

Opening address of H.E. CHHA Y THAN

Senior Minister, Minister of Planning Chairman of the
National Census Committee

at the First Meeting of National Census Committee for 2011

Economic/Establishment Census of Cambodia November 30, 2009

Respected:

- Excellencies Members of National Census Committee
- Distinguished Representative of JICA, Embassy of Japan, JICA experts of NIS
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I have great pleasure to welcome Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen to the First Meeting of the National Census Committee for 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia.

The National Census Committee for 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia was established by Royal Government of Cambodia based on Sub-decree on Economic Census which is in force since 26 August 2009 for giving overall guidance to Ministry of Planning in conducting the Economic Census in March 2011.

According to the history of Statistics in Cambodia, we never conducted the Economic Census. The Statistics Law was enacted in May 2005 and allowed the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning to coordinate the statistical activities in National Statistical System and conduct censuses and other main surveys.

Economic Census is one of three censuses stated in the Statistics Law that has to be conducted by NIS. It will provide the main statistical information on economic activities and information on the location for developing the economy and strengthen the policies of Royal Government aiming at good governance and elaborating the National Development Plan and poverty eradication of the people.

Economic Census is the necessary requirements of the Royal Government of Cambodia in current circumstances in order to obtain support from development partners, local investors as well as foreign investors.

Census is a huge task that Royal Government in current situation needs mainly the support from development partners because the lack of funding, technical capacity and experiences of our staff are limited. In the Statistical Master Plan (SMP) 2008-2015

which was approved by Statistics Advisory Council in 2007 stated that Population Census should be conducted in 2008 and Economic/ Establishment Census in 2011.

In the past, JICA and Government of Japan have provided the Technical Cooperation Project from August 2005 till now for supporting the economic statistics sector such as the training and capacity building of the staff and nation-wide establishment listing as well as population census 2008.

According to the work plan and discussions with JICA who is development partner for Economic Census, the First Meeting of National Census Committee for 2011 Economic Census in Cambodia is to review of progress of administrative works of the census, the census work plan, the establishment of the Census Technical Committee with support from JICA experts.

In the Census Plan, the total budget is about 3.5 millions US dollars. JICA and Government of Japan will bear 2.8 millions US dollars and Royal Government of Cambodia will bear 697,000 US dollars as counterpart.

The Sub-Decree specified census dates for Economic Census of Cambodia as 1st March 2011.

For successfully conducting the census, we need to disseminate widely among the establishment owners about the size of the census, purpose of the Census to obtain their good cooperation. We ensure to the owners of establishments that all individual information collected will be kept confidential according to the Statistics Law. We must do public advocacy campaign by proper method about economic census.

The main objective of the Census is its results be used and properly analyzed for the development of the country. Census Data will be disseminated through publications and electronic media.

Census Technical Committee will be established to review and finalize the forms of Census in all technical aspects. All Provincial Census Committees for 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia will be formed in the future.

Finally, I would like to express my profound gratitude to JICA and the Government of Japan who have provided their technical and financial assistance to the census project. I would like to appeal all members of National Census Committee for 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia, other involved staff, TV and Radio and the public to have good cooperation in the great national and historical task of 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia and make it a success.

Thank you!