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United Nations in Cambodia

Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator

PRESS RELEASE

Launch of DevInfo Version 6.0 in Asia and the Pacific to boost access to quality data on human development

2 FEBRUARY 2010, SIEM REAP: Only with accurate, high quality data can governments measure progress and make appropriate policy choices. This launch and high-level event shows how best to use data for evidence-based decision making.

The launch was attended by H.E. Chhay Than, Senior Minister and Minister of Planning (Cambodia), H.E. San Sy Than, Director General of the National Institute of Statistics (Cambodia), members of the UN Country Team in Cambodia, as well as senior government and UN officials from more than 20 countries in the region.

This four-day event in Siem Reap will include two days of discussions on the strategic use of data for decision-making, and a two-day technical workshop to train key partners in the region on the use of DevInfo version 6.0 while strengthening their capacity in data analysis in support of policy planning and monitoring.

Created in 2002, DevInfo is a powerful, user-friendly database system for monitoring human development. It is a tool for organizing, storing and presenting data in a standardised way to facilitate country level data sharing across government departments, UN agencies and development partners. DevInfo has features that help users classify indicators and produce tables, graphs and maps for inclusion in articles, reports, presentations and advocacy materials. The system has been endorsed by the UN Development Group and is being used in more than 100 countries to help track the Millennium Development Goals and other national priorities.

This database can be used by development partners, civil society organisations, the media and the public at large to search for relevant and reliable facts and figures.

This new version is built on the experience and insights of thousands of DevInfo users around the world. It contains significant advances in usability with a reduced learning curve for first-time users. It includes powerful animated data presentation methods, enhanced web collaboration and extended mapping features, along with easier access to its vast spectrum of data presentation capabilities with fewer 'clicks'. The new version leverages social networking innovations to enhance inter-user communication and feedback capacities.

More information on DevInfo can be found at: <http://www.devinform.org>. The draft agenda and event brochure are attached. Updates and other relevant documents from the event will be posted at: <http://www.unescap.org/stat/di6launch>.

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