



ROYAL EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

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2007 Media Releases

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Global Witness Must Stop Activities and Defamation to Discredit the Image of the Royal Government of Cambodia from Now and for Good

The Press Release of Global Witness “*World Bank President Must Call for Credible Investigation of Illegal Logging Network Surrounding the Cambodian Prime Minister and Senior Officials, says Global Witness- 04/08/2007*” is indeed amusing and disturbing, and failed to recognize and mention as follows:

- 1- Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen has led Cambodia over an extraordinary transformation of the country’ once war-torn, now booming local economy, marking Southeast Asia’s latest successful transition transition from a centrally planned to market-driven economy.
- 2- Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, currently Southeast Asia’s longest-serving elected leader, deserves a fair measure of credit for the progress given the golden opportunity to Cambodia and the Cambodian People to enjoy the benefit of peace, political stability and economic growth.
- 3- International Community, such as International Monetary Fund and World Bank, recently by the visit of their managing director Mr. Rodrigo de Rato and President Mr. Robert Zoellick, have taken to portraying Samdech Hun Sen as one of the region’s vanguard economic reformers. He introduced full-scale the Government’ reform program and liberalized foreign investment.
- 4- More recently, Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen has agreed to co-operate with the World Bank-designed market-reform strategy, which aims to boost the private sector and move the economy to substantial policy reforms aimed at improving the investment climate and trade facilitation.
- 5- Over the past three years, Cambodia’s gross Domestic product has expanded at double-digit growth rates, averaging a breakneck 11.4% per annum. Garment exports, accounting for nearly 14% of total GDP, grew by 20% last year. Foreign direct investment touched a record high US\$475 Million last year.

- 6- A recent World Bank research report shows that robust economic growth over the past decade has helped the national poverty rate from 47% to 35% over the 10-year period spanning 1994-2004.
- 7- Subsequently, the Royal Embassy of Cambodia today once again, urged Global Witness funders:

- (i) **Trusts and foundations:**
- (ii) **Development organizations:**
 - Concern Worldwide
 - Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries (Hivos)
 - Oxfam Novib
 - Trocaire
- (iii) **Governments:**
 - Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
 - Irish Aid – Irish Department of Foreign Affairs
 - Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida)
 - UK Department for International Development (DFID)

to review the credibility and ill-intention of Global Witness Director and his discriminatory nature may be ill suited to lead Global Witness in the current situation and the future. It would be disastrous for the credibility and the image of Global Witness Funders: Trusts and foundations- Development organizations- Governments, if no concrete actions and measures would not seriously considered to provide a new guidance and leadership to Global Witness.

- 8- The Royal Government of Cambodia highly valued its development partners for supporting in partnership the work of the Government to achieve the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals, free from disease and poverty, with all living together in peace and harmony, without discrimination based on gender or religion.



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