

Welcome Remarks
by
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Secretary General, Supreme National Economic Council
Secretary General, Ministry of Economy and Finance
Chairman, CDRI Board of Directors

At the
2007 Cambodia Outlook Conference: Opportunities for Growth,
Development and Shared Prosperity
Hotel Cambodiana, Phnom Penh, 23 February 2007

Samdech Prime Minister,
Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

We are honored today to have **Samdech Prime Minister** here among us to deliver a key note address for the *2007 Cambodia Outlook Conference: Opportunities for Growth, Development and Shared Prosperities* organized by the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) and ANZ Royal.

On behalf of CDRI Board, let me begin by first extending a warmest welcome to **Samdech Prime Minister**, members of the Royal Government, Ambassadors, Representatives of the bilateral and multilateral development community and private sector and all participants.

I would like to thank **Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen** for his presence in the opening of this conference and setting the guideline and direction for the discussion. This conference is made possible by the efforts of **Mr. Larry Strange**, Executive Director of CDRI and all CDRI staff members, who have strongly committed to undertake policy research in order to provide an independent views on various aspects of Cambodia's development.

On behalf of the CDRI Board, I would like to thank **Mr. Dean Cleland**, Chief Executive Officer of ANZ Royal, who has made considerable contribution to hosting Conference. I also thank all participants here for their valuable support.

With such encouragement, I hope that there will be active participations and the Conference will receive valuable inputs from Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen through out the conference.

Samdech Prime Minister, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

This Conference is the setting for important discussions on some of the crucial issues facing the Cambodia and to raise awareness of and stimulate debate about key development issues, their challenges and prospects for Cambodia's future, and their importance for policy making, private sector and community involvement and support.

The Conference is structured to provide an independent neutral public forum for discussion and debate on development issues, not driven by any particular government or international donor agenda.

This event will also provide a good opportunity to effectively disseminate policy-relevant development knowledge in Cambodia to relevant and concerned stakeholders.

We hope to generate and gather constructive ideas and practical suggestions in order to build realistic and practical recommendations for policy and action for Cambodia's development for the benefit of the nation and its people.

The organizers strongly expect that by bringing national and international experts, policy makers, private sector leaders, development partners and others together in this Conference, we hope to dialogue, to discuss and to learn from each other in an open minded way resulting improvement of knowledge and thinking of the leaders and policy makers in tackling Cambodia's economic and social issues.

Again, I would like to profoundly thank Samdech Prime Minister who support the organization and present to deliver a key note address for the *2007 Cambodia Outlook Conference*.

In the spirit of friendship and common understanding, let me wish everyone the most fruitful dialogue.

May I now invite **Mr Larry Strange**, Executive Director of the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) to introduce the Prime Minister.