

Climate Change Bulletin

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ACRONYMS

- DCC: The Department of Climate Change
- GSSD: The General Secretariat for National Council for Sustainable Development
- CCCA3: The Cambodia Climate Change Alliance Phase 3
- MoE: The Ministry of Environment
- NCSD: The National Council for Sustainable Development

OVERALL CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED NEWS

Official kick-off event on Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning System in Cambodia to Support Climate Resilient Development and Adaptation to Climate Change



Dr. Heng Chan Thoeun provided the opening speech for the kick-off event on 14th January 2021 at Battambang Municipality Hall

On 14th January 2021, officers of the Department of Climate Change (DCC) and Cambodia Climate Change Alliance Phase3 (CCCA3) participated in the official kick-off event of CCCA3 funded project on Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning System in Cambodia that took place in Battambang province. The project aims at supporting climate resilient development and adaptation to climate change and it is implemented by People In Need (PIN). The event was led by Dr. Heng Chan Thoeun, Deputy Director of the DCC, GSSD/MoE and Deputy Program Manager of CCCA3 and co-chaired by Mr. Kham Samreoub, representative from Provincial Disaster Committee Management (PDCM) and Battambang Municipality Hall, along with the project staff and local authorities, 30 participants in total. The objective of the event was to official kick-off the project, introduce the project progress and next steps, and organize the MoU signing ceremony between PIN and Battambang municipality. The project will promote better quality and understanding about Early Warning Systems in order to adapt and be prepared

for unpredicted rain fall/flood events. Moreover, through the project implementation (18 months), local authorities will be able to use all existing data to make better assumptions regarding the impacts of climate change and integrate those into annual workplans. In addition, local people will be better prepared for these events having the Early Warning System in place. The project does not only benefit from people in Battambang but the results can be used nationwide once it has been completed.

Meeting on Progress update on "Investing into Soil Organic Carbon management (ISOC) for resilient upland farming (ISOC)" Project

On 14th of January 2021, the DCC and CCCA3 team conducted a site visit and capacity assessment at National University of Battambang (NUBB) for the CCCA3's university partnership project on Investing into Soil Organic Carbon management (ISOC) for resilient Upland farming. The visit was led by Dr. Heng Chan Theoun, DCC Deputy Director and the deputy manager of CCCA3 and accompanied by the staff of the DCC and CCCA3 along with the research team of the NUBB. The objective of the visit was to explore experimental facilities and discuss the scope of this research project including the detailed methodology during the project



Dr. Heng Chan Theoun coordinated the meeting between staff of the DCC, CCCA3 officers, and ISOC project's research team on 14th January 2021 at NUBB



Research team of NUBB accompanied the staff of DCC and the CCCA3 to campus tour at laboratories experimenting in the field of Agriculture and Food Processing

implementation. The ISOC is one of the researches supported by CCCA3 that aims at contributing to enhancing understanding of climate change mitigation and adaptation impacts of conservation agriculture through the assessment of soil organic carbon and ecosystem services for annual upland cropping systems. The research will use a model system to estimate and consummate on a level of carbon change and these results will be used to improve GHG mitigation in the agriculture as well as land use change and forestry sectors. At the end of the meeting, there was also a short visit to NUBB's laboratories.

Sustainable E-mobility Campaign celebration on 9th February 2021 at the Ministry of Environment

The number of vehicles per year in Cambodia has grown average of 14%, with 3.2 million vehicles registered in 2016. The Cambodia Climate Strategic Plan (CCSP) recognizes transportation as a main consumer of energy and consequently a major driver of the carbon emissions in the Kingdom. Motorbikes are significant contributors to the pollution problem with almost 6 times more than cars on the road in Cambodia. Electric Vehicles release no direct air emissions and release significantly less CO₂ emissions than direct combustion engines. The Electric Mobility expects to promote the use of electric motorbikes (e-bikes) through a pilot e-bike sharing system, while building public awareness and education on the benefits of using electric vehicles (EV) through an electric vehicle showcase, online promotion campaign and targeted events. The transport sector is the highest emitter of CO₂ in Cambodia, with majority of vehicles are motorbikes. By electrifying transport, we can reduce GHG emissions in Cambodia. They are also now cheaper to own and maintain and there are many companies and designs available. EnergyLab is an NGO focused on energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions and implementing an 18-month project entitled "Buiding the Electric Mobility Ecosystem in Cambodia" granted by CCCA3 aiming to mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing GHG emissions from motorbikes. On 9th February 2021, the EnergyLab, GGGI, and the NCS D co-organised a Sustainable E-Mobility Campaign with the support of the CCCA3 at the MoE. During the campaign, there were a showcase of EVs such as: cars, motorbikes and bicycles. To promote and encourage people to change their mind

considering EVs, participants were freely to try those EVs and also had chance to win some prizes just only taking photos with tag [#GoElectric#SustainableEMobility](#) on their Facebook account. This event hasn't been completed yet due to the 3rd community outbreak of the pandemic and the team hopes to continue it after the situation allows. More information about the E-Mobility Campaigns can be found here:

-<https://energylab.asia/sustainableemobility>

-Panel Discussion - Cambodia's Progress towards Electric Vehicles - YouTube

-Opportunity to work in mobility... - EnergyLab Cambodia | Facebook

-Clean Energy Internship (energylab.asia)



Dr. Tin Ponlok, Secretary of State of the MoE and the 2nd chair of NCSD presided over the Sustainable E-mobility Campaign celebration on 9th February 2021 at the Ministry of Environment

International Day of Forests, 21st March 2021 entitles "Forest Restoration"



Community members collecting bamboo shoots for foods in the community forest.

In order to contribute to sustaining and maintaining forest resources in Cambodia, community-based forest management is a legally binding framework that aims to hand over power to local people to make a decision for natural resource management in Cambodia. The DCC under the GSSD through the CCA3, funded by the EU, Sweden, and UNDP, is supporting the Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) to pilot an innovative approach, namely a community forestry credit scheme. The scheme is used to generate capital for community forestry activities that contribute to both climate change mitigation and

adaptation, including forest restoration, patrolling, and financing sustainable livelihood activities in 10 community forests in Kampong Thom and Kratie provinces.

MAIN TOPICS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Official launching of the Water Kiosk project in Tbong Khmum Province

The GSSD in collaboration with Teuk Saat 1001 officially launched a Community Water Kiosk in Yeak Tbong Village, Damril Commune, Ou Reang Ov District, Tbong Khmum province on 18th January 2021. The event was presided over by Dr. Tin Ponlok, the 2nd vice chair of the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) and Secretary of State of the MoE honorably representative of H.E. Say Samal, Chairman of the NCSD and the Minister of Environment and participated by representatives from MoE, monks, relevant provincial departments, UNDP, local authorities, students, and teachers with a total of 250 participants. Mr. Nick Beresford, Country Director of United Nations Development Programme (UNPD) emphasized that clean water is crucial in context of the spread of Covid-19 pandemic and accessing to clean water will be able to promote climate change adaptation through saving water consumption and safe water to local community and schools. Mr. Nick Beresford sincerely thanked to the MoE, the CCA3, and development partners who established this Teuk Saat project. H.E. Cheng Bunnara, Deputy Governor of Tbong Khmum Provincial Board of Governors stated that accessing to clean and safe water for consumption and drink is very important because our local people living in some parts of this province haven't accessed to clean drinking water yet. Accessing clean and safe water for drinking and consumption will promote healthy lives and households' welfare through risk reduction from others infectious diseases.

In the occasion, Dr. Tin Ponlok highlighted also that accessing to safe and clean water is very crucial for

local people to ensure hygiene and healthy specifically in the country context as well as around the globe facing with the threat of Covid-19. Particularly, local people can access to safe clean water in lower price that can contribute to the protection of various diseases and health care of people as well as saving



Dr. Tin Ponlok provided opening speech for the launching of OweWater Kiosk on 18th January 2021 at Ou Reang Ov district, Tbong Khmum province

expansion on other treatments. The Royal Government of Cambodia, the 5th mandate, has the ambition to ensure that 90% of the people throughout the country have access to water supply in rural areas and another 33% have access to safe water supply by 2023. Moreover, health and well-being are important for people, meanwhile health care and education are crucial factors for improving living standards, especially during Covid-19 pandemic. Dr. Tin Ponlok also encouraged students to work harder by adapting a new path in the context of the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. The water station project was initiated by the NCS and the MoE under a grant from the CCA3. The project will contribute to improving the livelihoods

and well-being of the local community and the government's policy on water supply through providing free daily drinking water to three schools in Ou Reang Ov district, Tbong Khmum province.

Press Conference and Official Launching of the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

The GSSD launched the report "Cambodia's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)" on Monday 8th February 2021, the MoE. The Cambodia's Updated NDC report presents the commitments and the needs of Cambodia to achieve the goal of the Paris Agreement on climate change which was adopted on 12th December 2015, and the Kingdom of Cambodia signed the agreement on 22nd April 2016. The parties to the agreement, including Cambodia with the international community agreed to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels and to significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change. The Cambodia's updated NDC report sets clear target for emissions reductions of 64.6 million tCO₂e/year by 2030 (41.7% reduction, of which 59.1% is from the Forestry and Other Land Use). The report includes 86 adaptation actions received from line ministries. H.E. Vann Monyneath, Secretary General of the GSSD stated that Cambodia, as a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and as a signature of the Paris Agreement within the Convention has prepared and submitted her Updated NDC on 31st of December 2020, following Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Tekcho HUN SEN's announced commitment at the international virtual Climate Ambition Summit organized on 12th December 2020.



H.E. Neth Pheaktra, Secretary of State and Spokesperson of Ministry of Environment facilitated the Press Conference of launching the updated NDC

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In the opening remarks, H.E. Björn Häggmark, Swedish Ambassador to Cambodia, highlighted that the Updated NDC addresses the impacts of climate change through mitigation and adaptation actions. The Royal Government of Sweden congratulated the commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia on contributing to combating climate change, reducing vulnerability, and improving climate justice.

H.E. Say Samal, Chairman of the NCS and Minister of Environment, stressed that Cambodia has always been a strong supporter of multilateral action on climate change. As a country particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, she understands the urgency of ambitious climate action and aim to lead by example, in line with "Cambodia's capacities and responsibilities" under the UNFCCC. H.E. Say Samal added that the updated NDC report demonstrates Cambodia's commitments and needs for the next



H.E. Say Samal, Chair of the NCS and the Minister of Environment, presided over launching the Updated NDC on 8th February 2021 at the MoE

decade, in order to become a low-carbon and resilient society.

The launch was attended by representatives from the key ministries, development partners, NGOs, media and the private sector. The development of the Updated NDC was contributed by key stakeholders at the national and sectoral level and particularly the CCCA3, the World Bank, and the NDC Partnership. The Cambodia's Updated NDC report can be downloaded from the NCS's website:

https://ncsd.moe.gov.kh/resources/document/Cambodia_Updated_NDC

The Validation Workshop on "The Country Programme Document for the Green Climate Fund" and the Launching Workshop on the "The Operational Manual for the National Designated Authority"

The DCC of the GSSD organized a Validation Workshop on the Country Programme Document for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Launching Workshop on the Operational Manual for the National Designated Authority (NDA) presided over by Dr. Tin Ponlok, the 2nd vice chair of the NCS and Secretary of State of the MoE, and H.E. Ngann Phirun, Deputy Governor of Siem Reap province with participations of representatives from the MoE, relevant stakeholders, and Climate Change Technical Working Group (CCTWG). Dr. Tin Ponlok emphasized that national economic development is



inseparable from climate change. In fact, Cambodia's spending on climate change has steadily increased from 1.8 percent of GDP in 2018 (approximately 1.730 billion riels) to 2 percent of GDP in 2019 (approximately 2.181 billion riels). However, according to the study, by 2030, Cambodia will need about \$ 5 billion for climate change mitigation activities and about \$ 2 billion for climate change adaptation activities. Therefore, the GCF is an important financial source that Cambodia should strengthen her capacity to mobilize resources responding to climate actions. Dr. Tin Ponlok briefed the participants on the forthcoming direction that the MoE is coordinating with UNDP in preparing a project proposal for the Green Climate Fund, a project related to the energy sector, electric vehicles and support for the implementation of village and commune policies, Sangkats are safe and requests the relevant ministries and institutions to provide support and participate in the preparation of these projects. At the same time, Dr. Tin Ponlok also pointed out that the guideline document on the operating procedures of the NDA is a significant road map for the relevant ministries, institutions and partners who wish to submit project proposals to the GCF. This document clarifies the institution, NDA, and the procedure for preparing the project proposal. The parties wishing to submit a project proposal to the GCF must submit a document to the GSSD of NCS/MoE at least two weeks in advance so that the working group can review and prepare for the approval from H.E. Minister before submitting to the Secretariat of the GCF. The workshop discussed and revised the country programme document to be more accurate and comprehensive before submitting it to the management and the GCF.

Executive Board Meeting of the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance Phase 3 (CCCA3)

The DCC of the GSSD under the support from CCCA3 virtually organized its 2nd Programme Executive Board meeting on 17th March 2021, chaired by H.E. Say Samal, the Minister of Environment and Chair of the CCCA3. Board meeting was attended by the CCCA3 board members from the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), the Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS), Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), the development partners, including the European Union, UNDP, and Embassy of Sweden and national and international observers of the relevant line ministries.



In the opening remarks, H.E. Say Samal expressed that Cambodia, like the rest of the world has had to face the unprecedented impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Under the proper leadership of the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Covid-19 is under control and its impacts on the human health has been minimized, including the acceleration of vaccination for government officials and the public. The economic impacts of Covid-19 are very severe, but he mentioned that we should keep in mind that the impacts of climate change pose an even greater risk to our livelihood and development plan. By learning through the challenge, it is a good time to ensure that our development path is one that will make our economy and society more resilient to external shocks, whether they are due to climate change, health risks or other issues.

At the meeting, the main achievements of the CCCA3 implementation in 2020 were presented and the annual workplan for 2021-2022 was approved. The meeting also discussed the long term strategy for Carbon Neutrality (LTS4CN), NDC implementation plan, monitoring of the climate change response, 2nd round of innovation grants, partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Finance and other relevant climate change-related subjects.

Up Coming Event

- April 22: Earth Day
- June 5: World and National Environmental Day

Supported by



General Inquiries:

Department of Climate Change (DCC), the General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development (GSSD), c/o Ministry of Environment (MoE), Morodok Techo Building, Lot 503, Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

☎ (+855) 99 719 161

✉ admin@camclimate.org.kh

📍 <https://ncsd.moe.gov.kh>

