

National Ministerial Roundtable on Green Growth Roadmap

City Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap City, Cambodia, 08 February 2010.

SUMMARY REPORT

Introduction:

The Ministry of Environment of the Royal Government of Cambodia embarked on the development of a National Green Growth Roadmap in January 2009, through a capacity building pilot project with expert support provided by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and generously funded by Korean International Cooperation Agency KOICA. A National Green Growth Secretariat was established in the Ministry of Environment to support the activities of Inter Ministerial Working Group to develop the National Green Growth Roadmap of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The National Green Growth Roadmap was presented at a National Ministerial Roundtable on 8 February 2010 in the City Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap City, Cambodia. The meeting was opened and chaired by **Representative of the Ministry of Environment His Excellency Khong Sam Nuon** Secretary of State for the Environment. The meeting was attended by 60 participants, including representatives of 19 line ministries and some donors and NGOs attended the meeting, as well as representatives of **ESCAP, UNEP, UNDP, KOICA, UNIDO, SUNLABOB, China Industry-University Research Institute Collaboration Association** (see Annex I for list of participants).

Objectives:

Objectives of the National Ministerial Roundtable on Green Growth Roadmap:

- 1- To Discuss the National Green Growth Roadmap of the Kingdom of Cambodia at the highest political level and to seek endorsement from all partner Ministries towards implementation;
- 2- To Demonstrate the effort of Cambodian Government on the sustainable economic development and the greening of economic growth;
- 3- To seek donor support towards implement the National Green Growth Roadmap.

Welcome Remark:

Mr. Shaoyi Li, O-I-C, Environment and Development Division, made welcome remarks and congratulated the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on behalf of Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP on the auspicious event marked by the endorsement of the National Green Growth Roadmap drafted by the Inter-

ministerial Green Growth Working Group under the guidance of the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia.

Opening of the Meeting:

The meeting was opened and chaired by Representative of the Ministry of Environment His Excellency Khong Sam Nuon, Secretary of State for the Environment and as Chairman of National Inter Ministerial Green Growth Working Group. His Excellency started by thanking ESCAP for selecting Cambodia as a target country for developing a pilot project on environmentally sustainable development and the green growth. He thanked Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and especially thanks to the Government and People of the Republic of Korea that provided financial support for the project initiative to develop the important “**National Green Growth Roadmap**”.

He addressed that rapid economic development trends have put pressure on the environment throughout the Asia and the Pacific region, especially climate change as a problem generated by industrial sector emissions and other human activities. Those consequences were not only happening to our generation but would also be affecting future generations. He stressed that it was necessary to adapt to and reduce these effects. In order to contribute addressing these unavoidable consequences, the Ministry of Environment has been working closely with other ministries and institutions, particularly with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, International organizations, and development partners to develop the National Green Growth Roadmap as an important tool, and it will be provided as a supportive framework for social and economic development in order to aid the creation of prosperous and sustainable development in the Kingdom of Cambodia. The roadmap would play an important role for strengthening environmental cooperation not only within Cambodia but also at the regional and global levels in the future. He stressed that the National Green Growth Roadmap would contribute to the better formulation of national economic development policy as well as contribute to the achievement of the implementation of Millennium Development Goals, National Development Strategic Plan, and Rectangular Strategy of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

He expressed his thanks to **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padey Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister** of the Royal Government of Cambodia that always providing greatest leadership with commitment and policy advice to ensure the national prosperous development by mainstreaming environmental sustainability into national development agenda to conserve the environment in order to reduce poverty and increasing job opportunities to the people.

At the end, Excellency Khong Sam Nuon expressed deeply thanks on behalf of himself, of the Ministry of Environment for the Inter ministerial Green Growth Working Group and in particular, the ESCAP Assistant Team **Mr. Masakazu Ichimura, Ms. Aneta Nikolova, Mr. Simon**

Hoiberg Olsen for their hard work and committed and cooperation in the drafting of the National Green Growth Roadmap. Finally he declared his commitment towards implementing the initiatives proposed in the roadmap for sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Cambodia.

Outputs of the Meeting:

Representatives from 19 ministries were present at the roundtable, including representatives from Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Planning, Phnom Penh Municipality, Phnom Penh Environmental Department, Siemreap Environmental Department and representatives from development agencies and entrepreneurs including UNESCAP, KOICA, UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP, SUNLABOB and China Industry-University Research Institute Collaboration Association expressed their support of the National Green Growth Roadmap. Comments and statements are summarized below and include those from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, who sent their strong support for the roadmap. However, he showed his concern about the implementation of REDD programme, this project was finished since lack of financial support when it reached the stage of project idea note (PIN).He requested all concerned donors to continue to support the implementation of this projects; the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports would support through the initiative on Clean Green and Beautiful Schools, where they share an effort to increase green spaces in schools, through the increased planting of trees. They also recommended that Phnom Penh municipality with the MoE, the MAFF and Schools should focus on making urban education areas become green and at the same time incorporate environmental education into the national curriculum.

The Ministry of Health shared that they are ready to provide financial and human resources for implementation of the framework on green growth. They shared that they intend to improve the health sector and strengthen health care facilities by rehabilitating and building new facilities in rural areas to increase access to these services among the rural population. In addition they shared that they intend to strengthen their work in rural areas also concerning the Inter-ministerial Green Growth Working Group. The Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction shared general information about their work including facts on the household and private sector land use planning having to respect ministerial guidelines; that the relationship between people and environment must be balanced; that they are working to encourage local people to use natural resources effectively. He also requested all the building in Cambodia should consider or keep the traditional architecture through maintaining the roof

styles. He proposed to keeping the Khmer Building's identity. The Ministry of Economy and Finance shared their appreciation and support of the Roadmap now and for the future, and they thanked the donor agencies for support of green growth projects. They also commented that the Deputy PM raise a point during the last CDC meeting: being that 13 million USD have been collected for projects at UNDP, would it be possible for the UNDP to channel some of this for environment and to implement the projects in the roadmap. On behalf of H.E. SUY SEM the representative of the Ministry of Industry Mines and Energy expressed his strong appreciation and support for this meeting and the development of Roadmap. He thanked donors and international experts in green industry to initiate the concept of low carbon society. He shared that the Ministry aimed to start with policy development for Green Growth; develop a regulatory framework to support environmentally sound industry; and cleaner/quality products, chemicals management and other industrial sectors. He also expressed his support for green growth and stated that his ministry will try its best to cooperate to implement this project with others, and finally requested donors to provide strong support for the implementation of the projects as proposed in the roadmap. The Ministry of Tourism stated that environmental sustainability is very important for tourism sector; it is a core issue for national development at all levels. The representative thanked officers of UNESCAP and the entire donor community for strongly supporting both technical and financial aspects of the creation of the roadmap. The representative from Ministry of Interior also expressed his strong support on the development of this green growth roadmap and he also welcomed and provided assistances from his side on the implementation of green growth projects. Meanwhile Ministry of Labour Vocational and Training and Ministry of Women Affairs as well as Ministry of Commerce expressed their strong support for the roadmap and they will continue to support the implementation of this roadmap and also the projects listed in the roadmap.

Donor Community comments:

UNEP welcomed the roadmap and recognized its importance not only for Green Growth but for mainstreaming environmental sustainability into other development plans and sectors. The representative stated that this roadmap can provide a viable model for replication in other countries within the region and globally. UNEP stated their support of projects for sustainable coastal zone development and management and a project to assess sea level rise in Cambodia. UNEP is in fact already planning a 3 million dollar coastal management adaptation programme with partners. UNEP is also implementing the Green Economy initiative on a global level and believe that the local implementation thereof can support the green growth roadmap later in the year. UNEP believes that these mentioned projects will thematically feed into the realization of the Green Growth Roadmap. UNEP further supports the suggested implementation plan as presented by ESCAP representatives. They would very much cope with the UN more closely on realizing the goals set forth in the roadmap, it is suggested that the UN partners could meet at a

later stage to discuss internally on how the UN can work with the Cambodian government to support this programme. In terms of private sector development UNEP suggests that the government contact McKinesy consulting, who recently have done relevant work with the Indonesian government and could possibly help harness the greening potential of the private sector in Cambodia as well.

KOICA commented that they will continue cooperation on the implementation of the Green Growth roadmap in Cambodia and that they are willing to continue dialogue with the Green Growth Secretariat on aiding the implementation of planned future projects. He also released about the 200\$ million for implementing the green growth project for sustainable development in the region.

SUNLABOB - a private social entrepreneurship pioneer in the region pointed out that solutions to improve livelihoods in rural Cambodia must be not only affordable but also commercially viable, in order to be sustainable and long lasting interventions. Their own example of a solar lantern rental system, as implemented in Uganda, Afghanistan and LAO PDR is planned to become one of the initial Green Growth demonstration projects to raise awareness on good efforts to improve environment and economy at the same time. The CEO of the company pointed out that public private partnerships are crucial for the success of any development project.

UNIDO pointed out that they will put their minds together and identify areas where they can further contribute to the implementation of the Green Growth Roadmap in Cambodia.

UNDP commented that it was positive to see such widespread agreement on the roadmap among ministries. UNDP has worked on energy efficiency and climate change in Cambodia for a long time and they promise to look at the carious projects proposed in the roadmap to see convergences and then they will contact the Ministry of Environment again Further UNDP noted that while private sector involvement is crucial for sustained green development in Cambodia, the issues surrounding climate change and Green growth are not yet well understood by the private sector, and that further capacity building and awareness raising is necessary.

ESCAP commented that the way of implementation of Green Growth in Cambodia is very practical and very forceful and that this endorsement of the roadmap is a very good starting point. It was further pointed out that while excellent planning is crucial, it is still only a starting point and that the implementation will be troublesome and difficult and required more concerned effort by government, private sector, local communities and international community. In this regard, ESCAP promised further assistance and help in the implementation of Green Growth in Cambodia and encouraged the Ministry of Environment and its Green Growth Secretariat to continue working on the implementation of projects and policy measures to further Green Growth. As comment to the other UN organizations, ESCAP emphasized the growing popularity

of Green Growth all over the world, but pointed out that both meaning and implications of green growth are locally specific and that the implementation of Green Growth in Cambodia must therefore respond to local needs and focus on the provision of basic services in an environmentally sustainable way. This must happen through the projects and initiatives in the roadmap and the implementation must happen by use of unique Cambodian approaches and with further support from the UN and bilateral donors. This way, Cambodia has the opportunity to avoid repeating mistakes of other developed countries and emerging economies. However it was pointed out that more funding must be mobilized because this seed money is needed to trigger the process of greening the economy. In this regard ESCAP voiced the suggestion to KOICA and UNDP whether these two organizations could go together to voice a donor pledge in support of the roadmap and create a meeting and invite other donors like EU or others. UN organizations can also be helpful in the transfer of appropriate technology by supporting South-South cooperation and transfer biogas and solar lanterns to improve the situation in rural areas. The support of the forest through REDD and PES should also be further focused on by UN agencies. Finally ESCAP stated that they will continue to support Green Growth in general on a regional level and also find further support for the National Green Growth Secretariat in Cambodia. In addition, they will create contact between the GG secretariat and the Asia-Pacific Centre for Technology Transfer in Incheon Republic of Korea to try to create a better flow of sound technology to Cambodia. Finally, since Green Growth and green economy has become a global undertaking, ESCAP would like to propose to invite Cambodia to RIO plus 20 in 2012 to let Cambodia share their experience in the greening of economic growth with the rest of the world.

His Excellency Khong Sam Nuon, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment closed the Ministerial Roundtable Discussion on National Green Growth Roadmap thanking Secretaries of State, Under Secretaries of State representing Ministries, Inter ministerial GG Working Group and Representing Donors for their presence and their valuable inputs for the discussion on National Green Growth Roadmap. The meeting closed at 6pm with a good atmosphere and expectations for coordination and cooperation in implementing the National Green Growth Roadmap.