

## Cambodia's Election: A Glimpse into Democracy and Transition

Yong-cheon Song

July 23, 2023



For 38 years, since 1985, Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) has held his position. On July 23rd, leading up to Cambodia's 7th general election, he called upon the international community to ensure a transparent and fair election process. Responding, the Cambodian government welcomed 423 election observers from 54 nations. Notably, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) -- recognized by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) -- sent 125 members as part of this delegation. The primary aim? To ensure Cambodia's elections maintain democratic integrity, transparency, and bolster Asian peace and collaboration.

Since democracy was reinstated in 1993, Cambodia's general elections have followed a process. They select 125 parliamentary members from 18 parties via a proportional representation system, covering the capital and 25 regional areas.

The 7th Cambodian general election stirred speculation. Many saw it as a shift of power from Hun Sen to his eldest son, casting a shadow of skepticism internationally. But, delving deeper reveals Hun Sen's broader vision. It wasn't about mere power transition. He championed consistent political, economic, and social policies, underlining stable economic growth.

Looking ahead, Cambodia's government is on the brink of an economic revival. Factors like conquering the COVID-19 pandemic and rejuvenating the tourism sector fuel this optimism. Additionally, they plan to progress in areas such as advancing from the Least Developed Countries (LDC) status, economic diversification, embracing the digital shift, and countering climate change.

Early on, True Father said, "The Korean people, as a singular race, have been infringed upon by

Westerners and have faced violations from cold-climate civilizations, tropical civilizations, and temperate civilizations. The current Korean situation is at the global focal point. This involves the US, the Soviet Union, and Asia. We must recognize that the civilizations of Asia, the democratic world, and the communist world are all tied to Korea. This means that in Korea, civilizations such as the tropical, Indian, Buddhist, Confucian, temperate, Western, and cold regions are all present."



After True Father's Seonghwa, during True Mother's global tour to establish a foundation for the heavenly world, she emphasized 'her last promise with the Heavenly Parent and True Father.' Despite her profound fatigue, she continues to honor her vow to see things through in her lifetime. Even when her lips crack from exhaustion, her legs swell and refuse to move, she speaks of the truth of Heaven's providence in human civilization, the stature and essence of the only begotten daughter, True Mother, and her responsibilities.

She declared the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community and 'God' as the 'Heavenly Parent.' Also, in this era, with humanity, united with the only begotten daughter, True Mother, is inheriting the heart of true filial piety to realize the unification of the Korean peninsula and a heavenly unified world according to the will of the Heavenly Parent.

As we approach the historic transition of establishing a new order centered on the Asia-Pacific region, Cambodia's general elections play an instrumental role.

On the day of the Cambodian general elections, numerous current and former leaders, who traveled long distances for the Cambodia election observer delegation, reflected on the profound meaning of True Mother's genuine peace at the challenging site. They expressed their hopes for the swift realization of the dream of the Heavenly Parent and the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humanity, successfully concluding the mission.