

**INCEPTION WORKSHOP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCING
FRAMEWORK AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLANS IN PRIORITY MINISTRIES**

11 July 2013

Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Opening Remarks by H.E. Thuk Kroeun Vutha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Environment, on behalf
of H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth, Senior Minister, Minister of Environment, NCCC Chair**

Excellency Nuth Chan Sokha, Under-Secretary of State of Ministry of Planning, NCCC member

Excellency Jean-François Cautain, EU Ambassador to Cambodia

Excellencies members of the National Climate Change Committee,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be here today to open this launch workshop on the development of climate change action plans and a climate change financing framework.

The Royal Government of Cambodia, under the leadership of Samdech Decho Hun Sen, has recognized Climate Change has one of the key issues to be addressed for the development of the country. Climate Change is one of the cross-cutting issues for the new National Strategic Development Plan 2014-18.

Over the past 12 months, all National Climate Change Committee members have contributed to the development of a Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan, which is now in its final stages of approval. This has been a very comprehensive and consultative process. With support from the Climate Change Department, nine priority ministries have worked hard to develop their Climate Change Strategic Plans, which are aligned with the national strategic plan.

Like any other planning process, the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan and the sectoral strategies are incomplete in addressing climate change without an action plan that lays out the framework for operationalization of the strategy. The development of the action plan is therefore the next step in the process leading to the implementation of the key actions in addressing climate change.

A Climate Change Public Expenditure and Institutional Review conducted in 2012 has shown that many climate relevant activities are already being funded with domestic and international sources, in many sectors. The implementation of the new Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan will allow us to improve the efficiency of our current expenditures in the context of climate change, to develop new approaches to better adapt to climate change and to contribute to climate change mitigation.

With the new Government planning cycle starting in 2014, it is now time to operationalize the Climate Change Strategic Plans in the concerned ministries. We are here today to launch two very important exercises:

- The first one is the development of the ministerial action plans for the next five years, which will present and prioritize the detailed actions to be taken to implement the strategic plans. These action plans will also include information on how Climate Change will be mainstreamed in the ministries' planning, financing and implementation procedures.
- The second exercise is the development of a national Climate Change Financing Framework. The financing framework will be closely related to the action plans, as it will provide information on financing scenarios,

costing of the proposed response, expected benefits, and recommendations on financing and coordination mechanisms.

Taken together, these two exercises will contribute to a transparent, reliable and attractive framework for the financing of the Climate Change response in Cambodia. The action plans will represent a participatory process engaging multiple stakeholders in coming up with concrete ideas as the measures envisaged to address Climate Change over the next five years in the RGC. These action plans should be ambitious, but practical and at the same time take into account financing realities. Analyses of the current and future climate risks as well as the trends in climate change financing will be done, with several scenarios to provide the bases to prioritize the proposed actions.

The action plans will also look into concrete ways to mainstream Climate Change into regular Government management practices, such as planning, financing mechanisms (including the budget process), and monitoring and evaluation, and guide the generation of evidence-based lessons to inform decision making processes.

The action planning exercise is closely linked to the development of a Climate Change Financing Framework. The objective is to have a combination of key respond actions and their corresponding cost that makes it attractive, reliable and transparent such that domestic and international climate change finance can be smoothly integrated and tracked in national development programmes.

This strategic approach is very innovative. We are trying to move away from a purely project based approach, and to truly integrate Climate Change in regular investment planning and decision-making using a programmatic approach.

Priority line ministries have a crucial role to play in this exercise. The NCCC and CCTT members are there to provide policy guidance, coordination and technical support respectively, but the implementation role rests with the responsible ministries. In order to support them in their roles, Ministry of Environment, with support from the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance and its donors Danida, Sida, EU and UNDP, will be providing technical and financial support to individual ministries. Special thanks to Sida for allocating some additional regional resources to support the development of the CCFF.

I would like to congratulate you all for the very good collaboration achieved so far, both among line ministries and with our external partners. I hope that this workshop will provide all stakeholders with the information required to contribute to the action planning exercise and the Climate Change Financing Framework over the next three months, and that we will all be ready to start the implementation of this ambitious programme by the end of this year.

I now declare this workshop open, and I wish you some very fruitful discussions.

Thank you.