

Speech by Mr. Fumihiko NISHI,
Chief Advisor of the Project,
At the occasion of the Opening Ceremony of the Training Course of
the Project on Improving Official Statistics in Cambodia
10 November 2005

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to deliver a speech here. First of all, let me introduce myself. I am F. Nishi. In Japan, I am a government official and work for Statistical Research and Training Institute. I come to Cambodia every three months as a chief advisor of this project. So, I now work for two Statistical Institutes in both Cambodia and Japan.

I am really happy to have an opening ceremony here. I would like to let you know that many people, commencing with H.E. Mr. San Sy Than, Director General of NIS, Mr. Chikaraishi, Resident Representative of JICA Cambodia Office, and Director General of Statistics Bureau of Japan, have made great efforts for a long time in order to commence this project. Therefore, I really would like to make this project successful.

This project is so far expected for two years from this August till August 2007. This statistical training is a main activity of this project, and consists of basic courses, intermediate courses, and advanced courses. Therefore, this training is meaningful not only for beginners of statistics but also for advanced officers. In addition, since we will repeat the same courses every year, you will have some chances to apply to different level courses.

The lecturers of this training, commencing with DR. Inoue who was the former Director of Population Division, United Nations HQ, consist of university professors, the former Director Generals of Statistics Bureau of Japan, and so on.

Since, as I mentioned now, this training consists of excellent lecturers and various courses, I am confident that this training will be able to provide the same high level and intensive contents as that of Statistical Institute in Japan.

I hope you will learn new knowledge as much as possible through this training, and contribute to improve official statistics in Cambodia.

As we all know, there is correlation between level of nation and quality of official statistics, because official statistics are often utilized for national policy making. Therefore, if you contribute to improve official statistics, Cambodia will be developed more quickly.

Finally, I would like to conclude my speech by expressing my sincere gratitude to NIS and Ministry of Planning.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.