

**THE MEETING
BETWEEN
ITU AND SENIOR OFFICIALS OF MPTC AND OTHER GOVERNMENT
AGENCIES (MoI; NiDA; MoEYS)
AT INTERCONTINANTAL HOTEL, 23 JUNE 2011**

**Speech by H.E. So Khun
Minister of Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications**

Your Excellency Dr. Hamadoun I.Touré, Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Your Excellency Nov Sovathero, Secretary of State, Minister of Ministry of Information,

Dr. Eun Ju Kim, Director of ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Excellencies, Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure and privilege for me to welcome to historic visit of H.E Dr. Hamadoun I.Touré, Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union and Dr. Eun Ju Kim, Director of ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific to Cambodia. Since 10 April, 1952 Cambodia has been a full member of this international agency. As a leading UN agency for ICT Issues, ITU is the global focal point for governments and private sector in developing networks and services.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate H.E Dr. Touré who was re-elected for a second four year term in October 2010.

Excellency, your presence here with us today does not only demonstrate the strengthening of the relation and cooperation between the Royal Government of Cambodia and International Telecommunication Union (ITU), but also provide the inspiration and encouragement to us to continue to promote ICT businesses and to promote sustainable development which is one of the objectives that Royal Government aims to achieve in Rectangular Strategy phase 2 and is also consistent with the ASEAN Masterplan 2015.

The remarkable evolution in ICT sector in the last few years can be made possible because of the open and free market of this sector in which Cambodia has taken up and the implementation of specific action plans which have been set out. This allows the private sector to actively participate in the development of ICT sector and to push this sector to grow at the remarkable level. As a result of our outstanding performance, the great achievement can be reflected by telecommunication indicators below:

- ❖ The number of telephone subscribers (SIM Card Sold) is increasing exponentially and the total number is more than 13 million by the end of April 2011 including :
 - Mobile Phone: More than 12.5 Million subscribers, equivalent to 91 subscribers per 100 habitants.
 - Fixed Phone: Almost 0.5 Million subscribers, equivalent to 3 subscribers per 100 habitants.
- ❖ Internet user: About 0.68 Million Users, equivalent to 5 users per 100 habitants.
- ❖ Domain Name System (DNS) Registration “.kh” : More than 1,000

The rapid growth of telephone and internet subscribers, particularly in the rural areas has come to an existence at the same time as the growth demand in the use of computers, internet and emails. Nowadays, the demand for the use and using the Internet is remarkable increasing as the growth in ICT knowledge among teenagers is widely spreading. These achievements cannot be made possible without the good cooperation and kind assistance from International agencies, particularly ITU. Cambodia has indeed benefited from ITU’s programs, especially in the area of human capacity building, knowledge transfer, and knowledge and experience sharing through training courses, workshops and seminars on ICT matters. I can confirm that the knowledge and experience that we have received from ITU and its members have contributed significantly to the success story of Cambodia ICT sector over the past 15 years.

Nowadays ICT is recognized as the key leading sector to social and economic development. The potential of broadband has also been recognized as the key enabler in all sectors, particularly in education, health and banking. Based on this vision, Cambodia has the will to allow Cambodian people to benefit from the growth of ICT through bridging the digital divide between the rural and urban people. To bridge the digital divide, there is a need to have more investments, especially in broadband and Next Generation Infrastructure (NGN), which are the main factors to the success of the accessing to high-quality and affordable-price ICTs and leading to the achievement of the ITU’s millennium development goal, “half of the world population can access to broadband”. This task requires a lot more investments both from government and private sectors. In this regards, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications has been working hard to manage and implement prioritized projects aimed at improving the efficiency and quality of and expanding the physical infrastructure, especially in the rural areas and leading to integrating Cambodia into the region. By 2010 the total investment in telecommunication backbone infrastructure is 1,547,458,812 (1.5 billion) US dollars (One billion five hundred forty seven million four hundred fifty eight thousand eight hundred and twelve US dollars). The main achievements and plan are listed below:

- ❖ 25,000 kilometers of optical fiber cable backbone has already been constructed.

- ❖ There are three International Gateways: 001, 007 and 009.
- ❖ The plan for launching the first satellite in Cambodia is a new ambition in which the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has approved in principle to allow a local private company – Royal Blue Skies Co., Ltd to invest in this technology in order to enhance the quality and efficiency of the ICT applications and services.

Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen!

Once again, I strongly believe that the meaningful visit of the Secretary General of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) will contribute and provide good experiences as well as the inspiration to the enhancement and development of ICT in Cambodia. Furthermore, I hope that International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will continue to cooperate, assist and support Cambodia in all aspects of ICT sector aimed at contributing to the achievement of the UN millennium development goals 2015. More importantly, Cambodia is seeking assistance and supports from ITU in three fundamental areas namely: (1) the supports in the preparation of the launching of the satellite for Cambodia, (2) the supports and assistance on regulation reform to meet the upcoming and new services and (3) the supports and assistance in Radiocommunication Law and Frequency Monitoring Center.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thank to H.E Dr. Hamadou I.Touré, the Secretary General of ITU and Dr. Eun Ju Kim, Director of ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and wish His Excellency and Dr. Eun Ju Kim good health and great successes in this official visit to Cambodia. Also, I would like to wish Excellencies, distinguish guests, ladies and gentlemen good health, happiness and great successes.

Thank you!