

Opening Remarks by Anne Lemaistre, UNESCO Representative in Cambodia

The UNESCO's CapEFA Programme Donor Briefing Phnom Penh, 04 November 2014

*H.E. Nath Bunroem, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport,
H.E. Heang Sine, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport,
Representatives of the Donor Countries,
Representatives of the Department of Non-Formal Education,
ESWG Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

I am pleased to welcome you to the UNESCO's CapEFA Programme Donor Briefing. This is an opportunity for us to go through some key achievements made by the CapEFA Programme in Cambodia since 2010. This forum also allows us to discuss future directions for the Programme in cooperation with Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport (MoEYS).

First of all, let me remind what CapEFA means:

UNESCO, as the lead Agency for Education for All, seeks to support rather than replace country efforts. It places capacity development at the heart of its operational action at the country level, particularly through its Capacity Development for Education for All (CapEFA) Programme. This programme has been created in 2003 to translate advocacy into practice and operates in 28 'priority countries', amongst them, Cambodia. The CapEFA programme has mobilized more than US\$ 60 million to date and continues to provide technical assistance to participating countries in four thematic areas:

- sector-wide policies and planning;
- literacy;
- teachers;
- technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

Next, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the donors of the CapEFA Programme, including Denmark, Finland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland. They have provided essential support to the MoEYS in accelerating progress towards reaching the EFA goals.

In Cambodia, literacy has been chosen because literacy has a "multiplier effect" and helps to eradicate poverty, and there is an emergency to support the 2.1 million illiterate people identified in this country. Within this framework, UNESCO has closely collaborated with the Department of Non-Formal Education (DNFE) of the MoEYS to strengthen capacities of literacy and non-formal education sub-sector. The CapEFA Programme and Department of Non-Formal Education teams will be jointly presenting major achievements and seeking your suggestions for ways forward. Your input will be much appreciated.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to conclude my remarks by thanking the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport (MoEYS) for all the good collaboration in mainstreaming literacy and non-formal education (NFE) in the education sector-wide planning.

With less than 16 months left until the 2015 targets of Education for All goals, UNESCO remains committed in collaborating with the Royal Government of Cambodia and members of the Education Sector Working Group in complementing the efforts of the MoEYS to achieve these goals.

Together with the Ministry, we have decided to give a literacy push for 2015!

I would also like to thank the Ministry for positively responding to the proposed National Literacy Campaign by operationalizing the Country Literacy Acceleration Plan for achieving the adult literacy goal of 84.4 % by the end of 2015. I wish to take the opportunity of this meeting to call for your continued support for this National Literacy Campaign!

Thank you for your attention.