

Opening Remarks

By

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Vice President of the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia

At the

Opening of the Asian Youth Forum 2016

"Peace, Democracy, and Regional Partnership toward SGDs"

Phnom Penh, February 26, 2016



- **Highly Respected Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia,
- His Excellency **Hun Manly**, President of the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia
- Distinguished National and International Guests, and Youth Delegations from the Asian Youth Council Member Countries,
- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all, on behalf of the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC), I would like to sincerely express my warmest welcome to honorable presence of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and all delegations in this **Asian Youth Forum 2016 (AYF 2016)**, which is co-organized by the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia and Asian Youth Council (AYC) at this auspicious moment.

Taking this solemn opportunity, I would like to express my highest respect and deepest gratitude to **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and all delegations from 20 countries, who have been taking their precious time to attend this **Asian Youth Forum 2016**, which is being held for 4 days from the 25th to the 28th February 2016 in the Capital City of Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.

Since its inception on **2nd December 1978**, the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia is still the Non-Government Organization,

whose missions are to gather Cambodian youth movements to strengthen solidarity without prejudice of races, colors, genders, languages, beliefs, religions, status or political tendency. UYFC has also actively participated with the Royal Government of Cambodia at all political stages in order to achieve great realizations for Cambodian people, including attaining peace, ensuring true democracy, and strengthening the rule of law, as well as sustainable national development. In particular, within these past few years, the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia had participated in many social activities contributing to the development of the country with the Royal Government of Cambodia under the wise leadership of **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** such as humanity, environmental protection, educational and training, development and cultural heritage preservation activities through **Angkor Sangkranta** event and other activities which would provide great opportunity for our youth to contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

Starting from these tremendous achievements, UYFC has been recognized and trusted by both national and international level, for instance, winning the **ASEAN People's Award** in the year of 2015 at the recent **27th ASEAN Summit** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and the **GUSI Peace Prize International 2015** was awarded to **the President of UYFC by GUSI Peace Prize International Fund** in Manila, Philippines for his great effort in activities related to global peace protection, youth leadership, humanity and cultural heritage preservation.

UYFC became a member of AYC since 2003. This council was established with the mission to strengthen solidarity, family spirit and promote regional youth organizations. As a member of AYC, UYFC has participated many activities in supporting regional peace, democracy, solidarity among youths and development in the Asia Region.

This is the second time that UYFC and AYC are collaborating to host Asian Youth Forum. The first one was organized in 2013 on the topic of **"Youth and Peace: Strengthening Peace, Stability and Development through Education"** and **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** has also given the honor to preside over the opening ceremony. For AYF 2016, the Kingdom of Cambodia is honored to host the second AYF under the topic of **"Peace, Democracy and Regional Partnership toward SDGs."** As a member of AYC, UYFC is

ready to set out our visions consistent to AYC in order to serve the interest of the youth within the country as well as the region.

With this main topic: **"Peace, Democracy and Regional Partnership toward SDGs"** Asian Youth Forum 2016 provides the opportunity for youth from all Asian Youth Council members countries to discuss and seek for solutions through sharing knowledge and experiences on three important topics: *(1) Why Peace, Democracy and Development is important to be discussed altogether? (2) Regional Partnership as a vehicle to enhance Peace, Democracy and Development (3) How does Peace, Democracy and Regional Partnership contribute to SDGs?*

Taking this opportunity, I would like to extend my deepest thanks and gratitude to **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and all delegates, who have always supported with both spirit and material support in all activities of UYFC and Asian Youth Council as witnessed here today. We would not be able to host such significant event without contribution and support from **Samdech Techo Prime Minister**, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen and all participants.

Before ending, I would also like to take this opportunity to inform **Samdech Techo Prime Minister**, and all participants that on the 26th evening, the Executive Committee of AYC has elected HE Hun Many as the President of Asian Youth Council. On behalf of Cambodian youth, we are very proud and we would like to congratulate His Excellency **Hun Many** for the history appointment and the honorable presidency of AYC.

Finally, I would like to wish **Samdech Techo Prime Minister**, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen and all delegates the four gems of Buddhist blessings: ***Longevity, Nobility, Healthiness and Strength.***

Thank you for your kind attention!