

KOREA UNIVERSITY - GRADUATE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (GSIS)
STUDY VISIT TO CAMBODIA
TALKING POINTS FOR LCT TEKRETH KAMRANG
FEBRUARY 2, 2016

Excellencies

Professor Kang, Research Professor, Graduate School of International Studies, Korea University

Undergraduates from GSIS, Korea University

Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome to Cambodia, the Kingdom of Wonders and welcome to the Ministry of Commerce!

- We are honored and pleased that Cambodia and the Ministry of Commerce have been selected for the 2nd time for a study tour of the Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS) of the Korea University on Aid-for-Trade.
- We were very pleased and honored to receive the visit of the 1st Korea University delegation in 2015, led by Professor Kang. We hope that the study tour has been beneficial to the students on their return to Korea.
- Recent trade development has been a success story for Cambodia. This is a product of luck (our geographical location in a trade dynamic region) but also hard work, dedication and support from our development partners, in particular the Republic of Korea, through KOICA. We use trade as an engine of economic growth and vow to mainstream trade development in our national development policies, as you will hear in today from different stakeholders. As a result, we have enjoyed robust economic growth over the past 2 decades, have received an increasing level of very diversified foreign direct investment and have enhanced our bilateral trade with many new partners. MoC is leading the way, by putting in place a far-fledged reform programs, aimed at reducing trade costs and automating key trade procedures.
- Like last year, we have tried to put together a comprehensive program of presentations given the time allocated to your visit to MoC. We hope you will be able to learn a lot from our experience. This said, and in the spirit of mutual benefit and exchange, we are all hoping to learn from Korea's recent experience too, on how your country has moved from being a net recipient of ODA till the mid-nineties to one of the top contributor of ODA in general and Aid-for-Trade in particular.
- The staff at the Department of International Cooperation (D/ICO), Ministry of Commerce, acting also as our National Implementation Unit (NIU), will be there to help you with your different meetings. Please make good use of them! We have also gathered

a few MoC officials who are alumni from different Korean universities, to promote exchange with you.

- We will have the pleasure to take you through our reflection on the past years' experience of designing a Trade Sector Wide Approach to ensure aid flows go in support of the Government's development goals. We will explain the challenges and implementing concurrently a Trade Development Support Programme (TDSP) and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for LDCs. You will see how we have been able to increase trade mainstreaming and ownership through carefully designed inter-ministerial committees and National Implementation Arrangements. The role of the private sector will also be highlighted, through the coordination of the Cambodia Government-Private Sector forum. We will also share some of the shortcomings we have met on the way, and how we have tried to address them.
- Several countries, in Asia, Africa and even America (Haiti) have asked us to share our recent AFT experience. We are organizing annual exchange programmes with our neighbors Lao PDR and Myanmar and have participated in other regional initiatives to share our experience. We are trying to do this with sustainability, accountability and ownership principles in mind, which, as you will discover, is not always easy.
- It is no secret that ever since our accession to ASEAN and later on the WTO, we have spared no effort to increase ownership of our own development. The 2006 Paris and subsequent Phnom Penh declaration on aid effectiveness have meant that development partners, sometimes reluctantly, had to align their development assistance planning process to our planning process. We also encouraged them to participate in our Trade Sector Wide Approach and to consider it as the main conduit for a shared trade sector development vision to materialize and not only as a channel for more aid disbursement as it happened in other sectors.
- Our 3rd Trade Integration Strategy or CTIS 2014-2018 was launched in February 2014 and immediately followed by the updating of our Trade Sector Wide Approach road maps. The CTIS update is itself aligned with key development goals as outlined in our National Strategic Development Plan and the Rectangular Strategy of the Royal Government of Cambodia. Later this year we will launch our Medium Term Plan for Aid-for-Trade and will organize a pledging roundtable to ensure we have enough resources to achieve the outcomes expected for the next five years. This will be the cornerstone of our AFT strategy implementation.
- Please don't be afraid to challenge us, ask candid questions and be critical, as this is the only way for us all to improve our practices. Similarly, we are eager to discuss with you the possibility of further cooperation, with our DICO and with our newly created MoC Trade Training and Research Institute (TTRI).
- I look forward to fruitful exchanges with you again later and wish you a nice time in Cambodia.