

Cambodia Development Resource Institute

2007 Cambodia Outlook Conference 22-23 February 2007

Opening Keynote Address

Introduction of Prime Minister

by

Larry Strange, Executive Director CDRI

Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, His Excellency Chea Chanto, Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia and Honorary Chairman of the Board of Directors of CDRI, His Excellency Dr Hang Chuon Naron, Secretary General of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Secretary General of the Supreme National Economic Council and Chairman of the Board of Directors of CDRI, Neak Oknha Kith Meng, Chairman of ANZ Royal, Mr Dean Cleland CEO of ANZ Royal, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Colleagues, it is my great pleasure as Executive Director of CDRI to welcome you to the inaugural 2007 Cambodia Outlook Conference and to have the honour to introduce our keynote speaker, Samdech HUN SEN.

When I met with the Prime Minister in October last year to report on the work of CDRI and to seek his advice and support for our plan to hold this annual Outlook Conference, I was very grateful for two things. First, his immediate enthusiasm and support for the idea of an Outlook Conference that would each year bring together leaders from across Cambodian public life to share ideas and discuss strategies for Cambodia's future development and prosperity, and his strong support for a new partnership between CDRI, Cambodia's leading independent development policy research institute, and ANZ Royal, a dynamic new player in Cambodia's financial services sector, both organisations that are committed to making a positive contribution to Cambodia's future. However at our meeting, I was particularly grateful to Samdech Hun Sen for his strong statement of support, both to me personally, and later to the Cambodian media, for CDRI's independence, our neutrality and our commitment to

excellence in the production of policy relevant research that will be useful to the major stakeholders in Cambodia's development - government, the private sector, the research community and civil society, and international development agencies, and to our focus on building the capacity of our Cambodian researchers as an investment in Cambodia's future. This support for our independence, Samdech, is critical to the credibility and impact of our work, and is greatly appreciated by CDRI's Board of Directors, management and staff, and to our constituency represented here this evening.

Samdech, Distinguished Guests, as I look around this room, at this very eminent group of people, leaders from all sectors of Cambodian public life, I believe the Outlook Conference slogan, "The Future is in Our Hands" has a particularly powerful resonance, for it is true that the success of Cambodia's future development and shared prosperity depends on the talent, commitment, and industry of the people in this room working together to meet both the opportunities and challenges that Cambodia currently faces. Tomorrow we will explore many of the key issues that will shape that future. However this morning, to stimulate our ideas, and to provide a context for our discussions tomorrow, we are privileged to have the insights of Samdech HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia. It is now my great honour and pleasure, on behalf of CDRI and ANZ Royal, to invite Samdech Hun Sen to deliver the opening keynote address of the 2007 Cambodia Outlook Conference on the theme "2007 Cambodia Outlook: Opportunities for Growth, Development and Shared Prosperity".

Thank you.