



NATIONAL BANK OF CAMBODIA

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Welcome Remarks
By
Her Excellency CHEA SEREY
Director General, Central Banking Directorate, National Bank of Cambodia

For the 28th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on International Investment Statistics (WGIIS), back to back with the 7th Regional Workshop on Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS), from 6 – 8 May 2014 in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia

- Ms. **Somsajee Siksamat**, Current Chairperson of the WGIIS
- Ms. **Elizabeth Alarilla**, Senior Officer of Statistics, ASEAN Secretariat
- Mr. **Christie Richards**, International FDIS Expert
- Mr. **Theodore Bikoi**, International Expert, International Monetary Fund
- Mr. **Tann Sokhann**, Director of Statistics Department, National Bank of Cambodia
- **Representatives** from the ASEAN Member States

Ladies and Gentlemen! Ah-roun Sou Sdey! A Very Good Morning to Everyone!

On behalf of the National Bank of Cambodia, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 28th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on International Investment Statistics (WGIIS), back to back with the 7th Regional Workshop on Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS) here in Siem Reap province – the ancient capital of Cambodia. I do hope that all of you had a pleasant trip from your respective countries all the way to Siem Reap.

Once a year, the WGIIS members meet to discuss and share experiences not only on the compilation of international investment statistics but also on recent developments in the investment arena. The regional measures being undertaken to promote ASEAN as a single investment area in spite of its geographic and sectoral diversities have led to significant changes in the recent years with the improvement of the investment environment both at the national and regional level. The regional integration has opened doors to new investment markets, cross-border Merger&Acquisition (M&A) sales, reinvestments, enterprise regionalization and outward FDI, expansion of transnational corporations and FDI in the services industry. These developments certainly boosted demand for more relevant, timely and comparable statistics from our policy makers, analysts and fellow statisticians.

I am pleased to note that concerted efforts of the Working Group have produced a database on Foreign Direct Investment Statistics which recently has been attracting a lot of genuine interest and admiration from the international community of statisticians. Such an achievement could not have been possible without the hard work, dedication, and commitment from the Member States and the Statistics Division of the ASEAN Secretariat. I sincerely commend all of you for a job well done. I am confident that with your continuing support and contribution, we will be able to accomplish more.

I hope that today's agenda will provide an excellent opportunity for all of us to reconsider our coordination efforts and identify areas of mutual interest. Let us learn from each other's experiences and take full advantage of the useful exchanges and knowledge gained from these activities.

I also wish to welcome our guests from the General Authority for Investments in Egypt who are fellow statisticians on international investments. They have come to share their good practices and learn from us at the same time. I am sure that we will not disappoint them.

Noting the important topics for discussions today and in the next two days, I would like to wish you all a productive meeting and workshop. In spite of the rather tight schedule, I hope that you could still find time to explore and experience the rich and diverse culture of the Siem Reap province.

The National Bank of Cambodia has made arrangements for you to visit some of the historical sites such as the famous Angkor Wat Temple and Bayon Temple here in Siem Reap. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to the welcome dinner hosted by the National Bank of Cambodia along with a cultural show to give you a glimpse of our cultural heritage. I would like to thank Mr. Tann Sokhann and his staff for tirelessly working on all the necessary arrangements to make this occasion a great success. My heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Richards and Mr. Bikoi, for sharing their valuable time and expertise in helping us deliver our tasks. Most importantly, I wish to thank you the delegates for your presence and participation.

We are truly pleased and honored to welcome you all and get a taste of our ancient culture. Again, I wish everyone a memorable stay in Siem Reap.

Lastly, I declare the 28th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on International Investment Statistics (WGIIS) and the 7th Regional Workshop on Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS) open...

Thank you! Or-kuhn!