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THE GARMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION IN CAMBODIA

PRESS RELEASE

10.1.97

THE ASSOCIATION OF GARMENT MANUFACTURERS REPRESENTS 36 FACTORIES. AMONG THE MEMBERS ARE INVESTORS FROM MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, HONGKONG, SOUTH KOREA, CHINA, TAIWAN AND OF COURSE CAMBODIANS.

ALL THESE INVESTORS, BESIDE HAVING AN INVESTMENT NOW IN CAMBODIA, ALSO HAVE AT LEAST ONE OTHER FACTORY IN THEIR HOME COUNTRY, AND IN STRONGER GROUPS HAVING 3 OR 4 OTHER FACTORIES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, SUCH AS BANGLA-DESH SRI-LANKA, MAURITIUS, LAOS, VIETNAM, BRUNEI, INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES AND CHINA. TO PUT IT BROADLY, BETWEEN OUR MEMBERS, WE HAVE FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF ALL THE OPERATING COSTS, SYSTEMS AND METHODS IN ALL THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND WHICH ONES ARE WORKING PEACEFULLY AND SUCCESSFULLY.

CAMBODIA IS NOT A FIRST STOP FOR THE GARMENT INDUSTRY, IN FACT IT MOST LIKELY WILL BE THE LAST IN THIS REGION. THEREFORE, CAMBODIA IS FORTUNATE IN THAT ALL THE IMPUTS THAT OUR MEMBERS BROUGHT ALONG WITH THEIR INVESTMENTS, HAVE ALL BEEN TESTED AND PROVEN.

ALL WORKERS IN THE WORLD WANT MORE WAGES, ALL INVESTORS WANT RETURNS, ALL COUNTRIES WANT PROGRESS - IT IS THE SAME THE WORLD OVER - BUT WHO PAYS?? IT MUST BE FROM A COLLECTION OF EFFORTS.

AS INVESTORS, WE CHOOSE A COUNTRY WITH THE BEST SET OF RULES. AS INDUSTRIALISTS OUR INVESTMENTS TAKE TIME BEFORE RETURNS ARE REALISED. IF RULES CANNOT BE EFFECTIVELY ENFORCED, INVESTMENTS WILL FAIL, UNEMPLOYMENT WILL BE RAMPANT, COUNTRY CANNOT PROGRESS.

THE LABOUR MARKET HERE IS FREE. ANY WORKER FINDING UNSUITABLE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, CAN LOOK FOR A NEW EMPLOYER. NO MODERN DAY EMPLOYER, ESPECIALLY FOREIGN INVESTORS, WOULD RISK THEIR INVESTMENTS WHICH IN MANY INSTANCES GO BEYOND A MILLION USDOLLARS, BY EXPLOITING WORKERS.

WE ARE THE BUSINESS PEOPLE, WE ARE THE EXPERTS, LET US DECIDE THE COMPETITION WE ARE UP AGAINST, EACH OTHER, AND WHAT CAMBODIA IS UP AGAINST REGIONALLY. IF CAMBODIA IS TO STAY ON COURSE FOR PROSPERITY, IT SURELY WILL NOT COME THROUGH DEMONSTRATION OR ANY OTHER UNREST