

**Second National Forum on Climate Change
Closing Remarks**

by

**HE Dr Mok Mareth, Senior Minister, Minister of Environment and
Chair of the National Climate Change Committee**

Phnom Penh, October 05, 2011



- *Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Vice-Chairs and members of the National Climate Change Committee*
- *Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, ladies and gentlemen, Government senior management and staff*
- *Ambassadors, Representatives of Diplomatic Corps, DPs, Civil Society, NGOs, Private Sectors,*
- *Dear national and international guests, and participants to the Forum*

First of all, on behalf of the National Climate Change Committee and the Ministry of Environment I would like to profoundly thank all Excellencies, lok chumteav, ladies, gentlemen and all the participants for spending their valuable time to participate in this Forum till the end.

Over the last two years, Cambodia has achieved impressive results in its efforts to address climate change. Climate change has become an important theme of the national development agenda and has been gradually integrated into sub-national and community levels. The report of the 3-day Forum proceedings indicates that this Forum has brought very satisfactory outputs thanks to the active participation of all the participants from Government, DPs, NGOs, and the private sector, particularly the meaningful contribution of the co-chairs, national and international experts-presenters, who have kindly accepted our invitation to share knowledge and experience, making this Forum lively and enriched. All these are new contribution to support Cambodia to address the urgent climate change priorities such as climate change policy and strategic plan development, technical and institutional strengthening, coordination, actual implementation of climate change response measures, resource mobilisation, education and awareness raising and climate change international negotiations, particularly preparation of the country's positions towards CoP-17 in Durban, South Africa end of this year. Of course, we shall not consider this or the subsequent Forums as the end result, but rather as a means for information sharing, consultation and promoting cooperation and coordination.

Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We now have better understanding that climate change is a hot topic of the world because of its dangerous effect on human development. The future of humanity is at stake if we continue to allow our ignorance to prevail over the wisdom that fossil-fuel based development is not sustainable and if we are about to think of the future of our children, we must switch our development path into a greener, low-carbon and more climate resilient mode.

As a least developed country, Cambodia has not been a cause of climate change. Our contribution to this problem is negligible both historically and in the future. We are indeed the victim of a problem of which we are not the cause. Nevertheless, we wish to be a part of the solution of this global problem, because of our political will and moral responsibility. More importantly, because we believe that addressing climate change makes sense, politically, economically, environmentally and technologically. We believe that we can turn the climate change crisis into a new opportunity for a more sustainable development.

During the opening ceremony, we listened to the meaningful welcome speech of His Excellency Yim Chhay Ly, high representative of *Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo* Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Honorary Chair of the NCCC, in which he has provided valuable recommendations. These recommendations and the outputs of this 3-day Forum will constitute a solid foundation for our actions to respond to climate change in Cambodia. The vivid picture of the victims of the current flood is more than enough for all us to urgently and immediately act at policy, planning and

implementation levels to mitigate the sufferings and to strengthen their resilience and adaptive capacity to enable them sustainable develop under climate change conditions.

Within its legal mandate given by the Royal Government, the National Climate Change Committee with the Ministry of Environment acting as its Secretariat is ready to responsibly fulfill its mission, to enhance cooperation, coordination, and partnership in an equitable, transparent, efficient and credible manner. The NCCC is committed to creating and ensuring an enabling environment for all the climate change actors to have an equitable opportunity in participating in this climate change crusade.

In conclusion, on behalf of the NCCC and senior management and staff of the Ministry of Environment, I would like to express our gratitude to all the participants, co-chairs, presenters and resource persons for their valuable time to participate in this National Forum to share their knowledge, experience; actively contribute in the discussions; and provide valuable comments. I particularly thank the representatives of the private sector, national and international organisations; and NGOs for participating in the climate change fair. I profoundly thank all the NCCC members and staff of the Forum Secretariat for their hard work to successfully organise this forum. Finally, my special thanks go to our sponsors, namely the European Union, UNDP, Sida, Danida, Oxfam America and JCCI for their generous financial support to this Forum.

I wish Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, ladies, gentlemen, and all the participants the four Buddha's gems and allow me to declare this Forum closed. Thank you.