

Honorable KHUON SUDARY,
Chairperson of Women Parliamentarians of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
*and Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights, Reception of Complaints,
Investigations of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia*
At the WAIPA Seminar on "Accelerating the Achievement of
Millennium Development Goal-5" through the Roles of Women Parliamentarians
(Santepheap Palace, Phnom Penh Capital, March 10-11, 2011)



My high respect to:

- Honorable Dr. BUN RANY HUN SEN, President of the Cambodian Red Cross, National Champion of the Asia-Pacific Forum combats HIV/AIDs, National Champion of the UN Secretary General's Joint Plan of Actions for Maternal's and Children's Health, Founder and member of the Board of Directors of Cambodia Medical Foundation.
- Honorable Men Sam An, Standing Deputy Prime Minister and President of Cambodian Association of Parliamentarians for Population and Development
- Your Excellencies, Lauk Chum-teav Members of the National Assembly, Senate and Representatives of the Royal Government of Cambodia
- Antonio CUENCO, AIPA Secretary General
- Honorable Women Parliamentarians of AIPA
- Excellencies, Royal Ambassadors, Ambassadors, UN Agencies' Representatives, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, National and International Distinguished Guests!

First, On behalf of Cambodian Parliament Chaired by Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HEN SAMRIN and in the name of Women Parliamentarians Committee of AIPA and on behalf of WAIPA Seminar, I would like to express my warmest welcome and deepest thanks to Her Excellency Dr. BUN RANY HUN SEN, for honoring and presiding over the opening ceremony of the WAIPA Seminar on "**Accelerating the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goal 5 through the Role of Women Parliamentarians**" under the framework of 32nd General Assembly of AIPA that shall be held in September 2011 and hosted by Cambian Parliament. With this regard, I would like to express my warmest welcome to Women Parliamentary Delegations of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). I would also like to take this special occasion and on behalf of the Whole Seminar to express our high appreciation to Her Excellency Dr. BUN RANY HUN SEN whom has been entitled as a National Champion of the UN Secretary General's Joint Plan of Actions for Maternal's and Children's Health that was held on the 21st February 2011 **(APPLAUSE)**.

The high presence of Her Excellency BUN RANY HUN SEN at this time not only reflecting her attention and impression to the WAIPA Seminar but it is also an effective momentum for all relevant stakeholders to pay more attention and work harder with their concrete commitment and to transform those commitments to actual activity as a slogan: "Achieving the Millenium Development Goal 5 is to rescue Lives of Women and Children".

With this regard, I would like to highly evaluate and appreciate the efforts made by the Royal Government under the wise leadership of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, *Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia* in rebuilding, constructing and developing from adverse destruction and bring in peace, stability that these are the concrete base for current development which include Public Health, Maternal's and Children's Health are importantly prioritised in the National Strategic Development Plan. The decision of the of the government to recognizing 21st February as Annual "Maternal, Newborn's and Child's Health" is an evidence reflecting political will and commitment of the government toward achieving Millennium Development Goal 5. I would like also to express my sincere thanks to UN's Agencies, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations and Competent Authority for their spiritual, financial and technical supports in Maternal and Child's Health Improvement that make Maternal and Child's Health Situation improving gradually although our goal has yet to reach.

- Her Excellency Doctor President!
- Honorable Head of Women Parliamenarian Deligation of AIPA,
- Excellency, Lok Chum-teav, Ladies, Gentlemen National and International Distinguished Guests!

This WAIPA Seminar participated by Women Parliamentarians of AIPA, members of Senate and National Assembly, members of the Royal Government, local authority, diplomatic corps, UN's Agencies' Representatives, Asian Forum of Parliament for Population and Development (AFPPD) and Civil Society Organizations is taking place for two (2) days after the Women's International Day on the 8th of March. The Seminar at this stage has very clear objective and reflecting sharper will on how to deal with these challenges in order to achieve the Millenium Development Goal 5 which is the sole exit for ensuring the safety of lives and women's health as to ensure the basic rights of women meaning the protection and promotion the rights of humanity. **There is not** much time from now till 2015, and we all must break this silence and draw attention of all relevant stakeholders to concentrate on Maternal and Child's Health that are remained as our joint concern. MDG5 cannot be handled alone, and it has its inter related impacts among other Millennium Development Goals that require all of us to work together to solve this problem; and none of the organization or institution shall have a sole responsibility. In this spirit, there is a need to increase a joint efforts with vigorous political will of all relevant stakeholders with a specific plan of actions including finacing, technique and human resources base on Governmental Strategic Developoment Plan for the reduction by three quarter (3/4) of Maternal Mortality rate in between 1990 and 2015.

In Cambodia, the Role of the Senate and National Assembly is to make law, has always been actively fulfilling its functions and duties on debating and adopting draft laws, proposed laws such as national budget, Governmental Strategic Development Plan, particularly those laws that are relevant to Maternal and Child's Health; and the Cambodian Parliament has, so far, adopted various laws and policies as the following inscription:

- Law on Abortion
- Law on Prevention and Protection of HIV/AIDs
- Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victim
- Updating of National Strategic Development Plan 2009-2013

In the meantime, Cambodian Parliament has regularly monitored the implementation of the Law and the execution of the policy and National Strategic Development Plan relevant to Maternal and Child Health; and played a role as representative bridging between People and Government.

In addition, all of members of the parliament of Cambodia have promoted themselves orientated-awareness on Maternal and Child Health through seminar or national, regional and international conferences, and sharing of knowledge and learnt various essential issues including maternal health, reproductive health, rights for having birth, family planning and gender relationships and particularly the implementation of a project on reproductive health funded by AFPPD, and through UNDP/Legislative Assistance Project (LEAP) for promotion of the awareness on MDG3, 4, 5 and 6 among Senators and Members of the National Assembly, and actively implement the role as supporters, educative Dissemination and promotion of awareness for Commune/Sangkat Councils, District/Khan Councils and community people and engaging them in dealing with reduction of Maternal Mortality. In addition in 2010, Cambodian Parliamentarians Association for Population and Development has invited Her Excellency Dr. BUN RANY HUN SEN to be a leader of Maternal and Child Health Improvement Campaign that is being nationally and internationally recognized. We strongly believe and hope that, with the new role of Her Excellency Dr. BUN RANY HUN SEN, shall be an effective momentum for mobilizing every circles of supports for achieving the Millennium Development Goal5 as plan, by reduction of maternal motlity rate down to 250/100,000 livebirths by 2015.

Once again, I have very strong hope that Women Parliamentarians of AIPA will continue to carry out principles of AIPA in strengthening of friendship, cooperation and dual communication, exchange of information, good lesson learnt and experiences, aiming for Achieving Millennium Development Goal 5.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere thank AIPA Secretariat, AFPPD, UNDP, SABIN Vaccine Institute, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women Affairs, and

Institutions' Representatives for their participation, collaboration and support this WAIPA Seminar; and I strongly believe that through this Seminar, we all are able to share and exchange of our knowledge and new lesson learnt on how to improve maternal child's health and to identify challenges and solution for next step of implementation or recommendation for applying in the actual context of their respective country toward a maximum reduction of Maternal Mortality Rate.

Finally, I would like to wish all the best for Her Excellency Dr. BUN RANY HUN SEN President of the Cambodian Red Cross, National Champion of the Asia-Pacific Forum for HIV/AIDs, National champion of the UN Secretary General's Joint Plan of Actions for Maternal and Children's Health, to have good health, strength with wisdom for continuing to be leader for Maternal and Children's Health in the Kingdom of Cambodia; May I wish honorable Women Parliamentarian Delegates of AIPA, Excellencies, Lauk Chum-teav, Ambassadors, Lady and Gentlemen National and International Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, National and International Distinguished Guests and all participants of this WAIPA Seminar to have four blesses of Buddha: : Longevity, Good Health, Strength and Happiness.

THANK YOU!