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Nation-Religion-King

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Keynote of the PM's Address at the Inauguration of Electrical Wire and Cable Production Factory

On 11 April 2006, **Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen** presided over the ceremony of the inauguration of the “***factory producing electrical wire and all kinds of electrical cables of KTC Cable Co., Ltd.***”, under the form of direct investment from the ***Republic of Korea*** in the ***Kingdom of Cambodia***.

On this auspicious occasion, the Prime Minister has made a note that since the diplomatic ties between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Korea have been re-established in 1996, the ***people and the government of the Republic of Korea*** have continuously supported Cambodia in the forms of grants, soft loans and promoting Korean investors to invest in Cambodia that have contributed in the infrastructure development in many sectors in Cambodia such as Ta Mouk Water Reservoir, Krang Pon Ley Water Reservoir, the partial construction of National Road Number 3 from Trapeang Lapeou to the Kompot town, capacity development in the national IT system administration, the support to the Cambodia-Korea Multi-Technical Institute and health sector. Moreover, the Korean government also provides favorable environment in allowing Cambodian labor to work in Korea.

Indeed, we all remember the noble contribution from the Republic of Korea in the cause of rehabilitation and development of Cambodia. This support is critical for Cambodia to stand up again. The support during this time is invaluable and being utilized at it most. Obviously, the direct investment from the Republic of Korea invested through the establishment of “***electrical wire and all kinds of electrical cable production factory of KTC Cable Co., Ltd.***,” is another achievement, which reflects a strong relationship between the two nations, ***the Kingdom of Cambodia*** and ***the Republic of Korea***.

Along with the foreign official aid, many Korean investors have continuously invested in almost all sectors such as garment sector, agriculture sector, agro-industry, tourism sector and construction. According to the report by the Center for the Development of Cambodia (CDC), the inflow of investment from the Republic of Korea to Cambodia between 1994 and 2005 is about \$352 millions US dollars and we hope that the investment will continue to grow quickly in a few more years. Apparently, one company from the Republic of Korea has decided to invest 2,000 millions US dollars in constructing of a new city in Pong Peay lake region, and it is currently working together with Phnom Penh municipality and other authorities to come up with necessary plans in constructing this new city. Taking this opportunity, I would like to request to all relevant line ministries and agencies and authority at all levels to work closely together to expedite new city development plan to come to lives, in order for, Phnom Penh city to regain its status as “***Pearl City in Asia***.”

Clearly, the investment of ***KTC Cable Co., Ltd.***, at this time will contribute to the development of labor intensive industry, which has basic skill and exporting industry, and create plenty of job opportunities for the people. In addition, this new industry will enhance the economic growth in Cambodia through the promotion of export which is the key to promote economic growth, to enhance competitiveness, to improve the living standard and to reduce the poverty. Indeed, all of these factors will reflect the parallel of the government's ***Rectangular Strategy*** and real socio-economic situation in Cambodia aiming at promoting ***economic growth*** and ***employment generation*** for the Cambodian people, enhancing ***social equity and justice*** as well as strengthening ***efficiency*** in the public sector through the implementation of intertwined and comprehensive reform programs.

Over the years, in order to facilitate the business and private investment activities, the improvement of the competitive capacity of the industry in Cambodia, especially to increase the private sector's trust, the Royal Government continues to strengthen law framework, regulation and institutional capacity by focusing on a number of the following real measures:

- 1- Strengthening good governance in both public and private sectors.
- 2- Facilitating trade and improving investment climate.
- 3- Encouraging the human resource development to effectively answer to the demand of the market effectively.

At the same time, a number of real measures have been implemented such as (1)- organizing a federal office to reduce the application time to check good (2)- creating a joint monitoring office between the Customs and Excise Department and Camcontrol (3)- reducing the time of requesting the Certificate of Origin-CO, a document related to export and reducing time to check goods etc. Indeed, all of these measures with the introduction of single administrative document system and the implementation of risk management strategy for imports and exports will reduce the unnecessary procedures and documents as well as reducing unofficial expenses in the day-to-day work of the private sector.

Currently, in spite of the negative effects from some external factors such as high oil price, the bird flue epidemic and the unpredictable change of the climate, the outcome of the comprehensive implementation of reform programs and consistent political stability permit us to implement policy agendas aiming at improving economic growth and poverty reduction. With prudent macroeconomic management in the last 12 years, the Cambodian GDP average growth rate is about 7% per annum. Notably, the economic growth in 2005 is estimated to reach 9.7%. This continuously positive outcome has lessened approximately 1% per annum of the poverty rate for the last decade as what the government expected. The strong economic growth in 2005 is contributed from expected strong growth in agriculture, the continuous growth in garment sector, rapid growth in the construction sector and the increase in the number of tourists. Particularly, the total value of investment in Cambodia in 2005 is 1,048 millions US dollars comparing with only 216 millions US dollars in 2004. Therefore, we can see that in only one year the investment growth in Cambodia increased by almost 5 times.

It should be noted that electrical wire and cables factory invested by **KTC Cable Co., Ltd.** at the moment is the first type of heavy industry ever established in the Kingdom of Cambodia after the war. Through this investment, the company plans to spend up to 25 Million US dollars and employs approximately 420 skilled labors during the first stage of the production and will increase up to 1,215 workers when the factory reaches its full production capacity. This industry will produce approximately 2000 different types of products to be sold in domestic markets and for exports to fully respond to the demand of domestic markets and to ensure competition with outside players that enable Cambodia to save foreign currencies through the reduction in the imports of electrical wire and cables.

Without any doubt, the investment of **KTC Cable Co., Ltd.** at the moment reveals that Cambodia is in the pattern of improved capability *"from being a country that received only light industry type of investment to eventually become a country with the ability to receive heavy industry type of investment by using skilled labors"*. During the first stage of the production, **KTC Cable Co., Ltd.** will hire both of Korean and Khmer skilled workers who have been trained at the Republic of Korea to work and further train those workers without any skill to smooth the operation of the factory.

Recently, the Royal Government recognized that Cambodia needs means and training infrastructure, especially, basic skilled labor training to respond to the increase in the demand for investment in specialized industry in Cambodia toward increasing investors' confidence in the industry sector, which requires basic skill. The Royal Government in the third term of the Assembly has established the Ministry of Work and Vocational Training which is responsible for providing basic vocational training to serve the industry in Cambodia. I would like this ministry to closely cooperate with development partners as well as the private sector to have a proper foundation and to increase training capacity for Cambodian youths to have skills in order for them to be able to receive high salary and to help increase the investor confidence.

At the same time, it should be noticed that strengthening private sector and attracting investment, especially foreign investment, have been clearly stated in the ***Rectangular Strategy*** of the Royal Government, which regards the private sector as "***the engine of economic growth***", and the Royal Government set the strategy to create better business environment for the private sector to make more investments. Achieving these objectives require the participation and cooperation from all relevant ministries/institutions, local authority at all levels, civil society as well as domestic and foreign private sectors and the citizens from all walks of life.

In this regard, the Royal Government has always encouraged investors in timely manner in order to make Cambodian industry competitive in the international market and to promote the relationship between small and medium enterprises with every industry to establish the industrial-handicrafts relationship in Cambodia which is able to respond to the domestic industrial supply policy by locally based industry and toward the reduction in imported goods from overseas that Cambodia can produce and to increase domestic production confidence.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to call for the ministries/institutions and authorities to reduce or completely eradicate the bureaucracy and to ease the procedural measures by all forms possible in order for ***KTC Cable Co., Ltd.*** as well as other investment companies to operate their business in Cambodia with success.

Cambodian Soldiers Join UN Mission in Sudan

A farewell ceremony for 135 soldiers of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces who will join the United Nations de-mining mission in Sudan was held in Phnom Penh on April 12, 2006, presided over by Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen.



Photo: Mr Douglas Gardner, United Nations Resident Coordinator (L) hands over the UN flag to a mine-clearing soldier at the Council of Ministers in Phnom Penh, Cambodia,



Photo: Prime Minister, Samdech Hun Sen walks past a UN flag at the end of a ceremony

Speaking at this ceremony, Samdech Prime Minister stated that it is another page in history that never exists before. We may remember that dozens of years ago Cambodian soldiers had gone out to fight under the flag of the French colony. Some of them had gone all the way to Algeria. But this time we are sending our soldier under the UN mission for a complete humanitarian framework.

It is indeed a big decision and I am responsible before the history, the nation and voters. I am in the military uniform for the second time today since I left my post as commander in chief of the armed forces in 1999. I first put it on at the time when I presided over the burning out of marijuana at the Cobra-100 area. I put it on again today in honor of our soldiers before they leave Cambodia for a humanitarian mission in Sudan. What are the reasons behind sending de-mining troops to Sudan, which puts my position before the history and the 2008 election at stake? I have decided to name this de-mining team the unit 135 on March 2005. **The first reason** is that it is in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia which stipulates that the Kingdom of Cambodia adheres to the policy of being neutral, permanent and non-aligned, while peacefully coexists with neighboring countries and in the world... Cambodia allows no foreign forces presence, while would not station its troops in foreign countries, except on the condition that doing so is in the framework of the United Nations...

Secondly the decision is in line with the policy of integration that is one part of the Triangular Strategy that I put out on December 1998, which is to integrate as soon as we can into the international community, while using internal and external favorable factors focusing in building economy, reducing poverty, etc. Cambodia's last accession to international organization has been WTO and now it is important that Cambodia actively participates in cooperative efforts in peacekeeping in the world. **The third reason** perhaps is because we have a request from the United Nations to go to a number of countries but I have decided that we must first of all send to Sudan. Questions arise that why we denied going to Haiti but choosing to go to Sudan. We have sent our troops to Sudan to observe the ceasefire agreement and now we send our de-miners there. **Based on those experiences, the Government would decide where else should it send its forces to.** The fourth reason because of internal development or internal peace positively allows for such a decision to be realized. If Cambodia were to have secession in parts I would not decide to join the UN mission as well.

Cambodia is a victim of mines and UXOs and there are more to be done. But we also have to share our efforts for the sake of a free-mine world. We have an obligation to help friends in the world. Cambodia is a signatory country of the Ottawa Treaty on mines and Sudan is a country that is victimized by mines like Cambodia was. We send 135 de-miners today and 09 soldiers have been sent before in the framework of observation mission of the truce. **We have reserved about 1000 soldiers more and are taking part in serious training procedure.** May I take this opportunity to give some advice to our soldiers as you are so honored to represent the country in this mission. You should also take up high discipline and morale in defense of your honors and that of the RCAF and the people of Cambodia. May I suggest that first you respect the independence and sovereignty of the host nation. You are not the occupation forces but the forces that work within the respect of Sudan's sovereignty. Cambodia experienced the bad and the good lessons from UNTAC as some units from some countries violated Cambodia's sovereignty and now our forces should at all not repeat their mistakes.

Second, the Cambodian forces should maintain good relations with the Sudanese, help them if you can everywhere you go and camp as you have done for the people of Cambodia. You should learn their difficulties because you are the best representing the 14 million

Cambodians behind you here. Third, You should refrain from using inappropriately the UN privilege to import goods into the markets as this had been the worst actions under UNTAC time in Cambodia because their officers have the rights to purchase stuff free of tax. You should preserve the dignity of Cambodia though our country is poor.

The fourth point perhaps you should maintain good relations with all other forces joining in the UN mission in Sudan. According to HE Chief of Staff Ke Kim Yan, our forces would be stationed with the Indian forces, so you should maintain good relations with the Indian forces.

May I take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks to Australia which through HE Ambassador of Australia here helps our forces in perfecting their de-mining experiences and I would urge more countries to provide us medical equipments for teams as such so that more can be done in helping countries in need of de-mining assistance in the future.



Deputy Prime Minister HOR Namhong meets with Delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt

In the spirit of strengthening the cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Kingdom of Cambodia, a delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt led by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Asian Affairs, H.E. Houssam El-Din El-Hefny made an official visit from the 4th – 6th April 2006 to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

During his stay in Cambodia, H.E. Houssam El-Din El-Hefny paid a courtesy call to H.E. HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The two sides tackled several issues of mutual interest.

The Cambodian delegation briefed the Egyptian delegation on the recent political developments in Cambodia and presented the Cambodian assessment of the situation in Southeast Asia, including ASEAN. View on the ongoing reform process of the United Nations, were also exchanged.

Ambassador El-Hefny reviewed the ongoing economic and political reforms that Egypt is currently witnessing. He also highlighted Egypt's views concerning the current developments in the Middle East, the Egyptian efforts to settle the Palestinian issues, development in Syria and Lebanon in relation with the relevant UN Security Council Resolution as well as the situation in Iraq and Sudan.

Both sides expressed their desire to further promote the bilateral cooperation in all fields. They stressed the need to enhance economic cooperation and commercial exchanges between the two countries. In this context, both delegations defined specific avenues for potential cooperation.

The visit provides an important opportunity for strengthening bilateral relations and enabling both countries to share views and coordinate positions on important regional and international issues. It also reflects the importance that Egypt attached to enhancing relations with South East Asia in general and with Cambodia in particular.

Deputy Prime Minister HCR Namhong participates in the AMM Retreat in Indonesia.

At the invitation of His Excellency **Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **HOR Namhong**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation led a delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia to participate in the **ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) Retreat** to be held in **Obud, Bali, Indonesia from 19 to 20 April 2006**.

During the visit, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **HOR Namhong**, together with the ASEAN Foreign Ministers, members of the Eminent Person Group (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter, and the ASEAN Secretary-General will attend the Luncheon hosted by His Excellency **Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono**, President of the Republic of Indonesia.



Cambodian e-Visa

Cambodian e-Visa is now available online. e-Visa enables the visitors to apply for Cambodian Visa online. To apply for e-Visa, the applicant needs to access the website: www.mfaic.gov.kh, gets the passport and credit card information ready and e-visa will deliver the visa to applicant's mailbox for printing. e-Visa also provides applicants with online status check on their visa application.

- ☞ **Type of e-Visa:** Tourist Visa (single entry only)
- ☞ **Eligibility:** All visitors need to apply for visa, except from Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and Laos
- ☞ **Validity:** 3 months (starts from the date of issue)
- ☞ **Length of Stay:** 30 days. Minimum length of stay is 24 hours
- ☞ **Visa Fees:** Tourist Visa - USD20 + USD5 (processing charge)
- ☞ **Valid Port of Entry:** Phnom Penh International airport and Siem Reap International airport
- ☞ **Requirement:** Passport valid for at least 6 months, a recent passport size photo (JPEG/PNG format), a valid credit card (Visa/Master)
- ☞ **Visa Processing Time:** 3 business days



**Cambodia's Ambassador Speaks at Brigham Young University and
Meets with Cambodian-American Miss Utah 2006**



On March 23, 2006, H.E. Sereywath Ek, Cambodia's Ambassador to the United States of America, spoke at Brigham Young University as part of its Ambassadorial Lecture Series Program. Ambassador Ek addressed topics of U.S.-Cambodian relations, as well as Asia security outlook. On March 24th, Ambassador Ek also lectured at the Utah University on international relations, particularly US-Asia.

Accompanied by his spouse, Ambassador Ek also visited the Governor's Office of Economic Development, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce. Their Excellencies were also greeted by Cambodian-American Miss Utah 2006, Miss Soben Huon, an alumnus of Brigham Young University.

Ambassador Ek lauded Miss Huon, "She came here as a refugee, and we are amazed and proud of her accomplishments. We hope she is an inspiring role model for all. She is ready to contribute to Cambodia in the fields of Tourism and Women's Affairs. We are fully supportive of her and wish her the very best in all her endeavors!"

