

Welcome Dinner By
H.E. Sim Eang
Delegate of the Royal Government in Charge As
Director General, General Department of Taxation
Ministry of Economy and Finance
At 7th Meeting of Asia Tax Forum,
20 October 2010, Sokha Hotel, Siem Reap, Cambodia.

- *Mr. Daniel Witt, President of International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC),*
- *Mr. Rob Preece, Association Director, Center for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES), University of Canberra,*
- *Excellency Ladies and gentlemen!*

Today, I am delighted to welcome all of you to this dinner. Cambodia is proud to host the 7th Meeting of Asia Tax Forum; and invite all of you to participate and share in this important tax forum from 20-22 October 2010. This tax forum is jointly organized by General Department of Taxation Cambodia Ministry Economy and Finance, International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC), Public Finance Institute of the Philippines (PFIP), Center for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES), University of Canberra.

I know that many of you travel long distances serves to remind us all just how important this forum is. Thank you for joining this event.

As you may already aware, The ATF is an international gathering that bring together senior government officials together with academic and industry experts and representatives from international organizations in tax policy and administration attending about 90 participants from about 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss solutions to common challenges and to share best practices in taxation.

According to the agenda, this forum significantly contributes to our understanding of different taxation, reform and effort around the region including taxation of the natural resources, the property tax, Value Added Tax(VAT), excise tax, the environmental taxation, the tax aspects of the FTAs Custom Union and WTO, and the Indirect taxation of the financial sector services. Again, this forum is very useful for Cambodia and member countries while we are engaging the reform in these areas.

Remarkably, today is just the first day of this forum, but presenters and participants have discussed actively and deliberately on the 02 topics: 1-“Designing and administration of an efficient excise tax system” and 2-“Execution of an upstream taxation regime for natural resources”. Therefore, with your insightful contribution, I hope that the next 2 days of this tax forum will continue to produce a fruitful result, theoretically and practically, and further strengthen cohesive cooperation amongst the member countries.

Once again, on behalf of the General Department of Taxation, Ministry of Economy and Finance, allow me to express my sincere gratitude to the ITIC, PFIP, CCES that joint with General Department of Taxation, Ministry of Economy and Finance for organizing the important Forum during 03 days in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Last but not least, taking this auspicious occasion, I hope and wish you will have an interesting and enjoy stay in Cambodia, especially on this historic and cultural land, Cambodia-Kingdom of Wonder.

Welcome to the Seventh ATF, and please Cheer!!!