

Speech by HE Chhay Than
Senior Minister, Minister of Planning
Chairman of National Census Committee
at the Ceremony to announce the
Capital/Provincial Census Committees for 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia
February 15, 2010

Respected:

- Excellency Masafumi Kuroki, Ambassador of Japan
- Mr. Yasujiro Suzuki, Chief Representative, JICA Cambodia Office
- Excellencies Governors of Phnom Penh and provinces
- Distinguished national and international guests
- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I have great pleasure to be present at this important ceremony organized for announcing the Capital/ Provincial Census Committee for the 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia.

As you are aware, according to the history of Statistics in Cambodia, we never conducted the Economic Census. The Statistics Law was enacted in May 2005 and allowed the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning to coordinate the statistical activities in National Statistical System and conduct censuses and other main surveys.

Economic Census is one of three censuses stated in the Statistics Law that has to be conducted by NIS. It will provide the main statistical information on economic activities and information on the location for developing the economy and strengthen the policies of Royal Government aiming at good governance and elaborating the National Development Plan and poverty eradication of the people. Economic Census is the necessary requirements of the Royal Government of Cambodia in current circumstances in order to develop the country as well as to obtain support from development partners and local investors as well as foreign investors.

Census is a huge task that Royal Government in current situation needs mainly the support from development partners because the lack of funding, technical capacity and experiences of our staff are limited. In the Statistical Master Plan (SMP) 2008-2015 which was approved by Statistics Advisory Council in 2007 stated that Population Census should be conducted in 2008 and Economic/ Establishment Census in 2011.

In the past, JICA and Government of Japan have provided the Technical Cooperation Project from August 2005 till now for supporting the economic statistics sector such as the training and capacity building of the staff and nation-wide establishment listing as well as population census 2008.

According to the work plan and discussions with JICA who is development partner for Economic Census, the First Meeting of National Census Committee for 2011 Economic Census in Cambodia has reviewed of progress of administrative works of the census, the census workplan, the establishment of the Census Technical Committee and capital/ provincial census committees.

In the Census Plan, the total budget is about 3.5 millions US dollars. JICA and Government of Japan will bear 2.8 millions US dollars and Royal Government of Cambodia will bear 697,000 US dollars as counterpart.

The Sub-Decree specified census dates for Economic Census of Cambodia as 1st March 2011.

For successfully conducting the economic census, we need to disseminate widely among the economic unit owners, establishment owners about the size of the census, purpose of the Census to obtain their good cooperation. We ensure to the owners of establishments that all individual information collected will be kept confidential according to the Statistics Law . We must do public advocacy campaign by proper method about economic census.

The main objective of the Census is its results be used and properly analyzed for the development of the country. Census Data will be disseminated through publications and electronic media.

Census Technical Committee has been established to review and finalize the forms of Census in all technical aspects. All Provincial Census Committees for 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia has been formed according to the request of Census Technical Committee in order to get success for the census in the capital/ province.

The efficiency of field workers and the quality of collected data will heavily depend on the training programmes for various census activities, especially in filling the census questionnaire according to instructions.

I would like to appeal all members of Capital/ Provincial Census Committee for 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia, other involved staff in the local areas and the public to have good cooperation in the great national and historical task of 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia and make it a success.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The 2011 National Census Committee of Cambodia was established by Sub decree on establishment census which was in force since 26 August 2009 in order to lead the Economic Census in March 2011.

The National Census Committee is under the chairmanship of Minister of Planning and has its members, representatives from line ministries. This high rank committee will provide overall guidance and coordination between the various Ministries in conducting the census. This National Census Committee will be assisted in its task by the Census Technical Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning. The Provincial Census Committee under the chairmanship of the respective Governor and the Committee for Census Publicity under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning.

The Director General of the Census, who is the Director General of NIS under the Ministry of Planning, will be implementing the census. He will be responsible for conducting the census in the country. He will be assisted in this task by Deputy Director Generals and one Director of Economic Statistics Department. The Capital/ Province Planning Office Director or Province Census Officer (PCO), assisted by Deputy Director/ Bureau Chief, will be responsible for the census in his/her province. The PCO will be assisted on technical issues by Regional Officers and Assistant Regional Officers, deputed from NIS.

Today I have great pleasure in announcing at this ceremony the Capital/ Provincial Census Committees. I would like to state that Province Census Committees played an important role in the last population census and served as a link between the NIS and the field personnel. I hope in the 2011 Economic Census also these Committees will do their best to make the census a great success. Economic Census which is a

massive and time bound task is as much an administrative operation as it is a technical exercise. I am sure Governors of Capital/ Province who are the administrative heads at province level will spare no pain to implement the census smoothly and successfully.

The Capital/ Provincial Census Committee under the Governor of Capital/ Province will oversee the census operations in the respective province and coordinate the census activities. Specifically it will assist the National Census Committee and the NIS in the implementation of the census, procurement of required human resources and office space, implementation of the publicity campaign of the census, training of enumerators and supervisors, the request for cooperation from all establishment for 2011 economic census and other related works. The members of the Capital/ Provincial Census Committee will be the capital/ Province level representatives of the line Ministries concerned and will have the Director of Planning Office of Capital/ Province as its Member Secretary.

Ladies and gentlemen, you have a great national task ahead. I appeal to every one of you to carefully study the instructions and duties assigned and discharge them as satisfactorily as possible.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the JICA and Government of Japan for their support without which it would not be possible to organize the census.

Before I conclude, I wish you all good health and success in your tasks.

Thank you !