

SPEECH
BY
H.E SAR KHENG, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF INTERIOR
DURING THE OPENING OF A MEETING ON
“JOINING FORCE TO STRENGTHEN THE MEASURES OF SUPPRESSION OF MIGRANT
SMUGGLING: FUTURE DIRECTION

7 March 2013

Hotel Le Royal

Mr. Olivier Lermet, UNODC Director in the Kingdom of Cambodia

Excellencies, Lok Chumteav Ambassadors

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen Members of the Meeting

National and International Guests

First of all, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to express my great pleasure at this important meeting on “Joining Force to Strengthen the Measures of Oppression of Migrant Smuggling: Future Direction”, in particular, for the report on the Project, the launch of the training manual brochure, and standard operating procedure.

Over the past 30 years, from one regime to another, wars have indescribably ravaged the structures, culture, tradition and lives of the Cambodian people.

Since 1998, under the leadership of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Kingdom of Cambodia has enjoyed complete peace. National development programs have been consulted between the Royal Government of Cambodia and donor countries every year based on the priority of the education, economy, and infrastructure sectors. At the same time, measures to strengthen law enforcement agencies, social security and order have received great attention; however, there is a lack of skill training and knowledge enhancement.

As the Chair of the National Steering Committee to Suppress Human Trafficking, Smuggling, and Exploitation of Women and Children, I would like to take this opportunity to inform all participants, Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen that the Kingdom of Cambodia is now facing the problems of migration, flow of labor force, trafficking in persons, and exploitation of women and children. The National Steering Committee to Suppress Human Trafficking, Smuggling, and Exploitation of Women and Children, with participation from line ministries, such as the Ministries of Interior, Women’s Affairs, Social Affairs, Education, Justice, Information, National Defense, and Tourism and with its own Secretariat, is seeking both legal and operational measures and strategies to control, prevent, and penalize organized criminals who are committing migrant smuggling and human trafficking both inside and outside Cambodia.

The efforts to address the aforementioned offences by the Royal Government of Cambodia have gained strong support from UNODC, and partner countries, such as Australia and Canada.

Since the signing of the Agreement between the Ministry of Interior and UNODC on 8 April 2010, the Ministry of Interior and UNODC have closely collaborated as reported by the UNODC expert team, providing the following results:

- Strengthening of collection and analysis of data for development of policy combatting against migrant smuggling by the Coordination and Analysis Unit (CAU);
- Sharing of knowledge and supply of materials for the fight against maritime migrant smuggling by the Port Intelligence Unit (PIU);
- Response through enforcement of strategic laws to border migrant smuggling by the law enforcement agency PATROL.

More importantly, after the Cambodian-UNODC Task Force was established in 2011, police officers of the Ministry of Interior have taken part in three consultative meetings with UNODC experts to develop a plan of action for implementing the Agreement between the Ministry of Interior and UNODC.

In 2011-2012, a number of police officers also received training in:

- Reasons for migrant smuggling,
- Definition of migrant smuggling and human trafficking,
- Evidence and strategies to prevent migrant smuggling,
- Investigation of the movement of migrant smuggling,
- Collection of data on migrant smuggling for entry into the voluntary reporting system in Cambodia,
- Additional study of reporting system (in Thailand),
- Reporting procedures (in Thailand),
- Analysis and operation in Cambodia,
- Protection of victims and witnesses.

These training courses show that the Royal Government of Cambodia and UNODC have understood clearly the hazard and challenges facing the Cambodian society in the fight against migrant smuggling. I would like to fully support the slogan that *“Joining force is the most effective measure for the suppression of migrant smuggling”*. The migrant smuggling is a universal problem. The Kingdom of Cambodia alone cannot eliminate this crime. Only universal unity can overcome organized criminal groups.

Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen

The statistics of the Ministry of Planning shows that the Cambodian population aged 15-64 was 8.3 million in 2008. Cambodia, like some other developing countries, to deal with livelihood and efforts to eradicate poverty have resulted in more illegal migration. Prevention of migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons has become increasingly difficult and thus requires clearly strategized training as well as furnishing more modern equipment. In this regard, Cambodia looks forward to human resource development and improved technological management systems for information protection and assessment with modern equipment for examining passports at remote international checkpoints, and in particular, capacity building for reviewing, revising, and developing more regulations and laws.

Before conclusion, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to sincerely thank UNODC with Mr. Olivier Lermet as Director in the Kingdom of Cambodia for the support in both knowledge and materials for the strengthening of measures to suppress migrant smuggling and donor countries, such as Australia and Canada, for making every effort to cooperate for successful suppression of migrant smuggling in the interest of security, human rights, social development in the Kingdom of Cambodia, in the region and in the world. I hope that Ambassadors and representatives foreign missions to the Kingdom of Cambodia who are present here will report Cambodia's efforts to their respective governments.

Also, I strongly believe that all the achievements presented today can indeed assist Cambodia, in particular, police officers of the Ministry of Interior, to implement measures to suppress migrant smuggling more effectively in accordance with the policy of the Royal Government of Cambodia with Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen as Head as well as preserving these significant achievements in order to share the knowledge and experience gained from the assistance projects supported by UNODC and partner countries with further generations of police officers.

Finally, I would like to wish Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen the four blessings, i.e., Ayu, Vannak, Sokhak, and Porlak, and declare the official launch of:

- IPU Standard Operating Procedure,
- Basic Training Manual on Investigation and Penalization of Acts of Migrant Smuggling, and
- Brochure on Trafficking in Person and Acts of Migrant Smuggling

Thanks for Attention!