

CAMBODIA'S DPM DR. SOK AN RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE IN POLITICAL DIPLOMACY FROM SOUTH KOREA UNIVERSITY



PHNOM PENH, Jan. 8, 2010 (PQRU) – Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sok An received on Friday another Honorary Doctorate in Political Diplomacy from South Korea's University of Woosuk.

“This prestigious degree awarded to me today is not only an honor for me and my family, but also for the Kingdom of Cambodia and the

Cambodian people,” H.E. Dr. Sok An said.

The numerous achievements of His Excellency Dr. Sok An and his great leadership are the key factors which reflected the Woosuk University of the Republic of Korea to confer this Honorary Doctorate Degree on him.

Dr. Sok An also recalled the tragic event when Cambodia and her people were liberated from the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime 31 years ago on January 7.

“The Khmer Rouge regime inflicted enormous destruction not only on infrastructure, hospital, educational and economic institutions, but also human capital,” he told the government officials and academicians who eye witnessed this historic event of the conferring ceremony at the Office of the Council of Ministers.

The Khmer Rouge's regime—which plunged own nation into holocaust between 1975- 79—was blamed for the death of 3 million innocent people who died of starvation, execution, disease and forced labor.

“Nothing has been left, but suffering of the Cambodian people,” he said.

“Starting with our bare hands, we put every effort in rebuilding our beloved country, on the one hand through rehabilitation and reconstruction and on the other preventing the return of brutal regime,” he told the crowd who listened attentively.

Dr. Sok An, also Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, had been awarded Doctorate Degree by many famous universities

including Jeonú University of Korea, Academician in National Science Russia and Wesleyan College, Iowa.

He also highlighted the successful listing of the Cambodia's Temple of Preah Vihear as World Heritage Site in July, 2008 and followed by making the country to become a member of the World Heritage Committee through an election organized at the 17th General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, in October, 2009, in Paris.

“This triumph reflects not only the Royal Government of Cambodia's achievement in cultural fields, but also in the diplomatic front,” he said.

The ceremony which was attended by Professor Dr. Rah Jong-II, President of Woosuk University, conferred the Honorary Doctorate on Dr. Sok An who said “as I accept this academic distinction you have bestowed, and the enormous responsibility you have placed on me, by proclaiming I am Doctor Honoris Causa of Woosuk University, I will do my utmost to live up to this trust.”