



**Official Launch of  
CEDEP II (Cambodia Export Diversification and Expansion Program II)**

February 20, 2014

**Closing Remarks by  
H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister,  
Minister of Commerce**

EIF Executive Director Dr. Ratnakar Adhikari

UNOPS Executive Officer Mr. Bernhard Schlachter

Representative of the Development Cooperation Section of the Embassy of Sweden

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

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We have come to the conclusion of the launch of Cambodia Export Diversification and Expansion Program II (CEDEP II) which will be one new step towards implementing the recommendations contained in our new *CTIS and Trade SWAp Road Map 2014-2018* formally launched two days ago.

Our trade development needs are enormous. **The Ministry of Commerce is working intensively to remove export bottlenecks by targeting the low hanging fruits and progressively addressing other key barriers to trade.** The support provided in that regard by TDSP, EIF but also ADB and other bilateral partners' projects are supplementing perfectly those efforts.

The CTIS 2014-2018 and SWAp Roadmaps provide a unique entry point to monitor our progress, assess our capacity and funding gaps, map out ambitious strategies and work together towards reaching SWAp goals. **The Ministry of Commerce will be at the forefront of this endeavor, but even with all good will and people, it needs stakeholders and development partners to join in the efforts so as to maximize the benefits for the**

**Cambodia people.** The governance structure of the Trade SWAp, in particular the Sub-Steering Committee on Trade Development and Trade-Related Investment gives us the right forum to monitor those efforts and progress made towards our SWAp goals.

**CEDEP II will help us focus support to exports, to capacity building and to policy reforms in the cassava and marine fisheries sectors as well as to skills development for the important tourism sector.** The partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Shift 360, our private sector and the Government of Sweden for the creation of RACA is, in that sense, a unique opportunity to think “outside the box” and create genuine Public Private Partnership, in particular to tackle our skills gaps. I commend the efforts of those partners to come up with such an innovative scheme to cater to the need of our fast-growing hospitality industry.

**I wish to inform you that we have already initiated discussion with EIF ES and UNOPS to bring the same level of support to other CTIS priority sectors, namely rubber, light manufacturing and food processing through a possible CEDEP III project. This project formulation and implementation will not only require inputs from our development partners but also, and more importantly, from our private sector.**

Once again, allow me to thank the EIF programme through its Executive Director and its Trust Fund Manager for its continued support to Cambodia’s trade development since 2001, the Government of Sweden for becoming a partner in our SWAp implementation by providing some counterpart funding to one of the three sub-projects included in CEDEP II and our three implementing entities, namely UNDP, UNIDO and Shift 360.

I look forward to receiving the full support from all stakeholders and development partners to ensure a successful and timely implementation of the CEDEP II.

Thank you.