

H.E. Dr. Sok An Meets with the Newly-Appointed Director General of ADB's Southeast Asia Department

In the morning of 03 March 2010, at the Office of the Council of Ministers, **H.E. Dr. Sok An**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers granted an audience to **Mr. Kunio Senga**, newly-appointed Director General of Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB).

In the meeting, **H.E. Dr. Sok An** raised four points as follows:

- 1- Developing and strengthening human resources;
- 2- Legal and justice system reforms;
- 3- Public administrative reform and public service provision for government officials; and
- 4- Plan to strengthen the capacity of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council

H.E. Dr. Sok An elucidated that regarding the first point: developing and strengthening human resources, there are 200,000 students graduating from High Schools annually. Besides those who pursue their study in universities, these students will become important human resources for Cambodia's labor market. In this sense, the Royal Government has established vocational training centers with clear objectives to provide vocational training to those high school graduating students in order to reduce the gap between demand and supply in labor market.

The Royal Government welcomes the cooperation of ADB with regard to capacity building efforts via vocational training programs. This comprises two phases. The first phase has been signed and implemented since 2009, and now the second phase, known as advanced human resource training, is being planned for the year 2011.

Second: Regarding legal and justice system reforms, **H.E. Dr. Sok An** explained that recently the Council of Ministers had approved the draft Anti-Corruption Law after it had been debated and discussed for years among legal experts, embassies, development partners and civil society organizations. The Law was drafted following the Civil Code, Civil Procedures, Penal Code and Penal Procedures. These are the foundation of the new Anti-Corruption Law. **H.E. Dr. Sok An** added that he had already discussed with the Legal Commission of the National Assembly and soon he would go to defend the Draft Law in the plenary session of the National Assembly.

Third: Regarding public administrative reform and public service provision for government officials in order to have effective performance, Programs on giving priority in operating expense was taken into account. **H.E. Dr. Sok An** stressed that a high national commission has been set up and meetings have been convened to find out objectives, effectiveness, equity as well as a proper formula to evaluate job performance by giving position-based salary and bonuses to government officials. This will be submitted to **Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen** for consideration and approval. ADB expressed its attention to the work of national commission, and will consider appropriate measures to cooperate with the government.

Fourth: The plan to strengthen the capacity of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council is a program targeted at devising an appropriate strategy to enhance effectiveness and analysis of economic impact of various programs and their legal documents.

In the meeting, **H.E. Dr. Sok An** and **Mr. Kunio Senga** agreed on further cooperation on the government's projects including establishing a Comprehensive Action Plan, and to further promote the effective implementation.

(Press and Quick Reaction Unit)