

**Least Developed Country Expert Group (LEG) Regional Training Workshop on Adaptation
for Asian Least Developed Country (LDCs), 20-24 August 2013,
And the 24th Meeting of the LEG, 26–29 August, Siem Reap, Cambodia
Opening Remarks of H.E.Dr. MokMareth, Senior Minister, Minister of
Environment, Cambodia**

- *H.E. Mao Vuthy, Deputy Governor of Siem Reap Province*
- *Mr. Paul Desanker Manager, National Adaptation Plans and Policy Adaptation Programme of the UNFCCC Secretariat*
- *Ms. Pepetua Latasi, Chair of the Least Developed Country Expert Group*
- *Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen!*

Today, I have a great honor and pleasure to be here with you all for the Least Developed Country Expert Group Regional Training Workshop on Adaptation for Asian Least Developed Country and the 24th Meeting of the LDC Expert Group here. On behalf of the people and Government of Cambodia, I would like to warmly welcome you all to Siem Reap City, the ancient capital of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

I would like to express our sincere thanks to the UNFCCC Secretariat for accepting our offer to host this training workshop and meeting in Cambodia. I particularly thank H.E. Khim Bun Song, Governor of Siem Reap Province, for being the host of these two events.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

The increase of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere leads to the anthropogenic climate change which is likely to trigger severe effects such as increase in global temperature, changing precipitation, sea level rise as well as more frequent and severe extreme climate events such as cyclones, floods and droughts, causing significant human casualties and economic damages. LDCs are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to our low adaptive capacity. The time has come for all countries, in particular for LDCs to discuss concrete measures and actions for better national responses to the negative impacts of climate change. I would like to recall decision 12/CP.18 that national adaptation plans are a process to enable the LDC Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, building upon their experience in preparing and implementing national adaptation programmes of action (NAPA), as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs. We see that an appropriate national adaptation plan, along with the support of capacity building, technology transfer and finance are the means for effectively addressing climate change in particular in the LDCs.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Please allow me to inform you about Cambodia's efforts in addressing climate change impacts. As an LDC, Cambodia is vulnerable to impacts of climate change because of her agriculture-based economy, weak physical infrastructures, limited human resources and financial capacity, and lack of access to appropriate technologies for addressing climate

change. Cambodia started integrating climate change into its Rectangular Strategy Phase 2, taking into account the implementation of our NAPA. As of to date, only 4out of the 39 proposed projects under NAPA are being implemented to address adaptation issues in agriculture and water resources, early warning, coastal zones, and food security for rural communities. Furthermore, climate change has become a priority in the National Strategic Development Plan Update 2009-2013 and was extensively integrated into all relevant sectors. Currently, we are preparing the Cambodian Climate Change Strategic Plan along with a national climate financing framework which should become the key planning documents to lead future climate responses in the country.

I do believe that the training workshop today is one of the key activities to assist LDCs in developing their long-term national adaption plans. I am sure that during this workshop participants will have the opportunity to share good practices, lessons learned and experiences in undertaking activities related to climate change adaptation, mainstreaming, financing, monitoring and evaluation, and discuss ways forward to implement the adaptation measures in our respective countries.

Furthermore, I am confident that the 24thLEG Meeting will seek the strategic approach to assist LDCs in ensuring that the medium and long-term adaptation priorities identified under NAP will align well with their national, sectoral and local development priorities. I personally encourage the LEG to assess the status of the adaption implementation in LDCs and identify gaps, barriers and emerging needs and priorities for the implementation of the adaption plan in LDCs.

Let me conclude my remarks by thanking again the UNFCCC Secretariat for cooperation and support in organizing both the Training Workshop and the 24thMeeting of the LEG here in Siem Reap City, Cambodia.

I wish you all a constructive and fruitful workshop and meeting. Last but not the least, I wish you all a pleasant and memorable stay in our beautiful city of Angkor. And now allow me to declare this workshop open.

Thank you.