



**Kingdom of Cambodia  
Nation Religion King**

**Ministry of Planning**

**Minute of  
8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Statistics Coordination Committee**

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On twenty, May, two thousand and eleven at eight o'clock and thirty minutes, there was a meeting of Statistics Coordination Committee (SCC) in the National Institute of Statistics (NIS), Ministry of Planning (MOP) under the chairmanship of H.E. San Sy Than, Director General of NIS and Chairman of SCC with presence of the following members:

- 1- Mr. Heang Kanol, NIS, MOP
- 2- Mr. Chhuon Sothy, NIS, MOP
- 3- H.E. Vy Heang, Advisor to MOP
- 4- Mr. Lay Chhan, NIS, MOP
- 5- Mr. Nob Kannavuth, General Department of Planning, MOP
- 6- Ms. Birgitta Mannfelt, Chief Advisor of Sida to NIS, MOP
- 7- Ms. Gunilla Lundholm, Statistics Advisor, Sida
- 8- Mr. Fumihiko Nishi, Chief Advisor of JICA to NIS, MOP
- 9- Mr. Heng Sorphorn, Member from Ministry of Industry, Mine and Energy
- 10- Ms. Chhoy Kimsor, Member from Ministry of Women's Affairs
- 11- Mr. Ouk Sady, Representative from National Bank of Cambodia
- 12- Mr. Cheam Sivanny, Member from Public Works and Transportation
- 13- Mr. Pal Vuthika, Member from Ministry of Post and Telecommunication
- 14- Mr. Khim Sophea, Member from Ministry of Economy and Finance
- 15- Mr. Bun Thoeurn, Member from General Department of Taxation
- 16- Mr. Hurl Thirik, Representative from General Department of Taxation
- 17- Mr. Buo Chanphal, Member from Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training
- 18- Mr. Kong Putheara, Member from Ministry of Commerce
- 19- Mr. Kong Sophearak, Member from Ministry of Tourism
- 20- Mr. Kan Sophea, Representative from Ministry of National Defense
- 21- Mr. Heak Pry, Representative from Ministry of Rural Development
- 22- Mr. Ngan Vuthy, Member from Council of Ministers
- 23- Mr. Lao Chimean, Member from Ministry of Information
- 24- Ms. Kuy Phalla, Member from Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
- 25- Mr. Tan Bun Pa, Member from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International

- 26- Mr. Im Sophir, Representative from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- 27- Mr. Nhuong Bun Loeun, Member from Religion and Cults
- 28- Mr. Suon Mean, Member from Ministry of Environment
- 29- Mr. Chan Rasmey, Member from Ministry of Parliament and Senate Relation, and Inspection
- 30- Mr. Chik Nan, Member from Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
- 31- Mr. Chan Sovanna, Member from Ministry of Interior
- 32- Mr. Ly Vy, Member from Ministry of Social Affairs, Former Veteran, and Youth Rehabilitation
- 33- H.E. Hong Choeurn, Member from Agency of Labor and Occupation

**Absence:**

- 1- Mr. Tuy Lay Rithy, Member from Ministry of Land Management, Urbanization and Construction
- 2- Mr. Khlorck Sam Ang, Member from Ministry of Water Resource, and Meteorology
- 3- H.E. Cheang Chhun Try, Member from General Department of Customs and Tax Exercise
- 4- Mr. Sorn Di Denin, Member from Council for Development of Cambodia (Private Investment Sector)
- 5- Mr. Sao Sovan Rathanak, Member from Ministry of Health
- 6- Mr. Kim Sray, Member from Secretariat of Civil Air Aviation
- 7- Mr. Khut Khun, Member from Ministry of Justice
- 8- Mr. Sotheara, Member from Culture and Fine Art
- 9- Mr. Sem vannak, Member from Secretariat of Public Civil Savants

**Agenda:**

- Welcomed remarks of Chairman of SCC (H.E. San Sy Than, Director Generak, NIS)
- Introduction on statistics coordination by Ms. Gunilla Lundholm, Statistics Advisor, Sida
- Coffee break
- Report on capacity of statistics staff in statistical system of Cambodia by Ms. Nong Sokhun Theavy, Bureau Chief of Statistics Coordination, and Ms. Birgitta Mannfelt, Chief Advisor, Sida
- Report on Meta data of official designated statistics by Ms. So Sovan Chakriya, Deputy Director of Statistics Standard and Analysis, Ms. Suy Sotheara, Bureau Chief of Policy and Statistics Regulations, and Ms. Birgitta Mannfelt, Chief Advisor, Sida

- Discussion on other issues and closing

Starting the meeting, H.E. San Sy Than, Chairman of SCC expressed sincere thanks to members of SCC who are present that exceed number of members mentioned in the article 18 of Sub-decree on Organization and Functioning of the National Statistical System, which the meeting could be proceeded and reported on the progress of producing statistical data to avoid duplication and unmet need for the Royal Government, decision makers, researchers, and private sector. Excellency Chairman spoke in the meeting about the reason of delay of SCC meeting because we were very busy with conducting 2011 Economic Census which is the first-ever event in history of Cambodia and we are very proud of haivg results that about 96% of large scale establishments and almost 100% of small scale of establishments responded and even development partners also satisfied these results.

Following to the agenda of the meeting, Excellency Chairman gave the floor to Ms. Gunilla Lundholm, Statistics Advisor, Sida to make introduction on coordination of national statistical system.

Ms. Birgitta Mannfelt made an intervention on the national statistical system which is a decentralized system. Short and medium term training on English; Computer Word, Excel, SPSS, STATA, ICT; and general knowledge have to be urgently conducted to designated official statistics units in line ministries in order to get timely and quality of statistical data.

Mr. F. Nishi, Chief Advisor from Japan asked Ms. Birgitta Mannfelt whether the Sida project could establish Data Clearing House for storing data including minutes of meetings and other documents of National Statistics Committee (NSC), SCC, and Technical Working Group (TWG), which could be connected in website by line ministries or not?. This work could serve to ministries, institutions, which are not member of NSC, SCC for their understanding about on-going designated official statistics that has been being done in Japan as well.

She answered that we need to correctly translate into Khmer before storing in the website of NIS, MOP and this work requires budget and human resource and perhaps it will be begun in the short future.

Ms. Nong Sokhun Theavy, Bureau Chief of Statistics Coordination reported on the capacity of statistics staff in the National Statistical System of Cambodia (NSSC) by presenting name, age, position, current and former statistics units, additional training course, and evaluation of understanding on statistics knowledge.

Ms. So Sovan Chakriya, Deputy Director of Statistics Standard and Analysis, and Ms. Suy Sotheara, Bureau Chief of Statistics Policy and Regulations reported on official designated Meta data that requires the fulfillment on name of ministry/ institution, address, name of general department, name of department, name of bureau or statistics units, and the last part is on the number of officials who are working on statistics so on.

Mr. Heang Kanol, Deputy Director General, NIS, made intervention related to collection of questionnaires forms on capacity of statistics staff in NSSC and designated official Meta data which is mentioned in chapter 3, article 6 of the Sub-decree on the Designated Official Statistics and there were only 17 line ministries and institutions submitted their reports to NIS. Those reports are very important for reporting to the Council of Ministers in upcoming July 2011.

Next, Excellency Chairman suggested all members in the meeting to approve on the establishment of the TWG for training on the NSSC and selecting a group leader, 2 vice-group leaders, and 4 group members. The meeting agreed to select Mr. Heang Kanol, Deputy Director, NIS as a group leader; Mr. Chhuon Sothy, Director of Statistics Policy and Coordination of NIS; and Ms. Rin Sitha, Deputy Director of Statistics Policy and Coordination of NIS as vice-group leader; and other 4 members from Ministry of Women's Affairs; Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; and representative of Labor and Occupation as group member.

Excellency Chairman of the meeting concluded that TWG will monitor, study and discuss in detail with statistics of Sida, and report to the SCC meeting about coordination and training. For those ministries/institutes that have not yet submitted questionnaire forms to NIS must be hurry up to submit before meeting of Statistical Advisory Council (SAC) for reporting to the meeting. The next meeting should be held after three months, inviting by Chairman of SCC.

The meeting ended at eleven o'clock and forty five minutes within the same day and with pleasure and closer environment.

Seen and Agreed

Chairman

(Signature and Seal)

San Sy Than

Minute Taker

(Signature)

Chhuon Sothy

Cc:

- Cabinet of Minister, Ministry of Planning
- Members of SCC
- Document

**Kingdom of Cambodia**  
**Nation Religion King**

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**Statistics Advisory Committee**

**Minute of**

**Meeting of Statistics Advisory Committee**

26 May 2011

On twenty six, May, two thousand and eleven at eight o'clock and thirty minutes in the morning, there was a meeting of the Statistics Advisory Committee (SAC) presided over by H.E. Chhay Than, Senior Minister, Minister of Planning and Chairman of SAC at meeting room, National Institute of Statistics (NIS). There were 14 participants of SAC members invited by chairman were present in the meeting: Excellences, Ladies, Secretary of States and representative members but there was absence of the following member of SAC:

- 1- H.E. Sak Setha, Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior (on mission at abroad)
- 2- H.E. Suos Kong, Secretary of State, Ministry of Rural Development
- 3- H.E. Eng Huot, Secretary of State, Ministry of Health
- 4- H.E. Suong Heng, Secretary of State, Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Starting the meeting, Senior Minister, Minister of Planning, and Chairman of SAC welcomed members and made remarks as follow:

So far, SAC with development partners (SAC-donors) held several meetings.

This time meeting was the second time of SAC after the first one in year two thousand and seven to adopt Statistics Master Plan (SMP) and our SAC also join in the word Statistics Day, an important event as distinguished guests on 20 October 2010

So far, we could see that development as well as strengthening of national statistical system had been gone smoothly by having approved on all statistics regulations that are the basic foundation for supporting to this work for sustainably running: Statistics Law, Sub-decree on Organization and Functioning of National Statistical System (2007), Sub-decree on Designated Official Statistics which promulgated in July 2010. Among those, the most important tasks that mention on article 10 related to data collection from existing administrative data, census, and survey must be sent to Council of Ministers before upcoming July, only one month ahead. Our meeting at this time also would like to review and discuss on another one

important work in accordance with an article 6 of Statistics Law mentioned on conducting three censuses: Population Census, Agriculture Census, and Establishment Census. By this time, we could successfully conduct two censuses. Therefore, our meeting also invited some development partners to attend in order to request them to provide technical support and especially financial assistance for conducting another Agriculture Census that this census data is being waited and requiring by users from national and international development partners, and Royal Government as well. Next, please **H.E. San Sy Than**, Director General, NIS make report.

**H.E. San Sy Than:** Report on Statistics Activities:

It is very proud that statistics field of Cambodia could obtain statistics regulations such as Statistics Law, Sub-decrees related to development of statistics. As Excellency Senior Minister, Chairman of the meeting already said that we oblige to conduct one more Agriculture Census. I would like to review that in fact in SMP, Agriculture Census is planned to conduct in 2009 and 2010 but because of our budget shortage, it has delayed until nowadays. I would like to disclose budget that we have had promising budget in 2008: Royal Government (nearly US\$700,00), FAO (US\$500,000), AusAID (US\$600,000), AFD French (US\$100,000). This budget is not adequate for conducting the census. According to the budget plan prepared by FAO, it needs about 4 million dollar for Agriculture Census. Due to our delay, promising budget of AusAID (US\$600,000), AFD (US\$100,000) had been now transferred to assist in other sector, and at this time they are also absent that we also invited them to the meeting to request them one again for their assistance. Similarly, KOICA that we recently have requested is also absent.

Training on statistics: JICA has assisted since 2005 to 2007 by providing training to more than 600 staff, and at this time Sida has plan to continue on training, and Asian Development Bank (ADB) also contribute in this work. Other development partners also have assisted to line ministries, provinces by providing short time trainings, mostly on Software for storing, retrieving commune database for usage. I also would like to report on establishing of Technical Working Group (TWG) for training activities that has been selected and consensually approved in the meeting of Statistics Coordination Committee (SCC) on last 20 May 2011.

Statistics coordination work: Sub-decree on Designed Official Statistics already promulgated that all line ministries/ institutions of the Royal government have to carry out. As Senior Minister and Chairman of SAC already emphasized that according to the Sub-decree, the urgent work is to prepare report on designated official statistics (forms of administrative data collection, census, and survey) and send to Council of Ministers by before coming July. NIS has disseminated and instructed several times to fulfill forms and Meta data collection in the meeting of SCC which members are Staff, Director and Deputy Director from line ministries/ institutions of the Royal

Government. But until now, some of fulfilled forms have not yet been submitted. At this time, I also would like to suggest to Excellences, members of the SAC to push up responsible officials at lower level to be hurry to do the best efforts and send back to NIS for finishing this work in time and send to Council of Ministers. On the other hand, NIS also manages and keeps those fulfilled forms in directory of statistical data by name of data form and store in the database by the end of 2011 and host in the website of NIS for general usage.

Excellency chairman of the meeting gave the floor to Sida Advisor to give some ideas and experiences that Sweden used to achieve in statistics field to the meeting.

Ms. Birgitta Mannfelt, Chief Advisor, Sida introduced herself that I am Birgitta Mannfelt, Chief Advisor, Sida to Cambodia for long term and come to help with directing and assisting statistics works of Cambodia for already two years. At this time, our Sweden side has statistics experts for short term, Ms. Gunilla Lundholm, Statistical Coordination, and next I would like to invite Ms. Gunilla Lundholm to give some ideas.

Ms. Gunilla Lundholm: I have worked on statistics coordination more than 10 years in Sweden and I would emphasize to major works:

- 1- Development of coordinating on national statistical system
- 2- Coordination and cooperation of statistics

For the first work, according to document, information (stock, competence inventory) which have been received from line ministries/ institutions, our aim is to conduct training for many statistics skill staff as well as ICT. As mentioned by H.E. San Sy Than, I also participated in the SCC meeting and consensually approved to establish TWG for training activities. This TWG has duties on monitoring, discussing, and coordinating on necessary works in the national statistical system and conduct training before doing something after. Due to some information from line ministries has not yet been submitted, TWG needs to push this work to get Meta data and competence inventory beforehand in order to process at the time of presence of Sida experts here for assisting in this job. Moreover, NIS could also prepare name list, source of statistical data in directory and disseminate in website of NIS.

For the second work is the coordination and cooperation on statistics, I would like to inform to this meeting that Statistics Law and Sub-decree already mentioned, produced and disseminated statistics by NIS and by statistics units of line ministries/ institutions of Royal Government is the designed official statistics for users of Royal Government, as well as international and national organizations for decision making, development policy formulation, and academic researchers. There was a question that why coordination and cooperation on statistics are needed? the answer is that cooperation is necessary condition for statistics coordination because in Cambodia, NIS carries out decentralized statistical system that provide ability to statistics units of line ministries/ institutions of the Royal Government to produce, compile statistics by

own sector for their own use and for users of government intuitions, international organizations, and private sector, and also submit to NIS that has mentioned in Statistics Law and Sub-decrees. Therefore, statistics cooperation obtains information to NIS and statistics units in line ministries/ institutions of the Royal Government which those statistics units can have statistics data produced by NIS. Therefore, some of them are not necessary to produce by other statistics units and if they want to use those data, they can make request to NIS. However, if some of statistics units want to produce, they need to contact to NIS in advance because NIS has name list of statistics data to avoid duplicate statistical data that wastes money, and time. My conclusion, cooperation will bring good coordination and statistics data can also be better and easily serve for users in Cambodia.

Senior Minister and Chairman of the meeting kept to continue on the agenda and put discussion at the last by inviting H.E. San Sy Than to speak.

H.E. **San Sy Than**: let me present one again on financial assistance for Agriculture Census during last time and we have had promising budget from institutions in 2008 (workshop) for Agriculture Census in 2009 as below:

- Royal Government = USD700,000
- FAO = USD500,000
- AusAID = USD600,000 (withdrew to assist other sector)
- AFD France = USD100,000 (withdrew to assist other sector)

I would like to remind that Cambodia conducted three censuses - Population Census in 1998 and 2008, and in recent 2011 Establishment Census that we have got great achievement with having high response rate from large scale establishments such as factory, hotel, and casino etc. Those establishments responded about 96%, higher than some countries in ASEAN. Moreover, data from Agriculture Census is also very important at the time of government has policy on strongly promoting rice produce to increase volume for exporting to international market. For other development partners, we recently has contacted with like KOICA of Korea for their supporting. If Korea can support USD1 million to our unofficial propose, FAO will coordinate for us to start Agriculture Census immediately.

Another work is on EU project which focuses on strengthening data collection on socio-economic especially administrative data for usage. This project also supports to update annual commune database (CDB) which does not relate to NIS. According to recommendation of EU, management of CDB should be placed under NIS and analysis should be done by General Department of Planning.

EU plan to conduct training in capital, and provinces on Software StatoMatic.

#### **Discussion agenda:**

Remarks of Senior Minister, Chairman of the meeting: In accordance with Statistics Law and other Sub-decree, duties of SAC is to adopt core statistics works



such as policy of official statistics, making amendment of SMP, statistics regulations etc. In the past, statistics was not so attractive but statistics is very important to have it, for example in the full member meeting of council of ministers raised up that private school in vocational training must be gathered and place under management of Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training for providing training to meet market demand. But for Planning School and Statistics, if under Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, the market demand does not necessarily need when graduated. Skill in planning and statistics, even no market demand but must have it, without this skill cannot be because all sectors can be smoothly run depends on planning and statistics work. As we are aware, not only communism economy needs planning and statistics but also free market economy needs planning on production, buying in and selling out, profit and loss. Every establishment, owner also has planning and statistics for monitoring and evaluating on his/her business profit. Formulating plan depends on statistics and if there is quality statistics, planning will be effective and responding to the set target. We have reliable and quality statistics produced by NIS and Statistics Units of line ministries/ institutions. What we need to strengthen at this time is statistics produced within some line ministries and as well as at sub-national level toward smooth function of the national statistical system in Cambodia and getting reliable statistics by users.

Excellency Chairman invited members in the meeting to discuss.

H.E. **Chan Tong Ev**, member of SAC from Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry: I agree that national statistical system should be strengthened as mentioned by Chairman because it is difficult when we write a document without having statistics, for example document of customs department. So, It must be strongly strengthened by NIS where is a center for coordinating and consensually cooperating to avoid conflicting statistics when disseminate, for instance Ministry of Agriculture says paddy rice yield is 3 tons per hectar but Ministry of Water Resource says 4 tons per hectar. This work is very important, the face of National Statistics System is also the face of our country, and national and international milieu will not believe if one says like this and another one says like that. This strengthening work needs skillful staff in not only data collection but also analysis. Administrative data collection is not difficult because by record but census is more difficult due to analysis. Ministry of Agriculture has a project with Ministry of Planning and NIS to conduct Agriculture Census but due to the requirement of USD 4millions and not having enough budgets, it needs to resume on appeal to development partners and Royal Government.

Excellency Chairman invited member from Ministry of Economy and Finance by saying that Ministry of Economy and Finance also surely needs designated official statistics from Ministry of Planning such as GDP for calculating economic growth, inflation, and monitoring on the change of commodities so on. Due to Excellency

Hang Chuon Narong who is full member is absent, please representative report to him.

Excellency Chairman requested to ADB by saying that statistics work, ADB used to assist such as surveys which we can base on until nowadays. Therefore, I would like to suggest to ADB to support to Agriculture Census because ADB surely needs this census data to use, especially census data of provinces surrounding Tonle Sap Lake.

ADB's representative remarks: I came here as a representative and having no right to decide but I will report whatever Senior Minister and Chairman of the meeting requested to my Country Director of ADB to see and decide.

Excellency Chairman invited representative of WB to have remark.

Mr. **Nak Sam Sen**, Representative, WB also came but left the meeting due to busy with other meeting.

Excellency Chairman of the meeting invited to H.E. **Ith Praing**, member of SAC from Ministry of Industry, Mines, and Energy to have remark:

H.E. **Ith Praing's** remarks: I found the shortage of budget for conducting Agriculture Census. I agree that data from Agriculture Census is very important because industry sector depends very much on agriculture sector for functioning in our country nowadays, and Ministry of Industry also needs to use data from Agriculture Census. I think that budget management is under the Ministry of Economy and Finance; therefore it should be reconsidered because the Royal Government now is implementing policy of increasing volume of rice export. If base on schedule of SMP, we already delayed 3 years and if we delay more in 2012, side effects will come up with policy makers in agricultural development sector.

Conclusion remark of Excellency Chairman: I think that our important works of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SAC meeting are:

- SAC will strengthen National Statistical System, compiling report on Designated Official Statistics and submitting to Council of Ministers before the end of coming July. I would like to suggest one again to his/her Excellencies as members who are present in this meeting at this time, and his/her Excellencies as members who are absent today (this today meeting has a minute and will send to his/her Excellencies who are members for information) to push Directors, and Deputy Directors who are members of SCC to quickly submit reports to NIS.
- Continue to mobilize budget from development partners to conduct Agriculture Census because we already fail 3 years, and we has prepared everything but just facing budget shortage to conduct it. Agricultural data is every important for formulating development plan in agriculture toward dominantly increasing all kinds of agricultural yields for food security and to stably meet demands in industrial sector.

On the other hand, the world is concerning and focusing on this sector and due to the shortage of food causing food price increased day by day, resulting in serious effects to millions of people, especially in Africa and Asian nowadays. However, it is an opportunity for Cambodia to absorb much more foreign currency for increasing national budget, which benefits from the policy of rice export of the Royal Government.

One again, I am on behalf of Royal Government and as a Chairman of SAC, would like to appeal to development partners who are present and absent in and from this meeting to provide both financial and technical support to Ministry of Planning (NIS), and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for being able to conduct Agriculture Census in 2012 successfully.

Finally, I would like to wish Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen healthy and successful in every duty.

The meeting completely finished at eleven o'clock and 40 minutes in the same day, month, and year.

Seen and Agreed

Phnom Penh, 08 May 2011

Chairman of the meeting

Minute Taker

Phnom Penh, 08 May 2011

Chhay Than

Senior Minister, Minister of Planning, and

Chairman of SAC

Vy Heang

Cc:

- Cabinet of Samdech Prime Minister
- Council of Ministers
- Members of SAC
- Development Partners
- Document