



NATIONAL BANK OF CAMBODIA

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**Opening Remarks
by
H.E. NEAV CHANTHANA, Deputy Governor of the National Bank of
Cambodia**

**2nd SEACEN-ADB-ASEC-AADCP Foundational Course
on Macroeconomic and Monetary Policy Management:
Assessing Economic Conditions**

Siem Reap, 24 March 2014

- **Dr. Noppadol Buranathanung**, Director, Learning Design and Development of the SEACEN Centre
- **Mrs. Kanarengnid Tantigate-Quah**, Instructional System Designer / Consultant, The SEACEN Centre/ Asian Development Bank
- **Ms. Anotai Buddhari**, Division Executive, General Economic Statistics Division, Bank of Thailand
- **Dr. Somsajee Siksamat**, Director, Statistic Office, Statistic and Information Department, Bank of Thailand
- **Distinguished Guests, Honorable speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Good morning and welcome to Siem Reap.

On behalf of **H.E. Chea Chanto**, the Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia, I am very pleased to be here today to open the 2nd Foundational Course on Macroeconomic and Monetary Policy Management: Assessing Economic Conditions from 24 to 28 March 2014 in Siem Reap.

The National Bank of Cambodia is proud to be hosting this important event in collaboration with the SEACEN Centre, Asian Development Bank, ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program, and I sincerely thank you all for your attendance.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express **my deepest thanks** to Mr. Hoo-Kyu Rhu, Executive Director of the SEACEN Centre, and Dr. Noppadol, Director of Learning Design and Development of the SEACEN Centre, Asian Development Bank, ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program for making this foundation course possible, and **my sincere appreciation** to all SEACEN staffs for their hard work and excellent meeting arrangements that have brought together participants from Member Central Banks, to learn and to share experiences on macroeconomic developments and challenges in the spirit of close cooperation between the Member States .

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As many of you are aware, the purpose of this course is to enhance participant's capability in their analytical skill through learning from our resource speakers, with the objective of assessing macroeconomic conditions, using quantitative and qualitative economic indicators and analytical tools in line with theories and sound Central Bank practices. Indeed, this course will help our young economists to perform their role effectively in macroeconomic surveillance and monetary policy analyze. This course will be a foundation for the participants to better understanding and formulating policies to achieve the objective of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities, that-is-to-say: price stability, in parallel with financial stability.

This is a very ambitious program. However, there is no doubt that all of these issues will be carefully presented and discussed, in a positive approach.

This one week course takes place in a challenging period. All Member Countries have to sustain economic growth, to upgrade the regional integration and to continue their efforts for developing their own economy, whereas the international environment is still rather uncertain.

Indeed, the global recovery is still weak and significant downside risks remain while recent events, like the crisis in Ukraine, have darkened the picture. Capital outflows, higher interest rates, and sharp currency depreciation in emerging economies stay a key concern for us and a persistent tightening of financial conditions could undercut investment and growth in some countries.

More than ever, the Central Banks shall pay attention to vulnerabilities to external shocks, and therefore price stability and financial stability, implying better coordination between monetary policy and macro-prudential policy.

Meanwhile, financial liberalization and integration are crucial for our financial development and growth.

Therefore, the most expected economic targets should be higher growth, lower debt and more financial stability. Of course, in order to achieve this new environment, it will take time and closer policy coordination is essential. The monetary policy framework will have to interact better with macro-prudential policy, while fiscal policy will be largely targeted towards fiscal consolidation, whereas structural reforms will help promoting economic growth in the long term.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am convinced that the 2nd SEACEN-ADB-ASEC-AADCP Foundational Course will be very helpful and fruitful, especially since it comes at a very opportune time. By the end of the course, you will have obtained a better understanding of macroeconomic and monetary policy, and their interaction.

Before concluding, I would like to express my deep appreciation for your support and participating in this course.

Last but not least, I hope that you will enjoy the social program and take pleasure in discovering the marvelous site of Angkor, surrounded by soaring towers and exquisite bas-reliefs of the temples, which are ranked among the World's Wonders and registered as a UNESCO's World Heritage Site. With that you will know more about our people and culture.

Finally, I wish you all good luck and I sincerely hope that you will have a very pleasant stay in our ancient capital city of Angkor.

Now, let me wish you every success in learning and discussing during the course.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.