

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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**Minutes on the First Meeting
of Cambodia Inter-censal Economic Survey of Technical Committee (CIES-TC)**

Date: August 21, 2012, Tuesday from 9:00 to 12:00 am

Venue: Conference Room on the 1st Floor of the new building, National Institute of Statistics,
Ministry of Planning

The first CIES-TC meeting was held on Tuesday, August 21st, 2012 at the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) at 9 am presided over by **H.E. Mr. In Sareoung**, Secretary of State, the Ministry of Planning (MOP) and chairman of the TC with the participation of line ministries and JICA experts.

Participants:

H.E. Mr. In Sareoung, Secretary of State, the MOP and Chairman of the CIES-TC

H.E. Mr. San Sy Than, Director General, the NIS, Vice Chairman of the CIES-TC

H.E. Mr. Hor Darith, Deputy Director General, the NIS, Permanent Member of the CIES-TC

Mr. Khin Sovorlak, Deputy Director General, the NIS, Secretary of the CIES-TC

Mr. Chan Sovanna, Deputy Director, Department of the General Administration, Ministry of Interior.

Mr. Chhaya Chhorpon, Representative from the General Directorate of Taxation Department, Ministry of Economic and Finance

Mr. Hok Thy, Bureau Chief, Representative from the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Energy

Mr. Seng Sithkunth, Bureau Chief, Representative from the Ministry of Tourism

Ms. Ouch Lina, Bureau Chief, Representative from the Ministry of Tourism

Mr. So Tonnere, Deputy Director of the Economic Statistics Department, the NIS

Mr. Kim Net, Deputy Director of the Social Statistics Department, the NIS

Mr. Phok Phira, Representative from JICA Cambodia Office

Mr. F. Nishi, Chief Advisor of JICA Project for the NIS

Mr. A. ITO, JICA Expert for the NIS

Mr. A. Yamauchi, JICA Expert for the NIS

Mr. J. Sawada, JICA Expert for the NIS

Mr. H. Mizuta, JICA Expert for the NIS, and

Other JICA Experts for the NIS.

Absence:

- Representative from Ministry of Commerce

Agenda of the meeting

- Welcome Remarks by **H.E. Mr. In Saroeung**, Secretary of State, the MOP and Chairman of the CIES-TC

- Progress Report of **H.E. Mr. San Sy Than**, Director-General, the NIS

- Report on a draft outline and organization chart of the 2014 Cambodia Inter-censal Economic Survey by **H.E. Hor Darith**, Deputy Director General, the NIS
- Report on a draft work plan and sample design of the 2014 Cambodia Inter-censal Economic Survey by **Mr. Khin Sovorlak**, Deputy Director-General, the NIS
- Discussion
- Closing Address by **H.E. Mr. In Saroeung**, Secretary of State, the MOP and Chairman of the CIES-TC

1. Opening Address of H.E. Mr. In Saroeung, Secretary of State, the Ministry of Planning, and Chairman of the Technical Committee

H.E. Mr. In Sareoung said that Cambodia Inter-censal Economic Survey 2014 (CIES2014) had to establish the Technical Committee (CIES-TC) as well as the 2011 Economic Census and it was also mentioned in the Statistical Law (Population Census, Economic Census, and Agriculture Census). We can conduct one or two inter-censal surveys between two censuses. In addition, the Ministry of Planning prepared a letter to request some ministries to reply their representative names as a member of the CIES-TC. The members of the CIES-TC are as follows:

- H.E. In Sareoung, Secretary of State, the Ministry of Planning , and Chairman of the CIES-TC
- H.E. San Sy Than, Director General, the NIS and Vice Chairman
- H.E. Hor Darith, Deputy Director General, the NIS permanent member of the CIES-TC
- Mr. Khin Sovorlak, Deputy Director General, the NIS, Secretary, and
- Representatives from some line ministries who participated in the meeting today.

2. Remarks and progress report by H.E. Mr. San Sy Than, Director General, the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning speeches on a general plan and legal background of the 2014 Cambodia Inter-censal Economic Survey

H.E. Mr. San Sy Than reported two main points as follows: (1) Legal basis; and (2) General plan. As you have already known, the NIS have Statistical Law adopted in 2005 and Sub-decree on the organization and functional of the National Statistics System. We conducted the third Population Census in 2008 and the first Economic Census in 2011 successfully. According to the Statistical Law, Article 8 and 9, we have to implement an inter-censal survey or a sample survey for obtaining updated data. Furthermore, Director General of the NIS mentioned that both the 2011 Economic Census results and the 2008 Population Census results were the fundamental data (benchmark data) for policy planning. Both census data, however, have different tendency: demographic situation is relatively stable, whereas economic situation frequently changes when we have economic crisis. Economic growth is plus in some cases and is minus in some cases. These two censuses data are very important when the economy of one country encountered a problem. This is an idea of Mr. ITO, former Director General of the Statistics Bureau of Japan. H.E. Mr. San Sy Than also agreed and thought the same. Some countries conduct economic survey every year or two years for obtaining updated economic data because policy makers need to know the latest economic trend. "Cambodia is to conduct an economic sample survey every year in the Statistical Master Plan" from 2008 to 2015 and from 2016 to 2021. From my point of view, we should

conduct an establishment sample survey in every two or three years by NIS budget in nature. After 2015, we will not have any funds and supports from SIDA and JICA. Another problem is that the Economic Statistics Department is responsible for both economic census and agriculture census. These are the issues that we concern about it. For the CIES2014, we have a clear and specific work plan from July 2012 to March 2015. H.E. Mr. San Sy Than believed that the CIES-TC chaired by H.E. In Sareoung would progress smoothly and successfully to respond data user needs.

3. H.E. Mr. Hor Darith, Deputy Director General, the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning reported on a draft outline and organization chart of the 2014 Cambodia Inter-censal Economic Survey

H.E. Mr. Hor Darith explained thirteen important points through the distributed documents both in Khmer and English: (1) Objectives; (2) Legal basis; (3) Reference date; (4) Area; (5) Coverage; (6) Sampling design; (7) Enumeration unit; (8) Survey items; (9) Organization; (10) Method; (11) Mapping; (12) Pretest; and (13) Fund contribution. Then, according to his presentation, sampling design is necessary because the CIES2014 is a sample survey. Mapping will usually be done before enumeration to clarify the boundary of each EA, to select sample establishments, and to fix primary sampling units (PSUs). In every census and sample survey, one or more pretests are to be conducted. Moreover, he mentioned that the purposes of the CIES2014 were to strengthen NIS staff through the survey and to obtain updated economic data. He also rose up seven important points to the meeting for discussion.

4. Mr. Khin Sovorlak, Deputy Director General, the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning reported on a draft work plan of the 2014 Cambodia Inter-censal Economic Survey

Mr. Khin Sovorlak reported two main points: (1) Work plan; and (2) Sample design. Firstly, he said that the planning and implementation stage of the CIES2014 would be from July 2012 to March 2015. According to the work plan, the CIES-TC will be established and seven meetings of the CIES-TC including the first meeting today will be held. A pretest, mapping, procurement, and enumeration will be conducted accordingly. Secondly, the sampling design has already been drafted. The strategy of the sampling is as follows:

(1) All large and medium scale establishments are included. There are 786 large scale establishments with 100 or more persons engaged and are 833 medium scale establishments with 50 to 99 persons engaged. That is, there are 1,619 large and medium scale establishments with 50 or more persons engaged.

(2) Small and micro scale establishments are sampled. 20 EAs are selected from each province. 20 establishments are selected from each EA and it means one PSU consists of 20 establishments. Whereas, if fund is available, 30EAs will be selected from 6 largest provinces: Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kandal, Phnom Penh, Sihanouk ville, and Takeo.

5. Discussion

H.E. Mr. Hor Darith rose seven questions to be discussed as follows:

(1) Whether street business should be enumerated or not.

- (2) Whether the topics of Question 17 to 21 should be deleted or not. If it is yes, we can add more topics related to national accounts. According to the results of 2011 economic census, there were very few responses to these topics.
- (3) Provincial Coordinator did not function well at the 2010 pilot survey (PS2010). Whether Provincial Coordinator is necessary for the CIES2014 or not?
- (4) At the PS2010, each Assistant Regional Offer (ARO) was in charge of only large scale establishments with 100 or more persons engaged. Whether AROs should be in charge of only large and medium scale establishments with 50 or more persons engaged or not?
- (5) Whether e-mail should be used as one of enumeration methods or not. If a respondent prefer, a form can be sent and received by e-mail in addition to by enumerator.
- (6) Whether e-survey should be used as one of enumeration methods or not. If a respondent prefer, he/she can response to a form through a website.
- (7) Whether both a short-form and a long form should be used or not. The short-form is only for small and micro establishments with less than 50 persons engaged. The long-form is only for large and medium scale establishments with 50 or more persons engaged.

6. Mr. Khin Sovorlak put a question to the CIES meeting whether we should include floating villages, islands, and steep mountainous areas from the CIES2014 or not.

7. Mr. Chan Sovanna, Deputy Director, the Ministry of Interior stated that floating villages, islands, and steep mountainous areas should be excluded because those areas usually had only a few establishments and their sizes were relatively small.

Next, he also added that street business usually had a very few persons engaged and the size of establishment was very small. He thought that it should be excluded from the survey. Moreover, coordination is a very important matter, but coordinators involved in the 2010 Pilot Survey and the 2011 Economic Census did not perform very well. He did not know whether they received incentive or not? And what is the level or position of the coordinators?

8. H.E In Sareoung, Secretary of State, the MOP and Chief of the Technical Committee wrapped up and concluded that street business, remote area, float villages, island and steep mountainous would be excluded from the coverage of the CIES2014. However, we will enumerate the medium and large scale establishments even though they are located in a remote area. Finally, he thanked to the presence of Excellencies, JICA Experts, and representatives of line ministries who spent busy time to participate in the first CIES-TC meeting.

Phnom Penh August 28th, 2012

Secretary

Khin Sovorlak, DDG,NIS