

**WELCOME AND OPENING SPEECH
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FOR
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(This is final Speech)

Respects to:

- Excellencies, Lork Chhum Teiv, Royal Ambassadors, Ambassador
- National and International guests and
- Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Ladies and Gentleman. Good morning and a very warm welcome to all of you to the NAGARWORLD. It is my pleasure to see so many of you here this morning at the joint launching and opening of the awareness seminar on Civil Aviation Law.

2. This is the importance event for all of us in the field of Civil Aviation which has been specially designed to promote and update professional and non-legal professionals with fundamental understanding of Civil Aviation Law and how this law development impact airport and airline business. It will provide participants with a better understanding of how legal issues can affect the various aerospace activities and all stakeholders involved in the civil aviation business.

3. Civil aviation worldwide is regulated by an ICAO Convention signed by 52 States in Chicago in 1994. The majority of the world's State is party to the Convention and has to comply with its articles and Annexes. Arising from this, users, managers and non-lawyers working in the aviation industry are required to know and sometimes apply particular law and legal principles in their life and business.

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. The 1-day aims to equip aviation professionals, decision makers, users and related stakeholders with a good understanding of the building blocks of civil aviation. The seminar covers a wide range of subjects, such as air transport regulations, airline economics, airport branding, aviation safety, security as well as current trend and developments affecting the aviation business.

5. In today's fast changing aviation environment, intense competition has forced an unprecedented rapid pace of development. Some of the fast developing trends include the liberalization of skies, increased focus on commercialization and customer service, increased emphasis on air safety, and the growing threats to aviation security, just to name a few.

6. Aviation continues to play an integral and indispensable role in the global economy. Today, more than 2 billion passengers take to the skies each year for business and leisure. In addition, some 40 million tonnes of freight are flown annually. With high fuel prices and a slowdown in the world economy, the aerospace industry is bracing itself for a challenging year ahead. Nevertheless, the longer-term outlook remains positive. Growing deregulation of air services will open up new flight routes at more affordable prices, boosting demand for air travel.

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. On the positive side there are encouraging signs as we look forward to aviation opportunities in this region. Firstly, in the past there was restricted access to the skies of many countries in the region. Today, the skies have been opened due to growing cooperation and harmonization among countries and regions, and Cambodia has been one country that has benefited from an open sky policy. Secondly, new technologies will make planes more fuel efficient. Lighter weight materials will enable wide-body aircraft to carry more people and more fuel efficiently. Thirdly, and most importantly, Asia will continue to be the fastest growing region and the most important production base in the world.

8. And this is what I would like to take a few moments to discuss with you. For Asia's economic dynamism will help to define the future of aviation and our respective strategies in the years to come. Asia has moved on from the economic crisis of 1997 and is growing at an average rate of about 6.5 per cent. Ours is a dynamic growth, and I believe that it is also a more sustainable one.

9. Through bilateral agreements and regional frameworks such as ASEAN, GMS and WTO, Asian countries have promoted trade and facilitated exchanges and tourism between us. Our cooperation has enabled us to weather the global economic slowdown, SARS and more is, avian influenza H1N1 and with joint efforts, it will allow us to manage the crisis and new challenges also.

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. The presenters invited to speak in the Civil Aviation Law Seminar are all practicing professional in their respective fields. All of them are experts in their fields with many years of working experience in the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation. I trust that you will benefit from the presentation, question and answer with them. You will also benefit from networking amongst your fellow participants, who bring a wealth of experience from various parts of the world.

11. I am happy to extend my welcome to a total of 250 participants from ministries, industries and diplomacies attending the Seminar on Civil Aviation Law in this luxury meeting hall this morning.

12. Lastly, I would like to mention that this Seminar have the strong support from the Government of Cambodia. On behalf of the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation and the host organization, I would like to thank the organizers and technical working group for their hard work and excellence support.

13. In conclusion, I wish you all a fruitful seminar experience to our colleagues, friends and distinguished participants a most fulfilling knowledge in this Seminar. It is now my great pleasure to declare the Seminar open, and wish you all a fruitful and successful ahead.

Thank you for your kind attention.