



Ministry of Environment

## PRESS RELEASE

### **3<sup>rd</sup> National Forum on Climate Change Launched –Strategic Blueprint for Tackling Climate Change,Sustainable, Resilient and Low Carbon Development Unveiled**

**Phnom Penh, 5 November 2013** – The Royal Government of Cambodia on Tuesday launched its first-ever climate strategic blueprint, aimed at building Cambodia’s resilience to deal with climate-induced disasters and promoting lowcarbon development in the future.

**Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, formally unveiled Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023 during a ceremony, at the Peace Palace, to open the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Forum on Climate Change on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2013. In his keynote speech, he said that “climate change now becomes a strategic challenge to development requiring urgent and joint attention.”

He further reiterated Cambodia’s commitment to building a green society with low carbon emission, resilience to climate change, social equity and people living in harmony with the environment. “The Royal Government of Cambodia will continue its attention to environmental protection and considers environmental sustainability as the guiding principle for the National Strategy on sustainable development and poverty reduction,” Samdech Hun Sen added.

H.E. Say Samal, Minister of Environment, highlighted the achievements that the Ministry, the National Climate Change Committee, line ministries, and authorities at all levels have made so far, in close cooperation with development partners, in addressing threats posed by climate change. “We must build on these initial achievements to further strengthen national response capacity at the scale required to adequately address these enormous challenges posed by climate change,” H.E. Say Samal said.

In her welcome remarks at the start of technical session of forum, Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, UN Resident Coordinator in Cambodia, urged that any climate response action not overlook issues concerning women, who are among the population groups most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

“Climate change risks deepening existing patterns of inequality, threatening the livelihoods and security of women. Yet, they can also be positive agents of change, if they have the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes and discussions on finding solutions at the policy and implementation levels,” Ms. Van der Vaeren said.

The three-day event will demonstrate progress in Cambodia’s climate change agenda from planning to taking actions for sustainable development in the changing climate.

#### **Note to Editor:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> November.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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