

Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan Dissemination Workshop Launched for the Coastal Provinces



Preah Sihanouk - 25 March 2014, a dissemination workshop on the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) was organized by the Climate Change Department (CCD) of the Ministry of Environment in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA). The event was attended by over 70 representatives, including 12 women, from six provinces, namely, Kampot, Kep, Preah Sihanouk, Koh Kong, Takeo and Kampong Speu. The workshop aims to disseminate the recently approved Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (2014-2023) of the Royal Government of Cambodia and to discuss potential follow-up steps needed to be undertaken to mainstream climate change into the planning process at the sub-national level.

H.E. Sok Phan, Deputy Governor of Preah Sihanouk Province, noted that Preah Sihanouk as well as other 3 coastal provinces is vulnerable to climate change. Sea level rise, frequent and severe floods and droughts pose serious impacts on water supply, infrastructure, agriculture, livestock, fisheries and tourism. “Therefore, CCCSP 2014-2023 should serve as the basis for mainstreaming climate change into provincial development plans in alignment with the national development priorities”, he added.

In his opening remarks, **H.E. Pon Saroeurn**, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Environment, pointed out that CCCSP 2014-2023 is the first-ever comprehensive national strategic plan to guide responses to climate change in Cambodia as well as to contribute to the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emission. He further noted that, launched in November 2013 by Samdech Prime Minister **Hun Sen**, the document has been designed in strict adherence to the sustainable development principles to ensure strategic cohesion to address a wide range of climate change issues via both adaptation and mitigation measures that support the achievement of the Rectangular Strategy objectives and the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals. He finally expressed his hope that CCCSP will serve as the basis for a more coordinated response to climate change at both the national and sub-national levels.

The event was divided into 2 main sessions. Session 1 focused on presentation on CCCSP formulation process, its 3 objectives and 8 strategic objectives; Climate Change Strategic Plan

in transport sector; cross cutting issues; and experience in climate change mainstreaming at the sub-national level. In session 2, the representatives of provincial technical departments are divided into 6 discussion groups to identify the CCCSP strategies that directly address the needs of each province in responding to climate change and how these strategies can be used in their respective planning processes.

At the national level, the remaining priority activities to support the full operationalization of the CCCSP include: completion of the Sectoral Action Plans, design of a National Climate Change Financing Framework to ensure adequate resource mobilization, and finalization of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to keep track of the country efforts to address climate change at various levels.

The workshop is significantly valued by all participants due to its importance to support responses to climate change impacts at the sub-national level, particularly in the coastal provinces.