



Ministry of Environment

PRESS RELEASE

Cambodia Urges Greater Partnership, Cooperation and Financing to Respond to Climate Change

Phnom Penh, 7 November 2013 – The 3rd National Forum on Climate Change ended on Thursday with government officials, development partners, and civil society organizations calling for greater partnership and cooperation in development programs and resource mobilization and utilization in order to improve effectiveness and efficiency in addressing climate change threats.

The Forum further reiterated the need of ensuring adequate finance to be provided in line with international commitments, and in support of national plans and systems. The Forum noted that, the international community must do its share to support developing countries like Cambodia. First, the international community in particular developed nations must deliver on their commitment to provide 100 billion USD new and additional financing per year in support of climate change responses by 2020 globally. So far, progress has been slower than expected and the financial gap between 2013 and 2020 remains large. For a least developed country like Cambodia, which is above all a victim of climate change, availability of external support will be critical. Second, the international community should avoid the proliferation of different funding mechanisms, which create very high transaction costs for developing countries. Climate finance should be delivered through harmonized modalities, in line with the priorities and national systems of recipient countries.

“For a developing country like Cambodia, which has recently been ranked among the top 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change, securing the required financing for climate change adaptation will be crucial,” **H.E. Ros Seilava**, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, said in his welcoming speech on Thursday morning at the Forum. “During the past three years an estimated 250 million USD has been mobilized from various sources. An important objective for Cambodia in the next couple of years will be to strengthen budget and public financial management mechanisms to attract international climate finance and track performance to gain direct access to global climate funds, such as the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund, through the accreditation of a National Implementing Entity,” he added.

As the 3rd National Forum on Climate Change comes to an end **H.E. Sabo Ojano**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment reiterated the Cambodian Government’s commitment to work with all partners to address climate change. “Our contribution to the problem is negligible both historically and in the future. We are indeed the victims 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 it makes sense politically, economically, socially, and environmentally,” **H.E. Sabo Ojano** said.

The highlight of the event was the launch by Samdech Prime Minister **Hun Sen** of the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP), the first-ever national planning blueprint to guide climate change responses in Cambodia. Recommendations from the 3rd National Forum on Climate Change will form Cambodia’s position for international climate change conference known as the CoP-19 in Warsaw, Poland. Among its positions, Cambodia urges developed country parties, development partners, UN and international organizations, to provide adequate technical and funding support with easy access and flexible procedure for National Adaptation Plan (NAP) formation and implementation without delay.

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Note to Editor:

The 1st National Forum on Climate Change, held in 2009, put climate change as one of Cambodia's development agenda. Since then, extensive efforts have been made to progress Cambodia's climate change policy initiatives and through a constructive policy dialogue platform, Cambodia began a vigorous national policy and strategic planning process.

The 3rd National Forum will feature presentations by experts, including update on latest findings on climate change impacts in Cambodia and Southeast Asia region, and progress Cambodia has made at national and sub-national levels in responding to the changing climate. More than 700 participants from the government institutions, development partners, NGOs, academia, youth, and private sector are expected to attend the event, which runs through 7th November in Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra.

The Ministry of Environment (MoE) is a Focal Point of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the Designated National Authority (DNA) for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

The National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) is the main organizing body of the Forum. It has been established as the climate change policy making body comprising of 20 key Ministries, with Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, serving as its Honorary Chair.

The Climate Change Department (CCD) of the Ministry of Environment is the main facilitator of the National Forum on Climate Change. CCD is the secretariat of the NCCC. It plays a key role in climate change action in Cambodia.

Forum Partners: The 3rd National Climate Change Forum is made possible by contribution of Ministry of Environment and the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA). CCCA is an initiative led by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and supported by the European Union (EU), the Governments of Denmark, Sweden and the United Nations Development Program. Further financial support was also obtained from UNEP, DanChurchAid, NGO Forum on Cambodia and Cambodian Climate Change Network.

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