

## **Opening remarks for 9<sup>th</sup> FACCC on 25 March 2015 at FA (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)**

Excellences, distinguished FACCC members, the representatives of JICA-Cambodia, representatives from Fisheries Administration and GDANCP of Ministry of Environment, and observer participants, ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 9<sup>th</sup> FACCC meeting this morning. The FACCC serves as the “Joint Coordination Committee (JCC)” of CAM-REDD stipulated in the Record of Discussions between Royal Government of Cambodia and JICA on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011. It provides guidance to CAM-REDD. Today’s meeting will cover a report of progress by CAM-REDD, discussion and endorsement of initial Finance Plan for 2015 to May 2016.

With support from CAM-REDD and other REDD+ development partners, our government has succeeded forest protection, 50,000 hectares per year. FA has also made efforts to implement National Forest Programme 2010-2029.

In the Programme Number 4 of Community Forestry, for example, the number of Community Forestry has achieved 485 up to today. Out of them, 364 of Community Forestry have been approved by MAFF, and 309 CFs have obtained an official agreement. In the Seima Protected Forest, 6 villages could have received indigenous communal land titles, and 5 more are well-advanced in the process of land titles. The further villages are preparing for this procedure, so FA is providing assistance to these villages in collaboration with our partners.

As one of our important achievements, draft law on wildlife and biodiversity has been completed. This will be one of significant laws related to REDD+. It is currently in process of obtaining approval from relevant government agencies in the coming years. CAM-REDD, as one of REDD+ development partners, provides assistance to FA to develop this law.

As you know, CAM-REDD has a mandate to provide technical and associated financial support to all four outcomes of multi-year work plan of Cambodia National REDD+ Taskforce, which was approved by Taskforce members in February 2014.

In Cambodia, draft REDD+ national strategy will be prepared by the middle of 2015. Last September, UN Climate Summit was held in New York. Some

developed countries announced that they would be ready to support REDD+ finance to 20 developing countries. Cambodia will be able to prepare REDD+ and become one of the countries. At the one of steps, Cambodia is expected to present the draft in the next UNFCCC- COP meeting in Paris, this December.

On the field level, the validation of REDD Project was completed in Seima. This process was funded by JICA. I would appreciate JICA for this support. In Oddar Meanchey, some Verified Carbon Units (VCU) was sold to external buyers. The Royal Government of Cambodia will try to sell more VCU this year. The benefits from VCU will contribute to forest management linking to livelihood of local community. For more details of the progress will be presented by Dr. Khorn Saret in this meeting.

Today, it is expected to agree to replace a national project coordinator of FACCC from Mr. Khun Vathana to Dr. Khorn Saret, and to update timeline of progress and logical framework. It is also requested to endorse initial finance plan for 2015 and 2016.

For these agenda items, I would like you to participate in discussion and expressing your opinions. Your voices will contribute to improving the further implementation of REDD+ with CAM-REDD.

I hope today's meeting will be useful and interesting to all the participants. Thank you very much for your attendance.