



## **Press Release**

# **The Asian Vision Institute and The Ministry of Environment Signed the MOU on the Cooperation on Environmental Management and Sustainable Development**

**Phnom Penh, October 27, 2021**



Phnom Penh (27 October 2021) – The Ministry of Environment, represented by H.E. Dr Vann Monyneath, General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development (GSSD), and the Asian Vision Institute (AVI), represented by Dr. Keo Piseth, Vice President, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish closer ties between the two parties for the common interests of Cambodia’s environmental management and sustainable development. The event was presided by H.E. Tin Ponlok, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Environment.

The signing ceremony took place at the Ministry of Environment. Both sides expressed confidence that this cooperation would serve the common interests and contribute to the strengthening of environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development of Cambodia through the development of policies and strategic recommendations in the areas of natural resource conservation, biodiversity, environmental protection and management, payment for ecosystem services, climate change, low carbon emissions, and other sectors relevant to the environment.

Dr Keo Piseth, AVI Vice President and Director of Centre for Sustainable Development Studies, said:

The official MoU signing today is another key milestone for AVI, as it indicates stronger trust and confidence placed by the Royal Government of Cambodia on AVI and Cambodian intellectuals in participating and providing inputs for national policy formulation, which will shape Cambodia’s future development pathways. The cooperation between the two institutions will mainly focus on joined policy research, monitoring and evaluation, and human resource development through short-term and long-term training and public awareness-raising on a wide range of topics, including environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, climate change, sustainable leadership, innovation, circular economy, and sustainable development.

He added, “AVI will also collaborate with the ministry to jointly develop a proposal for fund mobilisation for projects related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”

On behalf of H.E. Say Samal, Minister of Environment and Chair of the National Council for Sustainable Development, H.E. Tin Ponlok expressed his warm welcome and acknowledged the important roles of AVI in participating in policy research on sustainable development, which is a broad agenda, covering a wide range of topics, including poverty, food, affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, climate change, and life below water and life on land. He added:

It is a new trend for national policy development in which participation from think tanks is increasingly needed. We are at a stage where Business-As-Usual practices are no longer relevant. With our vision set to become an upper-middle-income country and a high-income country by 2030 and 2050 respectively, we need to carefully consider what best we can do. For instance, energy, natural resource accounting, sustainable financing, and waste management are some topics we could consider for policy research, as they have long-term impacts on national development. Rather than focusing on short-term outputs of a project, we should pay close attention to long-term impacts.

In addition, H.E. Tin Ponlok encouraged the secretariats of both institutions to work closely to turn the statement of the MoU into a reality, instead of leaving it on the shelf. He advised both secretariats to discuss the action plan and way forward.

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Phnom Penh, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021



**AVI Secretariat**