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Opening Address by Samdech Prime Minister at the Second National Conference

Following is the integral text of the opening address delivered by Samdech HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, at the Second National Conference on the Implementation of the Government's Political Platform for Social Development and Poverty Reduction, held in Phnom Penh on 12 March 2001:

Excellencies members of the Royal Government

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor and a pleasure for me to be here with Your Royal Highnesses and Your Excellencies Members of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), Governors, Deputy Governors and senior Government officials to address the Second National Conference in order to review the implementation of our political platform. Our political platform, which was adopted more than two years ago, on 30th November 1998, was to take Cambodia into the 21st century and the new millennium toward prosperity and progress, and to bolster up a once strong and proud nation to get back its place. As I said on many occasions, before the first decade of the next century ends, Cambodia would like to fully reclaim its destiny, be a real partner in regional and global affairs and be well on its way to becoming a truly free nation, free from want and poverty above all.

In this sense, this meeting is a very important occasion for us to consider Cambodia's past achievements and performance, its current status, its potential and promise as well as its needs and commitment to achieve our strategic objectives. We have organized this conference in 1999. I believe that we should do this on a regular basis by organizing an annual conference to do a joint stock-taking against goals, set direction and determine responsibilities for implementation in the years to come. We have done the same with the Government's development partners, i.e. donor community and the business people, every six months. Therefore, an annual meeting of senior government officials will become an important tool for taking stock, reorienting our work, especially for consensus building among government leaders at the national level on policies, reforms and key measures to improve our business.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the favorable conditions created by the 1998 July general elections, the Royal Government of Cambodia has achieved encouraging results in the implementation of the "Triangle

policy you may be aware, the first side of this triangle is the maintenance of peace, stability and security for the nation and people. The second side of the triangle is Cambodia's integration into the international community and normalization with the international financial institutions. The third side of the strategy is Cambodia's development through the implementation of the reforms in important areas: military and police demobilization, administrative, judicial, economic and fiscal reforms, including stringent measures taken to improve sectoral performance, such as forestry reform, land



Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen Addresses the Second National Conference on the Implementation of the Government's Political Platform for Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Implementing this strategy, we succeeded to get over the political games, to clean up the internal and external political environment and create conditions for the country's development, especially the accomplishment of peace, security, national reconciliation and territorial unity for the first time in Cambodia's history over many decades. Thus, we can come to the conclusion that during the last two years Cambodia has created a "diamond" opportunity for development, with great hope for the bright and prosperous future.

Given all favorable conditions, which were established after going through difficult moments, we have adopted our most important agenda for speedy poverty alleviation of our population through economic progress and social development.

Between the first and the second national conferences, Cambodia has done reasonably well. Economic growth bounced back from 1.8 percent in 1998 to 5 percent in 1999 and 4.5 percent in 2000, despite the worst flood in 70 years. Inflation rates for the last two years remain very low and the exchange rates are broadly stable. The reform process in all fields kicked off from ground. The living standards of our people have improved. The RGC has made massive investments in many projects, aimed at generating economic growth and ameliorating the well-being of the people using our own resources and funds mobilized from elsewhere.

We should however recognize that poverty alleviation cannot be achieved over a period of one or two years. This will take more time. Comprehensive and realistic policies, strategies, plans and action plans are needed, coupled with political will to implement and the mobilization of all social forces to achieve these objectives. The proportion of poverty in Cambodia is the concerns for all of us. The Poverty Profile of Cambodia, based on 1999 data, shows that 36 percent of the population is poor and the poverty rate is higher in rural areas (40 percent), which is four times higher than poverty in Phnom Penh (10 percent). Rural households, especially those for whom agriculture is the primary source of income, account for almost 90 percent of the poor. We have not been able to fully ensure food security in the country, due to low productivity and the backwardness in rice production, the staple crop of our population. I can go on and on citing the alarming statistics. However, I believe that these comments are adequate to highlight the magnitude of work to be done in response to the needs of the poor. In this regard, we can realize how a big responsibility of the participants in second national conference.

The main topic of our second national conference is social development for poverty alleviation. Today, I intend to kick off the discussions and set tone for the conference by focusing on two main themes: social development and poverty alleviation.

The objectives of Government's social development policy are to promote the well being of the population as a whole in conjunction with a dynamic process of economic development. In other words, all these efforts aimed at promoting development and creating economic growth should ensure that people- and their capacities, values, and needs- are at the center of developmental process. In this spirit, I would like our discussants to pay attention to the analysis of the following aspects:

- (i) positive or negative impact of government policy implementation on the improvement of livelihoods of our people;
- (ii) follow-up measures to address directly the needs of our people, especially the

- access to or exclusion from resources and the markets;
- (iii) measures conducive to the improvement of health and the expansion of knowledge; and
- (iv) measures aimed at improving the participation of rural communities in development process and the protection of our people's rights

As you are aware, the approach to reducing poverty has evolved over the past 50 years in response to deepening understanding of the complexity of development. In our Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP), prepared by the Ministry of Economy and Finance in consultation with other line ministries and adopted by the Cabinet on 27 October 2000, we propose a strategy for attacking poverty in four ways: promoting opportunity, strengthening capability, facilitating empowerment, and enhancing security.

In this context, the long-term Vision of the Government is to have a socially connected, educationally advanced, and culturally vibrant Cambodia without poverty, illiteracy, and disease. The Royal Government always adheres to the values of social justice, human welfare and empowerment and will take nationwide initiatives to improve the lives of all Cambodians and allow them to participate in community's work.

To this end, I would like to draw the attention of the conference to the following issues of crucial importance to all of us:

First, Government policies to accelerate pro-poor economic growth and internal integration of Cambodia in order to trickle down this growth to all parts of the country. This should be implemented in conjunction with social programs and safety nets that are key to eradicating poverty and alleviating suffering of the millions of Cambodians that still live below the poverty line. This is closely linked to the implementation of government's action plans and measures, aimed at strengthening good governance, which constitutes the backbone of our reform programs.

Second, educational reforms are linked to long-term efforts to promote peace, stability, and common prosperity. The improvement in culture will build trust and enrich a common understanding of our rich heritage and cultural values, positively contributing to the efforts to improve the living standards of the people. Reforms and initiatives in the educational field will improve the quality and skills and build our human resources for social, economic, and political development. Improving the access by all Cambodian children to at least primary school is an effective and powerful tool for empowering the people and enriching their lives. Furthermore, a

literate population is the fertile ground on which our cultures and traditions can thrive and grow as a living expression.

Third, contain disease, and alleviate suffering are key to the promotion of human welfare. We must resolve to eliminate the spread of major diseases to build a better future for current and future generations of Cambodians. Healthy and educated citizens are the foundation of our future political stability, social development, and economic growth. Hence, we must take collective and concerted steps to improve access to healthcare and sanitation for the masses, particularly the poor, the unschooled, the disease-stricken, and other at-risk groups. The rapid spread of AIDS is of epidemic proportions in Cambodia is of serious concerns; it must be brought swiftly under control.

Fourth, poverty alleviation projects, especially attention should be paid to food security programs and agricultural reform.

Fifth, geographical targeting for poverty alleviation. For poverty reduction programs to be successful, it is necessary to target our limited resources to the most needy, and to use these resources in the most effective way.

Sixth, ensuring social equity and how to address the problem of widening income disparity, urban congestion, social dislocations.

Seventh, sound management and utilization of natural resources and the environment, which is crucial for ensuring a balanced and sustainable development.

Eighth, prepare a pro-poor trade policy as part of the poverty reduction strategy

Ninth, develop an industrial and investment policy, especially policies to encourage micro-enterprises, small and medium enterprises;

Tenth, empower the communities and encourage the rural poor to participate in local development plans through the implementation of decentralization and de-concentration.

Eleventh, draw lessons from the flood relief operations and formulate measures in anticipation of such eventual natural disasters in the future.

These are the main ingredients of our reforms programs, which we have developed and implemented. The past efforts have paved the way for and established a momentum in Cambodia. However, the most important issue at present is how to ensure the continuity and sustainability of

the reforms and take steps forward on the path of these reforms. Take the current situation easy or become complacent with the results is a serious danger for the country. In this sense, as I stated on many occasions, reform is the "life-or-death" issue for Cambodia. The goals, policies and programs are not to please anyone in Cambodia or outside or to gain temporary reprieve from criticism. They are truly nationally owned and accepted because we believe in them and we wish to adhere to them for the benefits of Cambodians today and to be born. Therefore, if we fail we cannot blame anyone but ourselves. In this sense, I wish to suggest from the outset so that the second national conference to take stock at the national level the progress of the implementation of the government reform programs and development policy. This will allow us to further entrench the momentum and consolidate the achievements of the reforms, especially strengthen the national consensus and display our irreversible commitment to consolidate peace, social order, democracy, the respect for human rights and good governance, as well as to promote sustainable economic growth with equity, aimed at rapid poverty reduction of our population.

In this spirit, I would like to wish the conference a success. I would like to extend to you all, Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies Members of the Royal Government, Governors and Deputy Governors, senior government officials, Ladies and Gentlemen, the five gems of Buddha's wishes.

Thank you



Address of Samdech Prime Minister on World Day for Water

Following is the integral text of the address made by Samdech HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, at the Ceremony Marking the World Day for Water and the World Meteorological Day, held in Phnom Penh on 22 March 2001:

Excellencies Members of the Royal Government of Cambodia

Distinguished Guests

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to be here at the ceremony marking the World Water Day and the World Meteorology Day with the management and officials of the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MWRM). They have made considerable efforts in fulfilling their responsibility in delivering such very important services to the people. The celebration of the World Water Day and the World Meteorological Day has become a good tradition for us and I hope that the management and officials of the MWRM will take this opportunity to consider policies, strategies and approaches to improve public service delivery in water resources to the people, thus contributing in conjunction with the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) to the implementation of the government's policy of welfare improvement and poverty reduction for our people.

At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thank to the donors, international organizations and NGOs for providing assistance to the water resource and meteorology sector. I am also honored by the presence of Mr. WOLFGANG GRABS, representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

It is true that water is the most important resource for human being. And there is a saying that "Water is life" and water is the source of development. However, water is also a double-edged sword, which is capable of wrecking havoc to human lives and people's property. We have recently witnessed the worst flooding in 70 years, testifying to the fact that the challenge for Cambodia in the new century is a sound management of water resources and how to use this powerful force of nature to promote development.

With these insights in mind, the RGC organized the Second National Conference to review the implementation of its political platform, especially social development and poverty reduction. Based on the visions and thinking discussed at the conference the RGC envisions its work in the

21st century and the way in which it proposes to tackle the principal development challenges ahead. In addition to reducing poverty, the Royal Government will face with the issues of food security, environmental conservation, the growth of population, and global climate changes, which result in flooding and drought. If they are managed well, these forces could revolutionize the prospects for development and human welfare. However, the same forces are also capable of generating instability, human sufferings and economic crisis that are beyond our control.

I think that it is fortunate for Cambodia to have abundant water resources. Our country's geographical features resemble the crater, with rainfall over the course of six months per year, traversed by the famous Mekong River. The Tonle Sap Lake is the biggest reservoir and is home to rich natural resources, especially fisheries resources. Development has not posed a serious threat to the natural environment. Even though Cambodia has faced some problems related to illegal logging, which has the potential of threatening the natural environment of the nation, especially water and other natural resources, we are conscious of this problem. Assuming high responsibility for the future of the nation, the RGC has developed a policy and taken strict measures, aimed at ensuring a sound and sustainable forestry management for our next generation. We are proud of the achievements that we have made in the forest sector.

On the contrary, many countries in the world, including regional countries, are facing serious challenges related to the rehabilitation of natural environment, especially water. These countries are competing for accelerating economic growth and promoting development without paying due attention to the sound environmental management and sustainable utilization of natural resources. The ADB has conducted an in-depth study on this topic and has sent an alarming signal on the possible water crisis in Asia in the near future. ADB has recommended countries in Asia to pay special attention to water resource management. In this sense, we can say that Cambodia still has the opportunity to promote sustainable development and foster a sound management and sustainable utilization of natural resources.

On the basis of our broad strategy and the importance of water and meteorology for economic development and poverty reduction, in my capacity as the Prime Minister I proposed to establish the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MWRM), which acts as the government's focal point for addressing all challenges related to water. Today, I would like to focus my presentation on the government's "New Policy Agenda on Water Resources" in order to pull the people of Cambodia from the shackles of poverty which has struck our people for many centuries.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Water and poverty reduction is inter-connected. Sound management of water resources can pull Cambodians from the shackle of poverty. At the same time, floods can destroy the achievements that take us many years to accomplish, pushing farmers on the brink of poverty in a matter of minutes. Because 85 per cent of the people are living in the rural community and 75 per cent of the poor people are families that are headed by farmers. One of the strategies is to have economic growth with sustainable poverty reduction and rural economic development, which is the sustainable agricultural development.

In this sense, the RGC's top priority is to increase the provision of water facilities and infrastructure in both rural and urban areas with the view to addressing one of the root causes of poverty and improving the living standards, food security and public health. Both the shallow and deep aquifers of the country would be optimally utilized for irrigation and domestic water supply purposes. Where technically and economically feasible, the rehabilitation of existing irrigation facilities would be carried out to provide equity in access to irrigation water and to boost agricultural production in food-insecure provinces.

Moreover, inadequate irrigation facilities and the lack of institutional capacity and financial resources for the development, operation and maintenance of irrigation facilities are major constraints to accelerated and sustained agricultural growth. Therefore, the primary strategies for achieving rapid and sustained agricultural growth in the short and medium terms are:

- (i) Jump start the development of cost-effective, short-gestation, appropriate and private irrigation technologies (e.g., shallow tube wells and low-lift pump systems); and
- (ii) Improve the performance of existing irrigation facilities through minor repair and proper operation and maintenance of irrigation facilities and enhance institutional capacity for better water management and improved delivery of essential irrigated agriculture support services.

Therefore, the short to medium strategy is to encourage a private sector-led shallow tube well and low-lift pump irrigation development program. The development of medium to large scale, gravity irrigation systems should only be resorted to after the institutional capacities at all levels are sufficiently developed for the design and implementation of such systems. The government's water policy objectives are to expand fully irrigated areas from 16 to 20 percent of the total rice cultivation areas over the period of five years to 2003 through the development of appropriate

irrigation facilities, enhanced local ownership and control, increased private sector involvement in irrigation development and enhanced capability for operation and maintenance by local government units and water user communities.

Private sector-led, small-scale irrigation facilities would be the engine of growth of agriculture in the long term as the country has about 4.8 million ha of agricultural lands underlain by shallow aquifers. This is prerequisite to crop diversification and intensification as the development of farmers' controlled small scale irrigation facilities give farmers greater degree of control over their production environment and their choice of crops and crop mixes. For equity in access to irrigation facilities and address localized shortfalls in food production, the medium and long term irrigation strategies would include the following:

- (i) The development of small-scale gravity irrigation systems, by transferring the responsibility for operations and maintenance to water user communities and enhancing their capacity;
- (ii) Improvement and expansion of areas covered by medium and large irrigation systems as institutional capacity for planning, construction and operation of such systems is enhanced and
- (iii) Optimization of the benefits from irrigation development

To fast track the development of small, private irrigation systems, grants from international donor and credit from the Rural Development Bank and other rural financing institutions should be tapped and channeled to the private sector and individual farmers in target communities. Attention is also given by the RGC to establish a reliable and sustainable hydrological information management system of all surface and groundwater sources (river basins and aquifers) which will provide basic information to support strategic planning and sustainable and environmental development of water resources for various utilization objectives (e.g., irrigation, potable water supply, hydropower, transportation, fishery, flood control and protection of environmental resources.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere admiration and appreciation to the management and officials of the MWRM for concentrating their physical and intellectual energy and efforts in taking actions to mitigate the impacts of the 2000 floods, especially in protecting

Phnom Penh from the floodwater. At this important juncture, in order to ensure smooth development of the sector, I would like to table the following recommendations:

First, I urge relevant ministries and agencies to review the draft Law on Water Resource Management as soon as possible. Pending this law becoming effective, I would like to urge the relevant ministries, agencies, local authorities and our people to implement effectively the Ministerial Decision No 6 dated 27 September 1999 on Measures to Stamp out Illegal Grabbing of Land in order to protect the occupation of main water sources, such as the banks of the rivers, streams, canals, lakes and reservoirs.

Second, The Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology should give more attention to improve weather and flood forecast in order to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, caused by storms and floods, which cause the loss of human lives and damage to the property, draft animals and infrastructure.

Third, Relevant ministries and agencies should foster close cooperation and coordination with international organizations and agencies in the development, management and utilization of the Mekong River's water resources, which are the main sources of water for Cambodia and the whole Mekong Sub-region.

Fourth, The Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Health should take actions to raise public awareness across the country on water and health.

Once again, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and on my own behalf, I would like to express our deep gratitude to the donor community for providing support for the water and meteorology sector, especially the World Meteorological Organization for providing equipment and training of human resources. To upgrade this sector to the level of neighboring countries, I would like to solicit the World Meteorological Organization, through Mr. WOLFGANG GRABS, to provide training to the officials of the MWRM in meteorological and hydrological techniques and to provide technical equipment, such as the Global Telecommunication System radar, and to write off Cambodia's debts to WMO, which have been accumulated during the years of war.

In conclusion, I would like to extend to you all, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the five gems of Buddhist wishes.

I sincerely thank all of you for your attention.



**Address by Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen
to the Closing Session of the Workshop on the UN Emergency
Relief Response to the 2000 Flood in Cambodia
Hotel Inter-Continental, March 28 2001**

Excellencies Members of the Royal Government,

Distinguished Guests,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to attend the closing ceremony of the workshop on "the UN Emergency Relief Response to the 2000 Flood in Cambodia". This represents the precious opportunity for us to share the experiences drawn from the 2000 flood and to consider measures in anticipation of future emergency relief operations, cooperation and data collection.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my high appreciation for the efforts of management and staff members of the National Committee on Disaster Management (NCDM) to work closely with other government ministries and agencies, provincial and local authorities in assisting the victims of the 2000 flood and to implement the measures that I myself as a Prime Minister set out to mitigate the damage to farmers' crops and farms and to rehabilitate our physical and social infrastructures in the flood-ravaged areas.

At the same time, I would like to express my deep gratitude to donor countries, International Organizations, the United Nations, UN Agencies and Programs, especially the World Food Program (WFP), international financial institutions, and all organizations who had generously provided a generous support for and quickly responded to the call for emergency relief of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) to assist our Cambodian people, who were victims of the most severe flood for 70 years. Active contributions of our citizens and government officials had proved that our people have the sense of solidarity, everyone according to their own ability, to assist victims suffered from the flood.

After many decades of war and internal conflicts, the Cambodian people had gone through infinite difficulties. The genocidal regime had left us with a complicated situation, which other countries had never experienced. However, we have made an effort and courageously bearded with

all hurdles in rehabilitation and reconstruction of our nation from scratch. Though we started from an empty hand to rehabilitate and reconstruct Cambodia in all sectors, we have made a great deal of achievements. Nevertheless, the year 2000 flood disaster had given us some more lessons that are the agenda for discussion in this workshop. Thus, I want to focus my recommendation on two important issues:

First, strategy in anticipation of future emergency relief operations and damage reduction, and

Secondly, rehabilitation after the flood.

An effective approach to emergency relief anticipation and damage reduction requires a qualified and well-functioned central body to coordinate among ministries to carry out action plans set forth. This body serves as a focal point to raise fund from international community as well as from public within the country. In this sense, I have stressed repeatedly that we must strengthen NCDM's institutional capacity by staffing qualified and capable personnel with high skills to effectively undertake this assignment.

I would like to take this opportunity to express an appreciation to CRC and IFRC for their assessment of the capacity and capability of NCDM. The outcome of this assessment can assist the government in preparing an institutional capacity building strategy to enable NCDM to fulfil its mission of mitigating the impacts of the disaster on the Cambodian people. This is an effective response to the government agenda of poverty reduction for the populace. In the spirit of moving this forward, I would like to appeal to the donor community, international organizations and NGOs to provide more support to NCDM in providing human resource development.

At the same time, I support the assessment's recommendation of allowing NCDM to have its own budget for its own operations. Hence, I urge the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) to prepare a separate budget for NCDM within the Council of Ministers' budget package as other State Secretariats in the 2002 draft Budget Law. This will create a favorable condition for NCDM in terms of strengthening its organizational structures. Consistently, I urge to focus on improving capability of professional staff for effective and efficient job performance instead of establishing a large inefficient bureaucracy, which is tantamount to squandering public resources. Moreover, NCDM has to develop its action plan to include in the Royal Government's proposal for the establishment of a mechanism on disaster management that will be tabled to the donor community for approval at during the CG Meeting in June 2001, in Tokyo.

To foster emergency relief operations, the Royal Government embarked an approach to improve the accuracy of meteorological forecasting to be able to give warning to people in advance in both flood and draught circumstances. At the ceremony to mark the World Water and Meteorology Day, I appealed to World Meteorology Organization to assist the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology in technical training and providing some high-tech equipment. This will enable this institution to get an accurate forecast and give warning a week in advance so that responsible agencies as well as people can be ready for emergency relief.

With our experience gained several times in the past, last year we had noticeably reduced the damage to rice production to a certain degree. The Royal Government has taken a proactive approach to flood relief operations by not only distributing food and shelter but also a short-term variety rice seed for farmers to immediately grow after water begin to recess. This effectively reduced the magnitude of damaged farms and rice fields. In fact, even with the severe flood that Cambodia had never experienced over the last 70 years, economic growth still maintained at a considerable high rate of 4.5 percent for year 2000, compared to the forecast of 5.5 percent at the beginning of the year, due to the efforts deployed by the RGC and the support by our external development partners, international organizations, the private sector and NGOs. Inflation also remained at a low rate with a stability of exchange rate.

At the same time, I appeal to responsible institutions to strengthen cooperation with relevant organizations and international financial institutions to seriously conduct a feasibility study and research on the establishment of a crop insurance system in order to introduce risk control/management stemming from natural disasters in the Kingdom. In this context, though the Royal Government devoted all efforts to contribute from available government budget and raise fund from international community but still could not cover the loss because the real property damage and the loss of potential revenue are enormous. Consequently, poor farmers become poorer. This undermines the commitment of the Royal Government, especially my own vision of enabling Cambodia to fully reclaim its destiny, become a real partner in regional and global affairs and be well on its way to becoming a truly free nation, free from want and poverty above all, before the first decade of the next century ends.

While conducting a feasibility study on the establishment of crop insurance scheme, I would like to draw your attention to establishing a mechanism which attracts all players to come on board with the RGC, including donors, the private sector, the civil society, NGOs and the farmers themselves in order to foster ownership and self-mechanism to ensure the sustainability of the

project. Nevertheless, over the short to medium term, MEF should continue to earmark funds for eventual natural disasters in the reserve funds.

The second important issue, on which the Royal Government is focusing, is the rehabilitation after the flood. I myself have spent lot of times to consider possible policies, strategies, and measures for rehabilitation of physical, economic, and social infrastructures ravaged by the flood. Indeed, our national budget is limited. However, we have no time to waste in rehabilitating these infrastructures because the impact of this flood disaster on national economy will gradually increase. The damage to infrastructure meaning that the blood vessel of the economy has been cut off which leads to destruction in all sectors particularly domestic trade, with an increase in transportation costs. Therefore, the immediate infrastructure rehabilitation approach supports the implementation of welfare improvement, increase in food safety, and poverty reduction policies.

To speed up infrastructure rehabilitation, the Royal Government put efforts to ask for grant from international donors and loans from the ADB and other financial institutions to enable people to farm and to get their living back to normal. The Royal Government also established basic management information system to help in preparing strategic plan and for sustainable development, and to maintain clean environment for other purposes such as flood management and environmental resources protection.

To strengthen and to enable the disaster management activities fruitfully operational, I would like to take this opportunity to share some recommendations with you as follow:

First, I urge the Ministry of Defense to create "an Emergency Relief Task Force" to train the Cambodian National Army necessary technique for emergency task. I also want to emphasize that my bodyguard unit played an important role as "an Emergency Relief Task Force" in transporting and protecting food and other materials for distributing to the victims during the 2000s flood disaster. The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) have played a crucial role in helping to dislocate people from dangerous to safe areas and to rehabilitate the stretches of roads and bridges washed away by the floods.

Second, the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MWRM) has to focus on improving its forecast accuracy and adopt a weekly forecasting approach and a warning system to reduce the loss of people lives, draft animals, property damage, and infrastructure of the nation, caused by storms and floods. The NCDM have to cooperate with the MWRM to inform of forecasting situation and/or warning in the area where will be threaten.

Third, to improve the quality of our report on magnitude of damage from the flood we have to focus on estimate/evaluation technique training for accuracy information to the Royal Government for appropriate policy response. On the other hand, this information must be disseminated for raising fund/aid from public, private, donor community, IOs, and NGOs.

Fourth, determine in advance areas that are vulnerable to floods or that are subject to floods, on a regular basis. This information is important for us to incorporate in the plans for the reconstruction of infrastructures, such as schools and pagodas, which should be built on a high position to be used as temporary refuge for flood victims. Roads should provide for large culverts to evacuate flooded water from the inundated areas. It is essential to build dikes, such as the Kobsrov dike and prepare or build elevated areas in anticipation of a flood to be used as a temporary safe refuge for people and draft animals.

Once again, on behalf of the Royal Government and I personally would like to express our profound gratitude to the donor community, public, and private who assisted and supported Cambodian people when our country faced severe flood disaster last year.

Let me close this workshop by wishing you all, Excellencies, National and International Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen who are here, with the five gems of Buddha's blessings—Longevity, Nobility, Healthy, Mighty, and Brightness.

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Senior Minister Attends EALAF

His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, led a delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia to attend the First Ministerial Meeting of East Asia-Latin America Forum (EALAF), held in Santiago, Chile from 28-30 March, 2001.

Following is the intervention delivered by Senior Minister HOR Namhong at the Meeting:

*Madame Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

First of all, may I express to you Madame Chairperson, and through you, to the Government of the Republic of Chile, the sentiments of my sincere deep appreciations for the excellent arrangements provided for the meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation.

I am very pleased to participate in the First Ministerial Meeting of The Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) that for the first time, links two large and dynamic subcontinents, East Asia and Latin America, which in the past, used to be considered to lay far from each other.

*Madame Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I wish to draw your attention to the challenges and opportunities of development in science and technology which are part of the globalization.

Rapid development in science and technology as well as globalization has introduced both opportunities and challenges on many aspects. There is no state which could avoid the impact of this technologic revolution and globalization.

Globalization has enabled an easy access to information technology sharing, opened up new opportunities for the whole world to speed up economic development, cultural, trade and persons exchanges etc.

However, in spite of these advantages, globalization has also introduced new risks and challenges for many others, in particular, the developing countries which are not in a position to catch up with the pace of globalization owing to the lack of technology, finance and human resource.

I personally believe that the process of globalization is not a sufficient answer to the quest of the developing countries to reach progress and development for better living conditions of their people .It is obvious that globalization benefits, primarily, states having strong economy and advanced technology while leaving the least developed countries with little ,if any, means to cope with such reality .It tends, on the contrary, to accentuate inequalities for the least developed countries, which cannot follow the speed of globalization. In this process, the least developed countries will be left behind.

Rich countries will get richer and more developed and poor countries will become poorer.

Moreover, globalization also brings new dimensions to transitional problems encountered by every country and region such as drugs, small arms and light weapons, and women and children trafficking, as well as the spread of HIV/AIDS and other numerous problems affecting human security and stability for the whole international community.

Nowadays, as the whole international community has paid much attention to the vital problems caused by globalization, The UN Millennium Summit held last year in New York has broadly discussed these crucial issues.

I would like to call all member states of our forum to joint hands and to unite our efforts to make sure that the benefits of globalization should be divided more equally among countries in the whole world, and to maximize the positive impact of this phenomenon for the developing world in which many of our countries belong to, if not all, of course.

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Senior Minister Exchanges Instruments of Ratification of Extradition Treaty with Thailand

On 01 March 2001, a signing ceremony was held between His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and His Excellency Mr. Asiphol CHABCHITRCHAIDOL, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Kingdom of Cambodia, on the Protocol on the Exchange of the Instruments of Ratification of the Treaty between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand on Extradition.



*Senior Minister HOR Namhong signs Protocol on the Exchange of Instruments
of Ratification of Extradition Treaty with Thailand*

This Treaty entered into force thirty days after the date of the exchange of the Instruments of Ratification.

It should be noticed that the Treaty on Extradition was signed in Bangkok on 6 May 1998, and ratified by Samdech CHEA Sim, Acting Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in the August Name of His Majesty the King of Cambodia, on 19 July 1999, and by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand on behalf of the Royal Thai Government on 19 December 2000.

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Senior Minister Signs Exchange of Notes with Japan



Senior Minister HOR Namhong Signs Exchange of Notes with Japan

On 19 March 2001, a signing ceremony presided over by Samdech HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, was held between His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and His Excellency Mr. Gotaro OGAWA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia, on an Exchange of Notes on a Non-Project Grant Aid provided by the Government of Japan to Cambodia for fiscal year 2000.

According to the Exchange of Notes, the Government of Japan will extend to the Royal Government of Cambodia a grant aid of two billion yen for contributing to promotion of the economic structural adjustment efforts by the Royal Government of Cambodia and the mitigation of the economic difficulties of Cambodia.

It should be noticed that it is the fifth Non-Project Grant Aid of Japan for Cambodia.

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Senior Minister Meets with Korean Delegation



Senior Minister HOR Namhong meets with Korean delegation

On 7 March 2001, His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, had a meeting with Mr. Lee Kyung-Woo, Secretary General of the Bidding Committee for the 2010 World Exposition of the Republic of Korea, who was visiting Cambodia from 5-8 March 2001.

Mr. Lee Kyung-Woo informed Senior Minister HOR Namhong of the Republic of Korea's bidding to host the 2010 World Exposition and requested Cambodian support in that endeavour. Senior Minister HOR Namhong told the delegation that the establishment in the very near future of the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Seoul and the visit to the Republic of Korea by Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen, scheduled for April 2001, would contribute actively in the promotion of the actual good relations between both countries. Senior Minister HOR Namhong and Mr. Lee Kyung-Woo also shared the same wishes for the flow into Cambodia of the Korean investment.

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Extension of Japan-ASEAN-Cambodia Joint Cooperation for Rural Development

On 30 March 2001, at 3:30 p.m, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, a signing ceremony was held between His Excellency Mr. CHHIM Seak Leng, Senior Minister, Minister of Rural Development, His Excellency Mr. UCH Kiman, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, His Excellency Mr. Gotaro OGAWA Ambassador of Japan, His Excellency Mr. Nazaruddin NASUTION, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Mr. A. H ANUAR, Ambassador of Malaysia, His Excellency Mr. Francisco E. ATAYDE, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines, and His Excellency Mr. Asiphol CHABCHITRCHAIDOL, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand, on the Record of Discussions on Extension of the Duration of the Joint Cooperation for the Rural Development and Resettlement Project in Cambodia.

The Project commonly known as the Japan-ASEAN-Cambodia Tripartite Cooperation for Rural Development and Resettlement Project, which will expire on 31 March 2001, will be extended until 31 March 2002, under a new Project title : " The Joint Cooperation for the Rural Development Project in Cambodia".

It should be noticed that the Project was signed on 30 September 1993 by the Governments of Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia for the purpose of promoting resettlement of the returnees, internally displaced persons, demobilized military personnel and the local population, so that peaceful and continuous development of rural communities would be achieved in Cambodia.

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