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PRESS RELEASE

Diplomatic Briefing on the Progress of Combating Online Scams in Cambodia

On the afternoon of 27 August 2026, **His Excellency Chhay Sinarith**, Senior Minister in Charge of Special Missions and Head of the Secretariat of the Commission for Combating Online Scams (CCOS), briefed members of the diplomatic corps and international organizations on the latest developments in Cambodia's fight against online scams. The briefing was coordinated by **Her Excellency EAT Sophea**, Permanent Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and was also attended virtually by Heads of Cambodian Missions overseas.

His Excellency Chhay Sinarith expressed appreciation to foreign missions and international partners for their continued cooperation in addressing online scams, which he described as one of the most complex forms of transnational crime. He highlighted significant progress resulting from the intensified campaign under the direct leadership of **Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister HUN Manet**. As of 20 August 2026, authorities had raided over 793 suspected locations, cracked down on 624 scam operations, dismantled 86 scam compounds, and apprehended more than 29,000 suspects of 39 nationalities. More than 22,000 individuals from 38 countries had been deported, while many others remained in the process of deportation. In addition, 408 cases had been referred to court, while further investigations into those involved and efforts to recover illicit assets were ongoing.

He reaffirmed that enforcement would remain firm, transparent, and consistent with due process, while ensuring appropriate legal protection for victims and cooperating parties. He further emphasized that relevant authorities continue to monitor and inspect suspected locations to prevent their use for illegal online gambling, sports betting, and scam operations. The campaign is also being pursued alongside anti-corruption efforts, including legal action against officials suspected of involvement in or facilitating such criminal activities.

As an overall assessment, **the Senior Minister** acknowledged that, while large-scale scam compounds have all been dismantled, criminal networks have adapted by moving their operations to smaller and more dispersed locations, including guesthouses, rental properties, vehicles, and coffee shops, making them more difficult to detect.



Authorities at both national and sub-national levels therefore remain vigilant in identifying and dismantling such operations, while strengthening public awareness and addressing remaining enforcement gaps.

Looking ahead, he called for sustained international cooperation, particularly in information sharing, law-enforcement efforts, and capacity building. He reaffirmed Cambodia's readiness to work closely with international partners to dismantle transnational criminal networks and prevent the recurrence of online scam activities in Cambodia and beyond.

Following the briefing, **Her Excellency EAT Sophea** informed participants about the upcoming International Conference on Combating Online Scams, to be held in Phnom Penh on 23–24 September 2026. The two-day conference is expected to bring together approximately 70 delegates, including ministers and senior officials from ASEAN and other countries, representatives of law-enforcement and security institutions, and international organizations. The conference will address regional and global responses to online scams, technology and cyber resilience, and the sharing of national experiences, with the objectives of enhancing understanding of the evolving online scam ecosystem, strengthening international coordination and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and exchanging experiences and best practices for collective action against online scams.



Phnom Penh, 28 August 2026