

Cambodia New Vision

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Presenting Diplomas to New Graduates & Inaugurating a New Building at the RULES



28 June 04 - Samdech Hun Sen was warmly welcomed by the people at the celebration of the 53rd anniversary of the foundation of the Cambodian People's Party (then the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea) in the CPP headquarter.

“... I have a great honor and pleasure today to participate in the graduation ceremony and inauguration of new school building in the Royal University of Law and Economics Science.

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and myself, may I express my sincere thanks and appreciations to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and especially to the national and foreign professors, civil servants, staffs and all the students of the Royal University of Law and Economics Science who have made tremendous efforts to successfully fulfill their roles

and obligation in developing human resources for the right cause of rehabilitation and development of Cambodia at the present and in the future.

At the same time, I would like to express my happiness and admiration to all the 777 new graduates of Bachelor Degree in Law and Economics Science and also those of the Associated Degree in Accounting who have worked very hard to successfully overcome all the challenges faced their long period of study.

At this graduation, you are awarded with a degree you deserve for,
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08 June 2004 (Angkor Century Hotel, Siem Reap)

Addressing the Technical Seminar on Cultural Tourism and Poverty Alleviation

“... Today, I am very pleased to participate in this Forty-First Meeting of the WTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the Technical Seminar on Cultural Tourism and Poverty Alleviation.

On behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, may I extend my warmest welcome to all Your Excellencies, Distinguished

Delegates and Guests from many countries in this significant international gathering on the wonderful land of Angkor, the Kingdom of Cambodia.

I am delighted to meet H.E. Francesco Frangialli for the second time since the International Conference on Cultural Tourism, first held in Siem Reap in late 2000.

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01 June 2004

Commemorating the International Children's Day

(In both capacities as the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Honorary Chairman of the Cambodian National Council for Children)

“... On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I am very pleased to participate in this parade and large gathering of children to commemorate International Children's Day of 1st June and World Day Against Child Labor of 12th June.

On this happy occasion, I wish success to our meeting and other activities. May these encourage the spirits of all government institutions, non-government organizations, international organizations and Cambodian citizens to continue to actively fulfill their tasks to meet the basic

needs of children as stipulated in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, for all Cambodian children and the children of all nations.

I would like to express my warm welcome to all national and international guests, the diplomatic corps, the donor community, and especially to Mr. Kul Gautam, the Deputy Executive Director of the
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which testifies the results of your academic achievements.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia as well as my own self, through H.E. Yvon Roé d'Albert, the Ambassador of France to the Kingdom of Cambodia, let me profoundly and genuinely thank the Government and the people of France for helping finance this new school building.

It will indeed contribute to the strengthening and expanding of basic infrastructure in the Royal University of Law and Economics Science. This will indeed promote greater responsibility in developing "intellectual resources", -- which is a necessary factor for a nation heading towards regional and world integration in this 21st century.

Furthermore, I also would like to express my gratitude to partner countries for their corporation and support, as well as to other donors who have been providing quality and sustained support to the operation and function of the University in the past and in the future.

According to the opening remarks by H.E. Im Sothy, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and the University Director's Report taking stock of the university training

and development progress, I am proud to see that we have transformed this place into a most effective training center of law and economics, which is the fundamental knowledge endowing the development of a nation in the future.

In addition to this university, we have many other public and private universities, colleges, institutes, and high education training centers, which are partners in developing intellectual resources and become pillars and main players in the promotion of Cambodia economic and social development towards future prosperity.

In this sense, RGC considers the reform of education sector as a top priority for the causes of high quality human resource development. This will be done through strengthening basic education and quality of teaching that is consistent with the systematic and broader national economic development framework.

The RGC has recognized that strengthening of education system and developing of human resources, with required quality and high qualification, are very important in order to improve and build up basic knowledge, that is one of the components which could help enable Cambodia to efficiently and effectively compete with other partners in the region and the world, as

they are aggressively moving forward in this modern world of regionalization and globalization.

Indeed, our economy can enjoy sound progress only if we have many talented and qualified intellectual resources, combined with the effective use and management of the resource.

Hence, it is necessary to create favorable environment for developing intellectual resources and its appropriate management, as a motto says "*Want maximum productivity? See how wisely you use people to their function, skills and talent.*"

Moreover, the Royal Government has given priority to the development of education, supporting human resource training and poverty reduction strategy, -- by focusing on good education, which would in turn ensure qualified human resource and good professional practices for the development of our country.

However, a country's abundant human resource would not assure the development unless the human resource is qualified and equipped with high professional conducts.

We can put it in another word that: "*knowledge and moral are the dual currents and quality necessarily embodied in every human-being*".

Concurrently with the above need, in order to achieve the objective and vision for today and future implementation we need to assure "*the quality of training and job creation awarding to diploma bearers*".

In reality, in order to solve these two problems we must not only arrange training programs and content to respond to the country's socio-economic progress, but we also need to prepare training programs to respond to labor market needs.

At the same time, we are also aware of guaranteed quality, comparably equivalent to regional and international standards. All these are the factors affecting the education and training quality in all the economy's sectors, both on the production and distribution sides.

Indeed, quality of education and training is determined by many factors in which professors, teachers, students, educational establishments and management are the points of focus. But at the same time, we also need to accord more focus on parents and society that are the education partners of educational establishments.

Moreover, education programs and principles are also the essential factors which require good implementation. This means good connection between

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theory and practices and association between training and operational internship in various institutions, factories, enterprises and production units. Meanwhile, through these operational internships, we would provide our students with opportunities in figuring our sources of jobs by showing and highlighting their qualification, talent and good professional conducts.

Nevertheless, the main source of job creation that we can never overlook is economic reform in order to transform our weak agriculture to a modern, agro-industry and processing industry through the efforts in boosting development in the four priority actions that are "roads, water, electricity and qualified human resource".

All the above factors are my stressing points for all sectors and educational institutions to take into consideration for their planning preparation and objective determination with more accuracy and successful achievement. For you all, dear graduates, may I appeal to you to take the knowledge gained from training at the university and use it for your own benefit and that of your family and society both in the situation where you search for a job or you continue to further your study.

At the same time, you should remember that

"knowledge, experience and attitudes are the three angles which provide mutual supports and enforcement and cannot exist without one another".

This is the good quality that you should bear in mind, in order to contribute to the protection, construction and development of our country, with the view of rules of law and prosperity strengthened by assuring independence, peace, liberty and sovereignty. All these are the honorable goals of our people and that are the righteous ideas of His Majesty the King Norodom Sihanouk and Her Majesty the Queen Norodom Monineath.

For the Royal University of Law and Economics, may I appeal for your efforts in assuring continuity, expanding the scope of training programs, strengthening equipment, intensifying management and good governance in order to enhance quality in training.

All these are to further strengthen the university reputation and also to contribute to the establishment of dynamic knowledge resource for the development of our nation. At the same time, I would like to appreciate for and feel very proud of the achievement, the valuable grant by the Republic of France, with the total value of more than 300,000 USD.

On this occasion, let me once again express my gratitude to the people and government of France and to Your Excellency Ambassador. I am convinced that this new building would be managed and used to contribute to the improvement of quality in human resource training.

Finally, may I wish you all, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the five gems of Buddhist blessings. For the cause of education and intellectual capital development for the development of Cambodia now and in the future, may I declare the opening of this new building of the University of Law and Economics." ■

Selected Comments



... I have compared the Cambodian political situation to the round shape of a ball and by saying that I mean the political situation in Cambodia is unpredictable as anything could happen.

... If it was hard to predict before, however, it is now rather predictable as an agreement (between the CPP and FUNCINPEC) will be signed on June 30th and the National Assembly will convene its first session on July 8th in order to adopt a supplement to the Constitution.

... Thereafter, we may need some time for the law to be processed at

the Senate. After the approval by the Senate, the supplement will then be promulgated henceforth allowing for the vote en bloc to be conducted. The process would finally allow the vote en bloc for both the National Assembly and the Royal Government to happen anywhere between July 13 and 15.

... Some politicians have lost their chances of being included (in the process) because of their "no Hun Sen" policy. Now that Hun Sen cannot be despised, they instead lose their chances. We all could recall that the November 5th agreement allowed their inclusion in the new Royal Government, but after that the agreements on March 15, June 2nd and June 26, the chance had slipped through.

... I think being a politician, it is not a good thing to seek to expel somebody. I never want to expel anyone. If they do not want me, how can I just want him alone. Take for instance if Samdech Krom Preah needs me, I also need him back and the same is true between FUNCINPEC and CPP, and vice versa... ■

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May I also express my appreciation to Mr. Frangialli and his colleagues of the WTO who have exerted strong leadership in promoting mutual understanding, encouraging sustainable tourism development and thereby helping us all realize these shared goals.

May I also express my congratulations to the United Nations for recognizing the World Tourism Organisation as a Specialised Agency of the UN since 23 December 2003.

This recognition provides the WTO with further momentum to collaborate more intensively with the UN family.

It also manifests the importance of tourism development, upheld by the international community, particularly the sector's contribution to poverty alleviation, development, conservation of cultural heritage, environmental protection, strengthening of peace and mutual understanding among all nations.

Indeed, the WTO's status as a specialised agency of the UN provides it not only with legitimacy in economic development cooperation, but it also attests to the significant role of tourism toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Asia is rich with diverse cultural heritages. In particular, Cambodia has

many cultural and historical sites dating thousands of years back to our ancestors, the most prominent of which are the unique Angkor temples that are the greatest products of Khmer architecture, sculpture and history.

During the Angkor era, Cambodia reached its peak as a civilized nation. At that time, we employed the most modern technologies in construction, architecture, urban management, agriculture and other infrastructures.

In the City of Angkor, the people, forests and temples co-existed in harmony, peace and prosperity. Even today, all who are fortunate to visit and gaze upon the Angkor monuments fall under their spell of beauty, mystery and greatness, and are forever held in thrall.

At the same time, Cambodia also has many other natural, recreational and eco-tourism sites, which we are working hard to further develop into wonderful tourism venues.

These include geographic sites rich in unique cultural and natural attractions. Based on this favourable condition, the Royal Government has determined the policy of tourism development of Cambodia as a "*Cultural and Natural Tourism*" destination.

The Royal Government

keenly appreciates the enormous potentials for tourism's contribution to Cambodia's socio-economic development.

The Government also shares in the global recognition of tourism as a unique mechanism for trade and communication, which contributes broadly to national revenues, job creation, and improvement of living standards.

Moreover, cultures, traditions and national reputations are promoted worldwide through tourism, impacting on regional and international understanding, cooperation and peace.

It is, therefore, not by accident that the Royal Government of Cambodia considers tourism as one of the six priority thrusts in its strategy to promote economic growth and poverty reduction.

Tourism has been crucial to Cambodia's growth. In 1998-2002, the sector grew steadily, by 25%-30% annually. Unfortunately, in 2003 Cambodia's tourism sector was adversely affected by the outbreak of SARS in the region, while Cambodia itself was not affected. In 2003 visitor arrivals to Cambodia fell by 10%, lower than the fall across ASEAN of an average of 14%.

The tourism sector demonstrated its resiliency by its speedy recovery from the SARS outbreak.

The collaboration and coordination among the Heads of Governments in the region, the World Tourism Organisation, World Health Organization and other international development partners promoted the rapid recovery of tourism.

In Cambodia, in the first four months of 2004, international arrivals have increased 29.62% if compared to 2003.

The Royal Government of Cambodia clearly recognizes that physical infrastructures, including roads, water, electricity, telecommunications and other services are crucial to significant and sustained growth not only of the tourism sector but the economy as a whole.

Due to the growth of tourism, Siem Reap has remarkably developed its infrastructure, including the airport, roads, traffic facilities, power, hotels, restaurants and recreational facilities.

Indeed, tourism has promoted the development of all socio-economic sectors of the province, with linkages to and positive impacts on surrounding and other priority tourism destinations.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has exerted efforts to attract more tourists to the Angkor Zone, while at the same time protecting and conserving the Angkor for sustainable development.

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The Royal Government has formed the APSARA Authority as a Special Authority to protect and conserve the Angkor cultural area. Efforts of the APSARA, in collaboration with the UNESCO and other international partners have moved beyond the rescue stage into a new era of conservation and development.

The Royal Government is monitoring all developments in the Angkor area to keep track of both positive as well as negative impacts, and to facilitate corrective measures.

A master plan for the development of the Angkor area has been formulated with worldwide assistance and is now under implementation in terms of projects such as water and electricity supply, wastewater management and other infrastructures all toward the goal of preserving and developing the area into a sustainable cultural tourism destination that we can all be proud of.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is also focusing on the development of the areas surrounding the Angkor, particularly linked to the tourism, cultural and natural destinations of neighbouring countries such as Thailand and Lao PDR. The most important joint initiative between Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand is the Emerald Triangle Development

Program. In this regard, I thank the World Tourism Organization for its conduct of appraisal on the Emerald Triangle Development Program.

It is an honour for the Kingdom of Cambodia to be elected as Chair of the East Asia and the Pacific Commission of WTO for the 2004-2005 mandate. I appreciate the results of the 41st Meeting of the WTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific, which discussed the details of the regional programs, including the preparation, implementation and evaluation for general programs of work, the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, the Emerald Triangle Tourism Development (Cambodia-Lao PDR-Thailand) Program and the Heritage Necklace Project initiated by Thailand.

I am convinced that the Seminar on Cultural Tourism and Poverty Alleviation today will examine ways in which cultural tourism can be channelled effectively to achieve poverty alleviation in Cambodia and Asia.

Indeed, we should identify policies that governments may adopt to increase their share of the cultural tourism market and increase the contribution of tourism to poverty alleviation. Moreover, we should define the roles that local authorities can play in cultural tourism management

to ensure that socio-economic benefits are fairly distributed among the local poor.

With our strong commitment to achievement of the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals, the Royal Government of Cambodia has launched its 2003-2005 Cambodia National Poverty Reduction Strategy and set up the Tourism Poverty Alleviation Working Group chaired by the Ministry of Tourism.

Such coordination will help ensure that poverty alleviation is always at the forefront of our activities, including our tourism development efforts.

After this meeting, tomorrow you will tour the Angkor Wat monuments. The temples will offer you many rewards from our heritage and ancient civilisation.

We hope that during your brief stay in the Kingdom, you will appreciate that while Cambodia has a rich heritage; our nation is firmly moving forward into a brighter future, with hope and confidence in our own strong capability and commitment.

May I extend to Your Excellency Francesco Frangialli and all Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen my wishes for success in all your endeavours, good health and a pleasant and enjoyable stay in Cambodia.

Selected Comments

Along with the prepared speech for the gathering I wish to share some comments in relation to the topic. Many foreigners who visited Cambodia were of two conflicting feelings. They were the difference between the image of Cambodia as was presented by the western media and the true Cambodia they came to see with their own eyes.

I used to say there are in fact two Cambodias — one Cambodia is presented by the western media and another Cambodia is where we all are meeting today. Cambodia that is presented by the western media is full of dangers, and on the contrary, the true Cambodia is a safe country for tourism as it had prevented all sort of terrorist activities, SARS outbreak, or even bird flu...

In the true Cambodia they discover normalcy of life, which in return makes them feel as if Cambodia had never gone through any negative effect in the past. One could find five-star hotels and a market system where all sort of foreign currencies are transacting. Of course this would disguise the negative history of Cambodia.

Between 1970 and 1975, the country was in a stage of cruel war, and in between 1975 and 1979

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UNICEF, for joining this happy gathering.

Indeed, the children's parade and grand meeting which has been organized bear witness to the serious commitment and attention of the Royal Government, parents, teachers and Cambodian society on the protection, welfare enhancement and better futures of children.

Cambodia has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts.

Cambodia is also party to international agreements against the trafficking of children, prostitution and inappropriate advertising. Moreover, Cambodia has incorporated the UN declarations and related statements on children into Cambodia's Socio-Economic Development Plan.

Thus all ministries, agencies, NGOs, civil society and other concerned stakeholders are properly guided with respect to for child rights in consistent with the world trend.

Attention to children and mothers is indeed explicit in the social development priorities of the government. The entire government is mandated to take very seriously our responsibilities and obligations to ensure that each and every child is healthy, intelligent, and lives in happiness and dignity within the family as well

as in society.

Complementary with these goals is the provision of care and support to children in fighting against disease, vulnerability and exploitation, including drug abuse.

We also protect children against poverty by appropriate investment and creating a policy environment that shall transform children into productive resources, pillars of the community and the successor generation in the development of the country in all sectors, leading Cambodian society toward farther progress and prosperity.

The remarks made by H.E. Ith Samheng, Chairman of the Cambodian National Council for Children, and Minister of Social Affairs, Labor, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation, clearly highlighted the history of the International Children's Day and the World Day Against Child Labor.

In Cambodia we specifically remember the cruelty of the Pol Pot genocidal regime of the latter 1970s, which brought vast devastation to the country and people of Cambodia.

Since 7 January 1979 we have achieved great steps in the rehabilitate, rebuilding and development of socio-economic infrastructure in order to provide services in health and education especially for children and the

youth.

We have established orphanages, schools at all levels, hospitals and health centers. These health facilities provide children with vaccinations against six crucial diseases, nutrition support, malaria care, healing and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Positive gains have been achieved, marked by the recognition by the World Health Organization (WHO) of Cambodia's success in polio eradication and treatment.

During our second term in 1998-2003, the Royal Government of Cambodia increased the budgets for the social sector, particularly health and education, to improve health care for mothers and infants, and channeled education budgets through the Priority Action Program (PAP).

May I express my deepest appreciation for the great love, care, and dedication rendered by parents, teachers, government officials, and all NGOs who serve in so many ways to rescue children from desperate conditions, shelter and care for them, and help them become good children, good students, good friends, and good citizens.

While we have made some advances, there is still much work to be done. We still have much to do before we can fully achieve the policy agenda of the Government and

the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The remaining tasks are still heavy burdens for government.

To tackle all the remaining tasks we do need the continuing support and good cooperation of international development partners, NGOs, and civil society at large including generous individuals. In this spirit, may I request the Ministries/institutions, civil society, NGOs, and all development partners to pay close attention to four priorities as follows:

First, *reduction of maternal and infant mortality rate, with priority on vaccination, prevention, alleviation of shortages in micro-nutrients including various vitamins, treatment of worms, appropriate foods for infants and children including breast feeding, proper maternal care and of course birth control.*

Second, *quality education for all, especially for girls, including enhanced education and training, especially for female students; continued efforts to reduce the gender gap in all social and economic activities, including primary and secondary schooling in both urban and rural schools. We should also pay more attention on enhancing non-formal education*
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for youths and to strengthen the readiness of children by enabling them to enter school by the age of 6 years.

Third, *combating HIV/AIDS, focusing on vulnerable youths through enhanced awareness, education, health services, and health care for HIV/AIDS affected children and youth, including orphans whose parents died from HIV/AIDS; and*

Fourth, *child protection, especially against drug trafficking, exploitation and abuse, including strengthening systems of birth registration, promoting minimum regulations of child care, protecting of children from illegal activities and abuse through implementation of existing laws, and accelerating the preparation of the National Action Plan on Child Labor and Abuse and the 5-Year National Plan Against Trafficking and Exploitation of Children.*

Now, may I call upon all ministries/institutions, authorities at all levels, civil society, and national and international NGOs to study and understand the document "Cambodia for the Children". This document contains the four priorities I have enumerated and serves as the

blueprint for all institutions concerned in order to protect the rights and welfare of children.

Moreover, I appeal to the Cambodian National Council for Children to continue to strengthen their sub-committees in monitoring and evaluating implementation in accordance with the document "Cambodia for the Children," while working more actively to mobilize children and youth to effectively participate in this process. Once again, may I extend my deep gratitude to all ministries/institutions, donor community, civil society, all national and international NGOs, who have provided support for Cambodian children.

I also highly appreciate the honor given to Cambodia by the international community in hosting the 7th Asia-Pacific Ministerial Consultative Meeting, which will help improve our common efforts to protect the rights and welfare of children in Cambodia, the region and the world. Finally, I wish you all, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, good health, happiness, and success in your efforts for the wonderful cause of each child in Cambodia. I also wish you and all children the five gems of Buddhist wishes."■

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suffered a genocide regime. Siem Reap town, Phnom Penh and even the whole country were in similar situation — no city, no pagoda, no tourism, no money, and this I would say made Cambodia a different country from the rest of the world in the end of the 20th century. In fact Cambodia reprinted its currency only in 1980, while after the genocide, in Siem Reap we had only one hotel with few rooms.

After the fall of the genocide Cambodia faced with numerous problems as over three million people died under the regime, while the rest in bags of bones have had to revive their livelihood from scratch.

On the contrary, with the recognition of the Khmer Rouge in the United Nations, the Khmer Rouge forces and its alliance continued to plan for the return of the regime. It was because of such an attempt that Angkor Watt temple, the Tonle Sap lake had all become the victims of the political conspiracy.

I could recall when Cambodia requested for assistance to rehabilitating the Angkor Watt temple, we were rebuked that we are not recognized by the United Nations, and the Khmer Rouge represented Cambodia in the UNESCO till 1991. In those days Poland and India were the only countries that assisted in the conservation of the tragic

temple. For the revival of the country, we have been resolutely committed to do everything possible for laying the ground for tourism development. We then had a gradual increase of visitors, especially those from Japan, though their Government restricted their tour only in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.

The menace of the Khmer Rouge was present till 1998. I wish to recall that the Khmer Rouge forces was attacking the town of Siem Reap in March 1993. The Head of the United Nations Transitional Authority for Cambodia (UNTAC) HE Yasushi Akashi contacted me and requested for immediate intervention from the forces of the State of Cambodia who stationed in the area of Siem Reap. We recaptured the town of Siem Reap.

Thanks to the full implementation of the win-win policy, without shedding blood, we have shrunk down the war effect to the last stronghold of the Khmer Rouge in Anlong Veng, the result of which one could visited the place where Pol Pot died and the house of the Khmer Rouge's commander Ta Mok. The peace plan therefore has resulted in the development in tourism industry.

As far as tourism development is concerned, I may recall that in the late 1980's, as the Prime Minister, I drew the at-

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tention of tourism development officials that they should be careful as we realized development in this sector. We also should be warned of the implication it may have over the local culture. My recommendation in those days was to refrain from building hotels and/or restaurants in areas that could cause damages to the national heritage.

My vision on issue of cultural and natural tourism has always been our attention and interest since 1980's. Giving support to this sector, we had committed some mistakes as well but reorganization of the tourism sector have been conducted. We still know that there are tremendous tasks ahead of us to fulfil.

In the first term of Government we approved the creation of the Ministry of Environment, an area which is supportive to the tourism sector. In the second term starting from 1998, we have taken the initiative to create the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction which is also giving support to the development of tourism sector. With the helps of various friends and professional institutions such as the UNESCO, we have been able to hinder the attempts to encroach on the heritage area for construction. Despite this fact we still had a case of building a

restaurant in the vicinity of Angkor Watt. To oversee the implementation of the Government Plan for tourism development, the Royal Government created the APSARA authority for the control of the Angkor Watt area.

We also have to take for granted a situation where we could be too conservative as I used to react to a phrase they usually mention about what they called "uncontrolled development." I could not accept this remark and I always give my side of vision that "uncontrolled development" could still be far better than "uncontrolled destruction" like what had happened between 1970 and 1975.

It was in that period of time that bombs and artillery shells had fallen over various temples and in between 1975 and 1979, Pol Pot destroyed many temples in Kompong Cham, from which pieces of damages were taken for the construction of water damn. In between 1979 and 1993, there were theft and looting of those heritage and fighting grounds. That is why I have concluded that "uncontrolled destruction" has a far greater negative effects than that of "uncontrolled development."

I may share with you a situation here that when we have the APSARA authority to control the area, one could not even find a place for installing

a latrine. This brought about a situation where from here (Siem Reap town) to the Banteay Srey temple, there was not a single latrine. You may notice that latrine is the most important place of all.

There was once a discussion between the Royal Government and the private sector on this issue. I have placed an order that within a month the APSARA authority has to install latrine on the said length of road and in ten days they are there. So the issue of whether a latrine can be installed in those area or not is the man-made situation.

They said latrine could not be installed here or there, and I said what about they dug holes during the time of war, and why not use them as latrine? I brought this up just to share with you about conflicting ideas vis a vis the tourism development in the area. Not to mention where to build the hotel, even the small latrine also faces a strong challenge as well.

This is what I called the Cambodian experience which encompassed both positive and negative factor. It is important to stay on course and not too left or too right. Taking the latest development of the tourism sector, especially in Siem Reap, I am grateful to HE Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong for his remark "if I were Samdech Hun Sen I would make Seam Riep a

tourist attraction zone."

His suggestion has been digested and until 1997 I had agreed fully with him. I moved to implement the open-sky policy, as well as that of water and land accesses, we have now come to this level of development.

I have also introduced all along the strategy for the poverty alleviation through the development in the tourism sector. In the past weeks we had discussed a sub-decree, which should not be seen as a protectionism policy, for ranking of hotels and accepting local supplies with quality and hygiene. Many hotels import their food needs from foreign countries, but the sub-decree is looking at the provision of supplies by the local production, which should be seen as local export and trade." ■