

2011 ECONOMIC CENSUS OF CAMBODIA (EC2011)

Minutes of the First Meeting of National Census Committee (NCC) November 30, 2009

The first 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 30 November 2009.

Were present:

NCC members:

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 and Vice Chairman of the NCC

H.E. Sak Setha, Secretary of State, Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior and Vice Chairman of the NCC

H.E. In Saroeurng, Secretary of State, the MOP and Permanent Vice Chairman of the NCC, Chairman of the Census Technical Committee (CTC)

H.E. Eng Huot, Secretary of State, Ministry of Health

H.E. Kan Man, Secretary of State, Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training

H.E. Ek Vandy, Secretary of State, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications

H.E. Sam Promnea, Secretary of State, Ministry of Tourism

H.E. Sem Sokha, Secretary of State, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation

H.E. Ms Chan Sorey, Secretary of State, Ministry of Woman's Affairs

H.E. Ms. Ouk Maly, Deputy Governor, National Bank of Cambodia (NBC)

H.E. Em Sophoan, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce

H.E. Duy Theov, Deputy Secretary General, Council for Development of Cambodia

HE. San Sy Than, Director General, the NIS, MOP

Observers:

Mr. F. Nishi, Chief Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Ms. Minori Terada, Project Formulation Officer, JICA

Dr. A. Otomo, JICA expert for the NIS

Mr. A. Ito, JICA expert for the NIS

Mr. A. Takagi, JICA expert for the NIS

Mr. Ota, JICA expert for the NIS

Mr. Youk Seng An, JICA/the NIS Admin staff
Mr. Hor Darith, Deputy Director General, the NIS, the MOP
Mr. Mich Kanthul, Director of Economic Statistics Department, the NIS
Mr. Khin Sovorleak, Deputy Director, Economic Statistics Department, the NIS
Mr. Kim Net, Deputy Director, Social Statistics Department, the NIS
Mr. Try Rithea, Deputy Director, Economic Statistics Department, the NIS
Mr. Chhun Bonarith, Deputy Director, ICT Department, the NIS
Mr. Ham Sokun, Bureau Chief, Economic Statistics Department, the NIS

Were Absent (Apologies):

H.E. Svay Sitha, Secretary of State, Office of Council of Ministers
H.E. Ith Praing, Secretary of State, Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy (Sent representative)
H.E. Mao Havannal, Secretary of State, Secretariat of Civil Aviation (Sent representative)
H.E. Rath Sarin, Secretary of State, Ministry of Land management, Urbanization and Construction
H.E. Ouk Moeurn, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (sent representative)
H.E. Hor Sopheap, Secretary of State, Ministry of Information
H.E. Suong Heng, Secretary of State, Ministry of Public Works and Transport
H.E. Thai Noraksatya, Secretary of State, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts

Opening Speech and Report:

H.E. Chhay Than, Senior Minister, Minister of Planning, and Chairman of the NCC welcomed the NCC members and all guests and participants for attending the meeting. He mentioned that the NCC for the EC2011 was established by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) based on the Sub-decree on EC2011 which was in force since 26 August 2009 for giving overall guidance to the MOP in conducting an Economic Census in March 2011.

He said that the first Meeting of the NCC for the EC2011 was to review of progress of administrative works of the census, the census work plan, the establishment of the CTC with support from JICA experts.

To conclude, he expressed profound gratitude to the Government of Japan and JICA who provided their technical and financial assistance to the census project, and he appealed the public to have good cooperation in the great national and historical task of the EC2011 and to make it a success.

In the next item of agenda, **H.E. San Sy Than, Director General of the NIS** pointed out the general work plan and legal background: the release of final results of nation-wide establishment listing would be on 9 December 2009 and the first meeting of the CTC would be convened on 16 December 2009. A pretest of forms will take place mid December 2009. After that, a pilot survey which has quite large sample size in March 2010. He said that the staff would rearrange the village maps in May 2010 until August 2010. The training of enumerators and supervisors will take place one week in February to be prepared for fields operations the whole month of March 2011. The release of preliminary results will take place in July 2011 whereas the final results will be released in March 2012 and for sub-national level in June 2012.

He pointed out in the Statistics Law 2005, there were articles on penalties on respondents who did not provide accurate, timely and complete information and penalties on designated statistical officers who breached confidentiality of individual information.

He said that the NIS as well as the National Statistics System (NSS) would strengthen economic statistics, economic census and surveys so that the establishment based data would be available for use. From 2013, the NIS will do establishment survey every year. To conclude, on behalf of the NSS, he thanks the Government of Japan and JICA for providing technical assistance and funding for the project the EC2011.

Mr. Mich Kanthul, Director of Economic Statistics Department, the NIS, reported about the outline of the EC2011 including especially the census coverage, the definition of establishment, organization of the census, method of the census enumeration, training of local staff, supervisors and enumerators, rearrangement of the enumeration area maps of the nation-wide establishment listing of Cambodia 2009, submission of documents to the superior organizations, topics to be studied, tabulation and data processing, dissemination, pretest of forms, pilot survey and post-census stage's business.

Mr. Hor Darith, Deputy Director General, the NIS reported on fund contribution of development partners for the EC2011. He said the Government of Japan would support the census about US\$ 2,243,061, JICA would support the census about US\$ 536,100, and the RGC would bear US\$ 697,000. The total budget is estimated at US\$ 3,476,168.

In the next item of agenda, DG of the NIS also red the draft of the decision on the establishment of the CTC under the chairmanship of H.E. In Saroeurng, Permanent Vice Chairman of the NCC and including members, Deputy Secretary Generals of the MEF, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy, Ministry of Tourism, the CDC (director of department) and senior staff of the MOP/NIS.

Plenary discussions:

At the discussions, representative of the Secretariat of Civil Aviation said that his office used to survey on various aspects of establishments related to his sector on various aspects of establishments in 1997. But, concerning the issues of revenues and expenditures, there were great difficulties.

H.E. Duch Theov from the CDC agreed with this ideas, in addition, he said, more often the owners of the establishments did not want to tell us the truth about the costs and profits (they try to increase the costs even though the RGC accorded them tax free period for some import say for 5 years, so that finally the profit is less). This causes difficulties for us to elaborate economic policies and for researchers to study the true phenomena. Regarding the costs of the EC2011, he feels that may be too little, not enough.

H.E. Ou Bun Long, Secretary of State of the MEF, said that the MOP had to prepare for the budget request to the MEF. That mentions the total costs of the EC2011 which will be shared by the Government of Japan, JICA, and the RGC. He mentioned that he believed that some establishments needed to declare the truth revenue in order to get loan from the banks, so he was not worried about that.

H.E. Ouk Maly, Deputy Governor of the NBC said that the EC2011 would help the NIS to compile national accounts, GDP. So it is very important, many ministries and institutions are involved. But she said that the tax department would be involved more than others. The micro finance, they have balance sheets.

H.E. In Saroeurng, Secretary of State, the MOP, Permanent Vice Chairman of the NCC, stressed on the importance of training of fieldworkers, they should receive suitable training from core trainers from the NIS if possible and he requested the 5 ministries, institutions to send the names quickly once received the official letter from the NCC.

In replying to this, H.E. Ou Bun Long said that he would send senior staff of Tax Department to join and assist the CTC replacing him in technical meetings. But in fieldwork, he suggests no staff from Tax Department will be involved, because this causes fear from establishments to tell the truth on profit and so on.

The representative of the CDC agreed on this issue and encouraged the NIS to try to get information from respondents as good as possible. So we can have data of high quality.

Mr. F. Nishi, Chief Advisor, JICA, mentioned that we had been assisting and cooperating with the MoP. Although we are planning to continue to assist to EC2011, it is not officially fixed yet. He also mentioned that most of the advanced countries conducted an economic census successfully, and collected very important economic statistics for policy planning and other

purposes. Therefore, to conduct EC2011 successfully is very important for the further development of Cambodia. Although he heard some problems raised by the participants here, he requested to the participants to make effort for reaching EC 2011 successfully and lead Cambodian nation to understand the importance of EC 2011.

As summary of the meeting and discussions, H.E. Chhay Than mentioned again the importance of the economic census for the development and the commitment of the RGC to undertake the economic census. We need to start our work now, so that the work will be progressing smoothly. He mentioned the cooperation from all was very important. The economic census is a huge work and requires massive human resources and equipment. So we need to mobilize our resources. Finally, he requested the representatives of absent members, to inform and explained to them the proceedings of the meeting.

The meeting was concluded by H.E. Chhay Than, Senior Minister, Minister of Planning and Chairman of the NCC and adjourned at 11:20 am, at the same date.

San Sy Than
DG, the NIS
Secretary of the NCC