

ASYCUDA Project in Cambodia MOBILIZATION SEMINAR



1. On 10-11 October 2006, At the Le Royal Raffles Hotel, the Royal Government of Cambodia in collaboration with UNCTAD, has organized a Mobilization Seminar to Launch ASYCUDA World Project in Cambodia to disseminate information about the Project to stakeholders: the Government Ministries and the trading community.

2. This Project receives the financial support in the amount of 2.2 million US dollars from the World Bank and UNCTAD has been chosen as Royal Government's partner to implement the project.

3. Attending the Seminar were leaders and staff of Government Ministries, Cambodia's Development partners, representatives of the business community and customs officers (totally about 150 persons).



4. Speaking at the Seminar, Sr. Minister Keat Chhon, Minister of Economy and Finance, Chairman of the Steering Committee on PSD stressed that automation of customs procedures and processes is the key reform initiative planned in the **Strategy on Reform and**

Modernization of Cambodia Customs and Excise 2003-2008. This is in line with our commitments under ASEAN and WTO (paragraph 97 of WP Report), and also the implementation of WCO's Revised Kyoto Convention, particularly section on the application of ICT in customs. Automation of customs procedures and processes will drastically change the way of interaction between customs and the trading community. Instead of traditional physical contact, a virtual and real time communication will be gradually established. This will provide faster, cost-saving, predictable and transparent treatment in the clearance process of imports and exports. This project will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of revenue collection, establish a fair and transparent application of customs tariff and customs regimes, including the monitoring of investment treatments, and provide a timely, accurate trade statistics and other information pertaining to the control and management of imports and exports. The paramount effect of customs automation project is the start of the creation of electronic infrastructure interfacing between key players i.e. government ministries, business operators, including the banking sector and others. This project will be the **initial building block** on the path to implementing other trade facilitation initiatives, including the establishment of the national single window.

5. During the Seminar, the National Project Team and ASYCUDA Expert have presented basic system architecture, sample SAD and major functions of the system: data entry, automatic selectivity, calculation of duty and tax etc.

6. It is planned that Customs automation project will start its pilot-testing by the beginning of 2007 at Sihanoukville Customs Branch. After it proved successful and making necessary adjustments, this project will be gradually rolled out to other major customs offices/branches by the end of 2007.