



Welcome Speech
to
the Study Tour on "DTIS and EIF" Cambodia of the Delegation from Bhutan

Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh, November 18-19, 2009

Opening Speech
By H.E. KAN Channmeta, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce

- **Head of Delegations and Participants from Bhutan**
- **Speakers from International and Local Organizations**
- **Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good Morning!

On behalf of the Ministry of Commerce, I have the great pleasure to give a warm welcome all of you to two-day study tour on "DTIS and EIF" Cambodia of the delegation from the Royal Government of Bhutan, November 18-19, 2009 here in Phnom Penh, which is organized by UNDP with the support and facilitation of the Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia.

This visit follows the increasing number of visiting delegation who comes to Cambodia to share experience and lessons learnt in Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA) and Trade mainstreaming. We had the pleasure of a similar visit by delegations of Nepal and Lao PDR last year and are getting prepared to receive East Timor in 2010. Cambodia has been at the forefront among LDCs, being one of the pilot countries back in 2001 of the Integrated Framework Programme, one of the first to conclude its DTIS (2002), its updated DTIS (2007) and to successfully gain access to EIF Tier 1 funding. We believe the recently acceded Tier 1 resources will allow us to carry on the support to our trade stakeholders as well as contribute to raising awareness among our fellow Asian LDCs.

In these two days meeting, we are going to show you what has been our recent experience in trade mainstreaming, how we have been able to use the support of the IF to push for domestic reforms in particular the much needed reforms to allow us to enjoy the benefits of membership to the WTO.

I would like to emphasize the importance of the relations between the National Development Strategy Program (NDSP) and our Trade policy process. Our NDSP governed our trade strategy, the ministries and in there we have trade policy process which allowed you to work with multilateral and bilateral donors which support of as you know the IF, EIF and Aid for Trade (Aft). We have conducted and still conduct to the institutionalized Public-Private Dialogue extensive contacts with private sector and civil society on the trade policy and mainstreaming and development policies. Our main goal is to create a favorable investment climate to further generate much-needed foreign direct investment and foster our national and regional competitiveness. This as our senior minister, Minister of Commerce, mentioned the Paris Aid Effectiveness Agreement (PAEA) which allows us to do increase monitoring of our Aft.

To get this done successfully, the RGC has established a new trade strategy mechanism to which all line-ministries within the RGC has its roles to play and implementing our trade policy. This is called Trade Sector-Wide Approach (Trade SWAp). Currently, the Trade SWAp is being implemented across the entire government with cooperation from local development partners (WB, EC, DANIDA, UNIDO, UNDP, GTZ, USAID, ADB, etc). This new trade policy mechanism is toward allowed each ministry within the government and private sector to take its own ownership to achieve our NDSP goal.

This is just an introduction. You will have time to meet with all our stakeholders during your visit to Cambodia. The Ministry of Commerce is open to views, suggestions and recommendations from our stakeholders as we believe they would explain in the coming days. This has allowed our country to steadily increase the resources mobilized on a yearly basis to implement our trade integration strategy. In adherence to the principles of the Paris declaration on Aid Effectiveness, we have also reformed our Ministry of Commerce in 2008 and created a new department, the Department of International Cooperation that is functioning as our EIF National Implementation Unit. It is presently coordinating the World Bank administered Trade Development Support Programme, funded by DANIDA, EC and UNIDO. It is also the NIU for the EIF Tier 1. Colleagues from D/ICO will be present all through your visit and can answer all questions on their current structure, mandate and activities

I understand that the Royal Government of Bhutan has decided earlier this year to join the Enhanced Integrated Framework. As you may imagine, it will be a lot of hard work, particularly going through yet one more study on your trade integration strategy. Your challenges are immense, being a landlocked country with a foreign trade structure dominated by your relations with your southern neighbor and completing your WTO accession at the same time. Yet, looking back at our experience, you can be sure that this hard work, and the subsequent increased TRTA resources, will no doubt benefit your trade, your private sector and ultimately, your happiness. Cambodia stands ready to provide more assistance as you deem necessary to meet all these challenges.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

To combat the global financial crisis, we need to enhance our trade development policy agenda, in which the initiative needs to be systematic, coordinated, integrated, efficient, consistent, and accountability with the overall national development strategies. In this context, the Ministry of Commerce, the RGC plays a leading role in Trade SWAp implementation through multi-donor trust fund and coordinate with other Development Partners to make it happen. This, you could understand more on how we manage to implement our DTIS and EIF.

Last but not least, we would like to learn more from you and perform better in the future as much as you will learn from us.

Finally, I would like to thank the UNDP country offices in Bhutan and Cambodia, both EIF Donor Facilitators, to make this visit a reality. I wish you fruitful and success from this two days study tour.

Thank you for your attention.