



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

Nation Religion King

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

INFORMATION BULLETIN

ព្រឹត្តិបត្រព័ត៌មាន

**ISSUED BY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
July 31, 2001 VOLUME 37**

ADDRESS: N° 161, Preah Sisowath Quay, Phnom Penh - Kingdom of Cambodia

Phone: (855.23) 214.441 - 216.122 - 216.146 & Fax: (855.23) 216.144 - 216.939

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ↗ Cambodia-DPR Korea Joint Communiqué
- ↗ Official Visits by Thai Princess
- ↗ Senior Minister Attends AMM-ARF and PMC in Ha Noi
- ↗ Ha Noi Program of Action for Mekong-Ganga Cooperation
- ↗ Remarks by Senior Minister HOR Namhong at ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference 10+1 with Canada
- ↗ Remarks by Senior Minister HOR Namhong at ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference 10+ 1 with China
- ↗ Responses of Senior Minister HOR Namhong to the written questionnaires
- ↗ Senior Minister Meets with Former UNTAC Head
- ↗ Senior Minister HOR Namhong Meets with German Ambassador
- ↗ Inaugural Ceremony of ASEAN Documentation Center
- ↗ Secretary of State Meets with DPR Korea Vice Foreign Minister
- ↗ First Senior Officials Meeting of Cambodia-Indonesia Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation

**Joint Communiqué
between The Kingdom of Cambodia and
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

1- At the invitation of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, King of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr. KIM YONG NAM, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea paid an official goodwill visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 17-20 July 2001.

His Excellency President KIM YONG NAM was very warmly greeted by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, King of Cambodia and by members of the Senate, the National Assembly and the Royal Government of Cambodia.

2- His Majesty NORODOM SIHANOUK accorded a royal audience to His Excellency President KIM YONG NAM in an atmosphere of traditional friendship and mutual respect.

His Excellency President KIM YONG NAM also accorded separate courtesy calls to His Excellency Samdech CHEA SIM, President of the Senate, Samdech Krom Preah NORODOM RANARIDDH, President of the National Assembly, and His Excellency Samdech HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

During his stay, His Excellency President KIM YONG NAM laid wreaths at the Independence Monument, visited places of cultural, economic and historical interest in Phnom Penh city and in Siemreap province.

3- The two sides expressed their satisfaction that the bonds of friendship and the spirit of mutual understanding and respect fostered by His Majesty NORODOM SIHANOUK and the late Great Leader Generalissimo KIM IL SUNG continued to grow to the benefits of the two countries.

In this spirit, both sides exchange views on matters of mutual interest, especially on the further expansion of the traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. They also exchange views on current regional and international issues, in which both sides reached full agreement.

4- The two sides agreed to further expand and strengthen their bilateral cooperation in the economic, cultural, educational, scientific, sports and other fields of mutual interest. They also

agreed to strengthen their mutual cooperation in regional and international fora such as regional organizations, the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement etc.

5- Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other and to the principles of peaceful coexistence as enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the Non-Aligned Movement and in other relevant international law.

6- The Korean side warmly congratulated the Cambodian people under the wise and devoted leadership of His Majesty NORODOM SIHANOUK for having achieved national reconciliation, harmony and unity. The Korean side also warmly congratulated the Royal Government of Cambodia under the correct and cleared-sight leadership of His Excellency Prime Minister Samdech HUN SEN for having secure peace and socio-political and economic stability conducive to the current success in the socio-economic rehabilitation and reconstruction and expressed full support to the policies of the Royal Government of Cambodia focusing on poverty alleviation as well as upholding the values and identity of the Khmer culture and tradition.

The Korean side highly appreciated the support extended by the Royal Government of Cambodia to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in its policy to develop the friendly and cooperative relations with other countries on the principles of mutual benefits, equality and non-interference in their internal affairs and the principle of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

7- The Cambodian side warmly congratulated the dynamic efforts of the Korean people under the Army-First Revolutionary leadership of the Great Leader His Excellency Mr. KIM JONG IL for having built a powerful nation and overcome the economic difficulties temporarily caused by the natural disasters and reaffirmed that the independent policy pursued by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea greatly contributed to peace and security to the Korean peninsula as well as to Northeast Asia. The Cambodian side welcomed and highly appreciated the historic Inter-Korean Summit Meeting and the 15 June 2000 North-South Joint-Declaration and supported the efforts of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for its implementation. The Cambodian side also expressed its conviction that the independent reunification of Korea would be achieved by the concerted efforts of the Korean people both in the North and in the South and overseas in accordance with the North-South Joint-Declaration.

His Majesty the King of Cambodia reaffirmed His full support to the lines and policies of the Worker's Party of Korea and its Government for national reunification.

8- The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful result of the state visit of His Excellency Mr. KIM YONG NAM, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Kingdom of Cambodia and were convinced that this visit would greatly contribute to further strengthen and develop the traditional friendship and cooperation between the two Governments and Peoples.

9- His Excellency Mr. KIM YONG NAM, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea extended a cordial invitation to His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, King of Cambodia and Her Majesty the Queen to pay a state visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the most convenient time.

His Majesty the King of Cambodia expressed His heartfelt thanks and accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Official Visit By Thai Princess

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri SIRINDHORN, Princess of the Kingdom of Thailand, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia on 16-17 July 2001. The visit aimed at strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries.

Upon her arrival at Pochentong International Airport, Her Royal Highness the Princess was welcomed by Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and other senior government officials.

During her stay in Cambodia, Princess Maha Chakri SIRINDHORN visited the Royal Palace and Toul Sleng Genocide Museum. The Princess also made a visit to Angkor Wat temple in Siemreap province.

Senior Minister Attends AMM-ARF and PMC in Ha Noi

His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, led a delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia to participate in the 34th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) / ASEAN+3 / 8th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Post-Ministerial Conferences (PMC) held in Ha Noi from 23-27 July 2001.

Apart from the programs for AMM, ASEAN+3, ARF, and PMC, His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong and other Foreign Ministers of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Member Countries signed a Program of Action for Mekong-Ganga Cooperation. His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong also had separate meetings with Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Canada.

Ha Noi Programs of Action for Mekong-Ganga Cooperation

INTRODUCTION

The Inaugural Ministerial Meeting, held in Vientiane on 10th November, 2000 adopted the Vientiane Declaration on Mekong-Ganga Cooperation which sets out a vision for cooperation with a view to developing closer relations and better understanding among the six countries, Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Vientiane Declaration identifies a number of areas for cooperation, namely tourism, culture, education, and transport and communication.

In the spirit of the Vientiane Declaration, the Hanoi Program of Action is drawn up and adopted by the Second Ministerial Meeting held in Hanoi in July 2001. This program of action provides specific actions to be taken in the above-mentioned four areas of cooperation, namely tourism, culture, education, and transport and communication. The Hanoi Program of Action has a six-year time frame covering the period from July 2001 to July 2007. The progress of its

implementation shall be reviewed every two years in coincidence with the MGC Annual Ministerial Meeting.

The Experts Working Groups Meetings on Tourism, Transport and Communication Human Resources Development, and Culture were convened as follows: Tourism in Bangkok on 29 May 2001, Transport and Communication in Vientiane on 7-8 June 2001, Human Resource Development in New Delhi on 11-12 June 2000 Culture in Phnom Penh on 29 June 2001. The Programs of Action drawn up by the four Experts Working Groups on Tourism, Transport and Communication, Human Resource Development, and Culture are at Annexure, II, II, IV, and I respectively. The MGC Ministers adopted these Programs of Action and agreed that they would constitute the initial cooperative work program for implementation by the MGC.

1. TOURISM

Mekong-Ganga cooperation in tourism will be developed in areas such as tourism policy planning, human resource development, marketing, and environmental preservation through the strengthening of existing linkages as, well as the development of new collaborative actions in the tourism sector of Member Countries. The effort will be to develop tourist destinations that combine and link more than one Member Country. Transparency in exchange of tourist information should be encouraged.

1.1 Promote awareness of the enormous cultural richness and diversity of the MGC region and its many attractive tourist destinations:

1.1.1 Organize familiarization trips with the participation of Member Countries' officials, tourism agents, and mass media circles to study and promote the tourism potential of Member Countries.

1.1.2 Encourage cross-border tour packages, especially in long-haul markets, so that visitors can discover the rich cultural and civilizational affinity of the MGC region.

1.1.3 Hold MGC-wide cultural festivals so that visitors can experience a full spectrum of exciting cultural and traditional events across the region.

1.1.4 Develop Mekong-Ganga tourism through the establishment of Mekong - Ganga tourist booths in international tourism fairs, the publication of Mekong-Ganga Tourism Map,

Mekong - Ganga travel guides and brochures, multi-media promotional materials, to distribute in different areas through international events on tourism and organize workshops and seminars.

1.1.5 Encourage the development of an MGC Directory of Tourism Products and Services, in printed form and as Internet on-line information, among the tourism agencies of Member Countries, and design the logo for Mekong-Ganga Tourism Cooperation to be used by Member Countries in tourism promotional campaigns.

1.1.6 Share information on the eco-tourism promotion programs, air linkages and religious tourism circuits.

1.2 Encourage tourism investment:

1.2.1 Develop MGC distinctive tourism products so as to attract investment in the tourism sector of Member Countries.

1.2.2 Establish and develop an MGC tourism investment guide with a view to fostering transparency, among others, of the systems, procedures and regulations related to tourism investment in Member Countries so as to promote the region as an attractive area for tourism investments.

1.3 Cooperate in tourism education and training:

1.3.1 Share resources, skills and training facilities, e.g., the networking of tourism training centers/institutes, provision of technical assistance and experts, training of trainers, etc.

1.3.2 Exchange missions among Member Countries to share experience and knowledge in the development of tourism industry.

1.3.3 Share information on tourism statistical data and other related information.

1.3.4 Facilitate information access with regard to cultural and historical heritage in MGC countries and exchange information in question for publication in each Member Countries.

1.4 Facilitate the travel of tourists among Member Countries:

1.4.1 Simplify tourist visa procedures and remove barriers impeding tourism growth in order to further develop tourist traffic.

1.4.2 Increase direct air links between major cities and tourism areas of the MGC region.

1.5 Promote Eco-tourism:

1.5.1 Develop guidelines for assessing and monitoring tourism impact on the natural environment.

1.5.2 Promote public information and awareness, especially at the local community-level, so as to educate the public and gain its acceptance of environmentally sustainable tourism.

2. CULTURE

Mekong-Ganga cooperation III culture will be aimed at preserving and promoting the shared cultural and traditional values of Member Countries so as to enhance mutual understanding.

2.1 Promote joint research on cultural heritage of Member Countries especially dance, music and theatrical forms and traditions:

2.1.1 Develop, disseminate, publish and share source materials on culture, which Member Countries can translate and replicate, for the teaching and learning of MGC cultures.

2.1.2 Exchange missions and experts among Member Countries for the purposes of joint research on MGC's cultural heritage.

2.2 Undertake conservation, preservation, protection and promotion programs to revitalize and further develop MGC's cultural heritage:

2.2.1 Conduct surveys on heritage sites and artifacts to compile and publish a Directory on Heritage Sites and Artifacts for the MGC region.

2.2.2 Hold special events at important cultural heritage sites in the MGC region, with the participation of representatives from Member Countries and from international organizations, with a view to promoting international awareness of Member Countries' cultural heritage.

2.2.3 Make joint efforts, wherever possible, to expand export market for cultural products of Member Countries.

2.3 Promote cultural exchange among Member Countries:

2.3.1 Set up networks for the exchange of information and for regular dialogue on cultural exchange among Member Countries.

2.3.2 Promote the exchange and exhibition of all performing arts, visual arts and literature, including traditional dance, music and theatre and encourage people-to-people exchange among member countries.

2.3.3 Encourage the participation of Member Countries in important traditional ceremonies and cultural festivals organized in the region.

2.3.4 Facilitate roundtables for journalists, writers and experts in literature, arts, women's empowerment, health, nutrition etc.

3. EDUCATION

Mekong- Ganga education cooperation should focus on the promotion of closer interaction in the areas of distance education, information technology use for capacity building in key areas of e-development, and education planning, research, and language training.

3.1. Promote the exchange of students and faculty:

3.1.1 Encourage the awarding of scholarships to Member Countries' students to pursue studies in the prioritized areas.

3.2. Strengthen collaboration between MGC universities and education research and management institutes:

3.2.1. Establish a directory of universities, education research and management institutes, and information technology training centers in MGC countries.

3.2.2 Develop networking and twinning arrangements among MGC universities and institutes.

3.2.3 Create a forum for the exchange of experience in teaching, learning as well as education-policy making.

3.3 Promote joint education and training projects, for the teaching of the languages of MGC countries, including English language training:

3.3.1 Organize symposiums and seminars on education-related issues of Member Countries.

3.3.2 Promote cooperation programs in illiteracy eradication, continuing education and distance education for the poorer section of population and people in remote areas.

3.3.3 Develop education and vocational training programs for community development including the benefit of women and children, aid people living in remote areas.

3.3.4 Translate the classics of each MGC country into the languages of the other MGC countries with a view to contributing to the preservation of cultural identities and traditional values of each Member Country. Such programs may be taken in cooperation with the existing ASEAN programs.

3.4 Organize education exhibitions and book fairs in Member Countries:

3.4.1 Encourage Member Countries' publishing houses and concerned organizations to participate in MGC education exhibitions and book fairs.

3.4.2 Cooperate in publishing and marketing books of common interests among Member Countries.

3.5 Information Technology training and development:

3.5.1 Promote IT connectivity of educational institutions in the MGC region.

3.5.2 Develop course content and impart educational programs on the Internet to facilitate human resource development and upgradation of skills to power the information revolution.

3.5.3 Promote connectivity of libraries to share publications.

3.5.4 Encourage Internet-based education.

4. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

MGC cooperation in transport and communication is aimed at facilitating the movement of people and goods among MGC Member Countries conducive to socio-economic development of Member Countries, the development of trade and the promotion of better communication linkages and networking.

4.1 Develop transportation networks among MGC countries:

4.1.1 Assess the present status of the transportation networks in the region

4.1.2 Foster cooperation in cross-border facilitation, multi-modal transport, infrastructure development, maritime and inland water transport, civil aviation and human resource development

4.1.3 Enhance the implementation of transport facilitation within the West-East Corridor, Trans-Asian Railway and the Asian Highway projects.

4.2 Promote cooperation in air services and linkages:

4.2.1 Develop air services information networks among MGC countries

4.2.2 Cooperate in air services and linkages among MGC countries to enhance aviation competitiveness of the region.

4.3 Communication and networking:

4.3.1 Strengthening rural communication networks.

4.3.2 Training of telecom professionals.

4.3.3 Establishing a regional hub for meeting communication requirements of MGC countries.

5. FUNDING

5.1 Each country should consider the possibility of contributing seed money to MGC Fund for each sector. Efforts should be made to seek technical assistance and financial support from donor agencies and countries, and international organizations as appropriate.

6. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 Ministerial Meetings will be held every year in an MGC member country on an alphabetical rotation basis.

6.2 To facilitate the implementation of cooperation arrangements agreed by the Ministers, MGC Senior Official Meetings will be held annually, back to back with ASEAN-India SOM if the latter is hosted by an MGC Member Country. In case ASEAN-India SOM is hosted by a

non-MGC country, the MGC SOM shall be held separately in an MGC Member Country on an alphabetical rotation basis.

6.3 The Hosting Country shall assume the secretarial work for Ministerial Meetings and SOMs.

6.4 In endorsing this Program of Action, it is recognized that its successful implementation requires the collective commitment, coordination, and cooperation of the Member Countries' relevant agencies. The implementation of the approved work programs/ plans shall be further carried out by Member Countries, through designated focal points.

**Remarks
by Senior Minister HOR Namhong at ASEAN
Post Ministerial Conference 10+1 with Canada**

*Your Excellency Mr. John Manley,
Your Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah,
Excellencies, Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

First I would say that I am glad to co-chair this Meeting with Your Excellency. It has been a year since Cambodia assumed its role as ASEAN Country Coordinator with Canada. I am confident that this meeting would help further promote the mutual understanding to rejuvenate cooperation activities between ASEAN and Canada.

I would like also to extend my warmest welcome to His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, as in-coming ASEAN Country Coordinator with Canada.

Over the last two decades, fruitful cooperation had been achieved in ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations in terms of transfers of knowledge, expertise technology and English language training. Canada also extended assistance and cooperation with ASEAN countries to address transnational crimes and in the holding of the South China Sea Workshop since 1990.

May I also take this opportunity to express my high appreciation to the Government of Canada for cosponsoring with Japan the ASEAN Regional Forum Confidence Building Measures Seminar on Conventional Weapons Transfers held on 21-22 February 2001 in Cambodia. This seminar has contributed to a better understanding of problems caused by the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons which pose a severe threat to peace and security throughout the world. It has also promoted measures to prevent the above problems.

Mr. Co-Chairman,

Allow me to inform you that at the 4th ASEAN Informal Summit in Singapore in November last year. ASEAN Leaders paid special attention to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). The LAI aimed to reduce the development gap between ASEAN new and old members and to accelerate the integration of the new ones into the Association. At the 34th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) three days ago, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers have adopted "the Ha Noi Declaration on Narrowing the Development Gap for closer ASEAN Integration". In this sense, we would like be happy if Canada, as an important Dialogue Partner, could contribute to implementing the three identified key areas of integration:

Human Resource Development, Information Technology and Infrastructure.

Among these factors, HRD plays determinant role in the integration of new members into ASEAN. Therefore, ASEAN would highly appreciate it if Canada continues to support this crucial field as it used to do in the past.

Mr. Co-Chairman,

Despite Cambodia has been in the coordinatorship for ASEAN-Canada dialogue for a short time, we have done our best efforts in cooperation with all ASEAN member countries and Canada to find out possible ways to convene the 12th ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting within this year. In order to resume active cooperation I firmly hope that at this meeting, we would find out a possible ways to overcome the difficulties which has hindered development cooperation between ASEAN and Canada.

REMARKS
by Senior Minister HOR Namhong at ASEAN
Post Ministerial Conference 10+1 with China

Following is the integral text of the remarks addressed by His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, during the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference 10+1 with China:

*Mr. Co-Chairmen,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It gives me a great pleasure to attend this Meeting as an incoming Country Coordinator by 2003 for the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations.

I am very pleased to commend the present ASEAN Country Coordinator, Indonesia, for its excellent work and endeavors to bring ASEAN and China more closely.

I am glad to note that over the last five years, ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations have witnessed steady achievements resulting from their common will to boost their friendship and cooperation. ASEAN-China cooperation has now covered almost all fields: politics, economy, finance, science and technology etc.

Moreover, the Personnel Exchange Program, the Workshop on Understanding Modern China, several other activities on trade and investment seminars have significantly contributed to the strengthening of mutual understanding between ASEAN and China.

May I take this opportunity to recall that, at the 4th Informal Summit in 2000 in Singapore, ASEAN Leaders agreed to launch the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) supported by the plus three Leaders. Therefore, ASEAN would welcome the participation of China in this important initiative, which covers HRD, infrastructure and information technology.

ASEAN very much appreciates China's response to the HRD needs of ASEAN, in particular the new members, which have been identified by its Leaders, as a top priority in order to achieve ASEAN integration. Cambodia is of the view that the development of infrastructure and the Singapore- Kunming rail link as well as the development of the Mekong Basin will benefit not only ASEAN but East Asia as well.

Therefore, Cambodia fully supports the five-prioritized areas of cooperation proposed by China, namely:

1. HRD,
2. Infrastructure communication and technology,
3. Agriculture,
4. Investment, and
5. Mekong-Basin Development,

Mr. Co-Chairmen,

The ASEAN-China Senior Officials Consultations continued to be an important platform to discuss political and security issues of common concern and interest in a frank and cordial atmosphere characterized by mutual understanding and friendship. An ASEAN-China Working Group has also been established under the purview of the Senior Officials to work on the development of an ASEAN-China Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, which might be finalized and approved soon.

With regard to China's entry into WTO, ASEAN fully supports China in that endeavor although there are some challenges for ASEAN.

Cambodia's Prime Minister, Samdech Hun Sen, has advocated for China's entry into the WTO. He stated that China's membership in WTO is good for all of us.

Mr. Co-Chairmen,

May I reaffirm in this occasion that Cambodia always abides by the One China Policy and I believe that all ASEAN members also adopted the same stand. Cambodia believes that a firm respect for "One China Policy" will strengthen peace and security in the region.

Cambodia as incoming Country Coordinator in two years time will spare no efforts to further enhance the close relations, which exist between ASEAN and China for the mutual benefits.

Responses of Senior Minister HOR Namhong to written questionnaires of the International Affairs Review

Following is the full text of responses of His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, to the written questionnaires of the International Affairs Review, a weekly newspaper published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, on the occasion of the 34th AMM/ ASEAN+ 3/ 8th ARF and PMC held in Ha Noi from 23-27 July 2001:

***Question** - It is the honour of Vietnam to be the 1st Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee and the ASEAN Regional Forum in the new millennium. In your opinion, which areas of cooperation have ASEAN countries strengthened and achieved most during Vietnam's term?*

***Answer** - In the last one year, due to the utmost efforts made by Vietnam as Chairman of ASEAN Standing Committee and ASEAN Regional Forum, together with other ASEAN Member countries, there are some important achievements that I should mentioned:*

- ASEAN Integration:

Vietnam has accelerated the economic integration of the New Members States within ASEAN by actively expedite an Initiative for ASEAN Integration launched at the 4th ASEAN Informal Summit in Singapore last year. The Foreign Ministers of the CLMV countries took their own initiatives and met last December in Vientiane to coordinate their development needs. To this end, a Workshop among Senior Officials of the four countries and the Secretary General of ASEAN is scheduled to be held in Phnom Penh in late August 2001 aiming at elaborating a concrete Plan of Action on the Integration of the New Members Countries into ASEAN. This cooperation will certainly speed up the integration process.

- In the framework of ARF:

The 2nd Protocol Amending Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) has been ratified allowing the non-Southeast ASEAN States accede to the TAC which will serve as a Code of Conduct governing relations among States in the region with the purpose of maintaining and promoting regional peace and stability.

Vietnam has organized in May 2001 in Hanoi, the Direct Consultative Meeting between Members of SEANWFZ Treaty and Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to discuss on the remaining differences. This is an important step toward the accession of the NWS into the Protocol to the

Treaty, which will significantly contribute to effort towards achieving general and complete disarmament of nuclear weapons, and thereby ensuring international peace and security, including in Southeast Asia.

Moreover, the progress has been made in the consultations between ASEAN and China to develop a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea. All parties concerned have been committed to resolve disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the recognized principles of International Law.

***Question** - The Hanoi Declaration attached great importance to ASEAN Joint effort in closing the gap for dynamic and sustainable development. What should ASEAN countries do to materialize their desires?*

***Answer** -* In the face of challenges presented by the speedy process of globalization and regionalization in our world today, ASEAN must be competitive, relevant and move forward at the same pace. Therefore, narrowing the disparity of development within ASEAN Member States is crucial to ASEAN. By considering this evolution, not only in the Hanoi Declaration but in many other ASEAN documents such as ASEAN Vision 2020 and the Hanoi Plan of Action, ASEAN always attached great importance, among others, to promoting equitable economic development and to narrowing the disparities among ASEAN Member Countries.

The Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), which ASEAN leaders agreed to launch at the ASEAN Informal Summit last year in Singapore, provides the framework for the more developed ASEAN to help the new members in their development efforts towards regional integration.

To my understanding at the moment we should make our joint efforts to realize this Initiative. Concretely the more developed ASEAN members should help the new members in the fields of Human Resources Development (HRD), Infrastructure and Information Technology (IT). The early implementation of the ASEAN GSP Scheme agreed upon at the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat in Siem Reap in May this year will attract more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into our region and contribute to ensure a sustainable development in the new ASEAN Member Countries.

Moreover, we have to further strengthen and consolidate the cooperation with Japan, China and ROK in the framework of ASEAN+3 as well as with ASEAN dialogue partners. The cooperation should be focused on the above mentioned areas: HRD, Infrastructure and IT. In addition, China, Japan and ROK and others ASEAN dialogue partners should help ASEAN to successfully implement the IAI by providing more assistance to the new members of ASEAN.

Question - *From your point of view, what could ASEAN countries do to maintain and promote their achievements recorded over the last 30 years?*

Answer - Over the last 30 years, ASEAN has recorded remarkable achievement and has considered as a dynamic regional organization. One of the outstanding achievements obtained by ASEAN is the admission of Cambodia to ASEAN on 30th April 1999, which realized the long-cherished dream of the ASEAN founders in embracing all Southeast Asian countries.

To maintain and promote the achievement, I am of the view that:

All ASEAN Members must try their best to realize the ASEAN Vision 2020 and the Hanoi Plan of Action, especially their economic integration so that ASEAN can step forward with unity in the same pace. In the framework of ARF, with ASEAN as the primary driving force, we have to find any possible way to achieve final goal of this Forum.

Moreover, ASEAN should also further expand the relationship with other regional grouping such as the European Union as well as in the framework of Forum for East Asia and Latin America Cooperation, so as to promote cooperation in political, economic cultural and in other fields.

The relationship between ASEAN and countries in Northeast Asia namely Japan, China and ROK should be further consolidated. To this end, the establishment of East Asia Study Group (EASG) to explore the idea and implications of East Asian Summit will bring the Southeast Asian countries and Northeast Asian countries more closer together.

Question -*To help new ASEAN members catch up with the regional integration, several programs like the West-East Corridor and Mekong SubRegional development projects have been implemented. H. E. Mr. Minister, how do the projects benefit your country?*

Answer - The development of the West-East Corridor and Mekong Sub-region would not only benefit Cambodia or the countries in those areas but also help narrow the gap in the level of development among Members States of ASEAN and to reduce poverty and socio-economic disparities in the region as well as facilitate the economic integration of the new members into ASEAN. However, even numerous meetings concerning West East Corridor and Mekong Basin Development, had been held in which been many proposals and projects were raised, so far not any outstanding project has been implemented yet. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) proclaimed in June 2000 the " Decade of Greater Mekong Sub-region Development 2000-2009 ". It is regrettable that after this proclamation there is not enough follow-up actions. Therefore, all member countries of ESCAP, especially the riparian should joint hands in finding any possible way to make this proclamation become realized.

At the ASEAN Informal Summit in Singapore last year, ASEAN Leaders endorsed the feasibility study of the Singapore-Kunming Railway link project and directed that the project should be moved forward. ASEAN should do their utmost effort in any possible means so that the project can be successfully implemented.

In brief, the problem encountered us is financial. Therefore we have to work together to find budget for the projects.

Senior Minister Meets with Former UNTAC Head

On 10 July 2001, at 9:00 am, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, a meeting was held between His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Mr. Yasushi Akashi, former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Cambodia during the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) era.



Senior Minister HOR Namhong meets with Former UNTAC Head

During the meeting, His Excellency the Senior Minister highly appreciated the efforts made by Mr. Akashi for the sake of peace in Cambodia, even though UNTAC had not had full success. The Senior Minister also briefed Mr. Akashi on the prevalence of peace and the achievements in all spheres which Cambodia gained so far. As far as the Khmer Rouge leaders' tribunal is concerned, the Senior Minister stressed that contrary to the statement made by UN that the Cambodian legislation for the Khmer Rouge trial should be in conformity with the MOU to be signed between Cambodia-UN, he thought that the MOU should be in conformity with the Cambodian legislation and that was the respect to the Cambodian sovereignty.

While in Cambodia, Mr. Akashi was also granted a Royal Audience by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, King of Cambodia. He also paid courtesy calls on Samdech Krom Preah NORODOM Ranariddh, President of the National Assembly, Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen, and His Excellency Mr. SAR Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister, Co-Minister of Interior.

During the visit Mr. Akashi also participated in weapons destruction ceremony held in Kampong Chhnang province on 9 July 2001, during which more than 6,500 small arms were destroyed as part of a global Flame of Peace campaign to rid the world of illicit light weapons.

Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Meets with German Ambassador

On 30 July 2001, at 10:30 am, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong received His Excellency Mr. Harald LOESCHNER, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Cambodia, in a farewell call requested by the Ambassador.

During the discussions, Senior Minister HOR Namhong highly appreciated the efforts of His Excellency Mr. Harald LOESCHNER in strengthening the cooperation in all fields between Cambodia-Germany, including rural development, decentralization process, demobilization of the armed forces and the reforms in Cambodia and in making the relations between the two countries more closer.



Senior Minister HOR Namhong and Ambassador Harald LOESCHNER in a farewell call

The Senior Minister highlighted the development in Cambodia since the elections in 1998, which achieved more than 6% of GDP growth in 1999 and 5.4% in 2000 and the Royal Government of Cambodia's plan for about 6.7% of GDP growth and to alleviate poverty by 20% in 2005. He also talked about the Royal Government's endeavour to push forward the democratization through the organization of the commune elections and decentralization.

In response, His Excellency Mr. Harald LOESCHNER expressed his gratitude for the good cooperation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Senior Minister and noted with satisfaction the great development in all fields in Cambodia during the past 4 years of his term. He assured the Senior Minister that Germany will continue to closely cooperate and assist Cambodia in the improvement of economic conditions and consolidation of democracy which are the two pillars of the Cambodian development.

His Excellency Mr. Harald LOESCHNER also praised the Cambodian government and people for their openness and frankness in dealing with international community.

Inaugural Ceremony of ASEAN Documentation Center

On 10 July 2001, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Inaugural Ceremony of the ASEAN Documentation Center was held and presided over by His Excellency Mr. UCH Kiman, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and His Excellency Mr. Klauspeter Schmallenbach, Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Commission to Cambodia. Also present at the ceremony were His Excellency Mr. CHHOEUNG Chamroeun, Secretary of State, Ambassadors of ASEAN countries, and leaders and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.



Secretary of State UCH Kiman and Ambassador Klauspeter Schmallenbach cut the red ribbon to inaugurate the ASEAN documentation Center

In his remarks delivered during the ceremony His Excellency Mr. UCH Kiman stated that:

“ On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere and profound gratitude to the European Commission for their active participation in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia since the peace process was signed in 1991.

“ Right after Cambodia joined ASEAN on 30 April 1999, the EC is the first to provide valuable assistance to Cambodia to build up her human resources in ASEAN related matters under the EC program for the rehabilitation of Cambodia. In this regard, the EC located an amount of 1.4

million Euros to the training programme for Cambodian officials in order to provide them with skills to join in all ASEAN related activities.

“ The overall objective of the program is to establish this ASEAN Documentation Center and to upgrade skills for officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Finance and Economy, and the Ministry of Commerce, which are the three key Ministries, to participate in ASEAN activities, and provide computer training and equipment and networking between ASEAN related departments.

“ The establishment of the ASEAN Documentation Center together with the programme for training officials of the said three Ministries is an excellent combination. This ASEAN Document Center is being used as a research center for all readers, researchers, students and officials of ASEAN related Ministries. In the meantime, the readers also have access to the Internet so that they can do their research. It means that the center can help our officials to keep themselves in form of the related events and improved their work performance. ”

It should be noted that with the financial and technical assistance of the EC, the ASEAN Documentation Center was built on September 1, 2000 and completed on February 12, 2001. It cost about 35.000 Euro. The building is divided into two parts. The first is opened for the public and the second is for IT management. The first part is divided into four sections: Reference Section, Journals Section, Information Section, and Computer Section. And there are five computers with Internet access.

Secretary of State Meets with DPR Korea Vice Foreign Minister

On 18 July 2001, His Excellency Mr. CHOENG Chamreoun, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, met with His Excellency Mr. PAL Gil Youn, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who was accompanying His Excellency Mr. KIM Young-Nam, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on an official good-will visit in Cambodia from 17-20 July 2001.

During the meeting, both sides had an exchange of views on ways of strengthening and maintaining the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

His Excellency the Vice Foreign Minister considered the visit by His Excellency Mr. KIM Young-Nam in Cambodia as the excellent opportunity for furthering friendship and cooperation between the two countries and praised the Royal Government of Cambodia for peace, political stability and economic development.



Secretary of State CHOENG Chamreoun welcomes DPR Korea's Vice Foreign Minister

His Excellency the Secretary of State said that the friendship between Cambodian-DPR Korea was primarily based on the long lasting relations built by His Majesty the King of Cambodia and the Korean leadership. His Excellency the Secretary of State also expressed the pleasure with the process of the Korean Peninsular reunification, and the accession of Korea into the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). His Excellency the Secretary of State delightedly accepted His Excellency the Vice Foreign Minister's invitation to visit Korea in due course.

First Senior Officials Meeting of Cambodia-Indonesia Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation

In accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on economic and Technical Cooperation signed in Jakarta on 21 June 1994, followed by the Exchange of Notes between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia on 18 February 1997, establishing a Joint Commission, the First Senior Official Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation Between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Indonesia was held in Phnom Penh on 18 July 2001.



*Under Secretary of State SUN Saphoeun
and Mr. YUSBAR Djamil Sign Agreed Minutes of the Meeting*

The Cambodian delegation was headed by Her Excellency Mrs. SUN Saphoeun, Under Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Indonesia delegation was headed by Mr. YUSBAR Djamil, Director of Asia and Pacific Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

During the meeting the two sides discussed bilateral issues, including tourism, education and training, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, social affairs, labor, vocational training and youth rehabilitation, sister cities (Phnom Penh-Indonesia) armed forces, human resources

development, petroleum cooperation, cultural cooperation, foreign affairs, and the date and venue of the next meeting.

The meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship, good neighborliness and mutual understanding.
