

# CAMBODIA DELEGATION PARTICIPATION AT

## 10<sup>th</sup> ASIA-PACIFIC TRADE FACILITATION FORUM



## INFORMATION PACK

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# 1. MESSAGE FROM DELEGATION LEADS

On behalf of the Cambodian delegation, I would like to extend my congratulation to the ESCAP, ADB, and Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore, for organizing this 10th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum. We thank you for inviting the Cambodian delegation to this important event on trade facilitation. We look forward to exchanging with partners from the Asia-Pacific region on best practices, strengthening of trade relations, and enhancing of the resilience of international supply chains in times of pandemic to better support sustainable economic recovery and development in the region.

The acceleration of international trade and Cambodia's integration into global supply chains have been fundamental drivers in the Kingdom's continued economic expansion and growth. At the same time, this also means the country needs to make cross-border trade easier, quicker, and less costly while ensuring revenue collection efficiency.

In this regard, the Cambodian government identified trade facilitation priorities and implemented various reforms, particularly through digitizing trade processes.

Indeed, Cambodia has made remarkable improvements in using modern information and communication technologies (ICT) to simplify and automate cross-border trade procedures. The areas of progress include for example, the adoption and application of modern ICT to trade-related services, including customs risk management, customs automation, national single window, and certificates of origin.

These improvements are good signs showing the government's commitments to the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which was ratified by the government in 2016. Today, Cambodia has notified the following measures as C items: (1) notification, (2) pre-arrival processing (3) authorized operators, (4) border agency cooperation, (5) national single window, and (6) transit.

Further, Cambodia established its National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) in 2020 to facilitate smooth and effective implementation of the TFA. This inter-agency mechanism enables, Customs, other government agencies and the private sector stakeholders to participate in a structured dialogue to facilitate and monitor the implementation of the TFA commitments.

One recent achievement of the NCTF is the development of the Roadmap on Trade Facilitation 2022-2025, laying out the progress of the WTO-TFA implementation and a future work plan. We have thus far run two NCTF meetings, marking important steps in further facilitating trade across borders as it allowed its government and private sectors members, as well as development partners, to review and discuss the work progress of the NCTF, the implementation progress of the Action Plan 2022-2023 of the Trade Facilitation Roadmap 2022-2025, as well as the way forward to fully implement Cambodia's TFA commitments. The priorities are the TFA provisions notified as Category C items, the implementation of which requires financial and technical assistance and support.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to stress that Cambodia is very much looking forward to working with all interested parties, including development partners, to further amplify the gains from their support in trade facilitation reforms in Cambodia.

**H.E. SOK Sopheak**

Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce

Vice-Chair of National Committee on Trade Facilitation

## 2. PROFILE OF DELEGATION LEADS

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### H.E. SOK SOPHEAK



Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce  
Vice-Chair of National Committee on Trade Facilitation

H.E. Sopheak joined MoC in 1992 and was promoted as Director of ASEAN and International Organizations Department in 1999 after which he has assumed many key roles as, among others, trade negotiator for Cambodia's integration into ASEAN, ASEAN Plus-One FTAs, and the World Trade Organization (WTO). He was promoted as Director General of International Trade, MoC in 2007 and moved to work as Director General of the General Directorate for Trade Support Services in 2014, where he has been promoting the implementation of trade reform agenda and trade facilitation, including but not limited to, development of online business registration, certification of origin, and online trademarks applications, etc. H.E. Mr. Sok Sopheak serves as Secretary of State since 2018 and has been the Cambodia's Trade Negotiation Committee (TNC) lead in trade negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which was signed on November 15, 2020. He was also Cambodia's lead negotiator for the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA) which was signed on October 12, 2020.

### H.E. PHA ENGVENG



Deputy Director General, General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia (GDCE)  
Vice-Chair of National Committee on Trade Facilitation Secretariat

H.E. EngVeng leads the secretariat of the National Single Window Steering Committee and the Customs Automation Team. He is one of the driving forces behind the progress in customs modernization and automation. He leads a number of big projects in the application of modern information and communication technologies (ICT) to simplify and automate customs procedures, leading to remarkable improvements in trade facilitation and logistic operations in Cambodia. His pioneered achievements include the Automated System on Customs Data (ASYCUDA), Cambodia National Single Window (CNSW), ASEAN Single Window (ASW) in Cambodia, and other Customs systems.

## 3. MEMBERS OF DELEGATION

### MINISTRY OF COMMERCE



**Mr. SAM CHETRA**

Deputy Director of Legal Affairs Department

Chetra provides legal assistance for the drafting of commercial laws and regulations including on e-commerce, competition, consumer protection; supporting the development of e-commerce ecosystem; and participating in negotiation of e-commerce chapters for various FTAs for Cambodia.



**Mrs. KONG ANGKEAVOLEAK**

Chief of Bureau of Department of Notification and Legal Compliance & Member of NCTF Technical Working Group

Voleak supports in carrying out notification tasks to the WTO including on the TFA implementation as well as other related WTO's affairs.

### GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE OF CAMBODIA



**Mr. CHEA SAMNANG**

Deputy Director of International Customs Cooperation Department & Member of NCTF Secretariat

Samnang has been working for Cambodia Customs for 15 years mainly on Customs Valuation, multilateral cooperation, the implementation of WTO TFA and negotiation and implementation of FTAs. He was recently recognized as WCO accredited expert on RKC and Mercator Programme Advisor on WTO TFA in 2019.



**Mr. NAM SOKLEANG**

Chief of Planning and Customs Policy Office, Department of Planning and Technique

Sokleang is a core team member of the customs officials engaging in the implementation of trade facilitation particularly pre-arrival processing, cross border transport facilitation, as well as strategies, planning and policy development. He also actively participates in free trade agreement negotiations.



**Mr. MHEM POTHONA**

Chief of Bureau, Department of Customs Procedure

Pothona has 11 years experience at the International border Bavet Check Point (land border between Cambodia and Vietnam). Under his current role, he is in charge of verifying the customs permit related to prohibited and restricted goods and the duty and tax exemption on the importation of goods of government agencies.



**Ms. YIN CHANSEREY**

Deputy Chief of Free Trade Office of International Customs Cooperation Department & Member of NCTF Secretariat

Chanserey participates in negotiating the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) within ASEAN members, ASEAN plus and bilateral level, verifying Certificate of Origin (CO).



**Mr. NOY SOPHANNARETH**

Deputy Chief of Information Technology Office, Department of Information Technology

Sophannareth is a Deputy Chief of Information Technology Office, Department of Information Technology of the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia. Since joining customs in 2015, he has involved in major parts of customs automation systems namely ASYCUDA System, National Single Window, ASEAN Single Window, GDCE e-Customs system and Global Travel Assessment System-GTAS.

**SUPPORTING PARTNERS**



**Mr. RAJIV PRADHAN**

Country Director of Swisscontact Cambodia  
Cambodia Coordinator of Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF)

Rajiv has over 30 years of experience working with the private and the development sector. He specializes in strategic management; designing projects; building teams to implement projects; deal making with the private sector; business modelling; and providing innovative scaling/expansion methods in various market segments. He has the experience of mentoring colleagues in the start-up of market development projects and led the Swisscontact's global Inclusive Markets Capacity Development initiative (2016-2018). He was also awarded the SEEP Practitioner of the Year Award in 2010. The Royal Government of Cambodia has awarded him the SAHAMETRI medal on June 21, 2022, for 'exceptional contribution to the field of Conservation Agriculture (CA) and Sustainable Intensification (SI).



**Mr. SOK KHA**

Trade Facilitation Advisor, ARISE Plus Cambodia Project  
Technical Lead, Improving Small Package e-Trade for SMEs (SeT4SME) Project

Over the last 4 years, Kha has been working almost exclusively with Cambodian customs and related government agencies, on various cooperation activities under the ASEAN-EU project ARISE Plus Cambodia, implemented by GIZ, to support the Cambodian government in implementing various trade facilitation measures with a view to better integrate Cambodia into ASEAN Economic Community and to accelerate the implementation of WTO's TFA. Concurrently, he manages the SeT4SME project, flagship project of the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF) implemented by Swisscontact.



**Ms. KE KAMRANG**

Trade-related Coordination and Transparency Advisor, ARISE Plus Cambodia Project

Under the ASEAN–EU project ARISE Plus Cambodia, Kamrang provides technical advisory support to the set-up of the National Committee of Trade Facilitation (NCTF) and its operation and functioning, including support to the NCTF secretariat in preparing, conducting, and following up on meetings of the NCTF and its sub-committees as well as support the coordination, implementation, and monitoring of trade facilitation commitments to the WTO TFA. She also advises and coordinates with the NTR Secretariat to support the inclusion of up-to-date information in the NTR, supports the institutional and human capacity development to enhance the NTR.



## 4. PROGRESS UPDATES ON TRADE FACILITATION IN CAMBODIA

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In recent years, Cambodia has seen significant increase in its international trade volume. This growth, alongside a steep increase in technological development and advancements in the fourth industrial revolution, represent key drivers in the country's economic development, integration, and globalization.

In 2004, the country became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and has ever since undertaken major economic and trade reforms and secured growth as an engine for pro-poor development. Growth has been sustained at high rates (pre-Covid, around 7.1% in 2019) over the last decade, leading to Cambodia's graduation to lower middle-income country status in 2016. The country is highly integrated into the global economy.

Under the WTO, Cambodia ratified the Protocol regarding the amendment of the Marrakesh Agreement to include the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA) into Annex 1A of the Marrakesh Agreement. In addition, Cambodia submitted the ratification document to the WTO on 16 December 2015 and on 12 February 2016 to promote Cambodia's international trade competitiveness and improve trade facilitation. Cambodia joined the WTO as the 69th country and the eighth least developed country that have ratified the WTO TFA.

In compliance with Section 3 of Article 23 of the WTO-TFA, which requires each member state to establish or retain an existing National Trade Facilitation Committee to facilitate and monitor the implementation of the provisions of this Agreement, the Royal Government has established the National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) through Sub-Decree No. 18 ANKr. BK, dated February 26, 2020. The Secretariat of NCTF sits at the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE) of Cambodia.

To date, Cambodia has officially notified the WTO Committee seven times. The country has reported overall compliance with the agreement's provisions which are organized into three categories. 82.8% of the provisions are categorized in Category A and do not require external implementation assistance. Category B comprises 1.7% of the provisions that require additional time for their implementation. Finally, category C includes 15.5% of the provisions that require technical assistance and capacity building from financed member countries or development partners. The C measures are: (1) notification, (2) pre-arrival processing (3) authorized operators, (4) border agency cooperation, (5) national single window, and (6) transit.

As a least-developed country, Cambodia has enjoyed the high level of support on technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives from development organizations. We continue to welcomes the cooperation of development partners who wish to work with us in further progressing our commitments under the WTO TFA.

**5. NCTF ROADMAP ON TRADE FACILITATION 2022-2025**



**SCAN QR CODE FOR ROADMAP**

**SCAN QR CODE FOR ACTION PLAN**





## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Deputy Director of International Customs Cooperation  
Department and Member of NCTF Secretariat**

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