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Opening Remarks

H.E. Chea Chanto, Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia, at the APG Typologies Workshop 2009 Royal Angkor Resort, Siem Reap, 26 October 2009

Mr. Gordon Hook, Executive Secretary, APG Secretariat, Mr. Arun Mathur, Director, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance of India, Ms. Lee Mei Foo, Senior General Manager, Securities Commission Malaysia, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all!

Today I have the great pleasure and honor to host the APG Typologies Workshop 2009 in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Group here in Siem Reap province, home of our ancient capital city of Angkor.

On behalf of the National Bank of Cambodia, I would like to express a warm welcome to Mr. Hook, Mr. Mathur, Ms. Lee and all delegates from APG members to Cambodia, especially to Angkor Wat. I would also like to thank the APG Secretariat for excellent cooperation in making this important workshop possible in Cambodia. I would also like to thank all delegates from member countries for your valuable time in attending the workshop today.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This workshop is very important as the AML&CFT initiative is drawing more attention from all countries in the world to protect against

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and eventually eradicate the spread of terrorism and its serious threats to people's safety and economic development. Moreover, the scale of physical infrastructure destruction by organized-cross-border networks of terrorists with financial support from other sources has become more threatening in the real world.

In recent years, terror acts have increased and threatened the people's safety and socio-economic development. Money launders often use the financial system, which plays a core role in contributing to economic development, to launder illicitly obtained money for various purposes. Terrorists also look for weaknesses and loopholes of regulators and law enforcement agents to benefit by using banking and financial institutions in political sabotage, leading to the killing of innocent people and the destruction of socio-economic infrastructure of the country infiltrated through terror acts.

Having understood the challenges and the importance of passing the AML/CFT law, Samdech Akak Moha Sena Padei Decho Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, established the FIU, namely "Cambodia Financial Intelligence Unit," in 2008 under the control of the National Bank of Cambodia, the national monetary authority, to join national and international communities in developing mechanisms in accordance with the 40 recommendations of FAFT and 9 special recommendations to CFT. Our FIU is still young and needs more cooperation and assistance form all of you to enhance our performance.

I understand that the ways to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism are complicated and technical. The successful tasks of FIU needs *not only* well-skilled staff and high technology, but also cooperation and networking from each country to run day-to-day business effectively. Our workshop today is a part of our Royal Government's political commitment and cooperative efforts with APG, and it also serves as a regional forum for member countries to exchange views and cross-border experiences of the changing world in order to find alternative solutions for financial stability to sustain economic

growth and our people's living in peace and equity without the threat of terror.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In short, let me say that today's workshop is absolutely important, both in theory and practice, as a response to the needs of all member countries, especially for Cambodia in developing the National AML/CFT Strategy and Implementation Plan. I do hope that our workshop will focus on vulnerable fact findings of money laundering and the financing of terrorism, and set up remedies to strengthen financial stability for sustainable economic growth and to deter terror for people living in peace and development.

Once again, let me welcome all delegates from respective institutions to our ancient historical and cultural site of Angkor in Siem Reap province. I hope that all of you will have a pleasant stay in Cambodia and enjoy the social program by discovering the sight of Bayon and Angkor Wat temples, our World Heritage-listed ancient temples. There are still many interesting places are not included in the official program. So even though you are on tight schedule in Siem Reap, I do hope you will find time to visit other places and get to know about our people and culture.

Finally, I wish all delegates a pleasant stay with good health, success and happiness in all endeavors in the future to come, and I wish our workshop to proceed actively and productively toward a successful end.

May I now announce the opening of the APG Typologies Workshop 2009.

Thank you.