

1st EIF – CEDEP QUARTERLY MEETING

Ministry of Commerce, Phnom Penh

March 5, 2015

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

Excellencies,

Representatives of CEDEP Main Implementing Entities

Representatives of Line Ministries

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. Most of you are familiar with our SWAp, TDSP and EIF. However, this is the first such “integrated” meeting and, hopefully, the beginning of a new form of partnership between DICO, EIF Main Implementing Entities (MIE in short), CEDEP core team members, EIF Liaison Officers and our DICO team.

The timing of this meeting was not chosen by accident. First, it’s now one year that the CTIS 2014-2018 was launched. Second, while both the Tier 1 and CEDEP I projects have entered into their last year of implementation, CEDEP II has reached “cruise speed” –with the exception of the ACAC component. Third, the EIF programme at the global level has just been extended for another 6 years. Fourth, the EU Delegation in Cambodia has just kicked-off the formulation of its next assistance programme for Cambodia over the period 2016-2020. As a result, we felt it was important to organize this first CEDEP quarterly gathering in the midst of all these progress and just before our MoC delegation heads off to Geneva, Switzerland to participate in a crucial EIF Global Platform. Similar meetings will take place every 3 months from now on and would replace other CEDEP-related consultations.

In recent years, the support of EIF has included funding of our Tier 1 capacity building program that has played a major role in building the capacity of our Government officials. Support from the Tier 1 has allowed MoC to improve its management of the country’s Aid-for-Trade agenda as well as to provide support and assistance to other ministries.

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 mid-term evaluation has confirmed that all components were on the right track to reach corresponding Programme Development Objectives (PDOs) but that more time would be needed to

reach those, and in particular for the National Silk Board and the Cambodia Rice Federation to be able to operate independently of direct donor involvement.

Sector assessments and value chain studies in CEDEP II components seems to confirm that much more assistance from all partners is needed, and that private sector development should increase dramatically to seize the tremendous potential.

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. I look forward to hearing from respective project Main Implementing Entities on their latest findings and recommendations.

As MoC prepares to formulate new project proposals for the period 2016-2020 as part of our SWAp, we would like to ensure that all concerned –government officials, private sector representatives and development partners- can join forces and ensure inclusive and comprehensive project formulation. I am pleased to let you know that a team of experts sponsored by EIF and supervised by DICO will be in Phnom Penh early April to work with you to start formulating project proposals. It is therefore timely to assess from now on where DPs support could be most effective in years to come. We hope that the training provided over the past 6 months will help you provide us with quality inputs.

At this stage, I would like to thank all of you who have taken time to join this workshop and to share your progress, achievements and recommendations on CEDEP.

Our team in DICO has prepared this half-day workshop to bring you all up to speed with project and programmes activities and achievements. We expect to hear from our partners in the Main Implementing Entities how MoC and line ministries could be of support in continuing CEDEP.

Without further ado, I would like to give the floor to Mr. Chhieng Pich, Director, DICO to take us through the first agenda item.

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

Have a fruitful meeting.
