



## 5<sup>th</sup> NIU Exchange Programme (Cambodia – Lao – Myanmar)

### **Closing Remarks by LCT Tekreth Kamrang, Secretary of State, EIF Focal Point**

Siem Reap, Cambodia  
8 December 2015

*H.E. Somchith Inthamith, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR  
H.E. Dr. Pwint San, Deputy Minister and EIF Focal Point, Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar  
Delegates from Lao PDR and Myanmar  
Colleagues from MoC, DICO and Line Ministries, Cambodia*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We come to the close of what has been a very successful and productive conference for the 5<sup>th</sup> NIU Exchange Programme. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for your contributions and participation during the NIU Exchange Conference.

On behalf of the National Implementation Unit based at the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce, we want to thank the speakers, facilitators, those who prepared conference papers and presentations, and of course, all the participants for your contributions which made this Conference a success.

Who could have imagined a better exchange than seeing representatives from the three countries, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar, represented here joining forces in the workshops to discuss various topics related with Aid-for-Trade programs. We explored institution building options, shared information, and reached new conclusions on special topics of great interest to trade development, trade integration, and trade policy enforcements among the three countries. We are all committed to return to our respective countries within the region to achieve our ultimate conference objectives: to enhance our institutional capacities in managing and implementing trade programs and ensuring sustainable economic development are realized within our respective countries.

This meeting provided me an excellent opportunity to interact with you. I have learned a lot during these past two days, and I look forward to cooperating more with the two other NIUs in the near future. As I mentioned in my opening address yesterday, we will continue our interaction and deepen our dialogue to build a more open, transparent and effective exchange program in building institutional capacities among our countries.

During this meeting, I was impressed by the opening remarks of H.E. Somchith Inthamith, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR, and by H.E. Dr. Pwint San, Deputy Minister for Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar. This meeting was a good forum to exchange experiences with the other NIUs, specifically in terms of the Trade and Development Program Updates:

(1) Cambodia's Trade SWAp Implementation; (2) Lao PDR's Trade and Private Sector Development Roadmap Implementation; and (3) Myanmar's Trade Development Landscape.

In the area of Aid for Trade Agenda Beyond 2015, one of our highly respected speakers highlighted the Aid-for-Trade 5-Year Plan, which provided an alignment of the national development plans and aid-for-trade strategies in LDCs. The representative from Lao PDR informed us on Lao's Program Development Results in the area of improving trade facilitation and enhancing Aid effectiveness, while the representative from Myanmar outlined their country's Aid-for-Trade Strategy for 2016-2020, which was complemented by the presentation of Cambodia's Medium-Term Plan for Aid-for-Trade and Aid-for Trade Strategy for 2016-2020.

Group discussions were also undertaken on the following topics: Group 1 – Integrating line ministries' policies and plans in Aid-for-Trade; Group 2- Regionalizing the EIF Executive Secretariat and joint EIF projects for Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar; and Group 3 – Improving TFM functions, ways and means.

In order to benchmark from the various best practices in Aid-for-Trade, the three NIUs shared their results:

- Myanmar – Result 1 – Myanmar's National Trade Portal and Trade Repository; Result 2 – Aid for Trade in Practice and the Trade Development Program.
- Cambodia – Result 1 – CO Automation in MoC; and Result 2 – CEDEP 1 project impact on Exports.
- Lao PDR – Result 1 – Improving Trade Facilitation; and Result 2 – Enhancing Aid Effectiveness.

To recap the various programs and strategies on Aid-for-Trade, future exchange program and exchange opportunities between the NIUs of Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar were also discussed.

I am glad that the one-and a half-day Exchange Conference was able to address many of the issues and challenges facing our Aid-for-Trade programs. And of course the debate and exchange of views will not stop here. But the more we can promote discussions like yesterday and today, the better we will be prepared to cooperate in the future for the increased welfare and prosperity of all.

Before concluding, let me congratulate again everybody for your fruitful cooperation in participating to the various discussions that we have had. I look forward to seeing all of you next time.

Thank you again! I wish that all of you have a safe and pleasant journey home.

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