

**Opening Address by
H.E. Chhay Than
Senior Minister, Minister of Planning
at Ceremony of Releasing Preliminary Results of Nation-wide
Establishment Listing of Cambodia 2009
National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning
Tuesday 9th June, 2009 at 8:30 am**

- Mr. Junji Nakatani, Secretary, Embassy of Japan
- Ms. Minori Terada, Project Formulation Advisor, JICA Cambodia Office
- Mr. F. Nishi, Chief Adviser of JICA Project
- Your Excellencies Government Members
- Representatives of Development Partners
- Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is my great pleasure and honor to participate in this ceremony of Releasing Preliminary Results of the 2009 Nation-wide Establishment Listing of Cambodia. I would like to convey my most welcome and profound gratitude to all excellencies, ladies and gentlemen for your attention and taking the time out of your busy schedules to actively participate in this ceremony.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the Ministry of Planning and my own behalf I would like to express our gratitude and highly appreciation the Government of Japan and JICA for their assistance of both technical and financial support through the project on “Improving Official Statistics in Cambodia” in collaboration with National Institute of Statistics (NIS) to the successful conducting of the 2009 Nation-wide Establishment Listing of Cambodia. I would also like to thank Embassy of Japan, JICA and its representatives Ms. Minori Terada, Project Formulation Advisor, JICA Cambodia Office and Mr. F. Nishi, Chief Adviser of JICA Project for their tireless efforts to ensure the success of the project.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

On the outset, allow me to brief you all on the historical operation of establishment listing and its outcomes that Cambodia benefited from the international community in its effort to strengthen statistical capacity since we started the project of ADB and UNDP in 1992.

History of Establishment Listing

Since that time, a significant number of donor-led data collection and compilation activities have been undertaken, with the ADB among the first development partners to the NIS. The ADB has provided extensive support on capacity building data collections for macro economic and industrial statistics. In fact, large-scale establishment surveys were carried out in 1993, 1995 and 2000, and quarterly establishment survey for Phnom Penh from 2001 to 2003 with support received from ADB. Due to limitation of government budget, the NIS has never continued its activity on establishment survey since the ADB project phased out in 2003.

After ADB, the NIS has received support from JICA to conduct establishment survey in major provinces in a stage for the 2009 Nation-wide Establishment Listing (EL2009) and the run-up to the 2011 economic census as setting out in Statistical Master Plan 2008-2015. Through JICA supports, the NIS has conducted the first Establishment Listing for Phnom Penh in 2006 and then Sample Establishment Survey for Phnom Penh in 2007. Through these activities, question forms, manuals, and methods were tested and core staff have been trained.

Subsequently the NIS started to prepare for EL2009 in November 2008 and actual field data collection was carried out from 9th February to 8th March 2009 with reference date on 9th February 2009. It was historically the first Establishment Listing conducted as complete count. As you are aware that the EL2009 has been supporting by the Government of Japan and JICA through the project on “Improving Official Statistics in Cambodia, Phase II”, now we have the aggregated number of establishments for the whole country where the NIS and JICA jointly derived based on Summary Forms of EL2009 collected from each establishment unit during the period between February and March of this year. Therefore, we have the opportunity gathering all together to release the preliminary results today.

Importance of EL2009

The EL2009 results are indeed very important. It provides fundamental data for compiling national accounts statistics that is an indicator to make us know the economics situation of the country. From these results, we will be able to produce the various statistical tables, for example number of establishments, number of employees by type of economic activities and sizes of establishment, number of establishments per 1000 persons and establishment density. Moreover, the EL2009 results not only available for the whole country data, but it also provides possible to break down by province, district, commune, and village levels.

In addition, the EL2009 results will be used comprehensively as a sampling frame for more detailed establishments and enterprises survey on the production goods and services, including small and medium enterprises in accordance to international standards. More importantly, it will be used as a census frame for the 2009 economic census of Cambodia. Through this activity, it also provides the NIS staff to strengthen their skills, knowledge and abilities of both central and provincial offices, in particular toward the 2011 Economics Census.

On the other hand, the results of EL2009 will provide information on the current situation economic activities in Cambodia and serve for various users such as policy makers, NGOs, private sectors, researchers and development partners. Further, the EL2009 provides a clear picture of socio-economic development through surveying activities of establishments and workers, including those under small and medium-size enterprises. The EL2009 results will also contribute to the decentralization and de-concentration process of the Royal Government in supporting statistical-based planning and financial supports at sub-national levels.

Although we release the preliminary results of EL2009 today, it might be slightly different from the EL2009 final results that we are planed to be released in December this year. I hope that the discussions we are going to have during the next couple of hours will be successful and an important step forward in firmly anchoring economic statistics as part of the country' official statistical system.

In the end, I would like to express my high appreciation to the active participation of Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen in the seminar of releasing the preliminary results of the EL2009 being held at the MOP today. I would like deep thanks are also given to all staff of NIS and MOP, JICA experts and advisors who devoted of hard works and contributed to the great success of the EL2009. May I now to announce the opening of the ceremony of releasing the preliminary results of the EL2009 and wish you great success in your endeavors.

Thank you!