



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



Ministry of Planning

**The First Meeting note Statistical Coordination Committee**



On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 8.30am, at the Meeting hall of the National Institute of Statistics, the Ministry of Planning, under the presidency of H.E Mr. San Sy Than, Director General of National Institute of Statistic, was a chairman of the Statistic Coordinating Committee, the First Meeting of Statistic Coordinating Committee has joined by participation of 27 Ministries as the members , such as :

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
2. Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training
3. Ministry of Rural Development
4. Ministry of Interior
5. Council of Minister
6. Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports
7. Ministry of Economy and Finance
8. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Inspection
9. Ministry of Information
10. Ministry of Post and Telecommunication
11. Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology
12. Ministry of Justices
13. Customs and Excise Department
14. Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts
15. Tax Department
16. Ministry of Social Affairs Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation
17. Ministry of Industry Mines and Energy
18. Ministry of Women Affairs
19. Ministry of Tourism
20. National Bank of Cambodia
21. Ministry of Land Management , Urban Planning and Construction
22. Council for Development of Cambodia ( Cambodia Investment Board )
23. Ministry of Health
24. Ministry of National Defense
25. Ministry of Public Work and Transport
26. Ministry of Religion and Cults
27. Secretariat of Civil Aviation

Absent Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Environment, Secretariat of Publics Service.

## Introduction - San Sy Than

NIS has prepared statistics law and sub-decree on function and organization, signed by the Prime Minister on 26/1/2007. This sub-decree outlines the coordination mechanisms for the national statistical system including the Statistical Advisory Council (SAC) and this body, Statistical Coordination Committee (SCC). The sub-decree outlines the duties of this Statistical Coordination Committee, stating that it has to meet four times a year to discuss plans. Today there are sufficient people attending to produce a quorum, (a quorum is at least half of all members for conducting the meeting – i.e. at least 17 members present, so the meeting can proceed).

The need for awareness and dissemination of information about the statistical law was emphasized, to ensure that people are willing to respond to questionnaires presented to them from official statistical officers.

## Statistical Master Plan (SMP) San Sy Than

Approval of the SMP from the government is important in ensuring support from both the Cambodian government and donors. There was an updated version of the SMP produced in August 2006, which updates of dates and costs. The SMP will be submitted to the Statistical Advisory Council (SAC) for approval. From there it will be presented to the Prime Minister for his approval. This is an important process in advocating for government support and resources to ensure that the statistical coordination work is effective.

## Introduction to statistical coordination

Zia Abassi: There is a decentralized statistics system in Cambodia. Therefore to ensure the supply of good and timely statistics from the government, important that there is good collaboration between NIS and line ministry statistical units. NIS has the mandate for collating all socio-economic statistics, published in the statistics year book. The national accounts which measures GDP growth need statistics from a range of line ministries to produce same realistic figure, in the need for effective coordination and collaboration.

Other ministries like Women's Affairs and Labour & social affairs and Education need access to statistics from NIS to inform their policy development. The SMP tries to ensure that there is enough money for quality statistics produced by NIS and line ministry statistical units. The role of SCC is the implementation the SMP. It is there to ensure funding is adequate and timely, and that there is no duplication of data collection. Also, the SCC will provide forum for announcing new data collections, so that there is an opportunity for input into the design of the data collection instruments from other line ministries.

Statistical Advisory Council (SAC), being a higher level body with representation by secretary or under Secretary of State, can ensure that there is the political support implementation of the recommendations from the Statistical Coordination Committee, if they are approved. There is a need for standard data classifications. One such scheme is the International Standard Industry Classification (ISIC). The National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) currently uses its own classification, Ministry of Mind and Industry uses ISIC revisions three, but should be using revision 4. Common standards need to be adopted to ensure that can use the data from various line ministries and it is comparable.

Increasing access to government data through dissemination is considered very important, and website. Increasingly an important tool, the day I that the ministry's own website or the NIS website.

Andrew Pinney: Emphasized the importance of developing a 2-way relationship with line ministries statistical units, not just NIS demanding data. NIS wants to be able to offer added value to existing data through the consistent data standards and metadata descriptions, centralised storage of official statistics in the NIS data warehouse, with improved access to this data through intranet and intranet. A central data repository provides all with access to the same standardised version of the data and prevents different versions of the data developing over time. The questionnaire presented later by Kim Net is designed to identify all line

ministry statistical units enumerates, their staffing levels and qualifications as well as take an inventory of all the current indicators collected and those that are planned. Once the survey has been analysed, a programme of support to selected line ministry statistical units will be undertaken that could include provision of computers, intranet connection to NIS and training on analytical and mapping software. Results of the survey of line ministry statistical units will be presented to the next SCC meeting.

One of the strategies of improving access to data in NIS is improved access to the data warehouse. UNDP is proposing, but not yet approved, to purchase a very powerful online analytical processing software, SuperSTAR, for which there will be a demonstration on the sixth of March at nine o'clock in this very room, to which we hope many if not all of you will attend.

San Sy Than:

A statistical master plan is a key strategic document for development of a national statistical system in a country such as Cambodia. To improve the awareness of the functioning of the national statistical system based short pamphlet summarising the key points of the new sub-decree on Going to produce a pamphlet for the SCC/SAC. There are plans to stage an a workshop on the SMP hearing Cambodia, inviting international participation from World Bank and the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). UNSD defines the standards of the statistics, and is currently headed up by the ex-director of Singapore statistics, may himself come.

Director-general will visit New York next week to present a paper on statistics before and after the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia at a conference of international statistical leaders. One of the indicators of significant development of the statistical system is the ability of Cambodia to produce quarterly national accounts which about only 50 countries currently manage.

Government finance for statistics was \$1.2 million, but this will increase to \$2 million in 2010 matched with a similar amount from international donors. This is the whole statistical system budget which includes money for line ministry statistical units. The government will support the 2008 census with the provision of 30 cars, motorbikes and other support amounting to a value of \$700,000. Donors are providing \$4.7m, while the rest comes from government making a total of \$6m for the census. These are indications of the Cambodian government is taking statistics increasingly seriously and able to commit funds.

The SMP outlines a timeline and schedule of the priorities censuses and surveys. The idea is that these first-order parities and should get full funding as a priority. While this should not prevent the implementation of the surveys, should recognize the donors should be giving priority to these first level data collections.

The status of the agricultural census is not clear, and there is no representation from the Ministry of Agriculture in the meeting today. As regards the establishment census and surveys, there is a plan and programme of work with the support of JICA.

Zia Abassi: Clarification of the SMP next steps, international workshop on the SMP, then the SAC will approve it and pass it to the Council of ministers for Prime Minister approval and then to be presented at the int workshop on SMP. There will be SAC meeting pass message to committee, and then to the Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum (CDCF) expected in June this year.