

Kingdom Of Cambodia  
Nation Religious King



Ministry of Environment

**PROGRESS REPORT ON TREE PLANTING**  
To Celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> LEADERS MEETING and the 2<sup>nd</sup> YOUTH FORUM  
of the Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Societies  
at the Buddhist Cultural Centre of Cambodia  
in the Preah Suramrit-Kossomak "Kirirom" National Park

20 September 2023



- *First and foremost, please allow me to extend my profound respect to Samdech Kittiprithbindit BUN RANY HUN SEN, President of the Cambodian Red Cross.*
- *Samdechs, Excellencies, Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers.*
- *Distinguished Delegates.*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen!*

It is a special day, today. On behalf of leaders and officers of the Ministry of Environment, I have great honour and pleasures to extend my utmost respect, warmest welcome, and profound thanks to the presence of Samdech Kittiprithbindit and honourables guests, who come to this memorable tree planting event in celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA RCRC Leaders Meeting and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Forum.

This tree planting was jointly initiated by the Cambodian Red Cross, and collaborated with the Cambodian Buddhist Cultural Center, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Ministry of Environment which was led by Former Minister, H.E. Mr. Say Sam Al, who is currently Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction.

The main purpose of this tree planting is to demonstrate our joint responsibility as global citizen towards environmental protection, climate change mitigation, and biological conservation. The presence of SEA RCRC Leaders and Youths and distinguished guests in this event is a testimony of our strong commitment to act, on the basis that we as human-being, regardless of our nationality, race, ages, gender, and any difference, to protect our planet from existential and unprecedented threats. Our tree planting activity is no doubt the invaluable resource, serving as habitat for biological resources, carbon sinks, and air and water quality purification, reducing the impacts of extreme natural disaster, and other socio-economic benefits. In addition, this event provides a great opportunity for knowledge sharing and public outreach to strengthen our joint efforts for forest plantation and protection towards achieving environmental sustainability, human-nature harmony, prosperity, and inclusive and sustainable development.

Indeed, this event could not have happened without close cooperation and partnership between the leaders and officers of the Cambodian Red Cross, Cambodian Buddhist Cultural Center, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, and local authorities. The Organizing committee has closely worked together to ensure compliance to any legal and technical aspects including seed selection, which is based on scientific methods in identifying local origins, adaptive to local climate and ecological system.

*Samdechs, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!*

Please allow me to introduce briefly the history of the Cambodian Buddhist Cultural Center, its development, and reforestation project, as below:

The Cambodian Buddhist Cultural Center was built on a “126-hectare land concession from the Royal Government of Cambodia in the area of Preah Suramarit-Kosomak Kirirom National Park in Phnom Snuoch District, Kampong Speu Province. It is the largest Buddhist cultural center in the history of Cambodia, and all of its achievements will become the cultural heritage of the nation. The construction of various buildings at this center are to all promote Buddhism, and to especially be a merit for the common people. All the new infrastructure that has been built in the Center of Cambodian Buddhism by 2021 cost more than US \$5.9 million”.

It is part of the Royal Government of Cambodia’s PREAH SURAMRIT KOSSAMAK “**KIRIROM**” NATIONAL PARK, covering the area of 35,000 ha, established by Royal Decree Issued November 01, 1993. The National Park is endowed with dense native ecosystem, endangered species, and geological features, which are key for the balance of the development, environment, and society. Evidently, this park serves key functions, providing a wide range of benefits from ecotourism, religious practices, education center, and conservation-based community.

Having considered its significance and suitability, the Park is selected for our reforestation program. On May 10, 2023, the Working Group was established, tree species were selected, and planting spots/sites were identified. There are three sites selected for planting as below:

- *Site 1: Area surrounding the PREAH CHOLA MONICHEDEY for grassing, flowering and decorating plants.*
- *Site 2: Along the 805 meters entrance path – for grassing, flowering, decorating plants.*
- *Site 3: This site is for reforestation, approximately 14.50 ha for replanting timber and fruit tree.*

In the past 5 months from May to September, 17,230 meter squares of decorating grass, 218 Mitrella Mesyni (អ៊ីរ៉ូ), 1,969 Elder Tecoma (Phuong Mealai) flowers, 342 Padauk (Thnong) together with other decorating plants such as – Millingtonia (Angkea Bos), Ochna integerrima (Angkeasel), Magnolia (Champa), Frangipani (Champey), Thlok, (Magnolica coco (yihup), Flamboyant (Kangork) were planted. In addition, 10 types of local timber, totally 34,441 trees were for planting within 14.5 ha.

*Samdechs, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!*

The 7<sup>th</sup> Mandate of the Royal Government of Cambodia has launched the “**Pentagonal Strategy**” phase 1 focusing on “**Growth, Employment, Equity, Efficiency, and Sustainability, building the Foundation Towards Realizing the Cambodia Vision 2050**”, which shall be implemented in a holistic, proactive, and direct manner, with the aim of making Cambodia a civilized country.

Out of the five pillars, for the next 25 years, Cambodia aims to become “**a country that enjoys harmony, resilience, and inclusivity of physical and natural environment and environmental conservation**”. Ministry of Environment has tasked to achieve the goal by realizing the restoration of the forest coverage at 60% by 2050, sustainable natural resource

management, effective protected area system management, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, nature-based solution, effective and efficient use of resources, and green growth with the utilisation of digital and advance technology. Today event is part of the contribution in restoring forest towards “carbon neutrality” by 2050 that was emphasized in the Royal Government of Cambodia’s Pentagonal Strategy.

*Samdechs, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!*

Once again, I wish to extend my highest respect and profound thanks to **Samdech Kittipritthbindit, BUN RANY HUN SEN**, President of the Cambodian Red Cross president, **Samdechs Moha Rathsaphea Thipadei, Samdechs, Excellencies Ministers, Ministers, Excellency ASEAN Secretary General**, Excellencies Representatives from SEA RCRC National Societies, Youth Representatives, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your honorable presence today.

Finally, allow me to extend my wish to **Samdechs** be filled with all Four gGms of Buddha blessing – **Longevity, Nobility, Health and Strength.**

***THANK YOU!***

