

Closing Remark and Report on the Results of the Congress  
by HE **Im Sethy**, Minister of MoEYS  
During the Closing Ceremony of the National Education Congress  
Under the Highest Presidency of  
**Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the  
Royal Government of Cambodia and **Lok Chum Teav**

March 18, 2009 at the National Institute of Education



- *My highest respect to **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and **Lok Chum Teav***
- *Excellencies, Lork Chum Teav, ladies, gentlemen, national and international guests*
- *Distinguished participants.*

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) and own myself, I would like to express my highest respect and delightfulness to the presence of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the RGC and **Lok Chum Teav**, who have made their busiest schedule to preside over the Closing Ceremony of the National Education Congress on the Summary of Education, Youth and Sport Working Performance in the Last Academic Year and Setting Goals for the Next Academic Year.

The highest presence of **Samdech** Prime Minister and **Lok Chum Teav** in this ceremony not only marks your high attention on education, youth and sport sector but also offers an encouragement to the whole congress, especially to provide the good opportunity to education personnel coming from the municipality and 23 provinces to have a chance to directly meet the government leader in order to receive great advice and recommendations to be carried out in the next years.

- My highest respect to **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen** and **Lok Chum Teav***
- Distinguished participants.*

It has lasted for three days, started from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009, the MoEYS has organized this congress at the National Institute of Education (NIE) in order to review the work performance in the last academic year and to set goals and duties for the new academic year.

I would like to inform that, this year is the third year that MoEYS and development partners have altogether organized the congress and review the progress of the implementation of the Education Strategic Plan (ESP) and Education Sector Support Program (ESSP) 2006-2010. Moreover, this year is the first year that the summary report and goals setting have been done simultaneously.

Normally, the National Education Congress is organized in October or November, but this year it has been organized in March which is the beginning of the new academic

year. The change of the date aiming at offering time to thoroughly collect the annual information both quantity and quality of indicators, especially the financial figures on Program Based Budgeting (PB).

Taking this precious opportunity, I have the great honor to report to **Samdech** Prime Minister and **Lok Chum Teav**, and the whole congress the actual contents, programs, and results of the congress as follows:

This year, the education, youth and sport congress had been done at the municipal/provincial levels prior to gathering at the central level. All municipality/provinces have brought their positive and pending issues to together evaluate and solve at the national level. In addition, activities and goals for the new academic year have been set to successfully implement in line with the RGC' Rectangular Strategies of which education sector is still a leading priority in training human resource and is the strategy to raise people's standard living.

Participated in the opening ceremony which was held on the 16 March 2009 were, **Lok Chum Teav Men Sam An**; Permanent Deputy Prime Minister, the highest representative of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the RGC; senior leaders of MoEYS; and representatives from ministries, development partners, and all levels of education personnel with a total of 1,000 participants.

In my opening speech, I raised key points as follows:

1. To review the progress of the implementation of education policies on ensuring equity access to education services in the last academic year against the expected annual outcomes stated in the Education Strategic Plan (ESP) and Education Sector Support Program (ESSP).
2. To review the new changes/progress on education quality and efficiency on all sectors and school levels.
3. To review the institution development and capacity building of personnel for decentralization and deconcentration at both nation and sub-national levels.
4. To review the effectiveness use of financing cooperation in the ESP and ESSP activity framework.
5. To set up recommendations and mechanisms as strategies to be implemented for the next academic years.

These points are what I have raised as a conceptual framework and vision for the congress to further expand in order to exchange ideas according to the discussion topics aiming at appropriately setting goals for the next academic years for all sectors and school levels based on situation that we continue to reform for quality and efficiency.

*-My highest respect to **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and Lok Chum Teav***

*-Distinguished participants.*

After the opening ceremony in the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009, participants listened to the summary report on education, youth and sport working performance in the last academic year read by HE Nath Bun Roeun, Secretary of State, MoEYS; then it was followed by a report on setting goals for the academic year 2008-2009 read by HE Pith Cham Nan, Secretary of State, MoEYS.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> March and the following days, participants listened to a series of the presentations, such as phase 2 of the public financial reform, centralization and deconcentration, and effective financing cooperation. The presentations are the guides reflecting good management and leadership of the RGC in the future. In addition, they provide all levels of education personnel a foundation to participate and develop plans to improve the work.

At the same time, several good experiments were shown to the congress, such as management of the Provincial/ Municipal Office of Education (POE/MOE), PB budget management, collection of children aged 5 years old to learn in pre-school, Child Friendly School (CFS) development, management of instructional hours in secondary schools, teacher training at the Teacher Training Centers (TTC), increasing quality and efficiency of education at higher education level, and constantly maintaining of Community Learner Centers (CLC).

In addition to the above mentioned reports and presentations, participants have discussed on eight main topics and set actual implementing measures as follows:

**Topic 1: Access to Education, and Completion Rate to Achieve the Education for All (EFA)**

- Collecting children to learn in pre-schools, especially children aged 5 years old: 25% of children aged from 3-5 years old against the target 30% by 2010, and 43% of children aged 5 years old against the target 50% by 2010.
- Increasing the Net Admission Rate (NAR) in primary school to achieve 93% and the Net Enrolment Rate (NER) to achieve 94%.
- Ensuring the student completion rate in primary school from Grade 1 to Grade 6 to achieve 90%, of which 90% for girls.

**Topic 2: Enhancing the Management Quality and Rationalization of Education**

**Personnel, Supply of and Demand for Teachers, and Teacher Quality**

- Enhancing the management quality and rationalization of education personnel.
- Solving demands for and supply of teachers and quality of teachers.

**Topic 3: Strengthening and Expanding of Professional Literacy and Equivalency Programs**

- Enhancing the quality and efficiency of the professional literacy programs.
- Ensuring equity access to the equivalency programs.

**Topic 4: Ensuring Equity Access to Higher Education with Quality and Efficiency**

- Enhancing equity access to learning at higher education.
- Ensuring the quality and efficiency of the training at higher education.

**Topic 5: Strengthening the Quality and Efficiency of Youth, and Strengthening the Quality and Efficiency of Physical Education and Sport Activities**

- Developing the National Youth Policy.
- Encouraging the Three Competitive Movements (Good child, good student, and good friend).
- Strengthening the Children-Youth Council and Student Associations.
- Developing the National Youth Centers and Provincial / Municipal Youth Centers.
- Strengthening the quality and efficiency of physical education and sport activities.

**Topic 6: Demanding for and Supplying of Core Instructional Materials and the Implementation of the New Curriculum Policy**

- Implementing the new curriculum at upper secondary schools.
- Supplying of core instructional materials to schools.

**Topic 7: Capacity Building of Education Management Officers**

- Strengthening the capacity of education management officers on statistics and planning.
- Strengthening capacity of education management officers to be able to respond to the public administration reform.

**Topic 8: Public Financial Management Reform Programs in Education Sector**

- Strengthening the accountability of the public financing.
- Continuing the use of information technology mechanism on financial management.
- Strengthening the credibility of the budget.

In the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> March, participants have listened to the presentations on the results of the discussion on the 8 topics. Next, I am, **Im Sethy**, Minister of MoEYS, have solved key issues and offered advice on some main points for quality and effective implementation in the new academic year.

*-My highest respect to **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and Lok Chum Teav***

*-Distinguished participants.*

These are just brief reports on the result of the National Education Congress of MoEYS. The detailed contents and implementing procedures of each education sector is written in the discussion reports that delegates from the POE/MOE have to bring back in order to transform them to become real actions in the academic year 2008-2009.

Taking this previous opportunity, I would like to inform **Samdech** the Prime Minister and **Lok Chum Teav**, and distinguished participants that at the beginning of the current RGC' mandate, the MoEYS has achieved several outcomes as follows:

**1.Early Childhood Education:** There are a total of 2,772 pre-schools throughout the country (151 schools increased) with a total of 138,038 pupils (of whom 69,500 are girls, equal to 50%). Around 15.14% of children aged 3-5 years old have been educated in home-based education programs, and 32.17% of children aged 5 years old received education.

**2.Primary Education:** There are a total of 6,476 primary schools throughout the country (111 schools increased) with a total of 2,311,107 pupils (of whom 1,094,577 are girls, equal to 47%). 89.5% of children aged 6 years old have entered Grade 1 of primary schools and 93.3% of children aged 6-11 years old have been educated in Grades 1-6 in primary schools.

**3.General Secondary Education:** There are a total of 1,006 Lower Secondary Schools (LSS) throughout the country (160 LSS schools increased) with a total of 637,629 LSS students (of whom 296,907 are girls, equal to 47%). Around 34.8% of teenagers aged from 12-14 years old have received education in Grade 7-9 and 126,250 of Grade 9 students (equal to 94.5%) have passed the Lower Secondary Education Diploma.

Regarding the Upper Secondary Schools (USS): there are a total of 315 USS throughout the country (32 USS schools increased) with a total of 260,965 USS students (of whom 106,782 are girls, equal to 41%). Around 14.8% of youth aged from 15-17 years old have received education in Grade 10-12 and 55,178 of Grade 12 students (equal to 70.7%) have passed the USS Diploma (of whom 23,717 were girls).

**4.Examination to Select Scientific Researchers and the 6<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Young Mathematicians at Penang, Malaysia:** Out of the 4 candidates, 2 candidates received silver medals and one candidate received bronze medal. In the examination to select young scientist winners (under 16 years old) at YungNam city, South Korea: Out of the 6 candidates, 2 candidates received bronze medals.

**5.Non-Formal Education:** There are 58,967 students in the professional literacy program (of whom 37,337 are female, equal to 63%). 55,160 students have passed the literacy program (of whom 35,531 are female, equal to 64%). According to the statistics in 2006, there were around 84.7% of people aged 15-24 years old were illiterates.

**6.Higher Education:** There are 77 Higher Education Institutions (HEI), of which 32 are public HEIs and 45 are private HEIs. These HEIs offer the training courses from the Associate to doctorate degrees.

There are a total of 14,857 students studying the Associate degrees (of whom 4,321 are female and 2,231 are scholarship students " 767 are female").

There are a total of 110,000 students studying the Bachelor degrees (of whom 40,204 are female and 13,620 are scholarship students " 4,782 are female").

There are a total of 11,681 students studying the Master degrees (of whom 1,873 are female), and 862 students studying doctorate degree (of whom 47 are female).

Students who have completed their studies:

- There are a total of 6,946 Associate degree students, of whom 1,950 are female and 1,131 are scholarship students "332 are female."
- There are a total of 16,277 Bachelor degree students, of whom 5,504 are female and 2,340 are scholarship students "783 are female."
- There are a total of 3,695 Master degree students, of whom 495 are female and 21 doctorate degree students of whom 1 is female.

Proposed to amend the Sub-Decree No. 38 sd.pk, dated 06 September 1996, on the Defining of Overtime Teaching and Overtime Money for use in the Public HEIs, and to amend the Sub-Decree No.18 sd.pk, dated 15 May 1997, on the Scholarship Allowance for the Dormitories. These proposals have already been submitted to the Council of Ministers.

**7.Youth:** We have discussed on the draft of Cambodian National Youth Policy with relevant stakeholders and continued to strengthen capacity of youth through the participation of other youth programs in the region, as well as in the world, the three good movements, and camping.

**8.Physical Education and Sport:** MoEYS has organized regional and national sport championship tournaments, ASEAN sport championship tournament 2008 with members of ASEAN countries, and sport for all.

**9.Pre-and In-Service Teacher Training:** There is a total of 4,373 teacher trainees (of whom 2,017 are female) of all school levels have completed their training while 3,593 teacher trainees (of whom 1,867 are female) are currently learning in Year 2.

**10.Scholarship Liaison in Higher Education Sector:** MoEYS has sent 430 students overseas (of whom 91 are female) for the doctorate, Master, undergraduate, college of technology and vocational training courses. MoEYS has received 113 students who completed their training overseas, of whom 13 are female.

**11.Having had good cooperation between MoEYS and development partners in carrying out the Paris Declaration, Harmonization Action Plan, alignment (of donor assistance) and results of the RGC, MoEYS has successfully developed the Annual Operational Plan (AOP) for 2009 aiming at strengthening the management and budget use for both development partners and the state to focus on the priority with highly effective.**

The 11 above-mentioned points are the proof of achievement made by education officers and senior leaders of MoEYS in the last academic years. At the same time, the congress has discovered some challenging issues as follows:

- Around 10% of children reaching age 6 and 7% of children aged 6-11 years old have not have entered the primary school yet. The MoEYS must pay more attention on this in order to get all schooling aged children to access to education.
- The Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) in lower and upper secondary school has reached only 63.6% and 25.7% respectively.
- Owing to the late enrolment of students, there has still been a high number of students who repeated class in primary schools and high number of students who dropped-out the class in secondary schools. The MoEYS must encourage

- the education campaign to disseminate and educate citizens with the purpose to raise their awareness on the value of education and free register for schooling.
- The implementation of the new curriculum policy has not widely oriented, and the supply of core instructional materials has been inadequate and not on time delivering.
  - The pre and in-service teacher training has not reached the standard yet and the living standard of education personnel still face with difficulties.
  - With reference to the Education Law, the MoEYS will amend the Sub-Decree on the organization of the MoEYS and to develop several legislative instruments in order to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of management and operation of the educational organization for all levels.

To sum up, the positive outcomes achieved by the MoEYS in the academic year 2007-2008 are thanking to the brilliant leadership of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the RGC, who has offered MoEYS the opportunities to well cooperate with other ministries and relevant institutions, in particular, the good cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), all level of local authorities, and national and international development partners.

Before ending of this remark, please allow me again to take this great event to thank and heartfelt appreciate to the Congress Organizing Committee, and all members of the whole congress who make their concerted efforts, physical and intellectual, during the three days activities to achieve fruitful and satisfactory outcomes.

On behalf of all senior leaders of MoEYS, education personnel, professors, teachers, and students, I would like to wish **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, and **Lok Chum Teav**, their children and grand-children the five Buddhist wishes: long life, beauty, health, strength, and gorgeousness.

In order to achieve the goals set by the congress for the new academic year 2008-2009, I have the great honor to invite **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, to have a talk and provide valuable recommendations to the whole congress to successfully carry out the work performance in line with the RGC' s Rectangular Strategies under the brilliant wisdom and leadership of **Samdech's**.

Thank you.