

Workshop Summary

The Ministry of Environment, the implementing agency of the project "Formulation of the National Adaptation Program of Action to Climate Change" (NAPA), with support from the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility (UNDP/GEF) organised a national workshop on "Identified NAPA Activities" on 12 August 2004 at MiCasa Hotel. Over 70 participants from relevant Government ministries/agencies, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector participated in this workshop.

The workshop aimed at: (i) presenting the participants the results of gap and policy analyses of the NAPA project in selected priority sectors such as agriculture, water resources, coastal zone and human health, and the preliminary results of the NAPA field surveys, and (ii) identifying potential projects to adapt to climate change through working group discussion.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Tin Ponlok, NAPA National Project Manager, made a brief overview of the project progress and stressed that the workshop would discuss and identify potential activities to be included in the National Program of Action to adapt to climate change. He pointed out that this program would have a chance to be successfully implemented only if it contained proposed projects that are easy to be implemented by local people, use proven and low-cost technologies available locally, respond to the needs and concerns of affected communities, and are in line with the development objectives of the government.

Welcoming workshop participants, Mr. Olivier Standaert, a representative of UNDP in Cambodia, discussed Cambodia's efforts in implementing its commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including the preparation and submission of Cambodia's Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC. He stated that the NAPA project was crucial for Cambodia as the country is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. He further noted that since its launching, the project had achieved significant results. He concluded by saying that this workshop would provide an avenue to discuss critical issues and to share constructive feedbacks for the development of a comprehensive, realistic and achievable NAPA.

In his opening remarks, H.E. Prach Sun, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Environment, noted that this workshop would provide a good opportunity to learn more about issues the country is facing in dealing with climate change impacts and to discuss potential activities to be included in the future program of action to adapt to climate change. He discussed the Government's efforts in addressing climate-related disasters. He stressed that the country still lacked adequate policies, plans, human capacity, funding, and a coordination mechanism among key players in dealing with the impacts of climate hazards. Therefore, he saw an important role of the NAPA project in narrowing these gaps and in promoting steps towards better coordination in dealing with climate change impacts. Mentioning the importance of the workshop outputs in developing NAPA, he urged the participants to actively participate in the working group discussions. He concluded his speech by thanking UNDP/GEF, the project, and all participants for their support, hard work and achievements.

After the opening ceremony, the NAPA project staff briefed participants about the project background, objectives, workplan, and achievements to date. This was followed by a number of presentations by the Multi-disciplinary (MD) Team on the results of gap and policy analysis in key sectors such as agriculture, water resources, coastal zone and human health. Then, the NAPA team presented the results of the field surveys conducted in May-June 2004

to identify climate change vulnerability and adaptation practices by local people in 17 provinces prone to climate hazards. Each presentation was followed by an interactive session where participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and make recommendations.

Finally, all participants were divided into three groups to discuss and identify potential projects/activities to adapt to climate change in Cambodia.