





Kingdom of Cambodia

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(Royal Government of Cambodia)

Session :

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**Statement of His Excellency Ross Sovann**

**Deputy Secretary General**

**of the National Committee for Disaster Management, Kingdom of Cambodia**

**Address at the 3rd Global Platform of Disaster Risks Reduction**

**8th - 13th May 2011, Geneva, Switzerland**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

It is indeed a great honor of our Cambodia Delegation to attend the 3rd Global Platform for Disaster Risks Reduction hosted by the UN-ISDR, here in beloved city of Geneva.

While we are sitting here in this conference room, it is our time to mark the two months pass over of the devastated and deadly Tsunami in Japan. I would like to share the grieves, pay my deep respect to those who lost their life and my condolences to whom lost their beloved ones, not only in Japan but in the rest of the world who face similar pain and suffer from other disaster events.

Allow me to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the UN-ISDR and partners for their excellent arrangements to organize such important event, the 3rd Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and support extended to our delegation in this conference.

I strongly believe that the 3rd Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will accelerate and encourage the international communities, governments, and the relevant inter-agencies continue to cooperate and provide the constant support in terms of material and technical assistances as well as human resources to serve in the disaster risk reduction activities. In the mean time, I would also like to extend my profound appreciation to all friendly countries, the UNs and international organizations for their active contributions and participations in the disaster risk reduction efforts and activities in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

The Royal Government of Cambodia believes that investment today is for a safer tomorrow. It has realized that the HFA is key instrument for the promotion and improvement of Disaster Risk Reduction, where increase investment in local action is apparently critical. Thus, In implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), the Royal Government of Cambodia has developed a Strategic National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (SNAP-DRR) 2008-2013, the development of the Disaster Management Law, the formulation of the National Platform for Disaster Management for both disaster risk reduction and disaster emergency preparedness, the application of the contingency planning for emergency response, etc. with firmly committed to implement and review the process of implementation those action plans.

One of the significant developments is that the disaster management in Cambodia has been integrated in the updated Strategic National Development Plan 2009-2013 based on the achievements and challenges in implementation of the Strategic National Development Plan 2006-2010. It was also clearly identified the natural hazards such as flood, drought, typhoon, epidemics which Cambodia encountered in the past and caused the risk to human lives, damaged agricultural crops as well as properties of people and impacted on the country economy. In the meantime, the Key Policy Priority and Actions 2009-2013 of the present Strategic National Development Plan has focused on the implementation of the Strategic National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (SNAP-DRR) 2008-2013 through the strengthening of participatory mechanism and effective coordination from all stakeholders either in the Royal Government of Cambodia and the development partners, private sectors and civil societies. In order to achieve the strategic goals of the disaster management in the Kingdom of Cambodia, the priority actions set by National Committee for Disaster Management are as follows:

1. Review and improve the legislations, policies, guiding principles to accommodate, promote and improve disaster management; including resources and budget allocation;
2. Improve and establish system and mechanism of disaster management including guideline, standard operation procedures, and plan that enable to adequately prepare for and respond to the needs at all levels.
3. Mainstream disaster risk reduction into social-economic development and poverty elevation agenda; including acceleration of the formulation the National Platform for DM, the establishment of the disaster management team within the inter-governmental ministries and institutions, academia, civil society and the private sector.
4. Invest long-term disaster management knowledge building; including awareness, skill enhancement, and formal education for the future leaderships and professionals in disaster management for the country.
5. Participate, promote and strengthen regional and international collaboration and cooperation in disaster management, including implementation of ASEAN AADMER, HFA and others.

In the context of climate change, Kingdom of Cambodia is one of most vulnerable to the climate change, because Cambodia is the agricultural country with majority of the population mainly depends on the agricultural products and other natural resources for their daily living. The severe impact of climate change are flood, drought, decrease of crop yield due to the shortage of water and numbers of people faced with epidemic diseases caused by water, thus the climate change is the threat hazard which cause high disaster risk in Cambodia.

Moreover, the Royal Government of Cambodia has highlighted of the necessity on mainstreaming the adaptation of climate change into the relevant inter-governmental ministries and institutions, especially in the field of agriculture, water resources, forestry, industry and energy, and health aim at ensuring the sustainable development and preparing for the effective response to the climate change.

In the name of the least developing country and as a member of the signatories of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocols, Cambodia was not borne with any obligation to reduce the greenhouse gas emission in the country yet. However, Kingdom of Cambodia has been so far actively involved in the implementation of greenhouse gas emission reduction issues as defined in the framework of rectangular policy of the Royal Government of the Kingdom Cambodia which lead toward the sustainable development such as clean project mechanism, promotion of renewable energy, campaign on oil and energy saving, conservation of forest in national natural reserves and protected forest areas as well as voluntary activities of the private sector in the promotion of the use of renewable energy from agriculture wastes for their production, especially the use of bio-energy, rice husk and bio-gas for electricity production and cooking at the rural areas.

As we all already aware of that the disaster has caused severe impact on livelihood and security of the destitute people and it’s nothing different between climate change and disaster. In this spirit, I strongly believe that during the six-day long conference, we all will have the opportunity to gain new knowledge, information, and useful lessons learned as the valuable assets for strengthening all the disaster risk reduction and climate change activities. This conference which being held is a testimony of our great concern and attention on the disaster and climate change issues that severely occurred on our earth.

Last but not least, in the name of the Royal Government as well as the National Committee for Disasters Management of Cambodia, I wish the entire conference a great success and fruitful toward building a safer world for all.

**Thank you.**