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CAMBODIA

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CAMBODIA

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES
SINCE 1991

EDITED BY

POU SOTHIRAK
GEOFF WADE
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FOREWORD

When I was requested to draft a foreword for this book, I inquired into the origins of the book proposal, and was immediately struck by its timeliness, as 2011 is the 20th anniversary of the 1991 Paris Peace Conference which brought about a diplomatic resolution of the protracted Cambodia conflict. I also liked the way it focused on the future prospects of Cambodia, looking ahead and putting past acrimony behind, which is in tune with the concept of national reconciliation, which we practice in Cambodia. Thirdly, I was amazed by the appropriate nationalities of the three scholars from ISEAS, who are the co-editors of this book. One is a Cambodian, another is Singaporean and the third is Australian. Those who know the history of the diplomatic efforts to help resolve the Cambodian conflict will recognize that these were the three countries intimately involved in bringing the conflict to a negotiated settlement. Let me express my appreciation for the hard work, organization and initiative of the three co-editors who guided this useful book to fruition.

2011 is also the year in which Singapore's Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew's thoughts, recorded through interviews by a team of journalists from the Singapore *Straits Times*, were published in a book entitled: *Lee Kuan Yew: Hard Truths to Keep Singapore Going*. What struck me most was a quotation from Mr Lee, who said: "Singapore is my concern till the end of my life." (*Straits Times*, 22 January 2011) When I read it, I was impressed by the dedication and passion of Mr Lee, whom we all know as the Father of Modern Singapore. I have been lucky to meet Mr Lee, and also know that it was his strong support for King Sihanouk and for Free Cambodia that kept the efforts going for over ten years.

What I wish for my Cambodian compatriots is that same patriotism and drive to make our country a modern, peaceful, prosperous and forward-looking country. After all the terrible conflicts, killings, sufferings and turmoil, all Cambodians would surely share my wishes for our beloved country. In a sense, I wish to dedicate this book to our two great leaders, HM King Sihanouk and to MM Lee Kuan Yew, and their ministers and officials, who achieved peace and freedom for democratic Cambodia. Now we need to draw some lessons in economic development from the Little Red Dot. After all, if even great China can learn from Singapore, why not Cambodia?

Lastly, in regard to the future of Cambodia, let me touch upon the three principles which may guide our nation-building, just as the French have chosen: Libert , Egalit  and Fraternit , for their founding principles. I suggest Buddhism, Education and National Unity as our guiding principles. Every one will have their own mix, but bearing in mind our tragic history, our culture and the need to build knowledge for our future, these three principles seem as appropriate as any. Let this timely book serve as a foundation and compass for future generations of Cambodians, who need to look back at our history, and forwards towards a glorious future: we who are the children of Great Angkor.

*HRH Norodom Sirivudh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
June 2011*

MESSAGE

This timely book commemorates the Twentieth Anniversary of the October 1991 Paris Peace Agreement on Cambodia. The Paris Conference on Cambodia itself was the high-water achievement and culmination of a long and determined campaign by the ASEAN countries to bring about a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the Cambodian conflict. It succeeded where previous attempts had failed, primarily because the international, regional and domestic Cambodian parties were now supportive of a negotiated peace settlement. Various papers in this book describe how the various factors fell into place, which enabled the many participants to be ready to accept an UN-organized, Permanent Five UNSC members-brokered, Cambodian factions-accepted peace settlement.

Cambodia was one of the first major challenges confronting the decade-old ASEAN, to test how it would face up to the question of whether ASEAN could countenance the overthrow of a small state in its region by armed force. What about its hallowed principles, such as the non-use of force to settle disputes; of respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of all states; of the use of consultation, consensus and dialogue to settle disputes? It was because of these deeply-held principles that ASEAN decided to oppose the foreign invasion and occupation of Cambodia for over a decade, until the conditions were ripe for a peaceful settlement.

Now that the UNTAC PKO and UN-supervised general elections of 1993 have peacefully come and gone, key questions remain, such as: what is the state of Cambodia today, eighteen years later, and after millions of dollars in ODA by various countries and generous assistance by numerous NGOs have been provided to Cambodia to recover and reconstruct its economy and society? What will be the future of Cambodia in the 21st Century? The various papers in this volume seek to address these complex issues of socio-economic development, of human resource development, of good governance, and of Cambodia's foreign relations. The story of the liberation and reconstruction of Cambodia is one of the noblest achievements of the international community and one of ASEAN's finest successes, and it is a story well told within this book.

That is not to say, however, that there are no difficulties or that all sides are happy with the current situation within the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The centralised power which is often advantageous during a period of reconstruction at times results in the exclusion of some groups from development and the stilling of alternative voices within the social milieu. Cambodia certainly still has many issues with which to grapple and we hope that this volume will provide the background for more people to understand the history of Cambodia over the last 20 years and the potentials yet to be realized. I commend the great efforts by the many paper writers and the three co-editors for a job well done.

K. Kesavapany
Director
ISEAS Singapore
6 June 2011

CONTRIBUTORS

HRH Prince Norodom Sirivudh was born in 1951. He graduated with a Master's Degree in Economics at Paris IX of Dauphine University in 1976. He began his political career in 1971 when he joined the Paris-based royalist movement, GRUNC/FUNK. In 1981, he joined the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia (FUNCINPEC), and he was the Chief Representative of Prince Norodom Ranariddh (who assumed the leadership of the FUNCINPEC Party in 1983). In 1988, he was appointed as Chief of FUNCINPEC's Humanitarian Department and was designated Secretary-General of the FUNCINPEC-Kampuchea from 1989 to 1990. At the Cambodian Peace talks in Jakarta, Indonesia in 1988, Prince Norodom Sirivudh was one of FUNCINPEC's delegates until the final agreements were signed in Paris on 23 October 1991. On 7 November 1991, Prince Norodom Sirivudh returned to his beloved motherland Cambodia for the first time in 20 years. He laid the groundwork for FUNCINPEC's participation in the electoral process, mandated under the Paris Peace Agreement. He was the FUNCINPEC's Bureau Chief in Phnom Penh during the United Nations-Administered Elections. Prince Norodom Sirivudh was elected to the Parliament in 1993 as a representative of Kampong Cham Province. Following the 1993 Elections, Prince Norodom Sirivudh was appointed Co-Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Royal Government. In late 1993, the Prince was also appointed as Secretary-General of the FUNCINPEC Party. In 1994, the Prince was appointed as Chairman of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), a non-government Phnom Penh-based research and policy organization. In October of the same year, the Prince resigned from the post of Co-Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. In April 1999 he was nominated as Supreme Privy Counsellor to His Majesty the King. On 5 July 2001, Prince Norodom Sirivudh was reappointed for the second time as Secretary-General of the FUNCINPEC Party. And in August 2001, Prince Norodom Sirivudh was elected as Senator. In the July 2003 General Elections, Prince Norodom Sirivudh was elected as Member of Parliament for Kandal Province and became Deputy Prime Minister and Co-Minister of Interior of the Royal Government until March 2006. From March 2006, Prince Norodom

Sirivudh has been Privy Counsellor to His Majesty the King and Member of Parliament.

K. Kesavapany has been ISEAS Director since 1 November 2002. Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Kesavapany was Singapore's High Commissioner to Malaysia. In his 30-year career in the Foreign Service, he served as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva (December 1991–March 1997) and held key staff appointments in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore. Ambassador Kesavapany was an active participant in the final phase of the Uruguay Round negotiations and was the first Chairman of the WTO's General Council in 1995.

Sok An is the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Council of Ministers of Cambodia. He graduated from the Royal University of Phnom Penh with a Bachelor's degree in Geography, History and Sociology in 1972. In 1981, he was the Chief of Cabinet of HE Samdech Hun Sen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and later on in 1988, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1983, he was the Secretary General of the Cambodian National Peace Committee. In 1985, he was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Cambodia to India. In 1988, he was Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in 1991, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Interior. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and in 1990, Vice Minister of Interior. In 1991, he was the Supreme National Council representative and also the Head of the Central Cabinet of the Cambodian People's Party. In 1993 he was elected as Member of Parliament of the Takeo Constituency of the National Assembly and nominated as the Co-Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers of the Royal Government of Cambodia. In 1996, he was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws by Wesleyan College, Iowa. His other positions include Chairman of the Council for Public Administrative Reform, Chairman of the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority (CNPA) and Chairman of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal.

Tommy Koh is Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chairman of the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore (NUS), and Special Adviser to the Institute of Policy Studies. He had served as Dean of the NUS Faculty of Law, Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York and was Ambassador to the United States of America, Canada and Mexico. He was President of the

Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea and chaired the Earth Summit. He served as the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. He was Singapore's Chief Negotiator for the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. He had chaired two dispute panels for the WTO. He acted as the agent of Singapore in two legal disputes between Singapore and Malaysia, which were adjudicated by the ICJ and ITLOS. He chairs three committees for the National University of Singapore (NUS) relating to law, Asia research and environmental management. He was the founding Chairman of the National Arts Council; founding Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation; and Chairman of the National Heritage Board. He was recently appointed Rector of a new College at NUS, the Tembusu College, and Chairman of the SymAsia Foundation of Credit Suisse.

Mark Hong is a Visiting Research Fellow, ISEAS. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Cambridge University, UK in 1969 and a Master of Science degree in International Relations from Georgetown University, Washington DC in 1982 on a Fulbright Scholarship. He served in the Singapore Foreign Ministry from October 1969 to March 2002, with postings in Cambodia, Hong Kong, Paris, New York as Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Russia and Ukraine. He has edited five books, two on energy issues, two on ASEAN-Russia relations and one on Southeast Asia, with chapter contributions to each.

Rodolfo C. Severino is the head of the ASEAN Studies Centre at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore and a frequent speaker at international conferences in Asia and Europe. Having been Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations from 1998 to 2002, he has completed a book, entitled *Southeast Asia in Search of an ASEAN Community*. His views on ASEAN and Southeast Asia have also been published in *ASEAN Today and Tomorrow*, a compilation of his speeches and other statements. He has co-edited two books: *Whither the Philippines in the 21st Century?* and *Southeast Asia in a New Era*. Before assuming the position of ASEAN Secretary-General, Severino was Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, the culmination of 32 years in the Philippine Foreign Service. He twice served as ASEAN Senior Official for the Philippines and is one of the Philippines' Experts and Eminent Persons for the ASEAN Regional Forum. Severino has a Bachelor of Arts degree in the humanities from the Ateneo de Manila and a Master of Arts degree in international relations from the Johns

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Benny Widyono holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics and served as a United Nations diplomat in Bangkok, Santiago, New York, and Cambodia, 1963 to 1997. He was a peacekeeper in Cambodia with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, from 1992 to 1993, and then returned to Cambodia as the UN Secretary-General's Representative from 1994–97. His recently published book, *Dancing in the Shadows: Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge, and the United Nations in Cambodia* was written while Dr Widyono was a visiting scholar at Cornell University. He is currently adjunct professor of economics at the University of Connecticut in Stamford, Ct., a board member of CKS and PIO, and an adviser to Leopard Cambodia enterprises.

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Yukio Imagawa was born in 1932 in Tokyo. In 1955, he graduated from Waseda University, Faculty of Political Science. In 1956, he entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). Besides serving at MOFA in Tokyo, he served in foreign countries such as Cambodia, France, Laos, Vietnam (Hanoi), Algeria. In 1985, he served as Consul General of Japan at Marseille and in 1988 as Minister of Japanese Embassy in France. From 1989–99, he was appointed as Co-Chairman of the third committee of Paris International Conference on Cambodia. In 1990, he was appointed as Minister of Japanese Embassy in Thailand and from 1991–96 as Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia. In 1996, Ambassador IMAGAWA retired from MOFA. In 1996 he took up a position as Professor of Faculty of Law, Kanto-Gakuen University, Gunma Japan. From 2005, he is serving as Professor Emeritus of Kanto-Gakuen University.

Yasushi Akashi graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1954. Mr Akashi then studied as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Virginia, and later at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Columbia University. He became the first Japanese citizen to join the United Nations Secretariat in 1957. He served as Ambassador at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cambodia and later for the Former Yugoslavia. He was Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs until the end of 1997. He is currently Representative of the Government of Japan on Peace-Building in Sri Lanka, Chairman of the International House of Japan, and President of the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP), Vice-President of the United

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Son Soubert was born on 20 June 1942 in Phnom-Penh, Cambodia; H.E. Son Soubert is currently High Privy Councillor to His Majesty King Sihamoni, as from May 2010. He received Master Degree in Classics (French, Latin and Greek Literatures; Grammar and Philology) from La Sorbonne — Paris University, Paris France. H.E. Son Soubert was appointed Member of the Constitutional Council, appointed by His Majesty the King of Cambodia from 1998–2010. He was Professor at the Faculty of Archaeology of the Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh and served as Vice-President of Cambodian Red Cross from 1993 to 2008. He was appointed Second Vice-President of the National Assembly from May 1993–July 1998. He was elected by the Congress of the Party as President of the SON SANN Party from March 1998. He was then elected as Member of Parliament during the UNTAC supervised and organized elections from May 1993. He was elected as Secretary General of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party by its Congress from May 1993. From 1982–91, he served as Assistant to the Prime Minister of the Coalition Government of Cambodia (recognized by the United Nations), in charge of Diplomatic Relations and participating in the Human Rights Commission of the UN every year from 1983 to 1990. From 1982–91, he served as Second Vice-President of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and from 1979–82 as Member of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front of Humanitarian Affairs, in charge of supplying food and medicine to the Cambodian refugees at the Thai-Cambodian borders. From 1974–79, he was General Manager of a Chain of Grocery Shops (Superettes) in Nice, France. H.E. Son Soubert has set up various Children's homes in Cambodia and served as Member of the Board of the Khmer Institute of Democracy and Member of the Board of the Centre for Khmer Studies in Siem-Reap. He received numerous awards, including a French Order des Palmes Académiques: Chevalier, for Culture and Several Khmer Orders and Medals.

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Jean-Marc Lavergne completed his higher education at the Clermont-Ferrand Law School, and received his Masters in Private Law and Public Notary Certification in 1983. In 1982 he has been admitted to the Clermont-Ferrand Lawyers Training Centre (Centre de Formation Professionnelle des Avocats de Clermont-Ferrand). In 1988 after completing his magistracy studies, he was appointed to the High Civil Court of Angers as Parole Judge (Juge de l'application des Peines au Tribunal de Grande Instance). In 1997 he was appointed to the Appeals Court of Rennes as judge (Conseiller), where he has acted in particular as Presiding Judge of the Court of Assizes of Loire Atlantique and Morbihan. From 2001 to 2007, he served as Vice-President of the High Civil Court of Le Mans. In 2007 he was appointed as Conseiller at the Court of Appeal of Angers where he has also acted as Presiding Judge of the Court of Assizes of Sarthe and Maine et Loire. In 2006 he was appointed as International Judge at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia (Trial Chamber). Since 2008 he serves on a full time basis as resident Judge in Phnom-Penh. Under the terms of Agreement between the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Extraordinary Chambers have jurisdiction to bring to trial senior leaders of Democratic Kampuchea and those who were most responsible for the crimes and serious violations of Cambodian penal law, international humanitarian law and custom, and international conventions recognized by Cambodia, that were committed during the period from 17 April 1975 to 6 January 1979.

Phoak Kung is a Harvard Yenching Institute Doctoral Scholar, and a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick. He is also doing research in the Department of Government and Southeast Asian Program at Cornell University. He earned a master's degree in Public Policy from Crawford School of Economics and Government at the Australian National University. He was Assistant Dean (2008–10) in the Faculty of Social Sciences and International Relations at Paññāsātra University of Cambodia.

Wolfgang Sachsenröder is a German European, born in Brussels. He finished his studies of political science and public law with a Ph.D. from Bonn University. After some years in academic exchange he worked as a political science practitioner with the German Friedrich Naumann Foundation. Postings in Asia (11 years), the Middle East (6 years) and the Balkans (3 years) gave him the opportunity to work with numerous political parties. Since 2008 he is back in Singapore where he joined the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies as a visiting fellow. His current research is focusing on political parties in the ASEAN member countries.

Hang Chuon Naron is Secretary of State of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Royal Government of Cambodia since 2010 and the Permanent Vice Chairperson of the Supreme National Economic Council of Cambodia. Previously, he was Secretary-General of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. He is also a Member of the Government Committee for the Preparation of the National Strategic Development Plan. He had served as the Director, Economic and Financial Policy Planning and Monitoring Unit in the Ministry of Economy and Finance, responsible for coordinating fiscal reform programmes with international financial institutions (ADB, IMF, World Bank). He was also Assistant to the Eminent Person Group for the ASEAN Charter in 2006. He was previously consultant for the World Bank (1999–2000) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (2001). Dr Hang Chuon Naron received his Ph.D. in Economics from the Moscow State Institute for International Relations, Russia. In 2004 and 2008, he attended the Executive Programme at the JF Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and the National School of Administration (ENA) in France respectively.

Ing Kantha Phavi was reappointed Minister for Women's Affairs in September 2008. She is responsible for the management and leadership of the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Prior to becoming Minister in 2004, Dr Ing served five years as Secretary of State of Women's and Veterans' Affairs. In addition to her ministerial post, she was appointed in 2004 as Chairwoman of the Cambodian National Council for Women. Dr Ing was an active architect to levy Gender on the agenda of the national development (National Poverty Reduction Strategy, Cambodian MDGs, National Strategic Development Plan, UNDAF 2011–15) and was instrumental in developing an effective mechanism of gender mainstreaming at national and sub-national levels. Under her supervision, the Ministry of Women's Affairs succeeded to integrate the

gender issues in the laws such as the Land law, the Decentralization and Deconcentration organic laws, the new anti- trafficking of human beings and sexual exploitation law, and got the law on domestic violence and protection of the victim adopted in 2005. She continues to advocate for gender in ongoing state reforms and actually is promoting economic empowerment and increasing role in public decision making for women. In the 1990s, Dr Ing worked in France, as a private medical doctor then as director of the drugs trials department at ABR, a French enterprise involved in marketing and research for medical drugs. Dr Ing also served as Deputy Secretary General in a medical NGO, Association des Medecins Cambodgiens (AMC) which provides medical and social assistance to Cambodia. From 1995 to 1997, Dr Ing worked in Cambodia as technical adviser to the Ministry of Rural Development where she was responsible for community health and rural economic development programmes including micro-credit. Dr Ing holds a Doctorate of Medecine from Saint Antoine University, Paris with a speciality in nutrition and tropical diseases and a Brevet in Public Administration from Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) Paris.

Winta Ghebream is Technical Assistant to the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Cambodia.

Pou Sovachana holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (Mathematics) from the University of Oregon, USA. After a career in hospitality business and as a National Consultant at the Ministry of Tourism in Cambodia, he changed his focus and completed Advanced TESOL (Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages) certification in 2006 from Global TESOL College at Portland (USA). As a volunteer in Cambodia in the summers of 2005, 2006, and 2007, he taught and advised teachers and monks' on education issues. He also taught English Language and Khmer culture to vulnerable children. He graduated with a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction in July 2008 from Portland State University (USA). In 2009, he volunteered teaching English language to the poor children at Wat Unnalum for Buddhism Education for Peace Centre. He has written many articles on the education progress and challenges in Cambodia. Currently, he is an Academic Lecturer on Introduction to Ethics, Cultural Anthropology, Fundamentals of Communication, and English Reading and Writing Compositions at Paññāsātra University of Cambodia and serves as an Advisor for Buddhism Education for Peace Centre at Wat Unnalum and Bamboo Shoot School in Steung Mean Chey.

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TIMELINE OF RECENT CAMBODIAN HISTORY

1953.11.9	Cambodia gains independence from France.
1954.2.21	Diplomatic relations established between Cambodia and Japan.
1962.3.27	Diplomatic relations established between Cambodia and Indonesia.
1965.8.10	Diplomatic relations established between Cambodia and Singapore.
1967.6.24	Diplomatic relations established between Cambodia and Democratic Republic of Vietnam.
1969–73	Republic of Vietnam and United States air forces bomb Cambodia to disrupt Viet Cong and Khmer Rouge.
1970.3	General Lon Nol leads coup against Prince Norodom Sihanouk with backing of United States.
1975.4	End of Indochina War with fall of Saigon to Viet Cong forces.
1975.4.17	Khmer Rouge capture Phnom Penh.
1975.5	Chinese embassy reopens in Phnom Penh.
1978.12.25	Vietnamese forces invade Cambodia.
1979.1.7	Vietnamese-backed People's Republic of Kampuchea established, with Heng Samrin as the Chief of State. Khmer Rouge's Democratic Kampuchea continues to be recognised by the United Nations.
1979.2	China attacks Vietnam as punishment for Vietnam invasion of Cambodia.
1979.10.9	Inception of Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF).
1981.2	FUNCINPEC established in Paris by Norodom Sihanouk.

- 1982.6.22 Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), comprising FUNCINPEC, Khmer Rouge and KPNLF, established.
- 1985.1.14 Hun Sen appointed as prime minister of PRK.
1985.8 Meetings in France between Hun Sen and KPNLF.
1987. 7 Vietnam accepted idea of informal meetings to resolve Cambodia issue.
- 1987.12 – 1988.1 Prince Sihanouk of CDGK and Hun Sen of PRK have two meetings at Fère-en-Tardenois, a village northeast of Paris to discuss peace.
1988. 7 First Jakarta informal meeting between CGDK and the PRK to discuss peace.
- 1989.4.29 Name of Cambodian state changed from People's Republic of Kampuchea to State of Cambodia (SOC).
- 1989.7.30 – 1989.8.30 Peace discussions held in Paris between representatives of 18 countries, the four Cambodian parties, and the UN Secretary General.
- 1989.7.30 – 1989.8.30 Paris Peace Conference held but inconclusive.
1989.9 Vietnam concludes withdrawal of forces from Cambodia.
- 1990 CGDK renames itself the National Government of Cambodia.
- 1990.2 & 1990.9 Informal Meetings on Cambodia (IMC) held.
1990.9.10 Supreme National Council (SNC) established in Cambodia.
- 1991.10.23 Paris Conference convened and a comprehensive settlement is signed giving the UN full authority to supervise a ceasefire, repatriate the displaced Khmer along the border with Thailand, disarm and demobilize the factional armies, and prepare the country for free and fair elections.
- 1991.11.14 Prince Sihanouk, President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC), and other members of the SNC, including Khmer Rouge representatives return to Phnom Penh.
- 1992.1.18 Diplomatic relations re-established between Cambodia and Singapore.

- 1992.3.16 The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) arrived in Cambodia to commence implementation of the UN Settlement Plan
- 1992.3 The UN High Commissioner for refugees begins full-scale repatriation of Khmers on the Thai border
- 1993.5 Elections held throughout Cambodia, with 4 million people participating. FUNCINPEC (58 seats), Cambodian People's Party (51 seats) and Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (10 seats) form coalition government, with Norodom Ranariddh (FUNCINPEC) as First Prime Minister and Hun Sen (CPP) as Second Prime Minister. Khmer Rouge outlawed.
- 1993.9.23 Cambodia restores monarchy and King Norodom Sihanouk resumes position as head of state.
- 1993.9.24 Royal Government of Cambodia established on basis of elections. New Constitution promulgated.
- 1996.7.18 – 1996.7.23 Hun Sen visits China.
- 1997.7.5 Showdown between CPP and FUNCINPEC. Hun Sen achieves victory. Prince Ranariddh goes into exile in Paris. Ung Huot elected as new First Prime Minister.
- 1997.7.23 Taiwanese diplomats expelled from Phnom Penh.
- 1997.8.2 Hun Sen meets with ASEAN Troika mediators and agrees on election in 1998.
- 1998.7.26 Second National Assembly elections. CPP obtains 64 seats while FUNCINPEC obtains 43 seats and Sam Rainsy Party 15 seats.
- 1998.11.30 CPP and FUNCINPEC form another coalition government, with Hun Sen as sole prime minister and Prince Norodom Ranariddh as Head of the National Assembly.
- 1999.4.30 Cambodia admitted to ASEAN.
- 2002.2 First commune elections held.
- 2003.6 Agreement reached between Cambodia and United Nations on Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia for the Prosecution of Crimes Committed during the Period of Democratic Kampuchea.

- 2003.7.27 Third National Assembly Elections held. CPP captures 73 seats, FUNCINPEC 26 seats, and Sam Rainsy Party 24 seats.
- 2004 Coalition government formed between CPP and FUNCINPEC.
- 2004.10.13 Cambodia joins World Trade Organization.
- 2004.10.7 King Sihanouk announces his abdication from throne. Replaced by his son King Sihamoni.
- 2005.8 US lifts ban on US military assistance.
- 2008.7.27 Fourth National Assembly elections after Paris Agreement. Cambodian People's Party wins 90 of 123 seats. Hun Sen remains Prime Minister. Sam Rainsy Party win 26 seats, Human Rights Party win three seats, Norodom Ranariddh Party win two seats, FUNCINPEC win two seats and League for Democratic Party wins one seat.