



**Kingdom of Cambodia**  
Nation-Religion-King

**The Asia Workshop on Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and its link to the Post- 2015 Development Agenda**

**25-27 August 2013**

**Policy Brief on Cambodia's Development Cooperation Priorities  
Applying context of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation**

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- *Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh and Chair of the Session*
- *Mr. .... Government of Switzerland (tbc)*
- *Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen*
  
- *It is my great pleasure to sincerely thank the Government of Bangladesh for organizing this very important workshop which presents an opportunity to a diverse range of development actors to learn and share experiences on progress and challenges of wider development context.*
  
- *Taking this opportunity, I would like briefly present to you the lessons learned of Cambodia in managing development cooperation and the application of the post-Busan Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.*

**The first part of my presentation considers the relevance and importance of the Global Partnership to Cambodia**

The Royal Government of Cambodia acknowledges the Busan statement that recognizes aid as 'a catalyst' for growth by supporting the establishment of a conducive environment, the development of human capital and ensuring a favorable institutional and legal framework.

Cambodia has been a long-term participant in global aid and development effectiveness efforts – our Deputy Prime Minister was one of the lead partner country speakers at the First High-level Forum in Rome in 2003 – and we were a member of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness as well as being active in the Paris Declaration monitoring and evaluation processes. We are a country where ODA makes up 10% of GDP and nearly half of the budget so these global efforts to make development cooperation more effective matter very much to us. They strongly complement our own national efforts and provide both ideas and motivation for taking action.

The Royal Government therefore acknowledges and welcomes the continued emphasis of the Busan agreement on the 'unfinished business' of making aid more effective for development. For Cambodia the focus is principally on the use of program-based approaches, strengthening and using country systems, and implementing the public sector reform agenda.

Busan also recognizes the importance of being more results-oriented. This is also consistent with Cambodia's perspective, which can be clearly seen in the significant achievement of many of the MDGs. Just one example: the poverty rate has declined from 48% in 2007 to less than 20% in 2011. We are on-track to move up to middle-income country status in the next 2-3 years.

The extension of the Busan framework to include non-ODA partners is also very important in Cambodia's view and an improvement over the Paris and Accra processes. We need to recognise the past, current and future role of all development actors.

In summary, ladies and gentlemen, we support the Global Partnership as we feel it is highly relevant to our development context. We strongly believe it can complement our efforts to promote and monitor our own development effectiveness effort in Cambodia.

**In the second part of my presentation I will provide an overview on the application of global commitments on aid and development effectiveness in Cambodia:**

In applying global development cooperation and partnership principles to the national development context, we have considered the meaning of development effectiveness in Cambodia. The Royal Government is therefore now developing a new Development Cooperation and Partnerships Strategy that considers national priorities and also takes account of our global commitments. The Strategy focuses on three main issues:

- 1) The achievement of development results
- 2) The strengthening of capacities and systems so that results can be sustained over the long term
- 3) Creating partnerships for development – with donors, the private sector, South-South and civil society – that can mobilise resources and galvanize collective action for development.

The policy framework includes institutional arrangements, dialogue mechanisms and partnership principles and practices that will guide and facilitate resource mobilisation and allocation as well as establishing a framework for monitoring results. This includes the Busan monitoring indicators.

The Development Cooperation and Partnerships Strategy is now being finalised as part of the new set of national policies and plans for the period 2014-2018. Monitoring of both national and global commitments has been harmonised – we use established tools and processes for both, including our ODA Database. We have just completed the Busan monitoring survey – again using our ODA Database – which made the process very simple and extremely accurate.

**In the final part of my presentation, ladies and gentlemen, I have been asked to speak about the experience of implementation of the Busan commitments. In particular I have been asked to highlight efforts to promote a more harmonised approach to planning, budgeting, and to the coordination of public investment and development cooperation.**

The point I wish to emphasize here is that it is the reform programmes of the Royal Government that are central to implementing our development effectiveness work. Planning – including at sub-national level – is increasingly part of the public financial management reform while the public administration reform leads on the strengthening of the capacity and systems of the Royal Government.

To improve planning and budgeting we have worked very hard with donors to collect information on their ODA. This then forms part of the effort to produce the 3-year Public Investment Programme that informs the budget. Aid is also increasingly integrated with the budget through the preparation of Budget Strategic Plans, which are prepared by all ministries and linked to their goals at outcome level. So you can see that capacity for promoting results-based approaches is closely linked to both PFM and broader public administration reforms.

Donor partners are encouraged to align their support with these efforts and we have established 19 Technical Working Groups to support dialogue on a full range of issues that includes planning, budgeting, capacity development, institutional strengthening and the adoption of results-based approaches. Programme-based approaches have been formally approved by the Royal Government as our preferred management method at sector level. These PBAs allow for a more coherent approach to supporting and improving all public administration functions that we believe will impact positively on the achievement of development results.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I believe that Cambodia is well-positioned both in the region and globally to continue its development trajectory that has consolidated stability and brought prosperity to the Cambodian people. The foundations that have been meticulously established over the past decade provide the basis for strengthening and leveraging on the full range of Cambodia's development partners and their respective comparative advantages.

I hope this brief overview has been useful and I will of course attempt to answer any questions that you may have.

**Thank you for your kind attention**