flood, then the people's assumption will be relevant. Otherwise, it is also undeniably true that the whole world is affected by climate change.

It has been local practice for people residing along the waterways and rivers that if the

flood came in high, they expect the land to be fertile with silts/sediments. It would be otherwise if the flood came low or did not come at all. In addition to that they may have problem with insects, pests, uncontrollable grass, etc. What we are concerned here is when people need to have safety high ground when there is this flash flood or natural calamity. I urge the provincial administrations of Stoeung Treng, Kratie, Kompong Cham, Prey Veng and Kandal to be vigilant on this matter. I would not rule out the participations of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in the preparedness effort.

There have been some impacts though on people's agricultural crops. Some people, because they noticed there were no floods in several years, they decided to swap cropping from rice to cassava in a number of lower land areas. The early flood has damaged them. Though the first flood – normally there are two flood patterns in one season - causes minor impact, we should not neglect a higher impact from the second one. We will leave this matter of predicting the weather and flood pattern to the Ministry of Water Resource and Meteorology. In this note I also urge our people residing along the river to be careful and to look after the young ones from strong water current.

Along with this issue of flooding, I would like to inform our people that because of good spread of rain, our people have fulfilled a good job in rice cultivation in general. Transplantation starts early and has so far achieved some 70% already. This figure has surpassed the figure from last year some 40,000 hectares. On that note, I would share with you that the short dry season in July that we normally have in between the rainy period does not seem to be occurring. It is a good thing

that we have a good spread of rain throughout the country.

New Soldiers Recruits

I would like to take this opportune moment to appreciate and thank the efforts made by the Ministry of National Defense and all level local authorities of all levels in relation to soldier recruitment. As has been made public on TV, Phnom Penh has recruited some 800 soldiers for the special military zone and in general there is this trend of active participation in the national defense. We are recruiting 5,000 new ones for military training ranging from messengers to artillery and to replace old ones who will go into retirements.

Recruiting soldier is not a strange phenomenon. Every country in the world is recruiting soldier or making military service an obligation. It has been the case in many countries that failing to fulfill military obligation would put the person in a difficult situation. You may take the President Bill Clinton as an example. In his presidential campaign, he was attacked by his opponent on issue that he failed to join the war in Vietnam. As for Cambodia, because we are in short of resources, we would go step by step on making military service an obligation. In the meantime we only recruit those trained to be professional military officers.

You may understand that now the border situation between Cambodia and Thailand has improved that there is no need for us to recruit more soldiers for that matter. Let me clarify that there has been demand for us to send our troops to foreign countries on call of de-mining under the United Nations peacekeeping operations. We also send our troops to help build roads and infrastructures too. We should be able to respond in rapid manner to the call of the UN to help in fulfill-

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ing international obligation. We will not send our troop abroad for fighting but our troops can perform de-mining and infrastructural development duties.

Taking this moment I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Cambodian youth who have participated in the national defense movement. From here I also have the need to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, grandfathers and grandmothers, who have allowed their sons, nephews and/or grandchildren to take up military services.

Cambodian-Thai Relations

Let me now go to another subject matter that is politically important for the people of Cambodia too. The situation along the Cambodian and Thai border has improved since July 3, 2011 the day when the people of Thailand voted for Pheu Thai party. The point that has brought the situation to this stage is because people believe that Pheu Thai will not provoke tension or hostile activity against Cambodia. The general border improvement has brought about troops reductions, while lessening the possibility for armed clashes.

Along with this development, on July 18, 2011, the ICJ ruling to establish a provisional demilitarized zone of roughly 17 square kilometers has contributed to avoidance of armed conflict and confrontation by the two sides. At policy level, the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of Thailand under Lok Chumteav Yingluck Shinawatra seem to have parallel aims for peace, friendship and cooperation. It is in this understanding that Cambodia is seeking all possible means to improve situation to what it was before July 15 as soon as possible.

After the nomination of the new Thai Prime Minister on August 5, a Thai delegation, in which Lt. Gen. Sowatchai Samutsakorn, commander of Thai army region II was also a member, was in Phnom Penh to conduct a study. They came to see me. They also brought with them the initiative to convene a regional border committee (RGB) meeting. Now both sides have agreed to convene on August 24 and 25 a meeting between army region II of Thailand and military region IV of Cambodia in the province of Nokomrajasima of Thailand. It can be said that now we have to allow for negotiations at all levels so as to reach an improvement of the situation.

I think HE Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, would have to get ready to receive the Minister of Interior of Thailand, HE Yongyuth Wichaidit, President of the Pheu Thai party. I would expect also there will be this visit of the new Thai foreign minister too. Finally, as usual, these will be followed by the visit of the Thai Prime Minister. Let's now stop the war threat and engage each other with peace and trade. Cambodia also produces instant noodle, maybe our soldier can exchange it with the one made in Thailand.

Role of Indonesia and PDZ

In my discussion with HE Tia Banh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense and HE Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, after the meeting between HE Tia Banh and HE Yuthasak Sasiprapha, Defense Minister of Thailand, we have come to an opinion that the RGB will convene in Cambodia. However, things will move on after the presentation of the political platform of the elected Pheu Thai led government in the

parliament.

Without waiting for the Indonesian to take part, the RGB meeting could reconvene as it will touch only on general border issues such as fighting against drug trafficking, illegal logging, etc. The meeting will not discuss though the issue relating to the 17 square kilometer provisional demilitarized zone (PDZ) as any discussion on it will need to have Indonesian involvement in its capacity as the rotating chair of ASEAN. This cannot be done otherwise as it has been chartered by the UN Security Council, the International Court of Justice in the Hague, and by ASEAN itself. I have ascertained this point with HE Tia Banh that anything concerns the PDZ, we have to urge Thailand to involve Indonesia.

In case that discussion has been held without the presence of Indonesia, we have to prepare a report and send it to Indonesia informing of any agreements that both sides may have reached. I recall roughly that during the visit the other day Gen. Sowatchai seemed to have said he likes it if there will be only one group of Indonesian observers. I told him that Cambodia is willing to accept whether there is going to be one or two teams and this is up to Indonesia. My point is that when the PDZ of 17 square kilometers is concerned, there must be a role for Indonesia, and if Indonesia could not be present with us, a report must be filed for it.

I think we should get ready for any troop withdrawal (from the PDZ). First of all we have to have the number of troops in the said area and there have to be lists of police and civilian officials who are working in the area too. As I have said during my press briefing last month that the PDZ should be supervised by the police forces with mission to look after tour-

ist issue, public order and heritage, and the forest rangers who would be authorized to carry only pistols and small rifle as AK 47 and/or M16. While we have a truce between the militaries, both sides must keep an eye on thefts in the PDZ.

The PDZ will be military free. The court's ruling will be in place till the request for interpretation of the judgment of June 15, 1962 in the case concerning the Temple of Preah Vihear is met. Both sides need keep order on own side. Thai will need to keep order on its side, while Cambodia will also do the same. I think HE Var Kimhong who heads the border committee could also resume the meeting to sort out issue of searching for border markers, mapping, etc. without waiting for the Indonesian arrival since the committee would not discuss the 17 square kilometer issue.

Thaksin Is No Fool

Certain politicians in Thailand have lost their positions already but they seem to be leaving no stone unturned to attack me. I do not feel the necessity to return the favor. However for your information, these people have gone this far to warn the current elected Thai Prime Minister Yingluck not to use good relations with Hun Sen for personal gain. What on earth are they talking about? Hun Sen and Thaksin have personal relations. They have even suggested that Thaksin traded Thai interest on Preah Vihear issue for interest (from overlapping area) in the sea.

Thaksin is a leader in his own right and I think they should not devalue or demote him that much. Look the absolute majority of Thai people have supported him. Thaksin is a Thai and he understands and serves Thai interest too. How could he trade Thai interest in one place for another? We never

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best we can in providing one post for female candidate in every district and provincial governing board. This trend has also been observed in various government institutions. That is an encouraging sign of women's participation in national development. I also take this opportunity to instruct all district and provincial governors to set aside actual jobs for female functionaries to fulfill rather than just appointing them but giving them with no job to carry out. They have to have works and responsibilities according to their functions.

As I said earlier, in a few years to come we may as well have female provincial governors and I think that will be completely all right and worthwhile. We also had our experience with one of our governors as female in the 1980s – Lok Chumteav Lak On, who governed the province of Ratanakiri under the State of Cambodia. In this regard I would urge a consideration of appointing female governors in place of those governors who would go into retirements. I would order for similar consideration at the district level.

Transference of Public Functions

As for the transference of public function, I think it has been difficult to conduct for realistic achievement. I remember we discussed a great deal about this issue of transferring from one position to another in public duties at the time when we started drafting the organic laws. I then addressed this issue particularly about an individual who has been transferred from one function at the national level to another at the local level and s/he has brought with her/him as if s/he is still empowered with authority at the national level. This has been noted to be an issue in the course of decentralization and de-concentration.

It is in this note that I would suggest that heads of national institutions prepare lists of proposed transferred functions as every appointment now will have a say of the local authorities as well. I only urge that any transfer of position/functions, responsibility and ability to perform the duty must be a prioritized criterion. I may share with you the experience we have with regard to the scale of decentralization of power in the Phnom Penh city. We have been able to work out a model of investment at Koh Pij development that I used to compare to “using palm leaves to wrap palm sugar.”

If we were to keep the Koh Pij for development by the Phnom Penh Municipality's own effort, the Koh Pij would not be able to develop this much. We have tried a model of investment with the private sector's participation and we have seen that it works. In the future, we will also review issue of function preparations and distributions so that more will be delegated to sub-national administration along with their budgets. We have sorted out the issue of national, provincial and communal budgeting and soon we will have to oversee the budget for the district level as well.

Unmanned Craft Explosion

Two days ago there was a strong explosion of an unmanned aircraft at the border near Preah Vihear province. We have discovered some 17 major pieces of what is understood to be debris of a drone. The search has continued. Based on what we have found and since the Thai authority has denied any knowledge of using such a drone and/or known about it, and because it is thought that the Thai side has no reason to use such a drone too, I would conclude this incident to be possibly terrorist act.

We should not underestimate

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talk about swapping interest as has been claimed. Thaksin is no fool.

For me, when someone is befriended to me, s/he does not have to be a Prime Minister. I make friends with Thaksin not when he was or his sister is elected Prime Minister. We were friends because we see there is a need to help friend when friend is in need. They have lost but they continue to make it a fuss on everything. They urge the new Thai government to continue to hunt Thaksin down. They have spent the whole time in office to hunt him down, but they failed. Thaksin has now been granted visas to Germany, Japan and Cambodia would also grant him one if Thaksin wishes for.

Essential Factors for National Development

In this development I would like to share with you a view that in order to develop a country, one needs to have two major factors. Firstly, it is *internal stability*, which is a factor that cannot be overlooked. Having caught in war, one cannot hope for infrastructural and general development. People would not be willing to spend their money to build

the terrorist ability to make use of such means to achieve their purposes. While it is not yet time to conclude of the origin and purpose of such drone operation over the area in the Cambodian territory, I would not think it to be used for attacking any targets at this moment but it is quite possible that the drone has been used on a trial basis that would gather information and skills for possible terrorist mission in the future either in Cambodia or in Thailand, or even in other countries.

I have ordered the Ministry of National Defense and the Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to seek cooperation with the United States of America or any other countries, like Australia who just discussed with me the other day on anti-terrorist work, with interest in anti-terrorist actions to conduct research of the exploded drone and its mission. I would urge for more scrutiny to be carried out as we still have to be careful with possible terrorist acts from various groups. We do not accuse the Thais and also they have denied it./■

In 2008, it was almost certain to everyone that the Cambodian People's Party was going to win the elections, so no one left the country. I must say the businessmen are quite capable of telling the trend in politics.

Secondly, good *neighborly and international relations* are crucial. Among the three neighbors, we have got two good ones, but we have another to secure. Now I have the chance to announce a new era of cooperation between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Royal Government of Thailand under the leadership of Pheu Thai party. I would say that whatever happened in the past was like a bad dream and now we are committed to making our relations better in all levels. We must move from confrontation to cooperation. I therefore think that the relations between Thailand and Cambodia will not loom over ASEAN general affairs anymore./■

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Achievement #1: the democratic development through decentralization and de-concentration reform programs has further strengthened political stability through democratic sub-national administrative election.

The outcome of the previous democratic and multiparty sub-national administrative elections has created a good opportunity to mobilize local political factions to create local administrative structure including commune councils, sangkat councils, capital councils, provincial councils, municipal councils, district councils and khan councils that are elected and mandated to seek consultation, coordinate and accelerate development in their respective localities by allowing contribution from people of all factions, all groups of the civil society and the private sector to jointly address local challenges, respond to the needs of local people and contribute to poverty reduction in each locality. This newly established system has prevented discrimination against and overlooking of any local group, in particular ethnic minority and vulnerable groups. The sub-national administration councils and relevant stakeholders have together worked hard to create the culture of participatory transparency and responsibility, which is a key of good governance and the core of the **“Rectangular Strategy”** of the Royal Government of Cambodia. Hence, I would consider achievement No.1 as a key achievement for the continuous and long-lasting progress of democracy, strengthening of political stability and the development in Cambodia.

Achievement #2: the preparation of legal framework along with the introduction of the most appropriate structural system for Cambodia.

The achievement in this area is a preparation of legal frame-

On August 18, 2011, at the **Stocktaking Conference of the Achievements of the Second-Term Commune Councils, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**: ... Over the course of the democratic development through decentralization and de-concentration programs since 2002, **six achievements** stood out as being of the most significance, including: ...

work for the establishment of the structural system and necessary procedures for the sub-national administration councils to operate and manage their own localities. The Royal Government has thoroughly studied the experiences of other countries that have been implementing reforms by identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the implementation of those reform programs in order to create the most appropriate regulation and system for Cambodia.

Other countries' experiences show that the democratic development reform is a tedious and long-lasting task, which takes time and requires firm and steady commitment from relevant stakeholders along with the willingness to adjust various strategies based on the experiences and learnt lessons from real practices.

The establishment of legal framework, structure and system are possible due to the establishment of appropriate supporting institutions with inter-ministerial consultations and consensus. In the initial stage of the reform, National Committee for the Support of Communes has played an important role in this issue, and at present it has been replaced by the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD). No single ministry is able to take the whole responsibility for this reform, but it requires involvement from all branches of the government. Therefore, NCDD acts as a flexible coordinator of involvement from concerned ministries/institutions of the government, authorities at capital, provin-

cial, municipal, district and commune levels, national and international organizations, development partners, non-governmental and civil organizations.

Achievement #3: the preparation of financial management system and the management of participatory development.

This achievement has been reflected through three aspects, including:

1. The establishment of commune/sangkat funds with the arrangement for transferring budget from national level to commune level with more predictability, in a sense that communes can estimate beforehand the resources for the local development in the medium term. This budget is allocated annually based on a transparent and equitable formula, and transferred to communes according to specific schedules that allow communes to prepare their respective annual budgets for the effective implementation of their development plans. We have also created principles and procedures of financial management and procurement, and implemented of commune/sangkat fund project which ensure participatory transparency and integrity in the management of the fund.
2. Through commune funds, the Royal Government has transferred nearly 888 billion Riels (equivalent to USD 222 million) to communes nationwide between 2002 and 2011, in which Riel 834 billion Riels (equivalent to USD 208

million) are from the government budget and 54 billion Riels (equivalent to USD 14 million) are from development partners. Furthermore, over the past 10 years the Royal Government has mobilized additional fund of about USD 56 million and distributed the fund to some targeted communes on top of the commune funds.

3. To ensure the distribution of the resources timely respond to the priority needs of the local we have set up a 5-year development planning system for communes, 3-year rolling investment plans for each commune/sangkat and the preparation of commune annual budget with the involvement of local people.

Achievement #4: contribution in local development and poverty reduction.

In almost 10 years, commune councils have made a great achievement in terms of local development. In order to respond to the priority needs for the renovation of local physical infrastructure and the improvement of accessibility to markets and public services for local people as well as for local communities, commune councils have prepared and implemented many small projects including many small-scale rural infrastructure and social service delivery projects that have made a noticeable impact. Apart from these, commune councils have also involved with the development of social services through supporting the committee in charge of commune woman and child affairs in the implementation of small and necessary social service delivery at local level. In parallel, commune councils have also acted as registrars of births, marriages and deaths. Until now, commune councils

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