



European Union

Opening Remarks by

H.E. Jean-François Cautain, Ambassador

Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia

at

**Final Workshop of the Project “Development of the National Energy Efficiency Policy,
Strategy and Action Plan for the Kingdom of Cambodia”**

Sunway Hotel

29th of April 2013

His Excellency Minister of Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy,

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today at the final workshop of the European Union Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility project “Development of the National Energy Efficiency Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for the Kingdom of Cambodia.”

The European Union's Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility is an instrument developed and currently funded by the European Union, Austria, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden.

This project is the result of the fruitful collaboration between Cambodia and the European Union – and more specifically between the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy and the EU Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility.

The European Union is driven by the spirit of collaboration for a common political, social and economic development. Moreover, the European Union seeks collaboration outside its geographical borders by establishing partnerships worldwide. Today's workshop is good proof of such a partnership in Cambodia on the critical issue of energy.

Energy affects all elements of our every-day lives. Energy plays a significant role in our society. Energy is improving our quality of life and supporting economic development. At the same time, energy issues are not only limited to a country alone but it also plays a role in global challenges, such as the preservation of natural resources, the protection of the environment and the containment of climate change. Therefore, energy should be treated as a valuable resource, by being utilized consciously and efficiently in order to be available for the development and well-being of future generations.

As you know, in Europe we are also facing challenges related to energy. The European Union needs to find cost-effective ways to improve its energy infrastructure, to reduce our dependency on fossil

fuels and on overseas imports. We need to sustain growth and jobs and we need to improve efforts to reduce the effects of global climate change. As a result, energy efficiency has been put at the heart of the “EU 20-20-20 Policy” for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and of the transition to a resource efficient economy. As part of this EU 20-20-20 Policy, the EU set itself the target of saving 20% of its primary energy consumption by 2020 compared to 2005 levels.

In addition in March 2011, the European Commission adopted the “Energy Efficiency Plan” for saving more energy through concrete energy efficiency measures. The set of measures proposed aims at creating substantial benefits for households, businesses and public authorities, generating savings for households and improving the European Union’s industrial competitiveness.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen

It is against this background that I would like to commend the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy and the Royal Government of Cambodia to address this important issue of energy efficiency in a timely manner. In developing a National Energy Efficiency Policy Cambodia is joining a selective group of countries that are leading the drive for comprehensive energy policies aimed at ensuring the provision of sustainable, affordable and clean energy services to their

populations and industries. In doing so, your Ministry is contributing to the social and economic development of your country, to the competitiveness of your private sector and to the global efforts to preserve valuable resources for future generations to come.

In fact the development of this policy is very timely on various levels. Firstly it is a logical and valuable complement to Cambodia's National Policy on Green Growth, as energy efficiency is one key element of green growth and green economy. Secondly it addresses the increasing complexity of matching the ever-increasing energy demand with the more slowly-growing energy supply capacities in a cost-effective manner; and thirdly it is in line with the UN Secretary General's global Initiative on Sustainable Energy for All, which is not only addressing the issues of energy access and renewable energy, but also the very important issue of energy efficiency. In this frame, the European Union offers expertise as well as development funding to provide access to secure, affordable, clean and sustainable energy services. This UN initiative therefore presents a significant opportunity for the European Union and developing countries to further cooperate with public institutions, businesses, research institutions and civil society in order to help make sure that energy is accessible for everyone and used in a more efficient manner.

In fact, Your Excellency, if implemented successfully, Cambodia's National Energy Efficiency Policy could perhaps address two of the Sustainable Energy for All objectives at the same time: improve

energy efficiency in Cambodia and in doing so, it will also increase access to reliable and affordable energy in the country. In other words, Cambodia's Energy Efficiency Policy could hit two birds with one stone, because every kilowatt hour that is saved by one consumer, is a reliable and inexpensive kilowatt hour provided to another consumer.

As a result, energy efficiency measures will contribute to improved energy access to the whole of Cambodian society. In this context, I am proud that the European Union Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility could, in close collaboration with your Ministry, contribute to such an important aspect of social and economic development in Cambodia.

The finalisation, adoption and implementation of the Policy will now be a key factor in determining its success. If implemented successfully, the measures proposed in the National Energy Efficiency Policy have the potential to support substantial energy and cost savings for the Cambodian economy and population.

I encourage the Government to continue this important process with the same vigour and enthusiasm that you have applied during the development of this Policy.

I wish you a fruitful day of discussions and sharing of experiences. Thank you for your attention.