

**Kingdom of Cambodia
National Religion King**



Speech for the 65th IAEA General Conference

Presented by H.E. NOM PISETH,

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Head of Cambodia Delegation

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**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Honorable Distinguished Delegations of the IAEA Member States,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is my great honor and pleasure to be attending the 65th IAEA's General Conference this year. I also highly appreciate the IAEA for inviting Cambodia to participate in this timely conference.

On behalf of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to reiterate that the Royal Government of Cambodia is fully committed to the non-proliferation of the nuclear program and takes part to ensure safety, security and safeguards at national, regional level and throughout the world. Over the years, Cambodia has been a party to numerous international agreements, conventions and protocols, including, to name a few, the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1972, Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, also known as Bangkok Treaty, in 1997, Comprehensive Safe Agreement (CSA) in 1999, and Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2020, etc. Cambodia also considers becoming a party to other conventions, which Cambodia has not yet been a member, to further ensure our commitment in the safety, security and safeguards of peaceful applications of atomic energy.

Our commitment has also been shown by our National Constitution of 1993 and its subsequent amendments, which reiterates that Cambodia is absolutely prohibited from manufacturing, use and storage of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. Subsequently, there are many other laws concerning the control of activities involving nuclear and radioactive materials. A comprehensive Nuclear Law, which covers nuclear safety, security, safeguards and civil liability is under preparation and it is closely following the international legislation standards.

Mr. President

Historically, Cambodia became a member of IAEA in 1958, a year after the establishment of the agency, but withdrew our membership in 2003, only to reinstate our membership in 2009 with the tremendous support of former DG Amano. Since our membership reinstatement in 2009, the IAEA has assisted Cambodia's efforts significantly in achieving our sustainable development goals. Under the Technical Cooperation Program (TCP), Cambodia has successfully implemented many projects related to the implementation of the peaceful use of nuclear technology in various sectors such as agriculture in soil fertility, crop management and livestock production. Another showcase of the significant impact of TCP to Cambodia is the recent establishment of the first National Cancer Centre in Cambodia, which was inaugurated by our SPM in early 2018. Although this center was established

under the government fund, the technical supports from the IAEA, including the design, installations of equipment, capacity buildings, has been crucial to the sustainability of the center in enhancing better capabilities in cancer treatment and nuclear medicine. The program also provided an instrumental support in launching and establishing a future regulatory authority after our nuclear law will be enacted in the future. In energy sector, although nuclear power program is way ahead of us, we strongly believe in building the soft infrastructure including necessary regulatory framework to build an institutional capacity and competency as well as human resources development to establish the safety and security regulations and standards. We would like to also extend our appreciation to other external partners that have strongly supported Cambodia, especially providing our staffs trainings through various programs. These individuals will be great assets to Cambodia.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincerest appreciation to the IAEA for providing a total of 5 sets of PCR-RT COVID-19 Detection Kits to Cambodia. This equipment has assisted Cambodia greatly in combating against the pandemic.

Mr. President

The Royal Government of Cambodia has also established numerous competent authorities concerning the safety, security and safe guard of nuclear and radioactive materials and activities in Cambodia, including the Ministry of Mines and Energy, National Counter Terrorism Committee, National Authority of Chemical Weapons, and other concerned line of ministries. We also work very closely with our international partners, including IAEA, EU, U.S DOE, JAEA, etc. on many aspects ranging from legislation, application of nuclear science and technology in health, industry, agriculture as well as safety, security and safeguards activities.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincerest appreciation to our international partners mentioned-above for supporting our efforts in ensuring the safe, secure and peaceful use of radiation sources in Cambodia, through provision of national and regional workshops, trainings and seminars and also provision of technical equipment, including Radiation Portal Monitors (RPM) by our counterparts from US.DOE, IAEA, and EU-JRC, etc.

Cambodia has been actively involved in the specification and development of Integrated Nuclear Security Network System for mobile handheld equipment (M-INSN) and is also an active participant in two Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs) and is actively using TRACE App. In this regard, we are looking forward to working with the IAEA on future CRPs, and the development of our national technical and legal documents, and trainings. Cambodia is also planning to update its Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) with the IAEA in the upcoming December 2021.

Mr. President

Once again, on behalf of the Ministry of Mines and Energy of the Kingdom of Cambodia, we would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to the IAEA and, Member States and external partners for the various cooperation extended and provided to Cambodia so far, and based on this perspective, we sincerely appeal for more cooperative programs in the promotion of nuclear technology for peaceful purpose and development in Cambodia.

In conclusion, I would like to express my wish to His Excellencies, Distinguished Delegations of the IAEA Member States, Ladies and Gentlemen the four Buddha Blessings which are Longevity, Nobility, Health and Strength.

Thank You!