

2011 ECONOMIC CENSUS OF CAMBODIA (EC2011)

Minutes of the Second Meeting of National Census Committee (NCC) 20 May 2010

The second NCC meeting was held at the meeting room, the first floor, new building, the National Institute of Statistics (NIS), Ministry of Planning (MOP) at 9:00 am on 20 May 2010.

NCC Members Present:

H.E. Chhay Than, Senior Minister, Minister of Planning and Chairman of the NCC
H.E. Ou Bun Long, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) and Vice Chairman of the NCC
H.E. Sak Setha, Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior and Vice Chairman of the NCC
H.E. In Saroeurng, Secretary of State, the MOP, Permanent Vice Chairman of the NCC and Chairman of the Census Technical Committee (CTC)
Lok Chumtiev Chan Sorey, Secretary of State, Ministry of Women Affairs
H.E. Ouk Moeurn, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
H.E. Hor Sopheap, Secretary of State, Ministry of Information
H.E. Kim Sokun, Under Secretary of State, State Secretary of Civil Aviation
H.E. Tan Sok, Under Secretary of State, National Bank of Cambodia
H.E. Sam Promnea, Secretary of State, Ministry of Tourism
H.E. Ek Vandy, Secretary of State, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
H.E. Duy Theov, Deputy Secretary General, Council for Development of Cambodia
H.E. Kan Man, Secretary of State, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
H.E. San Sy Than, Director General, the NIS
H.E. Eng Huot, Secretary of State, Ministry of Health
H.E. Em Sophoan, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce
H.E. Thai Noraksatya, Secretary of State, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts

Also Representatives of NCC Members Present Were:

Mr. Ung Visoth, Vice Bureau Chief, National Bank of Cambodia
Mr. Kong Putheara, Director of Department, Ministry of Commerce
Mr. Nuon Sophorn, Deputy Director of Department, Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy
Mr. Kho Hout, Deputy Director of Department, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
Mr. Horl Set, Deputy Director of Department, General Department of Taxation
Mr. Po Chanphal, Director of Department, Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training

International Consultants/Experts:

Mr. F. Nishi, Chief Adviser, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Dr. A. Otomo, JICA Expert for the NIS
Ms. Kaori Nishiyama, JICA Expert for the NIS
Mr. M. Ohita, JICA Expert for the NIS
Mrs. Birgitta Mannfelt, Chief Adviser, Statistics Sweden/SIDA for the NIS

Project Staff/Counterparts:

Mr. Hor Darith, Deputy Director General, the NIS
Mr. Khin Sovorleak, Deputy Director General, the NIS
Mr. Mich Kanthul, Director, Economic Statistics Department, the NIS
Mr. Lim Penh, Director, Statistical Standard and Analysis Department, the NIS
Mr. Lay Chhan, Deputy Director, Economic Statistics Department, the NIS
Mr. Kim Net, Deputy Director, Social Statistics Department, the NIS
Ms. Suy Sotheara, Bureau Chief, Statistical Policy and International Cooperation Department, the NIS
Ms. Mey Sok Marady, Vice Chief, DG's Office, the NIS
Mr. Youk Seng An, Project Assistant, JICA/the NIS

Opening Speech and Reports:

H.E. Chhay Than, Senior Minister, Minister of Planning, and Chairman of the NCC reviewed the agenda and welcomed everyone attending the meeting. Next, he discussed the current status of the NCC and its progress. H.E Chhay Than, at the end of his opening remarks on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), expressed his sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan and JICA for providing required resources, especially for the EC2011 through JICA Project Phase III.

H.E. San Sy Than Director General of the NIS reported about preparations for the EC2011: (i) works of the NCC, CTC, and Provincial Census Committee (PCC); (ii) pilot survey; (iii) establishing National Steering Committee for Census Information and Education Campaign (NSC); (iv) drafting work plan, and (v) mobilization of budget. H.E. San Sy Than described each point in detail as follows:

- The first NCC meeting was held on 30 November 2009. Key agenda discussed were to endorse an establishment of the CTC, to initiate the PCC, to endorse the work plan, to conduct the pilot survey for testing a form of the EC2011, and to make a proposal for requesting counterpart funds.
- The CTC has coordinated with JICA on preparing the form for the pilot survey and drafting the work plan and a logo. Up to now, the CTC had meetings twice.
- The PCC was declared on 15 February 2010 and supported the pilot survey in March 2010 through coordination between provincial departments and facilitating enumeration at local level.
- The pilot survey was conducted from 1-31 March 2010 with covering sampled 7,046 establishments. According to the preliminary results, about 78% of total large establishments were completely responded and 22% partly completed or refusal. In overall, approximately 97% of total sampled establishments (small, medium and large) were completely responded.
- The NSC will be soon established in May 2010, and a lot of works to be done by the Committee, such as preparing materials/tools for publicity campaign and scheduling the census awareness campaign.
- Schedule and time frame of census mapping, education campaign, training of supervisors and enumerators, enumeration, and release of results will clearly be fixed.
- The MOP received the support from the Government of Japan and JICA for The EC2011 which was US\$2.8 millions out of the total required budget of US\$3.5 millions. Thus there are still lack of US\$697,000 which needs to be contributed by the RGC to solve problems such as buying vehicles, spending for missions, operating and maintenance costs, expenses for local staff.

H.E. San Sy Than added that we had some cars provided at the 2008 Population Census and would be used for the EC2011 as well. However, we still need five new cars more for the NIS. Since an economic census is more complex than a population census, core staff will be required to often go to field. He asked Chairman and members of the NCC to consider approving this request.

Mr. Mich Kanthul, Director of Economic Statistics Department, the NIS reported the updated work plan of the EC2011 containing specific activities and timetables from 2010 to 2012. He listed key activities including demarcating enumeration areas, census campaign, training census staff, enumeration, and release of preliminary and final results.

Plenary Discussions:

H.E. Chhay Than, Chairman of the NCC summarized the above reports and raised the following four important issues before opening the floor for discussion: low response rate of large establishments, publicity campaign, process of obtaining funds, and requesting counterpart fund of operating costs including purchase of vehicles.

H.E. Ou Bunlong, Secretary of State, the MEF recognized some issues regarding the process of requesting the counterpart fund which was not yet submitted to the MOP. He promised to follow up and assured the facilitation of this work so as to be submitted on time. Regarding the problem of low response rate of large establishments during the pilot survey, H.E. Ou Bunlong stated that it was true that cooperation between line ministries was needed. For example, cooperation with the MEF through the General Department of Taxation is necessary. As a representative of the MEF, he confirmed that would provide support and close cooperation in this work.

H.E. Sam Promnea, Secretary of State, the Ministry of Tourism gave an overview of their framework and legal documents to cope with the low response rate of large establishments. He said that the MOT prepared a list and classification of hotels in each province and municipality. We have also a law on tourism which has already been disseminated over the country. But the cooperation between hotels and the MOT is not strong enough. He mentioned that the MOT had mandate to manage guest houses, hotels and restaurants only. While the MOT has no authority to manage night clubs, casinos, and other entertainment places.

H.E. Sak Setha, Secretary of State, the Ministry of Interior and Vice Chairman of the NCC recommended several points regarding issues/experiences from the last pilot survey of the EC2011. He said based on his experience we should look at not only respondent's side but also our weaknesses. He gave some examples as follows:

- In order to get more cooperation from establishment owners, we must avoid our performance as an inspector. However, we must be aware that our role as a statistician is to collect information only for the purpose of statistics. We need to obtain trust of respondents.
- We have to review and strengthen quality of our census staff (e.g. professionalism, behavior).
- We should consider contents/tools of publicity campaign such as media, target, timing, duration, key message).
- Quality of documents is very important. Education and awareness campaign should use clear meaning or definition. For example, an economic census covers establishments only but includes "a household doing business" as well.

H.E. Sak Seta also suggested the meeting that next NCC should be in early 2011, if possible. Also the PCC members should be invited.

Mr. Nishi, Chief Advisor of JICA Project informed the meeting that the Government of Japan already approved to expense the counterpart fund which was equivalent to about 80% of the total cost of the EC2011. According to the pilot survey, Mr. Nishi raised the lack of cooperation from local authorities, especially the coordination between line departments (e.g. the Department of Tourism, the Department of Industry, Mines and Energy). He suggested the meeting to review and consider this issue. Mr. Nishi responded to questions about form design, industrial classification, and definition used for the census as follows: these were all based on international standard.

Conclusions and Closing Remarks:

H.E. Chhay Than, Chair of the NCC summed up the important issues and suggested the meeting should review some key elements of the EC2011 such as forms, competent staff, tools of publicity campaign, and especially cooperation between line ministries. He asked the CTC and JICA Experts as well as the meeting to discuss the form. If possible, we should reduce the number of topics such as income, expenditure. H.E. Chhay Than continued that, regarding the request of counterpart fund for operational costs, we should include new five cars in addition to the cars currently using at the NIS. He suggested the MEF through H.E. Ou Bunlong to review this proposal so that it may be approved.

The meeting had fruitful discussion. All the ministries who were members of the NCC firmly confirmed their support and cooperation in the EC2011 to a success. The meeting agreed the points discussed above and would continue to discuss and review these points. The date of next NCC meeting will be informed.

At the end of the meeting, H.E. Chhay Than, Senior Minister, Minister of Planning and Chairman of the NCC extended his deep thanks to all participants for spending time and contributing to fruitful discussion at the meeting. The meeting was closed at 11:25 a.m.

San Sy Than
DG, the NIS
Secretary of the NCC