

Speech
by
H.E. Mr. EM SAM AN, Acting Minister
of Interior

On the Occasion of the Closing Ceremony of the
Eight Meeting of the AIPA Fact Finding Committee
to Combat the Drug Menace (AIFOCOM-8)
On 27 May 2011 at Inter-Continental Hotel,
Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia

- His Excellency **Post Dr. Cheam Yeap**, Chairman of the Commission 2 of the National Assembly and Chairman of the AIPA Group
- His Excellency **Antonio Cuenco**, Secretary General of AIPA
- Your Excellencies Heads of the delegations of AIPA member countries
- Your Excellencies Members of Parliament and Senate and Members of the Royal Government
- Ladies and Gentlemen, National and International Distinguished Guests!

Today, I am very delighted to attend the closing ceremony of the 8th meeting of the AIPA fact finding committee to combat the drug menace (AIFOCOM) that has lasted 2 days since 25th may.

Throughout the meeting, we all have listened to the reports on the drug issue which members of Parliament, representatives of the AIPA member countries, representatives of ASEAN senior officers in charge of the drug issue, representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, representatives of the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) of the Kingdom of Cambodia, have made about the development of drug screening work in AIPA member countries and around the world.

We all have made a great deal of efforts in working to share information, understanding mutual work experiences, and exchanging views and methods for

the benefit of fighting against the drug menace at national and regional levels. As a result of this crucial event and in response to the actual need, we have joined together to draw up a draft resolution on **the establishment of an AIPA working group to combat the drug menace** in order to submit to the 32nd AIPA General Assembly for discussion and adoption which will be held in September 2011, in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

With a satisfied outcome, and on behalf of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to maintain Cambodia's firm stance in carrying out the content of the resolution of the AIFOCOM meeting on harmonization of illegal drug law, focusing on the capture and seizures of assets which involve drug cases and the control of chemical substances and intervention in reducing drug demand, which has been accepted at the 8th AIFOCOM meeting.

In accordance with the above strong stance and in order to ensure the effectiveness and sacredness of the AIFOCOM resolution, Cambodia will continue to push for a discussion regarding the seeking of support from parliaments, governments and non-governmental organizations of ASEAN countries with respect to anti-drug issues. At the same time, Cambodia will continue to promote regional cooperation aimed at suppressing the organizational structure of illegal production and distribution of drugs to impose punishment by law. Moreover, in order to achieve the harmonization of the illegal drug law on the capture and seizure of assets which involve drug cases - the control of chemical substances and intervention in reducing drug demand, Cambodia will keep performing its major role in contributing to assessing the already-existing laws and judicial instruments to successfully facilitate harmonization of the law for the sake of prevention and protection and the fight against drugs in the ASEAN association as a whole, especially for reaching a "Drug-Free ASEAN 2015".

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Taking this precious opportunity, I would like to draw your attention from all distinguished guests to the situation of the fighting against drugs in Cambodia as follow: Cambodia is also like other countries around the world which have been affected by drugs. The issue could threaten the social security, destroy livelihood and morality of the people and impede the development of the national economy; these negative influences could spread insecurity to each country and to the ASEAN region as a whole if determined and appropriate measures are not quickly taken to protect the society and eliminate danger of drugs.

In meeting the evolving situation of the drug issue in Cambodia, the Royal Government with **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, our

Leader, has considered the fight against drugs in Cambodia one of the priorities which must be chosen. This includes as follows:

- 1- Amended a law on Drug Control 1995 and drawn up a new law on Drug Law aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the anti-drug implementation including the harmonization of illegal drug law on the capture and seizures of assets which involve drug cases- control of chemical substances and intervention in reducing drug demand.
- 2- Implemented “a 5-year National Plan on Drug Control for 2005-2010” and prepared “National Plan on Drug Control for 2011-2015” which includes ÷ reducing demands and supplies of illegal drugs, providing treatments and rehabilitation, strengthening the capacity of law-enforcement and international cooperation.
- 3- Created a commune-village safety policy aimed at maintaining order security, social safety and eradicating illegal drug use activities at the grassroots level and reaching drug abolition across the country.
- 4- Raised awareness about the impacts and dangers of using, and trafficking drugs to people in all circles, in active cooperation with state and private run media network.
- 5- Provided medical treatment and rehabilitation aimed at caring and curing the drug victims by encouraging private sectors and civil societies to participate in helping the drug victims. The Royal Government has also paid attention to the drug victims’ living at the state’s temporary facilities by strengthening health services at those centers. Meanwhile, the Royal Government has also implemented a treatment program for drug addicts in communities by selecting a health center as a base for providing assistance services to the victim.
- 6- Paid attention to effectively strengthening law-enforcement both in the national and international frameworks, and reached to eliminate drugs in line with “Drug-Free ASEAN 2015”.

With these efforts and outstanding results, Cambodia has also confronted some challenges as follows:

- 1- Awareness has not yet comprehensively been enhanced to all vulnerable destinations.
- 2- Capacity building has not yet been provided to all concerned local staff who plays major roles in fighting drugs.
- 3- Lack of transportation and technical supplies hamper investigation and in-depth research of drug cases.
- 4- Numbers of medical and psychological doctors and medicine at temporary facilities have not yet sufficiently met the actual needs, which make care service, neutralization and treatment not comprehensively provided.

5- Bilateral and multilateral cooperation with partners and some international institutions has not yet fully been successful for the project of the cooperation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Cambodia's attempts are one of other crucial catalysts that lead to the achievement of "Drug-Free ASEAN 2015". However, Cambodia's efforts are not always enough to combat drugs successfully. It also demands close and effective cooperation from countries in the region as well as national and international concerned institutions to move forward to reach the main objective of eliminating drugs in the ASEAN association as a whole.

Once again, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to friendly countries, national and international partners, civil societies, and national and international concerned institutions to maintain good cooperation and continue to support Cambodia both in technical supplies and in capacity development in examining drugs and other sectors in order to make the workforce capable enough to fight drugs in Cambodia as well as to cooperate with the region and the world to efficiently combat drugs.

Before concluding, I would like to express admiration and highly evaluate legislative institutions of ASEAN countries for initiating a vital AIFOCOM forum which reflects attention and invaluable cooperation between legislative and executive bodies in the region, aimed at promoting human welfare and safety. Meanwhile, I would like to thank all participants for spending a precious time to attend this event; especially I also wish to thank leaders and staff of the Secretariat General as well as all working groups of the meeting, who have tried very hard to succeed the meeting.

Finally, I would like to wish Excellencies and members of the meeting as well as national and international distinguished guests 4 benedictions: Longevity, Unfading Beauty, Peace and Power and I wish Excellencies to have a safe trip to your homeland.

I wish to close the 8th meeting of the AIPA Fact Finding Committee to Combat Drug Menace from now on.

Thank You!