



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

**Nation Religion King**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

# **INFORMATION BULLETIN**

## **ព្រឹត្តិបត្រព័ត៌មាន**

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## **His Majesty the King Sends Condolences to US President**

Following is the 11 September terrorist attacks on the United States, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, King of Cambodia, sent to the Honorable GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, a message dated 11 September 2001 that read as follows :

*Monsieur le Président,*

Au moment où a lieu en Votre glorieux Pays une tragédie d'une ampleur effroyable et Indicible, le Cambodge tout entier en est très profondément attristé.

Au nom du Peuple cambodgien et de son Parlement, en celui du Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge, en celui de la Famille Royale cambodgienne et en mon nom personnel, je prie Votre Excellence et le grand Peuple américain, en particulier les familles des victimes innocentes de ces horribles et injustifiables attentats terroristes, d'agréer nos condoléances les plus attristées.

Nou formons des vœux fervents pour le retour des Etats-Unis d'Amérique à une situation paisible et normale.

Je prie Votre Excellence Monsieur le Président d'agréer les assurances de mas plus haute considération.

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## **Message of Condolences from Samdech Prime Minister**

Samdech HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, sent on 12 September 2001 to US President GEORGE W. BUSH the following message of condolences on the terrorist attacks on the United States :

*Excellency,*

The whole people of Cambodia and I are deeply shocked to learn about the immense tragedy caused by very criminal terrorist attacks against the United States, which resulted in a tremendous loss of lives and injuries.

May I convey, on behalf of the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia, my most heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of those victims and the U.S. Government on this mournful occasion.

I am fully convinced that the whole world must take every joint efforts and action to combat the terrorism in our world today.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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## **Samdech Hun Sen's Comments on Terrorist Attacks on the United States**

*Addressing the ceremony to confer ranks to senior national police officials at the Ministry of Interior on 12 September 2001, Samdech Hun Sen was quoted giving the following remarks on the terrorist attacks on the United States:*

"... Talking about terrorism, may I spare this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, my deep condolences and sympathy to the Government and people of the United States of America as they went through disastrous terrorist attacks a few hours ago in Washington DC and New York city. In this moment, the Royal Government of Cambodia resolutely denounces those hot-blood terrorists who have committed inhumane terrorist acts. I would like to place an appeal to all the Governments in the world to step up cooperation aimed at curbing and defeating the terrorists so that this kind of tragedy will be prevented from repeating itself any where in our world..."

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## **Discours à l'occasion de l'inauguration du terminal international de l'Aéroport de Pochentong**

Following is the integral text of a speech delivered on 6 September 2001 by Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen on the occasion of the Inauguration of the International Terminal of Pochentong Airport:

*Excellences,  
Mesdames, Messieurs,*

C'est un honneur et un grand plaisir que j'inaugure, à vos côtés, le terminal international de l'aéroport de Pochentong. Je voudrais sincèrement féliciter la direction de la Société Concessionnaire de l'Aéroport (SCA) pour cette réalisation remarquable qui contribuerait au développement économique du Cambodge en général, et au développement du tourisme en particulier. L'aéroport de Pochentong est désormais devenu l'un des symboles de l'amitié et de la coopération Franco-Cambodgienne. Il va contribuer au renforcement d'un pôle de croissance économique et servira de pont reliant le pays au monde entier. C'est aussi la clé d'un avenir prospère et riche en possibilités. La France qui incarne la recherche de la paix au Cambodge, avec les accords de Paris en 1991, maintenant accompagne les efforts entrepris par le Gouvernement Royal pour faire entrer le Cambodge dans l'ère du décollage économique.

Afin de promouvoir la croissance économique durable et le soulagement rapide de la pauvreté de notre population - les éléments clefs de notre stratégie -, nous accordons une grande priorité aux six secteurs suivants:

1. L'agriculture dont le Cambodge jouit d'immenses potentiels, grâce à la disponibilité de terre et aux conditions climatiques favorables. La politique de l'eau est d'une grande importance.
2. L'infrastructure physique, le transport et la télécommunication;
3. L'énergie électrique;
4. Le développement des ressources humaines;
5. Les industries de main-d'oeuvre et les industries d'exportation;
6. Le tourisme, dont le Cambodge dispose d'énorme potentiel, notamment la présence des sites historiques et culturels, les héritages, la tradition, la nature comme la forêt, les lacs, la mer et le paysage attirant.

Ainsi que vous le savez, le Gouvernement Royal met l'accent sur la remise en état et l'amélioration des infrastructures physiques, avec pour point de mire les artères principales, les routes de campagne, les ponts et les traverses de bac et bien sûr les aéroports. Tout cela pour l'intégration des marchés intérieurs et pour l'intégration du Cambodge au sein de l'économie régionale et mondiale. Le développement des infrastructures physiques aura un impact positif sur les autres secteurs, surtout l'agriculture et le tourisme. Parallèlement à ces investissements, le gouvernement met

l'accent sur la création d'emplois pendant l'exécution de ces projets, en raison de leurs techniques de construction à prédominance de main-d'oeuvre.

Il est clair que l'objectif de la mise en état des infrastructures de transport, surtout les infrastructures aéroportuaires est de jeter une base pour le développement durable. Par ailleurs, la situation actuelle des infrastructures au Cambodge est encore sous-développée, surtout les infrastructures routières, fluviales et ferroviaires. Donc, le transport aérien est devenu un moyen de déplacement de grande priorité qui contribue au rapprochement croissant entre les lieux isolés, les régions touristiques, agricoles, industrielles, à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur du pays. A cet égard, le Gouvernement Royal reconnaît que l'aviation civile reste un important catalyseur à générer une croissance socio-économique du pays.

Au Cambodge, l'aviation civile est remarquablement améliorée grâce à des efforts déployés par le Secrétariat d'Etat de l'Aviation Civile. Pour que ce secteur se développe davantage, le Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge met l'accent dans son politique de l'aviation civile sur le renforcement et l'application des normes et des standards de l'Organisation Internationale de l'Aviation Civile (ICAO). En effet, je suggère au Secrétariat d'Etat de l'Aviation Civile d'élaborer un cadre politique et de préparer un projet de loi sur l'aviation civile en vue de renforcer le cadre juridique, déterminant les droits et les responsabilités concrètes de chaque acteur. Il est important de former les ressources humaines et les professionnels ayant des expériences nécessaires au bon déroulement des affaires. La priorité du gouvernement est aussi donnée à la sécurité qui peut être assurée par l'installation de l'équipement et des matériels adéquats et une gestion efficace de l'espace aérien. Il faut donc faire des investissements importants: nouvelles visualisations et nouveaux instruments pour les contrôleurs aériens et centres de contrôle.

Le trafic de passagers au Cambodge a augmenté en moyenne sur les deux dernières années de 30 pour cent par an, suite à l'application de la politique du "ciel ouvert". Nous avons donc affaire à un segment très dynamique de l'activité économique en général et du tourisme en particulier. Donc, le développement du tourisme peut être promu grâce à l'application de la politique du "ciel ouvert", l'élargissement et la remise en état des infrastructures aéroportuaires. Il est clair que la réponse à cet accroissement constitue le défi majeur de la prochaine décennie pour le Gouvernement Royal.

Aujourd'hui, sous les effets conjugués de la mondialisation, des nouvelles technologies de communication, des nouveaux rythmes de travail et de vie et d'une demande sociale de qualité, le tourisme est devenu un domaine transversal, à la croisée de l'économique, du social et de l'environnemental. Cette évolution amène à penser que le rôle de l'Etat vis-à-vis de ce secteur doit s'adapter. Cette adaptation concerne notamment la gestion de notre patrimoine, la qualité de nos équipements, la modernisation de notre accueil. Le tourisme durable, c'est-à-dire un tourisme de qualité, facteur de développement local, soucieux d'équilibre et de diversité, de concertation et de dialogue avec la population locales, est reconnu comme un impératif pour la pérennisation de notre développement touristique. Le tourisme durable, c'est aussi un tourisme imprégné de sens et d'éthique, respectueux de libertés, la lutte contre le tourisme sexuel. Le tourisme favorise aussi la découverte, la compréhension mutuelle, l'échange et l'amitié entre les peuples. Le tourisme peut enfin contribuer à rapprocher les peuples et à favoriser la paix.

Le tissu économique du Cambodge se transforme en très peu de temps. L'économie traditionnelle basée sur les produits agricoles est de plus en plus axée sur l'industrie et le secteur tertiaire. Avec la paix récemment réalisée, dans le pays règne le sentiment de pouvoir envisager l'avenir avec confiance et fierté. Le sentiment que les perspectives de croissance économique et de création d'emplois se concrétisent. Que les jeunes peuvent enfin envisager de bâtir ici un avenir prometteur. Dans ce contexte, ce réseau d'infrastructure renforcera les atouts du Cambodge dans la compétition régionale et internationale.

Certes, le gouvernement ne peut pas tout faire. Pas plus que les milieux d'affaires ni les autres partenaires à eux seuls. En plus, dans un pays comme le Cambodge, qui a connu une suite continue de conflits armés pendant près de trois décennies, les besoins sont énormes. Donc, notre stratégie est de réhabiliter des grandes projets d'infrastructure en vertu d'un contrat BOT (Build – Operate – Transfer/ construction – exploitation - transfert) et de faire un partenariat avec le secteur privé. J'ai moi même donné l'ordre au Conseil pour le développement du Cambodge de préparer une liste de projets BOT pour attirer les investisseurs. Le gouvernement a un rôle important à jouer pour accroître l'efficacité du secteur en favorisant une participation plus grande du secteur privé dans la remise en état des infrastructures et en facilitant les marchés compétitives des services de transport. Tel est en effet le rôle d'un État moderne, capable d'assurer un cadre stable et



favorable à l'initiative privée. Donc, l'inauguration aujourd'hui de l'aéroport de Pochentong est d'une grande importance pour le Cambodge, car elle permet aux investisseurs internationaux de se renseigner de la situation réelle dans le pays et de l'objectif de notre partenariat avec le secteur privé.

Notre politique économique est favorable à l'investissement. C'est grâce à l'aide publique au développement (APD) et à cet afflux des investissements directs étrangers (IDE) venant compenser l'insuffisance d'épargne intérieure, que le Cambodge a réalisé une croissance économique remarquable, l'inflation la plus basse de la région, le taux de change plus ou moins stable. L'IDE est aussi considéré comme un facteur de croissance économique par le transfert de technologie, de diffusion de savoir faire qu'il incorpore et de connaissances en management. Le flux d'IDE sont instantanément et réciproquement lié à l'approfondissement financier. Donc, notre gouvernement compte contribuer à la création d'un partenariat avec les milieux d'affaires et d'autres pour aider le Cambodge à réaliser pleinement son potentiel de prospérité, de réintégrer sa place, justement et avec fierté, au sein de la communauté internationale et de soulager rapidement la pauvreté.

C'est là le sens de la politique de mon gouvernement, une politique au service d'une croissance durable, de l'emploi et du progrès social.

Le terminal des passagers que nous inaugurons aujourd'hui c'est une réalisation issue de la coopération tripartite en vertu d'investissements BOT de la SCA effectués, d'une part par des fonds qui viennent de l'emprunt et d'autre part par des ressources propres de l'aéroport et, en plus, une grande partie provient de l'aide du Gouvernement Français pour le Cambodge. La SCA a remis en état certaines infrastructures nécessaires de l'aéroport pour les conformer aux standards internationaux, par exemple, le prolongement de la piste, l'installation de l'équipement pour l'atterrissage automatique, des appareils de sécurité, des voitures de pompiers, la construction des dépôts de marchandises, l'élargissement du terminal T-A dans la première étape qui s'est terminée depuis le mois de juin 2001 et que nous inaugurons officiellement d'aujourd'hui. Avec la deuxième étape qui achèvera en 2002, l'Aéroport International de Pochentong pourrait accueillir plus d'un million de passagers par an.

Désormais, je sollicite à la direction de la SCA d'accorder la priorité à l'amélioration des services de l'aéroport, car Pochentong c'est comme le visage du Cambodge. Les étrangers venus pour la première fois au pays peuvent juger à partir de l'impression formée ici. Tout de même quand ils rentrent chez eux. Dans cet esprit, je profite de cette occasion pour suggérer aux autorités de Phnom Penh de bien vouloir améliorer les routes qui relient l'aéroport à la capitale et de les embellir pour produire une vive impression sur les touristes et les visiteurs étrangers.

En même temps, le Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge s'engage à remettre en état l'aéroport international de Siemreap avec le prêt de la Banque Asiatique de Développement, dont les travaux de construction seront terminés en l'an 2002. En outre, le Cambodge possède deux aéroports régionaux à investir sous la même forme BOT. Ce sont l'aéroport Kâng Keng à Sihanouk Ville et l'aéroport de Kampong Chhnang de type Cargo. Par ailleurs, nous avons encore six autres à l'entretenir, à remettre en état ou à privatiser. Mais, le gouvernement est trop chargé par de nombreux fonctionnaires de l'aviation civile qui n'ont pas assez de travail et je voudrais donc proposer à la SCA de les réemployer dans ce secteur après un peu de formation.

A partir de ma déclaration ci-dessus, vous pourriez être convaincu que le Gouvernement Royal accorde une grande importance aux investissements privés en vue de jeter les bases d'un décollage économique et du soulagement de la pauvreté au Cambodge. En reconnaissant le rôle clef joué par le secteur privé en cet égard, la stratégie du gouvernement vise à faire du Cambodge un pôle d'attraction pour les investissements étrangers. Et à encourager l'exportation des marchandises et des services. Nous voulons permettre à tous les Cambodgiens de maîtriser leur propre destin économique dans la mesure du possible. Le peuple cambodgien est capable de réaliser cette ambition s'il existe des opportunités et si le gouvernement et les autres partenaires peuvent créer un environnement favorable pour eux.

En tant que gouvernement, nous sommes en mesure d'offrir à tous les investisseurs un environnement propice aux investissements, surtout la restauration de la paix, la sécurité, la stabilité politique et macroéconomique, le cadre juridique et institutionnel efficace, la transparence, la redevabilité et la prévisibilité.

Fier de son passé glorieux et de ses réalisations récentes, le Cambodge arrive à s'acquérir la force et la ferme volonté d'entreprendre l'ensemble des actions nécessaires à une accélération du développement. Nous sommes prêt à réaliser les potentiels que nous disposons et transformer notre rêve en réalité. Je tiens à vous inviter à vous engager ensemble, au moyen de votre contribution concrète, pour lutter contre la pauvreté et aider le Cambodge à poursuivre la marche vers un avenir brillant. Je suis confiant qu'en travaillant ensemble et en renforçant notre partenariat nous pourrions remporter cette bataille.

Rempli de joie et pleinement confiant dans l'esprit de coopération qui nous anime tous, qu'il me soit permis de proclamer l'ouverture officielle de l'aéroport de Pochentong.

Pour terminer, permettez-moi de formuler à vos excellences, mesdames et messieurs les invités, mes fervents vœux de bonne santé et de succès dans vos affaires.

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**Samdech HUN Sen's Address  
at the Opening Ceremony of the Workshop on Public  
Awareness about Information Technology**

Following is the integral text of an Address delivered on 11 September 2001 by Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen at the Opening Ceremony of the Workshop on Public Awareness about Information Technology:

*Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is a great pleasure for me to attend the workshop on ***Public Awareness about Information Technology***, which is being held during the next three days. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the National Authority for Information Technology for organizing this seminar, while efforts are being deployed by the Royal Government of

Cambodia (RGC) formulate policies and strategies aimed at reducing a digital divide between Cambodia and the region and the rest of the world in order to promote poverty alleviation and sustainable development and to reap appropriate benefits from globalization. I also take this opportunity to sincerely thank UNESCO, UNDP, IBM, Mobitel and Big Pond for their assistance in organizing this seminar to raise public awareness about the benefits of information technology (IT) in our day-to-day life, management and business, as well as the need for the introduction of IT in government business.

This conference on IT Awareness is of great significance, since it is a timely response to the immediate needs and requirements of Cambodia and helps the country to bring about the introduction of IT in all sectors, to join the bandwagon of development and to catch up with the region and the world. To this end, an Authority was established to consider the benefits and implications of IT use and to study and establish appropriate institutional organization to meet Cambodia's current conditions. Its objectives also include human resource training, introduction of international standards and the establishment of a sound legal and regulatory framework. At the same time, I am confident that the papers to be presented by all presenters and the brainstorming on each topic will become a comprehensive database, information and a strong foundation for the development of a vision for the IT development. This will play a key role in building up Cambodia comparative advantages in the world of globalization.

Taking this rare opportunity, may I share with you all my own views, which hopefully could be instrumental in developing the vision of IT development in Cambodia.

If we look beyond the horizon towards a future, we can see that at the dawn of the new millennium the world is moving very fast, fuelled by globalization, towards a new, unfettered IT development. The miraculous development of new high tech and computers has shortened the distance of the world and is giving way to the emergence of a new, digitalized and knowledge-based economy. Information, broadcasting and telecommunications have increasingly become an important factor, which underpins the development of human civilization. Relationships and exchange between communities and countries on arts, culture, politics and scientific achievements are conducted by using the state-of-the-art telecommunications. The radio, national and international TV networks, and the Internet are being recognized as the most efficient communication

medium, which speed up the dissemination of information. The use of multi-media technology and IT has become an imperative and a large number of countries have used these technological achievements to facilitate business, commensurably with the pace and the magnitude of market operations.

Therefore, technological revolution has rapidly changed the world. Transactions are being made on-line. Almost all products and services, including banking, consultant and accounting services, can be purchased on line using the Internet. Moreover, the current state of technology allows us to codify knowledge and know-how and transfer them through e-mail, fax or the Internet. Thus, almost all human beings in the world can obtain assets, goods, services and resources almost at the same time from different places. In this context, electronic commerce has emerged as a dynamic, modern form of transactions, which has received adequate attention, especially from the World Trade Organization (WTO). E-commerce has become one of the most important forms of cooperation in ASEAN.

At the ASEAN plus three Summit Meeting held in Singapore, on 28 November 2000, I stated that the world has recognized that in the current of globalization concerted efforts to reduce the digital divide is key to poverty alleviation, improvement in people's well-beings and the strengthening of each nation's comparative advantages in order to promote sustainable development. The development of IT and telecommunications has an important role to play in this process. Then, I welcome and voiced a strong support for Japan's initiative at the G-8 Summit in July 2000 to provide US\$15 billion over the period of five years to assist developing countries in information and telecommunications technology. Moreover, within the ASEAN framework, all members are in the process of implementing ASEAN IT development projects, such as the E-ASEAN project and the projects to build up IT capacity for new members.

This shift in the development paradigm imposes a new development scenario for Cambodia. In the long run, key factors of production will shift from land and natural resources to information, knowledge and innovation embodied in Cambodia's human capital. In other words, knowledge, skills and expertise of the Cambodian people will become increasingly crucial to the country's future economic growth. Extensive economic growth and development will be gradually giving way to intensive economic growth. This type of growth requires more added values from ideas and innovation.

Cambodia should not be marginalized from the development of human civilization. Thus, the RGC has endeavored to promote the use of modern technology in Cambodia's e-mail systems to enable the country to respond to the current needs in all sectors, especially to the development of e-commerce.

However, the government's top priority is to use IT to serve and to meet the day-to-day needs of the people. IT should become as an efficient means for the public to exercise their rights to get information related to the decisions made by the government and the conduct of government business in accordance with the principles of transparency and good governance. In the long run, the introduction of decentralization and deconcentration as part of the government's administrative reform efforts will require the increasing use of IT to link the communes and local communities with Phnom Penh with a view to promoting efficient management and facilitating timely exchange of necessary information. Thus, from the point of view of the political and administrative aspects, IT will help strengthen democracy, ensure transparency, promote good governance in government and community businesses. With regard to the economic and social aspect, IT will improve major public service delivery to the local people and allow them to monitor and receive regularly and timely all kinds of information, especially the necessary information about the markets, which will facilitate their economic decision making.

The experiences of many neighboring countries show that human resource development is key to promoting IT developments. IT development should be linked to the increase in labor productivity and the knowledge of the people, the transfer of expertise and technology, diversity and access by the people to health care and education, the development of entrepreneurship and the accumulation of new cultural assets.

To achieve the above objectives, Cambodia needs a long-term IT development strategy, which responds to the realities of the country, the changes and new developments in regional and world economies. This vision should be supported by a detailed action plan for implementation. The common vision for IT development, with all the supporting policies, strategies and multi-discipline measures to be elaborated by the government, as well as concrete actions being undertaken at the national level, should guide Cambodia towards a bright future, strengthen the culture of peace, promote virtues,

knowledge and living standards of our people, and more importantly Cambodia's prestige in the international arena.

As the Head of the Government and as a Cambodian, I wish to make a humble contribution to the development of this vision by drawing your attention to the following:

First, the sine qua non conditions for the increased use of IT is the development of telecommunication infrastructures through the policy of liberalization, strengthening the authority responsible for the supervision and regulation and open access to instill fair competition. In this sense, attention has been given by the RGC to formulate policies and establish a legal and regulatory framework for the development of the telecommunication sector. At the same time, the RGC is committed to provide incentives to attract investments in the telecommunications sector. As a result, Cambodia is being recognized as a country with the state-of-the-art telecommunication network, which will pave the way for further development of the sector. Nevertheless, much more remained to be done with our partners to ensure that Cambodia will not be marginalized from the telecommunication and IT revolution.

Second, expanding the coverage for the use of the Internet by considering measures to attract private investments and modern technology, and by ensuring free and fair, market-based competition. This will create necessary conditions for cost reduction, improvement in public services, so that the government, the private sector, the educational and research universities and the Cambodian people in general will be able to use of this instrument as efficient as possible.

Third, Language is an important vehicle to promote development and IT transfer. The use of IT in Khmer language will open access to millions of people who will be able to benefit from these technological developments. Therefore, standardization of Khmer language in computers will improve efficiency and capability of this sector and facilitate communications at all levels. I suggest to the Authority for ICT Development to pay considerable and immediate attention to this problem. Nevertheless, improvement in English language is of critical importance in terms of acquiring and deepening IT knowledge. To become competitive in the future within the context of ASEAN and globalization we should promote English as the second or working language of Cambodia, while Khmer language should always be Cambodia's official language. In

general, I support the idea that every Cambodian should know at least four languages (Khmer, English, French and a language of one of the countries of East Asia). In the future, language skills will become an important comparative advantage for Cambodia.

Fourth, computer literacy, as is the case with foreign languages, must be promoted among Cambodians. Computer literacy is currently one of the most important tools that exist for communications, economic management, trade, domestic and international investment, as well as for knowledge accumulation and management expertise. This is true for every country in the world, and Cambodia is no exception to this. The most important direction is to include computer literacy in the curriculum of every secondary school, faculty and university throughout Cambodia.

Fifth, continuous efforts should be given to promote the activities and encourage the participation of the private sector in IT development. This is also related to government's policies to ensure the sound management of foreign direct investment. It should provide sufficient incentives for companies to transfer to Cambodia technical skills and new technology for the country's development while at the same time allowing other companies and individuals to access the ideas that flow from the research.

Sixth, attention should be given to protect intellectual capital and use the Internet for development purposes by preventing the use of such technology for committing crimes or other purposes, which are contrary to morality, traditions and good mores of the society.

These are the main elements of our strategy, which should be taken into account while considering the preparation of a long-term vision for IT development in Cambodia. In all these endeavors, human resource and effective and efficient use of these resources are the key to success. I am confident that this conference will provide opportunity for lively discussions on this very important topic and contribute in a concrete and substantial manner to raise public awareness and formulate a vision for IT development in Cambodia.



In concluding, I would like to extend to you all, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, as well as all participants, a success and prosperity in all your endeavors. I would like to declare that the "workshop on *Public Awareness about Information Technology* " open.

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## **Samdech HUN Sen's Address at the Ceremony to Mark the Sixth Anniversary of the Children's Committee**

Following is the integral text of an Address delivered on 20 September 2001 by Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen at the Ceremony to mark the Sixth Anniversary of the Children's Committee :

*Your Excellencies,*  
*Distinguished Guests,*  
*Ladies and Gentlemen,*  
*Dear Children,*

I am extremely pleased to attend the ceremony to mark the sixth anniversary of the establishment of the Children's Committee. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, let me begin by thanking the Ministry of Social Actions, Labor and Vocational Training, the international organizations, especially UNICEF, the civil society, countless other dedicated people, and the business community for their commitment and efforts to improve the status of the children in the world, in general, and Cambodia's children, in particular.

Children are the bearers of our common future, the pillar and the uniting force for our nation. It is therefore an opportune moment for me to discuss with you all the problems and share with you my personal ideas of how we can work together to address the problems our children and society are facing.

Although it was not until 1998 that Cambodia's National Programme of Action was introduced, in order to gather momentum in Child Rights and to catch up with global developments, the RGC undertook steps to make progress in its commitment to children. Cambodia ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992 and subscribed to the Declaration and Plan of Action in February 1993. Moreover, the global goals for children were adopted for inclusion in the First Socio-Economic Development Plan (1996-2000). These goals include reduction of under-5 child mortality rates, reduction of maternal mortality rates, reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among under-5 children, increased access to safe drinking water, better access to basic education, reduction of the adult illiteracy rate, with emphasis on female literacy, and protection of children in especially difficult circumstances.

It is every Cambodian's obligation to help make our beloved country a better place for children - a place where every child can grow to adulthood in health, peace and dignity. Therefore, we should put children and women first in the government's social development program. Each adult has the obligation to be part of the large-scaled and multi-faceted campaign to promote the cause of the children, such as care for every child, fight HIV/AIDS, stop harming and exploiting children, listen to their opinions, educate every child, protect children from war, take action to eradicate polio among Cambodian children, protect the environment for children - and fight poverty by investing in children.

Poverty and underdevelopment remain immense obstacles to child rights and well-being. Eradication of the worst manifestations of poverty is not only a moral imperative. It is a practical demonstration of the RGC's political will - and it starts with investing in children. As you are aware, the physical, emotional and intellectual impairment that poverty inflicts on children can mean a lifetime of suffering and want - and a legacy of poverty for the next generation. That is why to break this vicious circle; the RGC has proposed a «New Social Policy Agenda» for Cambodia, which envisions creation of a socially connected, educationally advanced, and culturally vibrant society in Cambodia. The basic foundation of sustainable development is a healthy, well-educated

populace - and investments in health, education and stability for Cambodia's children will be repaid many times over. Child development is key to achieving poverty reduction and sustainable development over the long term. Only investment on children can put young Cambodians on a path to economic and social empowerment; help them make the most of their abilities; and provide a means for promoting national development and improving their own living standards.

In response to the above policies, the RGC knows what needs to be done - and nothing speaks louder than financial commitments for the development of those sectors. Hence, considerable efforts have been deployed by the Royal Government of Cambodia to increase investment in this sector by increasing budget allocations for education and health, mobilizing foreign aid and encouraging contribution from the society. Over the last four years, the RGC increased more than two folds the spending for education from CR 102 billion in 1998 to CR223 billion in 2001. Spending on health increased more than three times from CR43 billion in 1998 to CR 140 billion in 2001. At the same time, In 2002 the Royal Government of Cambodia will launch a Poverty Targeted Program to address the needs of poor populations living in remote outback areas, especially the problem of malnutrition among the population.

Until now, I am proud to say that the Cambodian children have been fully liberated from the scourges of war. With the restoration of peace following the implementation of the win-win policy, the Cambodian children are no longer displaced by fighting, no longer loose their parents and are no longer recruited as soldiers or to service the war. Moreover, through the campaign to eradicate polio, the Cambodian children have fully been liberated from this cruel disease. This should be considered as a tremendous achievement for the Cambodian children at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Even with those achievements, much remains to be done for children. We have seen the presence of the street children and families living in Phnom Penh and other urban areas. This phenomenon has been caused by breaking relationships in the families and poverty. They are the most vulnerable group and are increasingly facing with the problem of drugs, HIV/AIDS, prostitution, "Big Brothers", health risks and the feeling of no future and exclusion. A number of NGOs have been involved to help poor and street children by cooperating with the local authorities and relevant ministries and agencies. I

myself have used my own money to help come orphans to live decently, to get access to health care, education and to become a good citizen in the future. Indeed, such action is not adequate. We should cooperate closely and join hands to address the outstanding problems.

At the same time, we should recognize that in all our endeavors to promote children's rights and welfare, we should not regard the children as only the object for care and leave children themselves totally outside the process. It is important to listen to children and to require participation by children. In this sense, the presence of the Children's Committee headed by a child, an independent body working for the genuine and noble interests of the children is vital to achieve our sustained and common efforts. I am extremely pleased and proud that Mr. Em Chan Makara, President of the Children's Committee, was elected as a delegate to represent children from Asia and the Pacific at a fifth Ministerial Consultative Meeting on the Future of Children in Asia and the Pacific held in Beijing. This testifies that at both national and international level, Cambodian children are capable to exercise their rights to express their own views and opinion on various issues. It also allows our foreign friends to see the national identity and capability of Cambodian children.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate the Children's Committee and commend all members of this committee for their good work. I encourage you to continue this noble work and take a pro-active stance in all these activities that benefit the future of all Cambodian children.

In conclusion, I extend to Your Excellencies, Ladies, Gentlemen and all children my wishes for your prosperity and success in the struggle for the noble interests of children.

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## **Senior Minister HOR Namhong Meets with Minister of Infrastructure, Transport and Housing of France**

On 6 September 2001, His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, met with His Excellency Mr. Jean Claude Gayssot, Minister of Infrastructure, Transport and Housing, who was paying a working visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 5-8 September 2001. The discussion was mainly focused on strengthening cooperation in the field of transportation between the two countries.



*Senior Minister HOR Namhong Meets with His Excellency Mr. Jean Claude Gayssot,  
Minister of Infrastructure, Transport and Housing*

The Senior Minister highlighted the important achievements made by the Royal Government of Cambodia in carrying out its platform and expressed satisfaction with the good relations of friendship and cooperation in all fields between the two countries, including the promotion of the use of French language.

The Senior Minister added by saying that the French company which was undertaking the Pochentong Airport construction at the moment could consider enlarging the airport in Siemreap province to meet the increasing of the tourists, especially from Japan and China etc...who planned to establish direct flights to Siemreap. At present Thai has already studied on the railroads, and in the future France could invest the

railroads from Singapore to Khum Minh by crossing Cambodia, which ASEAN leaders decided during the ASEAN Summit in Singapore last year.

In response, His Excellency Mr. Jean Claude Gaysot said that France was ready to carry out studies on the locomotives. He added that the enlargement of the Siemreap airport was stipulated in the agreement, which was signed on 6 September 2001 and informed the Senior Minister that the Group Vinci Company of France had been involved in that matter.

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### **Senior Minister Meets with Special Envoy of Iran**

On 31 August 2001, His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, met with His Excellency Mr. Mohsen Amin Zadeh, Special Envoy of the President of Iran and also Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran, who was on a two-day visit to Cambodia from 31 August to 1 September 2001.

During the meeting, the Senior Minister warmly welcomed His Excellency Mr. Mohsen Amin Zadeh's first visit to Cambodia and deemed that it was the first step in promoting the relations in all fields between the two countries.

*Senior Minister HOR Namhong Meets with His Excellency Mr. Mohsen Amin Zadeh,  
Special Envoy of the President of Iran and also Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran*

During the discussion, His Excellency Mr. Mohsen Amin Zadeh handed over and conveyed the Senior Minister HOR Namhong the message and the regards from the President of Iran to Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen. His Excellency Mr. Mohsen Amin Zadeh expressed his heartfelt sympathy to the flood victims in Cambodia. He stated that his visit to Cambodia was to find out ways to promote the relations between the two countries in the fields of trade, culture and tourism.

His Excellency Mr. Mohsen Amin Zadeh also hailed the good relations between Iran and ASEAN countries, including Cambodia. His Excellency the Special Envoy expected that there would be a lot of exchange of visits between the two countries in the future, and availed this opportunity to invite Senior Minister HOR Namhong to visit Iran.

In response, Senior Minister HOR Namhong expressed in the name of Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen, his sincerest thanks for the attention attached to the bilateral relations by the Government of Iran and conveyed Samdech Prime Minister's regards to the President of Iran. The Senior Minister also said that Cambodia would appoint its Ambassador to Iran to promote the bilateral relations and accepted with thanks the invitation to visit Iran.

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## **Senior Minister HOR Namhong Meets with Brunei Ambassador**

On 04 September 2001, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong received His Excellency Mr. Pengiran Haji Yunus Bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Cambodia, in a farewell call requested by the Ambassador.

During the discussions, His Excellency the Ambassador highly appreciated the good working relations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International

Cooperation and the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in strengthening the cooperation between the two countries.



*Senior Minister HOR Namhong Meets with  
His Excellency Mr. Pengiran Haji Yunus Bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud,,  
Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam*

His Excellency the Ambassador also informed Senior Minister HOR Namhong of the intention to pay a visit to Cambodia in the future by His Majesty King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam.

In response, the Senior Minister wished His Excellency the Ambassador for successes in his new diplomatic mission. The Senior Minister highlighted the efforts made by Cambodia and other members of the Mekong River Committee in making the master plan on Mekong River Basin Development to be submitted to the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation ( AMBDC ) Meeting next year.

His Excellency the Ambassador told the Senior Minister that the Hanoi Plan of Action including the Mekong River Basin Development would be top in the agenda of the ASEAN Summit next year in Brunei.

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**Senior Minister**



## **Meets with German Ambassador**

On 25 September 2001, at 9:00 a.m., at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, met with His Excellency Mr. Helmut Ohlraun, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Cambodia.

The Senior Minister, after welcoming the Ambassador's assignment, expressed his thanks for German assistance to and good cooperation with Cambodia as well as his conviction that the bilateral cooperation would be better during His Excellency Mr. Helmut Ohlraun's term.

The Senior Minister also highlighted the progress in the rehabilitation and development process of Cambodia, especially in rural development, agriculture and infrastructure. The Senior Minister added that Cambodia was facing a lot of difficulties and was in need of human resources, which was one among the top priorities of the country's development.

His Excellency Mr. Helmut Ohlraun expressed his satisfaction with the actual status of the Cambodia-Germany cooperation and stressed on the attention attached to the relations with Cambodia by the German Government.



*Senior Minister HOR Namhong Meets with  
His Excellency Mr. Helmut Ohlraun, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany*

Senior Minister HOR Namhong and His Excellency Mr. Helmut Ohlraun also had an exchange of views on some regional issues of common interest and the cooperation between the two regional organizations ASEAN-EU.

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## **First Session of the Cambodia-Cuba Joint Commission**

The First Session of the Joint Commission for the Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Cuba was held in the city of Havana from August 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 2001 in an atmosphere of good understanding and cooperation for mutual interests.

The Cuban Side was led by the Acting Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation Ernesto Seti Darias. The Cambodian side was led by His Excellency Secretary of State Mr. UCH Kiman for the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.



During the First Plenary Session of the Joint Commission, both sides had discussions on topics related to economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the governments of the two countries for a period of 2001-2002.

The Joint Commission agreed to carry out the Second Session of the Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation in Phnom Penh, during the fourth quarter of the year 2002.

The First Session was held in sincere atmosphere of good understanding reflecting the traditional bonds of friendship between the two countries.

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## **Second Session of the Intergovernmental Russian-Cambodian Commission**

The Second Session of the Intergovernmental Russian- Cambodian Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held in Moscow on 19 September 2001.

The Cambodian delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. UCH Kiman, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Russian delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. Anvar Sh. Shamuzafarov, Head of the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Construction, Housing and Utilities.

The Session of the Commission was held in the spirit of friendship and mutual understanding. Both sides were convinced that this successful meeting would further strengthen of the relations of good cooperation existing between the two countries.

Both sides agreed to hold the Third Session of the Commission in Cambodia in the year 2002. The agenda and the date of the Commission Session would be communicated through diplomatic channels.

The Head of the Cambodian delegation expressed his deep appreciation to the Russian side for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to him and his delegation during their stay in Moscow and for excellent arrangements made at the Session.

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