

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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As part of our efforts to become an upper-middle income country by 2030 and in support to our industrial development policy 2015-2025, the Royal Government of Cambodia is starting to explore options to modernize our economy, to move toward a knowledge-based economy, by reducing our dependence on natural resource sectors, and by promoting research, development and innovation. Specifically, Cambodia needs to meet future energy demands and achieve energy security while supporting the global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. For these reasons, our Government is exploring alternative energy sources, in particular hydro, solar and biomass. We have also started to discuss the possibility of benefiting from nuclear energy in the longer term. We are also interested in nuclear technology for its many applications in healthcare, industry, agriculture, and other sectors of the economy.

In this spirit, the Cambodian National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) and the State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" of the Russian Federation signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) namely, an MoU on Cooperation in the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes, an MoU on the Establishment of a Cambodia-Russia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Cooperation in the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes, and an MoU on the Establishment of Information Centre of Nuclear Energy in Cambodia to promote public awareness on nuclear energy and technologies, especially among our youths.

In order to implement these MoU and to enhance the bilateral cooperation, the NCSD and Rosatom organized "*The First Meeting of Cambodia-Russia Joint Working Group on Cooperation in the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes*" on 17th August 2016, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The opening session of the meeting was presided over by H.E. Say SAMAL, Minister of Environment and Chair of NCSD, and H.E. Dmitry TSVETKOV, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Kingdom of Cambodia, and followed by plenary discussion among representatives of Rosatom, and the Cambodian National Working Group. The objectives of the meeting are: (1) to review and finalize the draft Agreement between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of the Russian Federation on cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, (2) to discuss rules of procedures of the Cambodia-Russia JWG, (3) to discuss the implementation of the MoU on the establishment of Information Centre of Nuclear Energy, and (4) to discuss priority activities under the MoU on cooperation in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

As the first priority, we intend to cooperate with Rosatom and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to establish an information centre of nuclear energy, which we do hope will help spark interest of our youth in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, especially in nuclear physics and nuclear technologies. Simultaneously, we plan to further discuss a joint research and training in the field of nuclear energy, and build our human capacity in nuclear physics, nuclear and radiation safety, emergency response, radioactive waste management and radiological impact assessment. *7/8/16*

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