

### Welcome Remarks

by HE Suy Sen, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy  
at the Second National Forum on Climate Change  
on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Inter-Continental Hotel, Phnom Penh

## r e s

- Mr. Peter J. Brimble, Senior Economist, ADB;
- Excellencies, *Lok Chumteav*, Ladies and Gentlemen, representatives of diplomatic corps to the Kingdom of Cambodia, Development Partners, civil society, and private sector;
- Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished national and international guests, and all participants to the Forum!

It is my great honour and pleasure to participate in this ceremonious Second National Forum on Climate Change. On behalf of the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy and myself, I would like to warmly welcome Excellencies, *lok Chumteav*, *Lok Ok Nga*, ladies and gentlemen, national and international guests for taking your pressing time to participate in today important event.

Excellencies, *Lok Chumteav*, *Lok Ok Nga*, ladies and gentlemen!

Climate change has been a threatening challenge to socio-economic development and may cause adverse effects on national effort to poverty reduction and development. Addressing Climate change is increasingly becoming an important theme and an emerging need of the word today. The natural disasters such as floods, storm, and earthquake have been occurring one after another and require global unified efforts to implement appropriate measures to mitigate climate change.

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), under the wise leadership by *Samdech Akka Maha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen*, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and also honorary chair of the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC), had outlined in the first National Forum on Climate Change in 2009 that “Climate Change” emerged as an issue that cannot be ignored in the national development agenda. The National Rectangular Strategy Phase II and the National Strategic Development Plan Update (2009-2013) clearly articulates government’s commitment to addressing climate change through adaption and mitigation of greenhouse gases. In the sense, Cambodia has been implementing numerous important actions pertaining to national institutional and technical capacity, the capacity of the NCCC to mainstream climate change in the national and sectoral plans in particular.

Excellencies, *Lok Chumteav*, *Ok Nga*, Ladies and gentlemen!

All of us in the Forum may be aware that electricity is given high priority by the government and the goal is to ensure reliable and effective production, consumption and management in a sustainable and transparent manner. The promotion of the sector development is key to accelerating national economic development and electricity is not only needed for the industrial, commercial, and agricultural sectors but also to serve the best interests of all people in their daily life. The RGC has thus paying attention on energy sector development in a way that its impact on the climate system is minimized.

As a developing country, but also a signatory to the Kyoto protocol, Cambodia does not have an obligation to mitigating GHGs. Nevertheless, the country has actively participated in implementing mitigation projects. In fact, we have been promoting production and consumption of energy from renewable sources to convert the types of natural energy to electricity to displace fossil fuels and promote the development of cleaner energy and thereby contribute to emission reduction.

Through the National Designated Authority hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Cambodia has approved on 7 CDM projects in renewable resources, the private investment projects, with the potential to reduce emission about 570,000 tonnes annually and there will be more such projects in the future to be developed and approved under CDM.

Through CDM, one of the three mechanisms under Kyoto protocol, developing countries can collaborate with developed countries to implement emission reduction projects while promoting sustainable development in the host countries. This win-win solution is indispensable to countries like Cambodia that needs foreign investment in appropriate, clean and environmentally friendly technology to implement emission reduction options in a number of priority sectors such as energy, transport and agriculture.

Good understanding of emission reduction options in these sectors now and in the future is the prerequisite to defining and implementing voluntary GHGs emission reduction projects as part of the effort to join with international community in addressing the ever growing climate change concern. There is also a need for more accurate and evidence based scientific research on potential options for GHGs emission reduction in the country. It is essential to remember that the options for emission reduction have to be socially and politically acceptable and must not cause harm to the environment including the assurance their being cost-effective.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen!

The second day of the second National Forum on Climate Change will discuss and raise key recommendations pertaining to addressing climate change issues such as:

- Green Growth and perspectives related to climate change;
- Renewable energy market in the country;
- Development of national action plan for disaster risk reduction;
- Initiative on adaptation to climate change by Mekong River Commission;
- Regional and international experiences and lesson learned on effective adaption;
- Policy on carbon credit and coordination for aid effectiveness;
- Historical climate change impacts on biodiversity and response measures; and
- Climate change impacts and response from gender perspective.

I believe that excellencies, *lok chumteav, ok nha*, ladies and gentlemen from various ministries, agencies, and stakeholders in today sessions will actively participate in the discussion and make practical recommendations that can contribute to successful and fruitful inputs to addressing climate change.

In conclusion, I would like to wish all of you the four gems of Buddha's blessings and a successful day of the event.

Thank You!

**r e s**