

**Opening Remarks by H.E. Sok An**  
**On the Occasion of**  
**the International Seminar on Internet Resources Management**  
**November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003**  
**Intercontinental Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

***Good morning, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.***

First of all I would like to welcome Dr. KwanHo Song, President of the Korea Network Information Center (KRNIC) and his delegation to the Kingdom of Cambodia. I also would like to welcome Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen to this memorable occasion.

As reported earlier, this International Seminar on Internet Resources Management hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communications, organized by the Cambodian National Information Communications Technology Development Authority (NiDA), the Korea Network Information Center (KRNIC), the Korean Institute of Communication Sciences (KICS) and the International Cooperation Agency for Korea IT (ICA). I like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers for such a timely & perfect arrangements.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the sponsors as well for their generousities in making it possible for this high profile event to take place in the beautiful Kingdom of Cambodia. I would, personally and explicitly, like to thank the following organizations and companies for their generousities; namely,

- the Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI)

- the Telecommunications Technology Association (TTA)
- the Korea Internet Service Provider Association (KISPA)
- KTF
- LG TeleCom
- SK Telecom
- Netpia.com, Inc.
- KCOM, Ltd

The Royal Government of Cambodia attached great important to Information Communications Technology (ICT) as evidenced by the formation of the National Information Communications Technology Development Authority (NiDA) personally chaired by the Prime Minister and the implementation of the Government Administration Information System (GAIS) project under the assistance from the Republic of Korea.

At this point I like to bring to your attention the Charter on Global Information Society:

*Information and Communications Technology (IT) is one of the most potent forces in shaping the twenty-first century. Its revolutionary impact affects the way people live, learn and work, and the way government interacts with civil society. IT is fast becoming a vital engine of growth for the world economy. It is also enabling many enterprising individuals, firms, and communities, in all parts of the globe, to address economic and social challenges with greater efficiency and imagination. Enormous opportunities are there to be seized and shared by us all.<sup>1</sup>*

Comment:

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<sup>1</sup> Extract from the Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society

***Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,***

Cambodia strongly believes that, success in the modern era is greatly dependent on the broad integration of ICT in our society at large. The value of ICT lies in its understanding, recognition and use by the society. For developed countries, ICT is widely used due to their firmly established infrastructure and strong fundamentals. The increasing speed and lowering costs of computers and the progress of wireless communications has enables this modern technology to be shared and used all over the world – a phenomenon that is quite new.

Cambodia further believes that, the value of the entire network grows as the number of users increase. Participation by developing countries in the global network, or the world wide web, will not place the burden on the entire network, but will only increase in it overall value; as such participation enables the posting of data and information they have at their disposal for use and dissemination throughout the global network. At the same time, they would all benefit from using the network to communicate or trade with other countries.

***Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,***

Before proceeding to connection to the networked world we definitely will need the rule of the game and clearly understand that rule of the game that we about to enter into, for our own benefits. In this regard, we will need to know the Internet policy, including Internet Protocol Addressing, Network Operation for Internet Service Provider and Standard Technology for the World Wide Web and other related issues. Question that may be posed for Cambodia including:

What IP Addressing system is suitable for us? Should we go for classfull or classless? which one will be most beneficial for us? Should Cambodia jump to IPv6 and ignore IPv4? What role can the government plays to facilitate the entry of IPv6? What will be

the strategic choice for our network technology? wireless or wireline?

These are some, only some, of the issues that will be raised over the next day. There are other important issues that might be raised as well; but I would recommend that we focus on getting Cambodia connected.

***Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,***

At the dawn of the new millennium on September 8, 2000, the head of states and governments had pledged their supports for some common objectives and had expressed their determinations to achieve them in the document called the Millennium Declaration. These objectives are: eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, provision of universal primary education, gender equality and women empowerment, reduction in child mortality, improving maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; and ensure environmental sustainability. These objectives become the development goals of all the signatory countries. Since Cambodia is a member of this UN community, Cambodia is not exempt from this development goal either. But, incidentally, Cambodia has been, in good faith, fighting all these problems all along and it became the policy of this government already, and it will continue to do so with the infusion of ICT as an enabler.

***Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,***

This timely International Seminar on Internet Resources Management will further strengthened and bonded our already firm relationship with the International community and particularly with the Republic of Korea. Through this high profile event, Cambodians will be introduced to the latest technology,

trend, and the effective utilization of the limited resources on the Internet.

***Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,***

We are living in an era where an event in one place affects others in a different part of the globe. For example, the financial crises in the 90s originated in Thailand but the New York market felt the pain as well; and the September 11<sup>th</sup> event in the US affected other part of the world as well; such as the Paris CAC, the Frankfurt DAX, the London (Footsee) FTSE, the Seoul KOSPI, the Bangkok SET and other markets in the region.

From the few past evens in the span of our lifetime, we have clearly seen that our world is tightly connected. We rather don't want the problem to happen in any part of the world because the problem could propagate in our tightly connected world at the Internet speed. For this reason, the UN community has come up with the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to solve our common problems once and for all.

***Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,***

It is my strong conviction that ICT can be an effective enabler. With this in mind and the MDG tasks at hand, I would ask that, over the course of our two days of deliberation, our seminar find an effective way for Cambodia to get connected, to provide Cambodians with the necessary information to develop Cambodia and to add more value to the existing networked world.

*Another word, a connected Cambodia toward the MDG.*

***Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,***

Again, I would like to express my sincere thank to the organizers and the sponsors for the making this event possible and would wish the Seminar a fruitful discussion. May I now announce the formal opening of the International Seminar on Internet Resources Management.