

**Closing Remarks by HE Khong Samnuon,
Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment**

Distinguished participants,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank UNCTAD and UNEP for organizing this training workshop in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and the active participation of the Ministry of Commerce.

I would also like to thank Mr. Thanavat Junchaya, from the UNEP Regional Office of Asia and Pacific, Ms. Sulistiyowati Listy from the Basel Convention Regional Center in Indonesia, Mrs. Keobang A. Keola from the Loa PDR Science, Technology and Environment Agency, and Mr. Chuon Chanrithy and Mr. Cambodochine Doa, consultants for this workshop, for their presentations and active participation in this workshop.

I have been informed by my colleagues that there has been a lively discussion and debate over the last two days and that the presentations have been very informative.

This workshop has provided an important opportunity to promote discussions on the linkages between trade and environment among key stakeholders, including representatives from the government ministries in the regions, local NGOs, the private sector and the University of Phnom Penh.

As such, this workshop has made a valuable contribution to enhancing the capacity for effective implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in Cambodia. It has also contributed to improving the capacity of national policymakers to engage in regional and international negotiations to help ensure that Cambodia's national interests are adequately represented. This is particularly important given Cambodia's recent decision to join the WTO.

It is my hope that the participants here will take the knowledge they have gained in this workshop and pass in on to their colleagues in the regions.

It also my hope that UNEP and UNCTAD will be able to return to Cambodia to address future training needs on trade and environment issues.

Before concluding, let me express my particular thanks to my colleague Sovannora Ieng, for his hard work in ensuring the success of this workshop, and to Ulrich Hoffmann and Ben Simmons for chairing this workshop.

Thank you.