

PRESS RELEASE

Climate Change Forum Begins on High Note: Gearing Up Policy and Strategies for a Greener and more Resilient Kingdom Phnom Penh, Monday 3 October 2011, *for immediate release*

Recognizing the urgency and the imminent impacts of climate change in Cambodia, in his opening speech at the Second National Forum on Climate Change, **Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Yim Chay Ly**, emphasized that climate change is real and the country needs to respond in an urgent and coordinated manners.

According to the Deputy Prime Minister, the forum will provide a special opportunity for government officers, development partners, civil societies and other stakeholders to make a reflection on the achievement made so far and to move to the formulation of practical recommendations essential to developing a greener kingdom, resilient to climate change.

“Climate change does not stop at a national border because our earth has only one atmosphere. Nevertheless, poor, least developed countries such as Cambodia are the most vulnerable to impacts of climate change.” said the Deputy Prime Minister.

He highlighted the challenges faced by the country and some of the conditions for successfully implementing climate change activities: adaptation to climate change must be country driven with unconditional funding, mitigation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) must be supported by developed countries – improvements of forest carbon reservoir/sinks should not affect other mitigation efforts towards reduction GHGs. Emphasis was placed on the need for support in the transfer of technology and particularly for renewable energies, and financing mechanisms to be reinforced nationally and internationally.

H.E. Yim Chay Ly also raised the stake for developed countries: Cambodia, allied with the G77 group plus china, is preparing to address the next international gathering in Durban, by asking developed countries to provide at least 1.5 percent of their respective GDP as new funding in addition to pledges under ODA. “70 percent should be earmarked for climate change adaptation and capacity building in the least developed countries” said the Deputy Prime Minister.

In the Opening Ceremony, H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth, Senior Minister, Minister of Environment and NCCC Chair reported the two years progress based on the Prime Minister’s recommendations in the First National Forum on Climate Change in 2009. Many achievements have been made in many areas such as institutional development, technical capacity building, policy development, researches, and the formulation of strategic plan on climate change, implementation of the UNFCCC and the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol through Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), and National Green Growth Program, for examples.

However, H.E. Dr. Mareth reminded that gaps remain in public awareness and understanding of the impacts and opportunity arisen from climate change as well as coordination for response measures. “In this sense, the Second National Climate Change Forum as well as similar for a to be held on a regular basis in the future is of utmost important to review achievements made and share information and lessons, create constructive dialogue on policy development and strategic planning.”

Running from 3-5 October this year, the Second National Forum on Climate Change aims to facilitate a constructive policy dialogue among stakeholders to assist the country in formulating an effective national policy and strategic plan to address climate change.

The three-day Forum is a knowledge and experience sharing platform with a combination of plenary, parallel working sessions, dialogue and exhibition. It brings together key stakeholders relevant to climate change issue including senior and mid-level national and provincial government staff, development partners, NGOs, civil society, academia, youth, private sector and the media.

Additionally, at the forum venue, the InterContinental, a photo & drawing exhibition and a Climate Change Fair will be running through all three days showcasing a number of climate change projects, achievement records and products.

Note to Editors:

The First National Forum on Climate Change was successfully held in October 2009. The event sought to raise the awareness of climate change as a development challenge and to profile the growing activities, both nationally and internationally, to decision makers, donors and practitioners. The Forum was opened by the Prime Minister and received good support from multiple donors with broad participation from over 700 representatives during day 1 and over 300 representatives on day 2 and 3 from all sectors both Government and non-Government.

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 body of the Forum. It has been established as the climate change policy making body 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 Second National Forum on Climate Change. CCD is the secretariat of the NCCC. It plays a key role in climate change action in Cambodia.

Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) is a joint effort of the National Climate Change Committee and key development partners, a comprehensive, innovative and programme-based approach to address climate change and disaster risks in Cambodia (see CCCA brochure for details information).

For more information please contact:

Ms. Sem Tola Sreypeou, B.Sc.
National Communication Officer
Climate Change Department
Ministry of Environment
#48, Preah Sihanouk Blvd.,
Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel: (855) 92 909 880
Email: semtola@gmail.com
Website: www.camclimate.org.kh

