

## **Swedish Delegation Hears Cambodian Progress in the Field of Reforms**

PHNOM PENH, Feb. 1, 2010 (PQRU) – His Excellency Jan Knutsson, Director General for the International Development Cooperation at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, informed His Excellency Chan Tani, Secretary of State of the Office of the Council of Ministers, high representative of the **Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Sok An**, on Monday that “my visit to Cambodia is to discuss the continued bilateral cooperation, which is very important for our delegation to see the real progress in Cambodia.”

The talks were focused on a number of key issues, which include the topics of anti-corruption, the improvement of public services, the increase of salary and the strengthening of working capacity of the government civil servants through more trainings.

His Excellency Chan Tani told Knutsson that Cambodia, after the Paris Peace Agreement in 1991, has achieved national reconciliations through elections and paved the way for integrations of armed forces of the four involved parties. But later on for the effectiveness of works and poverty reduction, more reforms have been conducted in the areas of fighting corruption, demobilization of armed forces as well as administration.

He also told Knutsson that Cambodia continues to conduct reforms so that this country would have sustainable development leading to poverty reduction of the people. He also pointed out the vision of Prime Minister Hun Sen who said that “we must conduct the reforms; otherwise, we would die.” H.E. Chan Tani informed the delegation that “the anti-corruption draft law which was approved by the Royal Government in December last year, is now at the National Assembly for adoption.”

His Excellency Paul Pidou, deputy secretary general of the Council for Administrative Reform, who was also present at the meeting, told the delegation that Cambodia has successfully conducted a number of reforms and continue to conduct more reforms in the areas of public administration as well as the capacity building of the government civil servants so that they could serve people better.

Also present at the meeting, among other high ranking government official, was H.E. Sam Sotha, Secretary of State of the Office of the Council of Ministers and Vice Chairman of the Press and Quick Reaction Unit.

In his response, Knutsson thanked Cambodian side for sharing information with the Swedish delegation to better understand the real progress in the said reforms and that Swedish would continue to support the bilateral cooperation with Cambodia. He said that “his delegation’s aim of the visit is to re-assess further assistance to Cambodia.

It is worth recalling that, on the economic relations, Cambodia exported her products to Sweden worth more than US \$17 million for 2008, and Cambodia imported goods from Sweden worth more than US\$4 million.

Cambodia received US\$ 262 million in aid from Sweden for the period 1992- 2008. Sweden pledged in December last year of another US\$ 98 million in aid covering the period of 2009–2011.

(Press and Quick Reaction Unit)