



Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King



Speech

by

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Head of the Cambodian Delegates to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)
Rome, Italy 19-21 November 2014**

Good evening!

- Excellency Chair,
 - Excellency, Honorable Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
 - Delegates from the countries around the world and members of the conference,
1. My name **Sok Silo**, Deputy Secretary General of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development, Office of the Council of Ministers, Kingdom of Cambodia. Today, it is my honor and pleasure to be here in the important “**Second International Conference on Nutrition**” at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and on behalf of the Cambodian delegation, I would like to share with you the information on the current situation and challenges in the area of food security and nutrition in Cambodia which will require sustained commitment and action beyond the MDGs and the Nutrition in the Post 2015 development agenda.
 2. Food security and nutrition, which is relevant for the achievements of the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs), has become more and more an important development agenda of the Royal Government of Cambodia as reflected in the Government’s Rectangular Strategy Phase III (2014-2018), the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP 2014-2018), the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (2014-2018) and in other food security and nutrition cross sector policies and strategies.
 3. According to a recent food security and nutrition situation analysis, a considerable progress has been achieved over the last decade. Cambodia is fully rice self-sufficient producing a surplus of 3.09 million metric tons of milled rice, equal to 4.8 million metric tons of paddy rice in 2013, paving the way to make Cambodia an important rice exporter in the region. Food is available all over the country and markets are well integrated. Food availability at national and regional level is therefore largely achieved. Cambodia can be proud to be one of the 63 countries that have already reached the MDG hunger target of halving the proportion of chronic undernourishment by 2015.
 4. However, a lot more still needs to be done. The prevalence of undernourishment in Cambodia has been ranked as moderately high in the global mapping (FAO Hunger Map 2014) and the rate of chronic malnutrition or stunting remains high at 40 percent in 2010.

Micronutrient deficiencies are still of major concern in Cambodia. Recent estimates for Cambodia have shown that the country may lose as much as 420 Million USD per year due to malnutrition, whereas Investment in Nutrition brings therefore high returns and benefits for the national economic and social development.

5. The Royal Government of Cambodia has recently strengthened its good coordination and partnership in the formulation and implementation of specific policies, strategies and action plans through restructured the Technical Working Groups on Food Security and Nutrition and established the Technical Working Group on Social Protection, Food Security and Nutrition which is chaired by **H.E. Dr. Yim Chhay Ly**, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development to ensure effective coordination among the cross-cutting sectors on Social Protection, Food Security and Nutrition.
6. To eliminate malnutrition in the community in all forms and put efforts for “**Better Nutrition, Better Lives**”, the Royal Government of Cambodia in 2014 has introduced the Fast Track Road Map for Improving Nutrition (2014-2020) in May, joined the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement as the 53rd member of the Movement in July, launched the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (2014-2018) in August, and launched the National Policy and National Action Plan on Early Childhood Care (2014-2018) in September. In addition, Cambodia has been developed so far the related policies and strategies for nutrition improvement and combat hunger as such the National Nutrition Strategy (NNS 2009-2015), the Strategy on Agriculture and Water (SAW 2006-2010), the Agricultural Sector Strategic Development Plan (2009-2013), the National Social Protection Strategy for the Poor and Vulnerable (NSPS 2009-2013) and the “Policy Paper on the Promotion of Paddy Production and Rice Export”.
7. To raise the public awareness on the important of nutrition, the Royal Government of Cambodia has allowed the celebration of the **National Nutrition Day** which will be held on 6th November annually and to establish babies-friendly communities and hospitals across the country. To celebrate the first Nutrition’s Day this year, **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia** has delivered a message to the public through mass media, TV and radio and the Government has also organized the round table discussion to show to the public under the theme “**Better Nutrition, Better Lives**” where important messages on breastfeeding and nutrition during the first 1000 days of life were featured out.

Excellency, ladies and gentlemen,

8. Given the cross-cutting nature of food security and nutrition with responsibilities spread across a number of Government's sector ministries and agencies and a number of development partners, NGOs and private sector require concerted efforts, good cooperation and coordination among stakeholders. It is essential for us to enhance the capacities to overcome issues by focusing on scaling up nutrition services and nutrition education, improve domestic water supply, sanitation and hygiene, expand food fortification, increase the availability and appropriate use of nutritious food and expand social safety net and improve mechanisms for the management of natural disasters, including the adaptation to climate change which still remains a challenge for the present and the future.

Finally, I would like to wish Excellency, ladies and gentlemen to have an interesting and fruitful discussion at this **Second International Conference on Nutrition** and I look forward to further cooperation with you to eliminate malnutrition and combat world hunger.

Thank you!