



**Welcoming Remarks by
H.E. SUNChanthol, Senior Minister,
Minister of Commerce**

**Official Launch of
Cambodia Trade Integration Strategy 2014-2018
February 18, 2014**

Samdech AkkaMohaSenaPadei Techo Hun Sen Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia;

Dr. RatnakarADHIKARI, EIF Executive Director, the Enhanced Integrated Framework;

Mr. Eric Sidgwick, ADB Country Director and EIF Donor Facilitator, Cambodia;

Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident in Cambodia; and

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today, it is my great honor to welcome His Excellency Samdech Techo Prime Minister, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen to the launch of *Cambodia Trade Integration Strategy 2014-2018*. Taking this great opportunity, I would like to thank His Excellency Samdech Techo Prime Minister for taking his valuable time to preside over the launch of this important new strategy.

This new strategy is the third one prepared by the Royal Government of Cambodia, with the support of the *Enhanced Integrated Framework* (EIF), and its predecessor, the *Integrated Framework* (IF), as well as development partners. The previous two strategies provided the Government with useful insights as to where the country's

export sector stood at different points in time and as to what was needed going forward. In addition, those studies helped us mobilize donors' technical assistance to focus on priority issues of the times. I am hopeful this latest iteration of the strategy will serve a similar and useful purpose going forward.

Allow me to provide you with a little bit of background:

In November 2001, Cambodia validated its first *Diagnostic Trade Integration Strategy* (DTIS). This first strategy was prepared with funding support from the *Integrated Framework* program (IF) and quite helpful in mobilizing development partners support in areas of trade-related legal reform as we finalized our accession to the WTO and immediately thereafter as we started implementing our commitments. Likewise, this strategy provided a basis for assistance in the area of investment reform and trade facilitation reform with several development partners providing support for the modernization of our customs operation.

In December 2007, your Excellency Samdech Techo Prime Minister launched the country's second DTIS, also known as *Cambodia Trade Integration Strategy 2007* (CTIS 2007). This second generation of the strategy was instrumental in organizing a Trade Sector-wide Approach (Trade SWAp) to provide better coordination among line ministries in the trade area and among development partners as well as stronger mobilization of donors' support. This strategy allowed the Ministry of Commerce to organize support for capacity building in a number of line ministries involved in trade.

Cambodia Trade Integration Strategy 2014-2018 (CTIS 2014-2018) is the country's third generation CTIS. The Inter-Ministerial Committee included senior officials from the Ministries of Commerce; Economy and Finance; Health; Tourism; Planning; Industry and Handicraft; Mines and Energy; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Rural Development; Women Affairs; Labor and Vocational Training; Public Works and Transport; Education, Youth and Sports; as well as the Council of Ministers, the Council for the Development of Cambodia, and the Royal School of Administration have been cooperated with Members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee provided CTIS team members with access to officials in their respective ministries, reviewed early drafts, and met with the team to provide

comments, feedback and other inputs on various documents in order to make this CTIS comprehensive. In parallel, to the work of the drafting team, the Ministry of Commerce worked closely with the Ministry of Planning and SNEC to ensure the priorities identified here are mainstreamed in the new NSDP-IV and Rectangular Strategy-III of the new Government.

The *Executive Summary* and the *Trade SWAp Roadmap 2014-2018*, backed up by a *Full Report*, that are being launched today is the achievement of the hard work of the past months.

It is my hope that this new updated CTIS will provide our Government with useful insights and ideas on how we want to move forward in implementing some of our needed reforms particularly in the trade area in the coming years. It is also my hope that this strategy will help us mobilize new technical assistance resources to address some of the new reforms we need to pursue and to which we have already committed ourselves. In addition, it will enhance trade sector competitiveness, create new and better jobs, increase incomes and reduce poverty.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks again to His Excellency Samdech Techo Prime Minister for his generous support and his presence today and all of you, Excellencies and distinguished participants, for your interest in this important work. I wish His Excellency Samdech Techo Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, Excellencies and distinguished participants with four gems of Buddhist blessing: Longevity, Nobility, Health, and Strength.

Thank you.