

**Awareness Raising Workshop on
“SWAp, EIF and CEDEP for Liaison Officers and Core Teams”**

November 13, 2014

**Opening Remarks by
LCT Tekreth Kamrang, Secretary of State, EIF Focal Point
Ministry of Commerce**

*Excellencies,
Representatives of CEDEP Main Implementing Entities
Members of the CEDEP Core Teams
MoC Colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen*

Allow me first and foremost to welcome you all to the Ministry of Commerce and to appreciate your presence here today at this awareness-raising workshop. This is the first time that all EIF Main Implementing Entities (MIE in short), CEDEP core team members, EIF Liaison Officers and our DICO team are gathered, one of the key recommendations made by our partners in the EIF Board.

The role of MoC in mobilizing, managing, monitoring Aid for Trade for Cambodia is a very complex and challenging one. This means being able to be at the crossroads of so many partner’s expectations: first and foremost of the beneficiaries in Phnom Penh and provinces, of the private sector who wants to trade more and farther, of our development partners who wish to accompany the country’s economic development and of the Royal Government of Cambodia who is spearheading the trade sector development. To do this, the MoC, in consultation with all partners have embarked early 2008 in a Sector-wide Approach on Trade, in short Trade SWAp. The strategy at the core of the SWAp is the Cambodia Trade Integration Study (CTIS), the latest update being for the period 2014-2018, formally launched by Samdech Prime Minister in February 2014. The CTIS and its accompanying Road Maps, has allowed us to launch far-reaching reforms, with support from our development partners, in particular through the Trade Development Support Programme (TDSP) and the Enhanced Integrated Framework.

In recent years, the support of EIF has included funding of our Tier 1 capacity building program which has played a major role in building the capacity of our officials in the Ministry of Commerce’s Department of International Cooperation (DICO) as well as in a number of line ministries through the roles of EIF Liaison Officers (L/O). More recently, EIF has provided support to our CEDEP I and CEDEP II projects to which I will return in a few moments.

CEDEP was launched as a response to the Royal Government of Cambodia’s wish to foster economic diversification and as a follow-up to the Cambodia’s Trade Policy Review under the WTO. The CEDEP structure is now applied to different sectors, all identified in the CTIS 2014-2018 as key export earners. It very well complements support provided by the TDSP, both in terms of areas covered and partners involved.

The CEDEP I project components (High Value Silk, Milled Rice and Evaluation Function) are now all under implementation and results have started to show. MoC's role is to ensure that implementation follows the approved projects work plans and are in line with RGC policies and strategies, to monitor and evaluate progress towards expected outcomes and to communicate with EIF, UNOPS and our donor facilitator.

Thanks to CEDEP I support, our rice exporters are building up a presence in international markets and forums. For two years in a row, with hard work and smart promotion support from CEDEP I, our rice millers have won the award for the World's Best Rice. And, with support from CEDEP I, our rice exporters are learning to diversify their target markets. While the first wave of our export growth focused on selected EU markets thanks to EBA, our exports to markets outside the EU are now growing even faster.

A second CEDEP project, or "CEDEP II" modeled on CEDEP I was launched earlier this year, focusing on exports of cassava, marine fish products and tourism development. Cambodia has become a large producer of cassava. However, most of our production is exported informally as unprocessed tubers and much remains to be done to capture the true value added of the sector by Cambodia through semi-processing and more advanced processing. Opportunities are there but producer capacity and a supportive policy environment need to be developed. CEDEP II will help us do that.

Much of the same can be said of our marine fisheries products. The opportunities are there to develop exports from the sector but current capacity of our producers is quite limited and needs to be developed and strengthened. CEDEP II will also help us do that.

Finally, The Academy of Culinary Arts of Cambodia (ACAC) to be launched as a PPP of the Cambodian Government and Private Sector with support from EIF and SIDA under CEDEP II can help address an important skill bottleneck in the hospitality sector, so our target of 8 million tourists by 2020 can be met.

CEDEP I and CEDEP II are important examples of how targeted assistance can help Cambodia build capacity in key priority trade areas identified in our new Trade SWAp Road Map and can help achieve some of the Government's targets for the benefit of the nation as a whole.

We are proud that the momentum gained since the beginning of the year 2014 with the launch of the CTIS 2014-2018, the SWAP Road Map update, the launch of EIF CEDEP II and the extension of the TDSP, has been maintained over the last 6 months. Yet, our priorities evolve, and most of them cannot be fulfilled without the strong involvement of our colleagues in line ministries.

- 1- Improve the Trade SWAp Governance Framework as per the CTIS 2014-2018 recommendations and the findings and conclusions of the workshop organized in May 2014 by DICO.
- 2- Formulate new project proposals to support SWAp Road Maps implementation, and target new donors, non-traditional donors in partnership with all relevant line ministries.
- 3- Accelerate TDSP work plan implementation, the monthly and quarterly disbursement rates and the completion of project activities
- 4- Enhance the Trade SWAp M&E Framework by harmonizing programme's reporting requirements and providing tools for decision-makers
- 5- Consolidate MoC ownership over the country's Aid-for-Trade agenda by phasing out international consultants and advisers progressively.

6- Map out CTIS 2014-2018 funding gaps

At this stage, I would like to thank all of you who have taken time to join this workshop and to share your own insights, understanding and recommendations on the SWAp and our technical assistance programmes. The role of core team members is key to the SWAp overall success: the 25 core team members are the links between the project implementing entities and the beneficiaries. Their contribution in terms of monitoring and evaluation, communication and outreach will be critical.

Our team in DICO has prepared this half-day workshop to bring you all up to speed with project and programmes objectives, activities and expected outcomes. We expect to hear from our partners in the Main Implementing Entities where your help and inputs would be most important in the months and years to come and what capacity building opportunities exist for you.

At MoC, we are also looking forward to hearing your feedback, suggestions and comments, not only in our capacity as SWAp executing agency but also as a Main Implementing Entity of the M&E Component of CEDEP I and CEDEP II and as a key stakeholder in both sectors.

Without further ado, I would like to give the floor to Mr. Chhieng Pich, Director, DICO to take us through the presentation of Cambodia's Aid For Trade programme.

I thank you all once again for your participation and support.

Have a fruitful workshop.
