

Meeting challenges of Strengthening Statistics in Cambodia

By SAN Sy Than

Director General, NIS

Cambodia

Abstract:

Major constraints for the work on NIS and for several of the designated statistical units are the relatively low level of budget, the low salaries/allowances for employees, low level of skills and the need for improved coordination. The infrastructure and institutional arrangements made are in some ways adequate, in others not.

1. To fulfill the goal for the NSS due to the Statistics Law and the Sub-decrees, the SMP and other plans; there must be proper funding, efficient methods and techniques as well as skilled and motivated people for the production of official statistics. The system of official statistics cannot rely on ad hoc donor funding in the long run and must be properly and sustainably funded by the RGC. The goal to have total government funding by 2016 must be reached.
2. To increase the efficiency in the NSS, the salary/allowances problem must be solved. Civil servants employed at NIS and other statistics unit must be offered salaries/allowances so they can focus on their government work and do not take additional outside work in order to survive.
3. In 2010/2011 NIS carried out a competence inventory among the producers of official statistics (NIS not included). The capacity in line ministries to produce official statistics is much lower than in the NIS. Most of the line ministries need much more training and more government funding for its activities.
4. The training unit is no longer running due to lack of resources. Instead the different donor projects conduct separate in-house training or use local companies to build up the capacity. There is a need of coordinating the training to make the capacity building sustainable and to use the resources more efficiently.
5. Improving effective coordination within the NSS and/or stakeholders.