

**Opening Address of H.E Kim Chhai Heang
Deputy Governor of Siem Reap province**

Workshop on

“Integrating Social Policies and the Delivery of Social Protection Floors”,
Siem Reap, 29-31 May 2013

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Excellency governor of Siem Reap province and myself, it is my great pleasure of being here to preside over the closing ceremony of the workshop on “Integrating Social Policies and the Delivery of Social Protection Floors” organized by the International Labour Organization and the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development. We are proud that Siem Reap province is selected for this workshop’s venue, where national and international participants have opportunities to visit and better understand the splendid and magnificent culture of Cambodia, Kingdom of Wonder.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This two and a half day workshop has given great opportunities to all participants, to exchange experiences and share opinions where they gain a lot of new knowledge, and I hope that Excellency, ladies and gentlemen will develop those concept to fit to your own’s country context. More specifically, based on the comprehensive presentation of H.E Heng Sour, it is clearly proofed that Cambodian participants have gained knowledge on good practices of the implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy, through coordination approach. Ms. Mega Irena also emphasized on ASEAN action plan, for social protection implementation to reduce poverty and vulnerability for economic and social development.

As Excellency Deputy Prime Minister stated during his opening remarks that, in the spirit of implementation of the social protection strategy, the coordination is one of the corner-stones, to “Establish an appropriate structure and mechanisms to coordinate the development and implementation of the NSPS, need to ensuring policy oversight, partnership and dialogue, monitoring and evaluation and information and knowledge management”.

The workshop also found that coordination mechanism is really important at policy level and it is important that Cambodia should strengthen the existing inter-ministerial working group, including Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Rehabilitation, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Planning and other relevant institutions. In addition, since coordination is one of the key mechanisms for social service delivery, it is my pleasure and warm welcomed for being a selected province to implement the Social Service Delivery Mechanism as mentioned by Excellency Deputy Prime Minister, Yim Chhay Ly. The SSDM is a one-stop shop for social protection and employment services. It will contribute to overcoming the challenges faced by social protection programs and shall work under existing government structure and implemented by sub-national administration.

This mechanism is not only to support the sustainable implementation, but also decentralized power and empower sub-national authority for more effective work.

We are very pleased that Siem Reap province had been selected to be the first pilot area for the project implementation. We stand ready to support this work and willing to nominate relevant officers to closely work for the SSDM project in Angkor Chum and Sreisnam districts. At the same time, we will build capacity of sub-national officers to ensure the implementation of the project and 3-year Implementation Plan (IP3) of the government, and ready to expand the coverage to whole Siem Reap province and be a model for other provinces of Cambodia.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation thanks to the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for honoring me to deliver closing remarks to this workshop, especially, I would like to thanks Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, national and international participants from several countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Brunei, Chilly, Columbia, France, India, Indonesia, Korea, Lao, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nainabi, Pakistan, Philippine, Solomon, South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam, Vanutu, Zambia and other key relevant institution who have shared their opinions, experiences and knowledge for the resources for contribution to the implementation of the national social protection strategy for Cambodia as well as for ASEAN to provide social protection floors for all population especially, the poor and vulnerable.

Finally, I wish Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen's extended trip and your return home with safety and enjoying. I would like to officially close the workshop on "Integrating Social Policies and the Delivery of Social Protection Floors".

Thanks you!