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# POLITICS

## PM: "7 January Day" Does Not Take Anybody As Enemy

Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen said "7 January Day" does not try to take anybody as an enemy except Pol Pot genocidal regime.

In his remarks on Jan. 5 at the celebration of the "7 January Day" in Memut district, Kampong Cham province, two-day ahead of the country's official celebration, the Cambodian premier said "7 January Day" becomes a national movement although some of the inconsiderate people try to distort the truth, adding that they cannot take the palm of their hand to hide the sun light.

He believed that those who are ungrateful for the event are due to the political reasons.

The move does not give a benefit to them because the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) does not monopolize "7 January Day" for itself, considering it as a collective event.

He said the celebration of the day reflected that the Cambodian people mark the collapse of Khmer Rouge's barbarous regime and the victory of the United Front for the National Salvation of Kampuchea Motherland, whose spirit was deeply taken in the Cambodian feelings, as well as considering "7 January Day" as their second birthday.

He also recalled the courage of the Cambodian combatants who

sacrificed their lives, freshly bloody and fleshy, for the cause of the national liberation and freedom, mainly a right to rebirth of the Cambodian people.

Beginning from the tireless efforts made by the Cambodian royal government, he said, Cambodia gained many achievements in the national rehabilitation and development.

The 1991 Paris Peace Accords and the first general election in 1993 are inseparable from the victory day of January 7, 1979, bringing back the constitutional monarchy regime, especially the national reconciliation and the integration of the national community via win-win policy of the royal government, he stressed.

## DPM Hor Namhong Meets U.S. Lawmaker.

A visiting U.S. Lower House Member Ms. Laura Richardson met here on Dec. 29 with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Hor Namhong.

On the occasion, Ms. Richardson said that she will discuss with U.S. Lower House members to write off the debts Cambodia owed to the U.S. during the U.S.-backed Lon Nol regime.

Through the U.S. Lawmaker Ms. Laura Richardson, H.E. Hor Namhong asked the American government either to convert some part of the debts to development assistance or to write off all the debts or some part of the debts.

Moreover, both sides also focused on the cooperation between Cambodia and the U.S., said Koy Kuong, undersecretary of state and spokesman for the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

## Cambodian FM: No Release of 7 Thais Entering Illegally Cambodia

Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Hor Namhong, minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said that there is no release of seven Thai entering illegally Cambodian territory.

The Cambodian foreign minister told this to reporters after meeting with his visiting Thai counterpart, H.E. Kasit Piromya, on Dec. 30.

“Let the legal procedure proceed the case as normal and as long as it is in hand of the court, the royal government cannot do anything,” he said.

The seven Thai nationals, including “yellow shirt” activist Veera Somkwamkid, had been arrested on Dec. 29 by Cambodian army.

He told Thai foreign minister that it was not the first time that Thais entered illegally Cambodia, but it was the third times, he said, explaining that the first was in July and the second in September, but they did not go too deeply into Cambodian soil, they were then banned by the Cambodian army and sent back to Thailand.

“The arrested Thais intended to go to Chok Chey village about 1,200 meters away from the border and they did not lose their way and they traveled across the border pole No. 46,” he said.

H.E. Kasit Piromya acknowledged that he did not know the Thais went to Cambodian village like that, he said, adding that the case went to the court’s hand and let juridical procedure proceed it.

Thai Foreign Minister H.E. Kasit Piromya said that he came to Cambodia to tell the truth of the Thai side and he respected the justice movement and demanded that the Cambodian royal government do as much as possible to finish the issue soon.

## CMAC To Begin Exploring UXO This Month

Under the financial support from the government of Norway, Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) will begin exploring unexploded ordnance (UXO) this month in some provinces.

This is the first time that CMAC set to explore UXO and explosive remnants of war, said yesterday Mr. Heng Ratana, director general of CMAC.

We have so far conducted exploration only on mine-suspected areas, but as the number of UXO victims has increased, we have decided to search for the number of UXO and explosive remnants of war throughout the country, he explained.

The one-year UXO's exploration will start in Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Kratie and Stung Treng provinces at the total cost of more than US$200,000, he said.

According to CMAC, there were 260 victims of UXO during the first eleven months of 2010, of them 70 were killed, 129 were injured and 41 were crippled, showing an increase of 50 victims if compared to the same period of 2009.

## *South Korean Bank Provides Fund for Dam Development Project*

The Export-Import Bank of Korea has provided a total loan of approximately US$19 million for the Mongkol Borey Dam Development project and a hydro-electricity plant in Battambang province, according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance H.E. Keat Chhon signed here last Friday the loan agreement with a representative of the bank.

The loan agreement worth of US$18.7 million will be used for the Mongkol Borey Dam development project and a hydro-electricity plant construction project in Battambang province, said H.E. Keat Chhon, indicating that it is the 10th of its kind, bringing the total number of aid from the Republic of Korea to Cambodia since 2001 to US$268 million.

The above said project is part of the royal government's efforts to cope with the impacts of the global financial crisis, he said, adding that the project will also support the government policy in promoting the rice production and export.

## *ADB Opens Public Information Centers in Cambodia*

Three Public Information Centers were opened on Dec. 5 in three different universities in Cambodia with an aim to provide a range of knowledge resources for Cambodian people and contribute to the development of human resources in the provinces.

The Public Information Centers are part of a joint Asian Development Bank/World Bank project, according to an ADB press release.

Located in Western University in Kampong Cham province, Southeast Asia University in Siem Reap province and Management and Economics University in Preah Sihanouk province, the three Public Information Centers are equipped with computers, printers, and Internet connections, and stocked with thousands of books in English and Khmer on various development issues in Cambodia and across the globe, including economic theory and statistics, social development and information on projects and other activities of development partners.

ADB Country Director Mr. Putu Kamayana said the centers serve as dedicated resource hubs for knowledge sharing with the public, including students, researchers, staff from civil society organizations and government officials.

"They provide a gateway to deepen Cambodians' knowledge on development issues, and at the same time, it will help develop human resources at the provincial level," he said, adding that the Public Information Centers, which contain a range of updated versions of books and access to Internet resources, will stimulate the new generation to become increasingly interested in reading.

## *Organic Food on the Rise in Phnom Penh*

Demand for organic food products is increasing in Phnom Penh, according to a CEDAC (Cambodian Center for the Study and Development of Agriculture) market facilitator.

"The amount of organic vegetables and meat produced is lower than the emerging demand for it thanks to people's awareness of the benefit of organic food products,"

said CEDAC market facilitator Lang Seng Horn on January 1, 2011.

As an organic agricultural product supplier, CEDAC's endeavor to introduce environment-and-health friendly food items in Cambodia since 1997 has seen the sign of success.

The organization as of now has been working with 3,000 families in the rural areas to produce agricultural food products without using chemical fertilizer. The outputs from these families are channeled to CEDAC markets in Phnom Penh.For the organic rice supply alone, it increases from 1,500 tons in 2009 to 2,500 tons in 2010.

"In 2011, CEDAC will establish another 20 markets of this kind,"

said Mr. Lang Seng Horn adding that the organization planned to expand to 200 markets in 2015 across the country.