

## Foreword

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the 2008 edition of the Cambodian Statistics Yearbook. The Statistics Yearbook is the principal reference compendium produced by the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) of the Ministry of Planning. It provides a comprehensive statistical overview of various aspects of the Cambodian economy, environment and socio-demographic conditions, together with their administrative, historical and legislative background.

At the start of Cambodia's reform program in 1993, the statistical base and the capacity and infrastructure to support official statistics was largely non-existent. The coverage and quality of economic, environment and socio-demographic statistics has gradually improved over recent years. National accounts and prices statistics are available and have been improved with the significant technical assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Similarly, improvements have been made for balance of payments, monetary and financial, and government finance statistics, with technical assistance being provided by the IMF. Significant improvements have also been made in statistics legislation, population, socio-economics and demographic statistics, with financial and technical assistance provided by the UNDP, UNFPA, Sida, World Bank and other UN agencies. Significant improvements in statistics capacity and infrastructure are also evident, with substantial support from JICA and other development partners.

The statistics contained in this edition of the Statistics Yearbook reflect the considerable progress that has been made in the development of Cambodia's official statistics since 1993, with the technical assistance of our development partners, as well as the continuing support of the institutions and ministries of the Royal Government that regularly provide their statistics to the NIS. Accurate, reliable and timely official statistics are critical for decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation by the Royal Government of its economic, environmental and social strategies, policies and programs. Official statistics are equally important to development partners, in assessing the effectiveness of donor funded programs and projects. I commend the Statistics Yearbook to you and trust that you will find the statistics covered in this publication as interesting and useful to you as I do.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all institutions and ministries of the Royal Government in contributing their statistics for inclusion in this edition of the Statistics Yearbook. My thanks also to Ms. Agneta Sandqvist, Household Surveys Advisor, Mr. Jan-Aage Haaland, Senior Advisor of Graphic Design, Statistics Sweden, and the NIS Director General and staff for their considerable efforts in producing this publication.

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