



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Samdech Prime Minister Visits Korea

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Kim Dae-Jung, President of the Republic of Korea, Samdech HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a high delegation to pay an official visit to the Republic of Korea from 09-11 April 2001.

The delegation included His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, His Excellency Mr. SOK An, Senior Minister, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, and other members and officials of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

During the visit, Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen called on His Excellency President Kim Dae-Jung and held talks on bilateral relations as well as on regional and international cooperation. Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Political Science by Dankook University of the Republic of Korea and had a meeting with Korean business leaders.

As the fruitful results of the visit, three documents aimed at boosting bilateral cooperation were signed, namely the Agreement for Air Services, the Agreement Concerning Loans from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund and the Cultural Exchange Program for the period of 2001-2002.

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Remarks by Samdech Prime Minister

Following is the text of remarks delivered by Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen at the Ceremony during which he was conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Political Science by Dankook University:

Mr. Chang Choong-Sik, Chairman of Board of Trustees

Mr. Kim Seng-Kook, President of the Dankook University

Mr. Yim Young-Jae, Dean of the Graduate School

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all please allow me to express my sincere thanks to Dankook University for its consideration and evaluation of my personal achievements.

In this joyous occasion, I would like to express my gratitude to H.E. Chun Doo-Hwan-- the 12th President of the Republic of Korea-- and his colleagues for proposing my candidacy to the University over achievements that I have made in restoring stability and building democracy in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

I wish also to extend similar gratitude to H.E. Kim Dae-Jung-- the President of the Republic of Korea-- and the Korean people for their continuing support to the cause of reconstruction of Cambodia.

The Honorary Doctorate in Political Science conferred today is the second of its kind that I have been presented. I may recall that on October 29, 1996, I was conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Wesleyan College. I had in that occasion addressed that " the Doctorate Degree that I was conferred to me not only was an honor and would stay with me but also inspired me of what best to do to realize peace, democracy and development for my Cambodian people. "

Peace, democracy and national development is word and deed that never have I forgotten. A stable democracy is the blood stream of activities and for development, which have to be safeguarded carefully taken care of.

The diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Korea, as far as it is concerned in particular, has always been considered my personal achievement. Therefore, I have to nurture and to prove that the relationship between the two will bring development and glittering light at the benefits of our two peoples.

I wish to once again express my thankfulness to the Dankook University and please allow me to share the honor and pleasure with my wife-- Mme Bun Rany-Hun Sen--my best partner in life. Also, I wish to share this personal honor with His Majesty Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk--King of Cambodia-- as well as the Cambodian leaders and the whole people of Cambodia for existing in the cause for restoration of stability and building of democracy in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The Honorary Doctorate that I am conferred today by the Dankook University will stay with me and will advise me further what best that I have to do for the development and happiness of our Cambodian people. I wish all the best to all of you who are present here.

Thank you.

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Remarks by Dankook University President

Here is the text of remarks made by Mr. Seung-Kook Kim, President of Dankook University at the awarding ceremony of an Honorary Doctorate upon Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen :

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to confer an Honorary Doctorate in Political Science upon Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia who has open a new era for his country through his triumph in a peaceful general election. His inauguration as Prime Minister marked the end of the age of conflicts and disputes in Cambodia.

Dankook University was founded in 1947 by Mr. Hyoung Chang (Sir. Beomjeong), a key figure in Korea's independence movement who braved numerous perils in China and by Mrs. Hee-jae Cho (Lady Hyedang), a dedicated supporter of post-secondary education.

Dankook University, comprising 20 divisions and 11 graduate schools on two campuses, is currently building its third campus in Boondang. The university also operates a medical center and a dental hospital outfitted with ultramodern equipments and facilities.

Since its foundation 53 years ago, Dankook University has produced more than 100,000 graduates. And the school has grown to 25,000 students and 2,500 faculty members. I am sure they will all be extremely proud to have you as a member of the alumni.

The Kingdom of Cambodia covers an area of 181,035 square kilometers and has a population of 12.1 million composed of 30 different ethnic groups each speaking their unique language.

Cambodia is the land of Angkor Wat, majestic Mt. Phnom Aural, the Mekong river, the Water Festival, the beautiful Apsara dance, Tonle Sap Lake- which is the largest in Asia- and endless, pristine beaches. With all its natural beauties, Cambodia has the potential to be a major tourist attraction, to reincarnate the glory of the Angkorian era.

The 270 Korean residents in Cambodia, the two thousand Korean citizens who have visited Cambodia, and the 600 Cambodians who have been to the Republic of Korea will share our jubilation over your visit and the acceptance of an honorary doctorate degree.

We have the deepest respect for the Prime Minister's national reconstruction plans, open-door policies, and efforts on improving the health of, and the education for, the Cambodian people. And We hope the Prime Minister's visit will be a catalyst for a more active economic and cultural exchanges between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Korea. We also hope his visit will pave the way for exchanges of professors and students between Dankook University and the Cambodian universities.

To accelerate the conferment of an honorary doctorate degree upon the Prime Minister, many distinguished guests are attending this ceremony including Dr. Choong-sik Chang-Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Dankook University, Mr. Eung-mo Ahn-Chairman of the Alumni Association, and reverend Billy Jang-hwan Kim-President of the far East Broadcasting Company and president of the Baptist World Alliance.

I also would like to express my sincerest thanks to the guests and the faculty members of Dankook University who have participated in this event. Thank You.

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Senior Minister HOR Namhong's Working Visit in Japan

His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, who was in Japan for a working visit from 23-28 April 2001, met with His Excellency Mr. Yohei KONO, Foreign Minister, Mr. Kunihiko SAITO, President of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and some MPs of various political parties of

Japan to discuss ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation and ensuring the international financial support for the development of the Cambodian economics during the Consultative Group Meeting (CG) to be held in June 2001, in Tokyo.

During the discussion with His Excellency Mr. Yohei KONO, both sides had an exchange of views on the preparation for the Tokyo's CG Meeting focusing on three topics: good governance, poverty reduction and communal elections scheduled for February 2002. The Senior Minister expressed hope that with the assistance of Japanese Government, the CG Meeting would be successful in seeking the international financial support for Cambodia.

Senior Minister HOR Namhong, during the meeting with Mr. Kunihiko SAITO, President of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), expressed his sincere thanks to JICA for Japanese assistance provided to Cambodia. The Senior Minister informed Mr. SAITO of the priorities of the Royal Government of Cambodia for the economics development and requested JICA to help construct Neak Leoung Bridge and build roads from Kratie-Stung Treng provinces to the Cambodian-Lao border and from the Cambodian-Thai border (Poi Pet) to Siem Reap province.

In his reply, Mr. SAITO said JICA had had many projects to help develop Cambodia such as good governance, industry, health, education, agriculture, mine clearance, light industry, finance, and administrative structure. JICA would study the above mentioned Cambodian proposals, continued Mr. SAITO.

During his stay in Japan, Senior Minister HOR Namhong also met with some Japanese politicians from various political parties. The discussions focused on the promotion of bilateral cooperation, especially the Japanese initiative in boosting Japanese tourists to Cambodia, the establishment of direct flight from Japan to Cambodia, the signing of an air service agreement, the working visit to Cambodia by two Japanese MPs, and the encouragement of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) for demining in Cambodia.

Senior Minister HOR Namhong had discussion with His Excellency Mr. Araki KIYOHIRO, First Deputy Foreign Minister, on the promotion of Japanese tourists to Cambodia, the contribution made by the Government of Japan within the framework of ASEAN-Japan cooperation, and the development of the Mekong River basin and human resources.

Senior Minister HOR Namhong had an exchange of views with Mr. Takashi ONDA, Secretary General of Japan-Cambodia Cooperation Center, on Cambodia-Japan Cooperation in order to attract Japanese tourists and investors to come to Cambodia and to increase the exchange of trade between the two countries. Cambodia would dispatch its officials to study the work run by the Center in encouraging tourism, investment and trade with ASEAN, said Senior Minister. Cambodia would invite Japanese journalists in tourism to visit Cambodia, added Senior Minister HOR Namhong referring to the promotion of tourism.

On 26 April 2001, Senior Minister HOR Namhong presided over the inaugural party of the Cambodian Honorary Consulate in Osaka. The aim of the opening of the Honorary Consulate is to facilitate and attract more Japanese tourists to come to Cambodia, lobby investors, and enlarge the exchange of trade between the two countries.

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Senior Minister Meets With WHO Regional Director

On 5 April 2001, His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, met with Dr. Shigeru Omi, Regional Director, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific.

Dr. Shigeru Omi highly appreciated the leadership of the Royal Government of Cambodia in the successful fight against Polio and told Senior Minister HOR Namhong that the main purpose of his visit was to present an official certification of Polio eradication in Cambodia. The WHO Regional Director described the cooperation between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the WHO as excellent and expressed his intention to further broaden it.

Senior Minister HOR Namhong extended on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia his sincere thanks for the assistance provided by the WHO, leading to the fruitful results in the joint efforts undertaken by the Royal Government of Cambodia, the WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to eradicate Polio in Cambodia. Senior Minister HOR Namhong also had discussion with Dr. Shigeru Omi focusing on the promotion of cooperation between the Cambodian Government and the WHO in the fight against other epidemic diseases, particularly tuberculosis, malaria, dengue, HIV/ AIDs,...



Senior Minister Meets with WHO Regional Director

It should be noted that, with the help of the WHO and the UNICEF, Cambodia began its Polio eradication program in 1994 and during which, according to the WHO, 80-90% of children were given the vaccine. That was enough to stop the spread of the disease. It should be noted as well that a country can be declared safe from Polio if it has gone three years without a new discovery. The last child contracted Polio was recorded in March 1997. Four years later no new cases have been found in the country.

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Senior Minister Receives German Parliamentary Delegation

On 20 April 2001, His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, received a delegation of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development of the Parliament Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany headed by H.E. Mrs. Adelheid Troscher, who was in Cambodia for a working visit from 20-24 April 2001.



Senior Minister receives German Parliamentary Delegation

Senior Minister HOR Namhong briefed the delegation on the developments since the 1998 general elections, the prevalence of political stability and total peace following the establishment of the current coalition government and the collapse of the Khmer Rouge organization, the endeavor of the Royal Government to alleviate poverty by means of rural development, the reform process undertaken by the Government, and the economic growth achieved during the last year.

Senior Minister HOR Namhong highly appreciated the bilateral cooperation between both countries and the assistance provided by Germany in various fields. The Senior Minister suggested the establishment of a Joint Committee to look at ways and means to further promote the bilateral cooperation. Senior Minister HOR Namhong also made an appeal through the delegation for the flow into Cambodia of the German investment.

The delegation praised the Cambodian Government for the progress achieved in different fields and shared the same wishes with Senior Minister HOR Namhong on the furtherance of the cooperation.

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Khmer New Year Celebration Party

In order to make closer the working relationship between the leadership and the civil servants as well as among the civil servants, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation organized on 12 April 2001 at Cambodiana Hotel a party to celebrate the traditional Khmer New Year. Present at the party were the leadership and over 500 civil servants of the Ministry.

The party began with a wishing speech delivered by His Excellency Mr. UCH Kiman, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.



Senior Minister HOR Namhong and Madam being offered a basket of flowers at the New Year Celebration Party

" In the wonderful occasion of the Khmer New Year Celebration-Year of the Sna (Chhnam Masign) 2545 B.C., on behalf of the civil servants of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, I would like to extend to Your Excellency and Madam our best wishes of good health, energy, wisdom and longevity in the year to come to participate in the national construction, especially in the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and actively and successfully conduct the Foreign Policy of the Royal Government of Cambodia, thus enhancing the prestige and honour of the Kingdom of Cambodia, " said Secretary of State UCH Kiman

May I pray to the gratitude of Preah Ratanak Trai and Devada of the New Year to offer to Your Excellency the Senior Minister and Madam as well as your sons and daughters the best wishes of happiness, prosperity, success, and the five Buddha blessings : longevity, complexion , good health, strength and wisdom, " continued the Secretary of State.

In his reply, Senior Minister HOR Namhong praised the leadership and civil servants for the achievements registered during the last year and recommended to redouble their efforts to successfully implement the Royal Government's Foreign Policy.

The Party continued with music and dance and the lucky draw for various rewards.

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