



## PRESS RELEASE

13 March 2012

### **Releasing Ceremony of Final Results of 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia**

**Organized by  
National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning and  
the Project on Improving Official Statistics in Cambodia, Phase 3  
Government of Japan, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)  
13 March 2012**

at the Peace Palace, the Council of Ministers, Russian Federation Boulevard,  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Deputy Prime Minister Keat Chhon, high representative of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Pakei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia released the final results of the first-ever 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia (EC2011) at 8:30 AM on 13 March 2012 at the Peace Palace, Phnom Penh.

The EC2011 was conducted with 1 March 2011 as the reference date. The final results were released after one year from the reference date, and include national, provincial, district, and commune level data. These data are based on the new administrative areas promulgated on 5 November 2010 and the changes in Phnom Penh on 18 May 2011 also are reflected. The summary of the final results are as follows:

#### **1. Total number of establishments is about 500,000 in Cambodia.**

The final results of the EC2011 provide the current situation of establishments in Cambodia in the recovery process after the worldwide economic crisis which occurred in September 2008.

There were 505,134 establishments in Cambodia as of 1 March 2011 as the final results of the EC2011. The number of persons engaged in these establishments was 1,676,263 being composed of 650,179 males accounting for 38.8% and 1,026,084 females (61.2%). Females fairly outnumbered males.

The EC2011 covered all areas in the country without exception and all establishments excluding those which belong to "Agriculture, forestry, and fishery" (Section A), "Public administration and defense; compulsory social security" (Section O), "Activities of household as employers" (Section T), "Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies"

(Section U) of the International Standard Industrial Classification (Revision 4) following internationally common practices in economic censuses. Mobile establishments were also excluded according to international practices.

Compared with the final results of the Nation-wide Establishment Listing in 2009, the number of persons engaged increased 9.5%, the estimated annual increase rate being 4.47%. Since the annual population increase rate is 1.54%, the increase rate of persons engaged is extremely high. Looking at the sectoral composition, it is observed that the persons engaged in the primary sector began to move to the secondary or tertiary sector. The primary sector means Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery sectors, while the secondary and tertiary sectors mean other than the primary sector. The movement of persons engaged from the primary sector to the secondary or tertiary sector is one of the features commonly seen in the process of the development of a country.

## **2. Number of establishments with one or two persons engaged accounts for nearly 80%.**

The number of establishments with one person engaged was 222 thousands accounting for 44.0%, and that with two persons engaged was 176 thousands (34.9%). Thus, one or two-person size establishments accounted for around 80% of the total.

The number of establishments with five or more persons engaged was 40 thousands accounting for 7.8%; with ten or more persons engaged was 13 thousands (2.6%); with one hundred or more persons engaged was 787 (0.2%); and with five thousand or more persons engaged was only 119. That is to say, large-scale establishments accounted for a very low portion in Cambodia.

On the other hand, the number of persons engaged in establishments with five or more persons engaged was 879 thousands accounting for 52.4%; with ten or more persons engaged was 716 thousands (42.7%); with one hundred or more persons engaged was 454 thousands (27.1%); and with one thousand or more persons engaged was 257 thousands (15.3%). Although there were only a few large-scale establishments in Cambodia, persons engaged working there accounted for a relatively higher portion.

## **3. New establishments are about 180,000 accounting for more than one third.**

There were 182,439 new establishments which started business between 1 January 2009 and 1 March 2011. New establishments accounted for a very high ratio: 36.1% of the total establishments. That is, a large number of new establishments appeared in January 2009 or later. It means that Cambodian economy is rapidly growing, and that the recent economic policies implemented by the Royal Government of Cambodia (the RGC) such as promoting economic growth of the National Strategic Development Plan Update (2009-2013) are successful.

New establishments with one or two persons engaged accounted for a very high ratio: 82.0%, more than four fifths of the total number of new establishments. It means that the

economic policy by the RGC promoting and supporting micro establishments is successful. Especially, new establishments with one person engaged and a female representative accounted for a very high ratio: 35.8%, nearly 40% of the total number of new establishments. It means that also the economic policy by the RGC promoting and assisting women's business is successful.

#### **4. "Owned" accounts for nearly 70% on "Tenure of Business Place".**

Looking at the tenure of business place, 68.9% of the total number of establishments own their business places. It means that the rate of possession is fairly high in Cambodia. This situation is more advantageous for Cambodia to sustain its economic growth since about 70% of establishments can continue to operate their businesses with low cost.

#### **5. "Information and communication" shows a very high increase rate: more than 50%**

Looking at the ratio of new establishments by Section of the International Standard Industrial Classification, "Information and communication" (Section J) was the highest Section accounting for 52.4%. This is along with the popularization of mobile phones and use of the Internet in addition to the increase in computer service activities. Subsequently, "Real estate activities" (Section L) 44.6%; "Accommodation and food service activities" (Section I) 43.6%; "Arts, entertainment and recreation" (Section R) 43.5%; "Other service activities" (Section S) 39.0%; and so on.

#### **6. Economy of Cambodia has a high-cost structure in the secondary and tertiary industries.**

Looking at the business condition in Cambodia, the annual sales is USD 120 billions; the annual expenses is USD 101 billions; and the annual profit and loss is USD 19 billions. That is, the annual expenses accounts for no less than 84% of the annual sales, while the profit and loss only 16%. It means that the economy of Cambodia has a high-cost structure in the secondary and tertiary industries. This is attributable to the fact that Cambodia imports most of materials and goods, and that domestic production is relatively low. To enhance domestic production and break away from this high-cost economy is an important issue in the future for the further socio-economic development of Cambodia.

The results of the EC2011 will be used for formulating various policies and plans of the central and local governments, for academic research in universities and research institutes, for management strategy and market research in private sector, and so on.

The EC2011 was implemented by the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning together with the Project on Improving Official Statistics in Cambodia by the Government of Japan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which supported both the 2008 Population Census and the 2009 Nation-wide Establishment Listing.

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