

# **The Closing of the National Literacy Campaign (NLC) 2015 Meeting**

**Remarks Ms. Anne Lemaitre**

**UNESCO Representative in Cambodia**

2 March 2016, Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh

Your Excellency Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education Youth and Sport  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen  
The National Steering Committee for NLC 2015  
Literacy Teachers, Learners and NLC Volunteers

***Som Korup Ayodom Bandet Hang Chuon Naron, Roat Mon Trey, Krossung Oprum, YouVeakChiun neung Keila,***

***Som Korup Ayodom, Lok Chium Tio, Lok, Lok Srei,***

***Som Korup Kanakamaka-tiiet deut-noam somrap yutenearka Akarakam tiiet chnaam pi poan dop pram***

***Som Korup Lok Kru, Neak Kru Akarakam, khmouy-khmouy seussa nouk-seu,***

***Neung Neak samatchiet yutenearka Arakarakam tiet,***

It is my great pleasure to be here today at the closing of the National Literacy Campaign (NLC) 2015. I would like to welcome all of you, especially those who come from the provincial level both under the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS), and the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) as well as the representative of NGOs, and development partners supported implementing literacy and NFE programme, especially the NLC 2015 in Cambodia.

***Tear Pattom, kniom tlaigh om-no-khun champu Krossung Oprum, YouVeakChiun neung Keila dael ban rip-tchiom Preuteka somrap ka-but Yutenearka Akarakam chiiet Pi-Poan-dop-Pram.***

***Haeuille, kniom ko som-svakum neak teang-ho kni dael ban tveu-dom-naeu mok pi ti-tchnai neung neak dom-nan krossung ketka Neary, Neak domnan sahakum civil, daiku apiwat neung visai aiketchiun dael ban comtro ka-anuwat Yutenearka Akarakam chiiet Pi-Poan-dop-Pram.***

On behalf of UNESCO I would like to express our sincere congratulations to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Your Excellency Minister, the Ministry leadership and technical departments at central and sub-national level for enabling 66,642 learners participate through the literacy course! This is an excellent example of the commitments and good coordination and cooperation at all levels. Once again Congratulations!!! .

***Knong neam Angkar UNESCO, kniom som-hobhobsato Krossung Oprum, YouVeakChiun neung Keila, tear-pissé champu Ayodom Roat Montrey Krossung Oprum, pro-teang banda near-yuk-katan pachékété dael ban pdol okka-aouille seussa nousseut chom-noun hokseup pram mouy poan pram mouy roy saésseup-pi neak ban tchirole-rum rin akarakam. Gni keut-chtear ouh-tear-ho doh loho-prosal nei ket-saha-proté-batka neung somroh-somroul. Chtear thmey madong-tiit, som hob-hossato!***

Excellency, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

During the Literacy Campaign, I myself and my colleagues had the opportunity to visit together with MoEYS colleagues to some literacy classes. We met with the Provincial Offices of Education (POE) colleagues, district officials, teachers and learners to appreciate the efforts at all levels by all. All collaborated well ensuring effectiveness and efficiency of literacy class operations. Another highlight of the NLC has been the strengthened cooperation between the ministries, the MoWA, and NGOs at national and sub-national level as well as private sector and the youth volunteers.

Capacity in delivering adult literacy pedagogy and contents have been strengthened as 660 teacher trainers from DNFE, POE and DOE were trained by the trainers of MoEYS and MoWA. Furthermore, the programme had mobilized human resource from both the community people to get them trained to be literacy teacher. For instance, 2,300 of total 3,427 trained teachers are primary school teacher. This constitutes useful human resources for the Government, specifically the MoEYS for delivering literacy programme in Cambodia in the future. Thank you to all literacy teachers.

The programme also engaged the involvement from youth they have offered their voluntary services to promote NLC2015 as well as to assist literacy classes and to strengthen their capacity in terms of functional literacy concepts in 92 volunteers have been selected to support literacy classes, in Phnom Penh, in Kandal, and in Kampong Speu, Prey Veng, Banteay Meanchey and Preah Vihear. Volunteers have reported the usefulness of their involvement in this process that not only allow them to contribute to the society but also to strengthen their capacity in their community involvement. I wish to take this opportunity to thank them again.

Commending ourselves for the achievements made under NLC 2015, we also need to acknowledge that there are still large number of illiterate Cambodian adults, 2/3<sup>rd</sup> women. Hence the efforts need to be continued. This means at-least additional 1,000 classes are needed in addition to the 1,130 classes planned for 2016.

The Literacy Campaign also enabled us to learn that due to economic opportunities, the learners, especially the young adult learners, girls, are migrating to urban areas. Most of these young learners are working in factories. While we can be proud of the achievements of the Campaign, the campaign preliminary findings suggest the need for re-orienting our literacy strategies towards the factory workers. As Samdech Prime Minister in his Keynote remarks at the Launch of the NLC exactly one year ago stated, "All sectors, particularly the factories need to pay special attention to the literacy. Literacy is a skill if not practiced which will be lost".

In this regards, I am pleased to inform you today that the Campaign has brought the specific target group of learners who are factory workers into the programme. For instance, in Kampong Speu in close cooperation with Cambodia's Women Development Association (CWDA), in Kampong Chhnang in close cooperation with the Ministry of Women's Affairs. UNESCO encourages this good starting and wishes to continue working with the Government's ministries in expanding numbers of this target group through literacy programme in 2016 and in the coming years.

Excellency, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

Also to achieve further efficiencies in implementation this year onwards, UNESCO would like to suggest following points for consideration.

1. The distribution of numbers of literacy classes to each province should be based on actual needs of illiterate community people rather than statistical numbers. Local authorities had informed us that most of illiterates have migrated to work at factory and other areas for work.
2. The learners are in factories. To serve the specific functional literacy needs of factory workers, UNESCO would like to recommend working in collaboration with different Ministries specialized NGOs and the private sector/factories to develop a special functional literacy package for this target group starting from this year.
3. The ongoing National Literacy Curriculum revision with UNESCO support is an opportunity to incorporate the emerging literacy needs of different stakeholders. We count on Your Excellency's support and guidance in this endeavor.

Your Excellency, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

Education needs active engagement of all, particularly the employers and the corporate sector. In this regards, UNESCO would like to acknowledge and thank the generous support and full engagement of Smart Axiata in promoting literacy in Cambodia. We are confident that this support will continue.

Once again, UNESCO would like to reiterate its commitment in continued collaboration and support to the Ministry's efforts in reforming and enhancing the non-formal education sub-sector to address the emerging needs as identified by the Education 2030 Goal "promoting and ensuring equitable and inclusive quality education within the lifelong learning perspective for all by 2030."

Thank you! Okun Chraan!