



The Official Launching on
Commitment of Implementation of the United Nations Convention on
the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,
Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real”
for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific 2013-2022, and
Continuation of National Disability Strategy Plan (NDSP) 2014-2018





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the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,
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for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific 2013-2022, and
Continuation of National Disability Strategy Plan (NDSP) 2014-2018**

Organized by

Disability Action Council of Cambodia (DAC)

Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY)

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD)

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

3rd Floor, Noun Srey Meeting Hall, Peace Palace, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

29 May 2013

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Peace Palace, 29 May 2013, Disability Action Council (DAC), Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) in cooperation with the United Nations of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), and Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) celebrated the Official Launching on Commitment of Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific 2013-2022, and Continuation of National Disability Strategy Plan (NDSP) 2014-2018 under the presidency of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister and Honorary President of Disability Action Council of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The Ceremony was attended by more than 800 participants including the Deputy Prime Minister, Senior Ministers, Members of the Royal Government of Cambodia, Members of Senate, Members of National Assembly, Governors, as well as, representatives of national and international community.

The ceremony aimed to express the government’s commitment on the continuation of the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities following the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which was ratified on 20 December 2012 and enforced on 19 January 2013 and the declaration of implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, 2013-2022. The Royal Government of Cambodia has played an important role in the process of adoption of the Incheon Strategy in its capacity as a member of the United Nations on 2 November 2012 in Incheon City in the Republic of Korea.

H.E. Dr. ITH SAMHENG, Minister of MoSVY and the President of DAC mentioned that The Official Launching on Commitment of Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, 2013-2022, and Continuation of National Disability Strategy Plan (NDSP), 2014-2018 is a historical event for the disability movement and has opened an opportunity for persons with disabilities in Cambodia to receive a new international legal instrument from the United Nations in addition to the national political program and Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It is a new step of the Royal Government of Cambodia in putting the spot light on the disability sector and persons with disabilities. The Royal Government of Cambodia has paid great attention and provided many support to persons with disabilities, and has included disability issues into its Rectangular Strategy for Growth Employment Equity and Efficiency (Phase II), Five-Year Social Economic Development Plan (Phase II), National Poverty Reduction Strategy. Through this effort, Cambodia equalized the rights of children and persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities in the society. Cambodia is ready to collaborate with the United Nations to support the implementation of CRPD and Incheon strategy to “Make the Right Real”.

H.E. Minister added that the implementation of National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities including Landmine/ERW Survivors (NPA-PwDs), 2009-2011 and 2013 will be finished in this year. The continuation of the NDSP, 2014-2018 will fulfill the mandate of Royal Government of Cambodia.

The Royal Government of Cambodia actively supports the disability development through the Rectangular Strategy for Growth Employment Equity and Efficiency Phase II, Five-Year Social Economic Development Plan (Phase II), National Poverty Reduction Strategy and NPA-PwDs. The support for victims affected by landmine and unexploded ordnance was included in Cambodia's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Kingdom of Cambodia signed and ratified Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to prohibit the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction.

According to the Cambodia General Population Census in 2008, there are 192,538 persons with disabilities, or 1.44% of the total population, in which 56.3% are males and 43.7% are females. Children with disabilities aged from 0-18 years old accounted for 17.72%; while, persons with disabilities caused by landmine and unexploded ordnance totalled 64,224 people or accounted for 33.36% of all persons with disabilities in the Kingdom of Cambodia. Of this figure, there are 1,468 persons with disabilities employed in the 32 public institutions.

Ms. NANDA KRAIRIKSH, the Representative-in-charge and Director of Social Development Division of the ESCAP expressed through remarks that Cambodia is the first ESCAP State Member in the Asian and Pacific region that adopted the New Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific in November 2012 in the Republic of Korea. Asia and the Pacific is home to over 650 million persons with disabilities, which is equal to 15% of the total population but mostly unseen, unheard and uncounted. Persons with disabilities are among the most marginalized in society, and they have a right to a decent and productive life.

Moreover, in recognition of the need to engage persons with disabilities meaningfully in processes for economic and social development, the Kingdom of Cambodia together with the other 61 ESCAP State and Associate Members through ESCAP resolution 68/7 of 23 May 2012 proclaimed the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.

This significant progress had been made during the past two consecutive Asian and Pacific decades of Disabled Persons spanning the period 1993 to 2012. It is thus most encouraging for the United Nations to note the remarkable achievements that Cambodia is making to move towards a disabilities-inclusive society. First and foremost, the fact that disability issues receive the direct and personal attention of Government at the highest political level in Cambodia is precisely what every country in Asia-Pacific and the world should do. Second, Cambodia's DAC is worthy of emulation for the comprehensiveness of its organizational structure and functions. It is especially significant that a new sub-Decree has extended the structure of the Council to include additional government ministries such as Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Tourism. The extension of the coverage of the Council to municipal and provincial levels will further enhance the effectiveness and impact of the Council's work. Third, Cambodia may rightly take pride in the depth and breadth of the legislation that it has enacted to ensure equal rights and access for persons with disabilities. For example, the legislation in areas such as education, vocational training and job placement, and employment enables persons with disabilities to contribute to national economic development.

At the end of the opening ceremony, **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Honorary President of DAC provided some practical recommendations such as:

1. Continue strengthening and expanding the prevention mechanism more effectively. At the same time, the Kingdom of Cambodia shall maintain its existing peace and promote socio-economic development, reduce vulnerability in the society, prevent violence in the society, reduce traffic and workplace accidents, strengthen healthcare system, speed up landmine clearance and unexploded ordnances, strengthen work rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, and expand education and dissemination of prevention of disability.

2. Continue strengthening the implementation of international treaties, related to disability and the rights of persons with disabilities, adopted by the Royal Government of Cambodia to prevent disability, promote the rights of persons with disabilities and mainstream disability in development process. In particular, the DAC must lead the implementation of the CRPD and other relevant treaties by working closely with concerned ministries, institutions, development partners, and civil societies.

3. Continue implementing the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other regulations effectively. Those laws and regulations will turn services for persons with disabilities from previously humanitarian work to social protection. The new model of services such as social protection is more sustainable than the humanitarian model while their ownership spirit and capacity will be strengthened, and the inclusion of persons with disabilities into the society will be smoothed.

4. Continue the strengthening and expanding work rehabilitation and physical rehabilitation services in a sustainable way by strengthening the cooperation with national and international organizations and development partners to mobilize resources to implement various programs and provide work rehabilitation and physical rehabilitation services in centers throughout the country. Taking this opportunity, Samdech Prime Minister also appreciated International Veterans Cambodia, International Organization for Persons with Disabilities, Cambodia Trust, International Red Cross, Australia's Red Cross, AusAID, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Health Organization (WHO) for providing assistance to the operation of Center for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled as well as conducting the feasibility study on the disability sector.

5. Strengthen and expand the spirit of ownership of persons with disabilities which is the key aspect of the sustainable development for persons with disabilities. In this regard, Samdech Prime Minister requested all the persons with disabilities to continue strengthening their courage, hope and self-confidence using their remaining abilities to overcome all difficulties in order to build livelihoods with ownership and take part in the development of the nation.

6. Encourage participation of the private sector such as factories, enterprises, and institutes in disability sector, either voluntarily or obligatory as mentioned in the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and support the reintegration of persons with disabilities by incorporating the issues of disability into entities' action plan and create a favorable condition for them to integrate into the society at the maximum possibility.

7. Encourage the MoSVY, the DAC and relevant ministries and institutions to continue strengthening the job placement and the rehabilitation for persons with disabilities to work at all levels effectively and sustainably, and use it as the core for the implementation of national policy for persons with disabilities and promote the implementation of Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the treaties related to the rights of the persons with disabilities effectively. Specialized organizations and sub-national administrations at all levels, especially at the commune and district levels, shall pay attention to the disability-related work by incorporating the work into their action plans and promoting the implementation effectively.

8. Continue to develop the NDSP and the National Policy on Disability in order to incorporate disability into the policy program of the Royal Government of the Fifth Legislature by prioritizing the disability in the policy agenda of the new Government. It is also necessary to prioritize the budget allocation for social affairs, education, health, rural development, agriculture, aimed at a further enhancing of public service of these sectors and creating direct impacts on the capacity development of persons with disabilities.

9. Continue strengthening the DAC to become a mechanism to coordinate the work of relevant ministries-institutions, and development partners, civil societies, private sectors as per stated in the sub-decree on the organization and the function of the DAC. Besides, all government ministries, institutions, municipalities and provinces shall establish DAC taskforce and office.

10. Achieve the quota system of employment for persons with disabilities at the rate of 2% for public institutions and 1% for private sectors of the total number of employees.

11. Provide flexibility for persons with disabilities to help them to work in their hometown in case they are facing residential-related problems.

12. Produce sign language features in all television stations to ensure access to information of persons with disabilities.

13. Promote all types of sports for persons with disabilities.

MEDIA COVERAGE

This official launching ceremony was broadcasted over the country through 19 media agencies listed below:

1. National Radio of Cambodia
2. Cambodia National Television (TVK)
3. Bayon TV
4. Apsara TV
5. Royal Cambodia Arm Force Television (TV5)
6. Cambodia Television Network (CTN)
7. Phnom Penh Television (TV3)
8. Khmer Television (TV9)
9. Southeast-Asia Television (SEATV)
10. Hong Meas Television
11. Kampuchea Thmey Newspaper
12. Reksmey Kampuchea Newspaper
13. KohSontipheap Newspaper
14. Phnom Penh Post Newspaper
15. Cambodia Daily Newspaper
16. Kapuchea News (AKP)
17. SomdechTecho Documentary Group
18. Apsara Radio
19. Bayon Radio
20. National FM Radio 96
21. Mosvy News.



PROGRAM

6:30-7:00 hrs.: Arrival of participants

7:00-7:30 hrs.: Arrival of national and international honored guests

7:30-8:00 hrs.: Arrival of senior government officers

8.00-8:30 hrs.: Warmest greeting **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**,
Prime Minister of Kingdom of Cambodia and **Samdech Kittiprittbandit
BUN RANY HUNSEN**



Proceeding Program

- National anthem
- Welcome speech by **H.E. Dr. ITH SAMHENG**, Minister of Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, President of Disability Action Council
- Speech by **Ms. NANDA KRAIRIKSH**, Representative-in-charge of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- Speech and highest recommendation of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Honorary President of Disability Action Council
- Handing over the documents on CRPD, Incheon Strategy and Sub-decree to **H.E. Dr. ITH SAMHENG**, Minister of Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and President of Disability Action Council
- Returning of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of Kingdom of Cambodia and Honorary President of Disability Action Council and **Samdech Kittiprittbandit BUN RANY HUNSEN**





KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

Disability Action Council

No: 001 DAC/13

Phnom Penh, 09 May 2013

AID MEMOIRE

on

**The Official Launching on
Commitment of Implementation of the United Nations Convention on
the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,
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1. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol were adopted on 13 December 2006 at the United Nations’ General Assembly through an appeal of Disabled People International (DPI). This convention is a new Human Rights Treaty of the first Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000 of the United Nations which is a legal instrument to measure a specific development.

- The Convention is an international human rights legal instrument of the United Nations for the protection of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. State Parties to this convention are required to promote and ensure equity of human rights.

- The Convention serves as the major catalyst in the global movement from viewing persons with disabilities as objects of charity, medical treatment and social protection toward viewing them as full and equal members of society.

- In 2001, Mexico has proposed Article 179 through the United Nations Assembly to consider starting the debate for the Convention. In 2000, there was a World NGO Summit on Disability organized in Beijing, People’s Republic of China (PRC) where the “Beijing Declaration” on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the New Millennium was adopted.

- One year later, an open-ended working group was established. The Adhoc Committee became the Forum in which the foundation of the Convention was laid during the following four years. After a debate in the United Nations Third Committee, a Resolution (No. 56/115) was adopted on 19 December 2001. The Convention was negotiated during eight sessions of an Adhoc Committee of the General Assembly from 2002 to 2006, with fruitful result. As of August 2006, the Adhoc Committee had not reach a consensus on this draft Convention.

- The Convention was opened for signature by Member States on 30 March 2007.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia represented by **H.E. Hor NAM HONG**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation signed the Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities in New York, the United States of America on 1 October 2007.
- On 27 April 2012, through its plenary meeting, the Council of Ministers approved the proposal for ratification from the legislative institution to draft the law on agreement for Royal Government of Cambodia to become a Member State of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- On 10 August 2012, during the Eighth Plenary Meeting of the Fourth Legislature, National Assembly adopted the draft of the Law on Adoption of the Royal Government of Cambodia to be State Party of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- On the 5 September 2012 during its extraordinary meeting of the third legislature, the senate approved without any change on the law of adoption of the Royal Government of Cambodia to be a State Party of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- On 20 September 2012, the King of the Kingdom of Cambodia signed the Royal Gram No. SN/RKM/0912/007 to declare the official enforcement of the law on adoption of the Royal Government of Cambodia to be a State Party of the Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities.
- The United Nations accepted the Kingdom of Cambodia's ratification on the Convention through acceptance letter No. C.N.725.2012. TREATIES-IV.15, dated 20 December 2012. According to this letter, the ratification of the Convention entered into force on 19 January 2012. Article 45 states that "the Convention shall enter into force after the ratification on the legal instrument. After the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession, each state or regional integration organization ratifying, formally confirming or acceding to the Convention after deposit of the twentieth instrument, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the disposal of such instrument.
- As of 5 May 2013, there are 130 states ratified on the Conventio and there are 76 states ratified Optional Protocol.
- The Kingdom of Cambodia is the 127th state party who ratified this Convention.

The Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022 is a strategy to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific region, which complements the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and Biwako Plus Five, 2003-2012. The Incheon Strategy has added ten Goals of Persons with Disabilities and the Implementation of the objectives on disability toward the United Nations High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Disability and Development which will be held on 23 September 2013 in New York, the United States of America and which will be included in the Agenda of Global Development 2015.



- The Incheon Strategy was developed with participation on the ministerial level from 17 countries, government representatives from 37 countries, and civil society organization of 47 countries in Asia and the Pacific. Delegates from the Royal Government of Cambodia will be led by **H.E. Dr. ITH SAMHENG**, Minister of MoSVY.

- The Incheon Strategy was adopted by ESCAP Member States in Incheon, Republic of Korea on 2 November 2012 and became an instrument of the New Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.

- The Incheon Strategy is the First Disability-Inclusive Development Goal in Asia-Pacific Region and the World.

- The Incheon Strategy is composed of 10 goals, 27 targets and 62 indicators included:

- 1) Reduce poverty and enhance work and employment prospects
- 2) Promote participation in political processes and in decision-making
- 3) Enhance access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication
- 4) Strengthen social protection
- 5) Expand early intervention and education of children with disabilities
- 6) Ensure gender equality and women's empowerment
- 7) Ensure disability-inclusive in disaster reduction and management
- 8) Improve the reliability and comparability data
- 9) Accelerate the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and harmonization of national legislation with the Convention
- 10) Advance subregional, regional and interregional cooperation

- The goal of Incheon Strategy is to enhance a proper livelihood of 650 million persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

- The development of the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific was derived from the experiences in the implementation of two consecutive Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 1993-2002 and Biwako, 2003-2012.

- In order to implement the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities, 2012-2022 effectively and cover national and sub-national levels entirely DAC, MoSVY collaborated with ESCAP, APCD and AusAID in translating the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" into Khmer version and published 1,000 copies for dissemination at this important event under the presidency of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of Royal Government of Cambodia and Honorary President of DAC and **Samdech Kittiprittbandit BUN RANY HUN SEN**.

The Royal Government of Cambodia issued a decision on the Implementation of National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities including Landmine/Explosive Remnants of War Survivors (NPA-PwDs), 2009-2011 through a Decision No 49 SSR dated 5 August 2009.

- NPA-PwDs, 2009-2011 was developed based on the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, and, contributed to the promotion and the protection of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, including landmine/ Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) survivors in Cambodia.

- The development of NPA-PwDs, 2009-2011 shows a commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia in improving the development of disability as well as emphasize the challenges that need to be further addressed. Furthermore, the National Plan provides an essential opportunity to improve concept of understanding on assistance to landmine/ERW survivors which is integrated into work platforms and disability development plans. The NPA-PwDs, 2009-2011 was finalized on February 2009, and enforced by the Royal Government of Cambodia on 5 August 2009.

- The NPA-PwDs, 2009-2011 included:

- 1) Understanding of the challenges
- 2) Emergency and on-going medical care
- 3) Physical Rehabilitation
- 4) Psychological support and social reintegration
- 5) Economic reintegration
- 6) Laws and public policies

- The Royal Government of Cambodia established the National Disability Coordination Committee (NDCC) as a mechanism to monitor coordination and evaluation in promoting and implementing the NPA-PwDs, 2009-2011 through government decision No. 50SSR dated 5 August 2009.

- The NDCC meeting on 29 February 2012 extended the implementation of NPA-PwDs, 2009-2011 to 2013 through the Decision dated 22 June 2012.

- To implement the above plan, the NDCC, which has the DAC as secretariat, decided the followings.

Component 1: Understanding the extent of the challenges

- Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA) through Cambodian Mine Victim Information System (CMVIS) disseminated a report on mine victim to ministries, institutions, NGOs, DPOs and development partners annually.

Component 2: Emergency and on-going medical care

- The Ministry of Health (MoH), MoSVY and CMAA cooperate to promote aid effectiveness in emergency assistance and medical care to survivors and persons with disabilities to referral hospital in province, district and commune level. In addition, NGOs, DPOs, development partners and public institutions are playing important roles in providing this emergency rescue.

Component 3: Physical rehabilitation

- The Royal Government increased annual national budget to MoSVY for supporting 13 physical rehabilitation centers nationwide.

- The Royal Government of Cambodia offered 51 special work platforms for NGOs who are currently working in 13 rehabilitation centers of the MoSVY. The Government offered 4 special work platforms at the MoSVY and 3 special work platforms at the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS). It also provided 32 new staffs from Krousa Thmey Foundation into the work platforms of MoSVY.

- The Royal Government established the Disability Foundation through sub-decree No.118 ANKr. BK dated 13 September 2010, which is a public institution and under technical support and monitoring of the MoSVY and under the financial support and monitoring of the Ministry of Economic and Finance.

Component 4: Psychological support and social reintegration

- The MoH had provided and continues to provide psychological services in hospitals and health centers.
- Most projects are implementing and strengthening cooperation and ensure the referral of patients to centers within the community.
- Approximately 70,000 teachers of which 40% were trained for special education for children with disabilities.
- Provision of sign language and braille has been continued in public schools.
- Collaboration with Krousa Thmey Foundation to build centers for the deaf and blind has been strengthened.
- Special classes for deaf and blind students were established.
- Educational integration of the deaf and blind to public schools has been encouraged.
- Sign language feature are provided for daily news in several television channels.

Component 5: Economic reintegration

- Community-Based Rehabilitation Program has been implemented at 21 out of 24 cities and provinces.
- Create social security support for veterans and civil government officers.
- Build houses for persons with disabilities in the communities supported by the Veteran Association.
- Establish veteran development areas at Taken KohSlar and Kolen in Siem Reap province.
- Integrated Veteran Development Programs into public investment of state.

Component 6: Laws and public policies

- The MoSVY issued the Circular on Quality Improvement Training for Persons with Disabilities dated 26 February 2008 following the guidelines of 001 MoSVY.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia updated the NDSP, 2009-2013.
- The Law on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entered into force through the Royal Kram No. NS/ RKM/ 079/ 010, dated 3 July 2009.

- The Royal Government of Cambodia issued the decision No. 50SSR dated 5 August 2009 to establish the National Coordination Committee on Disability.
- The MoSVY issued the Prakas No. 164 SAY dated 24 February 2009 on the Organization and Function of Physical Rehabilitation Center in Municipality and Provinces.
- The MoSVY issued the Prakas No. 056 SAY dated 28 January 2010 on Organization and Function of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Administration.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia issued the Sub-decree No. 59 ANKr. BK, dated 26 June 2012 on Organization and Function of Disability Action Council.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia issued the Sub-decree No. 108 ANKr. BK dated 30 August 2010 on Employment Quotas for Persons with Disabilities.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia issued the Sub-Decree 118 ANKr. BK dated 13 September 2010 on Function of Persons with Disabilities Foundation.
- The MoSVY issued the SBR Guidelines for the Kingdom of Cambodia dated 7 June 2010.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia adopted the National Mine Action Strategic Plan, 2010-2019 dated 11 November 2010 which supports the NPA-PwDs.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia issued the Sub-decree No. 79 ANKr. BK dated 23 July 2010 on establishment of Veteran's Foundation.
- The MoSVY issued the Prakas No. 561 SAY dated 11 March 2011 on Organization and Function of Secretariat of Disability Action Council.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia issued the Sub-decree No. 137 ANKr. BK dated 27 June 2011 on policy to support poor persons with disabilities in their communities.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia issued the Sub-decree No. 233 ANKr. BK dated 18 October 2011 on establishment of Social Institute.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia issued the Inter-Ministerial Prakas No. 2492 SAY/BK dated 22 November 2011 on the type and level of disability classification.
- The MoSVY issued the Prakas No. 1633 SAY dated 22 July 2011 on establishment of a Working Group for Coordination between MoSVY, Persons with Disabilities Foundation, and NGO Partners on Physical Rehabilitation Technique.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia issued the Decision No. 49 SSR, dated 5 August 2009 on the Implementation of NPA-PwDs, 2009-2011.
- The MoSVY issued the Decision No. 1232 SAY dated 22 June 2012 on the Continuation of Implementation of NPA-PwDs, 2012-2013.



- The Royal Government of Cambodia promotes the implementation on Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.
- As the state party, the Royal Government of Cambodia developed the NPA-PwDs, 2009-2011 based on the Ottawa Convention to promote and protect the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, including landmine/ERW survivors in Cambodia.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia has been promoting the implementation and continuation of legal development and policies on disability.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia issued the Inter-Ministerial Circulation No. 005 SAY/SRNN dated 20 September 2012 on the Minimum Standard of Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities.
- The King of Kingdom of Cambodia signed the Royal Kram No. NS/RKM/0912/007 dated 20 September 2012 to allow the Royal Government of Cambodia to enter as a state party of the CRPD.
- The MoSVY issued the Cambodia Physical Rehabilitation Guidelines dated 29 May 2012.
- The MoSVY issued the Official Letter No. 021SAY dated 1 March 2012 on the Establishment of a Working Group for Legal Development to Accelerate the Implementation of the Protection and the Promotion of Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Dissemination.
- The DAC issued the Decision No. 001 D.A.C dated 13 February 2013 on the Establishment of the Committee on Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia issued the Sub-decree No. 216 ANKr. BK dated 2 May 2013 on the Organization and Function of the DAC.



WELCOME SPEECH

by H.E. Dr. ITH SAMHENG

**Minister of Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation,
the President of Disability Action Council**

Honorable respect to:

- **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and **Samdech Kittiprittbandit BUN RANY HUNSEN**,
- Her Excellency **Ms. NANDA KRAIRIKSH**, Representative-in-charge of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- His/Her Excellency Deputy Prime Ministers, Senior Ministers, Ministers, Members of National Assembly, Members of Senate and Government Officials
- His/Her Excellency Ambassadors, National and International Organizations, Distinguished National and International Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen
- Persons with Disabilities

Today is a great honor for the Kingdom of Cambodia to organize the Official Launching on Commitment of Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific 2013-2022, and Continuation of National Disability Strategy Plan (NDSP), 2014-2018.

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) and Disability Action Council (DAC) would like to express warm welcome for the highest honor presence of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and **Samdech Kittiprittbandit BUN RANY HUNSEN**.

I am delighted to welcome His/hers Excellency members of the National Assembly, Senate, Government, Municipality and Provincial Governors, Ambassadors, Development Partners, National and International Organizations, Distinguished Guests, Teachers, Students and Persons with Disabilities for participating in the event today.

The Official Launching is a historical event for disability sector and opening of a new history for persons with disabilities in the Kingdom of Cambodia in line with the CRPD and the NSDP.

The objective of this official launching is to present the commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia for the continuation of the protection and promotion of the

rights of persons with disabilities through the CRPD which was ratified on 20 December 2012 and came into force by the Royal Government of Cambodia on 19 January 2013, and declaration on the implementation of Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” in Asia and the Pacific, the New Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, in Incheon, Republic of Korea on 2 November 2012. This strategy provides the first set of agreement on disability-inclusive development goals and road map for Asian and Pacific region toward improving the quality of life and fulfillment of the rights of the 650 million persons with disabilities.

The Kingdom of Cambodia is ready to collaborate with United Nations in Asia and Pacific Committee in order to gather the support to implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022 and Incheon strategy to “Make the Right Real” with the following 10 goals:

- 1) Reduce poverty and enhance work and employment prospects
- 2) Promote participation in political processes and in decision-making
- 3) Enhance access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication
- 4) Strengthen social protection
- 5) Expand early intervention and education of children with disabilities
- 6) Ensure gender equality and women’s empowerment
- 7) Ensure disability-inclusive in disaster reduction and management
- 8) Improve the reliability and comparability data
- 9) Accelerate the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and harmonization of national legislation with the Convention
- 10) Advance subregional, regional and interregional cooperation

2013 is the end year of implementation of the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities including Landmine/ERW Survivors (NPA-PwDs), 2009-2011 and 2013 and continuation of the National Disability Strategic Plan (NDSP), 2014-2018 development to fulfill the mandate of the Royal Government.

This event is a new step of the Kingdom of Cambodia on disability and commitment of the Royal Government to Persons with Disabilities.

To fulfill obligations of the Convention, as a State Party on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and a Signatory of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, Incheon strategy to “Make the Right Real”, the Royal Government of Cambodia developed Sub-decree No.216 RNK.BK dated 2 May 2013 to assign the MoSVY and the DAC to prepare the NDSP for the period of 2014 to 2018 and national coordination mechanism and advisory on disability issue in the Kingdom of Cambodia, and secretariat of the Royal Government of Cambodia to implement the CRPD and the New Asian and Pacific Decade on Persons with Disabilities.

The Kingdom of Cambodia went through civil war and genocide disaster has remained many impacts with high disability rate. Beside this disaster, Cambodian people face and live with disability as mine and unexploded ordnance victims, as well as disability caused by road traffic accidents, work accidents, congenital, elderly and other factors.

According to the Cambodia census in 2008, persons with disabilities numbered to 192,538 people, or 1.44% of the total population in which 56.3% are males, and 43.7% are females. Children with disabilities from age 0-18 is 17.72%. Persons with disabilities caused by mine and unexploded ordnance is 64,224 people, or 33.36% of the total persons with disabilities in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The Royal Government of Cambodia takes into action and mainstream disability issues into the Rectangular Strategy Policy (Phase II), the Five-Year Social Economic Development Plan (Phase II), the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities caused by landmine and unexploded ordnance victim issue and the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals. The Kingdom of Cambodia become the Ottawa Convention State Party on prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction.

In remembrance, the Kingdom of Cambodia recognizes the equal rights and opportunities of persons with disabilities and children with disabilities in the development in society. All levels of persons with disabilities have the rights to access registration of birth certificate, collecting data, developing policy, and other social activities including persons with disabilities in all activities based on their capacity, without skipping and forgetting children with disabilities and their families. Persons with disabilities have different types of disability such as physical, intellectual, visual and hearing. This need should be taken into consideration in development planning and process. Data on disability should be updated in order to assist in sufficient of the policy preparation and continuation to provide service for persons and children with disabilities.

Persons and children with disabilities have been included into all development activities without discrimination. We shall ensure the changes of perception and understanding of society toward persons with disabilities in recognizing their activities and voices. It really contributes to the social development. Persons and children with disabilities are capable of overcoming barriers by themselves. Therefore, inclusion of persons with disabilities in all sectors based on the equal rights principle will improve their livelihood and community will get better to really “Make the Right Real”.

The Royal Government of Cambodia shall continue preventing all kind of violence, abuse, and trafficking of vulnerable persons and children with disabilities by creating a development environment and providing special assistance while needed.

The Royal Government of Cambodia shall continue providing support to families of persons and children with disabilities in order to help them to take care of their family members with disabilities. This support will contribute to the reduction of moving children from their families to shelter.

The Royal Government shall continue the collaboration between government and civil society organization to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

In the fourth mandate of the government, the Kingdom of Cambodia developed the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other legal frameworks to enforce the implementation of the law together with the development of various programs for disability. Besides this, the Royal Government of Cambodia has also enhanced collaboration with international communities, development partners, national and international organizations to mobilize resources and improve services for persons with disabilities; and, reintegrate persons with disabilities into a barrier-free society.



Through abovementioned efforts, the Royal Government of Cambodia has reached many achievements in disability sectors such as:

1. The prevention and protection of disability has been achieved. The number of persons with disabilities affected by landmine and unexploded ordnance has been decreasing. Poliomyelitis has been eliminated since 1998. Health education program on maternal, prevention vaccination are being implemented regularly. The prevention method of traffic accident has been strongly implementing through the promotion of using helmet, seatbelt and respect to the traffic law. Those factors are actively involved in the reduction of disability rate in the Kingdom of Cambodia.
2. The Royal Government of Cambodia has promulgated various Royal Decree, Sub-Decree and Prakas to implement the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities such as: Royal Decree on Social Security for Veterans, Sub-decree on Establishment of National Foundation for Veterans, Sub-decree on Organization and Function of Disabilities Action Council, Sub-decree on Establishment of Persons with Disabilities Foundation, Sub-decree on Quota System of Employment for Persons with Disabilities, Sub-decree on Supporting Policy for Poor Persons with Disabilities in Community, Inter-Ministerial Prakas on Types and Level of Disability Classification, Inter-Ministerial Secular on Reasonable Accommodation for Person with Disabilities, Employment and other legal frameworks.
3. The rights of persons with disabilities are protected by the law. The protection on the rights of persons with disabilities is widely and actively implemented. Discrimination of persons with disabilities in the society is reduced. The honor of persons with disabilities has been increasingly respected and acknowledged. The rights to participate in politics including the right to vote, the right to be representative in assembly are clearly stated and implemented in the law and other procedures in election. Discrimination of candidates with disabilities is prohibited by the law. Persons with disabilities have their own organizations represented by persons with disabilities, radio broadcasting program to broadcast their own voices.
4. The Kingdom of Cambodia has continued its sustainability in providing rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. Every year, there are an approximately 20,000 persons with disabilities receiving free physical rehabilitation services. This service responded to basic needs on both quantity and quality of persons with disabilities. Human resource development on prosthetic and orthotic production has been expanded to Faculty of Prosthetic and Orthotic Engineering of the National Institute of Social Affairs. As of present day, there are 175 students graduated in which 96 are Cambodian nationality and 78 are foreign nationality.
5. There are many public and private buildings that have been built with proper accessibility for persons with disabilities. Some parking areas are designed and reserved for persons with disabilities. There are also many public and private buildings equipped with restrooms and priority signboards for persons with disabilities. Sign language and braille have been developed and integrated into the curriculum for the education sector, information and communication technology, and television programs to ensure information accessibility for persons with disabilities. The MoSVY is collaborating with other relevant ministries to prepare guidelines on standard of public building and space, and driving rights for persons with disabilities.

6. Community-Based Rehabilitation Program has been providing outreach services on physical rehabilitation, vocational skills training, and start-up capital to persons with disabilities to establish small business to generate income for themselves and families or approximately 20,000 households. About 1,950 Self-Help Groups of persons with disabilities have been formed. Based on the Sub-Decree No. 137 ANKr. BK dated 27 June 2011 on supporting policy for poor persons with disabilities in community, the MoSVY issued a guideline to implement as a role model for supporting policy for poor persons with disabilities in communities in 3 target provinces that include: Takeo, Kampong Speu and Kandal in 2013. The Royal Government of Cambodia has been collaborating with Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to promote the implementation of the CRPD. APCD is implementing Non-Handicapping Environment (NHE) program in Cheoteal commune, Kean Svay district, Kandal province with financial support from Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) .

7. The vocational training program for persons with disabilities has provided vocational skill training, small business establishment and job placement for 16,304 persons with disabilities. With the implementation of employment quota system for persons with disabilities in 32 government institutions in 2011-2012, there are now 1,468 persons with disabilities in which 135 persons with severe disabilities. If one person with severe disabilities is counted as two persons with normal disabilities, 1,603 persons or 0.78% of total officers are employed by government. The Sub-decree on Quota System of Employment for Persons with Disabilities No 108 ANKr. BK dated 30 August 2010, targeted 2% of persons with disabilities of total employment within 3 years.

The Royal Government of Cambodia determined guidelines for government institutions as follows: (a) the target shall be achieved within the timeframe, (b) for those government institutions who fail in achieving the target, the chairperson of respective institution shall pay a levy based on the Law on the Protection and Promotion on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, (c) the quota system of employment shall be encouraged in private sector starting from 2013, (d) all ministries and public institutions shall ensure proper accessibility for persons with disabilities in their workplaces.

8. The Royal Government of Cambodia has been collaborating with Cambodia Veterans Association to build hundreds of houses in the communities for the veterans, and providing social land concession to thousands of retired military armed force, invalid combatants, and veterans' families. Implementing social security fund for veterans and former civil government officers with disability insurance where there are 50,000 persons with disabilities receiving this fund.

9. Children with disabilities can have access to educational opportunity in public schools without discrimination, some public school are built with proper accessibility for students with disabilities. Centers and schools for children who are deaf and blind are continuing its sustainability and provide opportunity for children who are deaf and blind to receive their livelihood and educational needs until graduate degree, and some persons with disabilities became effective employees.



10. Culture, arts, and sport activities for persons with disabilities have been encouraging and providing opportunity for persons with disabilities to fully participate and present their capacity and talent. Cambodia has National Paralympic Committee which chaired by **Samdech Prime Minister** and Cambodia Special Olympic Committee for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, which is chaired by the Minister of MoSVY has been promoting and improving culture, arts and sport activities for persons with disabilities.

The abovementioned achievements show that the current situation of persons with disabilities has been improved day to day based on perfect policies of government which highly prioritizes disability together with collaboration from development partners, national and international organizations who provided many development programs on healthcare for persons with disabilities, as well as great attention from family, parents, community and commitment from persons with disabilities themselves.

On behalf of Disability Action Council, I would like to express my sincere thanks to **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia for his continuous supports and pay attention on persons with disabilities. **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN** is a hero and has invested his life for the nation and became a person with disabilities. He has contributed to the rescue of the nation and Cambodian people from Pol Pot genocide with historical victory on 7 January 1979 as well as brought in the national reconciliation, peace, unity and developments of all sectors until present day. **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN** is a symbol of success and happiness of persons with disabilities and this will be in memory of all Cambodian people.

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN and **Samdech Kittiprittbandit BUN RANY HUNSEN** always give love and hope for persons with disabilities. Samdech has built the Development Center for Persons with Disabilities in Taken Koh Sla, Kampot province, Kulen in Siem Reap, Phnom Chat in Banteay Meanchey, and has integrated these projects into public investment program. **Samdech Prime Minister** provides support for Physical Rehabilitation Centers, Orphanage Center and Deaf and Blind Children Center together with direct supports to persons with disabilities through learning and employment opportunities etc.

My appreciation and thanks for an effective responsiveness of the Cambodia Red Cross (CRC) under the management of **Samdech Kittiprittbandit BUN RANY HUNSEN** who has been supporting vulnerable peoples particularly persons with disabilities all over Cambodia.

On behalf of Disability Action Council and Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, I would like to congratulate **Samdech Kittiprittbandit BUN RANY HUN SEN** for her new higher title as **Samdech Kittiprittbandit**.

My appreciation and thanks for all development partners such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other national organizations for supporting on disability sector and for join organizing the event today.

I would like to thank all relevant ministries, institutions, authorities in all levels, government officers, national and international organizations, and people from communities, monks, the elderly, families, and persons with disabilities for contributing to the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

On behalf of the Disability Action Council, I strongly hope that, the implimentation of the United Nations Covention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the New Asian and Pacific Decade for Persons with Disabilities, Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and Continuation of National Disability Strategic Plan 2014-2018, will successfully achieve and contribute to the promotion of the disability sector together with the living standard of persons with disabilities in the Kingdom of Cambodia as a whole.

On behalf of participants in the event, I would like to wish **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN** and **Samdech Kittiprittbandit BUN RANY HUNSEN**, parents and all family members with health and wealth to continue to be Prime Minister in the Kingdom of Cambodia for the upcoming the fifth mandate and for the development of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

I would like to wish **Samdech Prime Minister**, His and Her Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Teachers, and all Persons with Disabilities with four Buddhist blessings of longevity, nobility, healthiness and strength.

Thank you!



CONGRATULATORY STATEMENT

by Ms. NANDA KRAIRIKSH

Representative-in-charge,

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Honorable President of the Disability Action Council of Cambodia

Your Excellency, **Dr. ITH SAMHENG**, Minister of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and President of the Disability Action Council of Cambodia

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great honour for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to be represented here today on this historic occasion.

We are celebrating the official launch by the Royal Government of Cambodia of its commitment to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

On behalf of the United Nations, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Royal Government of Cambodia for its ratification of the Convention last December.

Cambodia was the first nation in the Asian and Pacific region to do so following the adoption by ESCAP Member States of the Incheon Strategy last November in the Republic of Korea.

Indeed, Cambodia’s contribution to the drafting and adoption of the Incheon Strategy was significant, as the Incheon Strategy provides the Asian and Pacific region, and the world, with the world’s first set of regionally-agreed disability-inclusive development goals.

We are honored that the Incheon Strategy and the Convention are being nationally launched by His Excellency the Prime Minister of Cambodia, reflecting political commitment at the highest level to improving the lives of all persons with disabilities in Cambodia.

Asia-Pacific is home to 650 million persons with disabilities. They account for 15 percent of the population, but are mostly unseen, unheard and uncounted.

Persons with disabilities are among the most marginalized in society. Every person with a disability has a right to a decent and productive life.

In recognition of the need to engage persons with disabilities meaningfully in processes for economic development and social progress, Cambodia, together with the other 61 governments of ESCAP, through ESCAP resolution 68/7 of 23 May 2012 proclaimed the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.

Significant progress had been made during the past two consecutive Asian and Pacific Decades of Disabled Persons spanning the period 1993 to 2012.

Nevertheless, in the new Decade, many challenges still remain to the achievement of our collective goal of disability-inclusive societies.

For instance, the gains of national policy initiatives are still uneven for persons with disabilities who receive insufficient policy attention.

A fundamental challenge is the lack of data on the situation of persons with disabilities which prevents us from measuring progress and policy outcomes.

The many barriers to the participation of persons with disabilities are formidable. These barriers are in the inaccessibility of the physical environment, public transportation, the knowledge, information and communication infrastructure, as well as in the lack of services, assistive technologies and training.

The barriers are manifestations of negative attitudes towards persons with disabilities. Due to these barriers, persons with disabilities tend not to be involved in the political process, in decision-making and in development programs.

It is thus most encouraging for the United Nations to note the remarkable achievements that Cambodia is making to move towards a disability-inclusive society.

First and foremost, the fact that disability issues receive the direct and personal attention of Government at the highest political level in Cambodia is precisely what every country in Asia-Pacific, and in the world, should do.

Second, Cambodia's Disability Action Council is worthy of emulation for the comprehensiveness of its organizational structure and functions. It is especially significant that a new sub-Decree has extended the structure of the Council to include additional government ministries such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries; commerce; justice; and tourism. The extension of the coverage of the Council to municipal and provincial levels will further enhance the effectiveness and impact of the Council's work.

Third, Cambodia may rightly take pride in the depth and breadth of the legislation that it has enacted to ensure equal rights and access for persons with disabilities. For example, the legislation in areas such as education, vocational training and job placement, and employment enables persons with disabilities to contribute to national economic development.

The ratification of the Convention marks fresh endeavors to further remove barriers to the participation of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with other Cambodians.

As a comprehensive legal instrument, the Convention will explicitly empower persons with disabilities as holders of rights.

The Convention will help shape policies and build institutions that make practical and positive changes in the daily lives of persons with disabilities.

The United Nations welcomes the new chapter that Cambodia is embarking on as the first ASEAN Member State to launch the Incheon Strategy.

With today's auspicious commitment to develop the National Disability Strategic Plan (NDSP), 2014-2018, Cambodia is in the vanguard for an early start to the implementation of the Incheon Strategy.

The Incheon Strategy contains time-bound goals, targets and indicators to guide action and measure progress by governments.

We look to Cambodia's leadership to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Incheon Strategy.

Together, let us "Make the Right Real" for all Cambodians with disabilities.

I thank you.

SPEECH AND HIGHEST RECOMMENDATION

by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN

Excellencies Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished National and International Guests,

Ms. NANDA KRAIRIKSH, Representative-in-charge of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Beloved Persons with Disabilities, Teachers and Students,

It is my pleasure to be here with Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen especially persons with disabilities, teachers and students in the ceremony to declare our commitment to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the New Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022, Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” and the National Strategic Plan on Disabilities, 2014-2018. This event is a good gathering opportunity to review the progress of our work relating to persons with disabilities so that we can come up with new measures and direction to ensure the basic rights, opportunities and favorable condition for the persons with disabilities, a society that does not discriminate against persons with disabilities, and more importantly, to ensure that they can stand on equal footing in the society.

The main objective of this event is to underline our will and firm determination to continue to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities according to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted on 20 December 2012, came into effect in the Kingdom of Cambodia on 19 January 2013, and to implement the **New Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real”**. This strategy is the first ever regional agreement to achieve disability-inclusive development and to draw a blueprint to enhance the living standard and the rights of around 650 million persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to commend the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, concerned ministries/institutions, Persons with Disabilities Foundation, Disability Action Council (DAC), Cambodian Disabled People’ Organization, NGOs, and development partners for working together to achieve such great progress in our work relating to disability issues. In addition, I highly value all disability-related achievements, such as disability prevention programs, vaccination programs to prevent disease-related disabilities, the promotion of modern treatment techniques and physical therapy, the elimination of polio to reduce disability rate from birth, mine clearance and assistance to mine victims, the reinforcement of the Law on Land Traffic, dissemination of the Law on Land Traffic, prevention of and crackdown on violence in the society, and integration of persons with disabilities into the society and so on.

These achievements attest to our high attention on the prevention of disabilities, the rights of and support for persons with disabilities, work rehabilitation, inclusion of persons with disabilities in socio-economic activities. Looking ahead, Cambodia is more than ready to work with ESCAP to mobilize support to implement the New Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities and Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real”, 2013-2022. In addition, the Kingdom of Cambodia has also prepared the National Strategic Plan on Disabilities (NSPF) , 2014-2018, which integrate the disability issues into policy platform of the Royal Government of the new legislature of the National Assembly. In the spirit raised above, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to voice my full support all activities implemented in the Kingdom of Cambodia to address the basic needs of the persons with disabilities as stated in the Constitution, the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Disabled to serve the benefit of all persons with disabilities from all races and nationals living in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

This work is not a new agenda for us, we started it immediately after 7 January 1979, the time we started to rebuild the country from bare hand in the face of all kinds of obstacles but the welfare of our people was our priority, especially persons with disabilities who are vulnerable during war time. In addition, the Kingdom of Cambodia has also ratified many international conventions such as the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and Biwako Plus Five, 2003-2012, Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.

These clearly reflect the firm will and determination of the Kingdom of Cambodia to prevent disabilities and promote the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities because we are well aware that persons with disabilities suffer enough, physically and mentally, so we need to support and give them special treatment so that they can live with dignity as other human beings. The Royal Government of Cambodia has set up national-level mechanisms and public institutions to coordinate and implement all disability-related works, such as the DAC, Persons with Disabilities Foundation, Administration for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to reinforce the implementation of the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. These mechanisms have significantly contributed to protection of the basic rights, creation of opportunities and favorable condition for persons with disabilities, elimination of discrimination against them and their equal status in the society. In particular, the Kingdom of Cambodia has managed to reduce the number of persons with disabilities, thanks to the termination of civil wars so new disabilities caused by those wars no longer exist, high economic growth, disability prevention programs, mine clearance, strengthening of traffic safety.

At the same time, thanks to special training courses for persons with disabilities and employment creation, they are now more able to compete in the labor market so that they can earn incomes to ensure the continuity of their ownership, freedom, dignity. Moreover, with regard to the public employment of persons with disabilities, a total number of 1,468 persons with disabilities worked in 32 governmental ministries/ institutions in 2011 and 2012. In addition, persons with disabilities were given priority for the social land concession for housing, family businesses and agriculture. Particularly, the Royal Government of Cambodia has issued land titles and built houses for persons with disabilities at Taken Koh Sla Center, 317 Development Areas in Kulen-Siemreap, and Phnom Chhat-Banteay Meanchey and so on.

Moreover, the Royal Government of Cambodia also provides work rehabilitation services at community level to provide education, work rehabilitation, health care services, vocational trainings to enhance their living standard, in particular, we have developed braille and sign language and included those in the education curriculums, IT and media so that the blind and visually impaired and the deaf can keep themselves updated with latest news. Furthermore, children with disabilities have access to education without discrimination; wheelchair ramps have been built in a number of educational establishments; centers and schools support the living of children with blindness and deaf and enable them to continue their study till higher education level; and some persons with disabilities have become capable human resources in the society. Truly, despite the great achievements in terms of the welfare of persons with disabilities, there remains obstacles for them that must be addressed, such as the issue of social attitudes toward them, discrimination and contempt, and limited access to vocational training and so on.

In this spirit, to add to what we have been carrying out according to my previous recommendations, and to promote the implementation of this work, I would like to take this opportunity to provide a number of practical recommendations to use as a basis for the implementation and to share new perspectives as follows:

First: Continue strengthening and expanding measures that could prevent disability more effectively. To this end, it is necessary to maintain peace, promote socio-economic development, reduce vulnerability in the society, prevent violence in the society, reduce traffic and workplace accidents, strengthen healthcare system, speed up mine clearance and unexploded ordnances, strengthen work rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, and expand the education and dissemination of the prevention of disability.

Second: Continue strengthening the implementation of international treaties adopted by Cambodia relating to disabilities and the rights of persons with disabilities to prevent disabilities, promote the rights of persons with disabilities and integrate disabilities in all development sectors. In particular, the Disability Action Council must lead the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other related treaties by working closely with concerned ministries, institutions, development partners, civil society.

Third: Continue implementing the law on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and other regulations effectively. Those laws and regulations will turn services for persons with disabilities from previously humanitarian work to social protection. The new model of services, i.e. social protection, is more sustainable than humanitarian model while their ownership spirit and ability will be strengthened, and the integration of persons with disabilities into the society will be smooth.

Fourth: Continue strengthening and expanding work rehabilitation and physical rehabilitation services in sustained manner by strengthening the cooperation with national and international organizations and development partners to mobilize resources to implement various programs and provide work rehabilitation and physical rehabilitation services in centers throughout the country. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank the International Veterans Organization, International Organization for Persons with Disabilities, Cambodia Trust, International Red Cross Committee, Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), United Nations Children's



Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Australia's Red Cross, and World Health Organization (WHO) for having been assisting the operation of the Center for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled and conducting feasibility study on the disability sector.

Fifth: Strengthen and expand the spirit of ownership of persons with disabilities which is the key aspect of the sustained development for persons with disabilities. In this regard, I would like to request all persons with disabilities to continue strengthening your courage, hope and self-confidence using your remaining abilities to overcome all difficulties in order to build livelihoods with ownership and take part in the development of our nation.

Sixth: Encourage participation of the private sector such as factories, enterprises, and institutes in the disability sector, either voluntarily or obligatory as mentioned in the law on the protection and promotion of the rights of the disabled and support the integration of the disabled by incorporating the issues of disability into the entities' action plan and create a favorable condition for them to integrate into the society at the possible maximum level.

Seven: The MoSVY, the DAC, relevant ministries and institutions need to continue strengthening disability related work and the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities to work at all levels effectively and sustainably, and to use it as the core for the implementation of national policy for the disabled and promote the implementation of Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Treaties on the rights of persons with disabilities effectively. Specialized organizations and sub-national administrations at all levels, especially at the commune and district levels, also need to pay attention on the disability related work by incorporating the work into the action plans of your agencies and units and promote the implementation effectively.

Eighth: Continue preparing a Five-Year National Strategy on Disabilities, 2014-2018 and preparing national policy on disability in order to be incorporated into the policy program of the Royal Government of the Fifth Legislature by regarding the disability sector as a priority in the policy agenda of the new Government. There needs to continue providing priority on the budget allocation for the social affairs, education, health, rural development, agriculture, aimed at making public services of all these sectors to be further enhanced and produce direct impacts on the development of persons with disabilities.

Ninth: Continue strengthening the DAC to become a mechanism to coordinate the work of relevant ministries-institutions, and development partners, NGOs, civil society, private sector as set in the sub-decree on the functioning of the DAC. Besides, ministries-institutions, municipalities, and provinces need to establish respective working groups on disability action to support ministries-institutions, municipalities and provinces in the disability sector.

Tenth: I would like to remind the public and private sector to implement the quota system which 2% for public and 1% for private of whole total employees.

Eleventh: Keep facilitating for persons with disabilities to the under national framework level which help them to work at their hometown in case they are facing with the resident problem.

Twelfth: Produce the sign language at all TV stations in order to facilitate to persons with disabilities to take up information.

Thirteenth: Keep promoting all sports of persons with disabilities.

In the spirit of what I have raised above, I would like to call on Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, representatives from ministries-institutions, development partners, civil society organization, NGOs, private sector to pay high attention on the work relating to disability for the benefit of our society. I believe that this event will be fruitful for persons with disabilities, especially increase the spirit of care and concern on the disability issues, the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, the incorporation of disability into the development at all level toward an inclusive society and to make the right real.

Finally, with the “The Official Launching on Commitment of Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, 2013-2022, and Continuation of National Disability Strategy Plan (NDSP), 2014-2018”, May the above mentioned items achieve great success and I would like to wish Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, ladies and gentlemen, national and international guest, persons with disabilities, teachers, student the four gems of Buddhist blessing: Longevity, Nobility, Healthiness and Strength.

Thank you!

PHOTO GALLERY



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN interacting with persons with disabilities (1)



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN interacting with persons with disabilities (2)



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN interacting with persons with disabilities (3)



Photo of Ceremony



H.E. Dr. ITH SAMHENG giving speech



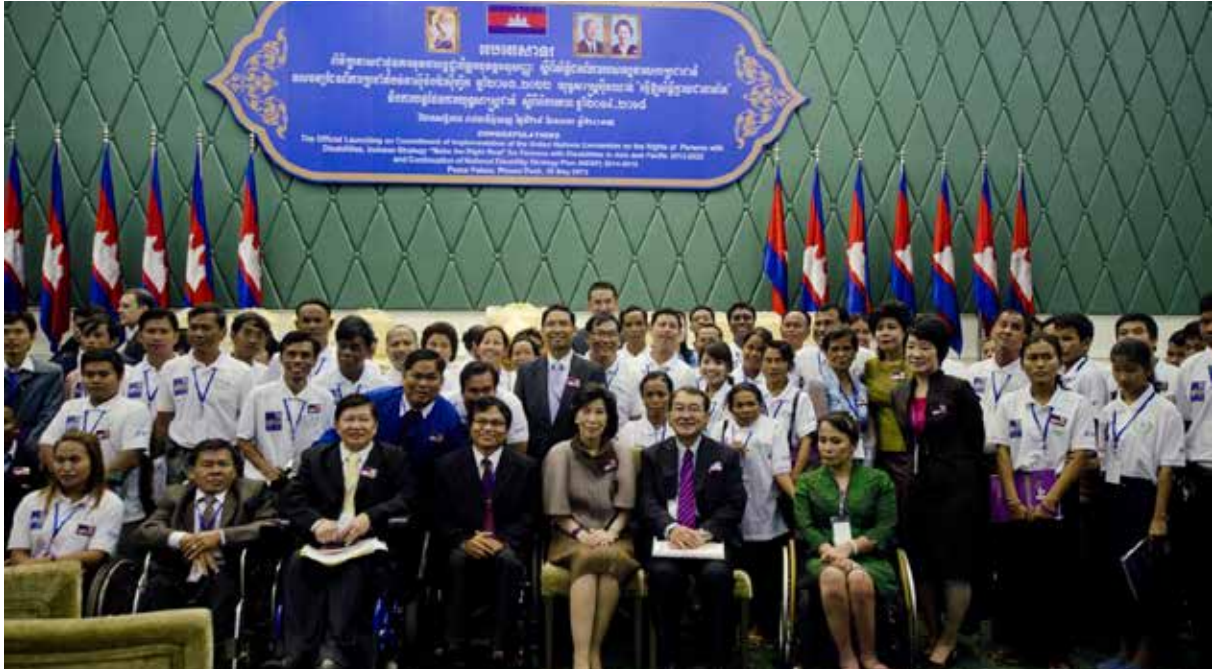
Ms. NANDA KRAIRIKSH giving speech



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN giving speech



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN handing over CRPD and Incheon Strategy in Khmer Language to H.E. Dr. ITH SAMHENG



Participants (1)



Participants (2)



Persons with disabilities attending the ceremony (1)



Persons with disabilities attending the ceremony (2)



Persons with disabilities attending the ceremony (3)



Persons with disabilities attending the ceremony (4)



Persons with disabilities attending the ceremony (5)



Persons with disabilities attending the ceremony (6)

Accessible for Persons with disAbilities



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