

Press Release

Cambodia Pre-Mutual Evaluation Workshop

Presided by Kitti Seddha Pundit Keat Chhon, Standing Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism

Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra Hotel

January 18-19, 2016

On January 18, 2016 the Cambodian Financial Intelligence Unit (CAFIU) in cooperation with the World Bank, held the “Cambodia Pre-Mutual Evaluation Workshop” at the Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra Hotel. The opening ceremony was presided by **Kitti Seddha Pundit Keat Chhon**, Standing Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (NCC), **H.E Chea Chanto**, Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cambodia Financial Intelligence Unit (CAFIU), and **Mr. Alassane Sow**, Country Manager of the World Bank.

The two day National Workshop was organized by CAFIU in collaboration with World Bank and aims to raise awareness on the Mutual Evaluation Process and international standards of Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism to 150 representatives of relevant ministries, law enforcement authorities, courts, and the private sector.

Speaking at the opening of the workshop **H.E Chea Chanto** updated participants about the progress of CAFIU under the direction of the Royal Government of Cambodia and under the wise leadership of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. CAFIU is currently strengthening cooperation with relevant ministries and institutions and international and regional partners. At the same time, with highly responsible efforts, CAFIU recently became a member of the Egmont Group, a network of FIUs to stimulate international cooperation. CAFIU is continuing to expand its scope to other non-financial institutions to prevent money laundering and the financing of terrorist activities.

Kitti Seddha Pundit Keat Chhon informed participants of the Royal Government's several major achievements including initiatives such as; strengthening the legal framework and enforcement mechanisms, creating the NCC and CAFIU, launching the 5-year national strategy, enhancing local cooperation measures, amending the Law on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism, issuing the Sub-decree on Freezing of Property of Designated Terrorists and Organizations, promoting local and international cooperation of Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism system in Cambodia while improving Cambodia's integration in the region and the world. The Deputy Prime Minister also informed participants about the Mutual Evaluation Process of Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) set to start in December 2016, and the creation of an inter-ministerial working group to prepare for this evaluation. He then asked leaders of the relevant ministries and institutions to provide support and encouraged all team members from the respective ministries and institutions to ensure its success.