

**WELCOME REMARKS**  
by  
**His Excellency Dr. SAY SAMAL, Minister of Environment**  
**And**  
**Chairman of the National Climate Change Committee**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> National Forum on Climate Change**  
Under the theme  
**“Taking action for sustainable development in the changing climate”**

**Peace Palace, 5 November 2013**



- *Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia*
- *Excellencies, Members of the Senate and the National Assembly*
- *Excellencies, Deputy Prime Ministers, Senior Ministers, Ministers and Members of the Royal Government of Cambodia*
- *Excellencies, Ambassadors, Representatives of Diplomatic Corps, Development Partners, Civil Society Organisations, NGOs, and Private Sector*
- *Excellencies, Lork Oknha, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished national and international guests, and all participants of the Forum*

First of all, on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC), I would like to warmly welcome and express my utmost thanks to **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and also Honorary Chairman of the NCCC, for taking your pressing time to preside over the opening ceremony of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Forum on Climate Change under the theme “Taking Action for Sustainable Development in the Changing Climate”. My sincere thanks are also extended to Excellencies, Lork Oknha, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished national and international guests, youth delegates and students for participating in this important event.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform Samdech Techo Prime Minister and all the participants that climate change is the result of human activities, which is a global problem. The increase of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere leads to global warming causing climate change. This climate change would cause adverse impacts on economic growth and biodiversity especially in least developed countries such as Cambodia.

It is expected that by the end of 21<sup>st</sup> century, global surface temperature will increase from 1.5°C to 2°C compared to the temperature in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the United Nations has recently reaffirmed that human activities clearly influence the climate system. The atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide have increased to 40% since pre-industrial times, primarily from fossil fuel emissions followed by land use change emissions.

As one of the least developed countries, Cambodia is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to her agriculture-based economy, limited human and financial resources, weak physical infrastructures, and lack of access to appropriate technologies for addressing climate change.

*Samdech, Excellencies, Lork Oknha, ladies and gentlemen!*

Today’s gathering is the evidence of a strong commitment by the Royal Government to addressing climate change, protecting the environment as well as managing the natural resource aimed to ensure the balance between development and conservation. Climate change issues have been integrated into our Rectangular Strategy Phase III with a particular focus on building our resilience and promoting low carbon development. Furthermore, climate change has become a priority in the National Strategic Development Plan 2009-2013 and is expected to remain a prominent issue in the next National

Strategic Development Plans. Our presence here today, is to witness the launch of the Cambodian Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP), which will become a comprehensive planning document for our responses to climate change.

In response to the high recommendations of the Royal Government of Cambodia during the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Forum on Climate Change in October 2011, and in close collaboration with key line ministries, agencies, development partners, private sector and NGOs, the NCCC has implemented various activities to respond to climate change with the following achievements:

1. *Development of policy and strategic plan on climate change:* The National Climate Change Committee has coordinated the process of preparation of the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan and Sectorial Climate Change Strategic Plans with key line ministries and agencies. These strategic plans are the first ever national and sectorial planning documents for comprehensive responses to climate change in Cambodia. The plans will guide mainstreaming climate into national, sub-national and sectorial level efforts to achieve climate resilient and low-carbon development.
2. *Institutional and technical strengthening and coordination:* The Climate Change Department, acting as the NCCC Secretariat, has been playing a central role in supporting the NCCC, both at the national and international levels. Key line ministries have established their climate change working groups and focal points to coordinate their sectorial responses to climate change, including the development of their respective sectorial Climate Change Strategic Plans and Action Plans. The Climate Change Finance Sub-group has been also established to support the development of a climate change financing framework. A proposal to establish a number of specialised inter-ministerial sub-groups under the Climate Change Technical Team is currently under preparation to deal with technical issues related to mitigation and adaptation. To further strengthen our delivery and coordination capacity, we have initiated discussions on ways to improve our existing climate change institutional arrangements.
3. *Implementation of climate change response projects:* Over the past two years, we have witnessed an increasing number climate related projects being implemented by key line ministries, agencies and other actors in Cambodia. The Ministry of Environment has played an active role to coordinate the resource mobilisation and implementation of climate change projects with line ministries and development partners. These include: (1) Cambodia Climate Change Alliance with the total financial support of \$11 million from EU, UNDP, Swedish-Sida and Danida; (2) Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR) implemented by several line ministries with \$91 million from the Climate Investment Fund; and (3) an Adaptation Funded project to support selected community protected areas to adapt to climate using ecosystem-based approach with a total of \$5 million. In addition, a number of climate change projects funded by USAID, JICA, KOICA, Global Environment Facility, and other UN Agencies, are under implementation by various line ministries and agencies. Besides, a number of new climate initiatives are in the project development phase. They will aim at strengthening early warning systems, and resilience of Cambodian rural livelihoods and ecosystems; and improving energy security of the country. In the context of greenhouse gas mitigation, the Ministry of Environment as the designated national authority has approved ten Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects, nine of which have been registered by the UN Executive Board. These ten projects will reduce an estimated 2 million tCO<sub>2</sub> equivalent annually and will bring many economic, social and environmental benefits through generating electricity and heat from renewable energy, industrial waste heat, agricultural and livestock wastes.
4. *Financial mobilisation:* Over the past few years, an estimated \$250 million has been mobilised to support the implementation of various climate change projects. The Ministry of Environment has initiated a pilot climate change trust fund under the Cambodia Climate

Change Alliance and conducted a study on climate public expenditure and institutional review in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Finance. These activities aim to build experience towards the establishment of a national level climate change financing framework and to set a direction from a project approach to a more programmatic approach including use of pooled funding and budget support.

5. *Education and awareness raising:* The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports with support from the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance has developed a Climate Change Strategic Plan to enhance the integration of climate change issues into the formal and non-formal education systems. In addition, the Ministry of Environment has developed a strategic guideline to promote public awareness and education on climate change. The Ministry of Environment has also developed several climate change awareness materials, such as posters, booklets, radio and video spots to promote public awareness on climate change. Several workshops and trainings have been conducted by Climate Change Department, Ministry of Information, other line Ministries and NGOs at national and sub-national levels. The Ministry of Environment will continue to expand its education, research and awareness raising activities in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure better understanding among the public in decision making and thus to achieve a knowledge-based society.
6. *International negotiations to address climate change:* On behalf of the NCCC, the Ministry of Environment has played an active role in leading the climate change negotiation process under the Climate Change Talks of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Ministry of Environment has always organized consultations with all stakeholders to set out Cambodia's stance towards climate change issues before presenting it to the international community at the annual conference of the UNFCCC.

*Samdech, Excellencies, Lork Oknha, ladies and gentlemen!*

The aforementioned achievements are the result of joint efforts by the management and members of the NCCC, especially under the wise leadership of Samdech Techo Prime Minister. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep thanks to His Excellency Dr. Mok Mareth, former Minister of Environment, for leading NCCC to make these achievements possible.

In conclusion I would like to wish Samdech Techo Prime Minister, Excellencies, Lork Oknha, ladies, gentlemen, distinguished national and international guests, youth delegates, students and all the participants the four gems of Buddha's blessings.

To provide perspective and way forward for implementation of the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan as well as to stimulate discussions in this Forum, allow me to invite Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, to deliver his opening remarks for the 3rd National Forum on Climate Change under the theme: "Taking Action for Sustainable Development in the Changing Climate".

Thank You!